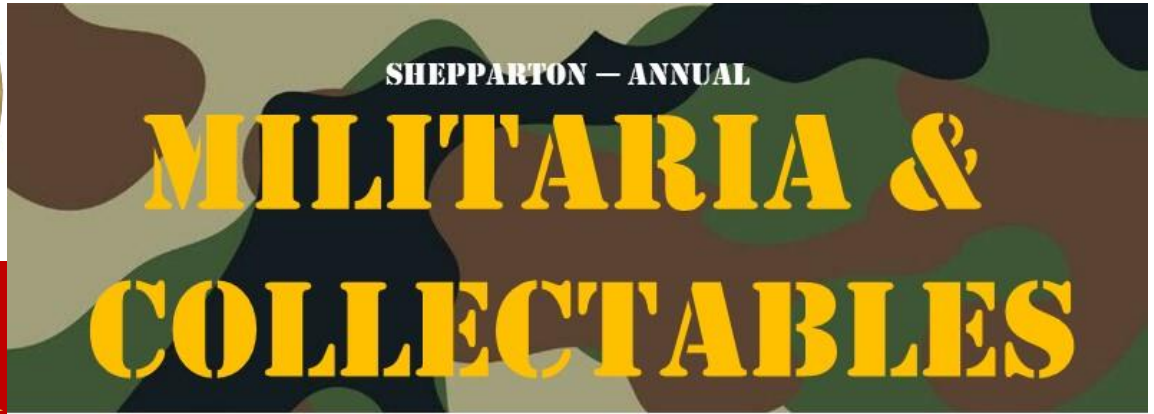


NORTHERN VICTORIAN ARMS COLLECTORS GUILD INC.

More Majorum

2025 Issue 1



**SHEPPARTON
MILITARIA EXPO
MARCH 1 & 2
See Page 2 & 7**

EXPO 2025



Admission
Adults \$10
Children under 16
with adult free

- EXPO 2025
- OLD PAINTING
- CARVING SET
- BLACK SMITH
- LEOPARD KITTEN
- TOMMY GUNS
- IRON THRONE
- RUGER No.1

SAT. 9.00 AM TO 5.00 PM - SUN 9.00 AM TO 3.30 PM

MCINTOSH CENTRE - SHEPPARTON

MARCH 1ST & 2ND

Free Expo entry to members of NVACG, Golden City Collectors Association or the Ballarat Arms & Militaria Collectors, who can present a membership card or badge.

Guild Business

N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2024/25

EXECUTIVE

President / Treasurer: John Mc

Vice Pres / Safety Officer: John M.

Secretary: Carl W.

M/ship Sec / Expo Co-Ordinator: Graham R.

Newsletter: Brett M.

Sgt. at Arms: Simon B.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Safety Officer: Terry S.

Scott J.

Nathan R.

Peter R.

Rod D.

Rob K.

Achtung !!

Container Update:

Earth works have now been completed at our container and has been ramped up to the door. This means we will be able to back our Guild trailer into the container.

Guild Trailer Update:

The Guild trailer has been modified so it will fit all the tables for the expo. It is current at a Guild member's property. After the expo it will be put back into the container ready for next year.

Gun Show Update:

The Gun Show is approaching fast, Graham has done a great job of organising the the dealers. To get the word around, our online publicity campaign will be starting next week. We will need volunteers for the Thursday and Sunday for setting up, and packing up. (see P.7) Town entry signs need to be put up on Monday 17th Feb.

Anzac Day Volley Fire:

Anzac Day 2025 is in just a few months. Allan Nichols is always looking for new people to participate in the local events. Volley Fire will be held at Shepparton, Moroopna, Dookie & Tongala. If you have a Firearms Licence, Military 303 Rifle, are a member of SSAA (for insurance) and would like to participate, please email Guild Secretary - Carl (secretary@nvacg.org.au)



***** **MORE EXPO INFORMATION ON PAGE 7** *****

SNIDERS WANTED

Hi all several members are after 577 Sniders in good working order with good barrels. Most are after Mk 3's, but a good Mk 2 will be considered also.

Also in order of preference is - Military carbines, 2 band short rifles then 3 band long rifles & Sporting Sniders.

Please contact John H on 03 58213192 or email

jobah450.577@bigpond.com

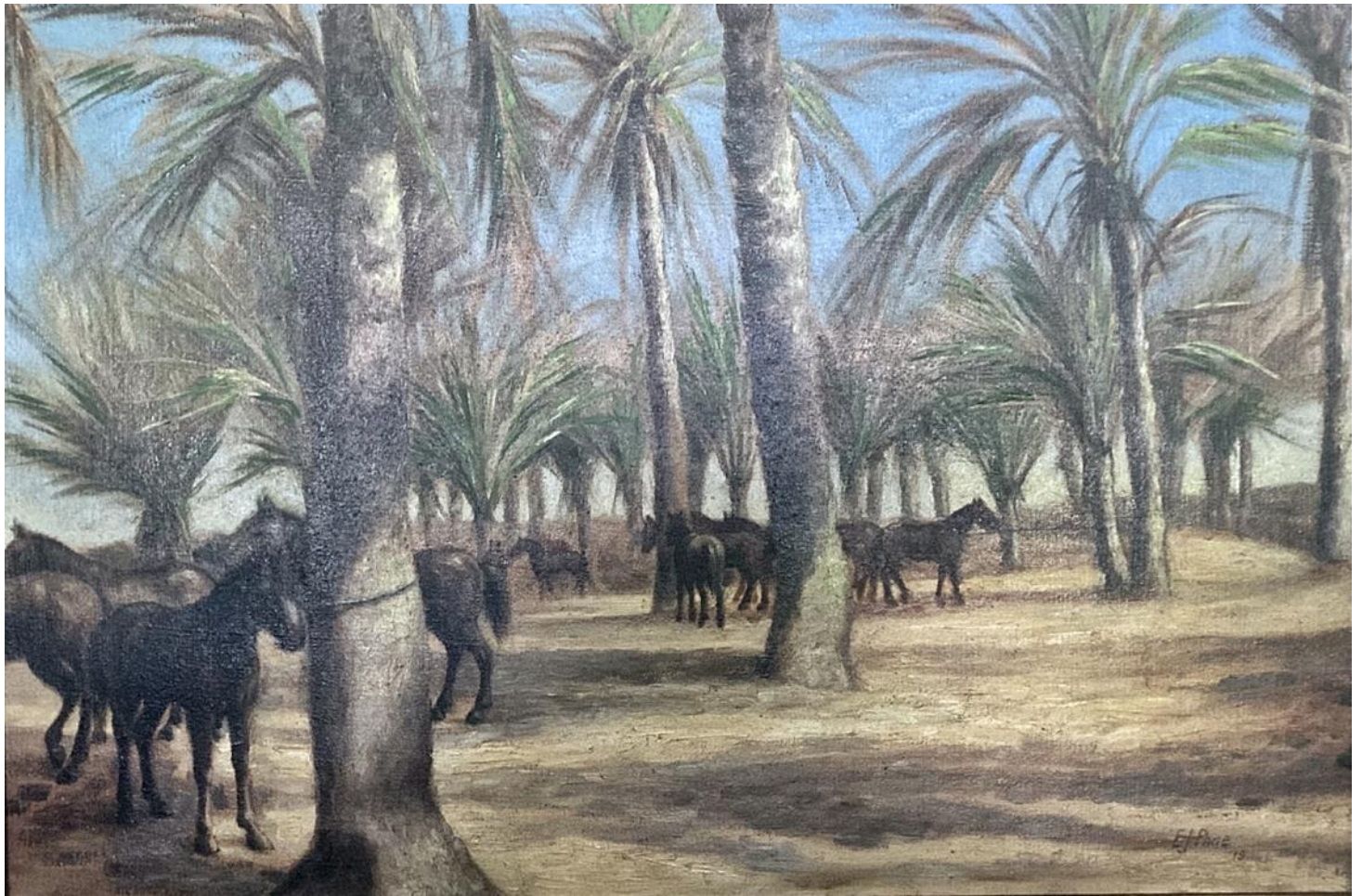
LOOKING TO BUY

- (A) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.
- (B) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.
- (C) .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.

If you can help with any or all of these Bayonets contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email on jobah450.577@bigpond.com

An Old Painting.

A member recently stayed at an old house setup as an Airbnb. On the lounge wall was this old painting, titled:- "LIGHT HORSE CAMPED AMONG THE PALMS - EGYPT" It is signed "E J Page '19". Presumably painted in 1919. It is similar to this photograph of the 9th Light Horse at Hod Masaid Egypt in 1916. No history of the painting or painter has been found.

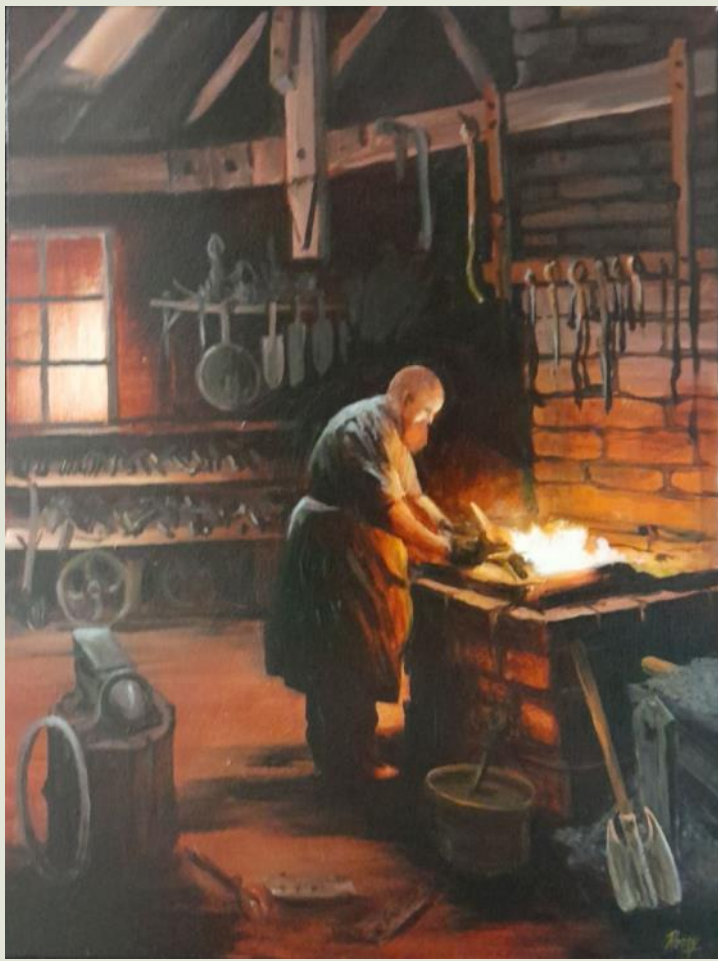


RANDALL CARVING SET

One of our members has an extensive collection of the famous "Randall Made Knives"

Randall have been making hand made fishing, hunting, camping and military knives since the mid 1930's.

This carving set is a bit different from their normal range of outdoor knives, but I suppose a hunter needs something appropriate to use at the table to carve the roast of venison or wild duck.



Secretary Carl at his medieval forge.

(Story behind the portrait by Carl)

In 2022 The Campaspe Shire create the Tongala Place based plans which sets out the short, medium and long terms plans for the town. One of the main objective was to create an RV friendly Town.

In early 2023 I was contacted by Murray Ross (Local Artist & Tongala Lions Member) to help the Town create such a space. The Tongala Bowls club has a disused bowls green which already had an access road.

As this was a community project, I did this job at no cost. The council made us apply for a planning permit, but I was able to get the fee waived. As the bowls club backed onto the railway line, VicRail requested we put up a 1.8m chain link fence, along the North and West boundary. It was approximately 160m long. I argued the against the fence, with the council and VicRail, and presented an alterative to plant trees as a hedge.

The Campaspe Council then required a drainage design and Computations. This would have costed \$6,000 just for the consul-tation fee's. Again argued the point with the council and won. In total I saved them about \$30k-\$40k in expenses.

As a thank you Murray Ross Painted this portrait of me black-smithing and presented to me at the Lions Meeting, which I did not expect.

I am now onto the next community project, a swimming complex in Kyabram.

Something from your Collection

With each newsletter we would like to feature something special from a members collection, it doesn't have to be valuable or rare, just something you don't see every day. Members who would like to have an item featured can contact Brett Maag or Graham Rogers. If you can supply a digital photo and a short spiel it would be good if not, bring it along to a meeting and we will photograph it there and take notes.

Leopard 2A8 Battle Tank — 1/16th Scale Model (Scratch built not a kit, work still in progress)

Over the past several weeks Simon Baxter (Formerly known as Trooper Baxter —Tank Driver) has been building a scale model of a Leopard 2A8 Battle Tank. The Leopard 2A8 is a main battle tank with a 120mm cannon and advanced armour. This tank has been fitted with anti-drone technology and is used by several countries, including Germany, Norway, and Sweden. In January 2025 it was announced that Sweden had signed a deal with KNDS Deutschland worth \$1.97 billion for the purchase of 44 Leopard 2A8s

This Model has been painted with realistic camouflage and Simon has recycled his sons GI Joe Men to service as tank crew.

The only thing this model REALLY needs to make it look more realistic is a few bullet holes in the side. However, all attempted to offer my skills to the task have been rejected.



The .45 ACP Tommy Guns (Thompson Sub Machine gun by Graham R.)

I first became aware of the Thomson Sub Machine Gun around the mid 60's when a TV show called COMBAT, featured the exploits of a US Infantry Platoon in France after D-Day. The platoon sergeant was Sgt Chip Saunders (played by Vic Morrow) who carried a Thomson that appeared to be 1928A1 Thompson loaded with a 30-round stick magazine. Sgt Saunders, reloaded from an endless supply of magazines, from the pocket of his field jacket. More on Sgt Saunders Thompson later in the story.

History.

Late in WW1 the American troops started arriving in France. Already the idea of charging entrenched machineguns with fixed bayonets was falling out of favour, armies were considering advancing under cover of their own rifle fire, and being able to bring a lot of firepower to bear once arriving at the enemy trenches. This led the US to equip their infantry with Browning Automatic Rifles, Winchester 97 trench shotguns and the Pedersen device that converted the Springfield 1903 bolt action rifle into a semi automatic rifle firing a pistol type 30 cal round. The Pedersen device arrived too late in the war to be used. Another development was also too late for the conflict, the 1919 Thompson gun.



Early Prototype

Brigadier General John T. Thompson

Thompson spent most of his career in the ordnance department of the U.S. Army, was the original inventor and developer of the Thompson submachine gun. He envisioned it as being a fully automatic rifle in order to replace the bolt-action service rifles then in use.

Thompson came across a patent issued to the American inventor John Bell Blish in 1915, while searching for a way to allow his weapon to operate safely without the complexity of a recoil or gas-operated reloading mechanism. Blish's design (then known as the Blish lock) was based on the supposed adhesion of inclined metal surfaces under pressure. Thompson gained financial backing from the businessman Thomas F. Ryan and proceeded to found a company, which he named the "Auto-Ordnance Company", in 1916, for the purpose of developing his new "auto rifle".



General John T. Thompson with a final version of 1919

By late 1917, the limits of the Blish lock were discovered and, rather than the firearm working as a locked breech, the weapon was instead designed to function as a friction-delayed blowback action. It was found that the only cartridge then in service suitable for use with the new lock was the .45 ACP. General Thompson envisioned a "one-man, hand-held machine gun" chambered in .45 ACP to be used as a "trench broom" for the ongoing trench warfare of World War I. Oscar V. Payne designed the new firearm along with its stick and drum magazines. The project was titled "Annihilator I". Most of the design issues had been resolved by 1918; however, the war ended two days before prototypes could be shipped to Europe.

"MODEL OF 1919" Auto Ordnance Prototypes

With the war now over an "Auto-Ordnance" board meeting in 1919, discussing the marketing of the "Annihilator", the weapon was officially renamed the "Thompson Submachine Gun Model of 1919". At this stage they were not selling actual firearms, they were selling a concept using prototypes as their sales samples. The Models of 1919 were not a single-production design, but rather a series of experimental prototypes. Each serially numbered receiver was a slightly modified version of those preceding it, the total number of Models of 1919 produced of all types is believed to be about 40.



1919 Serial Number 7

"MODEL OF 1921" - Colt Manufacture

By the time the Model of 1919 had reached serial number 11, the mechanical specification of the Thompson had reached production stage. With the addition of a shoulder stock and sights, "Auto-Ordnance" took their latest prototype to "Colt Patented Firearms" and placed an order for 15,000 Model 1921 Thompson. Colt receivers were stamped "Auto Ordnance Corporation" on the right side and "Manufacture by Colt Patented Firearms" on the left. In 1926 the 1921AC was introduced with a Cutts Compensator both versions shipped with a Type XX - 20 round stick magazine. A Type L - 50 round drum and a Type C - 100 round drum were options.

Rate of fire was 800 rounds per minute and cost at today's price would be equivalent to \$5600 Australian Dollars per gun - Sales were slow.

Small batches were sold to law enforcement, prisons, the Irish Republican Army, banks, foreign rebel groups and the post office. The United States Postal Inspection Service contracted the US Navy to have Marines guard the mail shipments, the Postal Service provided the Marines with 200 - 1921 Thompsons, this prompted the US Navy to formally test the Thompson. The Navy requested a reduction in the rate of fire. Auto-Ordnance complied, modifying the weapons by adding a substantial amount of mass to the actuator. In 1927 a number of Thompsons would be shipped to Marines in China and Nicaragua. The Navy subsequently ordered 500 guns, designated the NAVY Model of 1928.



Colt manufactured M1921

“U.S. NAVY MODEL OF 1928” & “MODEL OF 1928 A1” - All Colt Remanufactured “MODEL OF 1921” with 1921/8 over stamp

In 1928 there were still 9,000 Model 1921 unsold in the warehouse, so rather than produce new guns to fill the navy contract, the navy SMG was made by taking unsold Colt manufactured 1921 Thompsons and substituting several different parts. Most notably a re-designed heavier actuator and recoil spring, so as to reduce the rate of fire. The number 1 in the date 1921 was over stamped with an 8 to make the Model of 1928 Thompson. It sometime looks like 192B. Rate of fire was 600 rounds per minute, 20 and 50 round stick/drum magazines were supplied. USN guns were externally identical to the M1921 with the addition of the Cutts Compensator and a horizontal fore grip and sling swivels. The horizontal foregrip and swivels was an option offered on Thompson’s since 1923, but not commonly requested. The adoption of this 1928 configuration by the USN made it a popular configuration for all military, law enforcement and civilian sales. The US Army purchased 951 in 1933, obviously they didn’t want U.S. NAVY stamped on their guns, so they had the army designation of Model of 1928 A1 and had the A1 manually added to the receiver stamping. Official adoption of the 1928 A1 by the US military was 1938, but it was only used as special purpose fire arm not general issue. Approx 6,000 1921 converted and over stamped either U.S. NAVY Model of 192B or Model of 192B A1, were produced.

THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN MODEL Nos. 28A and 28AC

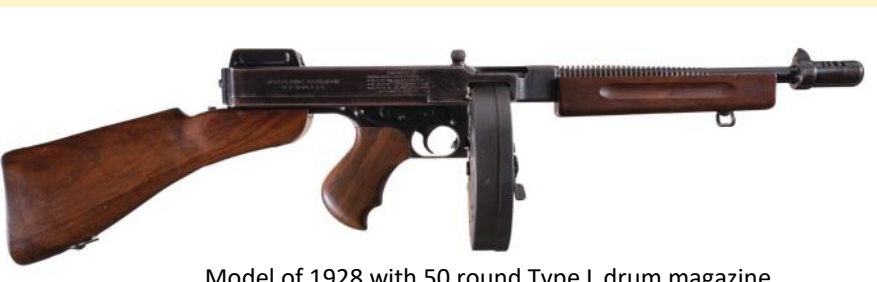
Selective Action—Single Shots or Bursts of Automatic Firing

<p>Model 28A—Thompson Sub-machine Gun complete with Type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazine.</p>		<p>LIST PRICES Each \$200.00</p>
<p>Model 28Ac—Thompson Submachine Gun, Standard Model, (Vertical Foregrip), complete with one Type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazine with Cutts Compensator.</p>		<p>\$225.00</p>
<p>Model 28Ac—Thompson Submachine Gun, U. S. Navy Model (Horizontal Foregrip and Sling Strap), complete with one Type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazine and with Cutts Compensator attached. This model, is used by the U. S. Army and U. S. Navy.</p>		<p>\$225.00</p>

Advertisement for 3 configurations of 1921/8 over stamped guns, with 20 round mags

“MODEL OF 1928” - Savage Manufacture

By 1939 all the unsold 1921 Thompson’s had been converted to 1921/28 over stamp specification and sold, mostly to Britain, France, Canada and their allies for use in WW2. The war expanding and business was finally booming, Auto Ordnance needed a new supply. Colt were too busy, so being the owners of the tooling, Auto-Ordnance moved it to the Savage Arms factory, at the same time they setup there own factory to make their own receivers while contracting out other parts. Savage commenced shipping gun early 1940, these guns were the same specification and appearance as the Navy contract guns except they were manufacture to 1928 specifications not retrofitted, as the earlier over stamped Colt’s and they were parkerised not polished blue. The guns were marked Auto-Ordnance with no Savage markings, only an S prefix to the serial number. Britain purchased 108,000 before the US lend Lease act, many with the vertical fore grip. As these were not US Government purchase they reverted to the Thompson “Model of 1928” stamp.



Model of 1928 with 50 round Type L drum magazine

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Lend Lease “U.S. MODEL OF 1928 A1” - Savage & Auto-Ordnance Manufacture

In August 1941 the Auto Ordnance factory started producing guns, but prior to this in March the US Government introduced the lend lease act, as they felt they needed some control over where weapons were being sent, and the US might end up needing them itself. The US government took over procurement of all Thompson guns. All weapons produced from then on would be built to US government contract specification and be stamped with the existing army procurement designation “US MODEL OF 1928 A1” even though they may or may not have had the horizontal foregrip and compensator of the gun purchased specifically for the US Military. The guns were marked Auto-Ordnance with only an “S” prefix to indicate Savage and AO prefix for Auto-Ordnance manufacture. Savage continued to supply Britain with vertical foregrip until supplies were exhausted. All Colt 1921 over stamp 1928, 1928 A1, Savage 1928, Savage 1928A1 and Auto Ordnance 1928A1 are mechanically and visually the same gun. All parts were interchangeable and all were available with horizontal or vertical foregrips and with or without compensator.

As the war raged and demand increased, production short cuts were adopted, rear sight were replaced with a simple welded on aperture, barrel cooling fins were dispensed with the compensator eliminated and the vertical foregrip option deleted. As all parts were interchangeable, battle worn guns, when being refurbished, could end up with any combination of new and old parts, so any combination of configuration is possible. 562,511 1928A1 configuration guns were produced by Savage and Auto-Ordnance .



Left:
100 Round Type C Drum
on Model of 1921

Right:
50 Round Type L Drum
20 Round Type XX Stick
&
30 Round Type XXX Stick
Magazines



M1 and M1A1 Savage & Auto-Ordnance

Responding to a request for further simplification, the M1 was standardized in April 1942 as the United States Submachine Gun, Cal. .45, M1. Rate of fire was reduced to approximately 600–700 rpm. First issued in 1943, the M1 uses a simple blowback operation, with the charging handle moved to the side. The flip-up adjustable Lyman rear sight was replaced with a fixed L sight. Late M1s had triangular guard wings added to the rear L sight, which were standardized on the M1A1. The slots adjoining the magazine well allowing the use of a drum magazine, which slid in sideways, were removed. A new magazine catch with the provision for retaining drum magazines removed, was produced, but most M1s and later M1A1s retained the original. The less expensive and more easily manufactured "stick" magazines were used exclusively in the M1, with a new 30-round version joining the familiar 20-round type. The Cutts compensator, barrel cooling fins, and Blish lock were omitted while the buttstock was permanently affixed. Late production M1 stocks were fitted with reinforcing bolts and washers to prevent splitting of the stock where it attached to the receiver. The British had used improvised bolts or wood screws to reinforce M1928 stocks. The M1 reinforcing bolt and washer were carried over to the M1A1 and retrofitted to many of the M1928A1s in American and British service. Late M1s also had simplified fire control switches, also carried over to the M1A1. The M1A1, standardized in October 1942 as the United States Submachine Gun, Cal. .45, M1A1, could be produced in half the time of the M1928A1, and at a much lower cost. The main difference between the M1 and M1A1 was the bolt. The M1 bolt had a floating firing pin and hammer, and the bolt of the M1A1 had the firing pin machined to the face of the bolt, eliminating unnecessary parts. The reinforced stock and protective sight wings were standard. 285,480 M1 and 539,143 M1A1 were produced but most M1's ended up being upgraded to M1A1 specification as they were serviced or refurbished.



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Back to Combat TV Series

Was Sgt Saunders carrying a Thompson authentic for a post D-Day US Infantry Sergeant? Not really. Unlikely but possible.

So who in the US Army would have carried a submachinegun?

Rangers, Tank Crew and Military police were issued SMG's as their personal weapons.

Infantry and Airborne had six SMG's held in reserve at company headquarters for special purpose ie guarding prisoners, clearing bunkers. Infantry rarely issued them. Airborne issued them to pathfinders.

Artillery and transport had no SMG's.

The Stembridge Gun Rentals prop gun supplied to the Combat film set was actually a Colt Model of 1921 with a horizontal foregrip and blank firing barrel fitted. In appearance, it is no different from 1928A1. But the Combat program represented late 1944 -1945, the 1928A1 had been replaced by the M1-M1A1 since 1943. The M1A1 itself was obsolete and being replaced by the M3 Grease Gun. Most of the Infantry battalion in France after D-Day were freshly assembled and equipped battalions the SMG's held in reserve at company headquarters were M1A1's or M3 Grease Guns. So theoretically Sgt Saunders would have had to pick up his 1928A1 on the battle field. So who could have dropped a 1928A1 in mid 1944? British Commandos, British tank crew, US Navy Shore party, US 4th Cavalry being an all coloured unit, were probably issued older weapons, US Airborne troops that had been stationed in UK from 1943, French resistance.

I still think "COMBAT" was a great show for it's day, just unfortunate that Stembridge couldn't find a M1A1 or M3 to make the show a bit more authentic.

MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES EXPO 2025

McINTOSH CENTRE - SHOWGROUNDS
SHEPPARTON

MARCH 1st & 2nd

www.nvacg.aug.au



Members, March 1st and 2nd are the dates of our annual Shepparton militaria show and you are all free to come and go as you please over the whole weekend, just wear your membership badge or show your membership card. If you don't have either, just identify yourself to the entry desk, using a government issue photo ID. They will have a list of current members and issue you with a member pass.

We also extend free entry to members of Golden City Collectors Association and the Ballarat Arms & Militaria Collectors, who can present a membership card or badge. Non Members over 16 - \$10. Under 16 free but not permitted unless under control of an adult.

However it is not as simple as just turning up, this event doesn't just happen by itself. We need as many able bodied members as possible to help at the McIntosh Center, at 4.00 pm, on Thursday 27th of February, to set up tables. It is an air conditioned room and it takes about 2 hours, after which we will have cool drinks and a bit of social gathering. On Friday from Midday we need people to direct dealers to their tables and keep an eye on things

Again on Sunday the 2nd of March at 4.00 pm, again 2 hours or less and we can have it all packed up.

If your able to help, it would be much appreciated.

The Iron Throne - Game of Thrones

In 2022 a client purchased an old Church in the centre of town, with the ambitious plan to turn it into a Game of Thrones themed bar. Simon Baxter was commissioned to build a full replica of the Iron Throne from the show.

The client paid a \$2000 deposit which covered the material ONLY. He requested it be ready by June 2023 for the Grand Opening. He even put an article in the local paper, boasting about a blacksmith in Kyabram, he had commissioned to do a special feature.

This gave Simon only seven months for construction. The client came to see the project and was happy with the progress of the chair.

The bar project was fraught with delays, as the client started working on the building before he got a planning permit. This upset the local authorities and caused further delays. Unfortunately, the clients ambitions didn't match his budget. The property is currently half finished and up for sale.

Simon had fulfilled his part of the contract and completed the work, Months past with no final payment. An ultimatum was issued to the client, if he did not pay, the throne would be put on the market.

He replied with, he no longer wanted it. CLICK...

The throne is currently on display at Terry Scott's Barber Shop in Kyabram and is - **Currently for Sale for \$10,000.** Which includes the brasiers and the dragon feature on wall.

Contact Simon Baxter on 0428 596 295



Ruger No.1A in .303 British a modern collectable.



The Ruger No. 1, is a single-shot rifle with a Farquharson-style hammerless falling-block action, introduced and manufactured by Sturm Ruger & Co. since 1967. It has been available in various models with an Alexander Henry (picture), Beavertail, or Mannlicher style forearm. The rifles came in several sub models: 1A (Light Sporter pictured), 1AB (Light Sporter Beavertail forearm), 1B (Std Sporter Beavertail forearm), 1H (Medium Sporter), 1S (Heavy Sporter), 1V (Varmint) & RSI (Mannlicher). The No1 has been produce in at least 67 calibre, ranging from .204 Ruger to 450 Nitro Express. From 1967 to 2013 the No.1 was available in all configuration in most of the common calibres of the period. Sometimes they would do small runs of requested calibres that were not on the standard production list. Since 2014 the No.1 has become limited production, every year Ruger bring out a limited run of Ruger No.1's in different calibres and configurations. In 2010 a Canadian Ruger distributor, requested a run of 250 No1's in .303 British. Request from other Commonwealth Countries and .303 enthusiast in the USA, pushed total production to around 450. This members .303 is used regularly but carefully, the iron sight have been removed and stored and a scope fitted for older eyes than can no longer be precise with open sights.

PARTS WANTED

Westley Richards "Monkeytail" gun parts namely lock and hammer etc. Also a complete firearm with good barrel and in good working order.
contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com



SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW BUT THE N.V.A.C.G. HAS IT'S OWN WEBSITE

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>

You can find past & current newsletters here
<http://www.nvacg.org.au/news/>

We are also on Facebook
[@ShepartonArmsExpo](https://www.facebook.com/ShepartonArmsExpo)

