

**Saco Defense Inc.
291 North Street
Saco, Maine 04072**

To: Sir/Madam:

Subject: Weatherby Mark V Bolt Action Rifles, Serial Number 0001, 270 Magnums and Serial Number 4214, 378 URO-Marks

The Weatherby Mark V Bolt Action Rifle was originally designed by Roy Weatherby to accommodate the large caliber cartridges that he designed specifically for use in big Game hunting. These calibers ranged from 270 – 460 magnums, and required a unique design bolt with 9 locking lugs versus the standard 2 or 3. The Weatherby Mark V Rifles were first produced in Germany by Sig Sauer and remained there for over 25 years.

The production was moved from Germany to Japan with the intent of reducing the Manufacturing cost. For nearly a decade this premium rifle line was manufactured for Weatherby by a Japanese company called Howa and very little was ever done by Howa to change or improve design or introduce new models or calibers.

In 1996 Weatherby Rifles decided to move its production from Japan to the United States. It contracted with Saco Defense Inc. who was primarily a producer of heavy machine guns and grenade launchers making M60's, M2 50 cal and MK19 Grenade Machine Guns. The Weatherby Rifle was Saco's first attempt at entering the commercial firearms Market.

Weatherby's desire to put made in the USA on their Rifle and Saco's strong manufacturing and design background made a excellent fit for how Weatherby wanted to build their brand. Part of the contract with Saco was to continue to introduce new designs and calibers of rifles. The entire Stainless Steel line and Wildcat calibers that Weatherby sells today were all designed, tested and put into production by Saco Defense.

As is often the case, not all prototypes made it to the production floor. The two subject rifles above are products designed at Saco, prototypes manufactured, test fired, and presented to Weatherby for consideration. These rifles were designed by two engineers by the names of John Wilson and David Goodwin, both graduates of the University of Maine with degrees in mechanical engineering. Together they proposed over a dozen new designs and calibers for Weatherby to consider as part of Saco's contract. Many if not most of the products they

proposed were put into production but neither of these two rifles made it into production. In the case of both of these rifles the cost of production was considered to high to meet the retail price desired by Weatherby.

Weatherby 270 mag. Serial number 0001(only one in existence) Manufactured By Saco Defense of Saco Maine. It has a high luster fluted barrel and is the only rifle ever produced for Weatherby with this style barrel. It has a one-piece steel floor plate unlike the production models that have aluminum floor plates. This rifle has a metal injected molded trigger guard. This process is an award winning injection molding process developed by Saco Defense. The stock is a high luster deluxe stock with inlay. This rifle has been test fired with one proof round and three targeting rounds and has never been fired since and remains in its original packaging.

Weatherby 378 URO SPT URO Mark Serial number 4214 (only one in existence) Manufactured by Saco Defense for Weatherby Rifles. This gun has a jeweled bolt and follower (plus an extra one) never used on any production models. It has a high luster engraved floor plate and a custom Weatherby gold trigger. The stock is a high Luster satin finish and the barrel a high luster barrel with an integral muzzle brake. This rifle has been test fired with one proof round and three targeting rounds and has Never been fired since and remains in its original packaging.

In 2000 Saco Defense Inc was sold to General Dynamics Armament and Tactical Business and as part of the integration into the General Dynamics family it was required to divest itself of all of its commercial firearms production. At that time Saco was manufacturing the Weatherby Mark V's, The Desert Eagle Pistol Line, the Crossfire Rifle, and the Colt Light Rifle. Production was shut down immediately and all remaining inventories were sold. These two rifles not chosen for production by Weatherby were the property of Saco and were put up for sale with employees having first option. As the Vice President of Operations of Saco Defense I requested these rifles and then sold them to Jim Howard a friend and neighbor. The rifles were officially transferred by a license dealer by the name of Arnie Bemstien of Scarborough Maine.

The precision and outstanding workmanship of these rifles are unmatched by any former or current producer of the Weatherby Brand. Their unique features made the manufacturing cost unreasonable for achieving the target market sell price but in no way limits their performance and value.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Brawn
Former,
Vice President of Operation
Saco Defense Inc.

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Weatherby 378 URO SPT URO-MARK Serial number 4214 (only one in existence) Manufactured by Saco Defense for Weatherby Rifles. This gun has a jeweled bolt and follower (plus an extra one) never used on the production models. It has a high luster engraved floor plate and a custom Weatherby gold trigger. The stock is a high luster satin finish and the barrel a high luster barrel with an integral muzzle brake. (not screwed on). This gun has only been test fired once by Saco Defense and is still in its original packaging.

Both of these guns were manufactured by Saco Defense as prototypes for Weatherby and never put into production because of their high manufacturing costs. These are the only two guns of their kind ever produced.