

CC: H. E. Leek  
P. B. Rutherford  
M. H. Walker

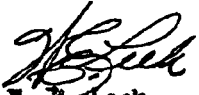
March 11th, 1947

TO: H. A. Brown  
FROM: W. E. Leek  
SUBJECT: M/721 PRE-PILOT TESTING

Reference is made to a daily progress report on the above subject dated 3/3/47 and your question concerning the blown primers.

This testing shows that a blown primer has no affect upon the gun mechanism. After firing under these conditions, the proof chamber was opened. Evidence of burned powder collected on white blotter paper surrounding the gun shows that the gas escape port in the receiver is effective in providing an escape for any pressure that might be released by a blown head, split case or blown primer. There was no evidence of burned powder being collected near the position of the shooter's eye while firing under the above mentioned conditions.

It may be of interest to note that proof loads are loaded with 2.78 grams of powder. Evidence of blown primers did not occur in this firing until the ammunition was loaded to 3.00 grams of proof powder.

  
W. E. Leek  
Engineering Section  
Technical Department

WEL:MC