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PROJECT PENDING

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IDENTIFICATION

SUBJECT BATTLE TEST OF THE CAL. 30 Carbine M-2 (Th)

SOURCE OF ORIGIN Col. Alexander designated Lt. Col. McKinnon to interview
& DATE Cpl Nolan to get desired information for report. 25 Mar 45.

FWDED FROM & _____
DATE RECD _____

1 ACTIONS TAKEN -- After Lt. Col. McKinnon interviewed Cpl. Nolan (EM-Board personnel) a report was submitted--approved by Col. Alexander, Col. Smyser, etc. Draft of report submitted to G-3 for approval 28 March 45.

2 Approved draft returned; stencil cut and completed report sent for transmittal 13 April 1945.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST
APO 501

RHMCK/wwh
28 March 1945

334(26 March 1945)FEED

USAFPE Board Report No. 140.

SUBJECT: Battle Test of the Cal. .30, Carbine, M-2 (T4)

TO : The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.
(Thru: Combat Analysis Section, Operations Division, WDGS -
To : The Commanding General, Army Ground Forces)

1. PURPOSE: The information contained herein is presented as a special report on the new M2 carbine which can be fired as either a semi-automatic or a full-automatic weapon. Since the sample allotment of 125 carbines has been in this Theater of War for a short time only, a conclusive report on the performance of this weapon under sustained combat is not possible. It is felt, however, that the initial battlefield impressions of the performance of the M-2 Carbine are of sufficient interest to warrant their immediate transmittal pending the compilation of a conclusive report when sufficient time for a thorough test has elapsed.

2. GENERAL: The events related in this report were experienced by T-5 Paul C. Nolan, Ordnance, USAFPE Board, who voluntarily entered the battle of MANILA for the specific purpose of testing the M2 Carbine. All the fighting took place in downtown MANILA, thus affording an excellent opportunity for testing the full automatic qualities of the weapon. Targets which normally would be engaged with semi-automatic fire were neither sought after nor avoided. No targets at ranges greater than 150 yards were engaged. Improvised magazines of thirty rounds capacity, made from two standard fifteen round magazines, were used in the tests. The weather was dry and clear, eliminating the necessity of operating in mud or deep sand. Dust, however, caused by crumbling buildings and heavy explosive blasts prevailed. In general the M-2 Carbine gave an exemplary performance in its initial battle test, arousing enthusiastic and favorable comments from all observers.

3. EXAMPLES:

a. On the evening of 3 February 1945 elements of the 1st Cavalry Division pushed through to the SANTO TOMAS POW camp in MANILA but were not able to secure their route of advance. On the morning of February 4th volunteers were called for to deliver medical supplies to all personnel temporarily trapped in the camp. Corporal Nolan, armed with the Cal. .30 Carbine, M2 (T4) was among those who volunteered. The party was advancing north on RIZAL STREET when an enemy two-door, right-hand drive, Ford Sedan was seen approaching from the south. Corporal Nolan and group took up a position on the left side of the street, thus securing an advantageous position from which fire could be delivered on the driver. The other soldiers agreed to give Corporal Nolan first priority on the target so that he might test his carbine. Commencing at a range of 65 - 70 yards, 30 rounds, in bursts of 3 - 5 rounds, were fired into the vehicle. Initially the fire was

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directed at the right front door of the car in order to kill the driver, reserving the latter part of the fire for a general spraying of the other two passengers. The vehicle swerved to the left and came to a rolling stop. Examination revealed that all occupants were dead. Upon opening the right front door of the car, it was seen that in addition to having received wounds in the stomach and chest, the driver's right leg was almost severed from the body where the thigh joins the hip. Presumably, the bullets mushroomed slightly while passing through the body of the vehicle, producing a shattering effect on the driver's leg. The other occupant of the front seat had been hit approximately five times in the chest and stomach while the back seat passenger had received an equal number of hits in the face and chest. A fellow soldier, operator of a Thompson sub-machine gun, was so impressed by the carbine he offered all his ready cash for immediate purchase of the weapon, throwing in his sub-machine gun to boot. Others in the party expressed a desire to be armed with a similar carbine.

b. It became necessary to clean out two Jap snipers located on the roof of a three story building. From the top floor, Corporal Nolan was boosted so that his head and shoulders protruded through a four-foot square skylight and saw, about 20 yards to his direct front, a Jap sniping over the side of the building. Resting his elbows on the roof, Corporal Nolan brought his carbine to his shoulder and fired about four bursts at the sniper. The other Jap had to be flushed from his hiding place behind a brick chimney and subsequently was killed with another weapon. Examination of the first sniper revealed that he had been hit fifteen times. In the words of the soldier, "His (the Jap's) flag (Japanese flag worn around the waist) was ruined and was not worth salvaging."

c. On another occasion it was necessary to contain a small group of the enemy until reinforcements could be brought up. Ninety rounds were fired from the carbine in three to five minutes. The weapon became very hot and began to smoke but still functioned perfectly.

4. MALFUNCTIONING: There were no failures which can be attributed to the weapon. On one occasion the lip of the magazine was bent down while hastily being inserted into the weapon. As a consequence when the bolt went forward the cartridge cocked up at an angle, striking the top of the barrel and receiver and refusing to feed into the chamber.

5. MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS:

a. On one occasion the magazine catch instead of the safety lock was pressed, causing the heavy 30-round magazine to drop out instantly. The new rotation type safety lock doubtless will preclude the possibility of similar mishaps in the future.

b. Because of the light weight of the weapon and ammunition, a hundred rounds of extra ammunition can be carried without undue hardship.

c. Because of its sound while on full automatic, the carbine may be confused with the Japanese light machine gun. The difference in rate of fire, however, will assist in distinguishing between the two.

d. The shock power is sufficient although not as great as the Thompson sub-machine gun.

e. The greater accuracy of the carbine resulting from its comparatively slight reaction to recoil is a decided advantage over the Thompson sub-machine gun.

f. The long magazine is not a handicap as might be expected and does not materially hamper the assumption of any of the firing positions.

g. The carbine bayonet was not used.

h. The oil case on the carbine is seldom used since it is awkward to get out of its recess in the stock, is hard to refill and holds very little oil. Some soldiers are prone to neglect the care of the weapon if they cannot procure other cleaning equipment.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That an oil case similar to the one used in the Model 1903 rifle be developed and carried in the butt of the stock rather than on the side.

b. That a cleaning rod similar to the 3-piece, 18" rod be carried in the butt of each carbine.

c. That the male and female couplings of the cleaning rod be of brass or other non-rust material.

d. That a lower sling swivel be placed on the butt or side of the stock so that the weapon may continue to be carried as is the M1 Carbine.

7. CONCLUSIONS: Initial battlefield reactions to the Cal. .30 Carbine, M2(T4) indicate that it has great possibilities within the limitations of its field and will be preferred to the standard M1 Carbine.

For the COMMANDING GENERAL:

M. B. Kendrick
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Lt. Col., AGD
Asst Adj. General

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