

*The American*



*Association*

**SEE PAGE 10 INFO**

**ON AUGUST**

**ALL THOMPSON SHOW AND SHOOT**

# **"THE THOMPSON LEGEND"**

*Web address nfatoys.com/tsmg/TheAmericanThompsonAssociation*

**\$30.00/YR**

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Vol. 10

*On The Side Of Law And Order*

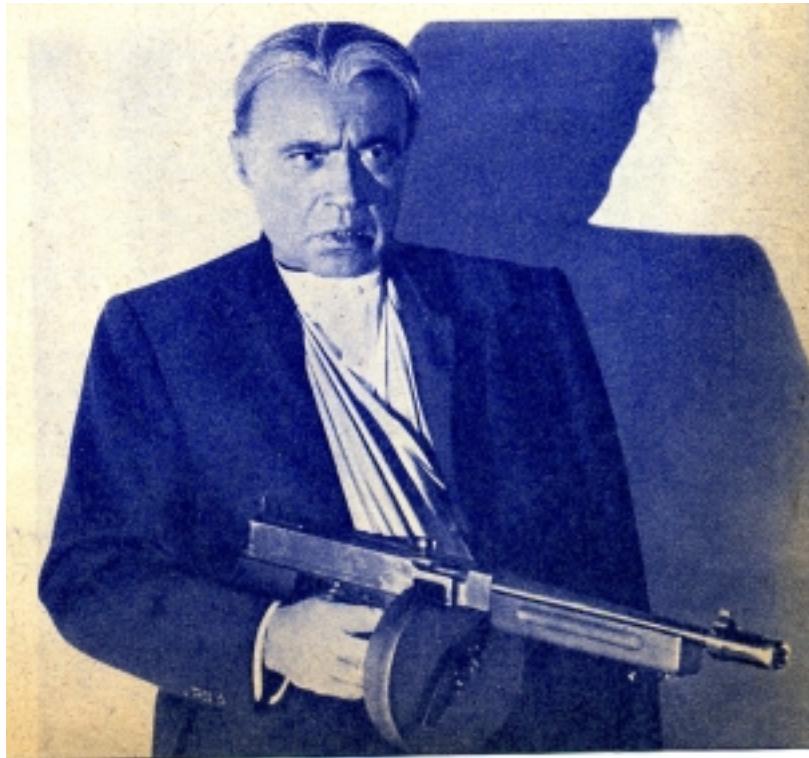
2nd. QTR., 2008

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**FRENCH FILM MAGAZINE "MON FILM", FEATURING THE ALLAN LADD MOVIE "THUNDER IN THE EAST". THE FILM WAS RENAMED IN FRANCE "TONNERRE SUR LE TEMPLE". THE MOVIE WAS MADE IN 1951 AND RELEASED IN 1955.**



### THUNDER IN THE EAST

This issue's cover art came from a magazine called "MON FILM". Upon reading through the magazine (all of which is written in French), I was happily surprised to find another image of Charles Boyer with a Model of 1928A1, complete with a Type L drum magazine and unprotected rear sight.

The plot of the movie takes place in India. Allan Ladd plays a mercenary, who is trapped in a hotel, by rebels and violence with an interesting collection of characters. It is up to him to help them to escape. Charles Boyer plays an Indian national trying to calm the rebels of his nation. Yes, a Thompson is a good means to calm a lot of people.

It seems to me that Allan Ladd may have spent more time on screen with a Thompson than a lot of other actors. Plus he was doing it without a "gangster" character image or movie.

## Juliet Thompson Debnam

**It is with great sadness that I must report the death of Juliet Thompson Debnam. I met Judy, during my research into the Thompson SMG. She immediately made my family part of her family. She had the ability to make you feel welcome. It delighted her to see the history of her Grandfather's work being so respected. We were fortunate to have her in our home for one of the All Thompson Show and Shoots and to have her attend the opening of the Thompson exhibit in Fairfax. She was truly a great lady.**

**To the entire Debnam family our most sincere condolences.**



Juliet Thompson Debnam, a beloved wife, mother and friend, died Tuesday, March 4, at Mayview Convalescent Center in Raleigh. She was 76. Judy was born Aug. 19, 1931 in Great Neck, N.Y. She was the daughter of Col. Marcellus Hagans Thompson and Evelyn Allensworth and the granddaughter of Brig. Gen. John Taliaferro Thompson, whose company invented the Thompson submachine gun that was widely used by the military in World War II. She was proud of her family's military service that involved three generations — her great-grandfather, her grandfather, and her father — graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Judy met her husband, the late Dr. William S. Debnam, while attending Salem College in Winston-Salem, N.C. They were married for 54 years. While living in Chapel Hill, Portsmouth, Va., and Elizabeth City, Judy volunteered for many groups and causes. She was a leader in dental auxiliary groups, served in the Junior League and as a Sunday School teacher, and volunteered with garden clubs, girl's clubs, food banks, and the Red Cross. Wherever she lived, she had many wonderful friendships. She was preceded in death by her husband; her son. Billy; and her parents.

The family is especially grateful for the devotion and kindness of Violet Gumbo, who cared for Judy during her last months. A graveside service will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens in Suffolk, Va. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Wake County, 1300 St. Mary's Street, Suite 400, Raleigh, N.C. 27605-1276.



**Judy (right) with her daughter Tali.**

**INTERESTING STUFF**  
**BY**  
**JOHN BOYCE**



***A FOUR CELL INDIVIDUAL FLAP XX BOX MAGAZINE POUCH.***

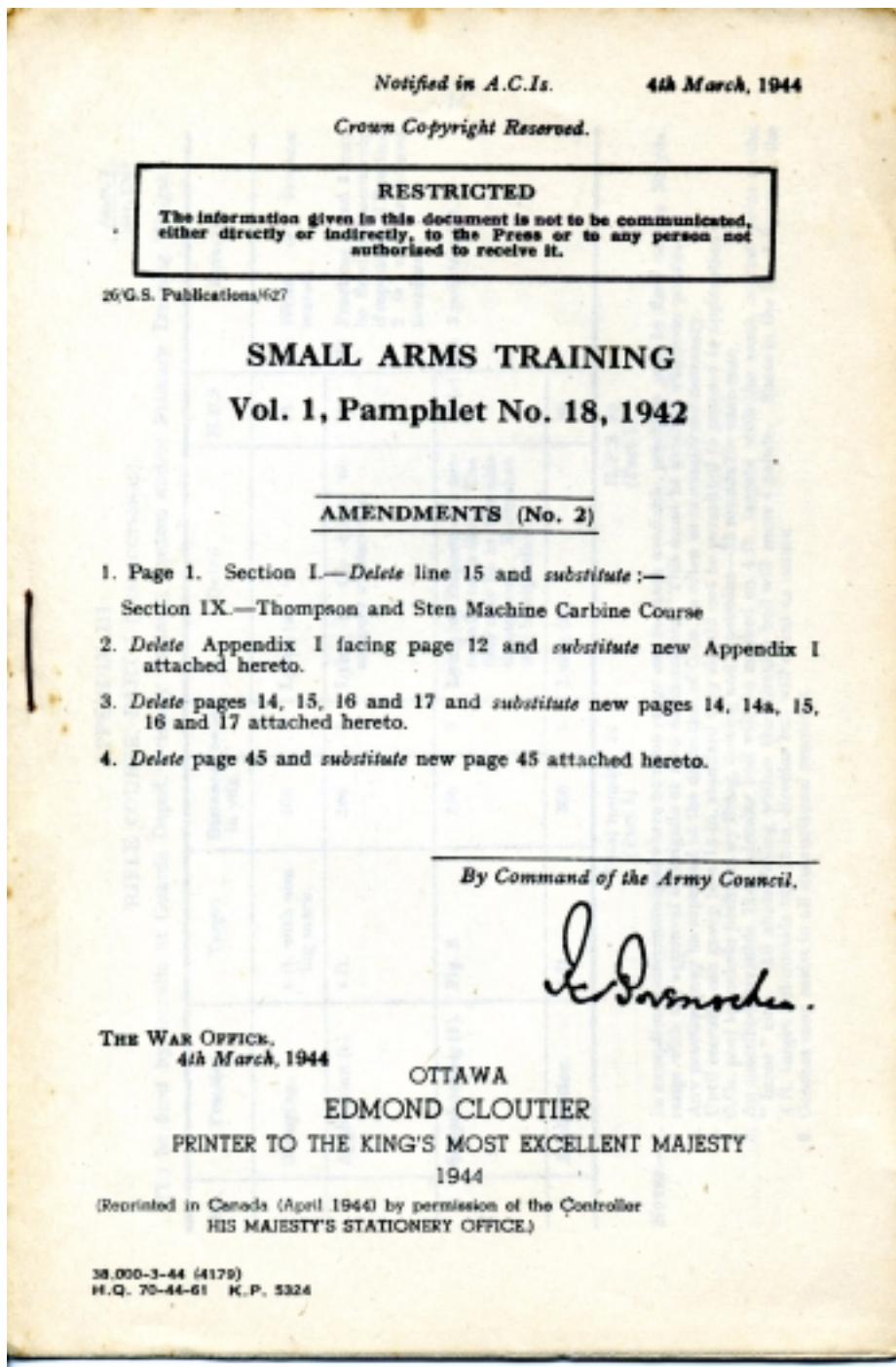
Every once in a while I get lucky..... on the internet... ebay auctions! I found this original Thompson pouch. It is a fairly rare version of the four cell individual flap xx box magazine pouch. Typically, all of these pouches have the marking "RUSCO." This ink stamped lettering stands for the Russell Manufacturing Company, often marked on one of the single flaps. This example doesn't have any stampings. It is possible that the ink has rubbed off or that it never was stamped going out of the factory. It is just neat to find something different...that drives Tracie nuts.



**ABOVE: THE FLAPS ALL OPEN. (BELOW) IS THE BACK OF THE POUCH WITH NO MARKINGS.**



**PAPERWORK**  
BY  
**DAVID ALBERT**



Shown above is an amendment to a Canadian Small Arms Training pamphlet #18. The addendum added instructions for a coarse of fire and qualifications for firing the Thompson Submachine Gun. The original Pamphlet #18 only had courses for the rifle and machine gun.

**APPENDIX IX**  
**THOMPSON AND STEN MACHINE CARBINE COURSE**

Amdt. 2  
Mar. 1944

No.	Practice	Target	Range in yds.	Bursts	Detail	Remarks
1	Single rounds.	1 Fig. 2 inscribed rectangle 8 ins. x 12 ins. Black aiming mark 1 in.	20	5	To be fired from the shoulder, using sights. Change lever or stud at single rounds. No time limit.	SCORING.—3 points for a hit in the rectangle. 2 points for a hit on fig. outside rectangle.
2	Bursts.	4 Figs. 2 spaced 1 width apart.	15	10	To be fired in 4 or 5 bursts by sense of direction from the waist. Time, 8 seconds.	SCORING.—3 points for each target hit. H.P.S. 20.
3	Single rounds.	4 Figs. 2 spaced 1 width apart.	20	4	To be fired by rough alignment of sights from the shoulder (a). Firer to return to the "ready" position between each shot. Time 10 seconds. Change lever or stud at single rounds.	SCORING.—As for Practice 2. H.P.S. 20.
4	Single rounds or bursts.	4 Figs. 2 spaced 1 width apart.	25 to 10	10	Firer to begin at 30 yds. Advance to 25 yds. and fire from shoulder. Repeat at 20 yds. Advance to 15 yds. and fire from waist. Repeat at 10 yds. Time for firing at each range, 2 seconds. Change lever at automatic (b).	SCORING.—As for Practice 2. H.P.S. 20. <span style="float: right;">5</span>
			Total	29		H.P.S. 75.

- NOTES.**—(a) For method of rough alignment see Pamphlet No. 21, Lesson 2, for both Thompson and Sten machine carbines.  
(b) To be controlled either by pull up targets of the type in Plate 80, S.A.T., Vol. V, or by voice control.  
(c) The whole of the above Course may be fired on the 30 yds. range. If movement as in Practice 4 is not possible for safety reasons, it may be carried out at 25 yds. stationary. The same procedure to be followed, but without advancing.  
(d) Further practices according to S.A.A. available should be arranged to deal with surprise and moving targets on any suitable range areas.  
(e) All personnel armed with the machine carbine should fire the above course and in addition at least two reserves for each gun.  
(f) During qualifying practices, stoppages may occur which are not the fault of the firer. In this event, a re-shoot of the particular practice may be allowed.

**QUALIFICATION STANDARD**

Marksmen	... ...	75	1st Class	... ...	57	2nd Class	... ...	39
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**THE APPENDIX IX PAGE WITH THE THOMPSON CLASS.**

<b>SERVICEABILITY CHART</b>		
<b>GUN, SUBMACHINE, CAL. .45, THOMPSON, M1928A1, M1, AND M1A1</b>		
ITEM	IN THE HANDS OF TROOPS	TO ACCOMPANY TROOPS OVERSEAS
HEADSPACE	No gage required and no adjustment. NOTE: If new barrel is required, match drawlines and see that bolt works freely.	No gage required and no adjustment. NOTE: If new barrel is required, match drawlines and see that bolt works freely.
BREECH BORE GAGE READING	No gage, visual check.	No gage, visual check.
TRIGGER PULL	Minimum 10 pounds Maximum 14 pounds	Minimum 10 pounds Maximum 14 pounds
NOTE: The only difference between the M1 and the M1A1 is that the bolt on the M1A1 has a fixed firing pin in place of a moveable firing pin and hammer.		
NOTE: The bolt on the M1A1 can be used in the M1, but then the M1 becomes a M1A1.		
RA PD 188171A		

*Figure 7. Serviceability chart for cal. .45 Thompson submachine guns M1, M1A1, and M1928A1.*

**HERE IS EVERYTHING NEEDED TO KEEP YOUR THOMPSON UP TO SPECIFICATIONS  
ACCORDING TO THE US MILITARY. WELL I GUESS YOU ONLY NEED A THOMPSON!**

## THE TOMMY GUN IN ACTION

By  
**Tom Davis, Jr.**

I obtained some copies of The Wing-ding newsletters earlier this year to look for any reference to our beloved Thompson. This was the newsletter of the 91st Photo Reconnaissance Wing when stationed in the Philippines during World War II. It was quite fascinating to read about “the greatest generation” during the Pacific campaign. Make no mistake about it, the men and women of this United States Armed Forces were in that war to win. Killing “Japs” was the only objective; nothing else mattered. In the May 7, 1945 newsletter, the following story is told:

### Making The Most Of Five Minutes

Luzon (CNS) – In his first five minutes of action, Sgt. Clifford G. Harmon, 27, killed a total of 29 Japs – 26 with a flame-thrower, one with a blow from its butt, one with a grenade and one with a tommy gun.

Interestingly, the word “fair” or any reference to rules of engagement were lacking in all the battle stories. It was as if the end justified the means. The December 18, 1944 newsletter tells of an aerial attack on a Japanese convoy: “...Capt. R.V. Archulet’s flight sank three barges loaded with personnel and equipment and strafed two lifeboats full of survivors from the previous attack.” Again, the objective was to win this war. The June 24, 1944 newsletter has a story with a similar ending:

### Jap Corrected About Condition

(Cape Gloucester, New Britain) ...”I’m shot”, screamed a Jap in English, on being winged by Marines on patrol. “Shot, hell! You’re dead!” yelled back Marine Sgt. Phillip Mattola of Brooklyn, sending home a burst with his tommy gun. And it was fast, too, adds a Marine combat correspondent who witnessed the incident.

In today’s wars, you don’t find the local military newsletters reporting about the strafing of survivors in lifeboats. Nor do you hear of news correspondents bragging about the killing of wounded enemy soldiers. Perhaps, this is the mentality necessary to win wars. Whatever the answer, these soldiers, sailors and marines certainly had the best submachine gun.

## WHAT'S NEW

### TRACIE HILL

#### **Announcing the end of the availability of the book "Thompson: The American Legend."**

The book that was written in 1997 by ten different authors and myself is now out of print. We sold over 5000 copies of this book. In my humble opinion it was a pretty darn good book with a lot of very usable information and photographs.

However, time marches on and it has become time to build upon this text and to create a new book. I am fortunate to have several new authors writing new sections which will tie the history together of this firearm from it's birth in 1917 to present day. The book should be available sometime around the end of the year. Title is not decided and neither is the price, so do not start calling me. I will be starting a list of people interested in the new book and will supply information as it becomes available. People on this list will have the first chance to receive the new book. We will probably have some rough drafts available for review at the All Thomspson Show and Shoot. Also, we will have a lecture on one of the new chapters of the new book, during the Show.

Just to add to your interest, I will be running interesting images from the new book in this newsletter to whet your interest.

Shown below is a genuine FBI issuse **10MM**, yes I said 10MM Thompson. You will have to wait for the whole story in the new book.



**GENUINE 10 MM FBI ISSUE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN. (CREDIT JOHN CONROY PHOT0GRAPHER / FBI)**