STERLING

ARMAMENT COMPANY LIMITED

COMPANY PROFILE

The Sterling business was established in Dagenham, east of London, England at the beginning of this century. In the mid-thirties the Company was involved in the development of a lightweight infantry mortar. At the outbreak of the Second World War their attention was focused on the Lanchester Machine Carbine, the De Lisle silent carbine, and components for other guns.

Over 100,000 Lanchesters were manufactured. Most of these weapons went to the Royal Navy and British Commonwealth Navies for use by raiding forces and Naval boarding parties and are now obsolete.

LANCHESTER CARBINE

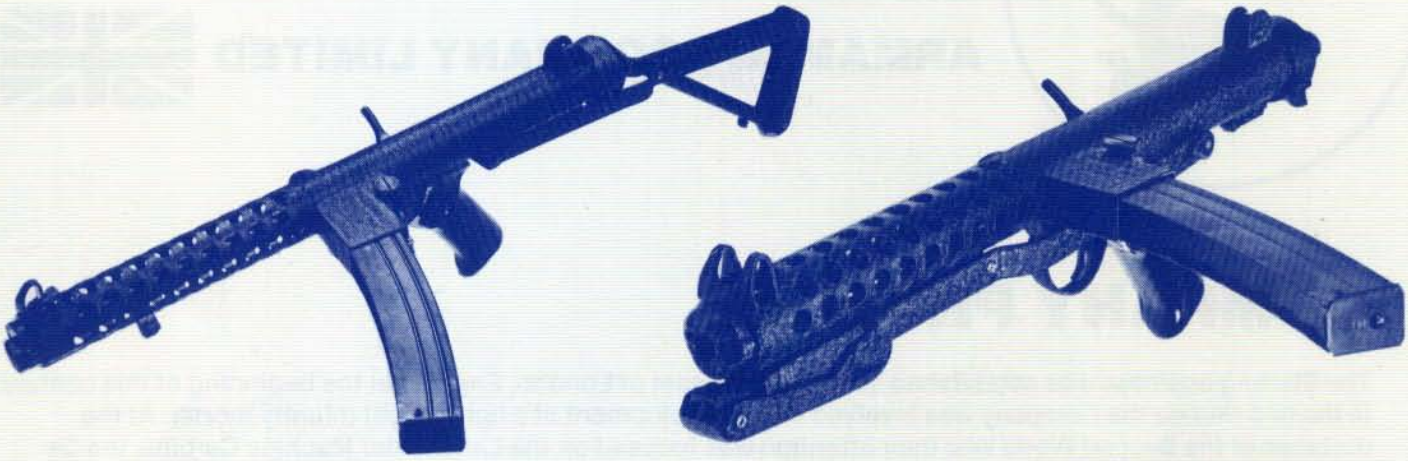
The De Lisle carbine was a .45in. silent weapon for use by Special Forces and resistance groups. The designer, De Lisle, tested the first weapon by shooting a pigeon over the heads of a crowd of London workers on their way to work. Nobody noticed a thing. Within 24 hours two of the guns were in use by the Resistance in enemy-occupied France.

DE LISLE SILENT CARBINE

Design work proceeded during the War to achieve a lighter, more accurate compact and completely reliable weapon. This resulted in the Patchett Submachine Gun. The first 9mm Mark 1 Sterling Submachine Guns (L2A1) began to appear in limited quantities in 1951.

STERLING MARK 1 SUBMACHINE GUN

Early versions of the Mark 4 Sterling Submachine Gun (L2A3) began to appear in 1954. Extensive tests were carried out the British Authorities before adopting the Sterling. These involved immersion in mud, sand storm and arctic conditions. Its reliability and continued functioning under such adverse conditions, allied to its compactness, strength and exceptional accuracy compared with its 33 competitors from many countries led to its adoption. Endurance trials were discontinued after 10,000 rounds as the weapon showed no loss of accuracy and there was no measurable wear of the barrel.



STERLING MARK 4 SUBMACHINE GUN

Since that time the Company has expanded and to date has sold its weapons into over 90 countries. More than 2 million Sterlings have been made. The reputation for strength, accuracy and extreme reliability of the Mark 4 Sterling 9mm Submachine Gun (L2A3) ensures continued production. It should perhaps be noted that the Sterling was favoured for adoption by the General Staff of the Bundeswehr. However, political considerations dictated that it was more expedient to adopt another weapon.

The Mark 5 Silent Sterling 9mm Submachine Gun (L34A1) was developed to meet a requirement for a fully automatic silent weapon. The weapon is used by Special Forces for a variety of applications and by infantry for aggressive patrolling and ambushes. This gun has a specialist role being more robust and accurate, as well as more silent than its rivals. It also has the added advantage of using standard 9mm Nato parabellum ammunition unlike most of its rivals which have to use special subsonic ammunition. Furthermore, the construction of the barrel means that the barrel does not have to be replaced every few thousand rounds. The Sterling Mark 5 is a truly silenced firearm not merely sound moderated or suppressed. Its qualities are further enhanced by night vision sights, laser scopes and other accessories which can be fitted by utilising special mounts.

STERLING MARK 5 SILENT SUBMACHINE GUN

The Sterling Mark 6 was developed essentially for the American Police and enthusiast market and differs from the Mark 4 in that it is a semi-automatic weapon firing from a closed bolt with a 16in barrel. The quality construction of the gun, its military handling, and low maintenance requirement clearly appeal to the professionally orientated gun enthusiast. American users also find the magazine with its unique roller bearing platform easy and quick to load entirely by hand.

STERLING PARA PISTOL MARK 6

The Sterling Para Pistol Mark 7 comes in four different variants. A4 and A8 automatic options. The figures 4 and 8 represent approximate barrel lengths. The C4 and C8 type's are police versions using a closed bolt and firing semi-automatic only. The weapons were primarily designed for use by special service troops, drivers of vehicles, tank and air crew, as personal weapons in all areas where confined space limits the storage of a standard submachine gun. In its military version the Mark 7, although little longer than a hand gun gives the same fire power and characteristics as a full length submachine gun. British police forces using the Mark 7 C8 version with butt and bipod regularly obtain 2in groups at 100 metres.

A4

C8

STERLING PARA PISTOL MARK 7
C8 VERSION WITH FIXED STOCK

The total manufacture of Sterling weapons takes place within our own factory. Unlike many other manufacturers, virtually every part of the Sterling is manufactured in-house. The component parts are strictly controlled during the course of manufacture by a rigid system of inspection and production control. Every component has a complete set of gauges for each feature of machining and all components are 100% gauge checked which is why Sterling submachine gun parts can be interchanged with any spare part supplied and do not have to be fitted by a skilled armourer. To illustrate this: The barrel case has 150 operations of manufacture and is finally checked by the quality control with 91 gauges and receiver guages. The breech block has 57 operations of manufacture with 85 gauges. The barrel has 38 operations of manufacture with 52 gauges. The Sterling Submachine Gun is the only weapon with a hand polished chamber.

This greatly enhances extraction. Sterling designed the Sterling assault rifle 1980 for the British Army rifle trials in 1979. These trials were abandoned following a change of Government and the new government decided, for political reasons to develop a new weapon through the Royal Ordnance Factories. Faced with this change of policy, Sterling sold the design and development of the SAR 80 to the Government of Singapore who now produce the highly successful SAR 80. Following the success of the Singapore armaments industry based on the SAR 80 a number of Governments have asked Sterling to design an new Assault Rifle to Nato specification for them.

The Sterling Assault Rifle 87 5.56mm Weapons System is yet another development from Sterling Armament Company which takes serious note of the soldier's individual requirements. The lack of a 5.56mm weapons system, which is easy to handle and requires minimum maintenance, generated the impetus within the Sterling Armament Company to design a weapon which meets this requirement. This criteria, when combined with Sterling expertise, produces a reliable, robust and accurate weapon system.

STERLING ASSAULT RIFLE SAR 87

All weapons are 100% checked by the inspection department after assembly. They are then sent to the London Proof House (which is an Independent Worshipful Company set up by British Law). Proofing is by firing a higher charged round in the weapon in order to be satisfied it will withstand any manufactured ammunition that it has to fire. The Proof House Proof Master stamps the barrel and the breech block with his own personal stamp and emblem, and the weapon is returned to the Company. Sterling's Inspection Department staff then test fire and zero each and every weapon, strip completely, clean, acceptance stamp, record, then pass back to production for packing and despatch to their final destination. The Company thus knows that every weapon leaving the factory conforms to the highest standards and is fully operational at the time of leaving our works.

Sterling Armament Company also manufacture and supply specialist weapons in various calibres to order for approved organisations.

Sterling have designed and developed a range of equipment and services in the fields of internal security, riot control and personal protection and security which are sold throughout the world. These services encompass training, specialist vehicle protection and a range of military and police equipment and accessories.

Unlike most international arms manufacturers, Sterling Armament Company is still today entirely privately owned which frees it from many of the restraints of Government owned ordnance factories and allows a quicker response to customers requirements. Sterling constantly improves its products to take advantage of new technology and new materials and continues to develop new products in order to maintain the high level of confidence Sterling users have in every theatre of operations throughout the world.

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