

exactly will lead to axial misalignment. This is now being changed so the assembly will take up on a flat surface, which will eliminate the tendency to twist the assembly out of alignment. This should improve accuracy. This change will involve an expenditure of approximately \$200 plus a scrap cost of approximately \$1,400, but it is not expected to increase production costs.

In order to minimize the scrapping of existing parts, it is now planned to defer introduction of this change until August, 1956.

- (2) Fore-end assembly. At present, the fore-end is clamped between the barrel and receiver. This, in effect, ties the barrel ring to the receiver. When the barrel gets hot due to repeated firing, expansion causes a bending of the barrel, leading to a shift in the point of impact.

A revised design provides a floating fore-end attached only to the barrel ring. This should result in an important improvement in accuracy. This change involves an expenditure of \$6,400 plus a scrap cost of approximately \$1,800. Operating costs will be increased by approximately 22 cents per gun, or approximately \$15,000 per year. To minimize scrapping of existing parts, this change is scheduled for introduction in November, 1956.

- (3) Breech bolt. Proposed changes in the breech bolt are unrelated to the two changes discussed above. They involve primarily modification of the interrupted threads to increase stopping area, and improvements in the bolt cam. These improvements will provide smoother operation and will permit the use of a stronger ejector spring. This change requires an expenditure of \$18,500, with little or no scrap cost and no expected change in product cost. It will be advisable to make this change during the vacation shutdown so that change in assembled guns will be effective in September, 1956.

After some discussion, the committee agreed that, in order to provide the best possible guns to insure continued acceptance, all three of these changes should be made.