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The G.33/40

Written by Bob Jensen and edited by Peter Kuck 06/16/2002

Additional information from Maliki 08/08/2004

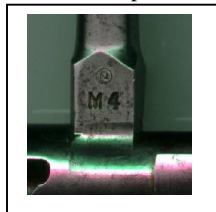
Additional information from mp44 02/10/2005

The German military authorities adopted the G.33/40 on October 16, 1940. With the exception of the sling mounting arrangement, the bayonet mount and the proofing, the rifle was identical to the Czech VZ33 (Model 33). The VZ33 was produced at the BRNO factory for internal use by Czech police forces and had barely exceeded a production run of 25,000 units when the Germans occupied the plant and renamed it Waffenfabrik Brunn. The dimensional differences between the 33/40 and the K98k are significant. The G.33/40 is a short, easy handling true carbine with a 490mm barrel. The shooter of a G.33/40 suffers from heavy recoil and muzzle blast due to the use of a full power rifle cartridge in this carbine length weapon.

The G.33/40 was issued to German Mountain troops (Gebirgsjager) because of its shorter and lighter configuration. It has a metal plate on the left rear side of the butt stock to protect the stock from damage when the rifle is in the field and being used as an Alpenstock or climbing aid.

The G.33/40 was produced for only three years; 1940, 1941, and 1942 then in 1943 the factory switched over to production of K98k rifles. G.33/40 production in 1942 reached only the "d" letter block which is low for a full year's production during a war, but, no 1942 dated K98k rifles coded "dot" have been found no G.33/40's dated 1943 have been reported. It appears that G33/40 production stopped in December 1942 and K98k production started in January 1943.

1940 G.33/40 rifles were coded "945". The stocks were of solid wood, were numbered on the outside spine of the stock and have a Waffenamt "63" on the bottom of the spine, the pistol grip, and three on the right side rear. The stock and hand guard are also internally numbered. No branch of service stamp has been reported. The receiver used a full four-digit date (1940). Butt plates are cupped. Bands, trigger guards, floor plates, and followers are milled and unnumbered. The bolt assemblies are numbered along the rear spine of the bolt handle and the test eagle appears on the top flat of the bolt stem. A waffenamt "63" proof and a combination of a capital letter and a single digit number (M3, N6, N6, for example) appear on the bottom flat of the bolt stem. The meaning of the letter and number combination is as yet unknown, but is common to Czech vz24 rifles and is probably internal factory inspector's stamp or a quality control marking. All other bolt parts are unnumbered.



A unique two or three piece tongue and groove joined stock can be found on some G.33/40 carbines. These joints are generally found at the pistol grip or just in front of the triggerguards. A single example of a Japanese style two piece (mated top and bottom on the butt stock) stock has been reported. It is serial number 5342a and is a "945" code 1940 dated rifle. The known serial number range for the 1940 code "945" G.33/40 is from 93 to 7135d, with an estimated production run of 40,000 rifles.

The 1941 code "945" G.33/40 is the rarest of the G.33/40 rifles with the probable exception of the prototype folding stock rifles.



There are six known examples of the "945" coded 1941 dated rifle. All are identical in that they are not Serial numbered and the receivers have a phosphate finish. All other parts are blued. All proofing is still Waffenamt "63" but "S/42" marked bolt stop assemblies and Waffenamt "26" marked bolt-takedown washers were used. These same subcontract parts are sometimes found on other 1940 dated rifles. The stocks and handguards are still of solid wood construction. All metal parts are milled. All three examples have unnumbered floorplates with Eagle "1" and number "1" proofs (denoting "bcd" supplied parts). These late war proofed parts and the phosphate finish on the receivers support the supposition that these rare G.33/40's were assembled and issued in 1945 from left over and/or previously rejected parts when the small arms supply shortage became critical due to high losses on both fronts. This contention is further reinforced by the fact that neither the receiver, nor the bolt, nor the barrel have test acceptance Eagles. Such a departure from the norm can only be explained by the exigencies forced by last ditch production stress.

A 4th example of a 1941 code “945” G.33/40 is owned by “Wapruf2”. This example became available when a veterans family cleaned out the attic after the veterans death in 2004. The rifle appears to have been in the process of being rebuilt when the war ended. It is not serial numbered and the receiver has a thin grey phosphate finish with a single WaA63 proof on the left side of the receiver. It has a unblued barrel is marked on the shoulder with a 0.2 denoting a replacement barrel and has a “13 - 41 O with three “waf 63 proofs” as a barrel band marks. The blued bolt stop assembly has a waf “607”. The stock and hand guard are of solid wood construction and both are marked with “WaA63” proofs and Waffenamt “26” marked bolt-takedown washers were used. All metal parts are milled. The follower and the rear band have “Waf 63” proofs and the front band has a “WaA63” proof. The trigger guard is unnumbered with a “waf26” proof and the unnumbered floor plate has a “waf607” proof.” This rifle has a 33/40 rear sight which has not been soldered to the barrel and a 33/40 front sight assembly which has been put on backwards and is also not soldered to the rifle. The bayonet lug has an imperial proof and has not been pinned to the stock.



Example 5 of the 1941 code “945” G.33/40 is owned by “Maliki”. He acquired his example in the summer of 2004. It also has a single WaA63 proof on the left side of the receiver. It is reported that the rifle won’t accept any bolt other than the “twisted” vz24 bolt it was purchased with. The trigger guard and the floor plate are both unnumbered have “waA607” proofs. The barrel appears to be a 33/40 barrel but has a VZ-24 sight base on the end. The front and rear barrel bands are replacement 33/40 bands and both have “WaA63” proofs. We are unsure of the original finish on this rifle since the rifle is covered in a nasty bright commercial blue. Pictures of this rifle can be found in Exhibit A.



1941 dated G33/40 production is coded “dot”. 1941 was the year all number codes were changed to letter codes. The 1941 production adhered to all the standards established by the 1940 rifles with the exception of the introduction of the laminate construction of stocks and hand guards--probably in the “b” block rifles. Proofs were still waffenamt “63” and “WaA63”. All metal parts were still milled and only the back of the bolt spine was serial numbered to match the action. The known serial number range for the 1941 G.33/40 is from 667 to 4360c with an estimated production run of 35,000 carbines.



The “dot” coded 1942-dated G.33/40 followed the standards set for the 1940 and 1941 production runs. Two and three piece stocks are more commonly found on the 1942 produced G33/40. All proofing and numbering remained unchanged from earlier production. The Known serial number range is from 6012 to 346d, with an estimated production run of 45,000 rifles.

All of these rifles will have G.33/40 stamped on the side rail. They also have a distinctive sight hood that will not fit on any other German rifle.



There are no G33/40 sniper rifles of any kind (including ZF-41 applications) which have been authenticated.

Exhibit A.
945 coded 1941 G. 33/40 submitted by maliki




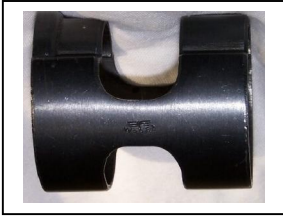





Trigger guard proofs	Floor plate proofs	Rear band
		
Front band	Receiver proof	Handguard proof
		
Stock Spine		
		

Exhibit B.
G. 33/40 submitted by MP44
A gentleman who has added to our knowledge

MP44

Posted - 02/10/2005 : 7:48:46 PM

Gentlemen, In conjunction with Dave Davis' post, I would like to put a few pictures of a G33/40, 1941, unfinished rifle. This rifle was purchased from a vet's son thirty years ago. The bolt will barely close, the barrel is unfinished. My question is, where did it come from? Is it late war, parts gun done in the 60's or 70's, or is it truly the last of the production line? You guys decide-- I don't care, I have it.

Trigger guard proofs	Receiver ring	Rear band
		
Front band	Receiver proof	
		
Side rail	Gas Shield	Front of barrel
		

Peter,

Please note the differences in my gun and the ones you have reported:

1. Trigger guard--no provisions for lock screws, waf is 607, also a small circle with a z inside.
2. Bolt is a G33/40 bolt
3. Extractor--waf 607
4. Bayonet lug not pinned and no proofing
5. Barrel marked dot 30-41 with 3 circles within each other with a 1 inside followed by 3 waf 63s
6. Stock spine is waf 63
7. Bolt take down lug waf 26 on both sides
8. Butt plate waf 63
9. Interior of stock capital "A" stenciled forward of the barrel step Have attached some other pictures. Hope they help you out.

Regards,
Danny

1941 “945” (G.33/40) by Brno

There are four known examples of 1941 code “945” G33/40 rifles (all with no serial numbers made by BRNO)

Proofing & serial numbers (sample rifle 1941 “945”)

Receiver code	945 (1941)	receiver proofs	WaA63 (1)
Side rail	G.33/40		
Serial number	NO serial number		
Upper band	no s/n	waf WaA63	
Lower band	no s/n	waf 63	
Trigger guard	no s/n	waf 26	milled with lock screws
Bolt	ribbed & blued	Bolt Mismatch (98k style bolt)	
	Root		
	Gas shield		
	Safety		
	Cocking piece		
	Extractor		
	Extractor collar		
Front sight	no hood	no waf (slid backwards on barrel not soldered)	
Rear sight	meter scale one side	no s/n	no waf
Rear sight base	s/n	no s/n	no waf (not soldered to barrel)
Stock	Solid walnut	(no finish)	
Stock Markings (external reported only)			
	Side	none	
	Pistol grip	none	
	Spine	no S/N	Waf WaA63
Bayonet lug	imperial proofed mis-matched not pinned to stock		
Magazine follower	no s/n	waf 63	

Notes:

The Barrel is in the white with a 0.2 mark on barrel shoulder. The Barrel band is 13 – 41 O followed by 3 waf 63s.

1942 dot (G.33/40) by Brno

In 1942 The Czech factory at BRNO manufactured 45,000 G33/40 rifles

Proofing & serial numbers (sample rifle 1942 dot)

Receiver code	dot.(1942)	receiver proofs	waf 63(1)
Side rail	G.33/40		
Serial number	4 digits possible alpha suffix		
Upper band	no s/n	no waf	
Lower band	no s/n	no waf	
Trigger guard	no s/n	no waf	milled with lock screws
Bolt	ribbed & blued		
Root	Top firing proof	sn on rear of bolt handle	underside czech code
Gas shield	no s/n	no waf	
Safety	no s/n	no waf	
Cocking piece	no s/n	no waf	
Extractor	no s/n	no waf	
Extractor collar	no s/n	no waf	
Front sight	hood	no waf	
Rear sight	meter scale one side	no s/n	no waf
Rear sight base	s/n	no s/n	no waf
Stock	Laminate		
Stock Markings (external reported only)			
	Side	none	
	Pistol grip	none	
	Spine	S/N	
Bayonet lug	no s/n	no waf	
Magazine follower	no s/n	no waf	