

Swedish Kg m/37 BAR Accessories



Picture of a Swedish Kg m/37 BAR with some of its accessories. (Photo by Author)

Machine Gun Accessory Collecting

Machine guns from the early to mid last century were usually accompanied a large number of accessories to keep the guns running through combat. This is especially true for machine guns from European nations which seemed to revel in the number they could come up with to load down their soldiers. Hunting for these accessories can be as entertaining as the guns themselves. The Swedish BARs are no different and at least for me quite addicting.

Magazine

The Swedish BAR uses a 20 round magazine. The magazine differs from the US 1918 BAR due to the needs for the 6.5X55mm Swedish round. The magazine will fit in the US 1918 BAR but it will not reliably feed 30-06 ammo. The Swedish magazine has a "bend" in the middle of the body to accommodate the shorter lightly tapered 6.5 round.

Magazines were stored in leather pouches that held two magazines in each pouch. The pouches were mounted on a wide leather belt. The gunner carried 2 pouches and the assistant gunner would have 4 pouches on a similar belt. (Belt and pouches can be seen in first photo)



Picture of a Swedish BAR magazine. (Photo by Author)



Picture of charger guide being used to load magazine. (Photo by Author)

Gunner's Kit

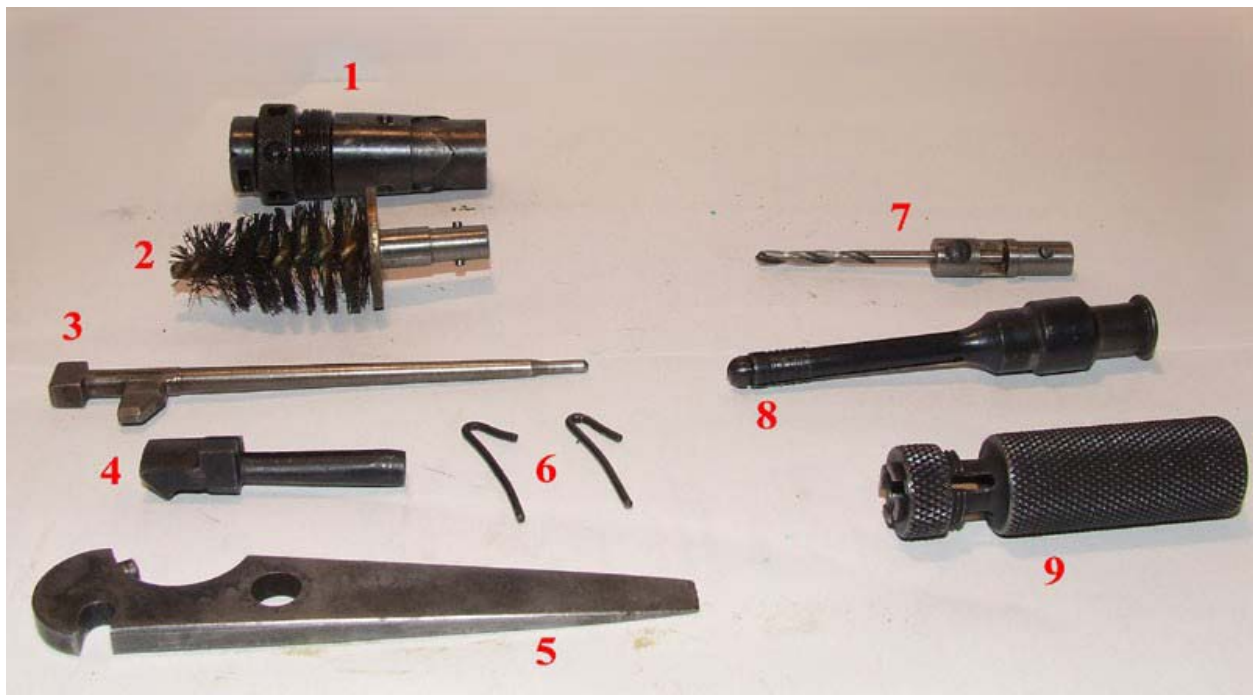
Typical of BARs used by many nations, gunner kits were issued for maintenance of the gun. The number of gunner kits varied by nation as well as the contents. The Swedes issued two leather pouches for the gunner's kit. They were labeled with an "I" and "II" and stamped with the model number of the gun they were meant for "37" in the case of the Kg m/37.



Picture of the two Swedish BAR gunner's kit pouches for the Kg m/37. (Photo by Author)



Picture of the inside of "I" Kg m/37 gunner's kit. (Photo by Author)



Picture of gunner's kit "I" contents minus the oil can, and chamber cleaner. (Photo by Author)

Kit "I" Contents:

1. Spare gas plug
2. Gas tube cleaning brush (Used with universal tool handle)
3. Spare firing pin
4. Spare extractor
5. Combination tool
6. Two spare extractor springs
7. 2.87mm drill bit for cleaning barrel gas port (Used with universal tool handle)
8. Broken shell extractor
9. Universal tool handle



Picture of gunner's kit "II" contents. (Photo by Author)



Picture of gunner's kit "II" tool storage roll. (Photo by Author)

Kit "II" Contents:

1. Dust Cover (Covers ejection port and magazine well when installed)
2. Gas plug scrapper (Used with universal tool handle)
3. Gas Plug scrapper (Used with universal tool handle)
4. 1.15mm drill bit (used to clean gas plug smallest gas port)
5. 1.25mm drill bit (used to clean gas plug medium gas port)
6. 1.35mm drill bit (used to clean gas plug largest gas port)
7. Spare extractor spring
8. Spare magazine catch pin
9. Brass tube with cap to hold spare drill bits
10. Spare recoil rod
11. Spare link pin
12. Spare hammer pin
13. Sharp pick
14. Blunt picks
15. Magazine charger
16. Spare 1.15mm, 1.25mm, and 1.35mm drill bits for replacements on items 4,5, and 6

Brass Catcher

The Swedish military is frugal when it comes to training. They designed brass catchers for all their weapons so the brass can be easily collected for reloading for training ammunition.



Picture of brass catcher attached to the Kg m/37. (Photo by Author)

Action Snow Cover/Bipod Snow Shoe

Sweden being far north has to deal with a lot of snow. They designed a dual use action cover for the Kg m/21 & m/37 that also is used to keep the bipod from sinking into the snow when deployed for shooting.



Pictures of the action cover/snow shoe for the Swedish BARs. (Photo by Armémuseum)



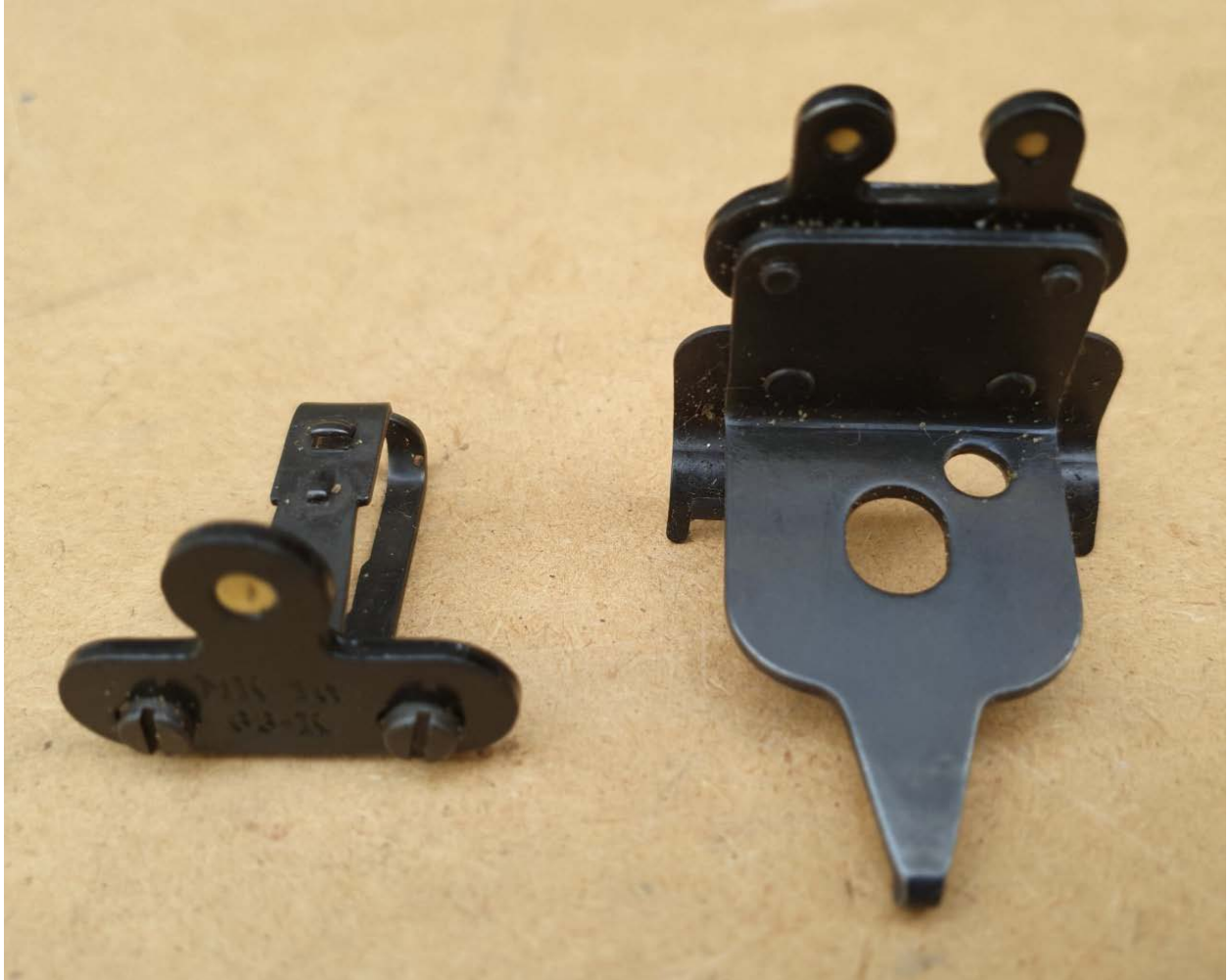
Picture of action cover on gun keeping it warm and snow free. (Picture by Author)



Picture of action cover mounted on bipod spikes to act as snow shoe. (Photo by Author)

Night Sights

Clip on night sights were made for the Swedish BARs. The front sight clips into the front sight hood and the rear sight clips onto the base of the rear sight. The sights have luminous painted dots to aid in aiming in low light conditions. The sight being over 60 years old no longer illuminate.



Picture of luminous clip on sights for Swedish BARs. (Photo by Armémuseum)



Picture of luminous clip on sights for Swedish BARs with pouch. (Photo by Armémuseum)

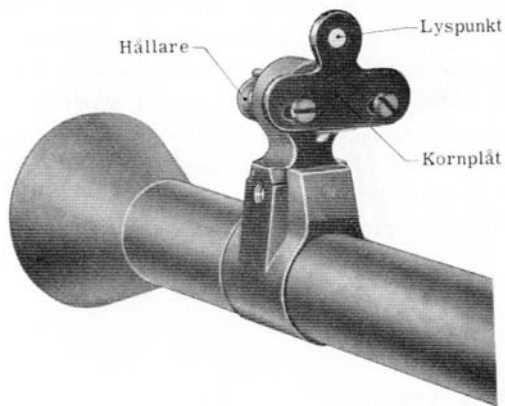


Bild 31. Korn (mörkerriktmedel)

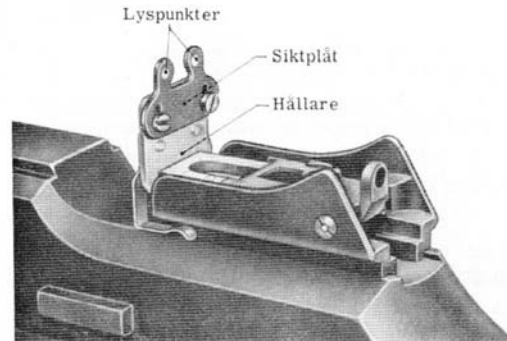


Bild 30. Sikte (mörkerriktmedel)

Pictures of the night sights clipped onto the Swedish BAR. (Scan from Swedish Kg m/37 manual)

Muzzle Devices

There are two muzzle devices for the Swedish BAR family. The barrels on the BARs are threaded and normally have a thread protector. The thread protector is removed using the combination tool and either a conical flash hider is mounted or a blank firing adapter (BFA). The Swedes used a wooden bullet in their blanks and the BFA ensures that none of the wooden bullet makes it down range, as well as a bullet from a live round. The gas plug is also switched out for one with larger gas ports to use with blanks. The gas plug with larger gas ports is stamped with "L" on the front where as the normal gas plug is stamped with "S". The "L" adapters are sometimes made from "S" one by drilling out the ports and restamping the gas plug information.



Picture of conical flash hider for Swedish BARs. (Photo by Author)



Pictures of BFA and restamped "L" gas plug for firing blanks from a Swedish BAR. (Photo by Author)

Anti-Aircraft Sights and Training Sights

Anti-aircraft (AA) sights were designed for the Swedish BARs. Presumably these were to be used in conjunction with a standing tripod. I have sound pictures of both the AA sight and tripods on the Armémuseum web site I have not be able to uncover any evidence that they were ever issued for use.

The Armémuseum site also has pictures of the training sights for BARs. The sight clipped onto the rear sight and is a semi-silvered mirror that allows the instructor to look down the sights at the same time as the recruit to determine that the proper sight alignment is being used.

(Author's note: I am looking for the tripod, AA sights and training sights if any reader knows of a source for them please contact me through the website.)



Picture of AA sight for Swedish BARs. (Photo by Armémuseum)

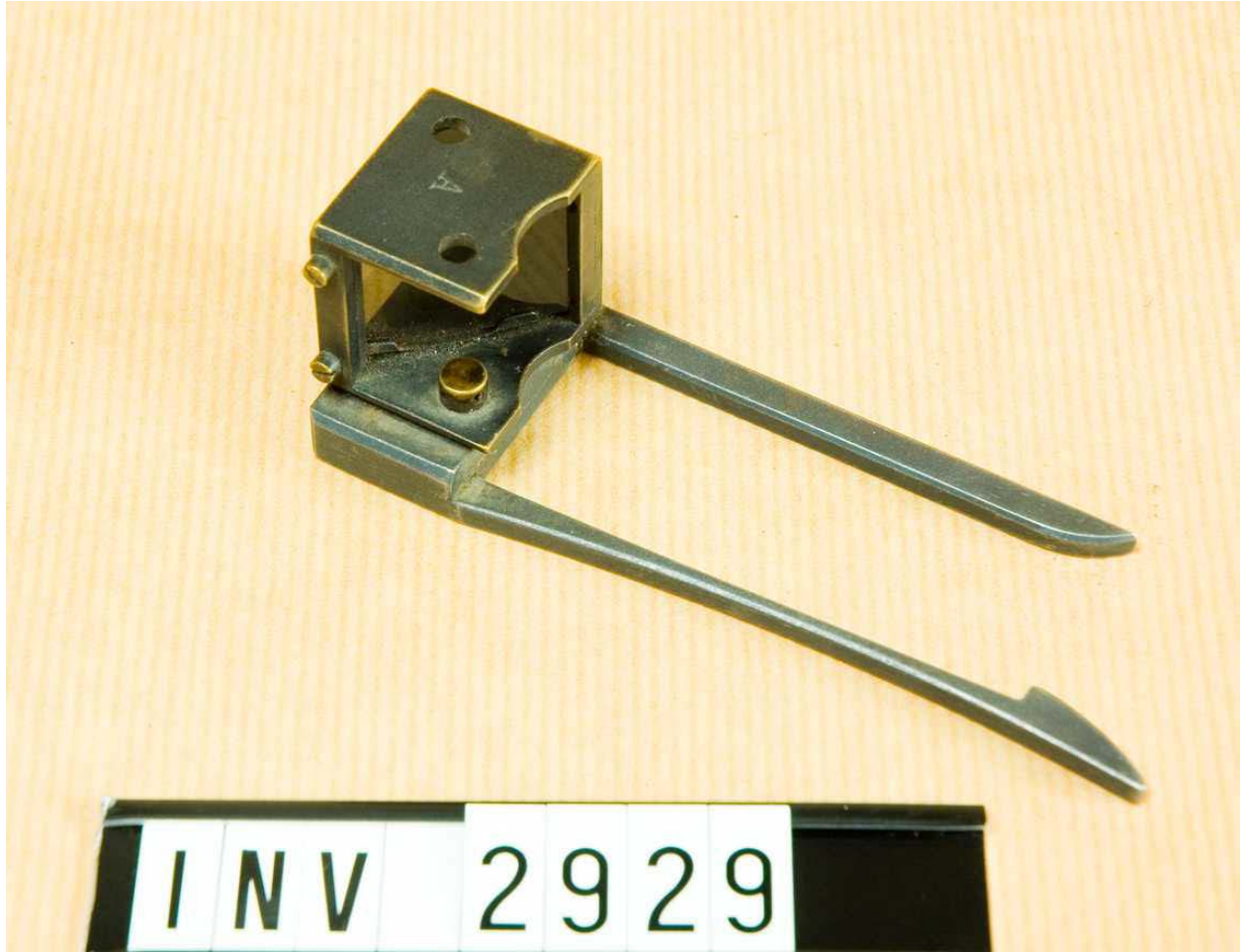


Photo of training sight for Swedish BARs. (Photo by Armémuseum)

Monopod

The butt stock of the Kg m/37 has a socket for a monopod. Pictures exist of the monopod on the Armémuseum site but I have not found any records showing general issue.

(Author's note: I am looking for the monopod, if any reader knows of a source for them please contact me through the website.)



Picture of Kg m.37 monopod. (Photo by Armémuseum)

Spare Barrel Bag

The quick change barrel of the Kg m/37 allows more sustained fire from the machine gun. This assumes that there is a spare barrel to change to when the mounted one gets hot. Naturally a bag to carry the spare barrel was made.



Picture spare barrel in spare barrel bag for Swedish Kg m/37. (Photo by Author)

Armor's Tools, Training Posters, and Packing Crates

There are specialized tools for armors to work on just about any gun that has been made and the Swedish BARs are no exception. Receiver wrench, armor's spare parts roll and barrel bench clamp exist for the Swedish BARs.



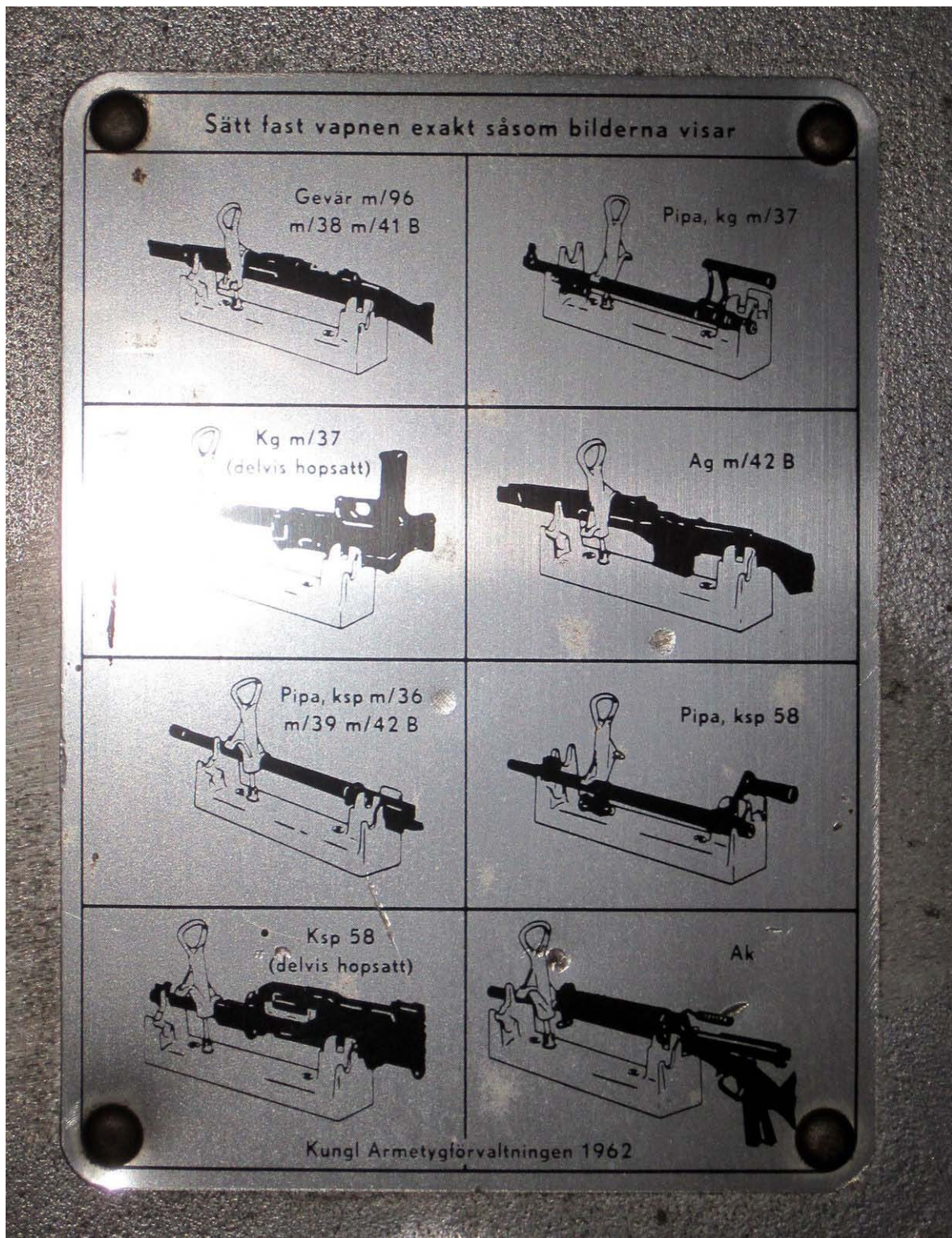
Picture of BAR receiver wrench. (Photo by Armémuseum)



Picture of BAR armor's spare parts roll. (Photo by Armémuseum)



Picture of bench barrel clamp. (Photo by Armémuseum)

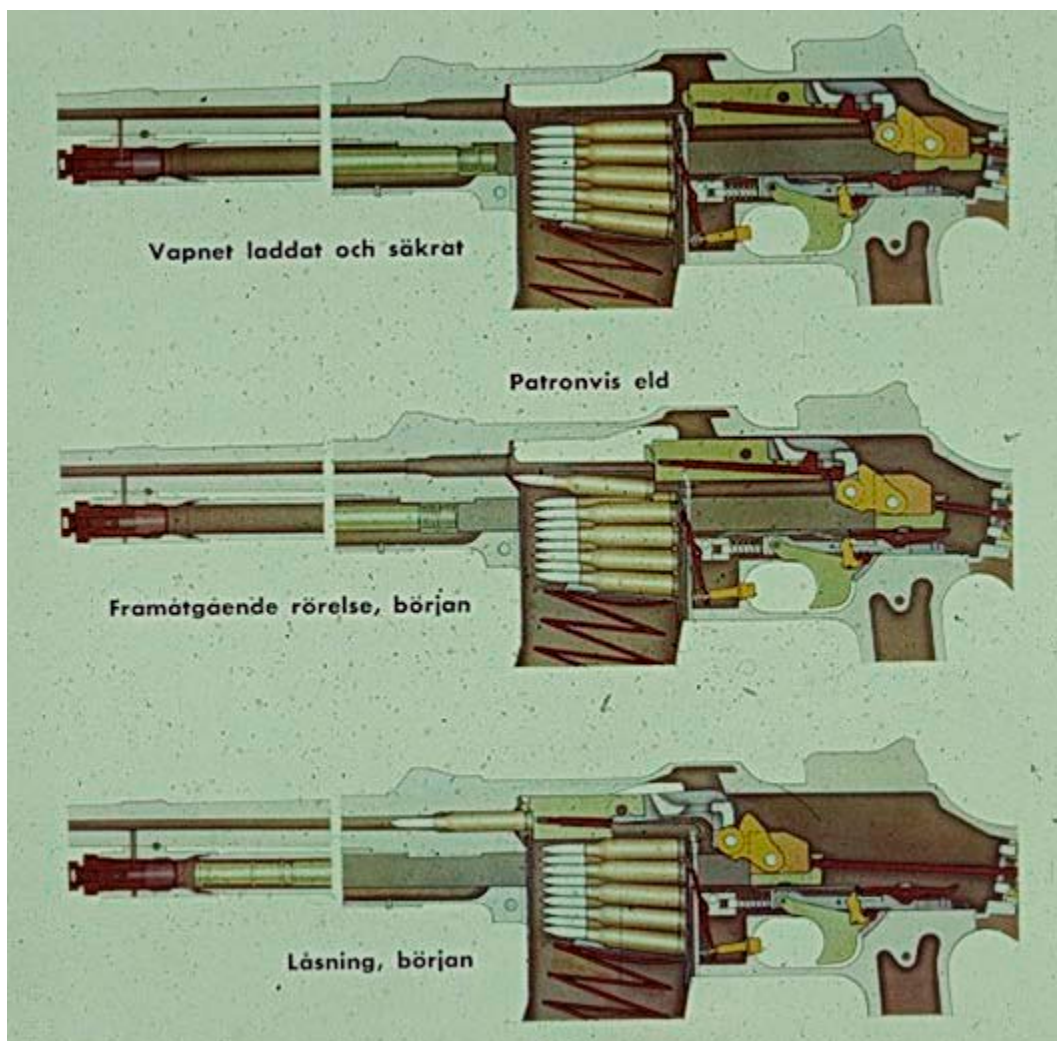


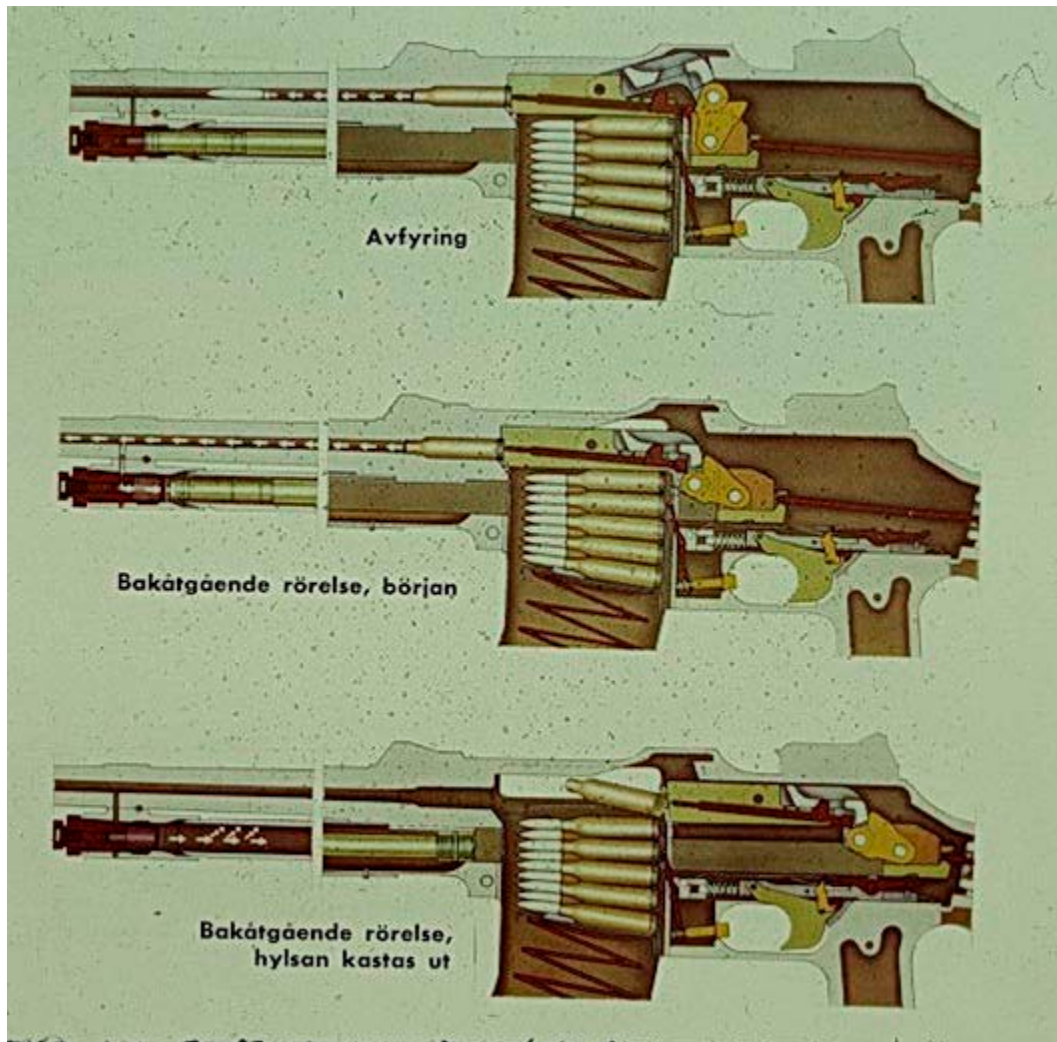
Picture of instruction plate on bench barrel clamp for various guns an armor would be working on.
(Photo by Armémuseum)

Slides and posters teaching the recruits about the BARs were printed in color describing the method of operation for the BAR.



Picture of poster training aid for Kg m/37. (Photo by Armémuseum)





Pictures of training slides of the action of a Swedish BAR. (Photo by Armémuseum)

Shipping the guns from the factory to the armories was done in specifically designed crates. Each crate held four Kg m/37 in a broken down state.



Picture of Kg m/37 shipping crate. (Photo by Armémuseum)

(Author's note: I am looking for the posters, armors tools and spare parts rolls as well as shipping crates for the Kg m/37, if any reader knows of a source for them please contact me through the website.)

Swedish BAR Transportation

The BAR, even in its Swedish version, is not the lightest gun to carry around. The Swedes addressed this with methods to help the soldier. The Swedish troops in winter would travel via skis. They designed a snow sled that carried the BARs and acted as a mount. The author managed to track down a sled mount in Sweden and imported it to the Texas. The odds of it ever seeing any quantity of show here is remote.



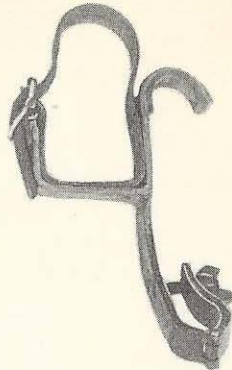
Finish Winter War reenactors towing a Swedish BAR while on skis. (Photo by Finish Reenactors)





Pictures of the sled mount for the Swedish BAR. The gun mounts to the sled via the bipod attachment point and the bipod is removed. (Photos by Author)

Travel on road and trails when snow was not in season were typically accomplished via bicycle. They made mounts to fit the Swedish military bicycles to carry the BAR. This is where the author drew the line at collecting accessories for his Swedish BAR. I found a bike to buy but I passed since I did not think I would ever find the mounts for the BAR and storing it would have taken too much space.

 KAFT Jan 1952	Cykelbeslag, främre och bakre, för kg	Mtrlgrp To				
		Mtrlnr				
 Bakre beslag Det nr TD2-15645 C  Främre beslag Det nr TD2-15644 C 						
Sort	Material	Längd mm	Bredd mm	Höjd mm	Diam mm	Vikt kg
par	SIS 14 20 90					1,1

Blad¹/1

Picture of Swedish BAR mounts for bicycle from parts catalog. (Scan from parts catalog)



Picture of bike with BAR. (Scan of Swedish troop manual)