

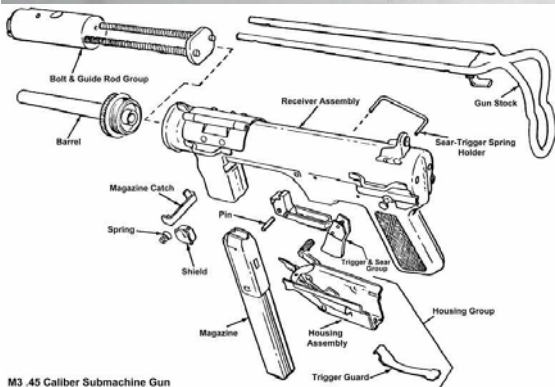
**NZAR ID 350, ARM TYPE: SMG. Draft date (V1) 4 July 2012, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,**

**Pattern: M3 / M3A1 .45" ACP caliber. Introduced: Late 1944. Withdrawn: after the Korean War**

**Specifications:** Caliber .45" ACP. Action: Blowback fires from open bolt. Cyclic rate: 450 rounds/min. Sights: Fixed 100m rear peep sight and blade foresight. Magazine: 30-round detachable. Muzzle velocity: 280 m/s. Weight (magazine empty): 3.61 kg

The M3 / M3A1 was considered a superior alternative to the Thompson submachine gun as it was cheaper to produce, lighter and more accurate. Commonly referred to as the "**Grease Gun**" the M3 / M3A1 began to replace the Thompson in front-line service in late 1944 but saw relatively little combat use in World War II. During the Korean War, existing M3 guns in service were converted to the improved M3A1 configuration using new parts. Complaints of accidental discharge continued to occur even as late as the Korean War. These incidents were sometimes caused by dropping the gun on a hard surface with an impact sufficient to knock open the ejection port cover and propel the bolt backwards (but not enough to catch the sear). The return springs would then propel the bolt forward to pick up a cartridge from the magazine and carry it into the chamber, where the bolt's fixed firing pin struck the primer upon contact. During the Korean War the Ithaca Gun Co built 33,000 complete guns as well as manufacturing thousands of parts for the repair and rebuilding of existing M3 and M3A1s. The M3 and M3A1 were largely withdrawn from U.S. frontline service in 1957, but continued to be used until the mid-1990s by armored vehicle crews and truck drivers. During the 1991 Gulf War, drivers of the 19th Engineer Battalion attached to the 1st Armored Division were equipped with the M3A1.

**New Zealand Service:** Over the course of the Korean war more than 4,700 New Zealanders served as a part of Kayforce (16th Field Regiment and Royal New Zealand Artillery) and a further 1,350 Royal New Zealand Navy sailors took part in tours of duty, 33 were killed in action and 79 wounded. Some British & NZ forces attached to the Americans were issued with the M3A1.



M3 .45 Caliber Submachine Gun

M3A1 marked SUB-MACH GUN CAL 45 / ITHACA GUN CO, INC / U.S. NO 758164

Ejection port cover open showing bolt back in firing position



Ejection port cover open,

British proof on bolt to rear of finger cocking hole. Proof mark on receiver body.

British proof marks on barrel