



Vickers Machine Gun

The Vickers machine gun was based on the very successful Maxim gun of the late 19th century. It is a water-cooled .303-inch gun, first produced in 1912 by Vickers Limited in the UK. It required a six to eight man team to operate: one to fire, one to feed the ammunition, and the rest to help carry the weapon, its ammunition and spare parts. It was renowned for its reliability.

It was in service with the British Army, and the armies of many other countries from 1912 - 1968. The effectiveness of the machine gun in World War One changed the way wars were fought from that time on.

The Vickers became the standard weapon on all British and French aircraft after 1916, including the famous Sopwith Camel and the SPAD XIII. It was fitted with a synchronizer gear to enable it to fire through the propeller. Slots were cut into the water jacket that allowed the air to cool it.