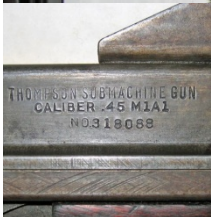


**NZAR ID 346, ARM TYPE: SMG. Draft date (V1) 3 July 2012, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,
 Pattern: Thompson M1 & M1A1. Introduced: 1943. Withdrawn: From NZ service after WWII**

The M1 & M1A1 had no barrel cooling fins, the rate of fire was reduced to approximately 600 rpm, The M1 bolt had a floating firing pin and hammer whereas the M1A1 firing pin was machined into the face of the bolt eliminating unnecessary parts it used a simple blowback action doing away with the Blish lock. Other differences to the M1928A1 the magazine catch was modified and the fire control switches were also redesigned to simplify production. The buttstock was permanently attached and reinforced. The charging handle was moved from the top to the right side, and the flip-up adjustable Lyman rear sight was replaced with a fixed L sight. Late M1 Thompsons had the triangular rear sight guard wings added to the L sight which was standardized on the M1A1 version, provisions only for 20 or 30 round box magazines, The M1 was approved in April 1942 and the M1A1 in October 1942 but not issued till 1943 they were produced by Savage Arms, Auto-Ordnance and by the British, could be produced in half the time and for less than half the cost of the M1928A1. By February 1944 design changes had further reduced the cost to US \$45 each, including accessories & spare parts, by the end of WWII over 1.7 million Military Thompsons had been made & were being replaced with the even lower-cost M3 commonly called "Grease Gun".



Thompson M1 and M1A1s saw service with NZ forces. Left: Soldiers of the Second NZ Expeditionary Force with captured Prisoners Italy 1944 the lower is a Thompson M1928A1 with Cutts compensator and vertical grip, and above a Thompson M1 / M1A1 with horizontal fore-grip and no Cutts Compensator. Acknowledgements and 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 M1A1. SAIS No 17 .45 Thompson Sub Machine Gun by I Skennerton, The Ultimate Thompson Book by T L Hill.