

The sword bayonet is carried on the left side, and just behind it is the entrenching tool, or a combination pick and hatchet.

The ammunition pouches are carried on the belt, one on either side of the buckle in front; each holds 45 rounds; an additional 60 rounds are carried in the pack or haversack, making 150 rounds per man.

The rifle in use at the present time is the 1898 model Spandau Mauser, which is of somewhat lighter construction than the Ross military rifle, having a very simple bolt action; the sight, which is graduated up to 2,000 metres, is also very strong and simple. The rifle when fired has little or no recoil, and is very accurate up to 1,500 yards.

Description of Rifle.

Calibre.....	7.9 mm. or .311 inches.
Length of barrel.....	29.05 inches.
“ rifle.....	48.6 “
Weight.....	9¼ pounds.
Four grooves of rifling.	
Twist of rifling to the right.	
Rate of fire obtainable, between 30 and 40 rounds per minute.	

Tools.—Of the tools carried by the German infantry, the proportion is: ten pickaxes and five hatchets to every hundred small spades (entrenching tools).

Armour.—The shrapnel helmet, the use of which became universal in the latter part of 1916, is made of hard magnetic nickel-steel, and though affording protection against shell splinters, spent bullets or ordinary shrapnel, will not deflect rifle or machine-gun bullets unless hit at a very acute angle.

As an additional protection, a heavy piece of armour plate has been designed, to fit the front of the shrapnel helmet, being held in position by the projecting studs on the side of the helmet, and a strap which buckles at the back; and though very heavy, this plate is not full protection against rifle or machine-gun fire at less than 400 yards range.

A face visor of heavy cast steel has also been used. This visor was “V” shaped, with small eye-slits on either side of the “V.” This did not prove to be a success either since the impact of a bullet on the visor was almost as injurious to the wearer as the bullet itself.

Body Armour.—Various sorts of body armour have been tried, but the type shown is now acknowledged to be the standard, and though no doubt giving the wearer a certain amount of confidence, is not the protection it might be, since it can be pierced by ordinary rifle or machine-gun bullets at 700 yards range.