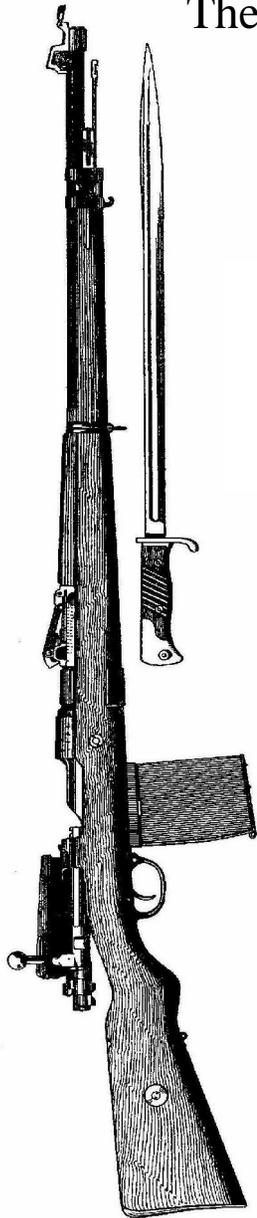


The Gewehr 98



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 Gewehr 98 was adopted by the German military to replace the model 1888 commission rifle in April of 1898. Changes made to the original design included :

- 1903 Internal bolt and Firing Pin change.
- 1903 / 1905 Change from .318 J Bore to .323 S Bore.
- 1903 / 1905 Lange sight changed from 200 to 400 meters.
- 1916 Unit disk replaced with fp takedown washer.
- 1916 Stock grasping grooves added.
- 1916 Solid Beech stocks authorized.

Production History

Amberg	1903 through 1908
and	1911 through 1918
Danzig	1899 through 1908
and	1912 through 1918
DWM	1899 through 1909
and	1915 through 1918
Erfurt	1899 through 1909
and	1912 through 1918
Mauser	1898 through 1918
Spandau	1899 through 1918
Sauer	1915 through 1918
Schilling	1915 through 1918
Simson	1915 through 1918
Sauer	1915 through 1918
Haenel	1915 through 1918
Oberspree Kornbush	1915 through 1918
Waffenwerke Oberspree	1918

Variants

The changes made to the Gew.98 for use as a Sniper rifle included a bent bolt (for scope clearance) with a clearance cut in the stock to accommodate the bent bolt handle.

Changes made to the Gew.98 for use as a "Radfahrer " Gewehr (bicyclist's rifle) included a bent bolt and a clearance cut in the stock. The Radfahrer Gewehr has the Kar98az type sling arrangement, and the rear band is held in place by a screw through the bottom of band into the bottom of the stock.

Chamber markings

The chamber marks on an imperial Gewehr 98 manufactured in a government arsenal are limited to a crown, the name of the arsenal which made the rifle, and the date the rifle was manufactured. Chamber markings on a commercially manufactured Gew98 will have the name of the commercial firm and the date the rifle was made. The exception to this rule is the "Stern Gewehr" with a Star marked receiver.

Imperial Gew98's will NOT have a blued receiver or bolt, and will all have the Lange sight.



1916 Spandau Stern Gewehr



1916 DWM Gewehr 98

Imperial Receiver firing proofs

<u>Amberg</u>	<u>Prussian Naval</u>	<u>Prussian</u>
		

Imperial Receiver acceptance proof string examples
These proofs varied each inspector had his own stamp

<u>Amberg Receiver proofs</u>	<u>Spandau Receiver proofs</u>
	

Imperial Bolt acceptance proofs

<u>Amberg Bolt proofs</u>	<u>Prussian Naval Bolt Proofs</u>	<u>Prussian Bolt Proofs</u>
		

Modified Gew98 Rifles in the post Imperial period

The modified Gew.98's are easily identified. Most have their original receiver markings plus an issue date of 1920, (and rarely 1921). This is the date that the rifles were inventoried and released to the German military by the Allied Arms Control Commission set up under the treaty of Versailles.



The receivers and bolts on these rifles are blued, the Lange rear sight has been replaced with a flat-bed, tangent curve model sight similar to the sight on a K98k. In some cases the narrow rear band on the stock has been replaced by a wider band (again similar to the k98k rear band). Many parts on these rifles retain their original proofs but show evidence of renumbering. The full serial number was used during the renumbering process as opposed to the 2 digit serial numbers used on imperial rifles. These reworked Gew.98's have the winged eagle of the Weimar inspectors.

Modified Weimar Receiver acceptance proofs



Note the inspectors proof marks between the original Imperial proofs.

Card 3

The Gewehr.98

In an occasional series
 Compiled by Peter Kuck

Line art from the Bannerman Catalog

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