

"THE THOMPSON LEGEND"

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On The Side Of Law And Order

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"I HAVE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE TODAY FOR A SECRET MISSION...."
TYRONE POWERS (CENTER) TALKS TO HIS SALIORS IN THE MOVIE "CRASH DIVE." HOW MANY REAL TSMGS ARE THERE IN THIS PHOTO?

THE THOMPSON GUN &
THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
BY
PETER RIPLEY

According to The Ultimate Thompson Book several Canadian police agencies were among the original consignee's. This included the RCMP (4), the Alberta Provincial Police (1), the British Columbia Provincial Police (6), the Winnipeg City Police (2) and the Vancouver City Police (2).

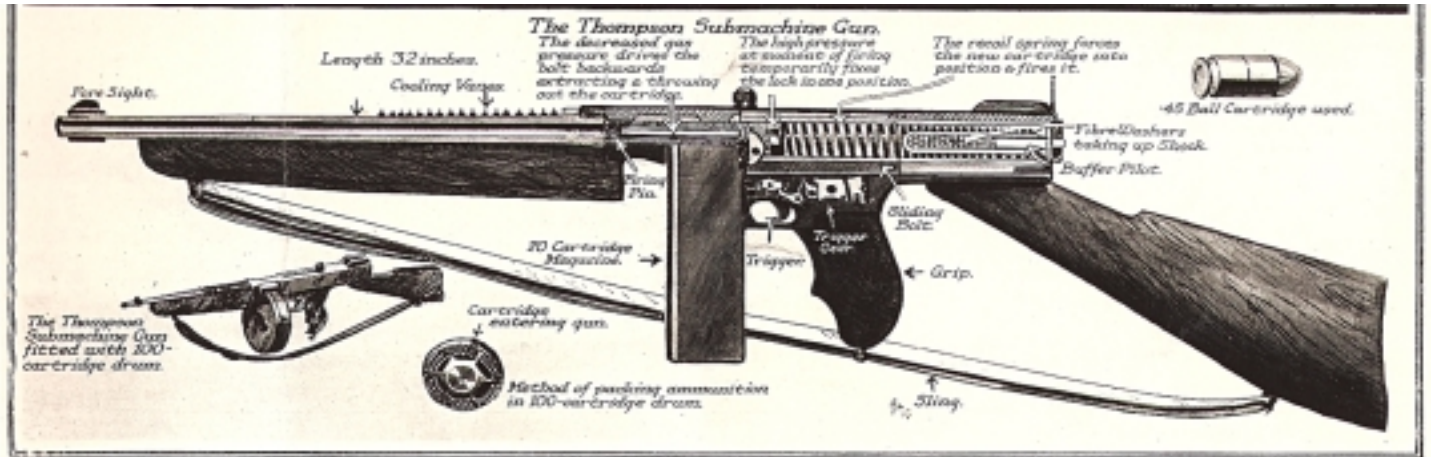
Naturally, I was very interested to learn what had become of these Thompsons after ninety years. Ms. Jodi Ann Eskritt, Curator, RCMP Historical Collections Unit, RCMP Heritage Centre, was able to help me with that for the original RCMP Thompsons and, interestingly, almost all the others.

In 1921 the RCMP purchased Thompsons #1056, 1674, 1806 and 3606. In 1932 the RCMP absorbed the Alberta PP and along came their Thompson, #3500. In 1950 they absorbed the British Columbia PP and Thompsons #3478, 4355, 4483, 4651, 4757 and 13551. These serial numbers all match those published in TUTB. As far as Thompson use in service with the RCMP it was mainly for Bank of Canada currency shipment escort.

Regrettably, all of the RCMP Thompsons except for #1674 and #3500 were destroyed in 1969. Thompson #3500, originally from the Alberta PP, is on display at the RCMP Heritage centre in Regina along with its original C drum. Thompson #1674, from the original RCMP purchase, is in storage.

Interestingly, there is one other Thompson (AO44229) in storage at the HCU. This is the 1928A1 which was carried by the driver of the get away car in a hold up of the Coquitlam Royal Bank on April 3, 1956.

The Vancouver Police Thompsons can be seen today in a museum dedicated to policing in that city (www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca). They also have two Colt Model 1927's which I believe have consecutive serial numbers. It is on my list of places to visit. One of the Winnipeg Thompsons is in a private collection in Alberta. I don't know the whereabouts of the other but suspect it may also be in a collection.



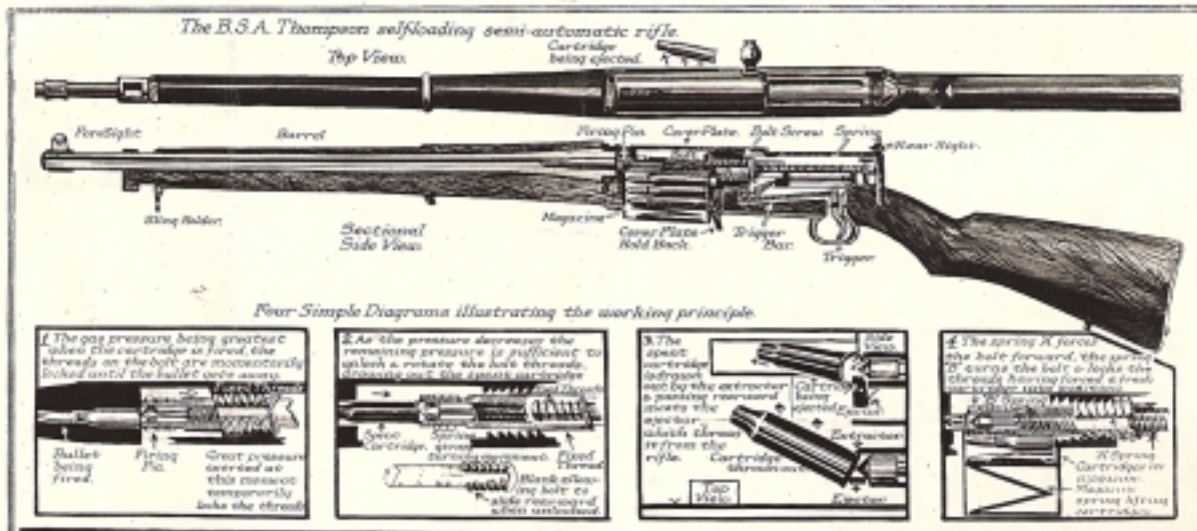
ELIMINATING THE MANUAL OPERATION OF EXTRACTION BY BOLT: THE NEW B.S.A. THOMPSON SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE (AWARDED A £3000 GOVERNMENT PRIZE) AND THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN—DETAILS OF MECHANISM.

The B.S.A. Thompson Semi-Automatic Rifle, recently awarded the £3000 prize offered by the British Government, has the advantage over the present Service rifle that the cartridge after firing is automatically ejected and a fresh one placed into firing position. Gas pressure excited at the moment of firing locks the threads on the bolts, but as the pressure subsides the threads are released, a turning movement is imparted by a spiral spring, and the bolt is unscrewed and passes along grooves to the rear, thus drawing out the spent cartridge, which comes into contact with the ejector and is thrown out. The rear spring forces the bolt forward again, the turning movement is again imparted, and the screws interlocked; at the same time a new cartridge is forced into position. The rifle is 46½ inches long and weighs 14½ lb. more than the present Service rifle. The

Thompson Submachine Gun has been adopted by the U.S.A., and has been of considerable use in Nicaragua. The weapon has a sliding bolt moving backwards and forwards in grooves. As it is fired, the period of high-chamber pressure causes the lock to become fixed by adhesion of its surface to the fixed framework of the gun; as the pressure subsides the bolt is forced back, compressing a spring and withdrawing the spent cartridge, which, striking the ejector, as in the semi-automatic rifle, is thrown out. A spring forces the bolt forward and introduces the next cartridge, which is fired when the bolt reaches the end of its stroke. The weapon uses the .45 Colt automatic revolver bullet, weighs 9½ lb., and is 32 inches in length. The trigger mechanism allows firing of single shots by each separate pull of the trigger or automatic bursts of 100 shots a minute.

THE COMING OF THE AUTOMATIC RIFLE: TYPES OF NEW FIRE-ARMS.

DRAWN BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, G. H. DAVIS (COPYRIGHTED.)



"BULLETS BY THE BILLIONS"

Shown here are 1940-1950s era cartridge check gages. Samples of all productions are checked dimensionally and for correct powder loads for performance. Yet, rarely to you see the gages.





Shown below is a MAX-MEAN-MIN diameter gage for .45 ACP. This gage would check the case diameter after loading to verify that the case had not changed. Interestingly, when I check WW I ammo, it would fit through the min gage, but WWII ammo would not.



FANTASY BELT BUCKLES

**BY
MIKE CARRICK**

ED NOTE: The following article started from an article written up in the Remington Collectors magazine and replies to it by Mike Carrick and myself. The information that is available is amazing, all you need to do is put all of the right people in one room. Neat trick at times.

I was interested to see the article on spurious Remington belt buckles in the latest RemShots.

I was active in collecting in the mid-1960s and remember when these bogus western buckles started showing up at gunshows. At first, in our area, they came out one or two at a time, and to my untrained eye they looked authentic. I remember trading a revolver for one of the Wells Fargo buckles. Gradually, I started to see more and more of them and came to realize they must be bogus. I still have the Wells Fargo buckle, and I wore it for over 20 years, so it has a nice old patina on it. Psst! Can I interest you in a rare buckle of the old west?

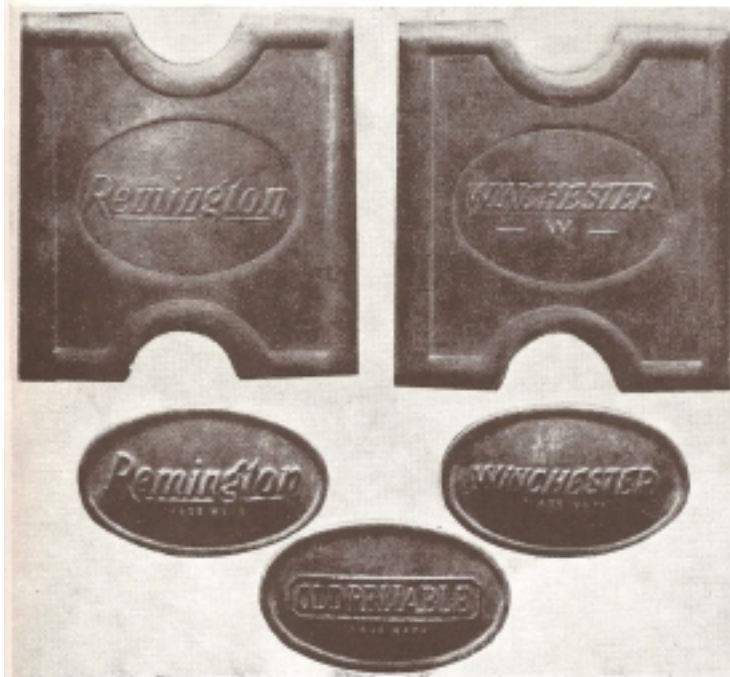
The suspected source in England even published a book to give authenticity to the buckles: "Tiffany & Gaylord Express & Exhibition Belt Plates" by Percy Seibert, Published by Reeses Press, Baltimore 2, "Copyright 1950 Joel & Arnoff, 137 Fifth Avenue, New York, 10, NY." The book was as phony as the buckles. That attached scan of the Remington buckles is from page 87 of this book.

In 1973, respected author and historian, J. Duncan Campbell, published an exposé entitled: "New Belt Buckles of the Old West." Ten years earlier Campbell's book, Military Insignia 1800 - 1851 had been published by The Smithsonian Institution, so his bona fides were established.

The first thing Campbell stresses is that these buckles are not reproductions of genuine old buckles, they are fantasy creations. Campbell reproduces "Seibert's" book and prints a running annotation on most pages debunking the images of the buckles. And, most annoying to Campbell, he noticed sentences and paragraphs plagiarized from his own book, which he published in 1962. Not too smart to put text that Campbell wrote in 1962 in Seibert's which states "Copyright 1950"--- a time warp, I guess. Seibert also reprinted a page from an old Bannerman catalog wherein he pasted in a reference to "10,000 Wells Fargo Steamship Belt Plates by Louis Tiffany."

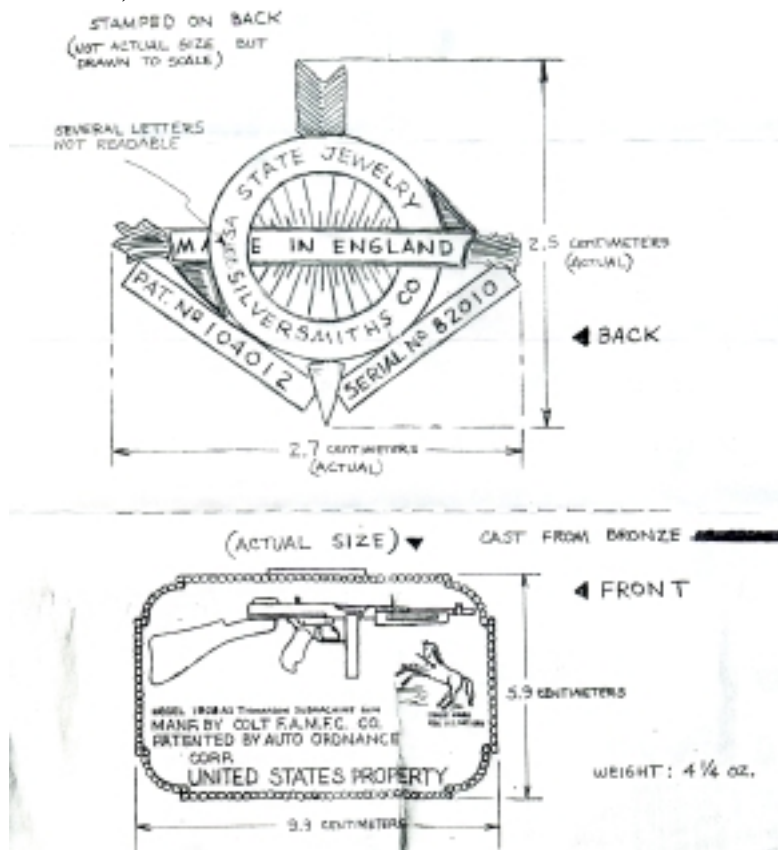
The E. Remington & Sons buckles you illustrate are not in Seibert's book, but are consistent with the style. Campbell calls attention to the loop that holds the belt. He writes, "These buckles are made with a heavy wire loop on the reverse held in place by a flat piece brazed to the plate. This flat metal piece is so constructed that you can flip the wire loop back and forth almost a full 180 degrees. No American-made belt buckle, 1865 -1900, ever had a wire loop applied in this manner." Campbell was a serious collector of belt plates and insignia from 1927 onwards, and claims to have looked at over 10,000 buckles in 46 States, and had never seen anything even resembling these fantasy buckles.

ANSON MILLS FIREARMS COMPANY BELT PLATES



Three small oval brass plates used for ammo pouches and the Anson Mills buckles.

Shown below is a drawing of the markings on the early buckles (Ultimate Thompson Book Page 703-704).





This is an interesting article out of the "Hunting and Fishing" magazine from 1943 (Thank You Tom Davis). The presentation on June 5, 1943, shows the presenting of the 1 millionth Thompson Submachine Gun (an M1 design).

Unfortunatel, we do not know where this gun is today.

Compare this date with the image to the right.

Presenting to the Army the one-millionth Thompson Sub-machine Gun made by the Savage Arms Corporation of Utica, N. Y.

Left to right: Col. Frank J. Atwood, District Chief, Rochester Ordnance District; Edward C. O. Thomas, Civilian Protection Director for New York State; G. Noble Davidson, General Manager of Savage Arms; Fred F. Hickey, President, and Herbert Caswell, Co-chairman of the Labor-Management Committee of Savage, who presented the gun.

Date of presentation: June 5, 1943. At Savage Arms Utica plant.

Savage Comes Through Again

THE production of one million Thompson sub-machine guns by the Savage Arms Corporation of Utica, N. Y. was celebrated recently. To signalize the event, the millionth gun was presented to Col. Frank J. Atwood, District Chief, Rochester Ordnance District, who received it on behalf of the government.

The magnitude of this outstanding war production achievement by a sporting arms manufacturer takes on added lustre in view of the fact that it accounted for only a part of the total output of weapons by this well known firm. In addition to the million "Tommy" guns, Savage has produced vast quantities of Browning .50 caliber aircraft machine guns and military rifles.

Sportsmen everywhere will be interested to know that the Savage Arms Corporation of Utica is listed among the hundred leading and largest producers of war equipment in America. The output to date of just this one plant must bring comfort to our fighting forces and at least a little anxiety to our enemies.



The one millionth Thompson Sub-machine Gun produced by the Savage Arms Corporation and presented to the Ordnance Dept. of the Army at a ceremony held at the Utica, N. Y. plant June 5, 1943.

SOMETHING NEW!

This is an M1A1 with a highly polished blued receiver with a special engraved note:

" THE 159289TH THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN

PRESENTED TO

MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL MAGUIRE

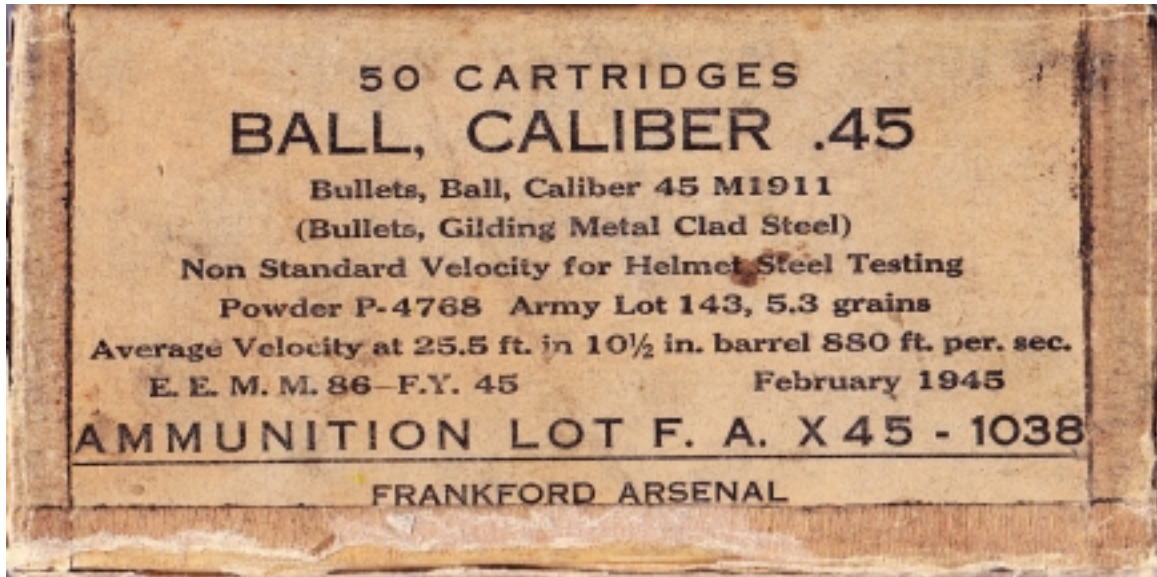
BY GEORGE E. GOLL DEC. 25, 1943"



NO OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS THOMPSON IS AVAILABLE

HELMET TESTING AMMO

This ammo was used to test the strength of the M1 helmet's construction. The note on the label seems to indicate that the standard was based on the Thompson: "Average Velocity at 25.5 ft in 10 1/2 in. barrel 880 ft. per sec." This was a typical speed of a round fired from a Thompson, plus the barrel length is the same. I believe the Thompson was the only gun with that barrel length and caliber in WWII.



22TH ANNUAL
ALL THOMPSON SHOW AND SHOOT
NEWARK, OH
AUGUST 2-3, 2013

Please send me further information on the Show and Shoot.

NAME _____

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EMAIL _____

THIS IS THE ONLY SIGN UP IN THE NEWSLETTER. THIS ALLOWS ME TO SEND INFORMATION TO PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING. EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU CAN ATTEND; SEND THIS IN TO BE ON THE MAILING LIST.