

## BAYONETS

Nothing embodies the spirit of the Infantry as well as the bayonet, and this extension of the infantryman has been in use at least since the early 17th century. It is the cold-steel aggressiveness of American infantry that has served and defended this nation since her birth, and which is still a part of the Soldier's kit as we prosecute the global war on terrorism. This issue's Weapons Corner highlights a select number of bayonets that have been used by our Soldiers, by our allies, and by our adversaries, many of which are still to be found in service today wherever men settle the important issues at close range. If you have a topic you'd like to see covered in Weapons Corner, e-mail us at [Inf.MagazineDep@benning.army.mil](mailto:Inf.MagazineDep@benning.army.mil).



The U.S. Model 1905 bayonet (Fig. 1) was designed based upon lessons learned during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904, as well as the American Infantry's own experience in close combat with the .30/40 Krag rifle and its bayonet in the Philippines at the turn of the Century. Most nations favored long bayonets at the time, and the M1905 with its 16" blade was certainly no exception. The M1905 was issued for both the .30/06 M1903 Springfield and the M1 Garand rifles and served us into World War II. In 1942 blades of many existing M1905 bayonets were shortened to 10" and the bayonet was designated the M1905E1 (Fig. 2). From 1943 on, all Garand bayonets were manufactured with 10" blades and standardized as the Bayonet M1. In 1955 the Bayonet-Knife M5 (Fig. 3) was adopted for the Garand.

The No 1 Mk 1 Bayonet (Pattern 1907) (Fig. 4) was the standard bayonet for British forces armed with the .303 caliber Short Magazine Lee Enfield (S.M.L.E.) No 1 Mk III rifle in both World Wars, and the blade measured 17". Even though the S.M.L.E. Mk III had been superseded by the No 4 Mk 1 rifle by World War II, the old S.M.L.E. and its bayonet saw service around the globe. The Czech VZ24, a large-ring 8x57mm Mauser variant rifle, had a knife bayonet with a blade of 11.65" (Fig. 5), while the bayonet of the Yugoslav M48 8x57mm Mauser design of World War II had a 9.84" blade (Fig. 6). Both closely resemble the 8x57mm German Kar. 98 Mauser bayonet of World War II (Fig. 7), with its 9.84" blade.



The most-manufactured of all U.S. rifles, the .30 caliber M1 carbine, had its own bayonet: the M4 (Fig. 8), with a 6.75" blade. The first bayonet for the 5.56mm M16 rifles was the U.S. M7 (Fig. 9), which likewise had a 6.75" blade.



10 During World War II, one of the main infantry rifles of Soviet ground forces was the 7.62x54mm M44 carbine, a variant of the Mosin Nagant long rifle. The M44 is still to be found all over the world, and mounts a 12.25" permanently attached cruciform bayonet with a screw driver-type tip (Fig. 10). Another Soviet short rifle is the 7.62x39mm SKS Simonov carbine, which has a permanently affixed hinged bayonet (Fig. 11) with an 8.75" blade.

The bayonet currently issued to U.S. Soldiers is the U.S. M9 (Fig. 12) with a robust 7" multi-purpose blade which can be used as a wire cutter in conjunction with its scabbard. The M9 bears some resemblance to the Russian Model 1968 SVD bayonet (Fig. 13), whose 6" blade closely resembles that of the countless AK47 bayonet variations of the former Soviet Union and its surrogates. The SVD bayonet shown, for example, was captured in action against Iraqi forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**COMPARATIVE BAYONET DATA**

<u>Bayonet</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Rifle</u>	<u>Blade Length</u>
M1905	U.S.	M1903 Springfield and M1 Garand	16"
M1905E1	U.S.	M1 Garand	10"
M4	U.S.	M1 Carbine	6.75"
M5	U.S.	M1 Garand	10"
M7	U.S.	M16 Series	6.5"
M9	U.S.	M16 and M4	7"
M1907	Great Britain	Rifle #1, Mk. III and Rifle #4, Mk. I	17"
S84/98	Germany	Kar. 98 Mauser	9.84"
Bodák vz/24	Czechoslovakia	VZ24 Mauser	11.65"
M1924	Yugoslavia	M48 Mauser	9.84"
M1968	Russian	SVD Rifle	6"
M1944	Russian	M44 Carbine	12.25"
M1949	Russian	Simonov Carbine (SKS)	8.75"

Bayonet photos are courtesy of the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia.

In the next issue of *INFANTRY*, Weapons Corner will feature **COMBAT SHOTGUNS.**

