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To: T. C. Douglas

June 1, 1993

From: J. M. Edwards

Subject: Progress Report, May

12 Ga. Premier Slug:

Only part of this month was spent assisting V.F. Scarlata with the workload on this project. Details of this months work is in V. F. Scarlata's progress report.

6.5mm x 55mm SWEDISH:

The priming problems were resolved and the shells were primed with the 174 primer. The handloaded ballistic work was completed and the hot and cold testing was satisfactory. A primary powder and secondary powder has been established. The project is on hold awaiting the bullet development.

The UR barrels have been sent to Ilion for rechamber to the correct dimensions. When returned one will be converted to a pressure barrel and the other will be reserved for an accuracy barrel. When the barrels have been qualified more testing will be accomplished. The current work up has been done with an old barrel chambered to the original SAAMI dimensions. No accuracy data has been generated. Several rounds have been fired through the M96 Swedish Mauser military rifle purchased earlier this year and were satisfactory.

Components are on hand for handloading the Safari ammunition for marketing. One hundred service rounds and twenty proof rounds were handloaded and sent to Ilion for testing and zero of the prototype guns. This ammo should be in Ilion by June 3, 1993. Purchased bullets were used for this handloaded ammo.

6.5mm 140 GR. PSP BULLET:

Since the in-house bullet used for the .264 Win Mag was not satisfactory for the 6.5 x 55 Swedish a new bullet must be made. The bullet assembly tooling has been designed and ordered with a delivery date of mid-June. The bullet jacket tooling is on hand and plans have been made to produce a small sample on the Perkins press next week. When the bullet assembly dies arrive the jackets can be assembled by hand. The correct jacket length can be determined and the cut-off punch can be adjusted if necessary. With the correct jacket length established the EX run can proceed.

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7mm x 64:

The shell head-to-shoulder gage and the taper hex receiver gage were received last week. The loading hex receiver gage is due next week.

The ballistic data has been established via handloading and transmitted to Marketing. More testing was accomplished during the EX loading run. The 140 gr. sample was produced and very nearly matched the handloading samples. The 175 gr sample appears to be on the low side of the specification of 2650 fps. The shooting of SAAMI reference ammo did not match the shooting done in house. A very large correction was necessary to match the SAAMI assessment. More Testing is underway to ascertain the correct values.

F & C (functioning and casualty) guns have been located and ordered. This will complete the testing program and also aid in determining the validity of the SAAMI test ammo.

7mm 140 Gr. PSP Bullet (Make vs Buy):

All the tooling has been designed and is on order. A delivery date of early July is expected.

NON-LEAD BULLET MANUFACTURING:

12 GA COPPER SLUG-

A screw machine vendor was visited last week to observe the operation. The machine occupies approximately 136 square feet (4 x 34ft). The operation is fast and plenty of oil is present. Some of the floor space is needed to feed the 12 feet long bars into the turret.

SWAGE PROCESS FOR CF BULLETS-

Tooling for the trial evaluation of this process has been ordered and expected early July. A change in the boattail has been made at the tool vendors request just to make the part. The angle was changed from 6 1/2 degrees to 15.

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