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THE dou K98k. WAFFENWERKE BRUNN AG. POVASZKA BYSTRICA

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Waffenwerke Brunn AG is the name the Germans gave the small arms factory at Bystrica Czechoslovakia, located in the former Austro-Hungarian territory of Slovakia. Prior to German occupation the factory produced VZ-24 rifles for export and the Czech military.

The first rifle this factory produced for the Germans was the G.24 (t). The G.24 (t) was, with minor modifications and proofing, identical to the pre-war Czechoslovakian VZ-24. The production of the G.24 (t) ceased with the "L" block in mid-year 1942 when all the VZ-24 parts had been assembled into rifles. The factory then switched over to the production of "dou" coded K98k rifles from 1942 through 1945.

The 1942 "dou" K98k was a standard pattern K98k. The stock and handguard were laminate and numbered internally with both serial number and letter suffix. These stocks are NOT stamped with a branch of service mark and have no external proofing (with the exception of occasional inspection stamp on the pistol grip, generally a small circle with single digit inside.). Cupped style Buttplates were used. The rear band serial number is stamped vertically behind the sling bar (rather than the standard of two digits in front and two digits behind the sling bar. The metal parts are milled and the bands, triggerguards, and floorplates are numbered to match the receiver. "Mod.98" appears on the siderail. A receiver proof of "WaA80" appears on top of the receiver ring above the "dou" code. No proofing appears on the right side of the receiver ring throughout production. The serial number and test eagle appear on the left side of the receiver ring. Barrels are generally "dou" coded, "WaA80" proofed, have the test eagle, and are not serial numbered. A front sight hood is utilized. The known serial number range is from 5385 to 4149r with an estimated production run of 190,000 rifles.

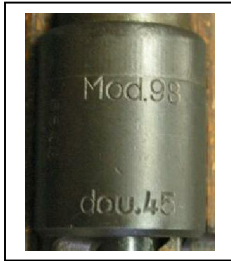


The 1943 "dou" K98k rifles start to differ from 1942 production between the "r" and the "s" block serial number ranges. Stamped parts start to replace the milled parts. Front bands, rear bands, and triggerguards are used (Waffenamt "214" subcontracted parts from Berlin Lubecker and Waffenamt "135" subcontracted parts from Mauser Oberndorf). The stamped parts continue to be serial numbered to match the receiver. Waffenamt "63" rifle bolts from Brno appear in great numbers. Serial number locations and Waffenamts continue in the same locations as on the 1942 rifles. Stocks and handguards were still numbered internally with no marks appearing externally. The Mod.98 remains on the siderail. A variation appears in the "u" block, with two piece stocks appearing joined "tongue and groove" style as is seen on Finnish Moisin Nagants and some German 33/40s'. The known serial number range for 1943 production is from 3419 to 9542nn, with an estimated production run of 420,000 rifles.

The 1944 "dou" K98k rifles followed the standard set in 1943. Stocks and handguards are laminate and numbered internally with both number and letter suffix until late in the year when unnumbered stocks and handguards appear. The stamped parts continue to be numbered until late in '44 and the position of the serial number on the rear band changes from the left side of the band to the bottom spine of the band. Additional subcontractor's parts appear with the codes of "lxx", "LU", and "gnw". Plum colored extractors and bolt release springs are the norm. The location of the rifle serial number varies from the left side of the receiver ring to the left side rear of the barrel but does not appear in both places on the same rifle. Between the "p" serial number range and the "s" serial number range the rifles begin to display "Kriegsmodell" features. These include a change from the oval gas escape holes in the bolt body to simple round holes, the removal of triggerguard lock screws, and the change from a checkered rear sight slide release button to one with only vertical cuts. In the "ff" block stocks no longer have bayonet lugs or cleaning rods and wood screws are used in place of the customary band spring to hold on the bands. The known serial number range is from 3366 to 8676nn, with an estimated production run of 420,000 rifles.



The 1945 “dou” K98k is a scarce rifle. The known serial number range is from 141 to 9714b for a production run of approximately 30,000 rifles. A “e” block rifle has been verified by Maliki. On the “dou” 45 K98k the Mod.98 was moved to the top of the receiver and the siderail left blank. Wood screws hold on the bands and there is no provision for a cleaning rod or bayonet lug. A simple stamped sheet metal plate held on by a wood screw protects the front end of the stock. We could now call this the classic Kriegsmodell except the bolt-takedown washer remained in its usual place in the stock. All small parts are now stamped and Gustloff made parts are often found on bolt assemblies and rear sights. Most bolt parts are Eagle 63 proofed indicating Brno manufacture. Some phosphate parts appear usually in the rear sight assembly and one of the bands. Curiously stocks now occasionally exhibit Eagle H branch of service stamps on their right side rear. Stocks, handguards, bands, triggerguards, and floorplates are now unnumbered. Some bolt test eagles are found on the rear of the bolt knob rather than the rear of the bolt stem.



The following series of pictures were provided by maliki to document different 1945 “dou” k98k rifles for this article. The examples he has detailed include both “b” block and “e’ block rifles.

“b” block 1945 “dou” receiver	“e” block 1945 “dou “ receiver
	
1945 “dou” with fp on bolt ball	cocking piece detail
	



The “dou” code can also be found on the headstamp of 8mm ammunition and on stripper clips

1944 dou by bystrica

The late 1944 variant

Proofing & serial numbers (sample rifle dou44)

Receiver code **dou (44)** receiver proofs **no waf** (on side) **waf WaA80 (1)** (on top)

Side rail **Mod.98**

Serial number 5 digits possible alpha suffix (s/n 84__f)

Upper band **no s/n** **no waf** **stamped**

Lower band **s/n on bottom** **no waf** **stamped**

Trigger guard **no s/n waf 135(1)** **stamped with lock screws**

Bolt ribbed & blued

Root rear firing proof top s/n **waf 63**

Gas shield s/n (4) **no waf**

Safety s/n (2) **no waf**

Cocking piece s/n (2) **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 (4) **waf i**

Rear sight base s/n(4) **no waf**

Stock Laminate

Stock Markings (external reported only)

Side **no marks**

Pistol grip **no marks**

Spine **no marks**

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

Magazine follower **no s/n lxr** **stamped**

Floor Plate s/n (4) **no waf** **stamped**