

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR
THE ALL THOMPSON SHOW AND
SHOOT
AUG. 3-4, 2012**

"THE THOMPSON LEGEND"

Web address <http://www.nfatoys.com/tsmg/tata>

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On The Side Of Law And Order

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A very heavily armed Dennis O'Connor, from the movie "Francis, The Talking Mule." Note the TSMG with 30 rd mag, M1 Carbine, Canvas TSMG gun case, 5 cell 20rd mag pouch, M1911, belt and mags and three grenades. He is holding the TSMG with finger in trigger and the gernade by the pin. He is fully ready to go...BANG!

PHOTOS THAT SAY A THOUSAND WORDS

It is amazing the variety of images that appear everyday with people holding a Thompson. With a little research on the images a huge amount of information can be discovered. What follows are several cases in point.



The photo shown to the left is of a man named Glen Young. Glen was brought into Williamson County, Ill., to help clean it up from bootleggers, in Nov. 1923. Williamson Co. was a notorious haven for the Berger and Shelton gangs that made even Chicago gangs look tame. At times during their reign they engaged in gun fights using armored vehicles and even airplanes dropping bombs.

Young was a prohibition agent who used the KKK (of all people) to raid and destroy the bootlegging operations in the area.

To put it simply NO ONE liked him, not the city or county police nor the Berger and Shelton gangs (which joined forces to fight him).

Young was reputed to be a good shot and he did create a lot of trouble for the gangs. So on Jan. 24, 1925, a shot was fired to lure Young to respond to the local hotel lobby. Young had his two pearl handle 1911s with

him when he entered along with some of his KKK friends. Chief Deputy Ora Thomas entered after Young drew his revolver and fired at Young. Young was hit in the side and chest. Young managed to fire three rounds out of one of his 1911s, shooting Thomas once through the head and shooting another associate of Thomas's, named Edward Forbes twice through the head. This is then followed by several rounds being fired from various places outside the hotel into the lobby. After all was said and done, four people were dead, with no one convicted or indicted and the National Guard being called in.

There are several good books on Williamson County during the 1920s. I recommend reading some of them. Reality is scarier than fiction.



Shown on this page are two images that are seen fairly often when researching Thompson history. One is of J. Edgar Hoover with a Thompson. The other is from the Auto-Ordnance sales catalogs showing a man shooting what appears to be a model of 1919 Thompson, probably serial number 17.

More often than not these images are cropped. This loses so much of the information that is in the whole image. Modern collectors need to see the whole image to appreciate the story.





Here is the uncropped copy of J. Edgar Hoover, showing another FBI agent with a Thompson, training Hoover. Too bad the Director was not given any ammo. Notice there isn't a magazine in his Thompson. The imaged was cropped to make J. Edgar Hoover look as though he was a master of the Thompson.



MAKING 47 HITS OUT OF 50 SHOTS IN TWO SECONDS AT 250 YARDS :
MR. MITCHELL - HEDGES SCORING A RECORD WITH THE NEW WEAPON.

Great interest and curiosity were aroused recently regarding the details and performances of the new sub-machine gun invented by Brig.-Gen. J. T. Thompson, U.S.A., who was in charge of the production of Small Arms for the U.S.A. Army during the war. It will be remembered that about 500 of these guns were seized by the Customs authorities in New York not long ago ; it is said, on the eve of their despatch to Ireland, where they were alleged to have been intended for the use of Sinn Fein gunmen. How the guns came to be so placed is not known.

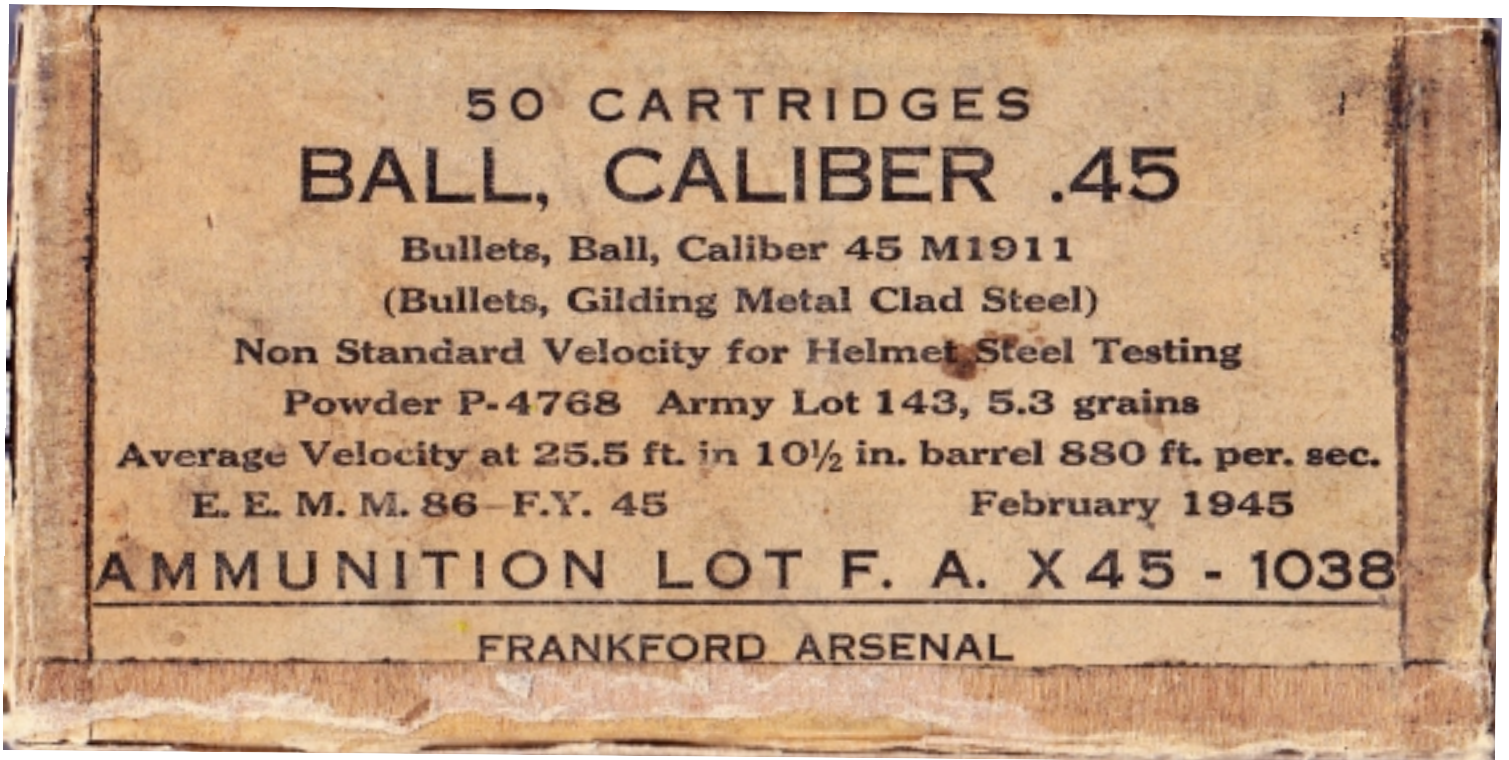
PHOTOS THAT SAY A THOUSAND WORDS cont.

The full image of the man with the Model of 1919, comes to us from the London Times and refound by our member Michael Curran. The whole image shows magazines and pouches on the ground and identifies the shooter.

His name is Mr. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges. Research shows him to be a real life "Indiana Jones", an explorer and adventurer. He is also responsible for finding the first "Crystal Skull," thought to have been made by aliens. Two other images were also included in the article and are shown below and help to date the shooting exhibit to be prior to July 16, 1921. The reference to the "demonstration before the Bisley Committee", refers to the trials held on June 30, 1921 at Camp Bisley, England.

Now here is where the real conjecture on my part starts. Notice the "black bag" on the ground near the magazines in the photo of Mitchell-Hedges. This looks very much like the bag shown in Figure 66, from the book "Ultimate Thompson Book," sitting next to Oscar Payne. Where was this shoot at the Eickhoff farm in Painesville, Ohio? Who was the photographer, whose shadow is shown in the image? Eickhoff or Payne? Isn't it fun to guess?



THOMPSON AMMO COLLECTING

Collecting .45 ACP ammo for the Thompson can be an inexpensive side line to collecting the firearms. Shown above is a box of .45 ACP rounds to be used for "Non Standard Velocity for Helmet Testing." The barrel length is specified as 10.5" for an 880 FT/Sec velocity at 25.5 ft. The only gun in .45 ACP with that barrel length in 1945 was the Thompson. Very interesting box of ammo.



Here is an exploded view of a box of .45 ACP ammo made by RWS, Nurnberg, with a tax stamp date of 1941 and specially marked for the Thompson Submachine Gun. This would be during World War II. It would be interesting to find out a little more history as to who this ammo was to be supplied to.



This exploded view of an unopened box of Winchester Staynless .45 ACP ammo. This was the ammo recommended by E. E. Richardson (salesman for Auto-Ordnance in 1920-1940). Richardson recommended this ammo due to the fact that Remington ammo seemed to cause bulged barrels in the Thompsons he demonstrated.