

FIELD TESTS OF MODEL #721 RIFLES

Attached hereto are abstracts from the functional field tests conducted by Sales representatives on a total of thirty-three (33) rifles shipped to them in accordance with G. E. Pinckney's letter dated October 31, 1944. In addition, comments and recommendations have been extracted from the test report and are attached hereto.

For ready reference and ease of assimilation we have selected the components upon which comments or recommendations have been submitted for consideration:

BOLT

"Bolts on all rifles should be more highly polished even though it might involve a slightly higher price. These remarks apply also to the bolt handle and bolt collar. Welding marks can be seen underneath bolt knobs and bolt handles." (Virgil Richard) Polished bolts also recommended by Braun, Bradner, Peret and Mitchell.

"A longer bolt handle would aid materially in operation of the bolt in a gun equipped with a hunting scope." (L. W. Johnson)

"Top of bolt and front left lug on bolt should be polished and smoothed so the drag will be less on pulling the bolt to rear." (D. Lee Braun)

"When closing the bolt considerable force is necessary to seat the cartridge especially on Rifle #23758." (H. H. Kuhlman)

"Finish on the bolts of the three rifles I have is very poor. They are rough and not polished and show tool marks all over them. The bolts should be polished enough to eliminate the tool marks." (Gus Peret)

"I notice where the bolt handle is brazed to bolt that the brazing is rather crude. A more finished job needed." (C. G. Baldwin)

BUTT-PLATE

"Why not have a steel butt-plate? Bolt-action rifles are not complete with substitute. Butt-plates are used by some shooters to absorb recoil." (C. G. Baldwin)

EJECTOR

"Apparently, the trouble (brass shavings) lies in the length of the ejector which cuts a small half moon groove in the shell head when closing the bolt." (H. H. Kuhlman)

EXTRACTOR

"Extractors showed very little shavings of brass." (R. S. Miller)

"Have been skeptical about extractor; tests have convinced me O.K. with factory loads. Don't know what might occur with 'crank' souped-up hand loads with excess pressures." (C.C. Mitchell)

FIRING PIN HEAD

"If a small shallow circular groove could be cut in the middle and around the firing pin head and then filled in with red lacquer, it would provide an additional safety feature." (Virgil Richard)

FRONT GUARD SCREW

"As you know the front guard screw on this rifle goes into a tapered hole that goes through the lower receiver and up into the recess where one of the locking lugs turns. If this front guard screw is tightened up too much the end of the screw projects UP INTO THE RECESS and prevents the bolt from being closed all the way." (W. J. Howe)

FRONT SIGHT

"I suggest that the front sight be slotted so that a hood could be slipped over the top. This is a big feature with the Winchester Model #70." (C.G. Baldwin)

on the Condensed Quality Report for November.

In summation, the reports from these tests are quite satisfactory when viewed in the light of changes which have been incorporated into rifles under current production and those withdrawn from the "warehouse for alterations." Particular care should be exercised at the Ilion Plant to insure that very high quality is maintained during the first year's production. The first impressions are lasting and difficult to overcome. After the new rifle has received consumer acceptance, on a broad scale, we can then determine what additional changes may be necessary as a result of complaints or comments of a repetitive nature which warrant consideration. Ilion Plant Management should check carefully our pamphlet titled, "Experiences in the Design and Manufacture of Shotguns and Rifles", issued in October, 1945 to insure that errors noted therein are not repeated in any respect in the launching of the Model #721.

W. L. Clay
W. L. Clay
Manager of Quality

WLC/mgw
Encls. (2)
December 23, 1947

CC: C.K. Davis
D.F. Carpenter
W.U. Reisinger

B.E. Strader (15)
G.O. Clifford (8)
M.R. Warden (10)