

Three guns, selected for minimum, average, and maximum malfunction rates were continued in testing, for 1,700 rounds each in shooting jacks, with respective malfunction rates of .61%, .47%, and 1.23%. The reductions in malfunction rates noted in continued testing are possibly due to lack of correlation of shooting jacks with the new gas system, or more favorable test temperature conditions. One gun with a median malfunction rate was continued through 12,000 rounds, with a very favorable over-all rate of .25%.

Current tests of the Model 878 show significant improvement in endurance to have been achieved, both in comparison with earlier design testing and in relation to known parts breakage characteristics of the Sportsman-58. Specific endurance improvement is shown in resistance of receivers and magazine tubes to cracking. Also, extractor and bolt breakage has been reduced. Recently observed instances of barrel guide breakage appear to be under control.

The floating piston gas cutoff of the Model 878 reduces fouling characteristics of the gas operating system. From the standpoint of required periodic cleaning, the Model 878 shows a definite improvement over the Sportsman-58.

Gallery and audit testing has shown some functioning difficulties with light loads, notably the 3-1-8 load of our manufacture. Research & Development collaboration with the Ammunition Division shows promise that these difficulties will be corrected.

Shipment of guns to field representatives was authorized January 20 based on satisfactory pilot functional and endurance testing. All orders were completed by January 23. A quality audit of warehouse guns was started on January 26. Assuming satisfactory results, shipment of jobbers' guns will be authorized by the Plant.

The production schedule for 12 gauge guns has been revised as follows -

	<u>November 6, 1958</u> <u>Schedule</u>	<u>January 29, 1959</u> <u>Schedule</u>
November-December 1958	600	0
January 1959	2,100	2,000
February 1959	5,700	5,700
March 1959	6,000	6,300