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Model of 1918 & M1918A2 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)



2nd Lt. Val Browning with the Browning Automatic Rifle in France -
John Browning's son



History

Another iconic firearm design from the mind of John Moses Browning. The Model 1918 Browning Automatic Rifle, or BAR, was actually adopted in 1917, but designated M1918 to prevent confusion with the M1917 Browning light machine gun. It fired the 30-06 cartridge from a 20 round detachable magazine.

It saw limited service during WWI, but came into its own during the Second World War after being heavily (weight and design) modified by the U.S Army.

It saw combat again in both Korea and Vietnam, and has been used by many armies around the world.

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M1918 BAR

The M1918 or Rifle, Caliber .30, Automatic, Browning, M1918, was adopted in July 1917. It was designed to replace the French Chauchat light machine gun being used by US troops.

The BAR was designed for “walking fire”, in which the soldier fired from the hip, with the aid of a special cup on his cartridge belt, all while walking across no-man’s land. Thankfully, this tactic was not put into practice to an extent.

Specs

Rate of Fire: 500 - 650 rds per min

Weight: 16 lbs

Service: 1917-1942

Produced: 102,174



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M1918A2 BAR

The 1918A2 was the standard model seen during WWII and on.

It’s new features included two modes of full-auto fire only, Slow and Fast. As well as a bi-pod hung near the muzzle. The additions increased its weight to over 21 lbs, leading many GIs to shed “un-needed” pieces.

It was used in all theaters of combat during WWII and Korea, and saw limited use during Vietnam

Specs

Rate of Fire: 300 - 450 rpm - Slow
500 - 650 rpm - Fast

Weight: 21.5 lbs

Service: 1938—1973

Produced: 249,380 (+ mod’d 1918’s)



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