

GERMAN ARMY MACHINEGUN TROOPS (INFANTRY)



TAMIYA

1/35 MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES

At about the middle of the 1930s, the German Army organized offensive infantry corps which had machine guns and machine pistols as the nucleus of their small arms. The infantry division contained three regiments as its main body. Each regiment consisted of three battalions, which had four infantry companies each. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd companies each had twelve light machine guns, sixteen machine pistols, three light mortars and two anti-tank guns. The 4th company, which was called machine-gun company, was equipped with twelve (later sixteen) heavy machine guns and six medium mortars.

The machine guns that gave birth to and constituted the backbone of such organization were the well-known model 34 (MG-34) and model 42 (MG-42).

In 1934, Mauser completed a new machine gun of 7.92 mm calibre based on the Swiss Solothurn 30 machine gun then used by the Austrian Army. The new machine gun employed the Solothurn mechanism such as the air-cooled recoil operation system and the selective fire lever between continuous fire and single fire. It was linear and slender in appearance. Muzzle brake was fixed to avoid vibration and recoil caused by high cyclic rate of fire (up to 900 rounds per minute) that was one of the advantages of the mechanism. The gun was of the belt-fed type. Belts containing 50 rounds each were carried in a gun belt box with a capacity of 300 rounds.

Immediately after completion, the new machine gun was adopted by the German Army. Officially designated model 34 machine gun (MG-34), the weapon was mounted on a great number of combat vehicles and military planes as well as used by infantry corps.

The MG-34 later showed activity in all theatres of war.

In 1942, the Model 42 machine gun (MG-42) first appeared in the battlefield. The MG-42 was a remodelled version of the MG-34 and better suited for mass production. Since pressing process was largely used to facilitate manufacture, it is said that even a small factory was able to produce it. The MG-42 had considerable improvements in performance over the MG-34. The rate of fire was much higher and reached 1,500 rounds per minute. In addition, the MG-42 was durable enough to withstand changes in temperature and rough handling in the battlefield. It showed its excellent performance that was never affected by such conditions. The Germans used the same machine gun as a heavy machine gun or a light machine gun according to its tactical use. The former was so called when used on a tripod for support fire and the latter was so called when used on a bipod as an offensive weapon for infantry.

Accessories for the weapon used as a light machine gun consisted of 300 round gun belt boxes, 50 round saddle drum magazines, spare barrels, tool kit and machine oil. When used as a heavy machine gun, the weapon had additional accessories as follows: telescopic sight, tripod, tripod container, single AA mount, anti-aircraft ring sight, etc. (A sunshade was also added to the accessories when the gun was used in the tropics.)

Machine guns possessed by the Germans totalled 126,800 in number at the outbreak of World War II but they increased to 231,000 in January 1945 near the end of the war. This shows what great importance the German Army attached to its machine guns.

by courtesy of Akira Kikuchi

(Formation of German Infantry Platoon) (as of Feb. 1941)

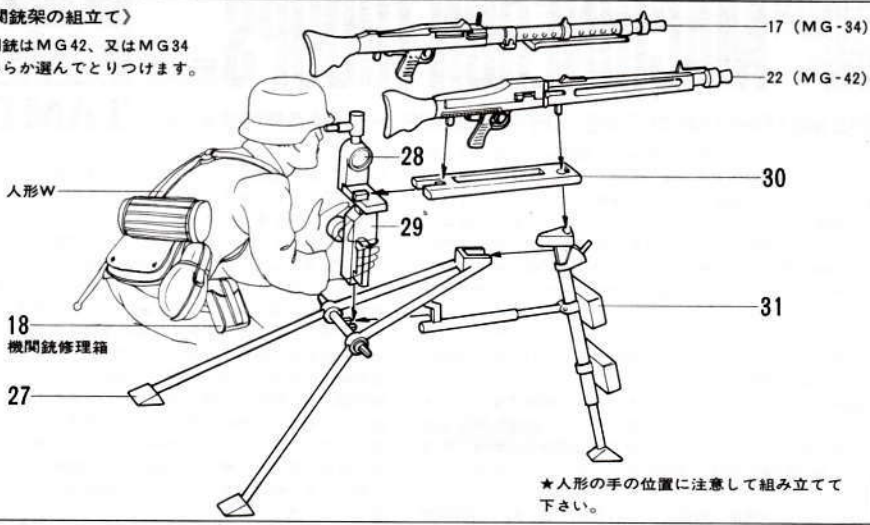


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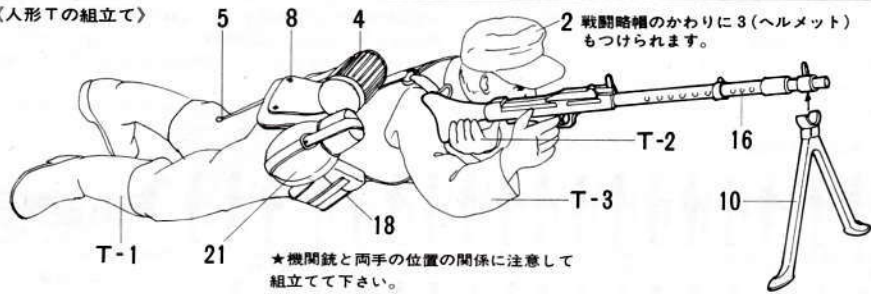
1/35 MM ドイツ歩兵機関銃チーム (英)

《重機関銃架の組立て》

★機関銃はMG42、又はMG34
のどちらか選んでとりつけます。



《人形Tの組立て》



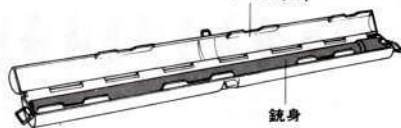
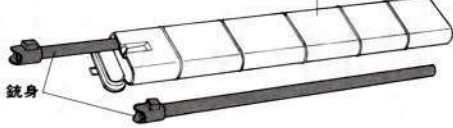
《予備銃身ケース》 予備銃身ケースの中は図のようになっています。

2本入れ

ケース(12)

1本入れ

ケース(11)



MILITARY MINIATURES

1/35 GERMAN MACHINE GUN TROOPS (INFANTRY)

国防軍に所属する歩兵の塗装説明です

カラー図を参考に、機関銃の持ち合わせに注意して組み立て下さい。



●の機関銃の組み立ては、中の説明図を参考にして下さい。

ドイツ歩兵 (機関銃チーム) の情景
このセットの兵士は、第2次大戦中のヨーロッパ戦線でのドイツ陸軍(国防軍)歩兵部隊の機関銃チームの兵士をモデル化したものです。ドイツの機関銃チームは、通常3名の兵士で構成され、1名は機関銃を、他の2名はそれぞれ2ケの弾薬箱を持ち、射撃中の給弾などを担当していました。ドイツ軍が主に使った機関銃は、MG 34とMG 42の2種類ですが、MG 34は大戦の初めから、MG 42は1942年から戦線に登場して大量に使われました。この2つの機関銃とも、軽機関銃にも、重機関銃にも、戦闘の状態によって、使い分けられ、それぞれ射撃の方法が違

重機関銃として使われているMG 34、重機関銃として使われているMG 42とそれぞれの射撃姿勢での兵士の組み合わせができるようになっています。あなたの情景にあった射撃姿勢を選び、いっそうムードを盛り上げて下さい。
Aの射撃姿勢は当時の写真によると非常に緊急な場合や対空射撃などによく使われたようです。不意に敵を発見し、すばやく射撃するための姿勢と言えます。また伏せ射など低い姿勢では目標を見にくい時に使われます。立木や建物などの陰や背の高い草でおおわれた草原の中の射撃などの情景が合うでしょう。
Bは最も一般的な伏せ射の姿勢です。

こうや土のうのバリケード、車輛の陰などからの射撃が多いようです。
CはMG 34またはMG 42を三脚架にのせて重機関銃として使い、安定した正確な射撃ができる姿勢です。トーチカ、土のうやざんごうなどでよく防禦された機関銃隊など、堅固な陣地からの射撃によく使われたようです。
タミヤの1/35情景アクセサリから、レンガや土のう、バリケード、ドラム缶などを射撃姿勢に合わせて使って下さい。たとえばCには土のう、Cにはレンガ通りの建物とバリケードなど、情景のムードをいっそう高めるのに効果的です。

