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Ilion, New York
December 30, 1955

TO: OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - ARMS DIVISION

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FROM: S. M. ALVIS

SUBJECT: SPORTSMAN-58 AUTOLOADING SHOTGUN
Status of Development

In accordance with the decisions of the special Committee Meetings at Ilion on November 8 and 9, 1955, work has proceeded towards accomplishment of the program for introduction of the proposed new shotgun. 83

As of December 29, 1955 a pre-pilot assembly and test of some 109 guns has been completed (except finish of endurance firing). Details are described in the attached report.

Two (2) field test guns were shipped via air express to the west coast districts on December 16. Guns to ten (10) other districts were shipped on December 23, and shipments to New York, Boston and Bridgeport were made on December 27.

The Plant started assembly of the first warehouse guns during the last week of the month, it being necessary to utilize facilities of the Research Model Shop and Plant Tool Room to fabricate some of the new parts in advance of production testing. It is not expected that the two hundred (200) production guns will be ready by January 1, 1956 as had been the objective; however, effort is being made to pick up this deficiency in addition to the January schedule of sixteen hundred (1600) guns. Also, approximately one hundred (100) of the guns which were assembled for the Research testing are considered available for warehouse later.

Design

There have been no further major design changes since the meetings of November 8 and 9. However, in order to meet the objective requirements as outlined in the conclusions, and especially to eliminate the characteristic of failures to lock up, it was necessary to introduce a number of design refinements and also further modify the gas piston. In this connection, a spring urged plunger was also added within the Breech Bolt and Slide Assembly. Other refinements made include the Action Bars and the Shell Latches in order to provide more perfect functioning with the new action release