

Improved Machine Guns, Rifles Developed For Use By U.S. Army And Air Force

By ELTON C. FAY

Associated Press Military Affairs Reporter

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The army is considering changing over to new and better models of two of its most widely used weapons—machine guns and rifles. The decision isn't easy. And if made, the transition undoubtedly will be a slow, steady process taking years instead of a sudden tossing away of existing weapons and picking up of new ones.

In the instance of machine guns, the army has hundreds of thousands of caliber .30 and .50. Its rifles, automatics and carbines number in the millions. The cost of a shift to new and better arms is only one factor. It would mean not only that production lines for guns would have to be stopped and new ones set up, but facilities for entirely new types of ammunition production, on mass scale, would have to be provided.

The army showed experimental types of the machine guns and rifles to President Truman in a demonstration at the Aberdeen, Md., proving ground, where it also presented for him shows of other new ordnance materials including tanks.

It is considering adoption of a

.60 caliber machine gun apparently far faster and harder hitting than anything used now. Experimental types of this gun are not new. Army ordnance produced the first ones during World War II for the air force, then part of the army. It contemplated their use in aircraft. Since then improvements have been made on the experimental models and "bugs" removed from their performance so that now they appear about ready for production.

Teams With Jet Planes

Among the advantages of the .60 caliber machine gun are two directly related to the problem of modern fast jet planes—a high rate of fire and a velocity which gets the bullet to the target faster. These are important to the army because ground forces must defend themselves against air attack. The heavy, fixed type of .50 caliber machine gun used by the army has a rate of fire of about 450 to 570 rounds per minute. The .60 caliber gun has a normal rate of 750. At Aberdeen, it sprayed bullets like water from a hose.

The new gun has another highly important feature—a development since its first wartime invention. In a minute, it can be converted from a .60 caliber to a 20 millimeter weapon, merely by unscrewing the smaller size barrel and putting in the 20 millimeter, with no special tools required. Thus, the gun can be used as a .60 caliber for such conventional ground targets as enemy infantry in the open or changed swiftly to a caliber more effective against strafing aircraft or infantry moving behind light shielding.

Moreover, it is fired electrically. That means the crew can place the gun, get away from it in case the enemy starts pouring in mortar or other fire, and fire it by remote control.

Featherweight Arm Sought
The lightweight, caliber .30 rifle still is definitely in the experimental phase. The goal of the designers is to get the weight down



PROTEST GERMAN GENERALS' VISIT—French police act to keep order during a demonstration in Place De l'Opera protesting the presence of German generals attending the European army conference in Paris. Demonstrators included Communists and persons who were in German concentration camps during the war. The striped coats are worn to resemble the garb worn in concentration camps. (AP Wirephoto)

to about seven pounds. This, for a gun which can be used to fire fully automatic as well as semi-automatic, would be remarkably featherweight. The most popular World War II and present weapon of similar performance is the BAR, weighing 17 pounds.

The gun is fed by a 20-round magazine. It has a stabilizer to reduce the kick, but, in the demonstration at Aberdeen, seemed to have the tendency of all automatic guns—to "climb" as the gun fires. The extreme lightness many contribute to the trouble of the muzzle moving up at each of the automatic shots.

The obvious advantage of the gun is that the infantryman can have the same firepower with less weight to tote. Along with the gun design, ordnance experts are working on a new and lighter weight ammunition for it.

Five Farm Groups Advise Against Freezing Prices

By OVID A. MARTIN
WASHINGTON — (AP) — Five major national farm organizations say any government move to freeze farm prices at "unfair" levels would end in food shortages, black markets and collapse of inflation control measures.

They said in a joint statement that farmers are ready and willing to produce abundantly in an effort to keep prices from going too high.

But to accomplish this, the statement said, farmers will need essential production materials—such as fertilizers, machinery, gasoline, insecticides and labor—as well as "equitable" prices.

The organizations are the American Farm Bureau federation, the National Grange, the National Farmers union, the National Milk Producers federation and the National Farmers union, the National Milk Producers federation and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

The group declared organized agriculture will fight any move to change present laws relating to ceilings on farm commodities. There has been no official word the administration will seek a change. The government is prohibited now from placing ceilings on farm products at less than their parity prices.

Parity prices are standards for measuring farm commodities, declared by law to be equally fair to the farmer and those who buy his products.

Spokesmen said three of the organizations oppose use of government subsidies to hold down food prices. They told a reporter they expected the Truman administration to propose subsidies soon, similar to those used during World War II.



PUSH HIM UP, JOE—These engineers of a 1st Cavalry Division battalion must have a lot of faith in their work as they stand under weakened bridge near Yangzi, Korea, to shore it with logs. The M-4 tank that caused the structure to sag will sit there until a tank retriever arrives to remove it. (NEA Telephoto)

president and two soldiers with conspiracy to deliver inferior meats to the army.

The justice department said the firm, Ben Grunstein and Sons Co., Hoboken, N. J., had "corrupted the army inspectors" by gifts and money payments in order to have them "approve for delivery to the army large quantities of inferior meat."

The department said the indictment named in addition to the company, its vice president and

secretary, William Grunstein, former army captain John F. Jones of Easton, Md., and army Sergeant Samuel A. Auman of Dothan, Ala.

GO TO CONVENTION

The office of Drs. A. E. Dalros and M. C. Mix will be closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-24. The doctors will attend a convention in Portland for special study of chiropractic treatment of cardiac diseases and latest X-ray technique and interpretation.

NPA Alters Ban On Construction

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The government's restrictions on new construction have been relaxed in one respect and tightened in another.

The National Production Authority revised its previous order concerning new construction to permit larger expenditures for alterations and additions to hotels, office buildings and loft buildings.

Beginning Monday, such buildings may be improved at a cost that does not exceed 25 cents per square foot of the occupied space during a 12-month period. In computing this cost, NPA said, both actual construction and all work must be included in the total. For commercial buildings generally, the permitted outlay for

later alterations and additions will remain at \$5,000 during any 12-month period.

NPA's amendment provides that, if partitions made partly or fully of metal are to be used in any construction, regardless of its size or cost, special permission must first be obtained from the NPA.

Communists Sneaking Into U.S. Via Mexico

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — An undetermined number of Communists are "unquestionably getting across the border from Mexico in the greatest 'wetback' invasion in history," says H. R. Landon, district director of immigration and naturalization.

"We have found Communist literature on a few of them, but we turn back so many thousand aliens attempting illegal entry that it is impossible to screen them all," he said yesterday.

Landon said 224,000 aliens were turned back last year by his agents in the 200 mile stretch of border between San Diego, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz. By comparison, he said, 1,000 were turned back in 1939 and a like number in 1940.

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NOTICE

Dog licenses are due the first of each year and for your convenience will be available at the following places till March 1st.

- County Clerk's Office — Court House
- Hebard's Market — Umpqua, Oregon
- Camas Valley Store — Camas Valley, Oregon
- Veda S. Meredith — Lookingglass, Oregon
- Taylor's Hardware — Reedsport, Oregon
- Hedden's Grocery — Scottsburg, Oregon
- Taylor's Grocery — Elkton, Oregon
- City Recorder's Office — Drain, Oregon
- Mrs. Geo. Edes — Yacalla, Oregon
- Oakland Feed Store — Oakland, Oregon
- City Hall — Sutherlin, Oregon
- City Marshall — Glendale, Oregon
- Post Office — Azalea, Oregon
- Hamlin's Market — Canyonville, Oregon
- Riddle Hardware — Riddle, Oregon
- Ada's Photo Shop — Myrtle Creek, Oregon

After March 1st a penalty of one dollar will be added and after June 1st a two dollar penalty will be added for anyone owning or keeping any unlicensed dog over the age of eight months or any newly acquired dog over thirty days.

Anyone living within the city limits of the City of Roseburg must get your dog's license at the City Hall.

GEO. WESEMAN
County Dog Control Officer

Packers Accused Of Plot To Sell Army Poor Meat

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The government has charged a New Jersey meat packing firm, its vice



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