



FS-001 Markings on Australian SMLE Rifles

Make, model & year

(on body or receiver under closed bolt handle)

Up to 1926



Post 1926

MA
LITHGOW
SMLE
III*
1941

Models

Mk III

Magazine cut-off; Long range volley sights; Windage adjustment on rear sight; Butt disk.

Mk III*

No magazine cut-off; No long range sights; No windage adjustment on rear sight; No butt disk. (butt marking disk was deleted in 1918)

Designation

Up to 1926

SMLE Mk III or Mk III*

Post 1926

Rifle No.1 Mk III or Mk III*

.22 No.2 Mk IV* was the only .22 SMLE made at Lithgow.

Serial Numbers

Normally stamped on receiver ring (where barrel screws in) and on R/H side of barrel knob form. Also can be found on flat on rear of bolt, on noscap bayonet boss, under back sight leaf and on front underside of forewood.

Another type of serial number can occasionally be found on the stock, on the rear top face of the receiver socket beside the cocking piece and on the bottom of the bolt handle (often used as the serial number on special purpose rifles which did not receive a normal serial number). This number is actually the "Proofed Action Assembly number" (PAA) and was applied to a matched receiver and bolt after initial proof, before they were mated to a barrel and given a final serial number. Up until the beginning World War II bayonets were often serial numbered to the rifle with the number stamped on the pommel.

00001 to 99999	(1913 – 1918)	Manufactured Lithgow SAF
A00001 to A99999	(1918 – 1920s)	Manufactured Lithgow SAF
B00001 to B99999	(1920s – 1941)	Manufactured Lithgow SAF
C00001 to C99999	(1941)	Manufactured Lithgow SAF
D00001 to D99999	(1941 – 1942)	Some manufactured in Orange SAF-3
E00001 to E99999	(1942 – 1944)	Manufactured Orange SAF-3
F00001 to F39580	(1944 – 1945)	Manufactured Orange SAF-3
F39581 to F40580	(1953)	Manufactured Lithgow SAF (machinery trials)

Proof Marks	Shield with A C over P	Early Lithgow
	Crown over crossed flags with L over P	Lithgow
Inspection Marks Each inspector had his or her own number	Crown over number over L	Early Lithgow SAF
	L over ^ over number	Later Lithgow SAF
	O over ^ over number	Orange SAF-3 (1942 – 1945)
	Crown over number over S	Sydney (c1941 – c1945)
	7 pt star (large) with A inside	Early Lithgow SAF (c1913 – c1915)
	7 pt star (small) with A inside	Later Lithgow SAF (c1915 – c1926)
	7 pt star with A inside over number	Inspection marks at various stages of assembly, both Roman & Arabic numbers were used (c1913 – 1956)
Issue Marks	ALH	Australian Light Horse
	A^F	Australian Forces
	AN	Australian Navy
	CMF	Citizen Military Forces
	D^D	Defence Department pre WW1, then 1920s to 1960s
	D over ^	Defence Department
	D ^ (inside)	Defence Department WW1 to 1920s (Australia Land Service)
	^	Government ownership & acceptance
	LH	Light Horse
	RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
	RAN	Royal Australian Navy
	1MD	1st Military District (Northern Command, Queensland)
	2MD	2nd Military District (Eastern Command, New South Wales)
	3MD	3rd Military District (Southern Command, Victoria)
	4MD	4th Military District (Central Command, South Australia)
	5MD	5th Military District (Western Command, West Australia)
	6MD	6th Military District (Tasmania Command, Tasmania)
7MD	7th Military District (Northern Territory Command)	
Factory Marks	BA	Rifle Factory No.2 Bathurst
	CA	Cowra Annexe
	DA	Dubbo Annexe
	FA	Forbes Annexe
	Lithgow	LSAF up to 1926 (on both rifles & bayonets)
	MA	LSAF post 1926 (on both rifles & bayonets)
	MAO	Rifle Factory No.3 Orange (butt marking)
	OA	Rifle Factory No.3 Orange
	PA	Parkes Annexe
	PA	Portland Annexe
	SLAZ	Slazenger Annexe (supplied wood furniture from 1941)
	WA	Wellington Annexe

Other Marks

FTR/xx (year)	Factory Thorough Repair
HV	Sighted for high velocity ammunition (stamped on butt)
MA xx (year)	Rebuild at LSAF
L	Long butt (stamped at heel of butt)
S	Short butt (stamped at heel of butt)
UNSERVICEABLE	Condemned
US	Condemned
DP	Drill purpose
EY	Emergency use only (rifles often used for grenade launchers)
H	Heavy barrel (stamped on barrel knox form & butt at socket)
R	Replacement barrel (stamped on barrel knox form)
I S over A	Inspectorate of Small Arms
Opposed Rs	Condemned
><	Sale or disposal to public, weapon not guaranteed serviceable
>S<	Sale or disposal to public, weapon serviceable
*	Slight pitting in rifling (stamped on barrel knox form)
**	Moderate pitting in rifling (stamped on barrel knox form)
***	Bad pitting in rifling (stamped on barrel knox form)