

About Danish infantry 1932-1941, Skytskompagniet, Of 2

The machine gun division

Sharing strap

- 1 platoon leader
- 1 second-in-command 1 tank driver 1 range finder 1 protractor 2 orderlies 1 watchman
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4 machine gun groups, each with

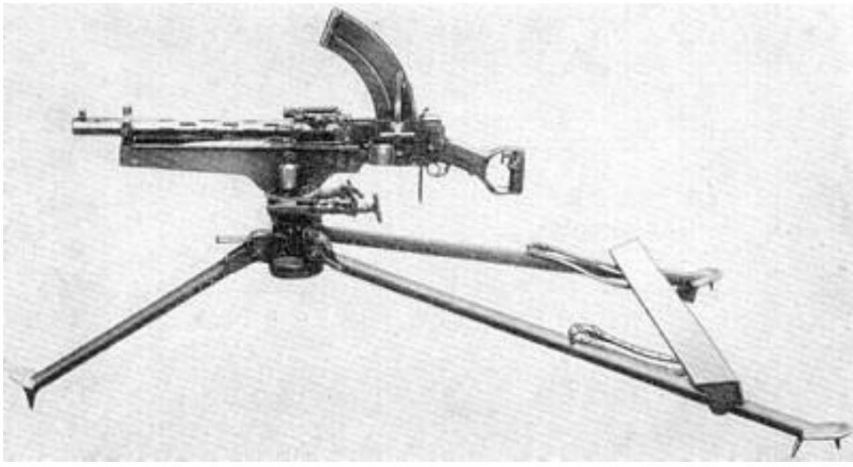
- 1 group leader and 10 men:
- 1 machine-gunner 2 assistants 3 suppliers 2 liaison and security personnel 1 cartman 1 horse-drawn carriage
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- 1 horse
- 1 machine gun carriage train (performance, cartridge carriage and machine gun carriage)
- 1 8 mm machine gun M.1929, with accessories

Ammunition

Each man has 40 8 mm cartridges, cart drivers and cart men however 80.

At each group there are 2,880 cartridges, packed in magazine bags (4 magazines of 30 cartridges each):

- 2,400 cartridges in the cartridge case
- 480 pcs. special cartridges in the machine gun barrel



8 mm machine gun M.1929 in machine gun tripod M.1929. From Source 2.

8 mm machine gun M.1929

The machine gun is of Danish construction (Madsen) and has a practical firing range of approx. 1.5 km.

Weight (approx):

- machine gun: 10.25 kg
- tripod: 24 kg magazine
- (with 30 cartridges): 1.5 kg.



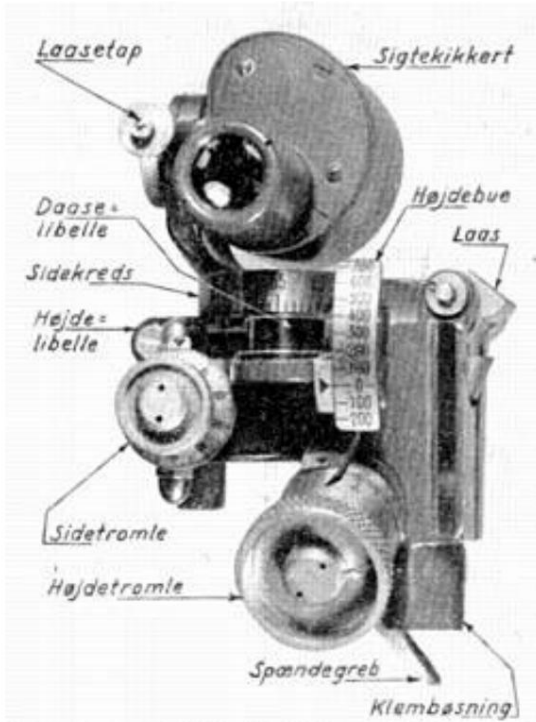
8 mm machine gun M.1929 in machine gun tripod M.1929. From Source 9.

The machine gun includes:

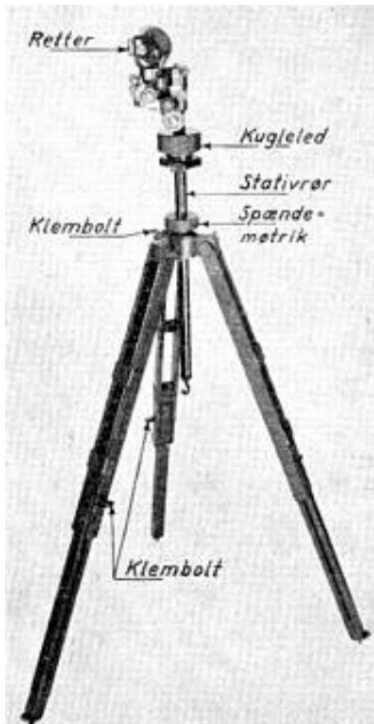
- magazine M.1929 with 30 cartridges
- air target sights M.1929 coupler
- (carried by the machine gunner) water bag and
- tool bag air target pivot straightener M.1930 (=
- scope) measuring triangle M.1929 inclinometer
- M.1929 direction stick M.1929 anemometer
- M.1930.
-
-
-

The directional sticks are 1.2 m and painted in red and white belts.

Means of orientation



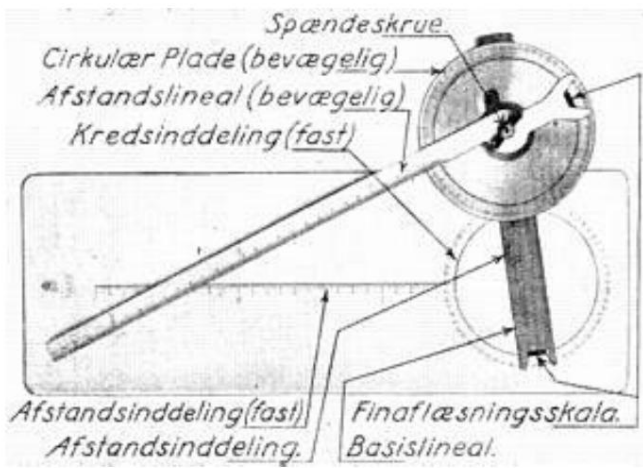
Courts M.1930. From Source 2.



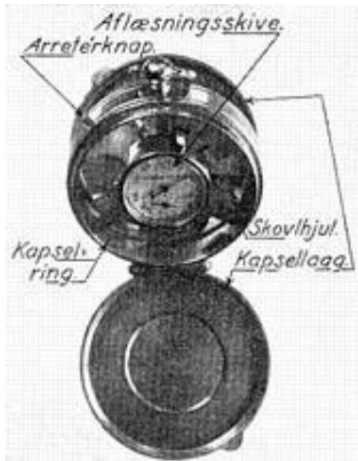
Courts M.1930. From Source 2.

The machine gun straightener can be attached to the machine gun (using an extension) or to a straightening stand as shown on the right.

In the mortar group, the machine gunner leads 1 dish; the protractor in the dividing strap also carries 1 dish and associated stand.



Measuring triangle M.1929 From Source 2.



Wind gauge M.1930.

From Source 2.

The division's protractor carries the measuring triangle in a leather holster, with shoulder strap.



The machine gun division's command station. Lifeguard, 1932.

From Source 5.

The picture shows the angler, with the M.1930 in a tripod, and the platoon leader, who is in the process of calculating the firing.

A machine gun group can be seen in the background.



Machine gun groups. Lifeguard, 1932.

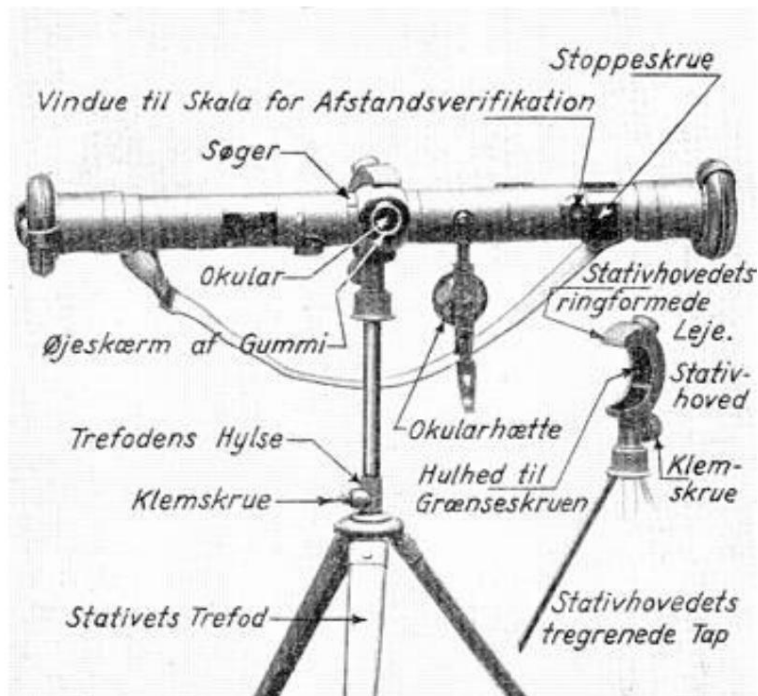
From Source 5.

Machine gun with gunner and helpers can be seen at the front.

Each machine gun comes with 4 interchangeable barrels that are carried in leather holsters.

During transport, they are placed in the machine gun carriage. When "ready for battle", helper 2 brings a holster with 2 interchangeable pipes, while the group leader brings a holster with 1 interchangeable pipe.

Distance meter



Distance meter M.1915.

From Source 2.



Distance meter M.1915.
From source 8.

The rangefinder was used in all types of weapons until 1943.

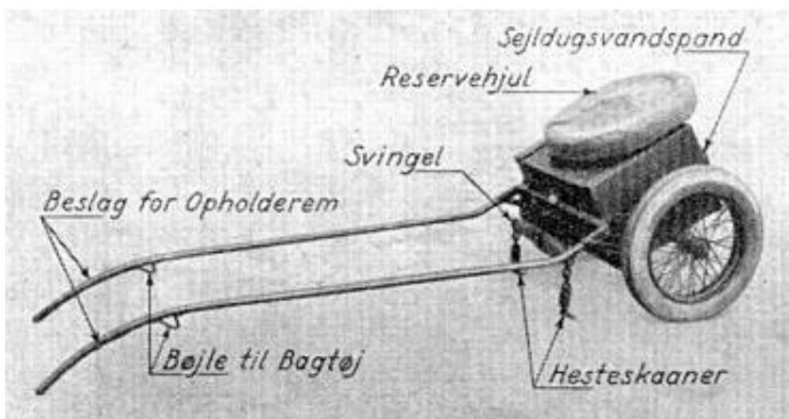
If the rangefinder is operated from a kneeling position, it rests on a tripod. In a horizontal position, it rests on the tripod head's three-pronged pin or is held in the hands.



The picture was taken at the Varde Artillery Museum and shows the type plate that is on the museum's specimen.

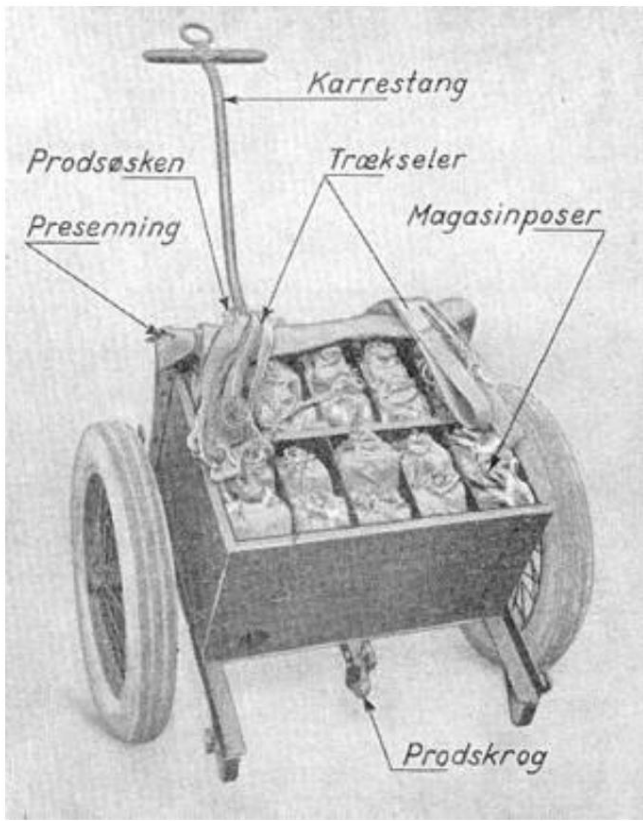
The distance between the instrument's prisms is 70 cm, which in rangefinder terminology is called 0.70 m base.

8 mm cart material M.1932



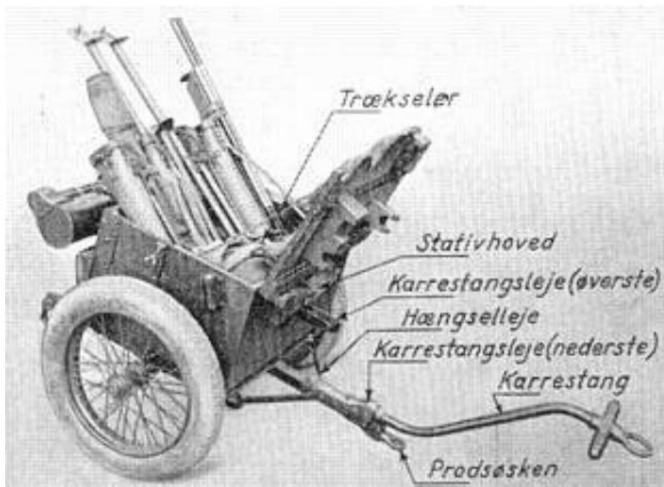
Performance M.1932. From Source 2.

The pretend box has 3 internal compartments for horse equipment as well as tools and spare parts for the carts.



Cartridge case M.1932. From Source 2.

The case is divided into 10 compartments, each of which holds 2 magazine pouches (a total of 2,400 cartridges).



Machine gun carriage M.1932. From Source 2.



Machine gun cart M.1932, with machine gun in air target pivot.
From Source 5.

The machine gun barrel comes in two types:

- Type A, on which telephone equipment is also carried
- Type B, which carries a distance meter instead.

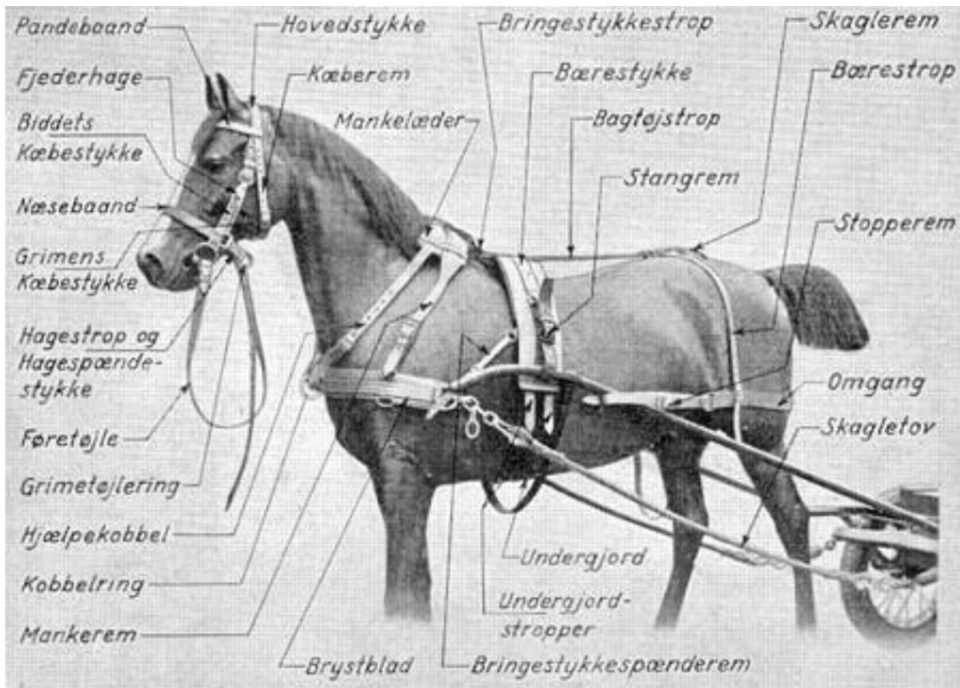
The box has a slanted strip at the bottom with a cut-out for the material. The back wall is provided with cutouts for the material. In the space under the material are 4 magazine pouches (a total of 480 cartridges per tub).

Type A has bearings for telephone equipment on the back wall, while type B has bearings for the rangefinder.

On top of the lid there are emergency bearings for the machine gun with aerial aiming pivot and on the sides of the tank bearings for the aerial aiming pivot.

Each tub comes with 4 wooden braces.

Dimensions etc. Width Height Length Weight - unpacked Weight - packed		Preposition	3.4 m	90 kg	Cartridge	
tray	1.4 m	80 kg	1.4 m	100 kg	6.2 m 270 kg	125 kg
						200 kg
Machine tool cart			1,2 m	0,94 - 1,47 m		200 kg
Machine tool carriage						525 kg



Horse equipment and accessories for 8 mm tank material M.1932.
From Source 2.



A pretense forces a precipice. Lifeguard, 1932. From Source 6.
One has to hope it went well...

Handgun

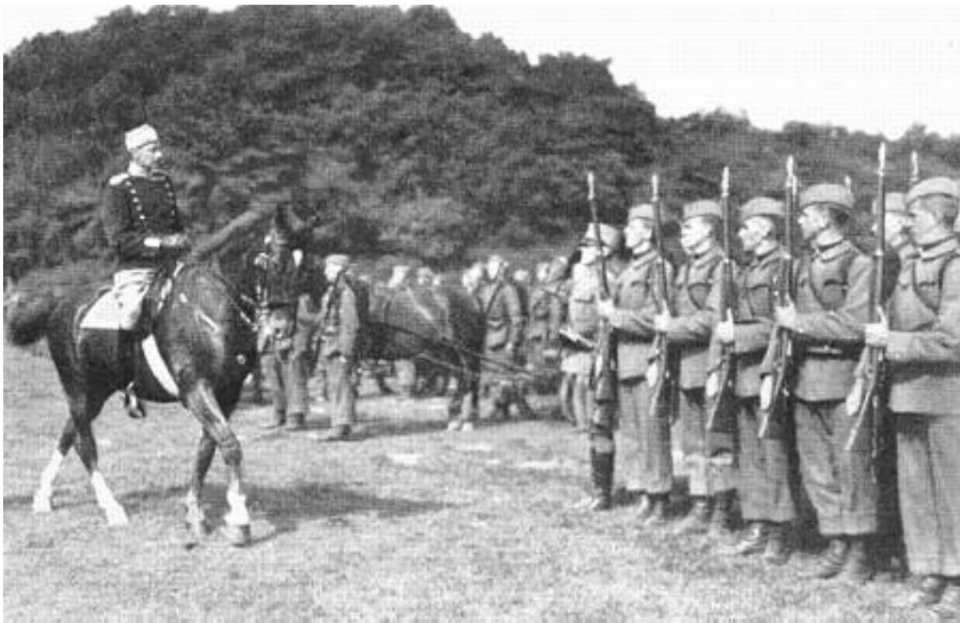
In the machine gun group, the group leader, assistants 1 and 2, as well as the cartman and horse-drawn carriage are equipped with infantry carbines M.1889, while others have rifles M.1889.

In the platoon, everyone, apart from the range finder and angle finder, is equipped with rifle M.1889; the two exceptions are equipped with infantry carbine M.1889. The platoon leader has pistol M.1910/21, incl. 25 cartridges.

Formations etc



Machine gun group, in marching column. Lifeguard, 1932.
From Source 6.



King Christian X inspects the Lifeguard's recruit company, at Ermelunden, June 1932.

From Source 6.

In the background two (at least) machine gun groups can be seen.



Machining company on the march. From Source 4.

The predecessor of the guard company, which came with the Army Act of 1937, was the battalion's machine gun company, which consisted of 4 platoons of 4 machine gun groups.

Ready for battle



Machine gunner.
From Source 1.



Machine gun assistant 1.
From Source 1.

The machine gun group includes...

Following...

Group leader 1

change pipe (with holster) and 1 magazine bag

Machine gunner

Machine gun

Assistant 1

Discuss

Helps 2 2

interchangeable pipes (with holster) and 1 magazine pouch

Provide 1

Air target pivot and 3 magazine pouches

Supplies 2 3

magazine pouches and 1 magazine pouch with 6 hand grenades

Supplies 3 2

direction sticks and 2 magazine pouches



*Deputy commander of the
machine gun division.*

From Source 1.



*Angle taker at
the machine gun division.*

From Source 1.

The platoon includes...

Following...

Remote stager

Range finder with stand, but without guide

Angle taker

Dishes, dish rack with guide and 2 direction sticks

In the second-in-command's belt, a *single prismatic binocular* can be seen (at the buckle of the belt) and to the right of this (in the picture) a pair of barbed wire scissors in a holster.

The guide means for the straightening stand can be seen on the protractor.



Machine gun group in position.

From Source 4.

To the right of the machine gunner is the squad leader, observing through his *single-prism binoculars*.

At the bottom of the picture, helper 2 can be seen with a magazine pouch.

Tactical use



Machine gun group in position. Lifeguard, 1932.

From Source 6.

The machine gun is the infantry's most powerful weapon. It can deliver a very strong, persistent and dense fire, right out to the greatest firing distances (3 km).

With the help of the tripod's means of direction, one can place its gunner safely over the target at all distances, even in the dark, and one can shoot past and over them without danger of one's own troops in front.

Finally, with the machine gun, you can fire at air targets within a distance of 1 km.

The shooting can also be carried out from hidden positions so that the operating crew is not exposed to direct fire from the enemy, whereby they are less affected by this fire during the battle.



Machine gun group in position.

Lifeguard, 1932.

From Source 6.

Accuracy is very high, and the practical rate of fire can be set to approx. 200 shots per minute.

Because of these characteristics, it is important to give the machine guns the opportunity to work with their fire for as long as possible. Machine gun groups are therefore entitled to support and help from other infantry. If the machine gun itself is destroyed while the tripod is still usable, they can demand a recoilless rifle delivered from the nearest recoilless rifle group, just as they can demand ammunition in magazines handed over from the recoilless rifle groups when they have no more of their own.

If the machine gun becomes involved in close combat under such conditions that it can hardly defend itself, it is the duty of the nearest groups to protect it.



Machine gun group in position. Lifeguard, 1932. From Source 6.

According to the way in which the machine gun is set up in the terrain, a distinction is made between:

- **Open shooting**, where the machine gun is positioned so that it can be aimed at the target.
- **Semi-concealed shooting**, where the target is hidden from the shooter, e.g. of a hill edge, but where the squad leader, when he gets up more or less in the firing position, can observe the target.

- **Concealed shooting**, where it is impossible for everyone in the group to see the target from the firing position.

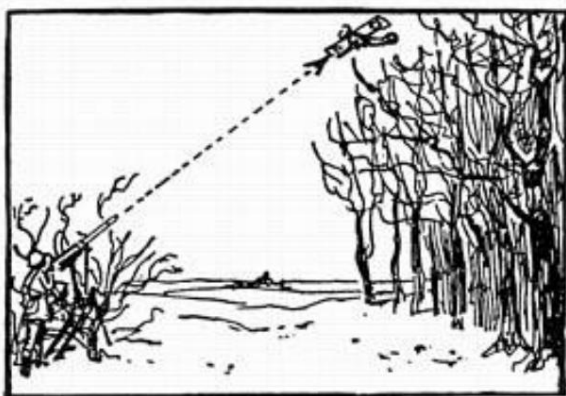
The distances at which machine gun fire applies can be divided into:

- Short distances (up to 1,200 m), where individual rifles can fire open and semi-concealed shots, and where you can usually see impact and therefore shoot in.
- Medium distances (1,200-2,000 m), where open and semi-concealed shooting should always be done with at least 2 rifles, and shooting in can only be done exceptionally.
- Long distances (over 2,000 m) where any shooting should be done by at least 4 guns and where open shooting can only be done with scopes.

Good effect (3% hits) can be achieved against larger targets even at the greatest firing distances, with single columns, groups in scattered order and the like within 1,500 m, against single upright gunners within 1,000 m and with single gunners lying down within 700 m.



Machine gun set up to fire at air targets. From Source 4.



Rigtigt.

From Textbook for the Privates of the Army, II. Part for Motorized Field Artillery, 1940.

When shooting at aerial targets, no less than 4 guns should normally take part in the firing. For the shooting, which is only carried out at distances up to 1,000 m, special air target sights are used and

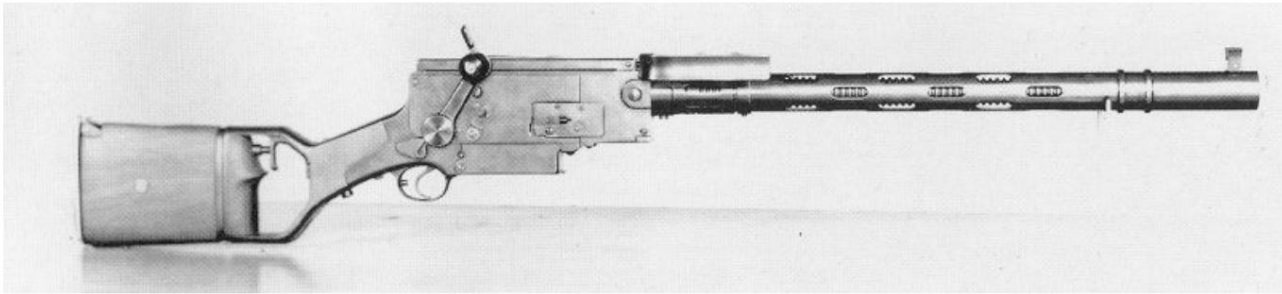
special ammunition (armor cartridges) and tracer projectiles in a ratio of 3:1.

When setting up for shooting at air targets, air target pivots and air target sights are used.

Sources

1. *Textbook for Infantry Corporal Schools - Equipment and Train*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1941.
2. *Textbook for Infantry Corporal Schools - Weapons*, Ministry of War, Copenhagen 1938.
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5. *The Defense Book* by Colonel T. Andersen, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1941.
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7. *Textbook for the Privates of the Army, Part 1*, Temporary edition, Copenhagen 1946.
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9. *Soldiers on 9 April 1940* by Kay Søren Nielsen, Tøjhusmuseet, Copenhagen 1990, ISBN 87-7233-847-4.

Per Finsted



Machine gun M.1929, with attached stock piece.
From Source 9.