Small Arms used by the British Army during WWII

Lee Enfield Rifle

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Lanchester and Sten Guns

The Sten gun is the perfect example of a weapon created for war, it's not pretty and it's not elegant but it does the job required and it's cheap. The Thompson has been the sub machinegun of choice for the first year and a half of the war, mainly as it was what was available at the time but it was extremely expensive and also difficult to produce costing between £30-40 per weapon. A cheap and easy to mass

produce weapon was required and the result was the Sten gun - which cost only £10-13 initially and less with the simplified versions. The Sten was very simple, made out of pressed metal and consisting of less than 50 components which could be manufactured in small workshops all over the country.

The Sten gun fired 9mm ammunition as did the MP40, the Sten was slightly lighter and had a higher rate of fire. In terms of combat performance they are pretty equal but the Sten had one extremely important attribute that the MP40 did not, it was easy to mass produce. As a testament to this there where more Sten guns built in either 1942 or 1943 by the UK alone than every MP40 and MP44 produced between 1940 and

1944 put together.

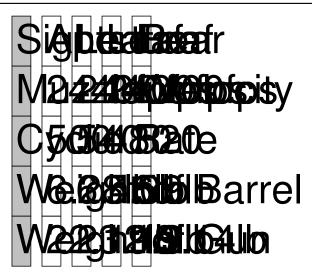
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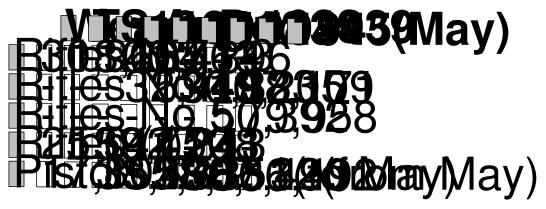
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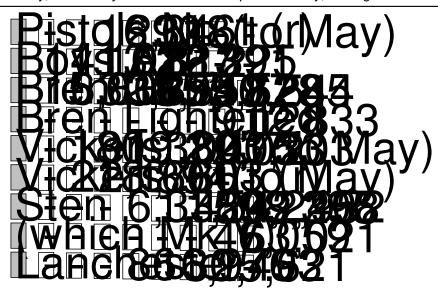


Vickers .303 Machine Gun

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Production of British Small Arms by year





Sources - Small Arms of the World, AVIA 22 456-514