

NZAR ID 453, ARM TYPE: Pistol. Draft date (V1) 3 Nov 2013, Compiled by John Osborne AA DTT PhD FSG,
Pattern: Walther M4 (1915). Caliber: 7.65x17mm. Introduced: 1917. Withdrawn: after WWI

Specifications: Manufactured by Carl Walther WAFFENFABRIK Zella St. Blasii and nine subcontractors. Caliber 7.65x17 (Browning). Action: semi automatic blowback. Length: 150mm. Height: 106mm. Width 26mm. Weight 525g. Barrel length: 88mm. Rifling: 4 grooves. Box magazine Capacity 8 cartridges. Sights: No rear sight on early version, vee blade front sight, vee rear sight in dovetailed mount. Cartridge ejection port on left side. Holster: Brown pigskin with spare magazine.

In May of 1915 the Prussian government ordered 250,000 - 7.65x17mm Walther Model 4's for military use, by the end of WWI Walther was the largest pistol manufacturer in Germany. During WWI the 9x19mm Luger P08 pistol was the primary German pistol but it was hard to maintain it was easily contaminated with dirt and residue and complex to field strip whereas the Walther M4 was very reliable and easy to maintain.



New Zealand use. This Walther Model 4 pistol was taken from a captured German soldier at Messines Ridge in June 1917 by an infantry private in the New Zealand Expeditionary Division who carried it as a backup pistol for the remainder of the war. Many captured pistols were brought back to New Zealand as war prize guns with the returning troops.

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The Walther Model 4 by Ed Buffalo <http://unblinkingeye.com/Guns/Wm4/wm4.html> Osborne Arms Museum for images
For more background information visit www.battlefield-tours.co.nz/html/new-zealand-ww1.html