



George Rich attributed his win on “Push the Bottle” to his new Mohawk cut.



Mike Young sets TCA record for most brass in the air.

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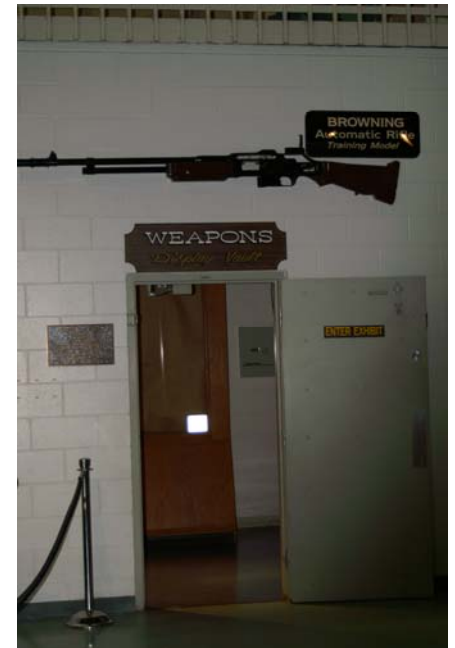
## The United States Air Force Armament Museum’s Tommy Gun

By Bill Troy

Just outside of Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach, Florida is the United States Air Force Armament Museum. Admission is free and the museum is open to the public. It is a great place to spend the afternoon! The museum is home to a number of aircraft including the SR-71, F-111, B-52, Mig-15, and the F-4. Additionally, the museum houses just about one example of every air delivered weapon in the U. S. Air Force including laser guided bombs, air delivered mines and missiles of every type. Finally, the museum has a small but well cared for gun vault housing many weapons including a Savage manufactured M1928A1 TSMG with an L-drum.



The museum’s entrance



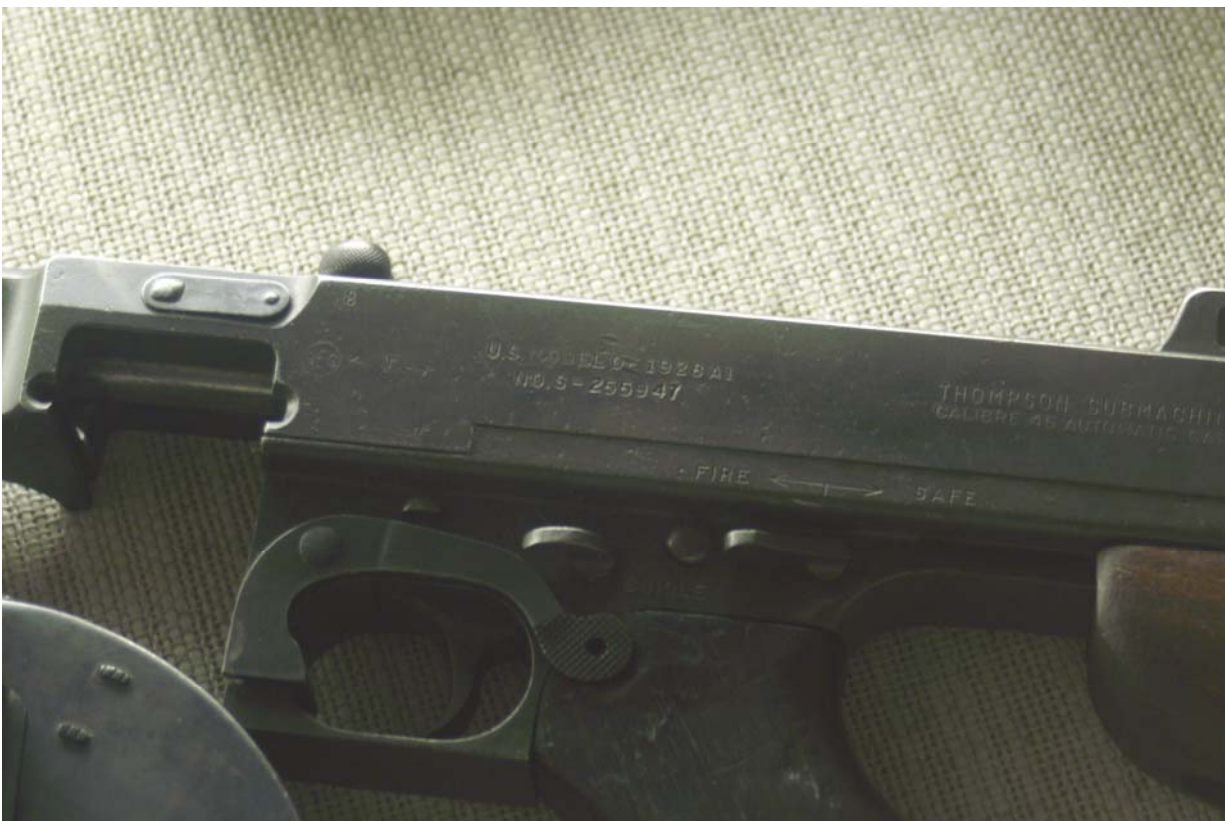
Entering the Gun Vault



## The interior of the gun vault



**Model of 1928 A1 SN: S-255974 with L Drum**



**Close up of the TSMG. The Flaming Bomb, GEG and RLB marks are plainly visible.**



**The Museum's Bridgeport L Drum**



**The Florida Panhandle's very own SR-71 Blackbird – Very Fast!!!**

## Thompsons and Nose Art

It never ceases to amaze me at what I can find that ties into collecting Thompsons. At a military vehicle collectors rally recently I stumbled into this original WWII unit decal designed by the Walt Disney studios. Score another Thompson-related "find" for under \$20!

It turns out that Walt Disney served in WWI as an ambulance driver and began his association with war art by painting designs onto the trucks of his unit and leather jackets. One of Disney's first WWII-era designs was done in the late 1930s for a Navy officer who asked Disney to design a logo for his unit, Squadron VF-7. Another famous early Disney design was done at the request of the Chinese Defense Supply Bureau for the American Volunteer Group, better known as the "Flying Tigers". This logo featured the winged tiger flying through a large "V" (for victory).



As the war progressed and America joined in, Disney detailed a five man group to handle all of the requests for logos. One of the artists involved was Hank Porter, who was responsible for over 1,000 designs for the U.S. Army and Navy as of Spring 1944, by himself. At the time, Hank estimated that he still had a backlog of almost 300 design requests (to include one from his son, still in flight school, upon assignment to his duty unit--yet to be determined). Most of the emblems used minor Disney characters, but never Disney's big names (Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Pluto, etc.) unless they were specifically requested by the unit. Hank said that the more he knew about the unit, the easier it was to design an appropriate unit logo (Note: For a reconnaissance unit--the tail as a radio aerial, the ear cocked to listen, the Thompson for firepower).

I have no idea how many different unit logos were done that included the Thompson as part of the design, but I'm sure that this isn't the only one. Given the current corporate attitude at Disney towards firearms in general, I doubt that we'll ever see new ones. So if you know of any others out there, please share them with the rest of us.

B. Sutton Coffman



### Is This a Speed Bolt?

Recently, I've heard about these internals twice over a couple of weeks. Fortunately, I was able to get a picture the second time. From what I've been able to gather, the internals were designed to radically increase the cyclic rate of a '28 by lowering the reciprocating mass and the internal friction (i.e., milling the ears off the Blish). The only other change I can see is an M1 like spring guide and buffer. I don't if the spring is any stiffer.

Can anyone offer any insight about this modification? If so, please write!

## About Doug Richardson

Doug Richardson is a design and manufacturing engineer who has specialized in Thompson SMGs for the last 61 years. He has written many books about Thompson guns and manufactures a broad range of Thompson products. If you wish to have a question answered, submit the question to him by e-mail ([ThompsonSMG@mail.com](mailto:ThompsonSMG@mail.com)) or by regular mail (2100 McReynolds Rd., Malibu CA 90265). Please keep the question short, to the point and address only one subject at a time. This column is not intended to be a forum. Questions and answers that are deemed to have general interest will be published.

Doug is also posting Q&As on his website (ThompsonSMG.com). If there is anything on his website that you would like to put into the news, go ahead but please give Doug credit for the item.

## Questions & Answers

QUESTION : What is the cause and cure for the kinking of a 1928 recoil spring?

ANSWER: I have often said that there is no engineering justification for the existence of the 1928 Thompson gun and that every change made to the 1921 Thompson design in order to create the 1928 degraded the performance and characteristics of the 1921. The major case in point being the 1928 recoil spring and pilot design. The only purpose of the pilot is to hold the spring in place in the space between the rear end of the receiver and the back end of the bolt/actuator. Without the pilot there would be nothing to prevent the spring from looping out at its side and kinking. But the pilot is not long enough to fully guide the spring over the entire space. This is because the pilot cannot be made long enough to completely guide the spring and still be able to be installed from the bottom of the receiver. On the 1921 gun, the non-piloted gap was not a problem because the diameter of the recoil spring is greater than the length of the gap and so there are not enough unguided coils to loop out. The 1928 gun design reduced the diameter of the spring and increased its stiffness to the point where it is always on the verge of looping out and kinking and will do so if there is any additional aggravating factor. Assuming that the gun is an original 1928 Thompson, which would eliminate such contributing factors as an oversized pilot hole in the receiver, an undersized diameter and/or length pilot or a buffer that is too thin, then it is only necessary to check that there is a breech oiler and buffer in place. If either of those are missing, the gap is increased. Given that the gun is in specification configuration, the cause of spring kinking is the result of operator error in installing the spring. With the spring and pilot out of the gun, as much of the spring as possible must be forced onto the pilot and then secured in place by a pin pushed between the spring coils and through the hole in the front end of the pilot from the bottom side. A 1928 Recoil Spring Stripping Tool, pin punch or even a nail can be used for this purpose. This will allow the end of the recoil spring to be easily fed into the actuator hole and the pilot (with buffer in place) fitted through the oiler and receiver holes with no possibility of looping and kinking. Once the spring/pilot assembly is in place in the receiver, remove the tool. If this procedure was not previously followed and the spring kinked during installation (or because of any other problem), it should be replaced.

QUESTION : What is the proper torque requirement when installing a Thompson barrel?

ANSWER: There is no torquing specification that I am aware of and it would not be relevant if there were one. There must have been some figure used at Savage and Auto-Ordnance when the guns were made. It would only make a difference if very powerful and expensive machines were used, and they must have had them. From a practical standpoint, it is virtually impossible for an individual to over tighten a Thompson barrel. This is because of two factors. The 1 in 10 pitch of the Thompson square barrel thread does not allow any "tweaking". The barrel goes from loose to tight in just a few degrees of rotation. The barrel does not get tighter and tighter as is the case with V-threads where the external part (nut) actually expands as the tightening force is increased. If it were possible to measure the torque it would go from 0 to off the scale instantly, making a meaningful measurement unobtainable. The other factor is that it is impossible with reasonably available tools to hold the barrel tight enough to be able to over tighten it. Getting the barrel as tight as possible becomes the goal.

**Shooting Events at the 2007 TCA Show and Shoot (July 13 & 14)**

## **Main Match**

On all stages all three targets must be engaged

20 Shots at 50 yards in 1 minute, semi-auto

20 Shots at 25 yards in 25 seconds, full-auto

20 Shots at 15 yards in 15 seconds, full-auto

20 Shots at 7 yards in 4 seconds, full-auto

## **Eliot Ness Bodyguard Qualification Test**

Each target hit is worth 10 points. Match is total score divided by time required to engage all targets.

Two targets with a Colt 1911 pistol on two knockdown targets ( 5 rounds in gun ). Lay gun on table when completed.

Two targets with a Winchester 1897 with two rounds in gun. Lay gun on table when completed.

Five targets with a Thompson (on full-auto) with 20 rounds in gun.

1911 and Winchester (with light ammunition) will be supplied by club.

There will not be any movement required except moving down table with guns.

## **Man-on-Man**

Four targets and one winner knock-down. 30 rounds max in gun (full-auto)

Alternate sides, best two out of three.

## **Spray And Pray**

20 rounds on full-auto with ONE pull of the trigger at an 8 ½ X 11 paper with black center (X) at 15 yards. If you stop before the mag is empty stop, all hits and X's will be scored. If you shoot again, you are DISQUALIFIED! Hence the NAME!

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**Does this sound like a great shoot? Your application is on the inside back page, and here is the information for your Form "20".**

**RR # 1 Box 279  
Solsberry, In 47459  
Greene County  
July 13 & 14**

# CLASSIFIED ADS



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ASSOCIATION  
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ANY AD \$6.00 PER ISSUE

**MISMATCHED DRUMS** – Do you own a Colt “C” or “L” drum with mismatched covers? I am providing a service to TCA members. The “Drum Registry” has dozens of Colt mismatches listed with their last known address. I can help you locate the matching lid or base for your Colt drum. The cost is two (2) 1<sup>ST</sup> class postage stamps per drum. Don Hall, 3584 Bibb Rd., Golden Valley, AZ 86413.

**FOR SALE:** The book *Colt Thompson Serial Numbers*. The book includes sections on the listing of all 15000 serial numbers of the Colt TSMG, an index/history section, Marine Corps and Navy section and a drum section. A must for all Thompson Collectors. THOMPSONACCESSORIES.COM. Gordon Herigstad. 1632 West 10<sup>th</sup> St., San Pedro, CA 90732. (310) 831-9339. GORDONCOLT@AOL.COM.

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**COMING EVENTUALLY:** DVDs of the TCA 2006 Show & Shoot. Write to TCA, PO Box 1675, Ellicott City, MD 21041-1675 or E-mail [TCA1934@Comcast.net](mailto:TCA1934@Comcast.net) to reserve your copy.

## **FOR SALE:**

**THOMPSON TYPE A1 CANVAS CARRYING CASE** for sale. Original unmarked Thompson Case with pockets for buttstock, four 20 round magazines and rod. We can e-mail pictures. \$1,200.00 or best offer.

**THOMPSON RUSSIAN DISPLAY CARRY CASE** for sale. This is a neat nine-piece, new unassembled cardboard display case imported from the Ukraine. All included parts for box assembly are:

One Inner Box, One Thompson Shaped Insert, Four Closure Straps, One Slip Cover, and Two Piece Heavy Duty Plastic Carry Handle.

The front side of the slipcover shows a funny partially reversed Thompson picture with all firing controls on the right side. The backside of the slip cover is Russian Thompson history and specifications. A unique box for displaying, carrying or shipping your Thompson. We can e-mail pictures. \$35.00 per set.

[rickdumas@earthlink.net](mailto:rickdumas@earthlink.net) (805) 701-3733



**Thompson Collectors Association**  
 P. O. Box 1675 Ellicott City, MD 21041-1675  
 TCA1934@comcast.net



**It's less than a month and a half away!!!**

**Yes—I plan to attend the 2007 TCA Show and Shoot on July 13 & 14**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Costs:

\*Show: \$90.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ # people \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

\*\*TCA Shooters: \$5.00 per Shooter x \_\_\_\_\_ # people \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Guest Shooters: \$20.00 per Guest x \_\_\_\_\_ # people \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Are your dues paid up as of July 31, 2007? (\$30per year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Display tables required: \_\_\_\_\_

Shooters without guns--will you need ammunition? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ammunition: \$15 per box of 50 rounds (minimum of 2 boxes) x \_\_\_\_\_ # boxes \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Event T-Shirts: \$15 per T-Shirt x \_\_\_\_\_ # T-Shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Sizes: \_\_\_\_\_ # S, \_\_\_\_\_ # M, \_\_\_\_\_ # LG, \_\_\_\_\_ # X-LG, \_\_\_\_\_ # XX-LG, \_\_\_\_\_ # XXX-LG

\* Now includes 3 sandwich meals and one sit-down dinner.

\*\* TCA Shooters includes family members. Maps and directions will be sent upon receipt of your payment.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Names of Attendees:

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PO BOX 1675  
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