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**The “dot” coded K98k. Waffenwerke Brunn. AG Brunn**

Written by Robert Jensen as edited by Peter Kuck 06/10/2002

The small arms industry of Czechoslovakia was considered to be among the most advanced in Europe. Its technical standards were equal to those of German manufacturers. Since the Czech VZ-24 service rifle was almost identical to the K98k the Germans were able to incorporate the Czech rifle factories into their production system by mid 1939. The fact that the Stock and barrel bands of the Vz24 differed from the K98k was inconsequential since most parts would interchange with the K98k without any modification.

There were two main rifle manufacturing plants in Czechoslovakia: one at Brno, Ceskoslovenska Zbrojovka A.S. (Czechoslovak Arms Factory, ltd.); and the other at Bystrica. Brno was Czechoslovakia's second largest city located in Bohemia and their firearms are commonly referred to by the abbreviation CZ. When the Germans split Czechoslovakia into Bohemia and Moravia the Brno factory under was renamed Waffenwerke Brunn

The first rifles produced at Brno were the G.33/40 carbines. They were produced in 1940 through 1942, using a receiver code of “945” on the early production carbines before switching to the code of “dot”.

The first “dot” coded K98k rifles were produced at Brno in 1943. Unlike K98k rifles made in 1943 by other manufacturers, “dot” rifles retained the full four-digit date. Waffenamts “63” proofs appear on the top of the receiver ring between the manufacturer's code and production date and also on the right side of the receiver ring. The stocks and handguards in this year were made of either a solid walnut or a laminate; they were not branch of service marked. The “dot” code can be located on the bottom spine of the buttstock and on the top of the handguard, both are serial numbered internally. The “dot” stock serial number is unique in that the serial number and the letter suffix are both stamped into the wood. Bands, triggerguards, and floorplates are of stamped construction (speed milled front bands can be found into the “c” block), usually Waffenamts “135” or Waffenamts “214” proofed, and are serial numbered to match the rifle. The waffenamts on the barrels, receivers, and bolts are noticeably smaller in size than those on most other maker's rifles. Extractors on early bolts are blue with a reddish brown color, which became more noticeable as the year progressed. The underside of the bolt stem is proofed Waffenamts “63”. The first appearance of the barrel shields occurs on the 1943 “dot” K98k. These can be found with the “dot” and “11” shield in the “c” serial number block and the “dot” and “13” shield in the “n” serial number block. The barrel codes “CM” and “J” also have a Waffenamts “63” proof. Deep machining cuts on the front of the receiver ring are found on many of the 1943 rifles. The known serial number range for the “dot” 1943 K98k is from 7390 to 9864u, with an estimated production run of 240,000 rifles.

The 1944-dated “dot” coded K98k has several interesting variations caused by differences in manufacturing and serial numbering systems used. The year designation continues to be a full four-digit date. Stocks and handguards are laminate and internally numbered. Branch of service marks appear randomly and all known examples are marked “H” for the Army. The spine of the stock and the handguard continue to be marked “dot”. Small parts are of stamped construction and are serial numbered to match the rifle. Extractors and bolt release springs are in most cases reddish brown rather than blue. Additional shortcuts in production occurred during the year. These changes included replacing the oval gas holes in the bolt with simple rounds ones, Deletion of the cleaning rod channel, and deletion of the bayonet lugs. The Waffenamt “63”proof remained. “gnw” coded triggerguards and floorplates, “brg” coded buttplates, and “lrx” coded followers became common, and “dot” continues to use the barrel shield.



The first variation used the standard serial numbering system that was in use by all other K98k makers in 1944. The known serial number range of this variation runs from 3665 to 1518y with an estimated production run of 280,000 rifles.

The second serial numbering variation used was a standard five-digit number, as had been used by other manufacturers in earlier years. The known range for this variation is from 20897 to 98484, with an estimated production run of 100,000 rifles.

The third variation used was a serial numbering system that was unique to the “dot” 1944 K98k. It had a double letter suffix, which was distinct in that the double letters were not the same. They were not “aa”, “bb”, “cc”, etc., but were a primary letter followed by secondary letter. These letter suffixes appear as “ab”, “ac”, “ad”, and so on. The known serial number range for the third variation is 871ab to 7333aw for an estimated production run of 220,000 rifles. Late war features began to appear in the “as” range of this variation.

The fourth and final known variation used the standard five-digit serial number with a single letter suffix. The known serial number range for this variation is 15838a to 43125a with an estimated production run of 45,000 rifles. The total estimated production for all “dot” 1944 production is 650,000 K98k rifles. These rifles demonstrate late war features such as no bayonet lug, no cleaning rod, and with bands secured by wood screws show they were made near the end of the year. While the “dot” band retaining screws are slotted for removal by a standard recess screwdriver they also have two small holes so they could be installed and removed by a special spanner wrench.

Frequently found on late “dot” coded rifles are stocks with very rough exteriors with a series of waves or ridges known as “chatter marks”, dull blades in stock making machines cause these by jumping rather than moving smoothly over wood. These late stocks are frequently either unnumbered or numbered in pencil.

Although “dot” coded 1945-dated K98k rifles are encountered none that Bob Jensen has seen are WW II assembled rifles. They often exhibit Waffenamt “63” acceptance proof stamps on barrels and receivers showing that those parts were WW II era but all are post-war made or assembled rifles. These can be identified by Czech Rampant Lion acceptance proofs. These proofs can be found on the left rear of the barrel, the left side of the receiver ring, and on the rear of the bolt stem in place of the German waffenamt proof. They will also have a capital letter suffix in place of a lower case letter. German WW II “dot” 45 K98ks are possible since “dot” coded 1945 dated receivers exist.

In 1945 the “dot” code was changed to “swp”, the date was changed to a two digits date and placed in line with the “swp” code. The “Mod.98” marking was moved from the siderail to the top of the receiver ring above “swp45”. Stocks and handguards were laminate. Generally these stocks have bayonet lugs but are not drilled for cleaning rods. Some have branch of service marks--always H for the Army. Others have the “dot” marks while others have no markings. Final acceptance proofs remain Waffenamt “63” usually two on the right side of the receiver ring. Metal parts are stamped and unnumbered and can be either blue or phosphate finish. Occasionally “dou” coded barrels were used but most barrels have the “dot” shield marking. Between the 70000a and 95000a serial number range some “swp45” rifles have a very unique sheet metal rear sight assembly which appears nowhere else on K98k rifles. The rear sight is a simple sheet metal affair and is set for 100 meters. This rifle is the most desirable of the entire “dot” coded rifles because of rarity. Most “swp45” rifles found today are post-war reworks, pure WW II examples are rare. The known serial number range is from 43023a to 94091a and apparently a continuation of the last serial number variation of the “dot” 1944 rifles. The estimated production is 51,000 rifles.



### **Addenda** Posted - 12/07/2003 : 7:43:18 PM Posted - Pisgah

Outstanding article It pretty well sums up what to expect on a Bruenn manufactured rifle. The only thing I take issue with is the order that Mr. Jensen lists the serial number progression for dot 1944. IMO it went from 1-9999z, 1aa-7333aw, 1-99999, 1a-43125a. I can't tell if he was simply listing the different numbering systems randomly or actually thought that the no letter block five digit numbering came before the double letter suffix four digit rifles. He doesn't mention any timeline for when the five digit numbering started (I believe that it started at the beginning of 1945) or likelihood that dot 1944's and swp 45's were both part of the same five digit serial number run. I think its a bit too much of a coincidence that dot 1944 five digit rifles ended at app. the number where swp 45's were known to have started. With the advent of five digit serial numbers I have wondered if Bruenn (and Gustloff) started the five digit production runs with the number 10000 (instead of 1) in order to not produce two rifles with identical codes, years and serial numbers (1-9999 and 1a-9999a had already been produced in early 1944). One could always count on the KCN for good articles. The articles and the Kollector's Klassifieds are two of the things I have missed the most since the KCN went away.

**Serial Number Addenda Edited** by - Pisgah on 08/24/2004 6:33:46 PM

<p>NIM=non-import marked  FP=floor plate  MFP=machined floorplate  SFP=stamped floorplate  TG=triggerrguard  STG=stamped triggerrguard  STGWLS=stamped triggerrguard with locking screws  MTG=machined triggerrguard  Km=Kriegsmodell stock  nKm=non-Kriegsmodell stock  sKm=semi-Kriegsmodell stock  o/w=otherwise  m/m=mismatched  MLB=milled lower band  SMUB=speed milled upper band  SUB=stamped upper band</p>	<p>SLB=stamped lower band  SMRS=sheet metal rear sight  bbl=barrel  NDFCR=not drilled for cleaning rod  FHSTWS=flat head spanner type wood screws  OHSTWS=oval head spanner type wood screws  PWS=plain wood screws  STWS=spanner type wood screw (unknown whether flat or oval head)  SpSt=spporterized stock  E/H=eagle over H stock marking  KCN=Karabine Collector's Network newsletter  BBOTW=Backbone of the Wehrmacht book  RC=Russian capture  FAC=sold by Federal Arms Corporation  Cole=sold by Cole Distributing  Empire=sold by Empire Arms</p>
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**Four digit serial numbers:**

dot 1944 3665	BBOTW
dot 1944 6895	RC Cole
dot 1944 1105 a	KCN Nov/Dec 98
dot 1944 2765 a	RC Cole
dot 1944 5665 k	RC Cole
dot 1944 713 w	matching except stock and upper band
dot 1944 1521 w	RC Cole
dot 1944 5213 w	RC Empire
dot 1944 9514 w	RC Empire
dot 1944 1838 x	NIM, matching except stock, SFP/STG/SUB/SLB
dot 1944 1518 y	BBOTW
dot 1944 5788 aa	RC Cole
dot 1944 871 ab	BBOTW
dot 1944 3144 ab	SpSt, matching bolt, SLB, Km w/PWS, m/m FP
dot 1944 5718 af	matching,NIM,no# E/214 STG,E/135 FP,E/H dot nKm stock/dot HG,SLB/SMUB
dot 1944 8058 af	RC Cole
dot 1944 9970 af	matching, blued, stmped except SMUB, E/H-dot-nKm, #d bands, no#-byf-TG/FP
dot 1944 8639 ag	
dot 1944 4632 ah	NIM, SFP, STGWLS, m/m wood
dot 1944 7280 aj	blue, E/H-dot-stained-nKm, no#-byf-STGWLS/SFP, SMUB/SLB
dot 1944 395 ak	RC Cole
dot 1944 2182 ak	matching, #d SMUB/SLB, no# STG, no# byf SFP, dot nKm stock
dot 1944 4855 ak	matching but bolt,NIM,dot stock/HG, #d SFP/SUB/SLB
dot 1944 5191 am	BBOTW "eagle L" police marked
dot 1944 9249 am	NIM, matching, unissued, dot-marked non-Km stock
dot 1944 4879 an	NIM, matching except handguard, SUB/SLB/SFP/STG
dot 1944 3505 ao	RC Cole
dot 1944 5918 ap	NIM, blued, stamped, non-Km
dot 1944 1162 aq	blued, m/m bolt, stamped except SMUB, non-Km
dot 1944 3094 ar	NIM, blued, sKm
dot 1944 7259 as	RC Empire
dot 1944 5451 av	Gunbroker, NIM, matching, blued
dot 1944 2196 aw	NIM, matching, blued, stamped, nKm
dot 1944 7333 aw	BBOTW

**Five digit serial numbers:**

dot 1944 11393	RC Cole
dot 1944 20897	BBOTW
dot 1944 45903	NIM, NDFCR, m/m bands, STG, SFP
dot 1944 49284	NIM, matching, blued, E/H-dot-no#-sKm stock, STWS
dot 1944 51327	NIM, matching, unissued, sKm, NDFCR
dot 1944 65916	RC Empire
dot 1944 68415	RC Empire
dot 1944 76963	NIM, matching, sporterized stock, unmarked MFP, qnw STG
dot 1944 78980	RC Empire
dot 1944 89232	RC Empire
dot 1944 92392	NIM, matching, blued, STG, MFP, SUB, SLB, sKm
dot 1944 98342	RC Empire
dot 1944 98484	BBOTW
dot 1944 12386 a	matching bolt only
dot 1944 15838 a	BBOTW
dot 1944 37723 a	RC FAC
dot 1944 37861 a	RC Cole
swp 45 43026 a	BBOTW
dot 1944 43125 a	BBOTW
dot 1944 43241 a	RC Empire
swp 45 46436a	RC Empire
swp 45 58329a	RC FAC
swp 45 62048a	RC Cole
swp 45 65910a	RC Empire
swp 45 80899a	NIM, blued, m/m bolt, nKm, qnw-STGWOLS,135-SFP, SUB w/hole, SLB
swp 45 83xxxa	SMRS, Km
swp 45 87685a	BBOTW
swp 45 88989a	AuctionArms, NIM, SMRS, m/m bolt, stamped, Km
swp 45 92910a	KCN Jul/Aug 98, m/m

## 1944 dot by Brno

### The early 1944 variant

#### Proofing & serial numbers (sample rifle dot 44)

Receiver code **dot (44)** receiver proofs **waf 63 (2)** (on side) **waf 63 (1)** (on top)

Side **Mod.98**

Serial number 4 digits possible alpha suffix (s/n 2017an)

Upper band s/n **no waf** **speed milled**  
 Lower band s/n on side of band **no waf** **stamped**

Trigger guard **no s/n LU** **stamped with lock screws**

Bolt ribbed & blued  
 Root rear firing proof top s/n **no waf**  
 Gas shield s/n (4) **no waf**  
 Safety s/n (4) **no waf**  
 Cocking piece s/n (4) **no waf**  
 Extractor no s/n **no waf**  
 Extractor collar **no waf**

Front sight hood **no waf**

Rear sight meter scale one side s/n **no waf**

Rear sight base s/n **no waf**

Stock Laminate

Stock Markings (external reported only)

Side **Eagle H**  
 Pistol grip **no marks**  
 Spine **dot**

Bayonet lug no s/n **no waf**

Magazine follower **no s/n Waf 135(1)** **stamped**  
 Floor Plate **byf** **stamped**