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The G.29/40

By Bob Jensen as edited and re-illustrated in June 2002 by Peter Kuck

Additional data provided by "Maliki" from Tuco's Mauser Forum

There are no known official records that detail the history of G.29/40 Mauser rifle. All known examples are dated 1939 on the receiver ring with the Polish Eagle, an F. B. Radom marking and are coded "660". This shows that the rifle was original manufactured in Radom Poland, and that Steyr in Austria did the final assembly.

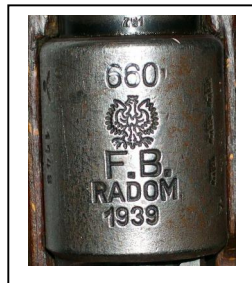
After WWI the newly re-created nation of Poland was given the arms manufacturing facilities at Danzig as reparations from the defeated Germany. This facility had supplied the Imperial German Army with thousands of Gew.98 and Kar.98a rifles before and during the First World War. The Poles kept the plant operating at full capacity to supply its new national army with rifles. This was necessary since it was involved with border skirmishes with Germany in the West and a full-scale war with Communist Russia in the East during the 1920's.

The rifles produced at Radom were exact copies of their German predecessors except for markings and a few minor details such as the shape of the stacking rod on the Kar.98. The early carbines were marked on the side rail K.98 until 1929. In 1929 production changed to the K.29 rifle which was an upgrade a rifle similar to the newly introduced German Mauser "Standard Modell" of 1924, the VZ 24 of Czechoslovakia, and the Belgian F.N. Model 1924. In 1933 the K.29 stamp was replaced by wz.29 (wz being an abbreviation for the Polish word for Model). The wz.29 except for the sling set-up and length of the handguard was totally interchangeable with the German K98k.



After the conquest of Poland in September 1939 the main Polish arms factories, now located at Radom in central Poland, were occupied by German military authorities. The Germans continued the production of weapons at this facility as they had done in Austria and Czechoslovakia in the previous years. The Radom plant was placed under the supervision of Steyr and became a supplier of parts for that facility. All parts manufactured at Radom were inspected and stamped with a Waffenamnt "77". Throughout the remainder of the war (P) 35 (Radom) pistols and K98k rifles, assembled at Steyr are commonly found with parts stamped either Waffenamnt "77" or Waffenamnt "WaA77" showing their origin at Radom.

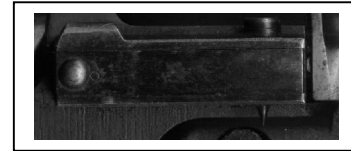
There were thousands of "wz.29" rifles in various stages of completion in Radom when the Germans took over. The receivers, barrels, bolt assemblies, triggerguards, floorplates, followers, and bolt-stop assemblies for these rifles were totally interchangeable with the K98k. They were inspected, stamped with the Eagle 77 Waffenamnt, and sent on to Steyr where they were assembled with Steyr made parts into standard K98k configuration rifles. These rifles were then issued to the various German military service branches. The vast majority of the receivers utilized had already been stamped with the Polish Eagle as well as with the F.B.Radom factory logo and a date of 1938 or 1939. These receivers when used in completed rifles were over stamped with the Steyr "660" code and the final Steyr Waffenamnts of "WaA623".



Steyr lined out the "wz" and added a slash with the two-digit date of "40" to the right of the Polish wz.29 siderail marking on the earliest rifles they completed. This documents the year the rifle was adopted and manufactured and shows the amount of time it took the Germans to organize, repair any damage, install a Waffenamnt team, set up inspection procedures, recruit and train a work force at the plant, and ship the existing finished parts back to Austria. A second variation exists which has the letter "G" placed to the left of a lined out "wz". The "G" stands for Gewehr (rifle). The third and final variation, (the rarest), appears on those rifles which had receivers which had not been stamped with the Polish Eagle, the F.B.Radom markings or the wz.29 stamp on the side rail when captured. These rifles are stamped "G. 98/40" and the receiver ring is simply coded "660" and 1940 dated. A number of this last variation has serial numbers earlier than some of the rifles with the Polish Eagle and F.B.Radom markings. It appears in this case that either the assembly was done without regard to what was on the receiver ring or that the component receivers were all sent in one shipment and assembled in random order. (Maliki has identified confirmed three siderail marking for this rifle. They are Wz29/40 with Wz lined out, G.Wz29/40 with Wz lined out, and G.29/40).

Most G.98/40 rifles were issued to the Luftwaffe and are stamped with an Eagle “L” on the right side rear of the stock. Many were also sent to the Navy and are stamped Eagle “M” on the right side rear of the stock. Few can be found with the Eagle “H” that went to the Army. In general the reverse is true with Navy “M” stamped rifles being the rarest, followed by those with the Luftwaffe “L”, and the Army “H” being the most common. The “L”, “M”, and “H” issued rifles appear randomly and are interspersed through the serial number range. It appears that they were sent on an “as needed” basis by the service branches. This would explain the random issuance of “L”, “M”, and “H” marked rifles. The fact that the German army had a rifle procurement system in place with other manufacturers would explain why they would have the fewest numbers of G98/40 rifles. The German military probably considered these rifles to be “substitute standard” weapons.

The “G.98/40” rifles were serial numbered on all parts and places that were standard for 1940 K98k production. Stocks and handguards were laminate and had a flat buttplate. All metal parts were milled with high quality bluing. These rifles had front sight hoods. These rifles have the characteristic Polish “stud” on the bolt stop assembly. Examples of the G.98/40 are scarce but not rare. The highest known serial number is 9303C (reported by Maliki) so it is safe to assume that less than 50,000 were produced under German occupation.






The following is a copy of Maliki’s notes on this rifle
Monday, September 06, 2004 9:47 AM

 Steyr was the assembly point for the 29/40, but the actions and most of the subcomponents were Polish. The parts came from the Radom factory when the Germans overran Poland in September of 1939. The machinery used to manufacture the rifles was German. Radom was previously the Danzig factory that built Gew98's during WW1. You can identify the parts that were Polish by the WaA77 proof.

There are two main receiver codes 660/40 and 660/1939 with Polish Eagle and three main siderail designations:

1. Wz29/40 with Wz lined out
2. G.Wz29/40 with Wz lined out
3. G.29/40

Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
		

There were at least four variations of WaA proofings on the right side of the receiver. The most common were a single WaA77, or 3 WaA623's and one WaA77.

However, all 29/40's will have at least one Wa77 and most will have a line of squiggly Polish proofs under the wood line.

Siderail variants 1&2 were associated with the 1939 guns while the third variation was exclusive to the 660/40.

In standard trim the remainder of the parts had a mixture of WaA77 and WaA623 with neither rhyme nor reason to the individual proofing of parts.

Both Steyr and Radom were producing the same parts and they were not discriminating about mixing parts. It was not uncommon to have a WaA623 front band and WaA77 rear band on a matching rifle. I have several of these rifles and all of them were proofed differently.

Barrels were usually coded RD40 on the barrel ring. RD is an unknown subcontractor but I've always believed it to be "Radom." It is speculation on my part, but that code first shows up on the 660/1939 Steyr G29/40 and departs after the BNZ41. I presume after the supply of pre-existing barrels was exhausted.

Stocks were laminate with flat buttplates and WaA623 proofs, you will occasionally find "dot" subcontracted stocks. These stocks are interesting by themselves because they were made at Brunn 3 years before K98 production began.

Many of the guns went to the Luftwaffe or Kriegsmarine and were marked as such on the wood. Glenn deRuiter wrote a very nice KCN article speculating that the 29/40 designation may have been a form of paperwork deception to get first rate K-98's to the Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine.

Because it was not a K-98, it would have been considered substitute standard and more easily accessible. The alternate theory was that they simply used the 29 from the Wz-29 host rifle and 40 for 1940 when they were assembled.

Total production went into the 9000 C block so it was estimated around 50k for total production.

Hope this helps.

Malaki