

26/G.S. Publications/796

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

The information given in this document is not to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, to the Press or to any person not holding an official position in His Majesty's Service.

**THIS DOCUMENT MUST NOT
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS**

ENEMY WEAPONS

PART II.—ITALIAN AND GERMAN INFANTRY WEAPONS

1942

Crown Copyright Reserved

THE WAR OFFICE,
14th August, 1942.

Prepared under the direction of
The Chief of the Imperial General Staff

DISTRIBUTION

Infantry	Scale B
All arms, less infantry	Scale A
Infantry O.C.T.U.s.	Scale II
All O.C.T.U.s., less infantry	Scale I
All infantry training establishments and schools	Scale B
All training establishments and schools, less infantry	Scale A

CONTENTS

Foreword.

SEC.

PART I.—ITALIAN PISTOLS

PAGE

1. Introductory note	1
2. 10·35 mm. revolver, Mod. 89—Bodeo	1
3. 9 mm. self-loading pistol, Mod. 910—Glisen	3
4. 9 mm. self-loading pistol, Mod. 34—Beretta	4
PART II.—ITALIAN RIFLES AND CARBINES	
5. Introductory note	7
6. 6·5 mm. rifle, Mod. 91	8
7. 6·5 mm. carbine, Mod. 91	9
8. 6·5 mm. carbine, Mod. 91 per T.S.	9
9. 7·35 mm. rifle, Mod. 38	9
10. 7·35 mm. carbine, Mod. 38	9
PART III.—ITALIAN MACHINE CARBINES	
11. Introductory note	10
12. 9 mm. machine carbine, Mod. 38—Beretta	10

Continued on page iii of cover.

FOREWORD

It was originally intended to confine the present booklet to Italian Infantry Weapons, but since it is now possible to add considerably to the information already given in Part I (German Infantry Weapons) on the German Pistol 38 and Light Mortar 36, it has been decided to take this opportunity of issuing revised particulars of these two weapons.

ENEMY WEAPONS

PART II.—ITALIAN AND GERMAN INFANTRY WEAPONS

PART I.—ITALIAN PISTOLS

1. Introductory note

A revolver and two self-loading pistols are issued as standard weapons. Most N.C.Os. and men, e.g. members of M.G. and gun detachments, are armed with the revolver, while officers and warrant officers carry one or other of the two self-loading pistols.

2. 10-35 mm. Revolver, Mod. 89--Bodeo. (See Fig. 1)

Pistola a rotazione Bodeo, Mod. 89

This is a double action, solid framed revolver of somewhat old-fashioned design. The cylinder does not "swing out" to assist loading and the empty cases can only be ejected one by one. A trigger guard is not usually fitted.

General particulars

Calibre: 10.35 mm. (.41 in.)
 Weight: 2 lb.
 Overall length: 9½ in.
 Cylinder capacity: 6 rounds.

Safety

"Bodeo" revolvers of recent manufacture are provided with a safety catch on the left. In addition, safety is provided for during loading and ejection by the action of the "loading gate" which, on being pulled back, disconnects the hammer and trigger mechanisms.

To load

Pull back "loading gate" and insert a cartridge in the chamber thus exposed. Rotate the cylinder by pressing the trigger (the hammer mechanism is disconnected so long as the loading gate is open) and insert a cartridge in the next chamber. Continue loading in this manner until all chambers of the cylinder are full. Finally push loading gate forward again.

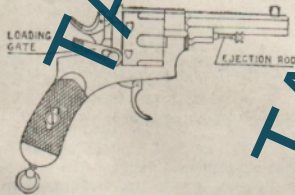


FIG. 1.—10.35 MM. REVOLVER 89

To cock and fire

The revolver can be cocked and fired either "single action," by first cocking the hammer with the thumb and then pulling the trigger, or "double action," by a strong pressure on the trigger which cocks the hammer and then releases it to fire the cartridge cap.

Extraction and ejection

Open the loading gate and pull the ejection-rod forward. Shift the ejection-rod over to the right by swinging its carrier across beneath the barrel and push out the empty cases one by one by pressing the ejection-rod and rotating the cylinder by means of the trigger.

Stripping

Remove:—1. Left side plate and pistol grip. 2. Cylinder axis. 3. Cylinder. 4. Main spring. 5. Pawl. 6. Trigger. 7. Hammer.

3. 9 mm. Self-loading Pistol, Mod. 910—Glisenti. (See Fig. 2)

Pistola automatica Glisenti, Mod. 910

The action of this S.L. Pistol, which resembles that employed in the 1914 and 1935 Fiat (Revelli) M.Gs., is briefly as follows:—On firing, the barrel and bolt recoil together a short distance temporarily interlocked by a wedge lever which is pivoted in the body. As this movement proceeds the wedge lever rotates back into the body, and at the correct moment leaves the bolt free to be forced to the rear by the thrust of the spent case. The action of the wedge lever is not a positive locking action, but what is sometimes called a "semi-locking" action.

General particulars

- Calibre: 9 mm. (.35 in.).
- Weight: 1 lb. 12 oz.
- Overall length: 8½ in.
- Feed: 7 round magazine in butt.

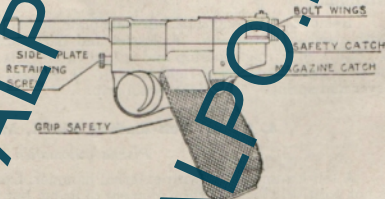


FIG. 2.—9 mm. S.L. PISTOL 910

Safety

A safety catch at the back end of the bolt, when in the "safe" position, prevents movement of the firing pin, and a "grip safety" (which co-operates with the trigger) is provided in front of the butt below the trigger guard.

Preparation for firing

Insert a full magazine. Set safety catch to "fire." Grip the bolt wings. Pull bolt back to its full extent and then allow it to go smartly forward again to transfer a round from the magazine to the chamber.

To fire

Press trigger, releasing "grip safety" at the same time.

Stripping

Remove: 1. Magazine. 2. Side plate (loose retaining screw). 3. Left pistol grip. 4. Trigger with pawl and spring. 5. Barrel and barrel extension. 6. Firing pin housing and firing pin. 7. Bolt. 8. Firing pin stop and safety catch (after pulling back firing pin stop into oval slot and shifting safety catch from right to left). 9. Ejector and ejector lever. 10. Safety catch. 11. Wedge lever and spring. 12. Right pistol grip.

4. 9 mm. Self-loading Pistol, Mod. 34—Beretta. (See Fig. 3)

Pistola automatica Beretta, Mod. 34

A self-loading pistol with external hammer, fixed barrel and recoiling breech slide. The breech is not positively locked at the moment of firing, but is kept closed merely by the inertia of the breech slide assisted by spring pressure.

The ammunition for this pistol is the short 9 mm. type which is interchangeable with the .380-in. auto. ammunition used in the American .380-in. Colt automatic pistol.

General particulars

Calibre: 9 mm. (.35 in.)
 Weight: 1 lb. 7½ oz.
 Overall length: 6 in.
 Feed: Removable round magazine in butt.

Safety

Shift safety catch back (exposing letter "S") for "safe" and forward (exposing letter "F" and red spot) for "fire."

There is no "grip safety," but the hammer can be set at half cock.

Preparation for firing

Insert full magazine. Set to "fire."
 Cock hammer. Pull back breech slide and then allow it to go smartly forward.

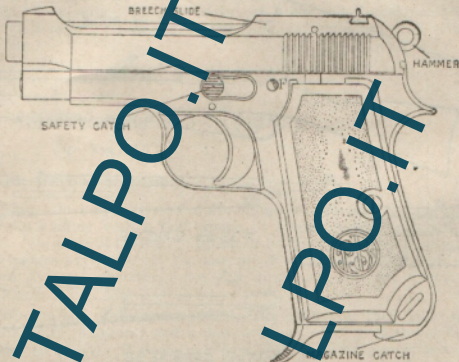


FIG. 3.—9 MM. S. W. PISTOL 34

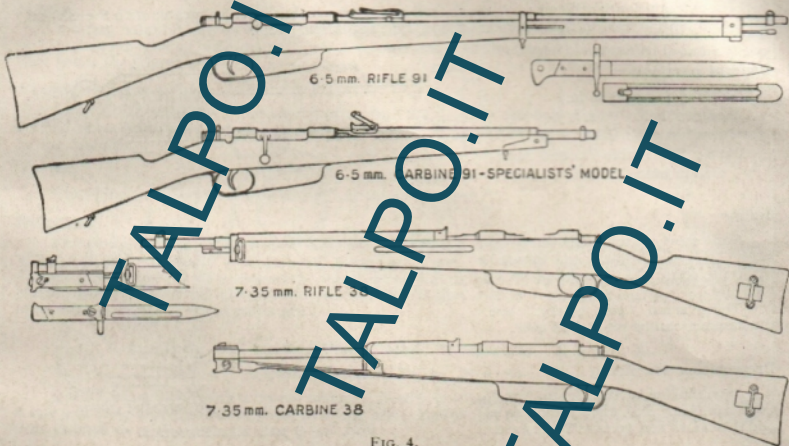


FIG. 4.

Stripping

Unload. Cock hammer. Set to safe. Pull breech slide back until safety catch snaps into recess on left. Push barrel backward (if necessary tap muzzle lightly on a wooden surface to free it) and remove through ejection opening. Grip milled surfaces of breech slide and disengage safety catch from recess. Let breech slide go forward. Remove breech slide, return spring and return spring rod. Pull out safety catch to left.

PART II.—ITALIAN RIFLES AND CARBINES

(See Fig. 4)

5. Introductory note

The basic Mannlicher-Carcano design, which is embodied in all Italian service rifles and carbines combines the Mannlicher system of clip loading with a bolt action of Mauser type developed by M. Carcano of the Turin S.A. factory. With the Mannlicher system of loading, the clip is inserted in the magazine together with the cartridges and under all the cartridges have been forced up out of it by a spring-loaded lever known as the "elevator," the clip drops out through a hole in the bottom.

Shortly before the present war the Italians decided to increase the calibre of their rifles and L.M.Gs. from 6.5 mm. (.256-in.) to 7.35 mm. (.289-in.) and a new rifle and carbine of this calibre were actually introduced (see Secs. 9 and 10 above). It seems, however, that the change-over has not yet progressed very far and it may even have been postponed, since many of the new 1938 patterns have been found to be fitted with a 6.5 mm. barrel.

6. 6.5 mm. Rifle, Mod. 91*Fucile, Mod. 91***General particulars**

Calibre: 6.5 mm. (.256 in.).

Weight (without bayonet): 8½ lb.

Length (without bayonet): 51 in.

Rifling: 4 grooves R.H., increasing twist.

Sights: "V" notch and barleycorn, sighted 600-2,000 metres.

Feed: Vertical magazine holding one 6-round clip.

Safety

For "safe," first disengage safety catch (finger lever on plug at back of bolt) by pushing it forward and to the left, and then raise it and draw it back. The mainspring is now no longer under compression. For "fire," push catch forward and down to the right until striker and bolt plug engages in recess in bolt. The mainspring is now compressed.

Preparation for firing

Set to "safe." Open breech. Insert clip of 6 rounds in magazine. Close breech.

Removal and stripping of bolt

Draw bolt back and remove, while passing trigger. Move safety catch toward "safe," and slightly before end of this movement, shift lever to left. Unscrew striker nut, withdraw cocking-piece, bolt plug, striker and mainspring.

Re-assembling and replacing bolt

Proceed in reverse order, taking care that line marked on striker is opposite that on bolt plug, and that flat portion on striker fits against corresponding part in cocking piece.

7. 6.5 mm. Carbine, Mod. 91

Moschetto, Mod. 91

Similar to rifle Mod. 91, but has a shorter barrel, a bent down bolt lever and a folding bayonet. It is sighted from 600-1,500 metres, weighs 7 lb. (approx.) and is about 36 in. long with the bayonet folded.

8. 6.5 mm. Carbine, Mod. 91 per T.S.

Moschetto, Mod. 91 per T.S.

Similar to carbine Mod. 91, but has a separate bayonet like the rifle Mod. 91. "Per T.S." (*truppe speciali*) means "for special troops," e.g., gunners and specialists.

9. 7.35 mm. Rifle, Mod. 38

Fucile, Mod. 38

This rifle is based on the rifle Mod. 91, the main differences being the increased calibre and reductions in weight and length. It has a light folding bayonet which is normally attached to the barrel, but can be removed and used as a dagger.

As regards the 7.35 rifles fitted with a 6.5 mm. barrel—see Sec. 5 above.

General particulars

Calibre: 7.35 mm. (.289 in.).

Weight (without bayonet): 7½ lb.

Length (without bayonet): 40 in.

Rifling: 4 grooves R.H. constant twist.

Sights: "Battle sight" fixed for 300 m. only.

10. 7.35 mm. Carbine, Mod. 38

Moschetto, Mod. 38

Compares with carbine 91 in much the same way as rifle 38 compares with rifle 91.

PART III.—ITALIAN MACHINE CARBINES

11. Introductory note

Machine carbines, in light automatic weapons firing pistol ammunition of which a typical example is the American Thompson, have not so far been extensively used by the Italians. Nevertheless they possess, in the Model 38 Beretta machine carbine, a weapon of this kind which is considered to be above the average, both as regards functioning and convenience in handling.

12. 9 mm. Machine Carbine, Mod. 38—Beretta. (See Fig. 5)

Moschetto Autom. Beretta Mod. 38

This weapon operates on the inertia or "blow-back" system and incorporates no means for locking, or delaying, the opening of the breech. It fires 9 mm. Parabellum type ammunition of British, German or Italian manufacture, i.e. ammunition of the same types as can be fired by the British 9 mm. Vickers machine carbine.

In recent examples of this weapon, provision is made for mounting a detachable folding bayonet similar to that used with the model 38 rifle.

General particulars

Calibre: 9 mm. (.35 in.)

Weight (without magazine): 9 lb. 1 1/2 oz.

Overall length: 37 1/2 in.

Ammunition: 9 mm. Parabellum

Maximum rate of fire: 570 r.p.m.

Sights: Radial leaf "V" backsight, graduated from 100 to 500 m. Hoveycon foresight.

Feed: Box magazine fitted underneath body: there are three different sizes of magazine holding 10, 20 and 40 rounds respectively.

SAFETY
LEVER

RETAINING CATCH

L.H. ELEVATION

MAGAZINE CATCH

LOCKING CATCH
FOR REAR TRIGGER

COCKING HANDLE

SINGLE SHOT
AUTOMATIC

PLAN

FIG. 5.—9 MM MACHINE CARBINE—BERETTA

