

Dennis E. Bernhardt
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Columbia, Missouri 65202
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December 12, 1991

Remington Arms Company
Product service
14 Hoefler Avenue
Ilion, NY 13557

Attention: Jim Stekl

Dear Mr. Stekl:

On November 18, 1991, I spoke with an individual named Dennis in your office regarding the rifle you have found packed with this letter. Dennis instructed me to send this rifle to you in the manner I have. Dennis also indicated I should detail what happened, and enclose an estimate of damages.

As you have noted, this is a Remington 700 ADL, .270 Winchester caliber, Serial Number 6522201. I am sure you are aware that when the safety is engaged on this rifle, the bolt is locked, and it is impossible to unload the firearm.

On the evening of November 16, 1991, I came in from the field after hunting all day in the rain with this rifle. I pressed the safety forward, removed the bolt, dried the bolt and external surfaces of the rifle, oiled the rifle, replaced the bolt, engaged the safety, and put the rifle away. At 7:00 AM, the morning of November 17, 1991, I was preparing to leave the house for further hunting. Intending to check the rifle for cartridges, I pointed it in a safe direction, and pressed the safety forward. The rifle discharged sending a 150 grain Winchester Power Point bullet through the bedclothes (leaving a neat circle of powder tattooing on the top quilt around the hole). The bullet proceeded through the rest of the bedclothes, through the mattress of a fold-out sleeper couch, through a throw rug, and appears to have lodged in the finished oak floor, which appears to be mildly splintered, and pockmarked with fragments. Although it is probably unnecessary, I will tell you that the three other adults in the room, the two younger children in an adjoining room, an older child in a third room, and I found this to be extremely disconcerting. I will also tell you that none of us is amused. No one was injured, or killed. We are all very thankful for that, as I am sure you are.

The fact that this incident occurred in a house is as irrelevant as it is unfortunate. The rifle would have discharged when the safety was pressed forward regardless of where the rifle was. The potential for disaster is tremendous. That is immutable. It is also immutable that the design of the safety mechanism of this rifle is ill-conceived, and of poor and unreliable quality. I am not asking, nor do I expect you to admit that.