

23 Nov 94

Remington Arms Corporation  
Ilion, NY.

To whom it may concern:

I wish to document a problem I had with a Remington manufactured rifle that I use for hunting deer. The rifle is a 7mm Magnum, model 700 BDL. The serial number is 369743.

The problem occurred in the late afternoon of Saturday, 12 November. I was attempting to fire the rifle at a deer. I took the safety off and squeezed the trigger but the trigger would not move and the rifle would not fire. I suspected that I may have chambered the round too lightly when I loaded the rifle so I ejected the round and seated a new round more firmly. I again attempted to fire at the deer and again the trigger would not move and the rifle would not fire. By now the deer had heard and seen me, and had fled.

I knelt down and placed the butt of the rifle on my thigh with the muzzle pointing up to attempt to see what went wrong. I could see nothing wrong. I moved the safety on and off several times, braced myself, and squeezed the trigger but the rifle would not fire. I then ejected the round from the rifle and seated another round from the magazine. The rifle fired almost immediately as I placed the bolt in the down position. I had not moved my hand near the trigger at this time.

After the initial shock, I again examined the rifle and could see nothing wrong. I repeated the procedure by ejecting the spent round and placing the last round from the magazine into the chamber. I cautiously placed the bolt in the down position and very shortly afterwards (< 1 second) the rifle again fired. At the time of the incident, the temperature was in the upper 30°F range, it was windy, and it was misting or lightly raining.

I later examined the rifle in our hunting cabin under better lighting and discovered that the firing pin was not being retained in the cocked position when the bolt was placed in the down position. It would be similar to what I do to relieve the firing pin spring pressure when I store the rifle by pressing the trigger as I lower the bolt. This apparently was why the rifle would not fire ... the pin was already against the primer on the round. I also discovered that the pin sometimes hung-up or stuck, and then unexpectedly released shortly after placing the bolt in the down position. This apparently explained the two accidental firings. The rifle also operated properly during my examination. Needless to say, the rifle has not been used since. I have not cleaned or disassembled the rifle since the accidental firings; however, it has been dry-fired several times without rounds.

I have had the rifle for approximately 10 years and have experienced no problems with it. I purchased the rifle, used, at a gun show in Minneapolis and had it examined and cleaned by a reputable gunsmith after I bought it. I have fired it every year and have kept it cleaned and oiled, and have stored it in a breathable gun case since I bought it. I was using new Federal Premium ammunition (not reloads).

I took the rifle to Simon's Sport Shop in Mounds View Minnesota, ph. (612) 784-2888, and explained the problem with the rifle to Si Simon. Si indicated he had recently returned a left-hand 7mm Magnum, 700 BDL to the factory, upon the request of the company, for a similar problem. Si gave me Bob Parstman's phone number (1-800-852-7634) at Remington Arms to call to determine if the rifle should be returned to the factory. Bob gave me another number at the factory to call. On 23 November, I talked to a person at the factory, (315) 895-7791, who recommended the rifle be returned to the factory for examination and repair.

I specifically bought a bolt action rifle for safety and reliability. I am therefore justifiably upset with this extremely critical safety issue. I have two sons (14 and 17) with whom I hunt and am attempting to teach proper gun handling, safety, and respect. I also hunt with several other people who have young persons

learning to hunt. While no close call accompanied this incident, I do not wish to have a repeat of it.

If I can provide any further details, please contact me by phone at (612) 574-4221 (work, days), or (612) 434-6721 (home). There were several other people who participated in and witnessed the examination of the rifle in the cabin who can attest to the information described above.

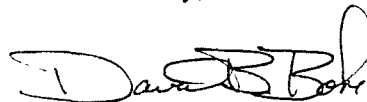
I look forward to communications from the factory concerning the investigation of this issue and have two requests:

1. I wish to have the name and phone number of a contact person at the factory who will be knowledgeable of the investigation process concerning my rifle.
2. As a result of the investigation, I wish to have a **written, detailed explanation** from the factory of the identified or suspected cause of the problem and what was done or what can be done to prevent it from happening again.

I was taught when I was learning to hunt to never trust a gun, and now fully understand and appreciate that training! I hope this incident drives home that philosophy to the young people in our group so that some good may come of it.

Thank you for your prompt and careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David B. Bohn  
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c.c. Si Simon, Simon's Sport Shop