


VZ. 33

puška vz. 33	
Type	Service rifle
Place of origin	 Czechoslovakia
Service history	
In service	1934-1945
Used by	Czechoslovakia, Germany.
Wars	World War II
Production history	
Designed	1933
Manufacturer	Československá zbrojovka Brno, a.s.
Produced	1934-1942
Number built	approx. 150,000
Variants	Gewehr 33/40 (t)(produced for Germany)
Specifications	
Weight	3,35 kg
Length	995/1000 mm (G 33/40 (t))
Barrel length	490 mm
Cartridge	7,92 x 57 mm (8 mm Mauser)
Caliber	8 mm
Action	Bolt-action
Muzzle velocity	720 m/s (2362 ft/s)
Maximum range	1000 metres
Feed system	5-round internal magazine, two-row, integral box, with quickly detachable floorplate, loaded with stripper clip.

The **puška vz. 33**^[1] ("rifle model 1933", sometimes referred to as **krátká puška vz. 33** - "short rifle model 33") was a Czechoslovak bolt action rifle that was based on a Mauser type action, designed and produced in Československá zbrojovka in Brno during the 1930s in order to replace the obsolete Mannlicher vz. 1895 carbines of the Czechoslovak *četnictvo* (gendarmerie). The manufacturer's designation was vz. 16/33 (model 16/33), and although the rifle is often called carbine vz. 33, that was not an official designation of the Czechoslovak armed forces .

The design was partially based on the Mauser Musketon M12, produced prior to World War I for Brazil, but the bolt mechanism was a modification of the Mauser 98 design found on the standard Czechoslovak army vz. 24 rifle. The action was a "small ring" design similar to that found on the German Kar 98a issued during World War I. As the name implies, the receiver ring is of slightly smaller diameter than the standard Model 98 action, intended to lighten the weapon at the expense of a slight reduction in action strength. Most small-ring variants are readily distinguishable as there is no step between the ring and the left receiver wall. However, the vz. 33 has a lightened, thinner left receiver wall, so the step is present making it superficially resemble the standard, 'large ring' action. Excess metal is removed from the rear receiver bridge around the stripper clip guide, and there are other lightening cuts. The bolt is the same as that of the standard Model 98, with the exception of the bolt handle which has a different profile and a hollowed-out ball.

Production of a slightly modified version continued during the German occupation of Czechoslovakia for the German armed forces. This version was 5 mm longer (due to a different buttplate), a metal plate was attached to the left side of the gunstock and with a German type sling and laminated stock fitted this rifle was issued to German mountain troops as the Gewehr 33/40 (t). Markings are of the German type, with code letters on the receiver ring in place of the Czech rampant lion.

For the Czechoslovak army, gendarmerie and *Finanční stráž* (literally Finance Guard, which was a custom and border protection armed service under the command of the Czechoslovak Department of Finance) some 25,300 vz. 33 rifles were produced until 1940. From 1940 until 1942 another 131,400 of the Gewehr 33/40 (t) variant were produced for the German army. The German armed forces also used the rifles previously issued to the Czechoslovak military.

A few prototypes of G 33/40(t) with wooden folding stocks were produced for the German paratroopers, but this variant never went into serial production.^[2]

See also

- vz. 24 rifle

References

[1] Československé ruční palné zbraně a kulometry, Miroslav Šáda, Praha, Naše vojsko, 1971

[2] **(Czech)** Folding stock prototype of G 33/40(t) picture on Czech page (<http://www.fronta.cz/dotaz/g33-40>)

Ing. D. Řehák – Československé armádní pušky vz. 24 a 33, Střelecká revue 9/2000

External links

- Czechoslovak rifles markings on Gunboards.com (<http://www.gunboards.com/sites/mrj2003/Czech/Czech.htm>)

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