

The **Vespa 150 TAP** is an Italian Vespa scooter modified to transport a M 20 75 mm recoilless rifle, which was used in the 1950's by the **French Airborne Forces (Troupes aéroportées, or TAP)**.

It was produced by **Ateliers de Construction de Motocycles et Automobiles (ACMA), a licensed assembler of Vespa's in France, in 1956 and 1959.**

Its mounted M20 recoilless rifle, a U.S.-made light anti-armour cannon, was very light in comparison to a standard 75 mm cannon but was still able to penetrate 100 mm of armour by HEAT warhead. The recoil is counteracted by venting propellant gases out the rear of the weapon which eliminated the need for a mechanical recoil system or heavy mounts, enabling the weapon to be fired from the Vespa frame.

The scooters would be parachute-dropped in pairs, accompanied by a two-man team.

The gun was carried on one scooter, while the ammunition was loaded on the other.

Due to the lack of any kind of aiming devices the recoilless rifle was never designed to be fired from the scooter, the gun was mounted on a tripod which was also carried by the scooter, before being fired.

The "Bazooka Vespa" was relatively cheap: Vespa's cost roughly 500 US \$ at that time and the M20's were plentiful.

Roughly 800 of these scooters were deployed in the **Algerian and Indochine War.**

— Vespa\_7.jpg —

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— Vespa\_8.jpg



— Vespa\_9.jpg





— Vespa\_4.jpg



— Vespa\_5.jpg



— Vespa\_10.jpg



— Vespa\_11.jpg





— Vespa\_img\_2351.jpg —



— vespa-tap.jpg —





— vespa-tap1.jpg —





— Pièces jointes : —

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Vespa_7.jpg        | 36,3 Ko |
| Vespa_8.jpg        | 273 Ko  |
| Vespa_9.jpg        | 251 Ko  |
| Vespa_4.jpg        | 64,8 Ko |
| Vespa_5.jpg        | 100 Ko  |
| Vespa_10.jpg       | 310 Ko  |
| Vespa_11.jpg       | 136 Ko  |
| Vespa_img_2351.jpg | 164 Ko  |
| vespa-tap.jpg      | 122 Ko  |
| vespa-tap1.jpg     | 60,6 Ko |