

GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION (4/3/13)

I carried a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) from the Battle of the Bulge in World War 2 (December 16, 1945) until wounded in action in the Ruhr pocket on April 7, 1945.

As many Committee members will recognize, a BAR man was positioned in every infantry squad. Other squad soldiers usually carried the M-1 (Garand), a semi-automatic rifle with an 8 round clip. The BAR was an automatic rifle with a 20 round magazine. (Extra magazines were carried by the BAR guy and a BAR assistant. My recollection is that the BAR weighed around 15 pounds, but I can't remember if that included the bipod that a lot of us got rid of because of the added weight.

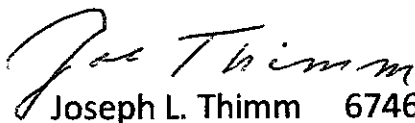
During four months of front line combat, I had to use my BAR on about five occasions, sometimes using one or more magazines, and I have had to live for 68 years with my memories of what this automatic weapon can do.

All of the above is simply to say that I am strongly in favor of tighter restrictions on assault weapons that are not focused on military use. I favor the format of legislation recently passed by Connecticut lawmakers (Oregonian, 4/2/13).

I am not or ever have been a gun owner. I believe in the 2nd. Amendments rights guaranteed by our Constitution, but I also believe we have exaggerated our interpretation of these rights and have created a nation-wide addiction that seems almost impossible to limit.

I am sorry I will not be available to testify on the bills before the Committee this week. I do hope that you will consider my own experiences as a once-upon-a-time infantryman and BAR guy who does not believe assault weapons should be purchased and/or used by hobbyist.

Thank you for your attention to my statement.



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