

Remington.



REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

SPORTING ARMS-AMMUNITION-TARGETS-TRAPS

ILION, NEW YORK 13357

TELEPHONE (315) 895-3200

June 15, 1993

Mr. Rick Carthen
Box 111
Mineral Wells, TX 76067

Dear Mr. Carthen:

At your request, your rifle, a Mohawk 600, serial number A6223022, is being returned to you in as-received condition. This rifle has been altered after it was manufactured by Remington and in its present condition is not safe to use.

Your rifle, which was built in January, 1976, has been thoroughly examined by Remington engineering personnel and was found to have our high-pressure proof test, gallery test and final inspection stamp markings. This indicates that this rifle had successfully passed all necessary tests and inspections before being shipped from our factory.

The general condition of the rifle is very good to excellent. In our examination of the individual parts, we found the headspace, bolt shoulders, and chamber all to be normal. The rifle has seen moderate use and has been relatively well maintained. However, at some time the firearm has been modified from original factory condition by someone, most probably a gunsmith. When the bolt was moved in a normal closing action with no cartridge present, it was noted that the magazine follower would occasionally move forward and bind under the bolt head. Close examination of the magazine follower shows that follower is not a Mohawk 600 part, which is a chrome-plated sheet metal stamping, but is a solid steel follower as is currently used in the Remington Model 700 rifle. In addition, it was observed that the magazine was not correctly assembled to the receiver which has caused a distortion of the trigger guard.

Examination of the rifle and trigger assembly could not duplicate the malfunction you reported, specifically "...I ejected the empty shell and bolted in a fresh round, it went off again..." Numerous attempts were made by our engineers to cause the rifle to fire as you described

by closing the bolt. The rifle did not malfunction when the bolt was closed in a normal manner, even when moved quite hard and fast. However, the rifle could be made to 'follow-down" (a failure of the rifle to cock) if the bolt was closed extremely hard and violently fast. This failure to cock, although it leaves the firing pin forward and the bolt closed, does not cause firing.

Disassembly of the rifle revealed that the trigger assembly was extremely clean. There was essentially no lubricant present, including none of the factory lubricant. It was noted that there was no dust or lint present which would be expected in a rifle used as you described. The trigger mechanism has been tampered with since it left the factory. Our associated significant findings are:

- 1) A trigger mechanism has been removed from this receiver and re-assembled. It is possible that this trigger mechanism is not the one originally assembled to this rifle at the factory.
- 2) The original factory sealant on all three adjusting screws in the fire control has been removed, and a non-factory sealant has been used on the trigger engagement and overtravel adjustment screws. The trigger pull screw has not had any sealant added since the after-factory adjustment was made.
- 3) The trigger pull was measured to be 4.15 pounds average which is barely within our specifications of 4 to 6 pounds.
- 4) The trigger engagement screw has been adjusted down to a connector/sear engagement of .0048" which is less than one-third of the minimum factory specification of .015". Proper connector/sear engagement is extremely important for the safe and proper function of the rifle, and the engagement screw is set, staked and sealed at the factory. Although the amount of engagement in your rifle may allow it to appear to be operating properly, it is not within our specifications and is not safe to use in this condition. The follow-down malfunctions which occurred by slamming the bolt closed in our tests were due to this lack of full connector/sear engagement.

The changes in the trigger adjustments observed by us are the type of adjustments done by someone attempting to "improve" the trigger performance after manufacture. The nature of the alterations indicate that they were most likely made by a gunsmith somewhat familiar with Remington bolt action rifles.

We could not duplicate the accidental discharges which you claim happened. However, the present extremely small sear/connector engagement could well have caused the problems. Very small engagement is highly more susceptible to disengagement, via inadvertent trigger pull or gun jarring, than normal factory specification engagement.

Predicated on the results of our extensive examination and testing of your rifle, Remington Arms Company, Inc. cannot accept any liability or responsibility for the reported incidents. Assuming that the condition of the trigger assembly as received by us is unchanged since the incident, the only explanation for the accidental discharge is that the trigger was inadvertently pulled or jarred from the position of altered minimum engagement with the safety in the "fire" position.

Therefore, it appears your 1976 Mohawk 600 rifle was purchased by you unknowingly as a new rifle approximately seven months ago. We conclude, however, that examination shows the rifle was a used gun when purchased and also was modified outside the factory to an out of specification unsafe condition.

Although we are returning your rifle to you in the as-received condition, this is being done at your request and insistence. However, we repeat that this rifle is unsafe for any use in its present state of alteration.

Based on that unsafe condition and our desire to always make every effort to maintain a safe condition in every Remington firearm, new or used, we will be happy to replace your trigger mechanism with a new one at one-half the normal replacement cost. Please advise.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to examine your Mohawk 600, Mr. Carthen, and for this chance to be of service to you.

Sincerely,



R.H. Potter
Product Service

RHP: tpp