

U.S. GI NON-CORROSIVE PRIMERS

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U.S. Military Cartridge Manufacturers, WWII to 2001:

To Include Caliber, Manufacturer's Codes and Date Stamp

– for calibers –

.30-'06, M1911 .45 ACP, .30 Carbine & 7.62 NATO

Protocol of Headbase Stamps for U.S. Manufacturers (ALL Calibers):

Frankford Arsenal:

Headstamp: **FA**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year.

Federal Cartridge Corporation:

Headstamp: **FCC**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year – OR if "single digits" are found then for example, a 4 would indicate 1944 and a 5 would indicate 1955.

Lake City Arsenal:

Headstamp: **LC**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year.

Remington Arms:

Headstamp: **RA**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year.

Saint Louis Ordnance Plant:

Headstamp: **SL**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Twin Cities Arsenal:

Headstamp: **TW**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Western Cartridge Corporation:

Headstamp: **WCC**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Winchester Repeating Arms:

Headstamp: **WRA**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Dominion Arsenal (Canada):

Headstamp: **DAQ**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Verdun Arsenal (Canada): All .30-'06 manufactured by Verdun was NON-CORROSIVE!

Headstamp: **VC**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Eu Claire Ordnance Plant: Manufactured exclusively during WWII and all production IS CORROSIVE!

Headstamp: **EW**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Denver Ordnance Plant: Manufactured exclusively during WWII and all production IS CORROSIVE!

Headstamp: **Den**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Utah Ordnance Plant: Manufactured exclusively during WWII and all production IS CORROSIVE!

Headstamp: **U** or **UT**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

Des Moines Ordnance Plant: Manufactured exclusively during WWII and all production IS CORROSIVE!

Headstamp: **DM**

Date Stamp: Last two digits of the year:

NON-CORROSIVE AMMUNITION EXCEPTIONS:

.30 CARBINE

Note: All (U.S.) .30 Carbine Ammunition made during WWII and after is NON-CORROSIVE (regardless of manufacturer)!

7.62 mm NATO

Note: All 7.62 mm NATO manufactured in this country is NON Corrosive – **EXCEPT** 1956 "International Match Ammunition" manufactured by Frankford Arsenal (produced at the same time as the FA .30-'06, 1956 International Match Ammunition)! This ammunition is usually

found in Arsenal White Boxes marked "International Match" with FA and the appropriate lot number.

Non-corrosive Primers By Ammunition Lot and Date:

NOTE: While the decision to go entirely to non-corrosive primers was made in August of 1949, and was scheduled to be totally implemented by the beginning of 1950, the actual changeover took longer than expected. Listed below are the lot numbers and dates of the FIRST NON-CORROSIVE military ammunition made in the United States or Canada. If the lot numbers are NOT known, the only safe way to discern the corrosive or non-corrosive nature of the primers is to consider the following year date stamp as non-corrosive. For example, if the first non-corrosive lot number of Frankfort is 4149 produced in October 1951, anything manufactured by FA stamped 52 can be considered to be safe to use. I will list the ABSOLUTELY safe headstamps at the end of this document.

The following are the actual dates, calibers, lot numbers and manufacturer's first non-corrosive ammunition. Not ALL ammunition made during THAT year is necessarily non-corrosive:

FRANKFORD ARSENAL:

Type: .30-'06 Ball:
Lot Number: 4149
Date: October 1951
First SAFE headstamp: FA 52

Type: .30-'06 AP
Lot Number: 887
Date: October 1951
First SAFE headstamp: FA 52

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 1542
Date: July 1954
First SAFE headstamp:
FA 55

EXCEPTIONS FOR FRANKFORD ARSENAL:

- 1.Any .30-'06 Ball with zinc plated primers with headstamp of FA 47 or later is non-corrosive.
 - 2.FA .30-'06 "Special Match" headstamped FA 53, FA 54, or FA 56 with red, purple or green primer waterproofing is CORROSIVE!
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FEDERAL CARTRIDGE CORPORATION:

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 1801
Date: November 1953
First SAFE Headstamp: FCC 54

LAKE CITY ARSENAL:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 13700
Date: June 1951
First SAFE Headstamp: LC 52

Type: .30-'06 AP
Lot Number: 13158
Date: April 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: LC 53

REMINGTON ARMS CORPORATION:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 33853
Date: November 1951
First SAFE Headstamp: RA 52

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 5544
Date: September 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: RA 53

ST. LOUIS ORDNANCE PLANT:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 9420
Date: May 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: SL 53

Type: .30-'06 AP
Lot Number: 9467
Date: July 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: SL 53

TWIN CITIES ARSENAL:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 19362
Date: December 1950
First SAFE Headstamp: TW 51

Type: .30-'06 AP
Lot Number: 19776
Date: February 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: TW 53

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 18000
Date: August 1953
First SAFE Headstamp: TW 54

WESTERN CARTRIDGE CORPORATION:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 6428
Date: June 1951
First SAFE Headstamp: WCC 52

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 6375
Date: November 1952
First SAFE Headstamp: WCC 53

WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS COMPANY:

Type: .30-'06 Ball
Lot Number: 23201
Date: August 1951
First SAFE Headstamp: WRA 52

Type: .30-'06 AP
Lot Number: 22007
Date: June 1954
First SAFE Headstamp: WRA 55

Type: .45 ACP Ball
Lot Number: 22198
Date: November 1951
First SAFE Headstamp: WRA 52

WRA EXCEPTIONS/Unusual Lots:

Type: .45 ACP Ball (Steel Case)
Lot Numbers 22000 - 22007
Date: June 1954

If I recall, these were "mild" steel (reloadable) cases used for the 1955 National Matches, but don't hold my feet to the fire on this one! These are not to be confused with the WWII Steel Cases to be used (**ONLY**) in the United States for practice. The WWII stuff usually had purple primer sealant, and was produced to conserve brass during the war. All the WWII Steel Case .45 ACP **IS** corrosive.

CANADIAN PRODUCED .30-'06 BALL AMMUNITION:

DOMINION ARSENAL (CANADA):

ALL ammunition manufactured by this maker is **non-corrosive**. They started producing .30-'06 Ball in August 1945.

VERDUN ARSENAL (CANADA):

ALL ammunition manufactured by this maker is **non-corrosive**. They started producing .30-'06 Ball in April 1945.

EAU CLAIRE ORDINANCE PLANT:

ALL ammunition was produced during WWII and IS Corrosive!

DENVER ORDINANCE PLANT:

ALL ammunition was produced during WWII and IS Corrosive!

UTAH ORDINANCE PLANT:

ALL ammunition produced during WWII and IS Corrosive!

Summary of "Safe" Headstamps by Caliber:

.30-'06 Ball:

DAQ (Canadian) All non-corrosive	RA 52
VC (Canadian) All non-corrosive	WCC 52
TW 51	WRA 52
FA 52	SL 53
LC 52	

.30-'06 AP:

FA 52	SL 53
TW 53	WRA 55
LC 53	

.45 ACP Ball

WRA 52
WCC 53
RA 53
FCC 54
TW 54
FA 55

.30 Carbine:

All Non-corrosive

7.62 NATO:

All Non-corrosive (exception 1956 FA "International Match")