

INVESTMENT GRADE ACQUISITION

MG 42 FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM (MG Z 40)

SERIAL NO: 3275



ITEM TITLE: MG Z 40 Optical Fire Control Kit (Complete)

SERIAL NO: 3275 (Factory Matched)

MANUFACTURER: J.D. Möller Optische Werke (Wedel)

MODEL: MG Z 40 (Maschinengewehr-Zielfernrohr 40)

DATE OF ORIGIN: c. 1941–1943

OPTICS: 4x Magnification / 10° Field of View



THE "EYES" OF THE BONE SAW

The Heavy Machine Gun Role (Schweres Maschinengewehr)

While the MG 42 is famous for its rate of fire, its true lethality lay in its precision. This MG Z 40 was the dedicated fire control computer for the Lafette 42 tripod. Unlike standard iron sights, this periscopic unit allowed the gunner to remain safely defiladed in a trench while directing fire over obstacles.

Analog Ballistic Supremacy

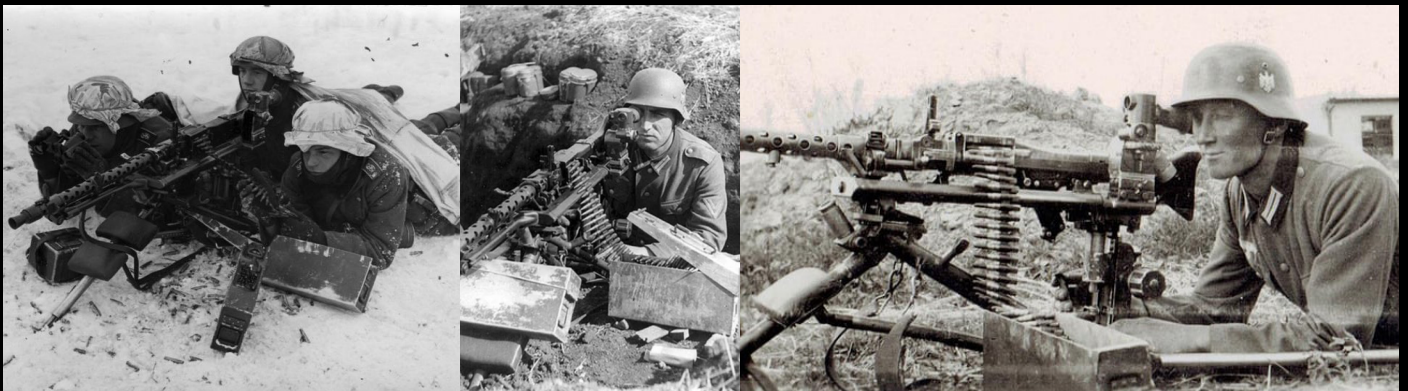
Far more than a simple scope, the MG Z 40 functioned as an analog ballistic calculator. The internal collimating system allowed for "Indirect Fire" (Indirektes Richten), enabling machine gun crews to suppress enemy positions from kilometers away—artillery-style—without ever having a direct line of sight.

J.D. Möller: The Precision Standard

Manufactured by J.D. Möller in Wedel, this unit represents the zenith of German optical engineering. Unlike late-war "slave labour" optics marked only with obscure codes, this example proudly bears the full factory script, a hallmark of pre-austerity production quality.



Wehrmacht heavy machine gun team operating the MG 42 from the Lafette tripod with the MG Z 40 optical sight (North France, 1944).



THE FACTORY MATCH

The transit case bears the clear "J.D. Moeller Wedel" factory script and serial number 3275. The optical unit is serialized to match, establishing this as a coherent factory pairing rather than a field-assembled set.



THE WINTER PROOF (+)

The distinct "+" symbol (originally blue) is the Wehrmacht ordnance code for Instrumentenfett 1442. This certifies the optic was lubricated with specific cold-weather grease, rated for operation down to -40°C, suggesting preparation for the Eastern Front.

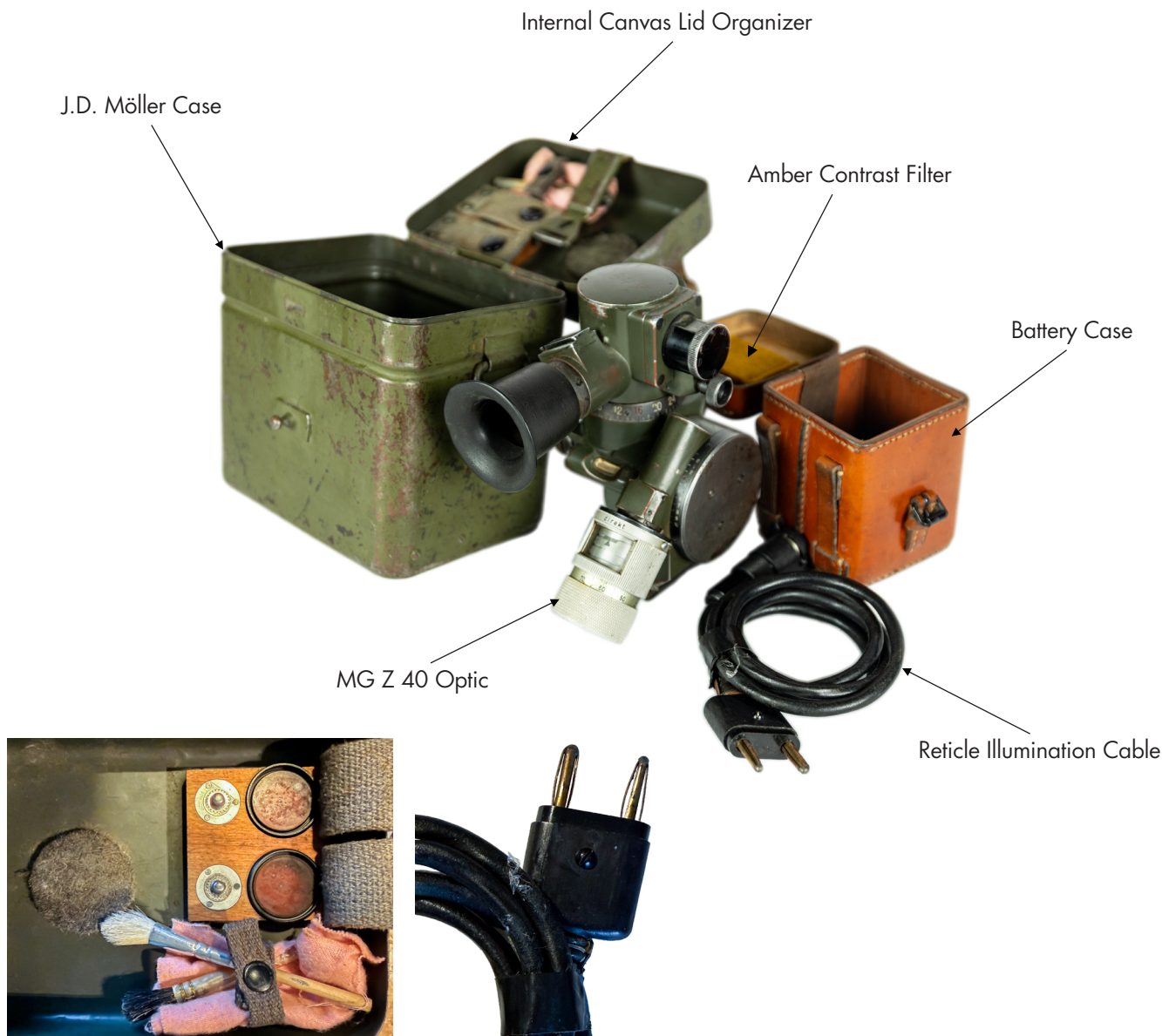


THE UNIT RACK NUMBER

The electro-penciled number 1547 represents a unit-level inventory or "Rack Number." This secondary marking is the forensic "fingerprint" of the soldier or armorer who maintained this specific sight in the field.



CONDITION & CONFIGURATION



CONFIGURATION REPORT

- **MG Z 40 Optical Unit:** Serial 3275 (Factory Matched) with intact rubber eyecup.
- **Transport Case:** Serial 3275 (Factory Matched).
- **Lid Organizer:** RARE. Early-production Wooden Block insert (Verified). Most surviving kits use cheap stamped metal clips; the wooden block indicates high-quality early manufacture.
- **Twin Filter Set:** Complete environmental kit containing both Amber (Nebel/Fog) and Grey (Sonne/Sun) glass filters in original mounts.
- **Illumination Unit:** Original coiled cable with correct knurled metal connector. Note: Cable exhibits authentic period field-taping/repair.
- **Battery Case:** Original Wehrmacht leather. Serial 5260 (Period field replacement).
- **Maintenance:** Original optics brush and chamois cloth.

CONDITION GRADE: "COMBAT EXCELLENT"

The optical system presents in honest, service-used condition. The lenses remain clear with a functional reticle. The metal surfaces show authentic edge wear and paint chipping consistent with field use, avoiding the "sterile" look of unissued depot stock. The rubber eyecup remains supple, and all traverse mechanics cycle correctly.

SUMMARY FOR INVESTORS

This MG Z 40 kit is a “Blue Chip” acquisition for the serious German militaria collector. Most surviving sights are orphaned units or post-war “Yugo” reissues. To find a J.D. Möller Factory Matched Pair, complete with the rare reticle illumination cable, amber contrast filter, and transit case, is a statistical anomaly.

The forensic discovery of the Wooden Lid Organizer and the complete Twin Filter Set elevates this asset above standard depot leftovers. These delicate organic components rarely survived the war, making this a ‘Time Capsule’ example of early Wehrmacht quality standards.

The presence of the “+” Winter Proof and the electro-penciled Unit Number adds a layer of verified combat history that mint-condition examples lack. It is a fully documented, functional piece of WWII tactical history. The inclusion of the Reticle Illumination System—often lost to time—elevates this from a standard ‘sight’ to a complete, combat-ready fire control suite.



INQUIRIES

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