

The Thompson Machine Carbine

Small Arms Training
Volume I, Pamphlet No. 21



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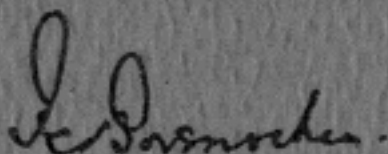
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1942

By Command of the Army Council,

THE WAR OFFICE

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SMALL ARMS TRAINING

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THE THOMPSON MACHINE CARBINE

GENERAL NOTES

1. Object

The sole object of weapon training is to teach all ranks the most efficient way of handling their weapons in order to kill the enemy. Instructors will always bear this fact in mind and will continually impress it upon those whom they instruct.

2. Safety precautions

At the beginning of every lesson the instructor will inspect the machine carbine, pouches, and drill cartridges.

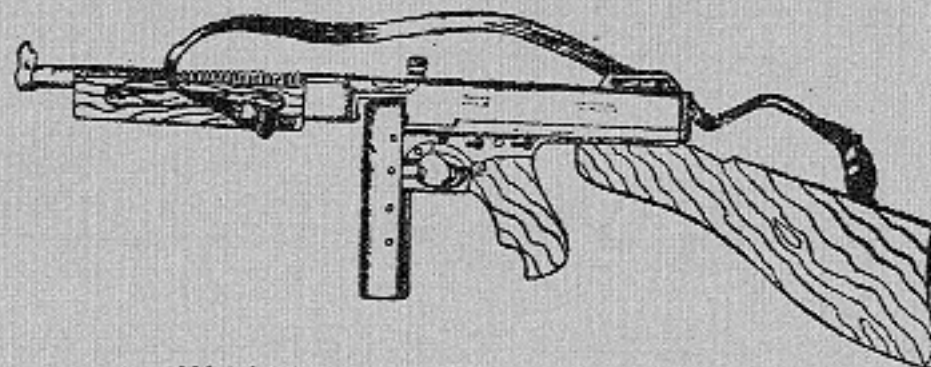
3. Training

Instructors must appreciate that, while the lessons are designed to be taught in one period, more time will be necessary in order to permit of sufficient practice to obtain proficiency.

Excellent training value can also be obtained by using the spotlight projector (*see* Appendix).

4. The machine carbine is normally the weapon of the section commander. Occasions will arise, however, when it may be advisable to give it to another man in the section.

THOMPSON MACHINE—CARBINE.



Weight Approx: 10 lb. Calibre: .450 in.

Carbines with vertical foregrips have the front swivel on the left side.

FIG. 1

LESSON 1.—INTRODUCTION—LOADING AND UNLOADING

Instructor's Notes

Stores.—Machine carbine ; magazines ; drill cartridges, if available.

All parts will be named as dealt with (see Fig. 2).

1. Explain :—

The machine carbine is a short range weapon introduced for the purpose of engaging the enemy at ranges of from 10 to 100 yds. At greater distances the speed of the bullet is so reduced that it has lost much of its penetrative power.

The weapon is especially useful when on patrol, or for fighting in close country, such as woods and villages. It is ideal for use at night at very close ranges. If necessary it may be fired on the move during the assault. Under these conditions the enemy may appear at close ranges and from different directions, and by firing from the waist such targets can be instantly engaged. Where time permits the weapon should always be fired from the shoulder, as this method is far more accurate.

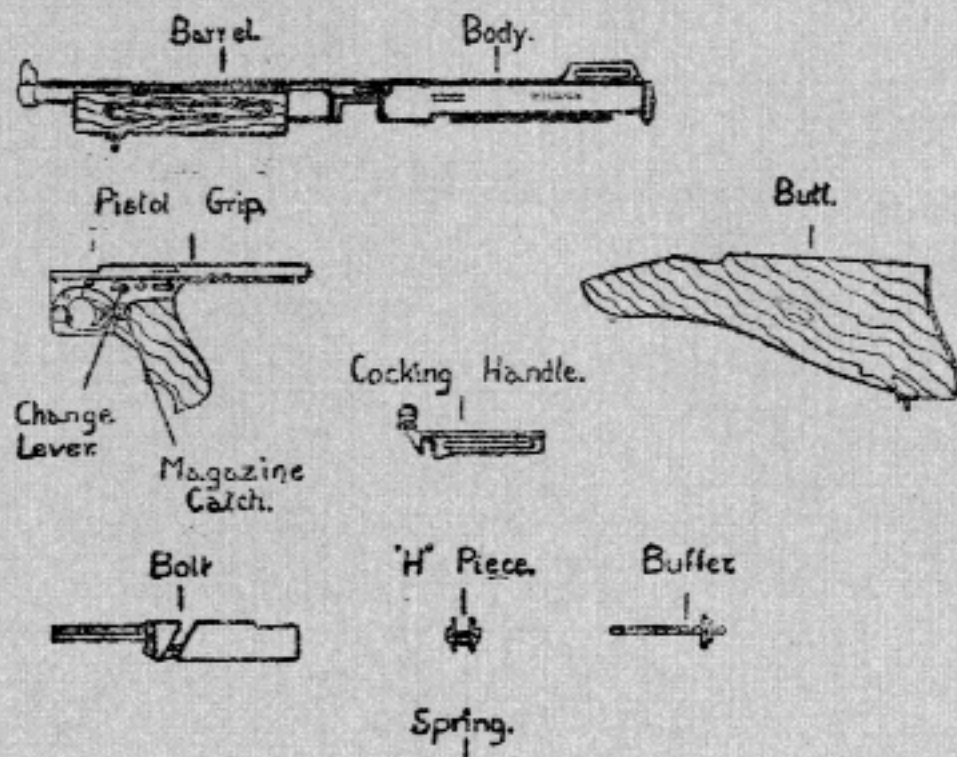


FIG. 2

It is an automatic weapon, operated by the recoil of the spent case acting on the bolt face.

The machine carbine can be fired in bursts or in single rounds.

2. Magazine filling

i. Explain and demonstrate :—

The magazine holds 20 rounds. Hold magazine in left hand, ribs away from the body. Pick up a convenient number of rounds in the right hand and place each round in by pressing downwards and backwards. Count the number of rounds, and ensure that ammunition is kept clean.

ii. To empty—press each round forward with the nose of a bullet or remove with finger and thumb.

iii. Practise squad.

3. Loading and unloading

Explain and demonstrate :—

i. *To load.*—Hold the machine carbine with the right hand on the pistol grip, forefinger outside the trigger guard, butt under the arm, muzzle pointing down at an angle of 45 degrees. Turn the machine carbine to the right, grasp the magazine in the left hand, rib to the rear, and insert it in the recess in front of the trigger guard. Force the magazine upwards and ensure that it is FULLY ENGAGED.

Loading is fully completed by cocking the machine carbine when it is required to fire, or when action is imminent.

NOTE.—The safety catch should NEVER be used—it being only necessary to cock the weapon to be ready for firing.

ii. *To unload.*—Turn the machine carbine to the right. Press the magazine catch on the left side of the pistol grip upwards with the thumb of the left hand, and remove the magazine. Cock the machine carbine, if not already cocked, and, holding the cocking handle with the left hand, press the trigger and ease the working parts forward under control. Repeat this action.

iii. Practise squad—Words of command—"Load"—"Action imminent"—"Unload".