

**NZAR ID 345, ARM TYPE: SMG. Draft date (V1) 3 July 2012, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: Thompson M1928A1. Introduced: 1940. Withdrawn: After WWII**

In December 1939 a request from the British Expeditionary Force in France for the immediate supply of "Gangster Guns" (machine Carbines) also called SMGs Sub Machine Guns prompted action. The .45" caliber Thompson M1928A1 had a 2nd model Cutts compensator, Lyman sights, cooling fins on the barrel, employed a delayed blowback action and its charging handle was on the top of the receiver, originally used a 50 round drum magazine with a cyclic rate of 600 rounds per minute, was expensive at US\$225.00 each but was considered the best SMG available and was promptly adopted by the British and New Zealand Armies. The Thompson had to be cocked, bolt retracted ready to fire, to attach the 50 round drum magazine which attached and detached by sliding sideways, this made magazine changes slow and created difficulty in clearing a cartridge malfunction (jam), also the weight and the rattling sound they made was criticized. Box magazines 20 or 30 round solved the problems and replaced the 50 round drum magazines. The vertical fore-grip was also replaced with a horizontal fore-grip. Over 1.7 million military Thompson submachine guns (all types) were produced during World War II. British purchased their M1928A1 Thompsons direct from Auto Ord. although they were made by Savage. The Lend Lease guns were all M1 and M1A1. In March 1944 NZ held 12,553 Thompsons all types. They were all fitted with Britain purchased 108,000 1942 the total number of Thompsons purchased by Britain was 514,000, although only about 100,000 arrived due to heavy losses in the Atlantic.



Left; 20 round box magazine and 50 round drum magazine. Second: A British Tommy Gunner with a Thompson M1928A1, Kent, November 1940. Third: A 28th Maori Battalion infantryman with his M1928A1 in Greece 1941. Right: Soldiers of the 28th Maori Battalion Italy 1944, whose 3500 members won fame in World War II as shock troops in Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy, image shows two M1928A1s with horizontal fore-grips. Acknowledgements & special thanks to: Phil Cregeen, Rod Woods, NZ War Record. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thompson_submachine_gun Osborne Arms Museum for images of the M1928A1. SAIS No 17 .45 Thompson Sub Machine Gun by I Skennerton, The Ultimate Thompson Book by T L Hill