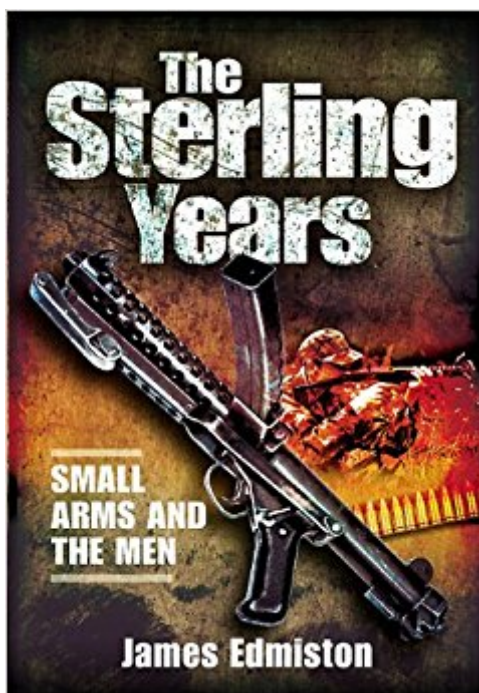


The book was found

The Sterling Years: Small Arms And The Men



Synopsis

This is the story of the manufacture, development and usage of one of the most famous submachine Guns ever produced by a British Firm Designed at the end of WW2. The Sterling Guns saw limited use on a trial basis, carried by paratroopers during the battle of Arnhem; since the British Forces had plenty of Sten guns at the time, and tests between the two types of weapon were inconclusive, it was not until 1953, that with a few adjustments, the Weapon was formally adopted by the British Army. Whilst not the most accurate of weapons, it was extremely useful in urban warfare and regarded as one of the most reliable submachine Guns throughout the world until it was withdrawn from use in 1988. A total of over 400,000 were manufactured. Sterling built them for the British armed forces and for overseas sales. The Sterling Guns was used as the basis for the weapons used by Storm Troopers in the Star Wars films.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For the definitive book on the Sterling SMG, please read, "The Guns Of Dagenham" by Peter Laidler and David Howroyd (Collector Grade Publications) This book will give you every single detail that "The Sterling Years" can't. James Edmiston bought Sterling when he was in his late 20s! Quite unbelievable to comprehend he became involved with the small arms trade at his age, and that he (sometimes) successfully circumvented the "Ordnance Ring" and the follies and foibles of all governments pertaining to in-and-export licences, devious politics and the general day-to-day running of the small arms trade. Edmiston and his predecessor, Kenton Redgrave stayed away from

the scandals that the arms trade is usually associated with. Towards the end of his book, it becomes painfully clear that the British Government deliberately torpedoed Sterling. They did the same to H&K, which they owned for a while - totally mismanaged it - and then sold it again as NOT to be overtly associated with the gun trade. That same government also did the same to the Royal Small Arms in Enfield with the equally disastrous British service rifle, the SA80 - stifled and stymied by successions of managements and their suicidal cultures. One of the guns mentioned briefly in this book - the Ingram SMG - DID suffer from repeated mismanagement, sadly culminating in the eventual demise of this jewel of a gun. I did read a "The Sterling Years" review somewhere, in where Edmiston was dismissed as a bad business person. If he was, then this book does not suggest it. Global armaments industries are all-powerful consumers of people and their dreams. It seems fine to produce landmines (of which the UK is the largest manufacturer) fighter aircraft, tanks, missiles and everything else associated with destroying people on an industrial scale. The production and sales of relatively minor small arms - like the Sterling - is subject to heavy criticism and legislation. The venerable AK47 is also part of the small arms nomenclature - but let's not go there right now! This little book is an interesting read and gives some interesting insight to James Edmiston's journey.

Thought it would be more of a rendering of the technical aspects of guns. The book was listed in the references for an article that I had read. I was looking for information not included in this book. It's pretty much the account by a British weapons manufacturer of his dealings in the trade. Would be boring to you if you're not interested in such things.

A interesting "read", but more about running a small firearms company, travelling around the world, and dealing with various government officials, than about the Sterling sub-gun itself.

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