

Fall 1960

Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes, 51 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 381 (1960-1961)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

Edited by
Joseph D. Nicol*

Abstractors
William E. Kirwan†

Ammunition: Manufacturing vs. Identification—
W. M. Bellemore, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 5(2): 148-54 (April, 1960). The author presents an explanation of why one cartridge is similar to another produced by the same manufacturer and why it may differ.

The objective of any manufacturer is obviously to earn for his stockholders a satisfactory return on the money they have invested. The means of doing this is to produce a product of the finest quality at the lowest possible cost.

After brief explanation of some of the manufacturing processes, the author summarizes "spectrographic or chemical analyses may be of some slight value in discriminating between samples of several ammunition components. If they are, it is by the accidental inclusion of impurities and not by the design of the manufacturer. However, between manufacturers, well-known differences exist; to cite a few, cartridge head stamp, bullet profile and alloy, location and spacing of knurls in the grease groove, powder type, primer, and anvil shape".

It is pointed out that no record is kept of the changes in the knurling tools to impress the canelures on a bullet and therefore the manufacturer is unable to establish the age of a bullet by the knurling unless a change was made deliberately or for a specific reason to improve performance in some respect. It is pointed out that in order to establish the identity of a manufacturer of a particular bullet there are two courses available. One is a large reference library or collection of samples, and the other is inquiry to a suspected manufacturer who can usually recognize his own product.

* Associate Professor, School of Police Administration and Public Safety, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

† Director, New York State Police Scientific Laboratory, Albany.

Every package of ammunition released for sale bears name, guarantee, and a code so identifying it so that original test records can be examined at any future time. However, this coding system is not generally divulged for reasons which are obvious. The manufacturer is willing to answer specific questions about a particular box of ammunition at any time that such information becomes of vital importance. For equally good reasons, the manufacturer no longer furnishes lists or tabulations of the interior dimensions of rifles. Such information can be misleading, since it can only be correct as of the date of issue and not represent past or future practices. Bore and rifling changes are not made frequently, but occasionally for manufacturing expediency or for improved performance.

The objectives of ammunition manufacturers and firearms technicians are generally incompatible; but small differences from cartridge to cartridge do appear as a result of slight variations in manufacturing processes. These differences occur for definite reasons which the manufacturers are willing to state only when requested by qualified technicians. (WEK)

Criminalistics in the United States Army—
Joseph J. Corr, Jr., *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 5(2): 155-68 (April, 1960). An interesting and informative discussion of the investigation of criminal offenses in the U.S. Army as conducted by the Military Police Corps. Five very well-equipped crime laboratories located throughout the world provide facilities for the necessary scientific investigations. Laboratory operational procedures, language difficulties, activities, international cooperation, public acceptance by foreign nations and research projects are all too briefly discussed in a most pleasant style. (WEK)