

## The 1918 German 13mm anti-tank rifle



### History

Development of this weapon and its cartridge started at the end of November 1917 in response to the British use of tanks. The first of these rifles rolled off the production line 3 months later.

The Mauser anti-tank rifle was not a weapon that could be carried easily. The short version weighted 18.6 kg with the original cast-iron bipod (17.6 kg, with the mg 08/15 bipod). The “short version” was 158 cm long while the standard version was 168 cm long.

Each German infantry regiment was issued two of them, one for the front lines and one for training. The rifle was nicknamed the “elephant rifle” by Mauser and the troops. Its powerful recoil broke the shoulders of some untrained shooters.

It had a two man crew. The first crew member (and shooter) carried a bag with 12 13 mm Mauser cartridges and the rifle.

The second crew member carried two canvas bags with 20 cartridges each, the bipod, and a crate with 72 cartridges.

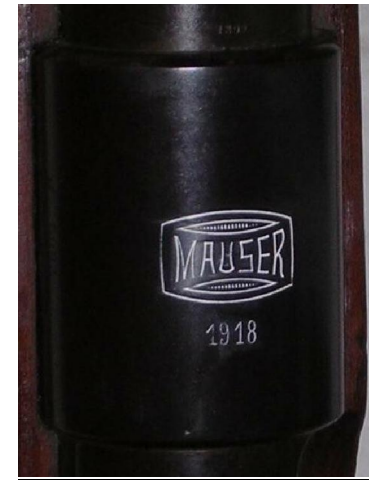
The crew normally alternated when shooting, since after 2 or 3 shots, since most of them complained about headache and dizziness.

### 1918 Production figures

All T-Gewehrs were produced at Mauser Oberndorf. The first of these anti-tank rifles came off the assembly line in January of 1918. This rifle had a total production run of 15,800 units.

Type – single shot bolt action  
Caliber – 13mm  
Barrel Length – 38.75 inches  
Overall Length – 66.6 inches  
Weight – 41 lbs loaded with the bipod  
Sights 100 to 500 meters (notched V)

### Chamber Markings



The chamber marks on T-Gewehr are limited to the Mauser Logo and 1918.

Robert W.D. Ball in “Mauser Military Rifles of the World” (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, pg 119) published a picture of a T-Gewehr with a date only receiver.

### Proof Strings

You will find German proof marks on the right side of the receiver ring and the barrel. Typically, reading from left to right they will indicate hardness testing, assembly testing and final fit.

Note that on this example there are two proofs on the receiver and three proofs on the barrel.



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

## **Type 1 bipod**

The bipod designed for these rifles had tubular style legs and did not have a cross bar.

## **Type 2 bipod**

The other bipod used with these rifles was the MG 08/15 bipod with angle iron style legs and had a cross bar.

## **The 13mm T.U.F. cartridge.** **(Tank und Flieger)**

Bullet diameter – 13mm (.525 inches)  
Bullet weight - 51.5g (795gn).  
Muzzle velocity - 780m/sec (2,650ft/sec)

This round could penetrate 25mm of face hardened steel at 250 meters

An 8mm Mauser compared to the 13mm T.U.F.



## **Bolt Details**

The T-Gewehr bolt weighs approximately 5 lbs. The bolt has four locking lugs rather than the three standard locking lugs used on the Gew98 and Kar98 rifles.

The bolt has three gas Release ports pointing out the rifles ejection port as well as Single larger gas release port on the opposite side of the bolt.

The firing pin for this bolt is 12 inches long.



# Card 4

## **The Mauser T-Gewehr Anti-tank Rifle of 1918**

**In an occasional series  
Compiled by Peter Kuck**

## **Bibliography**

Olson, Ludwig, Mauser Bolt Rifles 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1988

Walter, John, The German Rifle, Arms and Armour Press (London: 1979).

Ball, Robert, W.D, Mauser Military Rifles of the world, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2000, Krause publications