

Winter Wars MMXXIV Addendum

Qualifying Rifles

Any Safe Rifle: Any “safe rifle” may fire in this event. A safe rifle is not a magnum, does not have a muzzle brake, and will not be of a caliber over 8mm except for rifles originally chambered for black powder cartridges – which may use black powder or smokeless loads.

The competitor must be confident that the rifle fires and functions safely, either from previous experience firing the rifle or from inspection by a competent gunsmith to include a careful identification of the proper cartridge and loading for that rifle.

For a rifle to be safe, the user must be knowledgeable of the correct sighting and zeroing of the rifle, so that rounds fired will impact on the proper target.

Rifles appropriate to the named battles, and therefore qualifying to score as match winner: This is easy in general but tough in the particulars. First off, this is a battle rifle match, not a sniper rifle match, so you may fire a scope sighted weapon, but you cannot attain match winner with one. Similarly, this is a classic mil-surp match so, while you can use an AR, M1A, AK, SKS, etc., those guns will not be in contention for match winner. Match contenders must be from the Korean War era or earlier.

IN 2024, YOU WILL CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES FROM THOSE AVAILABLE ON A MATRIX, ACCORDING TO THE RIFLES YOU ARE USING. THE MATRIX WILL MAKE THE BATTLES MORE COMPETITIVE INSTEAD OF HAVING DOZENS OF BATTLES WITH FEW COMPETITORS. BUT DON'T WORRY, EVERY CONCEIVABLE RIFLE WILL HAVE ONE OR MORE AVAILABLE BATTLES. EVEN IF YOU WANT TO FIRE A TRAPDOOR OR A RIMFIRE, THERE WILL BE A BATTLE AVAILABLE TO YOU. WE ALSO INTEND TO POST “VICTORS” FROM ONE “SIDE” OR THE OTHER FOR EACH BATTLE. FOR INSTANCE, THE AVERAGE SCORE OF EVERYONE SHOOTING MAUSERS VERSUS THE AVERAGE SCORE OF EVERYONE FIRING MOSIN NAGANTS WILL DETERMINE IF THE GERMANS OR THE RUSSIANS ARE THE “VICTORS” OF STALINGRAD!

Battle of Stalingrad: We know the Russians primarily fired various models of the **Mosin Nagant**. The Model 44 and the various Finnish models were certainly not used, but we'll allow them too because they fit the general form. The Czar once had quantities of the **Winchester M1895** in 7.62x54, were they present at Stalingrad? I don't know, but if you've got one, bring it out and watch us all stare at it in amazement. **Simonov and Tokarev semi-automatic rifles?** Absent further research results, I guess they could have been there. If you want to use one of them, how about doing a little research of your own to document it. That way we'll have more to go on in the future.

The Germans used **8mm Kar98Ks** and similar weapons of Polish and Czech manufacture. Let's make this easy and say **any 8mm Mauser**, at least for this year. Competitors who think that is too inclusive should speak up so that we can reconsider for future events. Although I have no reference to this, it seems likely the Germans would have fielded their semi-automatic rifles if they could. That makes the G-41 a shoo-in, but the G-43 is a question mark for a battle in Nov.-Dec. 1942. If you want to use a G-43, try to bring some documentation showing their use at Stalingrad. The Germans were accompanied by Romanians and Italians, so any **Romanian Mannlichers or Italian Carcanos** are acceptable.

Battle of the Bulge: Frontline US troops had **M1 rifles** and **M1 carbines**. However, **1917s**, **1903s** and **'03-A3s** were in the hands of rear echelon/support troops – cooks and so on, and these troops were engaged by German paratroopers dropped behind Allied lines. Also present was the **BAR**, so you can fire a **semi-automatic BAR** if you wish.

The English and Canadians were involved in the Battle of the Bulge (approximately 1300 KIA). There was little participation by other Allied armies at the Bulge. The Canadian Paratroopers were carrying their **No.4 MkIs**. There were probably no No.1s and certainly no Jungle Carbines, but if that is all you have and they are safe rifles, we will have to give the **No.1 MkIIIs** the benefit of the doubt and allow them to qualify.

Germans at the Bulge had the usual Mausers and possibly semi-automatic rifles, so **8mm Mausers**, **G-41s** and **G-43s** will qualify. This was a major conflict for Germany and there is no indication that they employed other captured weapons. If you have information to the contrary please let us know.

Wake Island: The U.S. Marines fought this battle with **Model 1903s**. We do not believe they had A3s and they certainly did not have M1 rifles. We believe they had Thompson sub-machine guns but not M1 carbines. We do not find the Thompsons appropriate for firing at 200 yards with personnel in the pits. A **semi-automatic Johnson Automatic Rifle** would probably qualify if you wish to drag such a scarce and delicate relic out in January weather! If you want to make a case for other American weapons at Wake Island please bring your research.

The Japanese had **Arisakas**. The sheer simplicity of this suggests there is more for us to know. If you have an Arisaka you would like to use please know the model designation so we have more information for future matches. If you have something else that you think should qualify as a Japanese weapon at Wake Island please bring your research.

WWII Battles included: Afghan Sandbox, Frozen Chosin, Iwo Jima, Khyber Pass, Battle of the Neutrals, Tarawa, Wake Island.

This event has been incredibly popular with the hardy bunch that loves to see and hear the old war relics barking on the firing line. I bet you have one or more vintage battle rifles that deserve an outing. So come join the fun! Dust off your two favorite mil-surp battle rifles and let them assert themselves once again at Winter Wars MMXXIV.

Be there or be square (warm, dry and comfortable)! This could be our biggest high power match of the year, don't miss it!

See you on the line!

WINTER WARS BATTLE MATRIX

BATTLE	SIDE 1	SIDE 2
Chosin Reservoir (Korean War)	USA, NATO * M1 * M1 Carbine * 1903, 1903A3	N Korea, China * Mosin Nagant * SKS * Other
Bulge (WWII)	US, Allies * M1 * M1 Carbine * 1903, 1903A3 * 1917 Enfield * SMLE	Germany * KAR98K, etc.
Stalingrad (WWII)	Russia * Mosin Nagant * SVT-38/40 * Other	Germany * KAR98K, etc.
Afghanistan <i>(Acceptable to shoot but not eligible to win match)</i>	US & Coalition * AR15, M4 * M1A * SA80 (UK) * Other	Taliban * AK * SKS * Other misc.