

STATEMENT OF

John L. Hill  
3804 Dunlavy Street  
Houston, Texas

made

On March 26, 1959, at my residence, 3804 Dunlavy St.,  
Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Page 60 of the April, 1959 issue of "GUNS" magazine carried an account of a firing test of my basically new submachine gun Model No. 7 and this statement of my activities in inventing and developing this model is made in compliance with the request of the U. S. Treasury Department, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, inasmuch as I had neglected to register my intention of inventing this gun on Treasury Form 1-A which I now understand I should have done in 1953 when I produced my Model No. 1.

Guns, especially military automatics, having always been my hobby, I first conceived the rudimentary principles of this automatic action in the latter months of 1949 while living in Denver and engaged in my normal occupation of oil and gas consulting engineer for Southern Production Company, then a Shreveport, Louisiana concern. On January 6, 1953, U. S. Patent Attorney, Thomas E. Scofield of 1325 Rialto Building, Kansas City, Missouri, and subsequently foreign patent protection issued in England, France, Germany and Belgium. Photographs of the mechanism were forwarded to U. S. Army Ordnance which asked to examine the first Inventor's model I produced in 1953. I personally took this model to the Pentagon where I demonstrated it to A.O.'s Lieutenant Colonel Crossman and civilian ordnance engineers Bronkemeyer and Cosgrove and left the model with those

people for further examination at Springfield Arsenal, it being returned to me a year or so later. Altogether seven models serially numbered embodying improvements and varying conformations of the basic automatic action have been produced by me largely by hand in my home shop—covered by U. S. Patents 2,758,403 and 2,773,325 with two further patents pending. While my gun inventions started as a hobby, I later realized they were potentially valuable inasmuch as their development to date was much superior to all known conventional forms of these guns and for this reason determined to make them a phase of my normal effort to earn a living. The Internal Revenue Service so recognizes them by allowing deduction for their development costs from my yearly income. Total costs to me to date approximate \$10,000 and I might add that the oil and gas business for obvious reasons is not now so good that I can afford to pay the U. S. Government a \$200.00 fee for each gun model under its firearms regulations as read to me today by Treasury Department Agent A. J. Merritt for the privilege of earning my living at the occupation of producing a vastly better tool of its kind for the defense of this country, which if current newspaper headlines are credible, is teetering on the "brink of war". Seven inventor's models at \$200.00 tax each would be \$1400.00 and I had expected to produce further improved models in the future. Out of financial and moral necessity my sole alternative would be to destroy my models if this would relieve me of fee or tax payments prescribed by the regulations and future development and ultimate perfection of my automatic gun inventions would have to be carried out by me in some country other than U.S.A. At this point in this matter I would like to refer my readers to the article by Lucian Cary in the November 1958 issue of TRUE magazine entitled "No reward for Gun Inventors"—an amazingly parallel account of my own experiences with the U.S. military in efforts to provide them



with a better functional tool. It may readily be learned from this article that disinterest by the Ordnance Department in any weapon submitted to them in no way gauges, measures or evaluates its military desirability. Mr. Scofield has also brought this matter to the attention of Senator Symington's office (D-Mo.)—the Senator being a member of the Armed Services Committee, without favorable result. Model No. 5 was examined and test fired by F.B.I. personnel of Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's office in 1956 with oral comment that its unconventional conformation had desirable advantages for use by law enforcement organizations. I also have correspondence concerning the interest of the Mexican Ordnance Department in this gun as well as evidence of the favorable interest of our local police and Sheriff's departments, Sheriff Buster Kern appointing me a deputy for Harris County in order to make ranges available for test firing.

Specifications of Model No. 7 follow:

Overall length without stock	20- $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Overall length with stock	30"
Overall length magazine	9- $\frac{3}{8}$ " capacity 35 rounds
Barrel length	10" Cal. 9 m/m Special
Weight without magazine	6 lbs. 7 oz.
Firing type: fixed firing pin	
Selector switch: None: Control by	close clearance sear
Cyclic firing rate:	Approximately 550 per min.

I will be glad to furnish any additional information needed concerning this gun.

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John L. Hill

April 9, 1993  
Salado, Texas

Mr. Wayne Miller, Chief  
National Firearms Act Branch  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms  
650 Massachusetts Ave NW Room 5300  
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Sir:

My name is Mary Whitaker Hill. I am the Executrix of the Estate of my deceased husband, John L. Hill. My husband was, among other occupations, an inventor of firearms. One of his most prized accomplishments was the invention of a submachine gun call the "Hill Gun". When he died, the only firearms that remained in our possession were the very early experimental prototype models of the "Hill Gun", a total of nine (9) firearms. It is my desire to donate these remaining firearms to a museum in order that they may be preserved for anyone who wishes to enjoy them as much as my husband. I have contacted many museums and learned that this is easier said than done. However, I was able to locate a historical flight museum in Galveston, Texas, called the Lone Star Flight Museum. This museum is primarily involved in the restoration of World War I and II military aircraft and also displays firearms unique to each historical period. Due to the fact that my husband was a decorated World War I pilot and this museum is willing to preserve and display the "Hill Gun", I have decided to donate the firearms to the Lone Star Flight Museum.

I then spoke with Inspector Don Hollingsworth in Houston and requested advice as to the proper way to donate the "Hill Guns". Mr. Hollingsworth stated that he had contacted you regarding this matter and learned the "Hill Gun" could not be donated to the Lone Star Flight Museum without payment of transfer tax of \$200.00 per firearm. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Jim Fausz, Curator, Lone Star Flight Museum, and have to proceed with the donation.

Therefore, in accordance with instructions from Mr. Hollingsworth, I have completed ATF Form 4, in duplicate, for each "Hill Gun" to be donated. Also attached to each ATF Form 4 is a copy of the original ATF registration, ATF Form 1. I have also attached to this letter a copy of my husband's Death Certificate, and a copy of the Testamentary Letter appointing me the Executrix of his Estate.



Mr. Wayne Miller, Chief  
NFA Branch, BATF

I also have attached a copy of the Federal Firearms License and Special Tax Stamp of the Lone Star Flight Museum.

Lastly, I have enclosed herewith a Cashiers Check, made payable to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, in the amount of \$1800.00, which, I am told, is the amount of transfer tax that is due.

Hopefully with the help and advice of all involved, I have completed the necessary steps to donate all the "Hill Guns". I currently reside at 148 Santa Clara Rd., Salado, Texas 76571. My home phone number is 817/947-5047. Please let me know if there is anything else I could or should do, as I am most anxious to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

Thank You,

Mary Whitaker Hill, Executrix  
Estate of John L. Hill

Mr. Wayne Miller, Chief  
National Firearms Act Branch  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms  
Room 5300  
650 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Sir:

My name is Mary Whitaker Hill. I am the Executrix of the Estate of my deceased husband, John L. Hill. My husband was, among other things, an inventor of firearms. One of his most prized accomplishments was the invention of a machine gun, called the "Hill Gun". When he died, the only firearms that remained in our possession were the very early experimental prototype models of the "Hill Gun", a total of nine firearms. It is my desire to donate these remaining firearms to a museum in order they may be preserved for anyone who wishes to see what my husband loved so much. I have contacted many museums and learned that this is easier said than done. However, I was able to locate a historical museum in Galveston, Texas, called the Lone Star Flight Museum. This museum is primarily involved in the restoration of World War I & II military aircraft and also displays firearms unique to each period. Since my husband was a decorated World War I pilot, and the fact this museum will display the "Hill Gun", I have decided to give the firearms to the Lone Star Flight Museum. The curator of the Museum is Mr. Jim Fausz, and his phone number is 409/740-7722.

I then spoke with Inspector Don Hollingsworth of the Houston, TX, Area Office of ATF, and requested advice as to the proper way to donate the firearms. Mr. Hollingsworth stated that he had contacted you regarding this matter and learned that the "Hill Gun" could be transferred tax-free only if the museum was Federally or State Chartered and supported. Mr. Fausz told me that although the Lone Star Flight Museum was Nationally recognized and IRS certified, Class , the museum was privately owned and funded. Therefore, the donation of the "Hill Guns" would incur a transfer tax of \$200.00 per firearm. I have discussed this with Mr. Fausz and have decided to go on with the donation. After again discussion the matter with Mr. Hollingsworth, I have completed and signed ATF F 4, in duplicate, for each firearm to be donated to the museum. Attached to each ATF F 4 is the transfer tax of \$200.00 and a copy of the original registration papers for each "Hill Gun". Also, I have attached a copy of my husbands Death Certificate and a copy of the Testamentary Letter appointing me the Executrix of my Husband's Estate.



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My late husband had a very dear friend, Mr. Bob Hilberg, who was also interested in firearms and who worked with my husband on the "Hill Gun". I contacted Mr. Hilberg and asked if he would like to have one of the prototype models and he stated it would be a privilege and honor to have one. Mr. Hilberg stated that he at one time had a Class III license but that it had expired. He currently has a regular firearm dealers license and he was kind enough to send a copy of it, along with a cover letter, both of which are attached. I also understand that there is a \$200.00 transfer fee for this gift as well. Again, with the advice of Mr. Hollingsworth and others, I completed ATF F 4, to properly transfer one "Hill Gun" to Mr. Hilberg.

Hopefully, with the help and advise of all involved, I have completed the necessary steps to transfer all of the "Hill Guns". I currently reside at 148 Santa Clara Rd., Salado, Tx 76571, and my phone number is 817/947-5047. Please let me know if there is anything else I can or should do to resolve this matter. I am most anxious to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

Thank You,

Mary Whitaker Hill  
Executrix of the Estate  
of John L. Hill.

Sincerely Yours,

Mary Whitaker Hill

May 22, 1992

Robert L. Hillberg  
286 Maple Avenue  
Cheshire, Connecticut 06410  
203-272-8977

Mrs. Mary Hill  
148 Santa Clara Road  
Salado, Texas 76571

Dear Mary,

It was nice to talk to you the other night. I wish that we didn't live so far apart. With regard to one of John's prototype guns, I would be delighted to add it to my collection. Not only do I have fond memories of John, but from a gun design point of view, it is most unique. John didn't just copy or improve on others before him, he pioneered unexplored mechanisms. The gun would represent to me a fond memory of a good friend and also as a gun designer, a most unique mechanism.

I am happy that you are able to dispose of the remaining prototypes through Herman and the BATF. I plan on donating a good part of my collection to a museum in the future. With regard to the gun you propose to give to me, the BATF may have a little difficulty making the transfer since I let my Class 3 license expire. Since I no longer am designing automatic weapons, I saw no reason to continue the license. However, I will be very willing to pay the BATF the \$200 transfer fee which should be possible to arrange. I do have a Class 1 license which I am enclosing with this letter. I am also enclosing a copy of my curriculum vitae in order to give the BATF some identification.

Many thanks again, Mary, and pass on my best regards to Herman when you see him.

Your voyage to England and Norway sounds exciting! I wish you all the best, with happiness and good health.

Regards,

*Bob*

RLH/pc  
Encl.

*A.T.F. I.D. No. 4471 (Special Tax NRA Firearms)*  
*A.T.F. Class 01 Federal Firearms License No. 60600501 EO 05308 01*  
*A.T.F. Class 03 Federal Firearms License No. 60600503 EO 05309 03*