

The American
Thompson[®]
Association

**SEE INFORMATION ON NEXT YEARS
ALL THOMPSON SHOW AND SHOOT
ON PAGE 10.**

"THE THOMPSON LEGEND"

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\$30.00/YR

Vol. 25

On The Side Of Law And Order

1ST QTR 2012

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SALUTE TO THE FBI



This is a very interesting post card image of the FBI Academy Armory. Look very closely and you will be amazed at the items shown. Guns with orange stocks were for training only and would not fire.



FBI FIREPOWER

In the 1930's the FBI conducted an in depth study of what was the best arms to put into their agent's hands. The three following pages are the official report of this study.

The image above shows the array of arms that the FBI would have on hand at a Field Office in the 1930's.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 28, 1933

JMK:KP

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Clegg	

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Your Committee comprised of Messrs. Appel, Baughman, and Keith, has tested Colt "Monitor" Automatic Machine Rifle and Thompson Sub-Machine Gun, and has conferred with ballistic experts of the Ordnance Department of the Army and with such experts of the local police department. With the advice of Major T. J. Hayes, Executive Officer, Ordnance Department, U. S. Army, and Majors Wilhelm and Gray of the Ballistics Division, Ordnance Department, U. S. Army, and Lieutenants L. H. Callahan and A. C. Poulsen, gunnery experts, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C. We have reached the conclusion that the following equipment is the best which can be obtained for all purposes and should be supplied in appropriate quantities to all field offices, with the exception of Honolulu, T. H.

Item #1
38 Special Police Positive Revolver

The 38 Special Police Positive Revolver already supplied to each field office of the Bureau is the best pistol which can be procured. According to Majors Wilhelm and Gray of the Ordnance Department, U. S. Army, this gun, loaded with the "Keith" bullet, has a flatter trajectory, more penetration, and shock power than the .45 calibre automatic, which is the only comparable weapon. Since each office already is equipped with such pistols no action need be taken in this connection, except to supply each office with ammunition loaded with the "Keith" bullet. It is noted that the Keith bullet is a recent invention, the projectile having a specially formed flat nose which gives it greater shocking power than the .45 automatic. It already had a flatter trajectory and penetration.

Item #2
Army Springfield Rifle, Calibre .30-'06

The Committee after having tested the Colt "Monitor" Automatic Machine Rifle, which handles the .30-'06 rifle cartridge, has concluded that such guns are not appropriate for our use; they have too great a range, approximately 3 1/2 miles, for urban use. When fully loaded this gun weighs 18 1/2 lbs. and with the compensator is 42 1/2" long. This makes it too bulky and too heavy for quick use in emergency or for use in an automobile. The only practicable purpose for a gun firing such high power ammunition would be the stopping of an automobile at long range.

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in a rural area. At a long range it is to be noted that the full automatic is too inaccurate. Therefore, with the advice of the above mentioned Army experts we have concluded that Springfield Rifles of the type used in the U. S. Army, which shoot the same ammunition, would serve the exact purpose. In other words, the Springfield Bolt Action Rifle holds a magazine of five .30-'06 cartridges, is lighter, easier to handle, and more accurate. The cartridges for this gun come in clips of five and the weapon may be reloaded very quickly. Each field office should be supplied with fifty rounds of .30-'06 calibre cartridges.

Item #3
12 Gauge Automatic Shotgun, either Remington
or Winchester, Cylinder Bore, 20" Barrel,
to be fired with Buckshot Shell.

Army experts say that a gun of this type is most appropriate. The Browning Automatic Shotgun is the same as the Remington, but, of course, cannot be considered because it is manufactured in Belgium and could not be purchased by the United States Government. Major Gray of the Ordnance Department, U. S. Army, states that army tests have shown that a 20" barrel cylinder bore is the most appropriate type from which to fire buckshot cartridges. The powder charge is entirely consumed within 18" of barrel and the added 2" give the desired pattern. A longer barrel than 20" adds nothing to the range or penetration, but only makes a gun more bulky and harder to handle. A shorter barrel is not desirable because the full effect of the powder charge might be lost through non-consumption. Each field office should be supplied with fifty rounds of #1 buckshot shell for this weapon.

Item #4
Thompson Sub-Machine Gun

After appropriate test, and conference with the experts mentioned in the beginning of this memorandum, we have concluded that Model 28, AC Thompson Sub-Machine Gun, U. S. Navy model, equipped with horizontal foregrip and sling strap, complete with 5 type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazines and 1 type L 50-cartridge drum, together with Cut's compensator, is most appropriate for our use. Each of these guns should be equipped with 1 gun carrier case with shoulder strap, and 1 50-round drum magazine case with shoulder strap. Each Thompson Sub-Machine Gun also should be equipped with one cleaning kit, complete.

1 gun and
 for each
 office
 1/2

Memo. for Director

-3-

6/28/33

*letter
each office
6/29*

Each field office should be supplied with 500 rounds of .45 calibre automatic pistol cartridge for this weapon.

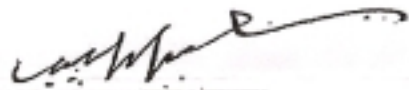
It is the recommendation of your Committee that one of the Automatic Shotguns and one of the Springfield Rifles be furnished to each of the Bureau offices, except Honolulu, T.H.

It is our recommendation that one of the Thompson Sub-Machine Guns be furnished to each of the Bureau offices, except Honolulu, and that if funds will permit two Thompson Sub-Machine Guns be furnished to the following offices:

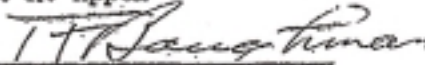
- Chicago
- Detroit
- Kansas City
- New York
- Oklahoma City
- St. Louis
- Washington.

Each of the field offices to which the above weapons are supplied can purchase on the local market the ammunition required, and should be instructed to purchase such ammunition in quantities of less than \$25, in order to obviate, as an emergency measure, the red tape involved in obtaining bids for larger quantities.

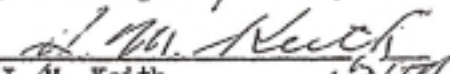
Respectfully,



C. A. Appel



T. F. Baughman



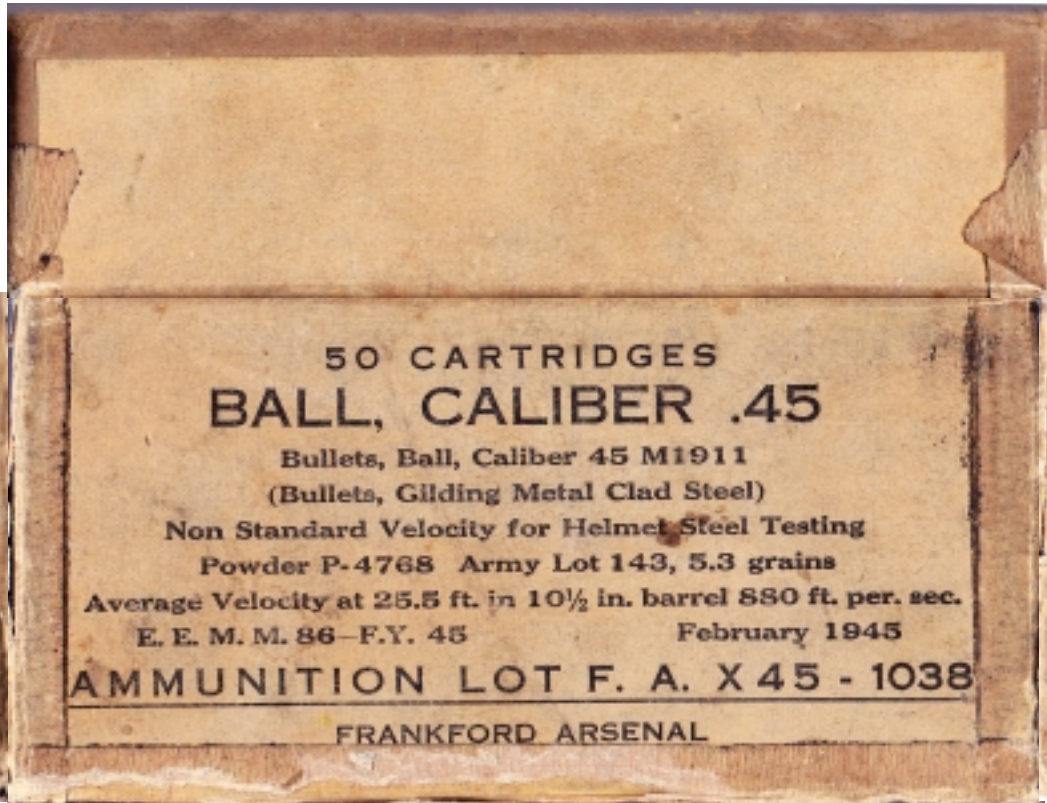
J. M. Keith

7/1/33



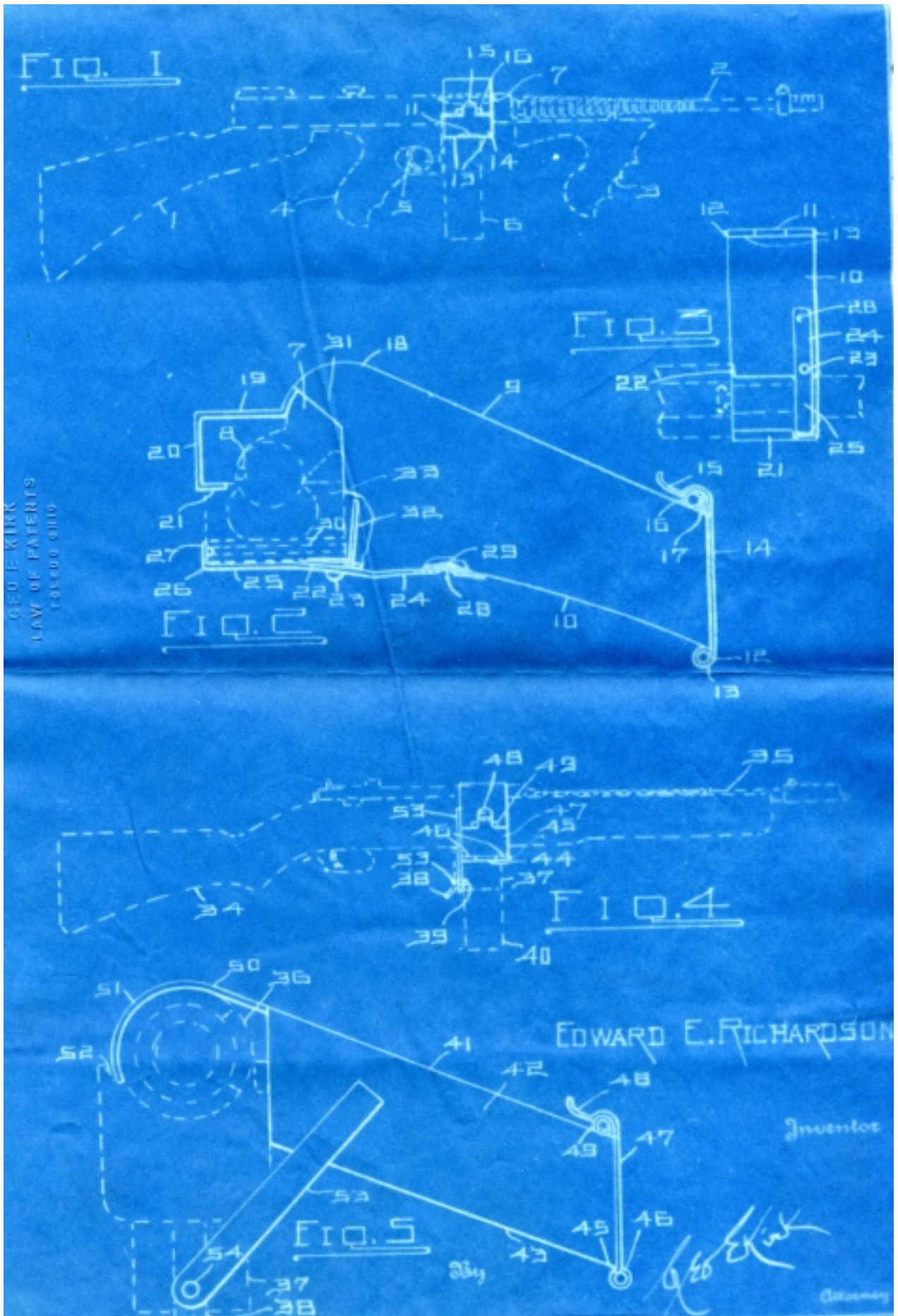
Here is John Edgar Hoover standing beside the same table as seen on page two holding a BAR. Contrary to the report the FBI did equip it's Field Offices with BARs.

UNIQUE AMMO



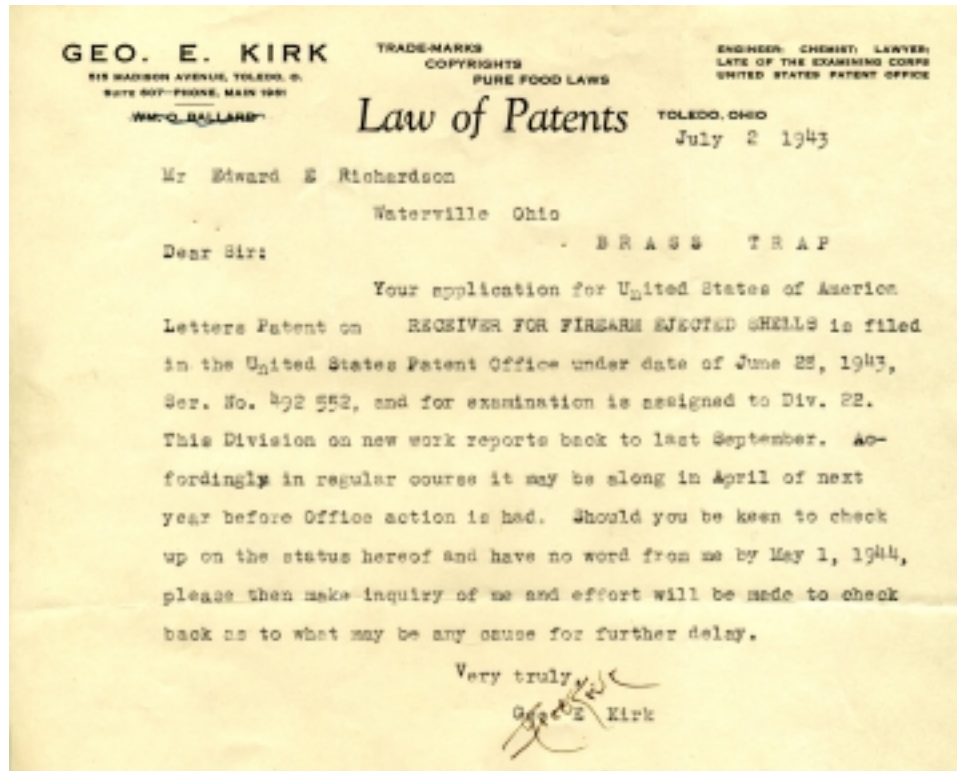
At a recent gun show, I got introduced to a box of ammo which has the above label. Made by Frankfort Arsenal, Feb. 1945. As the label states it is for " Non-Standard Velocity for Helmet Testing." Rounds were fired at samples of every production run of US M1 helmets. If the round penetrated the production lot was rejected.

These cartridges were loaded for 880 ft/sec to be fired out of a 10.5" barrel. The only gun in the inventory with a 10.5" barrel, I think, was the Thompson Submachine Gun. A standard 230 grain Thompson fired cartridge has a muzzle velocity of around 920 ft/sec. So these rounds were to simulate being fired by a Thompson at a certain distance from the helmet and if the rounds did not penetrate a GI helmet then the production lot passed. Any volunteers to wear the helmet?



E. E. RICHARDSON'S BRASS CATCHER FOR THE TSMG OR REISING SMG. RICHARDSON DEVELOPED THIS WHILE WORKING FOR FEDERAL LABS.

THOMPSON BRASS TRAP



This document shows that the design was created by E. E. Richardson in 1943 and submitted for patent approval. E. E. Richardson was a salesman for Auto-Ordnance. At one point they even offered to make him the Domestic Sales Manager, because he was so successful.

After Auto-Ordnance stopped all sales to individuals and later stopped all sales period, and allowed Federal Laboratories to act as the sole sales force, Richardson went to work for them. During the early stages of WWII the sale of Thompsons was restricted to factory protection and military only. As the supplies grew, guns were again allowed to be sold to police etc. Richardson never stopped working and was creative as well.

Richardson is credited with the creation of the Indiana style payroll case and other patents for car accessories. Here his designs turned to the Thompson. With all of the guns sold by him, he must have been tired of policing up his brass so he came up with this "Brass Trap."



On page 26, first paragraph, Auto-Ordnance contracted with Excelsior Electric Mfg. to build Model of 1919 and Auto-Rifle designs in Canada, to protect patent applications in that country.

One afternoon I finally found some free time to conduct an internet search for the company and found this advertisement in a 1917 Toronto City Directory. Using Google Earth you can still look at the business building, though the company is long gone. Computers sometimes can be fun.



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