

LES FREER GUN SHOP

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FOR LEADING MANUFACTURERS

FIELD SERVICE

JUN 17 1979

July 12, 1979

Remington Arms Co.
Att: R. L. St. John
Arms Service Div.
Ilion, N.Y. 13357

Dear Dick:

Regarding your recent bulletins on safety related problems in Remington guns, we share your concern in this matter and pass on the following notes for whatever they may be worth.

Our somewhat extensive experience with these problems has been confined, almost 100%, to the bolt actions, 600, 660 & 700. From the very first of these, going back a few years, we have always been confronted with more complaints than gun problems. In other words, the so called safety problems in many cases were people problems rather than gun problems, perfectly normal rifles returned with accounts of accidental discharge. What bothered us most were the reasons why only these models were involved, while we very rarely encountered the same complaint with any other make or model rifle. These reasons are what we have tried to analyze.

The models involved (700 etc.) were cleverly designed to locate trigger and safety in the most convenient and comfortable positions for the shooter - no question that this feature has been appreciated by everyone who ever used one of these rifles. But at the same time, this very convenience naturally places the index finger on the trigger and the thumb on the safety simultaneously and any effort to push the safety forward induces some support by the index finger resting on the trigger. A very desirable, yet safe, trigger pull then becomes a liability as the sear is released unintentionally.

Of course, we all know that the trigger should not be contacted while moving the safety, and no experienced shooter commits this error, but more often than not these rifles are in the hands of inexperienced shooters. Furthermore, with very few exceptions the complaint has been: "Fired when the safety was moved".

R. L. St. John

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While it is true that many other types and models of rifles have thumb operated safeties their location in relation to the location of the trigger differs enough to reduce the problem.

The few exceptions mentioned have been cases where the trigger/sear engagement was just too short, sometimes having been adjusted after leaving the factory, sometimes not. In these cases the complaint has been firing on closing the bolt.

Now a few words about the 600 recall program. We find the new trigger assemblies that we are installing a great improvement - an excellent assembly in every way; we can't find any problem with these at all.

It should be worth mentioning that we have processed about 425 of these recalled rifles so far, and we are appalled by the condition of some of these guns as they come to us. Lack of maintenance is hardly the word for it; many of them come in with the old trigger assembly so fouled with dirt and dried up, sticky, gummy lubricant it is a miracle that it functions at all. Putting in ~~for~~ that nice new trigger assembly is truly "casting pearls to the swine".

That's all I have to bug you with today. Kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

Les

Les Freer

cc: Dennis Sanita

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