

No Serial Number 37th Series Tokyo Juki Kogyo Type 99

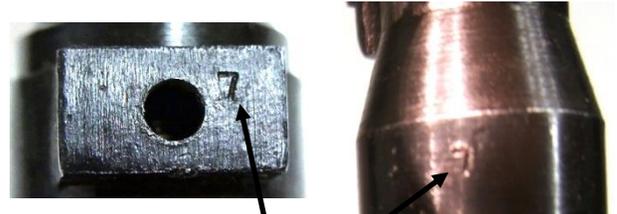
By Dale Crabtree

This 37th series Tokyo Juki Kogyo Type 99 rifle is much as those examples described in The Japanese Type 99 Arisaka Rifle publication by Don Voigt. The author notes its features as the “third configuration” for this series. However, unlike those examples listed in the book, there is no serial number or series number preceding the arsenal symbols on this example.

None of the parts have numbers except for the number “7” on the bottom of the barrel and receiver. No inspection marks are found in these two locations. Most of the rifle parts carry the “SHA” (社) inspection mark. The unnumbered bolt does have the “SHA” (社) inspection mark along with the 2mm second class circle (⊖). The unmarked firing pin and smooth welded safety each have the “SHA” (社) inspection mark. The extractor and trigger are unmarked. All parts are blued. The finish on the receiver and barrel is the nice deep blue normally found on the early rifles, and it has a chromed bore.



No serial number



Assembly number 7

The receiver had a mum (now ground) but no “Type 99” Kanji. It has the expected front sights without guards, two screw front band, rear sight slide without anti-aircraft wings, non-monopod rear barrel band, long hand guard and no cleaning rod. There are two drain holes in the stock, and the long forearm was drilled for the long cleaning rod. However, this particular rifle contains additional late war production expediencies as well. As is noted in The Japanese Type 99 Arisaka Rifle publication, many late rifles in this series, including this example, do not have the hole in the metal insert of the front barrel band for the cleaning rod. One of the front barrel band the rear screw head has the screw driver slot is cut off center.



No cleaning rod hole



Off center screw driver slot

The stock is normal early production with many of the metal components missing. It is cut for the square cleaning rod catch, two-screw rear sling swivel, and metal butt plate. But, none of these parts were installed on the stock. It is also missing the recoil lug. In place of the normal metal butt plate, a late war thick wooden butt plate was nailed to the rear of the stock with three nails.



Cut for rod catch but not installed



Cut for rear swivel and butt plate but not installed



No recoil bolt



Three nails on wooden butt plate

The stock carries both the “TO” (東) and “se” (セ) inspection marks in the supervisory position along with the “se” (セ) mark in the factory inspection mark position. In addition, the encircled double line “second class” mark (⊖) is located between the supervisory marks and factory mark. Most notable of all, the rejected symbol stamp “X” is located by the lower drain hole.

Reject “X” in stock





This rifle has been stored for a long time, as cobwebs can be seen in the hole for the recoil bolt and in the top screw hole for the metal butt plate. It was also probably stored in the open, as it carries the tale-tale traces of paint drops in a couple of locations.

This is a very interesting rifle and by viewing the many early and late features one is able to tell this is a 37th series TJK even without the series mark on the barrel. In The Japanese Type 99 Arisaka Rifle (page 124) reference is made to one TJK without a serial number and with a "X" stamped in the wood as being examined however, no photo or other details of that rifle are sighted in the publication. So is it possible that this is the rifle mentioned in The Japanese Type 99 Arisaka Rifle or a new unreported rifle. Whatever the case may be and based upon these observations, this rifle was, in all likelihood assembled very late in the war from unfinished or previously rejected parts. With the additional feature of its missing serial number, it is a very nice example of a unfinished 37th or post 37th series rifle.