



# SOUTHERN AFRICA ARMS & AMMUNITION COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

KwaZulu Natal Chapter

Accreditation No 1300073

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The Head  
Central Firearms Registry  
Private Bag X811  
Pretoria 0001

Certification of "Approval for Collection" for a Collectable Firearm in terms of Section 17(1)(a) of the Firearms Control Act (No. 60 of 2000).

1. Personal Details of member:

Name: Full name member  
ID no:  
Member no:  
Classification: Category C  
Contact no:

2. Approved collecting interest:

<b>Field of interest:</b> Military arms used in Southern African and World conflicts, from 1870 onwards up to the late 20 <sup>th</sup> Century with specific reference to Southern African connections.
<b>Theme:</b> German firearms used in the First World War and also in Namibia, formerly German South West Africa.
<b>Sub-theme:</b> Carbine variations based on the standard Mauser 98 of the Imperial German Army.

3. Description of firearm:

Type	Make	Model	Action	Calibre (Each barrel)	Serial no Barrel	Serial No Action/Frame	Serial No Receiver
Rifle	Mauser	KAR 98 "AZ"	M98	8X57MM Mauser	12345	NIL	12345



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Initials Chairman .....



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#### 4. Collectable value attributes:

Not to be confused with the later Karabiner 98k or the earlier Karabiner 98A (uppercase A), the Karabiner 98AZ was a shorter version of the Gewehr 98 originally made for cavalry and support unit use.

In January 1908, the Karabiner Model 1898 AZ (Kar 98AZ) was accepted for service. The new features were a small diameter receiver ring, tapered rather than stepped barrel contour, an L-shaped stacking rod attached to the stock near the muzzle, and a turned-down bolt handle and recess in the stock in the same fashion as the Gewehr 98s sniper variant. The "AZ" stands for "Aufpflanz-und-Zusammensetzvorrichtung", meaning "with bayonet attachment point and stacking rod". At the end of World War I about 1,500,000 short rifles had been produced. In 1923, the AZ was renamed to 'a', as Germany sought to distinguish the model from the newer 'b' and 'k' models.

During World War I, the Karabiner 98a was issued to light infantry, cavalry, mountain troops, and later to assault troops. It was liked because it was lighter and shorter than the Gewehr 98, and was thus better suited for use in trench assaults.

#### 4.1 Historical:

Throughout World War I, Imperial German soldiers were issued the classic Mauser designed Gewehr 98 bolt-action rifle chambered in 8 mm Mauser. The Gewehr 98 was a reliable and accurate rifle design and performed well in the mud and chaos of the fighting on the Western and Eastern Fronts. However, as the war dragged on, it became clear that the Gewehr 98 was not without its drawbacks.

The most notable issue with the Gewehr 98 was its length. At an overall length of 49.2" with its 29" barrel, the Gewehr 98 was too long and heavy to issue to cavalry and artillerymen. Before the war, Germany had attempted to come up with a solution to the size issue of the Gewehr 98 for use by these units by introducing a short carbine chambered for the same cartridge.

These initial carbines, while easier to carry, had a large muzzle blast caused from the excess powder of the 8 mm Mauser cartridge not fully burning up in the barrel and igniting once hitting the open air at the muzzle. It also had significantly increased recoil. These initial carbines were not liked by the cavalry and artillerymen, who requested a new design to rectify the carbine's issues.

In 1908, a new short rifle designed to rectify the shorter carbine's issues began arriving to German troops. It was modified from the design the full-size Gewehr 98, using the same action and bolt design, albeit with a short-ring receiver instead of the long-ring receiver of the Gewehr 98. It was shorter than the Gewehr 98 by around 6" with an overall length of 42.9" and a lighter-contoured 23.2" barrel. This new 7 lbs. carbine version was designated as the Karabiner 98AZ.

The Karabiner 98AZ grew from its intended purpose as an artillery and cavalry carbine, as its short-rifle layout made it longer and more accurate than the previous carbine. Its more compact size and length also made it easier to manoeuvre than the Gewehr 98 in the close quarter's nature of trench warfare. As a result, the Karabiner 98AZ took on a new role as a principal battle rifle used in increasing numbers by the Germans as World War I dragged on.

Production of the Karabiner 98AZ increased throughout the war, with over one million of these short rifles being produced by manufacturers including Erfurt, Spandau, Danzig and Amburg by the end of the war in 1918. By the end of the war, the manufacture of the Karabiner 98AZ represented up to 65 percent of all rifle production in Germany and was being made in greater numbers than the Gewehr 98.

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NAACSA STANDARD FORMAT

UPDATE 26 October 2021



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After the end of World War I, the Karabiner 98AZ continued in service in smaller numbers as the terms of the Treaty of Versailles allowed German Weimar Republic to retain 100,000 carbines, whereas the Gewehr 98 long rifle was not allowed. These Karabiner 98AZ rifles allowed for use by Weimar Germany were over stamped with the year date "1920" on top of the receiver, signifying their use after the war. The design principles found on the Karabiner 98AZ would be carried over into the design of Germany's later short rifle, and standard issue battle rifle used in World War II, the Karabiner 98K.

This firearm was one of the 20 000 of these models at the end of WW1 that the German Army was able to retain, and this is one of those which has the initial manufacturing date stamp 'Erfurt 1917' and is then once again stamped '1920' indicating German Reichwehr issue post WW1.

## 4.2 Technological

The Karabiner 98k is a controlled-feed bolt-action rifle based on the Mauser M98 system. Its internal magazine can be loaded with five 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridges from a stripper clip or one-by-one. After loading, the empty clip is ejected when the bolt is closed. The straight bolt handle found on the Gewehr 98 bolt was replaced by a turned-down bolt handle on the Karabiner 98AZ. 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.

The controlled-feed Mauser M98 bolt action system is based on previous 19th century Mauser bolt action rifle designs and is a simple, strong, safe, and well-thought-out design intended to negate as many failure modes as possible and which inspired other military and hunting/sporting rifle designs that became available during the 20th century. A drawback of the M98 system is that it cannot be cheaply mass-produced very easily. Some other bolt-action designs (e.g. the Lee Enfield) offer trained operators a faster rate of fire as the ergonomic relation between the bolt handle and trigger is more favourable and they can be cycled without loss of sight picture.

The M98 system consists of a receiver that serves as the system shroud and a bolt group of which the bolt body has three locking lugs, two large main lugs at the bolt head and a third safety lug at the rear of the bolt, which serves as a backup in case the primary locking lugs failed. This third lug is a distinctive feature and was not present on previous Mauser bolt action designs. The two main locking lugs are positioned opposed to each other, whilst the third safety lug normally plays no part in locking the action to avoid asymmetric and hence unbalanced bolt thrust forces. For this reason, the K98 action is considered the most robust and safe action for the user.

The bolt houses the firing pin mechanism that cocks when the bolt is opened, and the cocking piece protrudes visually and tactilely from the rear of the bolt to indicate the action is cocked.

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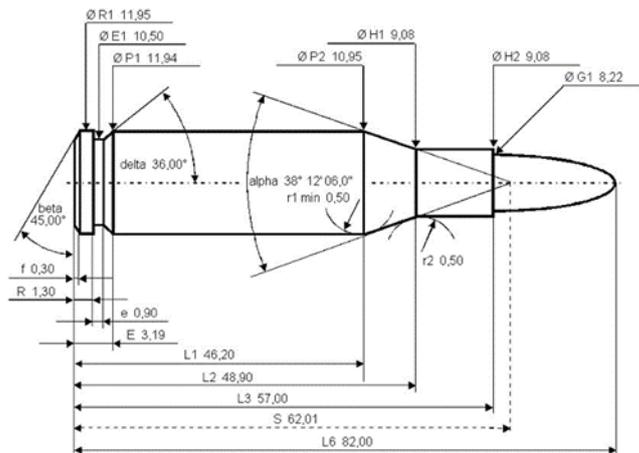
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### 4.3 Scientific

The M98 was one of the first rifles to implement a controlled-feed mechanism, consisting of a large, non-rotating claw extractor that engages the cartridge case rim as soon as the round leaves the magazine and firmly holds the cartridge case until the round is ejected by the ejector, mounted inside the receiver. Combined with a slight bolt retraction at the last stage of the bolt opening cycle, caused by the cammed surface on the rear receiver bridge, this results in a positive cartridge case extraction. The K98 bolt-action will cycle correctly, irrespective of the way the rifle is moved or positioned during the bolt cycling action or if the cartridge has been fired or not. Only if the bolt is not brought back far enough, sharply enough, in a controlled round feed bolt-action the cartridge case may not be cleanly ejected and a jam may result.

#### 8mm Ballistics:

The 7.92×57mm Mauser (designated as the 8mm Mauser or 8×57mm by the SAAMI and 8 × 57 IS by the C.I.P.) is a rimless bottlenecked rifle cartridge. The 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge was adopted by the German Empire in 1903–1905, and was the German service cartridge in both World Wars. In its day, the 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge was one of the worlds most popular military cartridges. In the 21st century it is still a popular sport and hunting cartridge that is factory-produced in Europe and the United States.



Bullet mass/type	Velocity	Energy
11.7 g (181 gr) RWS DK	820 m/s (2,700 ft/s)	3,934 J (2,902 ft·lbf)
12.1 LP RWS HMK	820 m/s (2,700 ft/s)	4,068 J (3,000 ft·lbf)
12.7 g (196 gr) RWS TMR	800 m/s (2,600 ft/s)	4,064 J (2,997 ft·lbf)
12.8 g (198 gr) RWS ID Classic	800 m/s (2,600 ft/s)	4,096 J (3,021 ft·lbf)
9.0 g (139 gr) RWS EVO GREEN	920 m/s (3,000 ft/s)	3,809 J (2,809 ft·lbf)

### 4.4 Investment

Due to the rarity of the firearm and WW2 German association, the firearm consisted to have an investment value. The Kar 98 "AZ" is considered one of the more scarce M98 variants, as the German army was only allowed to retain 20 000 of these models at the end of WW1, and this is one of those which has the initial manufacturing date stamp 'Erfurt 1917'

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and is then once again stamped '1920' indicating German Reichwehr issue post WW1. The firearm is estimated to have a value of between R9 000 – R11 000 in value. It is also expected that the value of this firearm will increase over time.

#### 4.5 Rarity

In the past, German KAR 98 AZ rifles were bought back to South Africa as war trophies. However, the KAR 98 AZ Rifle in its original condition is considered a very rare rifle to be found in unspported conditions with the correct markings and original parts. Due to the fact that the Post-WW1 German Military was only able to retain these rifles in such small quantities adds to the rarity of the rifle. The rifle is very rare and therefore this contributes to its collectors and investment value.

#### 4.6 Thematic

This firearm meets my respective theme represented in Paragraph 2.

#### 5. List of other Relevant Firearms in Field of Interest, Theme and Sub-theme, to illustrate how the firearm fits in the collection:

Item	Cat/Section	Type	Make	Model	Calibre (Each barrel)	Serial no
1.	s16	Rifle	Lee Enfield	No4 MK2	.303 British	PF159768
This Lee Enfield No4 Mk2 rifle is a perfect example of a post WW2 rifle used by the SADF and SAP forces and are still used by the National Ceremonial Guard today. The No4 Mk2 consists of a variety of improvements over the war time No4 Mk1. The rifle is in great condition and would be one of the rivals that would have faced the Mauser Rifle.						
2.	s16	Rifle	Mauser	K98k	8X57MM	WR93042
The Mauser KAR 98 AZ is the direct predecessor of the KAR98k, therefore many features of the K98k are directly copied from the KAR 98 AZ therefore the rifles are related, and it is very interesting see the technological gains to the Mauser 98 family tree with the two rifles put together. The K98k was the primary weapon of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reich.						
3.	S16	Rifle	Springfield	M1903	.30-06 Springfield	1511200
The Springfield M1903, is a direct copy of the Mauser 98 action that was adopted by the US Military as a replacement to the Krag Rifle. This rifle would have been used as a rival to the KAR 98 AZ at the later part of WW1.						

#### 6. References:

- Law, Richard D 'Backbone of the Wehrmacht: The German K98k Rifle 1934-1945' Collector Grade Publishing (1993)
- Ball, Robert W.D. 'Mauser: Military Rifles of the World' Krause Publications (2011)
- Grant, Neil 'Mauser Military Rifles' Osprey Publishing (2015)

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## 8. Confirmation of Firearm Information:

I, (Name of member) solemnly declare that all information supplied in this document is true and correct and that it is an accurate reflection of my interest in and knowledge of the firearm described within the context of the relevant Field of Interest or Theme or both.

.....  
Signature (Member)

.....  
Name (Printed)

.....  
Date

## 9. Certification of Collectability:

I, (Name of Chairman), as chairman/duly authorised Executive Committee Member of this Association, hereby certify that:

- The above person is a registered member of this accredited Collectors' Association and is in good standing with the Association;
- The member qualifies to collect the firearm/prohibited firearm/restricted firearm described in this document (delete what is not applicable);
- The firearm described in this document and the information supplied by the member have been evaluated;
- The firearm described in this document fits within the member's approved Theme or Field of interest;
- In the case of a prohibited or restricted firearm, as described in this document, the firearm complies with the provisions of section 17(1A) of the FCA (as amended<sup>1</sup>); and
- The firearm is approved for collection in terms of Section 17(1)(a) of the FCA (as amended<sup>1</sup>).

.....  
Signature (Chairman)

Name of Chairman

.....  
Date

Note<sup>1</sup> Section 17(1A) of the FCA (as amended by section 13 of the FC Amendment Act, No. 28 of 2006) and read with regulation 15 of the FCA Regulations (as amended by clause 10 of the FCA Regulations, 2012 as published in Government Gazette No. 35047 dated 17 February 2012).

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