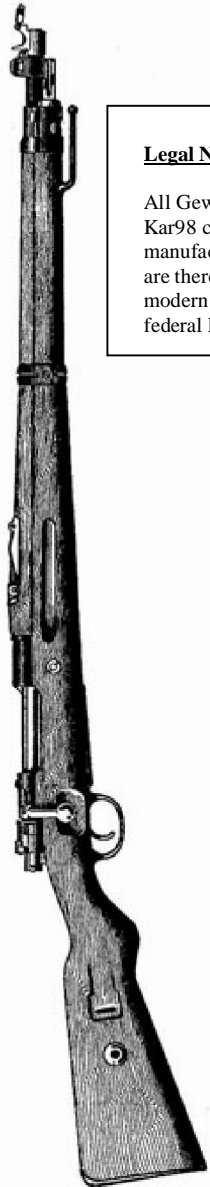


The Kar. 98a Carbine



Legal Note

All Gewehr98 rifles and Kar98 carbines were manufactured after 1898 and are therefore classified as modern firearms under U.S. federal law.

History

The original Kar.98 was adopted in June of 1902 and was produced starting in 1903. With the adoption of the new 8mm "S" cartridge in 1903 all of these Carbines were modified for the new round. The heavy recoil and foot long muzzle flash from these modified carbines lead to a suspension of production in 1905.

To rectify this problem the GPK (Gewehr Prüfungs Kommission) developed the Kar98a with a longer barrel and a different stock. The Carbine they accepted into service in January 1908 is the Kar.98a that we are familiar with today.

Production figures through 1918

All Kar.98a's were produced at Government arsenals. The Germans produced no Kar98a Carbines after 1918. The Post War I Polish Government produced a Carbine which was in most respects identical to the Kar.98a

Amberg	1909 through 1911
Danzig	1909 through 1913 and in 1918
Erfurt	1906 through 1918
Spandau	1907 through 1910

Proof Strings

On the right side of the receiver ring you will find the German proof marks. From left to right German receiver proofs indicate Hardness testing, assembly testing, and final fit. A crown over RC indicates that the original inspection failed and the weapon was sent to the "revisor committee" for inspection.

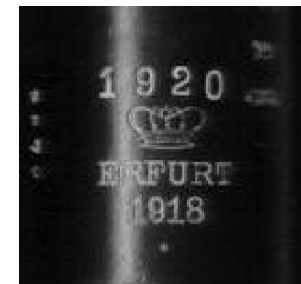
The letter under each crown identifies the inspector who examined the weapon.



Chamber Markings



The chamber marks on an imperial Kar98a are limited to a crown, the name of the arsenal which made the carbine, and the date the carbine was manufactured. Carbines that were used by the Weimar republic are "double dated" and will also have a 1920 stamped on the receiver. Imperial 98a's will NOT have a blued bolt. Some of these carbines soldiered on through the end of World War 2



Stock differences

I have personally owned Kar98a Carbines with 4 different types of stocks. I have classified these stock types as follows:

Type 1 stock

Solid Walnut Stock with no grasping grooves or bolt-takedown washer. This is the early style stock which was used up until 1915 / 1916

Type 2 stock

Walnut Stock with Bolt takedown washer. The bolt-takedown washer appears in 1915, but examples of the type 1 stock continue to be used in 1916.

Type 3 stock

Walnut, or Beech Stock with Bolt takedown washer and finger grasping grooves. This combination of stock features appears in 1917, but examples of other stock types continue to be used.

Type 4 stock

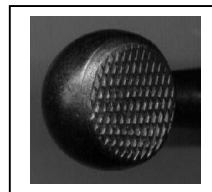
Two piece Beech Stock with Bolt takedown washer. I have a single example of this stock type on a 1915 Erfurt Kar98a. The stock appears to be a rebuild of a type 2 beech stock. I know of three other examples which, have been described as Post World War 1 Weimar or Police issue.

Note on Kar98a Stocks

I have examined a number of Kar98a Carbines, which have been rebuilt. The First World war was both dirty and nasty. I consider Kar98a Carbines, which have stocks and bands that do not match the rest of the carbine to be legitimate WWI German rebuilds. If you find this type of mismatched Kar98a look closely for German rework marks.

Bolt Details

The Kar98 has a distinctive bolt. Note the bent bolt handle and the knurled underside of the bolt Knob.



Card 2

The Kar.98a

In an occasional series
Compiled by Peter Kuck

Line art from the Bannerman Catalog

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