



# **The Butts Bugle**

## **GSRD Newsletter**

**August 2014**

Dear Shooters

Welcome to the August edition of the GSRD monthly newsletter. Sunday was the GSRDS 9<sup>th</sup> range practice which turned out a fine day, with near perfect weather conditions for shooting.

The course of fire was a 3 P match, with a Deliberate out of 12 rounds -2 sighting shots followed by 10 rounds, shot in the prone unsupported position distance 300 yards, core target used.

Rapid Fire 10 rounds shot in the seated position 50 seconds time limit distance 200 yards, core target used.

Snap out of 10 rounds ready position ten exposures each of 3 seconds with an interval of 7 seconds between exposures, 1 round on the black is worth 1 point distance 100 yards, target used man sized military.

Shooting the 3 P match starting at the 300 yards firing point, for some shooters it was their first time shooting prone at this distance which they found an exciting challenge, myself included -it's taken me sometime to get comfortable shooting prone at 300 I still find it hard.

Its pleasing to see shooters are fine turning their skills you can see the overall improvement, there's always room for improvement when shooting service rifle.

The practice ran smoothly with the RO, firing point, and butts all working well together.

The new handheld radios are work well and are more than up to the job.

Shooters are working well together when doing butt duties the marking of targets and scoring has really come together considering our first efforts in the butts.

Interest is still growing with the GSRD with a new shooter joining us on Sunday, it was Joel's first introduction to service rifle. He found service rifle an exciting change especially shooting a Lee Enfield for the first time -another happy customer. I have to say I was impressed with his safe handling and shooting skills, looking forward to shooting with Joel next month.

I've noted the poor condition of the snap targets and will have replacements ready for our September range practice.

A big thanks to all who attended. Range Practices scores can be viewed on the SSAA Goulburn web site under range results.

I've recently bought a 1937 German K98 Mauser in 7.92 mm ~~8mm~~ .

Complete with all maker's marks, but has a missed matched bolt -you can't win them all as they say.

I'm pleased with the overall condition considering its age and where it's been... for me the K98 is a uncomplicated easy rifle to use with a nice action and stout kick that shoots nicely.

Thanks to all who attended the practice -scores are on the blog.

Cheers

Matt V. GSRD Discipline Coordinator

So for service rifle of the month its only fitting that I give the K98 a plug.



**The Karabiner 98 Kurz** — often abbreviated Kar98k, K98, or K98k — is a bolt action rifle chambered for the 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge that was adopted in 1935 as the standard service rifle by the German Wehrmacht. It was one of the final developments in the long line of Mauser military rifles. Although supplemented by semi- and fully automatic rifles during World War II, it remained the primary German service rifle until the end of World War II in 1945. Millions were captured by the Soviets at the conclusion of World War II and were widely distributed as military aid. The Karabiner 98k therefore continues to appear in conflicts across the world as they are taken out of storage during times of strife.

## History

The Karabiner 98k was derived from earlier rifles, namely the Mauser Standardmodell and the Karabiner 98b, which in turn had both been developed from the Gewehr 98. Since the Karabiner 98k rifle was shorter than the earlier Karabiner 98b — the 98b was a carbine in name only, a version of Gewehr 98 long rifle with upgraded sights —, it was given the designation Karabiner 98 Kurz, meaning "Carbine 98 Short". Just like its predecessor, the rifle was noted for its reliability, great accuracy and an effective range of up to 500 metres (550 yd) with iron sights and 1,000 metres (1,090 yd) with an 8× telescopic sight.

The Karabiner 98k is a controlled-feed bolt-action rifle based on the Mauser M 98 system. Its internal magazine could be loaded with five 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridges from a stripper clip or one-by-one. The straight bolt handle

found on the Gewehr 98 bolt was replaced by a turned-down bolt handle on the Karabiner 98k. This change made it easier to rapidly operate the bolt, reduced the amount the handle projected beyond the receiver, and enabled mounting of aiming optics directly above the receiver on the Karabiner 98k. Each rifle was furnished with a short length of cleaning rod, fitted through the bayonet stud. The joined rods from 3 rifles provided one full-length cleaning rod.

The metal parts of the rifle were blued, a process in which steel is partially protected against rust by a layer of magnetite  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ . Such a thin black oxide layer provides minimal protection against rust or corrosion, unless also treated with a water-displacing oil to reduce wetting and galvanic corrosion. From 1944 onwards phosphating/Parkerizing was introduced as a more effective metal surface treatment.

### Sights

Originally the Karabiner 98k iron sight line had an open post type front sight, and a tangent-type rear sight with a V-shaped rear notch. From 1939 onwards the post front sight was hooded to reduce glare under unfavourable light conditions and add protection for the post. These standard sight lines consisted of somewhat coarse aiming elements making it suitable for rough field handling, aiming at distant area fire targets and low light usage, but less suitable for precise aiming at distant or small point targets. The rear tangent sight was graduated for 1935 pattern 7.92×57mm IS cartridges from 100 m to 2000 m in 100 m increments. These cartridges were loaded with 12.8 g  $\sim$  197 gr  $\sim$  sS  $\sim$  schweres Spitzgeschoß "heavy pointed bullet"  $\sim$  ball bullets.

### Stock

Early Karabiner 98k rifles had walnut wood one-piece stocks. From 1938 onwards the rifles had laminated stocks, the result of trials that had stretched through the 1930s. Plywood laminates are stronger and resisted warping better than the conventional one-piece patterns, did not require lengthy maturing, and were cheaper. The laminated stocks were, due to their dense composite structure, somewhat heavier compared to one-piece stocks.[6] In addition to the use of walnut and beech laminate, elm was used in small quantities. The butts of the semi-pistol grip Karabiner 98k stocks were not

uniform. Until early 1940 the stocks had a flat buttplate. After 1940 some stocks had a cupped buttplate. All stocks had a steel buttplate.

### **Accessories**

When issued the Karabiner 98k came accompanied with assorted accessory items including a sling, a protective muzzle cover, and for field maintenance a Reinigungsgerät 34 "Cleaning Kit 34" or RG34 kit. Introduced in 1934, the Reinigungsgerät 34 consisted of a flat 85 mm 3.3 in wide by 135 mm 5.3 in long sheet metal container with two hinged lids carried on the person which held an oiler, a take down tool for removing the floorplate and cleaning the receiver of the rifle, an aluminum barrel pull-through chain, a cleaning and an oiling brush, and short lengths of tow used as cleaning patches.

The Karabiner 98k rifle was designed to be used with an S84/98 III bayonet.[8] The S84/98 III had a blade length of 252 mm 9.9 in and an overall length of 385 mm 15.2 in and was accompanied by a bayonet frog.

\* Info from Wikipedia.