

"THE THOMPSON LEGEND"

Web address nfatoys.com/tsmg/TheAmericanThompsonAssociation

\$30.00/YR

Vol. 9

On The Side Of Law And Order

1ST. QTR., 2008

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LUCKY LADY



JOHN HILLERMAN PLAYS "CHRISTY MCTEAGUE" (THE BAD GUY) IN THE MOVIE "LUCKY LADY," ONE OF MY FAVORITE TSMG MOVIES. THROUGH THE WHOLE MOVIE, MCTEAGUE USES A TSMG WITH A HUNDRED ROUND DRUM....COOL!

LUCKY LADY TWO



I NOW HAVE A NEW COMPUTER PROGRAM THAT CAN TAKE PHOTOS AND REVERSE THEM. THIS ALLOWS THE VIEWER OF THE PHOTO TO SEE A COMPLETE 360 DEGREE VIEW OF ANY IMAGE.....ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT PLEASE SEND MONEY FOR INVESTING.



WANTED VOLUNTEERS

Next year at the NRA Annual Meetings in Louisville, KY, your club The American Thompson Association, is planning to display. The exhibit will be built around the Thompsons used in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, but focusing on the work done by Goddard. Goddard was the Father of Modern Forensic Studies (i.e. CSI).

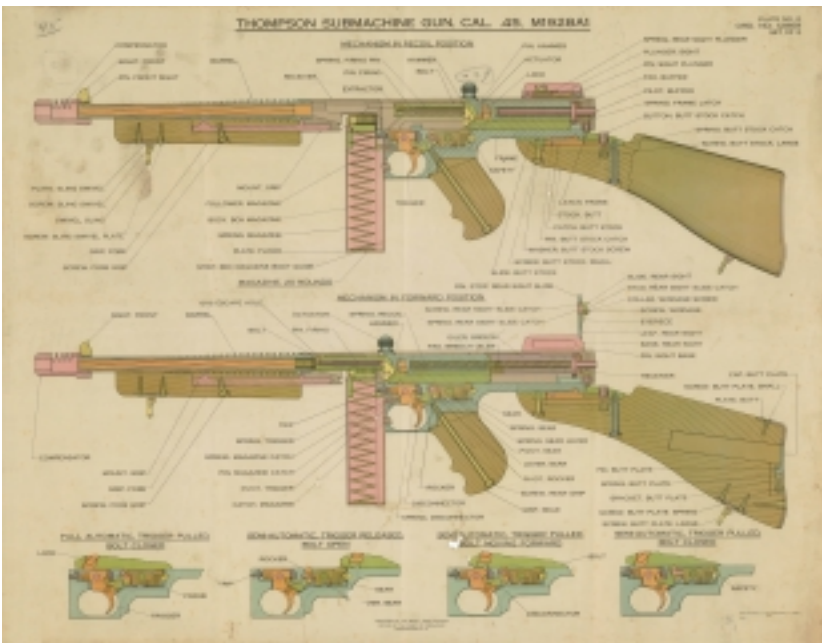
We will need people to man the booths to inform the public that passes the display of its purpose and to inform them about the world of class III arms. We become the Goodwill Ambassadors. The time span for the show is from May 14 - May 18 th. If you feel like doing some of the time or all of the time feel free to volunteer.

We have a good deal with a hotel in the area and Louisville is an interesting town to visit. No experience is needed.

When we displayed last year in St. Louis our exhibit was seen by 64,000 people in three days. Plus you will get to see a great convention and work with the best people in our hobby, our members.

If you are interested please call me at 740-345-9777 days or 740-587-0755 nights.

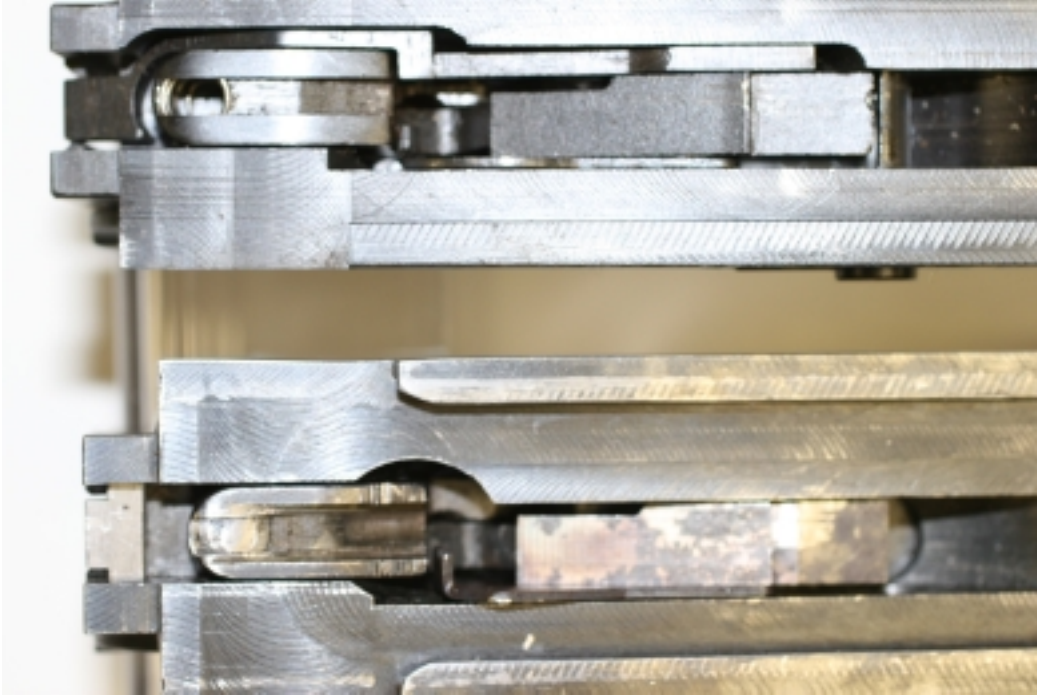
CLUB FUND-RAISER



John Boyce has offered TATA members a unique opportunity. We now have a reproduction poster of the print shown below. The reprints measure about 28" x 37" in full color. These prints are offered to TATA members at \$100 ea including mailing. This will make a wonderful gift for X-MAS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO TATA TO FUND OUR EXHIBITS. All Orders must be received by 1/30/08. No limit to the number ordered by any member. Send money and orders to B/H DIST., PO BOX 8710, NEWARK, OH 43055.

AN INTERESTING LOOK AT MODEL OF 1927A1, SERIAL NUMBER 153

It is always an adventure when it comes to examining firearms made by Auto-Ordnance, West Hurley. Recently, an early Model of 1927A1, serial number 153, was brought to my attention. The gun was sent to me for some minor gunsmithing work.



(Above) Top trigger frame is a later Model 1927A1 with the lower frame being serial number 153. Note how s/n 153 has no provision for a magazine trip. The frame was never designed or machined to incorporate this feature. A removable steel insert in 153's magazine slot prevents the magazine follower from rising to the top of the magazine.



(Above) Comparison of the rear end of the trigger frames. Serial number 153 is the lower frame and has the serial number clearly visible. Notice the changes to the manufacture of the frames.

Upon closer examination the following was observed. First, since the serial number was so low in number, the receiver has the two hole arrangement in the actuator slot (see Vol 2 TATA newsletter). The forward smaller hole is used for an actuator hold open device. Remember the semiautomatics fire from a closed bolt. Yet the bolt must be held open to insert a drum magazine.

Second, the factory serial number was so poorly stamped that it was difficult to tell if the serial number was 158 or 153.

Upon removing the trigger frame from the receiver it was a nice surprise to see the factory had serial numbered the inside of the frame. The serial number here was clearly number 153.

Looking at the inside of the trigger frame of serial number 153 you will notice that there is no magazine trip. The frame was never machined or designed for this feature. A solid removable metal insert is installed in the magazine well to prevent the follower's trip from rising to the top of the magazine.



(Above) Front view of the magazine well on the trigger frame showing the “in the white” metal spacer inserted.

This led me to more closely examine the box magazine supplied with the Model 1927A1. The Type XX box magazine was made by W.P.S. (Worchester Press Steel Co.) during World War II. The cartridge support on the top of the follower had the back end of it ground down and welded to form a ramp. The ramp was created so that since there was no “empty” magazine trip in the gun, the bolt, which fires from a closed position, would not slam into the back of an empty magazine. Instead it would hit the ramp and push the follower down and close on an empty chamber.

Remember, without a means for the follower to operate a magazine trip, in the trigger frame, the bolt would come forward and hit the back of the magazine. The ramp allowed the bolt to push the follower down and close on an empty chamber.



(Above) The magazine supplied with the Model 153, is a WPS WWII magazine, with the cartridge support on the follower modified for the semiautomatic Thompson.

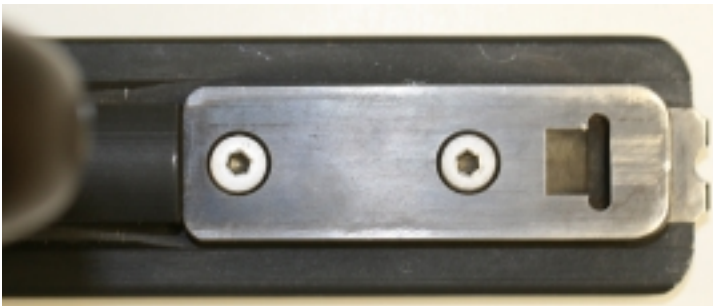




(Above) Rear of receiver with an Allen wrench inserted into the set screw. (Above right) Close up of the frame latch pin with the machined flat.

A previous owner had also enjoyed “improving” his Model 1927A1. The first of these improvements was to the spring loaded frame latch. On a full automatic Thompson the latch is depressed and the frame and receiver are separated. The latch is retained in the depressed position by the frame and the frame’s internal parts. On the Model of 1927A1s, the frame latch has to be held recessed by a screw driver to allow the frame to clear it. This operation takes a little bit of practice to get used to doing.

Serial number 153 has a small hole drilled and tapped into the receiver’s frame latch hole recess. Into this hole is inserted an Allen head set screw. This set screw is then tightened down against a flat that has been machined into the frame latch. When tightened down the frame latch is held retracted or extended. When retracted it makes taking apart the receiver and frame much more user friendly.



West Hurley sold a “kit” for this purpose. The kit required the buyer to machine the trigger frame to create a flat area for the mounting of a bracket. The bracket was then screwed to the frame.

The second improvement feature was the installation of a removable buttstock mount on the trigger frame. West Hurley sold a “kit” for this purpose. The kit required the buyer to machine the trigger frame to create a flat area for the mounting of a bracket. The bracket was then screwed to the frame. With the kit installed it would allow any World War II or earlier M1928 buttstock to be used. However, most buyers of the kits were unable to machine the frames, due to expertise or lack of proper machines. This one was installed very neatly.



MOTORCYCLE MOUNTS



One of the most iconic images of World War II, was the motorcycle rider with his trusty Thompson strapped to the right hand side of the front fork of his Harley or Indian. It is also interesting to notice how few of the mounts still exist.

The leather scabbard which held the Thompson is a fairly common item. However, the metal mounting frame is often never found, unless attached to a museum displayed bike. The following



images are presented to give a closer look at this frame mount.

(Left) Front side view of the scabbard and the metal frame mount.

(Right) Back side view of mount and scabbard.





The hardware shown above was built for rugged use. Just imagine the rough bumps and knocks it would see mounted on the front fork. The leather scabbard fully encased the Thompson Submachine Gun with a twenty round box magazine attached.

The scabbard is fully enclosed at the muzzle end by the mount. The mount and scabbard are attached to each other by a leather strap and buckle. The strap passes through an elliptical slot on the outside of the front face of the frame.

On the front of the frame at the middle of the scabbard is a metal reinforcing strap for the frame. On this strap is a set of two additional attachment points for other equipment. One assumes that this was for the compact folding shovel.



To get the leather strap on the scabbard past the tight fitting center frame strap, a clearance bend is incorporated. In this view you can get a close up look at the attachment points for the shovel.



At the muzzle end of the metal frame another clearance recess is made to allow the thick seam of the scabbard to fully seat into the frame support.



WHAT'S NEW
BY
DAVID ALBERT

VINCIT QUI PRIMUM GERIT, PARATROOPER WITH TOMMY GUN CARRIED BY LARGE BIRD.
The design is based on the approved aircraft markings and distinctive insignia. A large bird, caring a paratrooper holding a tommy gun, represents the command's mission to deliver quickly soldiers into battle. The Latin motto "vincit qui primum gerit" translate to "he conquers who gets there first." Activated July 4, 1942 at Stout Field, Indiana.

The other triangular patch was worn by personnel in occupations such as radio operators and cryptographer and radio mechanics worn from; mid-1942 through November 4, 1945 approved for local wear only.

NEW C DRUM RAFFLE!!

THE AMERICAN THOMPSON ASSOCIATION

**WILL AGAIN RAFFLE OFF A NEW C DRUM MADE BY
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