

**HANDBOOK OF THE  
BENET-MERCIÉ  
MACHINE RIFLE,  
MODEL OF 1909. NO. 1926**

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Handbook of the Benet-Mercié Machine Rifle, Model of 1909. No. 1926 by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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No. 1926

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HANDBOOK OF THE  
BENET-MERCIÉ MACHINE RIFLE

MODEL OF 1909

WITH

PACK OUTFITS AND ACCESSORIES

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THIRTY-ONE PLATES

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MARCH, 1912

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE,  
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This manual is published for the information and government of the Regular Army and National Guard of the United States.

By order of the Secretary of War:

WILLIAM CROZIER,  
*Brigadier General, Chief of Ordnance.*

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## EQUIPMENT OF MACHINE-GUN COMPANY OR TROOP.

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Each machine-gun company or troop is provided with six rifles, including ammunition, spare parts, tools, and accessories, together with the necessary packs.

The equipment for each company or troop is carried on 24 mules, constituting six sections of four each. The sections are essentially complete units, although certain articles are not carried in every section.

The equipment of each section consists of one rifle, ammunition, and the necessary equipment for maneuvering the piece in the field.

The description is divided into the following parts:

Part I. The rifle with its ammunition and accompanying parts.

Part II. The pack harness.

Part III. The special pack equipment.

Part IV. The pioneer tools.

Part V. The total equipment of a machine-gun company or troop.



## PART I.—THE RIFLE WITH ITS AMMUNITION AND ACCOMPANYING PARTS.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE BENET-MERCIÉ MACHINE RIFLE, MODEL OF 1909.

#### GENERAL.

[Plates I, II, III, and IV.]

The Benet-Mercié machine rifle, model of 1909, belongs to that type of automatic arms known as the gas operative. The power that is used to operate the mechanism is obtained from a small portion of the powder gases that enter through a port in the barrel after the bullet has passed. After the first shot the rifle is self-operative, until the ammunition in the feed strip is exhausted or until the trigger is released.

The ballistics of the Benet-Mercié machine rifle, model of 1909, are similar to those of the service rifle, and the data given in the handbook of the service rifle, No. 1923, is equally applicable to the Benet-Mercié machine rifle, model of 1909. The bullet suffers a slight decrease in muzzle velocity due to the gas used in operating the rifle, but for general purposes the data quoted is sufficiently accurate.

In firing, the action of the mechanism is as follows:

When the rifle is fired and the bullet has passed the gas port in the barrel a part of the powder gas passes into the chamber of the gas-nozzle ring, and enters the gas cup of the actuator, forcing the latter to the rear. The actuator in recoiling compresses the actuator spring, the cam surface cut in its upper portion engaging the lug of the ferreture nut, causing the latter to rotate so as to disengage its threads from those of the breechblock. At this part of the recoil the firing pin, which has been drawn back by the actuator, engages its upper lug in the ramp of the receiver. The firing pin then rotates on its axis and its upper lug comes to rest in the transverse cut of the breechblock, thus locking the latter to the actuator. The large lug of the actuator strikes against the shoulder of the breechblock, drawing the latter to the rear and thereby completing the opening of the breech. The claw of the extractor engages the groove of the cartridge case and draws it from the chamber. During the recoil of the breechblock the head of the cartridge case strikes against the ejector, throwing the case out of the rifle through the ejection opening in the receiver. When the actuator is partly recoiled the cam surface cut on its right side engages the upper lug of the feed piece, causing the latter to rotate from right to left on its axis. The feed arm of the

PLATE I

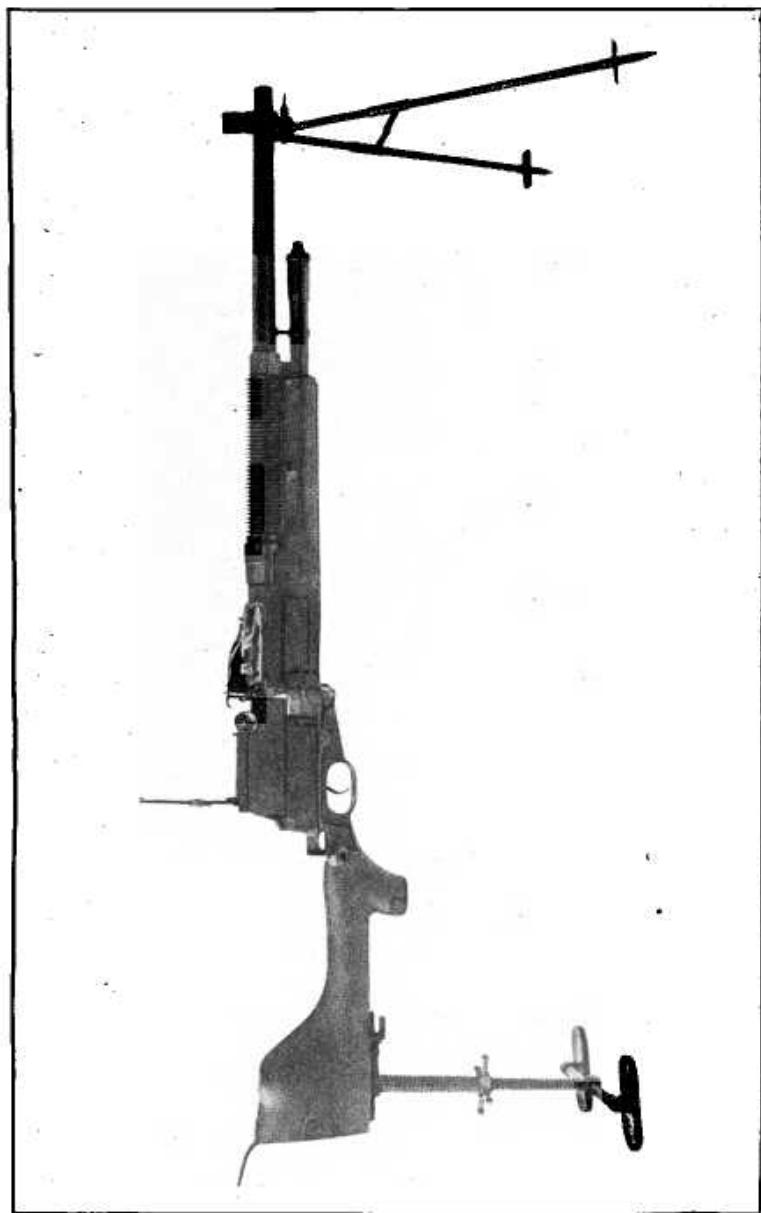


PLATE II

