

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.  
Firearms Research Division

November 18, 1980

TO: C. B. WORKMAN  
FROM: J. W. BROOKS  
SUBJECT: MODEL 700 - 17 CALIBER BARRELS

The 17 Caliber chambering was added to the Model 700 line in 1971. Since then approx. 20,000 rifles have been produced. Yearly quantities vary from 6,000 to 700. The last four years have been running at approximately 2,000 a year.

According to Bill Boettner approximately one third of the rifles are exported, with four fifths of them going to Australia. They are used for fox hunting. They like the flat trajectory and the bullets disintegrate upon entering the animal. This prevents damage to the pelt on what would normally be the exit side. The hunters carry several rifles and use them until accuracy drops off. They then put the rifle up and use another. When they return to base after the hunt all guns are cleaned.

The plant reports that they experience considerably more problems making stainless steel barrels than they do in making our standard barrels from 155 spec. steel. In 1972 an accuracy test was run using two stainless steel barrels and two standard steel barrels on M700 actions:

- At 1260 rds. one of the stainless steel barrels started to register groups out of Remington specifications (2.2 center to center) although the average for three 5-shot groups was still within specifications. At 1635 rds. accuracy became very erratic and would not shoot within Remington specifications.
- The other stainless steel barrel shot within Remington specifications for the length of the test, which was 2100 rds.
- The two standard steel barrels stayed within Remington specifications for the full test of over 2100 rds. although a few of the later groups had individual 5-shot groups above specifications.

In early 1980 a test was run using stainless steel barrels and a standard steel barrel on M700 actions. The testing was done in the 50 yard range.

- The two stainless steel barrels started to show keyholing at 400 and 600 rounds, plus in some cases the bullets seemed to be disintegrating.

To: C.B.Workman  
From: J.W.Brooks  
M700 - 17 Caliber Barrels

11-18-80  
-2-

- 
- The standard steel barrel accuracy was still satisfactory after 2000 rounds.
  - Other lots of ammunition were tested and in one stainless steel barrel the keyholing was no longer evident while the other ~~SS~~ barrel continued to have keyholing. The standard steel barrel shot all lots satisfactorily.

The evidence from these two tests indicates the standard steel barrel may be satisfactory in place of stainless steel; however, because of the limited number of barrels in the testing, I would recommend a new controlled test be run.

JWB:T