



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release Thursday, February 24, 1944.

As the result of a long series of tests made at the Shellfisheries Laboratory of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service at Milford, Connecticut, the finish used on small arms ammunition by a leading manufacturer was found inadequate and was promptly changed to meet the needs of offensive war.

The tests, which required more than a year, had for their purpose the determination of whether the finish in use would stand up under all atmospheric or moisture conditions which might be met during transit or storage. Shells were subjected to sprays of sea water, it was announced; they were alternately dipped in sea water and allowed to dry; kept in cold fog such as is frequently found in the Aleutians; buried in warm, acid mud like that found in tropical jungles, and otherwise rigorously tested.

The tests were made under the Department's policy of making all peacetime facilities available for war jobs wherever possible. Ordinarily the main job of the laboratory is to assist growers of oysters and other shellfish in the solution of biological problems.

Although the company whose ammunition was being tested offered to pay a substantial sum for the construction of new equipment for the tests, the Interior scientists were able, with a few changes and adjustments, to use the same equipment they used regularly in biological experiments.

Tests revealed that under certain conditions the finish previously used became swollen to such an extent that the ammunition would not fit in guns. Dr. V. L. Loosanoff, aquatic biologist in charge of the Milford Laboratory directed the experiments.

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