

The Humpback Model 1914 Mauser Pistol

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Introduction

This paper will lay out the observed characteristics of the Mauser Model 1914 "Humpback" pistol and will attempt to describe the changes to this pistol that occurred over it's brief existence. This is a somewhat rare bird which is so named because of it's rather distinctive "Humpback" profile which distinguishes it from later models of the 1914 pistol.



The Humpback variation is illustrated on the top of the photo. The cut that creates this distinct profile lowers the plane of the slide by approximately 0.08".



The difference is rather subtle and most collectors might be forgiven if they pass an example by at a Gun Show (Dittus 2022).

Approximately 3000 1914 Mauser pistols were made with this characteristic between about 1913 and 1915. They are among the rarer Mausers. Pender identified serial number 130 as the "lowest numbered humpback known" in 1978 (p. 98). Since then five humpbacks with serial numbers under 100 have been identified (see Database referenced in the Appendix) with the lowest number being 15. LaCroix reported the lowest recorded as SN 67 (SN 53 "rumored") and the highest as SN 2790. The highest serial we have recorded is 2825 while the lowest, non-humpback Model 1914, serial found is 2846. There is no overlap that we have seen suggesting, perhaps, a hard stop on production of the Humpbacks within the 35 serial number range we have encountered.

n.b. The references to these pistols will largely be from either the work of LaCroix (reported in Dittus 2021) or Pender (1971). These two references are essential and but will not be cited at every juncture where I have relied on them. Appendix VI contains a detailed reference list with relevant page numbers for those who wish to continue exploration of this fascinating topic. Note also that I have access to eight Humpbacks that I have examined minutely. These have been measured and their characteristics will appear as appropriate.

Data

Reference will be made to various characteristics and their associated serial numbers in this paper. Very often these observations will be drawn from the data that I have collected for this purpose. The data is, to put it kindly, sparse. To be more specific, the data base contains information on 101 examples out of less than 3000 manufactured. It cannot be considered to be a representative sample but it is all we got. The point being that the data cannot generally support hard and fast cut offs for changes (or even if such changes actually occurred) , rather we will look for trends and patterns. It is the nature of the data. For a full discussion of the data collected and used for this paper please refer to Appendices III and IV.

Background

The Mauser Model 1914 is a semi-automatic pocket pistol that is chambered for the 7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP) round. It was crafted by Mauser in Germany as an evolution of their earlier designs. This model continued Mauser's foray into the world

of compact, blowback operated handguns, following the notable success of their Model 1910 in .25 caliber. The Model 1914 had its share of commercial success and was utilized by both military and police forces, especially during World War I. Production ran from 1913-1914 to around 1941, with total output for this family of pistols (including the related .25 ACP Model 1910) estimated to be as high as one million units. What follows is a brief history. For greater detail please refer to the above references as well as Buffalo and Mason (2020) and Weaver et al. (2008).

Development

Mauser's foray into pocket pistols began in the late 19th century, following the success of the C96 Broomhandle pistol. Having established itself in rifle manufacturing and complex handgun designs, the company sought to pivot toward simpler, more compact semi-automatic pistols. In 1904, Mauser brought Austrian engineer Josef Nickl on board to lead these efforts. Nickl envisioned a series of semi-automatic pistols that could accommodate cartridges ranging from the small .25 ACP to service calibers like the 9mm Parabellum and .45 ACP, with a shared focus on ergonomic consistency and efficient tooling. Mauser's initial attempt in 1905 involved a blowback-operated 9mm prototype; however, the powerful cartridge proved unsuitable for an unlocked breech design. The resulting bulky and unmanageable slide demonstrated the limitations of this approach. By 1909, Mauser shifted focus to the smaller and less powerful 6.35mm Browning (.25 ACP) cartridge. This adjustment led to prototypes that ultimately became the Model 1910, a streamlined design featuring a fixed barrel secured by a long pin doubling as the recoil spring guide. The striker-fired mechanism and a pivoting lever sear—concepts patented in late 1907—formed the design foundation of this successful pistol.

The Model 1910 not only functioned reliably but also offered a comfortable grip, sparking Mauser's ambition to scale the design for larger calibers. The result was a new version chambered in 7.65mm Browning (.32 ACP). Partnering with Fidel Feederle, the designer of the C96, Nickl made further adjustments, including bulged slide serrations and a push button retainer to aid with barrel disassembly. This modified handgun, informally called the Model 1914 (though Mauser itself paid little attention to assigning specific names), began production in 1914. It retained much of the 1910's frame design but introduced refinements such as a slide stop to accommodate the more robust cartridge.

Production History

Mauser commenced production of the Model 1914 at its Oberndorf factory in 1913, coinciding with the outbreak of World War I. Early versions featured a distinctive "humpback" slide design that quickly garnered attention. However, this slide profile was prone to cracking, prompting revisions after approximately 2,850 units were manufactured. To address these reliability issues, Mauser transitioned to a redesigned slide with a flatter profile, ensuring improved durability and performance. The first official sale of a Humpback was on the 20th of February 1914 to the DWM ammunition plant in Karlsruhe, most likely for ammo tests (Baudino, p. 572).

Humpback Production

Approximately 3000 Humpback Mausers were produced out of an estimated total production of the 1914 model of 629,000. The highest serial number for this variation noted to date is 2825. The lowest serial number for the next, non-humpback variation is 2846.

Characteristics

LaCroix provides us with the earliest and most detailed list of characteristics of the 1914 Mauser available. LaCroix used a number of these as indicators of production changes that resulted in distinct "Types" and "Variations" among 1914 pistols. As it turns out there were more of these changes than are apparent upon a cursory examination. Further mentions of "LaCroix" will refer to the contents of Table 1, below.

Humpback Pistol Incidence

Source: LaCroix cited in Dittus 2020

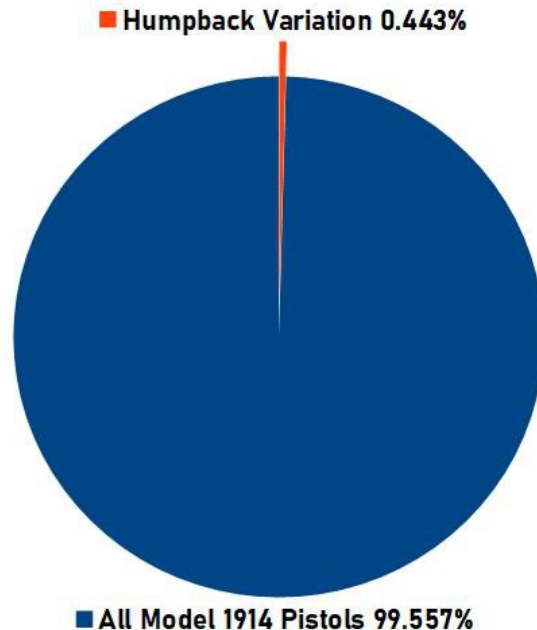


Table 1 LaCroix Humpback Characteristics

Description	Serial Range	Implied Number of Examples	Percent of Total	Dates
All 1914 Type 7.65mm Pocket Pistols	1 - 629000	629000		1912 - 1941
A. HUMPBAC MODEL 7.65mm PISTOLS WITH HUMPBAC (RELIEVED) SLIDE CONFIGURATION	1 - 2800	2800	100.0%	1912
1st Variation: As above with slide SN on top (front of rear sight), with short extractor, with 3 line address and with left hand frame rail	1 - 300	300	10.7%	1912
Type 1: As above, with 3.400" long barrel, .085" sight set back and Nickel Magazine	1 - 200	200	7.1%	1912
Type 2: As above, with 4.210" long barrel, .400" sight set back and Nickel Magazine	200 - 300	100	3.6%	1912
2nd Variation: As above, with slide SN on left side front, and blue magazine	300 - 2000	1700	60.7%	1912
Type 1: As above, with 4.210" long barrel and .400" sight set back	300 - 340	40	1.4%	1912
Type 2: As above, with 3.400" long barrel and .313" sight set back	340 - 1610	1270	45.4%	1912
Type 3: As above, with 3.400" long barrel and .085" sight set back	1610 - 2000	390	13.9%	1912
3rd Variation: As above, with long extractor and without left hand frame rail	2000 - 2800	800	28.6%	1912
Type 1: As above, with 3 line address	2000 - 2600	600	21.4%	1912
Type 2: As above, with early 2 line address	2600 - 2800	200	7.1%	1912

The interpretation of some of these characteristics is rather dangerous inasmuch as their presence might have occurred well after production of the pistol that is associated with it due to interchange of parts over the succeeding century. Further, as Mauro Baudino of the Mauser Archive has stated:

"Mauser made mistakes! We have evidence in the Mauser Archive of letters of complaint from people that received rifles/pistols mismatched."¹

So assigning a characteristic to a pistol's serial number range depends on the consistency of the serials within the gun in question and knowledge of this depends, often, on an examination of the sample. Photos and hearsay can be decidedly misleading.

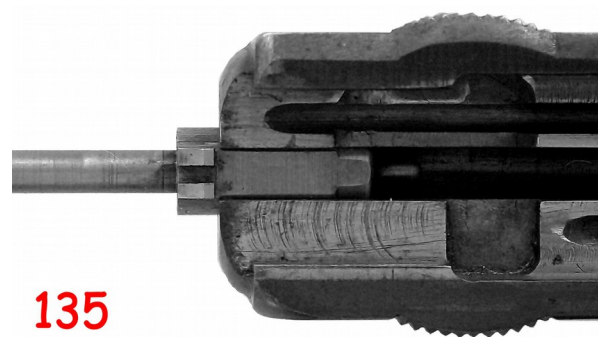
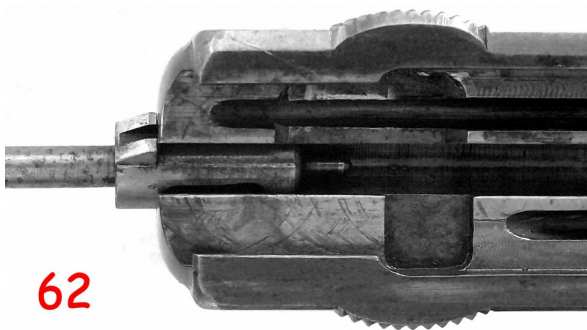
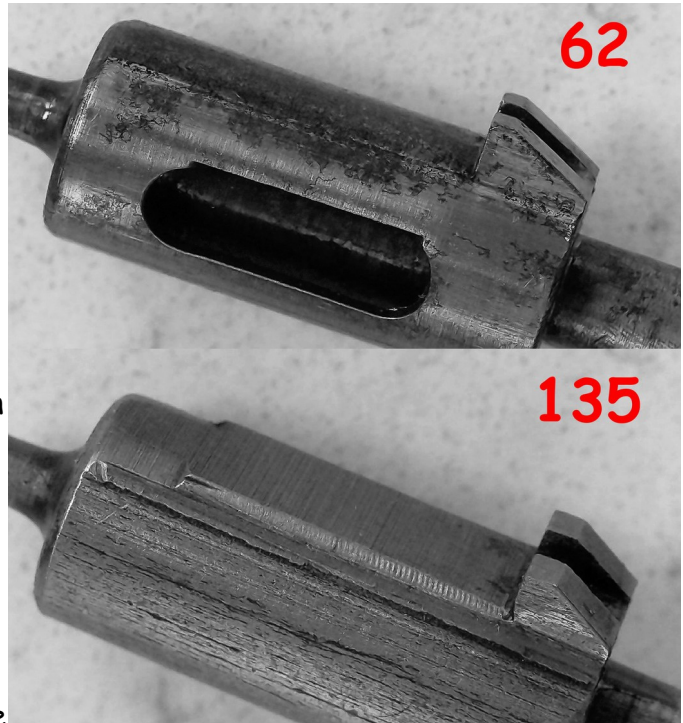
Another issue that mitigates against generalization is the fact that early production "anything" is often experimental. In spite of the best testing prior to delivery, having a product in the hands of many users, some sophisticated, some not so much, will turn up flaws and weaknesses that are subsequently addressed by the manufacturer. Even today, one need simply recall the initial release of virtually any software to see how rapidly updates and fixes are forthcoming for supposedly

"finished" products.

For example, the photograph shows the profile of the firing pins from two Humpbacks. They are both early production. Note that the later pin has a raised flat forward in the machined "catch". "Why?" one might wonder. If we examine the engagement of both the purpose becomes clearer.

Here we see the Firing Pin of serial 62 in its channel in the slide. Any slight deviation of alignment results in a blockage.

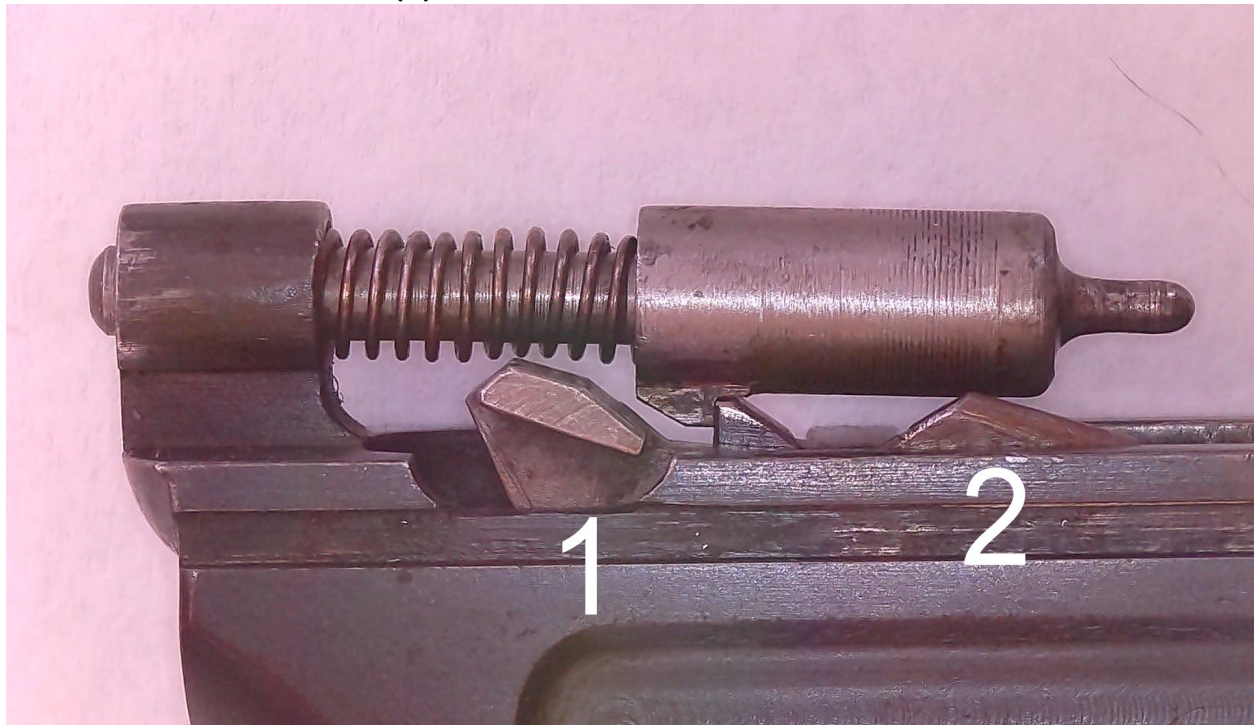
With the later design there is more "play" so that the alignment is easier to obtain. This makes assembly, both in the factory and on site, a bit more efficient. Efficiency = Profit.



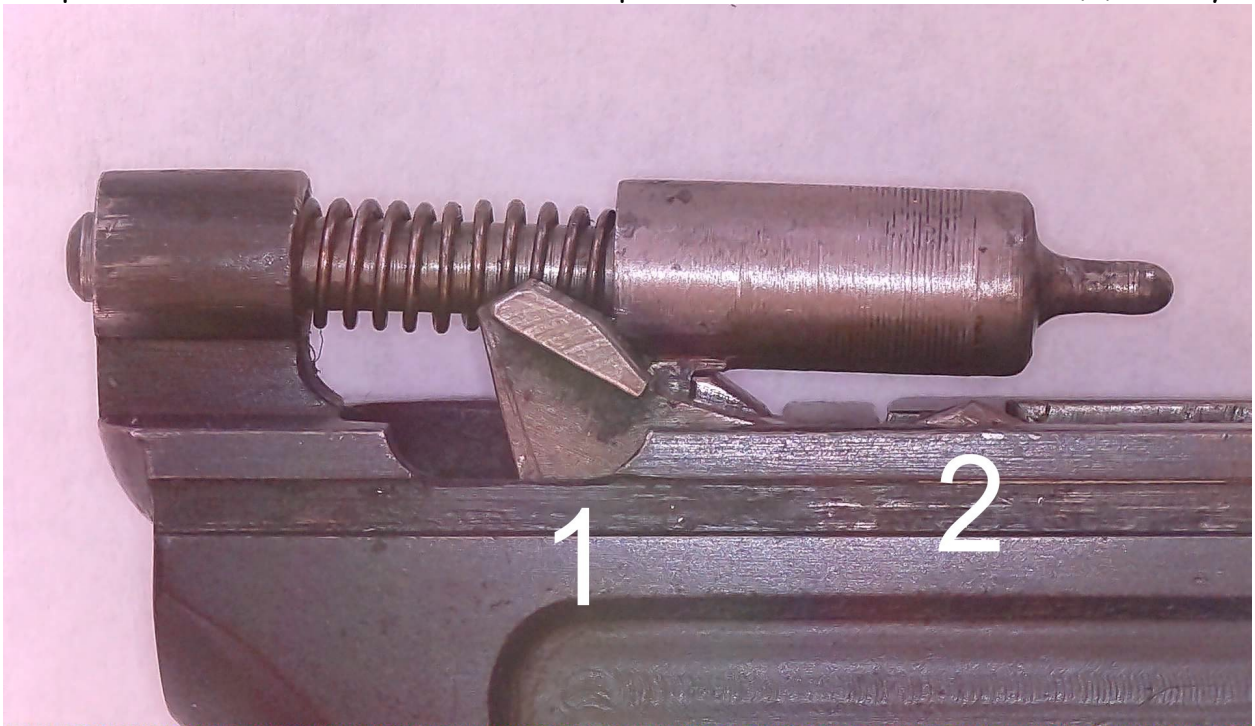
Is this the reason for the change? Who knows, but it is a reasonable interpretation.

Another early production "fluke" (for want of a better term) was found, again with serial 62, concerning the slide hold open and its role in stripping the weapon.

Without going into more detail than is necessary, in order to remove the slide from this pistol the internal hold open (1), which is spring loaded, needs to go up in order to retract the forward catch (2).



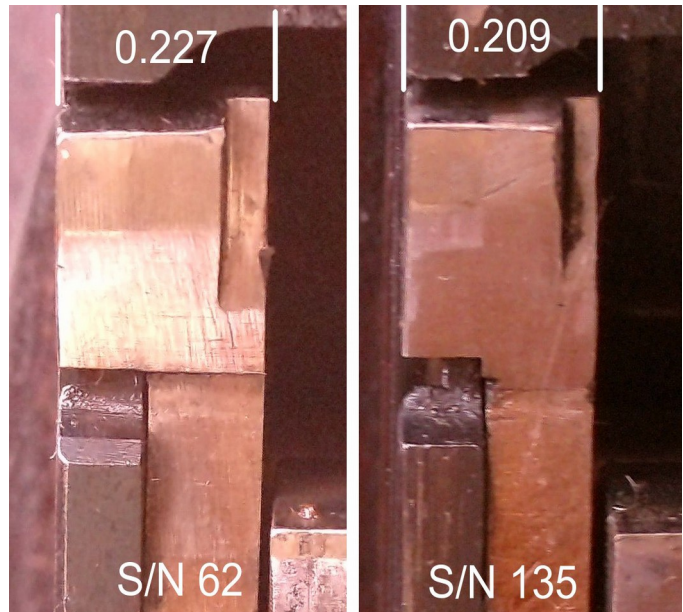
This photo below shows it in its "release" position. Note that the catch (2) is fully



withdrawn. For this operation to occur, the catch must needs clear the firing pin. As it happens, the catch on serial 62 is of a dimension that precludes such clearance.

This means, in practical terms, that one has to release the firing pin in order to remove the slide. The catch is correctly numbered to the gun so it is not some aftermarket fluke.

Why? Manufacturing flaw? Alternate design? Hard to say. The component is finely finished and matched all the other components. Are we seeing (as with the firing pin) a work in progress? Unknowable. Perhaps with more early examples some light can be shed on the give and take of early production of a new product at the Mauser factory.



A difficulty with putting these characteristics (and others) into a framework is the paucity of examples available for examination. The limitations of the data and the challenges that they impose will be discussed presently.

In terms of generalizing about characteristics of these early production pistols, one must be cautious about drawing hard and fast rules. That "such and such does not occur above serial number 3xxx" is the statement of a bold man. As collectors we must keep in mind that the prime directive of Mauser (or any other manufacturer) is to make money, not to create a neat canvas for collectors 100+ years in the future. In fact, one could fairly easily imagine Klaus and Heinrich discussing some arcane change in production over a brew or two and chuckling over "what will they make of **THAT** in 100 years?".



LaCroix defines a number of "Variations" and "Types" that were produced over the time of production. These have been used by collectors to group and evaluate the authenticity and rarity of extant examples. While these differences are somewhat self explanatory, it might be useful to illustrate them.

Barrel Length and Sight Setback

These measures, at first glance, appear to be the most objective and obvious ways one might employ to take a cut at grouping any weapons. In the present case, LaCroix identifies two barrel lengths and three sight setbacks that pertain depending on serial number.

I have seen the shorter barrel pistols referred to, somewhat reflexively, as having a "3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch" barrel which appears to be a rounding of convenience since it appears that they are generally somewhat shorter. LaCroix, in his wisdom, had chosen to identify 3.4 inches as the standard.

In any event, I closely examined the Humpbacks that were at hand and examined overall barrel length and sight setback.

Barrel Length

LaCroix Definition		Barrel Length (Inches)		
Variation	Type	Serial Number	Measured	Difference from Mean
1	1	62	3.497	0.015
1	1	135	3.484	0.002
2	2	1186	3.489	0.007
3	1	2419	3.489	0.007
3	2	2625	3.473	-0.009
3	2	2633	3.472	-0.010
3	2	2759	3.470	-0.012
		Mean	3.482	
		Avg Dev from Mean	0.009	

As a point of reference, I conducted measurements on three later production pistols.

	Barrel Length (Inches)	
Later Production	Measured	Difference from Mean
3592	3.469	-0.006
42611	3.487	0.012
316417	3.470	-0.005
Mean	3.475	
Avg Dev from Mean	0.008	

The only thing of note coming out of this exercise is that, even if the Mauser company was making adjustments in the final design of this pistol, their manufacturing tolerances were admirably maintained not only for the Humpbacks but thru out production.

Site Setback

Serial= 62 Barrel= 3.50 Setback= 0.36 Serial= 1186 Barrel= 3.49 Setback= 0.36



Serial= 303 Barrel= 4.31 Setback= 0.47 Serial= 2419 Barrel= 3.49 Setback= 0.03



The various setbacks are shown for the sake of completeness.

Serial Placement: Top or Side of Slide

All examples from serial 22 to 303 have the serial number on the top, in front of the rear sight. All higher numbered examples have the number on the front left of the slide. Two examples had no serials on the slide and one (303) had the serial in both places. One example with no slide serial (serial 130) is the Paul Mauser Presentation gun.

The Frame Rail

A characteristic identified by LaCroix that he reports as being present between serial numbers 1 and 2000 is the "Left Hand Frame Rail". It has been observed as late as serial 2037.

The frame rail is pointed out on serial 303 in the photograph below. For comparison, it is shown to be absent on serial 2759.



Note that in the photos, you can see the appearance of the three and two line addresses. More on addresses shortly.

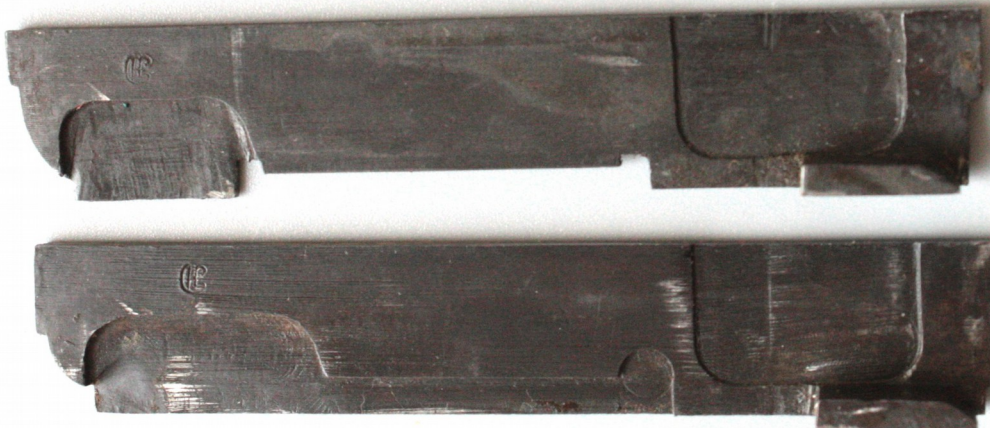
The frame rail is a machined lateral extension of the frame that is grooved so that the side plate articulates into it.

It seems that the side plate and frame rail were redesigned between serials 2037

and 2314 (a bit later than the 2000 serial identified by LaCroix as the end point for this feature). By the latter serial, the frame rail was reduced both in length and by about 0.043" in thickness and the plate was extended to cover it.



EARLY SIDEPLATE



LATE SIDEPLATE

The structural purpose of the frame rail is unclear though there is some machining efficiency that accrues due to the aforementioned simplification to the involved

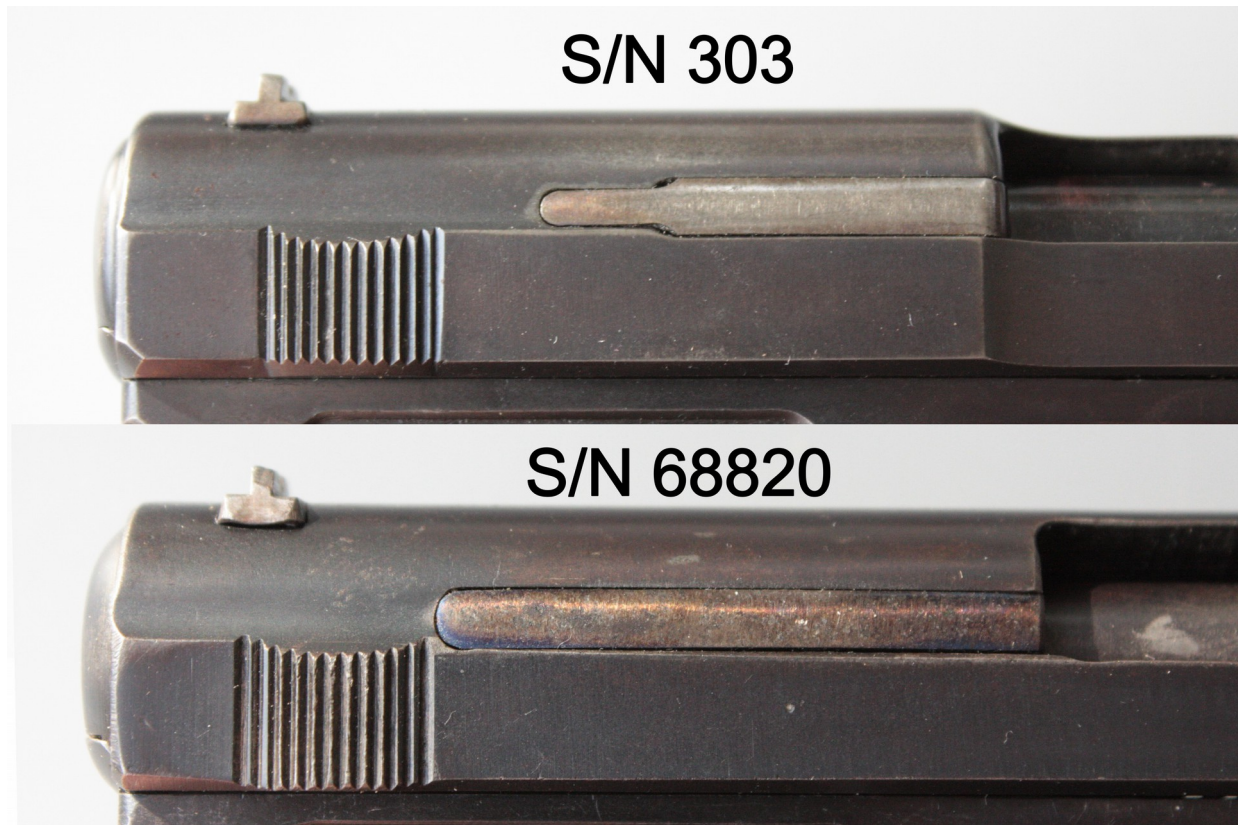
parts.

Address

LaCroix states that the Humpback model shows a three line address from it's inception to serial number 2600. From there on out the address is two lines (see above for photos). It appears that at least one very early example has the address engraved (Serial 22. Mason, 2015). All later examples have this information stamped.

The data available shows the latest serial with the three line address to be 2434 and the first instance of a two line address to be serial 2572. Note that the data shows one out of sequence three line address on serial number 2825. This occurrence is confirmed and can be seen on page 109 of Weaver (2008). This example has a Bavarian Crest and is a bit later than the bulk of guns with that mark. Perhaps it was held out and marked later than the others and this "out of sequence" treatment allowed it to be serialized with a number that was inconsistent with the address marking.

Extractor Length and Shape



LaCroix states that the short, bottle necked extractor was present between serial numbers 1 and 2000 (as with the exposed frame rail). The highest serial observed with the short extractor is 1619, the lowest with the long extractor is 1991. The appearance of long and short extractors is illustrated below.

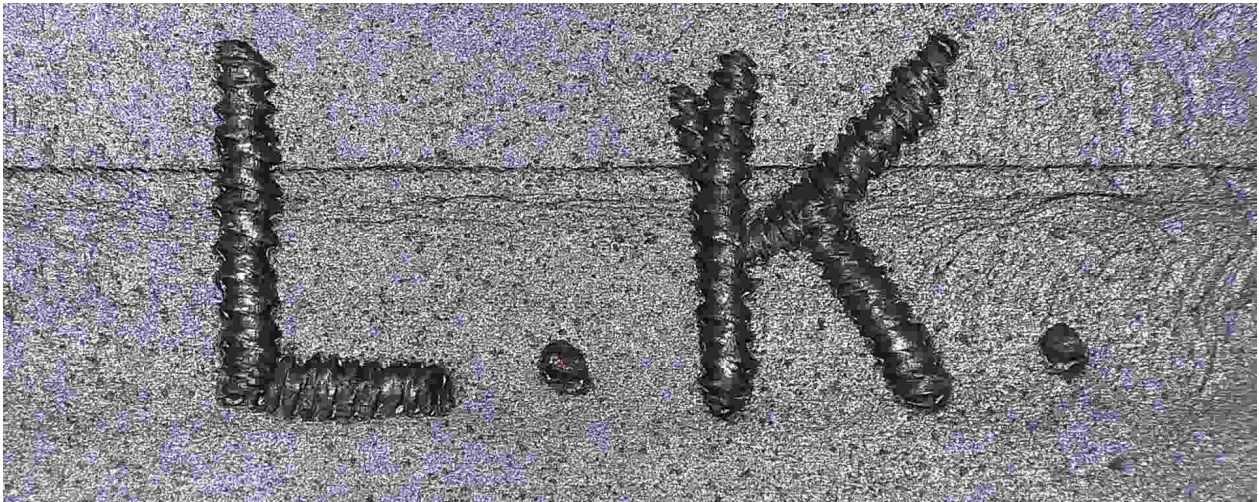
It would seem that a longer extractor would "flex" more and thus have a theoretical longer life. This is conjecture, the reason for the change is unknown.

L.K. Markings

A series of early Humpbacks were marked with a number and the abbreviation "L.K." which stands for Landjägerkorps of Württemberg. These markings are found on the right hand frame in a milled slot above the grip. The milled slot is present until about serial 277000 (according to LaCroix) of the Model 1914 pistols, with or without an engraving. An unmarked panel is shown in the photo for comparison as well as a late example without the milled slot.



As can be seen, the engraving appears to have been applied with an electro pen. The photo shows that tool's distinctive pattern.



Relatively few of these pistols have been reported from various sources. The number of examples currently stands at 22.

#	Serial #	LK #		#	Serial #	LK #
1	206	5		12	317	97
2	208	7		13	323	99
3	211	10		14	335	135
4	216	16		15	338	138
5	286	82		16	371	171
6	291	86		17	375	179
7	300	89		18	385	185
8	303	92		19	394	194
9	309	95		20	401	204
10	312	112		21	404	204
11	316	116		22	406	206

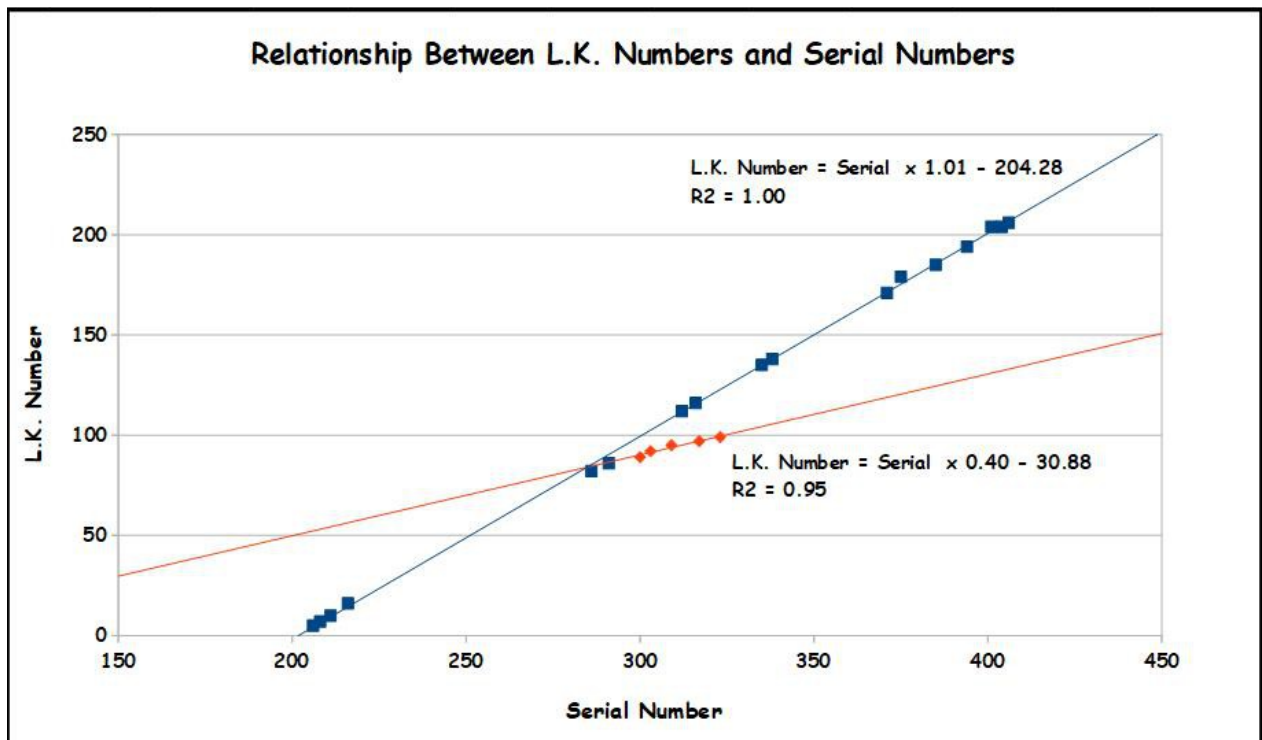
Note: "Outliers" are highlighted in red

Lowest: SN 206, with L.K.5. Marking

Highest: SN 406 with L.K.206. Marking

Note: (Other known L.K. Marked 1914 Types are: SN 68600 L.K.201. And SN 191416 L.K.539. Both with L.K. Markings on the Front Strap)

The relationship between the L.K. Number and the Serial Number is quite close suggesting that these pistols were bought as a lot and numbered in order of their serials. The plot below illustrates this relationship.



While it is somewhat beyond the subject of this paper, it is noteworthy to observe that there are clearly two distinct series of numbering strongly implying different lots and receipt times. This information appeared in an earlier publication (Dittus, 2020). Two distinct shipments also suggests that the design was well established.

Beyond LaCroix!

What follows are discussions of characteristics that LaCroix did not note. They may be of marginal interest inasmuch as they might have been a short lived manufacturing expedient.

Since the things that I will be describing are truly esoteric in the extreme, most descriptions of these pistols, whether on the auction circuit, in books or the literature generally or in discussions on various fora neglect to include a description of them or even their presence or absence. I have attempted to incorporate them in the data base by re-examining photos and reaching out to owners when they could be identified. I include a list of characteristics that I would like to see in a comprehensive data base in Appendix II. I am beginning to think that those of us with an interest in these things need to develop a secret handshake.

As if that isn't enough, the interpretation of some of these characteristics is rather fraught inasmuch as their presence might have occurred well after (or before) production of the pistol that is associated with it. For example, as we discuss the border around the grip checkering, there is no reason why a particular grip is specifically associated with a given serial numbered firearm. In such a case we might look at the pattern of the occurrence of the characteristic under examination. Unless, of course, it is one of those few grips that is numbered to a gun.

Proof Mark

Out of the 100 examples in the database, 52 could have the presence of a proof mark confirmed and identified. In all cases it was a Crown over C.

Bavarian Crest

A small number of Humpbacks have been stamped on the left sideplate with a crest that has been identified as that of Bavaria.



A total of 54 examples were amenable to determining the presence or absence of this marking. Of these eight had the stamping of the crest. They occurred between

serials 2245 and 2825, inclusive. Serial 154 also had the stamping. Why this out of sequence event occurred is unknown. It should be noted that marked and unmarked examples are interspersed, that is to say that the Bavarian Crest did not occur in an exclusive block of pistols.

Number of Lines on the Grip

Earlier examples have a two line border. The data suggests that the transition from a one to two line border occurred around serial number 500.



Why the change? I think that it is rather safe to state that the arc of manufacturing changes is toward simplification and, therefore, reduced costs. As we saw in the previous section, changes to, for example, the side rail, probably were made to simplify production. In the case of the number of lines bordering the design on the grip, we might conjecture that they (like the "Hump") were part of a marketing effort to distinguish this pistol from the 6.35mm Model 1910. And these rather

superfluous additions were summarily eliminated once it became clear that this pistol could stand on it's own and not be confused with it's smaller brother.



The picture shows a post-Humpback production Model 1914 above a Model 1910 Sidelatch.

Serial Number Inside the Grip

It had not been noted in any writings that I have come across that the grip itself might be serialized. As it turns out the dealer (Lugerman, see references) selling serial 2434 shared a photo of the inside of the grip of this gun showing a stamp inside of the final three digits of the serial.

Sadly the presence or absence of this marking had not been captured or noted in any

examined written resource. Having access to seven Humpback pistols, I was able to examine them. Three (Serials 303, 1186 and 2419) had a serial indications inside the grip. Curiously, this marking was in pencil in the grip associated with Serial 303 and that was "edited". The original inscription consisted of the digits "30" with the final digit(s) crossed out. In line with this inscription was a continuation with the digits "03". So four were marked and they are rather evenly disbursed across the serials that represent the life of the Humpback variation. With a smaller sample, one might have surmised that this somewhat challenging marking process was eliminated when it was felt that creation of bespoke grips was somewhat unnecessary (and costly). As it is, it appears that the serialization of grips was a somewhat random occurrence as long as Humpbacks were produced.

SERIAL 303



SERIAL 2434

The ubiquity of this marking is simply unknown. It has been identified on four examples in the data base (303, 819, 1186, 2434). The highest serial showing it is 2434. The lowest serial with it's confirmed absence is 2625.

Witness Line

As can be seen on many Lugers, there is a mark on the barrel and a corresponding one on the upper frame.

The purpose is to allow accurate assembly. A similar expedient is to be found on some Humpbacks in association with the rear sight.

This feature has been observed in nine cases, all below serial 1619. It is confirmed absent in three cases beginning at serial 2625.

Alphabet Commercial



S/N 303



S/N 68820



Barrel Markings

This is fairly fragmentary inasmuch as most (all) people reporting on their Humpbacks fail to describe the characteristics in minute detail. Hence the subject of this section must rely on the few examples that I could closely examine.



The positions that markings might occupy on the bottom of the barrel can be demonstrated using the photo below.

One or two markings might be found forward of the locking pin. A third position is on the flat surface of the pin itself. The findings are in the photos below. Note that all of the barrels examined have serial numbers which match the remainder of the pistol. Clearly, if they did not no generalizations could be made from this exercise.

Serial 135

The only mark on this barrel is a seeming Fractur stamp of "ge".

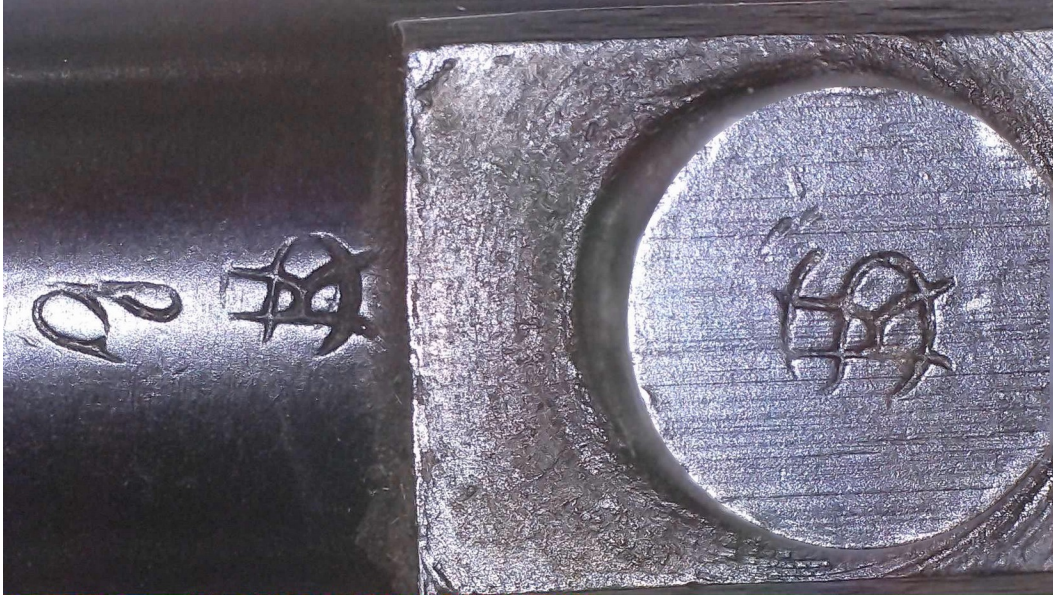
**Serial 1186**

This example shows the same Fractur "ge" mark surmounted by a "DK". Your guess is as good as mine.



2625, 2633 & 2759

These three serials show a lower case script "g" then the "DK". Finally there is a repeat of the "DK" on the upper face of the locking pin.

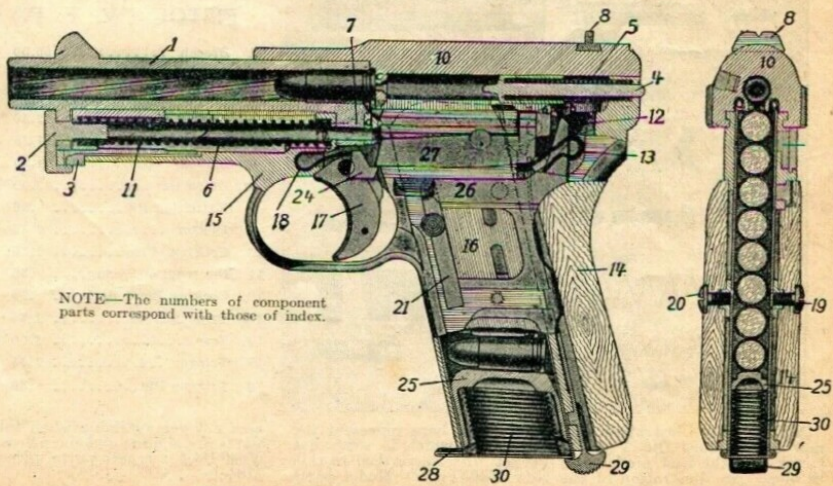


The meaning of these marks is obscure.

Appendix I
Parts List ca. 1934

COMPONENT PARTS LIST OF MAUSER POCKET MODEL

No.	Article	Price
1.	Barrel	\$6.00
2.	Barrel Holder	2.25
3.	Barrel Holder Catch	1.25
4.	Striker (Firing Pin)	2.75
5.	Striker Spring	1.25
6.	Barrel Holder Guide	1.25
7.	Interceptor	1.00
8.	Rear Sight	1.25
9.	Extractor	2.50
10.	Breech	7.50
11.	Recoil Spring	1.25
12.	Ejector	3.00
13.	Double Action Spring	.75
14.	Grip Cover Plate	2.75
15.	Frame	7.50
16.	Magazine	3.50
17.	Trigger Complete	3.00
18.	Trigger Spring	.75
19.	Grip Cover Plate Screw, left	.50
20.	Grip Cover Plate Screw, right	.50
21.	Safety Locking Spring	1.50
22.	Trigger Catch Spring	.65
23.	Trigger Catch Pin	.50
24.	Trigger Catch	1.50
25.	Magazine Platform	.75
26.	Safety	3.00
27.	Sear	3.00
28.	Magazine Bottom Plate	.50
29.	Magazine Holder	2.50
30.	Magazine Spring	1.25
31.	Side Plate	3.00



NOTE—The numbers of component parts correspond with those of index.

ALL SHIPMENTS ARE INSURED

Appendix II

Reporting Desiderata

Presence/absence of:

- **Frame Rail**
- **Witness mark in front of rear sight**
- **Serial on magazine**
- **Serial in grip**
- **Matching barrel serial**
- **Photos**

Description:

- **Location of serial on slide**
- **Proof mark**
- **Shape/length of extractor**
- **Barrel length**
- **Front sight set back**
- **Number of lines on grip**
- **Address**
- **Any agency markings**

The point, of course, is that in the early stages of an exploration you cannot have too much data. And going back to recover what was not collected is ... difficult.

Appendix III

The Database: Construction and Caveats

When I have found a new, interesting, pistol my first impulse has been to look for additional data so as to put my example into a context. So it was with the Humpbacks. While some data concerning these early Mausers has doubtless been collected, as far as I have been able to determine such data bases have not been widely available. And even so, I doubted that the level of detail that I desired for the present investigation was collected.

That said, I began to assemble a data base that would address my needs. This information will be updated at intervals and be made available through the Jan Still site so that other researchers can avail themselves of the information and not be forced to reinvent the wheel, to coin a clever phrase.

The data was collected from various collector sites including Jan Still's Luger Forums as well as a scraping of auction sites. The most recent addition is from a French collector's site² where a gentleman reported finding serial number 1591 hidden away in an old barn, loaded with WW 1 era ammunition!

The data reported in the database must be examined carefully. Some number of cases are mere mentions ("I own serial 12xx"). A case in point, and one that is, sadly, representative of the data problem, are the cases reported by LaCroix (Dittus, 2021). Here, various examples are identified with a characteristic ("Highest Serial Number reported" for example) and adds nothing more, no physical description, no photo. Nothing.

This is the case with many mentions in books (Pender and Still). Worse are mentions that occur on firearms forums where the writer simply makes a mention.

I have reasonably assiduously examined every entry in the data base with an eye to chasing down photos and an exhaustive description of the entry. Clearly the gold standard is the ability to actually handle the weapon, take it down and photograph it myself. I have, somewhat arbitrarily, assigned such an example a "Data Validation" score of 1.

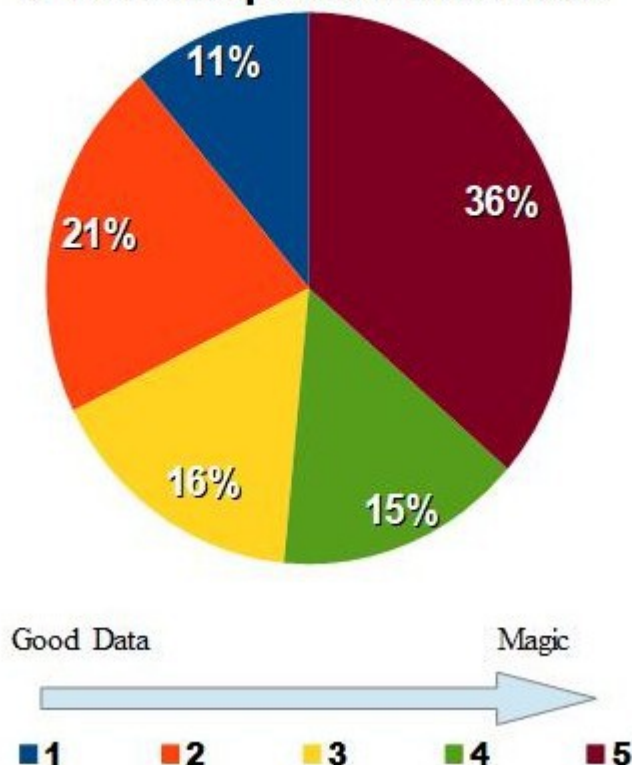
A "2" was assigned to those cases where photos were available. These were most often Auction sales and also were accompanied by reasonable verbal descriptions.

A "3" was assigned to cases where there were no or few photographs and where the description was minimal or non-existent. These examples actually do exist in the real world, in my opinion, because the reporters are (were) extremely reliable and knowledgeable experts in the small arms field.

In those cases where we have a mention in a Forum thread that is unsubstantiated by photos or other reliable mentions I have assigned a "4".

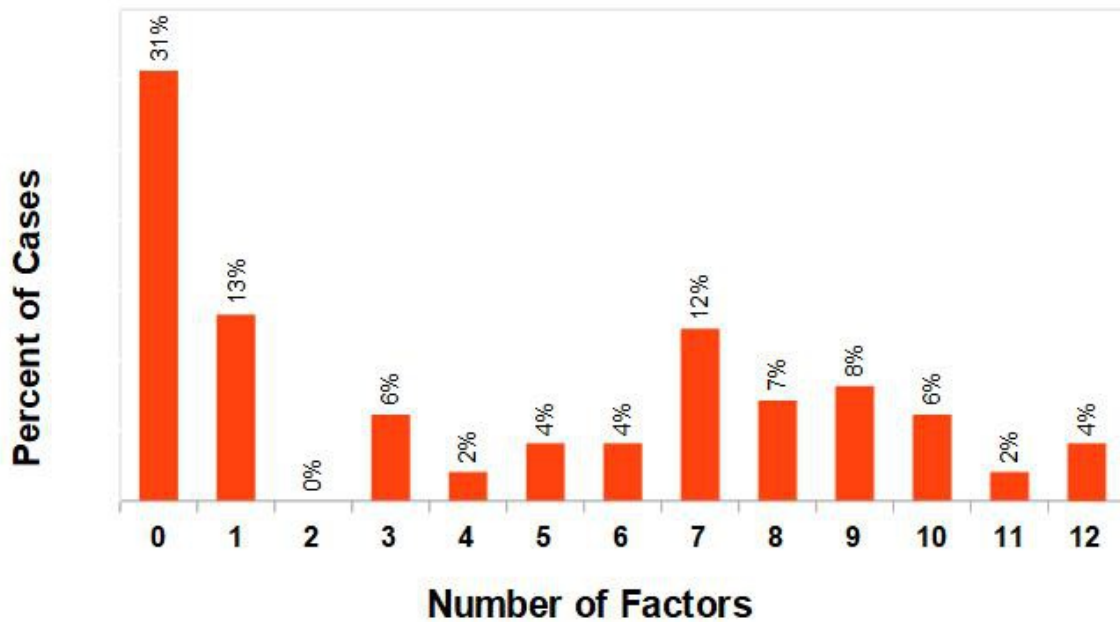
A rank of 5 indicates the potential of a paranormal experience.

Reported Data Quality % Of Examples in Database



I have identified 12 factors for which I would like to obtain data (see Appendix II). I have used verbal/written descriptions of the examples and, when available, photographs to ascertain these characteristics for each weapon. As a point of

reference, I have examined photos of 50 humpbacks and gleaned information from them. There are 99 examples in the data base (with and without photos). So for slightly more than 50% of cases we are reliant on second hand (and often fragmentary) information. As another way of assessing the quality of the data from which we might draw our conclusions, I have plotted the percent of examples in the data base that demonstrate (or fail to demonstrate) the 12 interesting factors identified.



So that (looking from left to right) fully 31% of cases present do have information regarding the characteristics of interest. 13% of cases have information for one characteristic. And so on.

Appendix IV

Notes on the Database: Assumptions and Quality

This will describe some of the assumptions I have made while assembling the data base as well as some oddities that the user should be aware of.

1. The possibility of mismatched parts existing on one gun is very possible. Whether this was done at the factory or opportunistically by an owner is unknowable, Mauro Baudino of the Mauser Archives has stated:

"Yes, Mauser made mistakes! We have evidence in the Mauser Archive of letters of complaint from people that received rifles/pistols that were mismatched. In addition, this is quite common to the small pieces made for Turkish rifles and pistols. Sometimes people got confused and mistakes were done." ¹

2. If a mismatched slide and receiver had been reported, the two pieces would be entered separately in the data base PROVIDED that the frame serial was below the putative cutoff for humpbacks (~3000) and/or the slide was obviously a humpback. In such a case the entries for measures present on the other, independently, numbered piece would be NR (Not Relevant). This occurred in two cases as of the date of this paper (serials 335 & 1312).

3. A report of an example such as this:

"I had a long barrel humpback, it was number 123 if I remember correctly and had an LK number on the side. I currently have a Bavarian Contract Humpback in the 2xxx range."

would result in one entry, that of humpback number 123. No additional information would, obviously, be entered. I would not enter a fragmentary serial in the second case.

4. A heroic assumption that I have made in assembling the data concerns mentions in books such as Pender. On page 100 he describes the "Long Barrel Humpback" and provides a number of descriptive elements. On page 101 he provides pictures of the left and right side of a gun of that description. Back on page 100 he has a small chart

entitled "Serials Observed" which contains four serial numbers. Now what does this mean? The assumption that I have made is that all four of these guns share the exact same characteristics which are either enumerated by Pender or observed by me in the photo(s) that he provides. True? Probably. Assumption on my part? Definitely.

5. Both barrel lengths and front sight set back measurements were limited to examples that I could personally examine or where such measurements were provided by trusted observers. Apart from that, the generic "short" and "long" terms were used as descriptors.

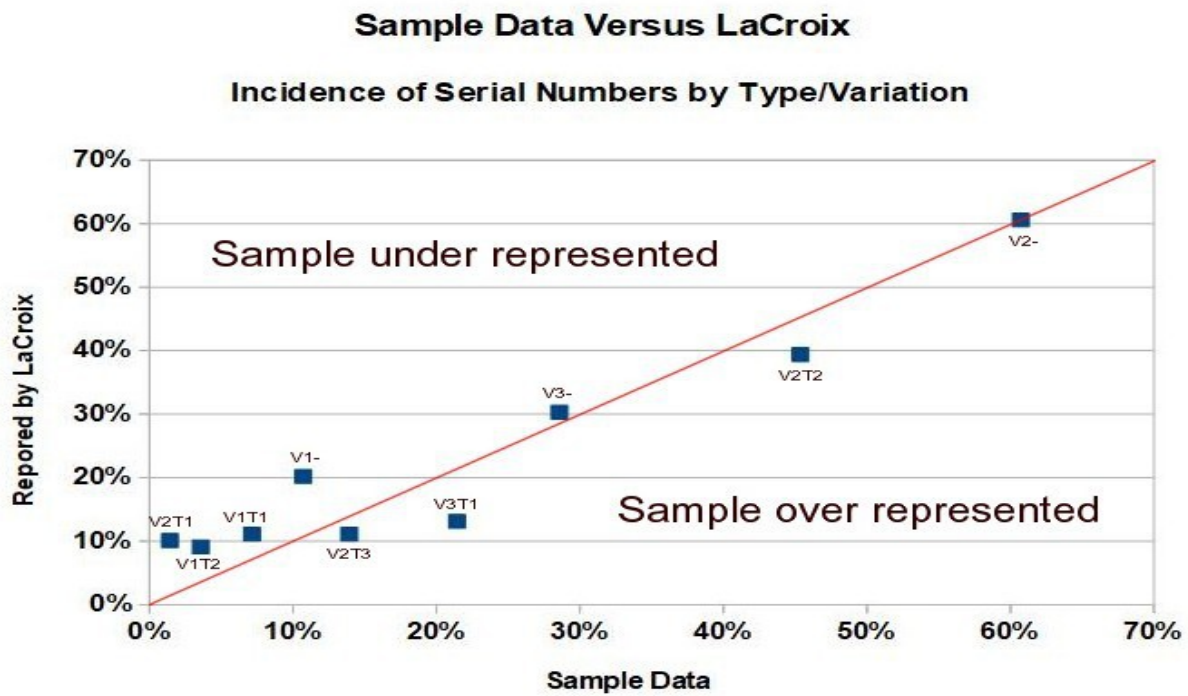
6. If data is available it is entered in the appropriate cell. If "---" is entered it means that the factor is not existent for the gun in question. A blank indicates the value is unknown. For example, in the column labeled "L.K.", the contents of a cell would either be the L.K. number on the gun, a "---" if there is no number or a blank if the presence/absence of the number is unknown.

7. Far be it from me to find fault with the work of John LaCroix. That said, he cited the following characteristics in his original work.

Type 2: As above, with 3.400" long barrel and 5/16" sight set back	340 - 1610	1,270	1912
Type 3: As above, with 3.400" long barrel and .085" sight set back	340 - 2000	1,660	1912

I decided that the overlap of serials (340-1610 and then 340-2000) was a typo and that the second Type should have begun at serial 1610. A minor point but worth mentioning.

8. How representative is the Data Base vis a vis the findings of LaCroix? The data is the data and we will not dismiss it due to perceived quality issues but it is worth considering it's quality when one is using it to make generalizations. To that end I plotted the the percent representation by Variation and Type from LaCroix's table against the counts by serial in our Data Base.



To my eye there is nothing too glaring. Our representation in the database is reasonably close, all things considered.

Appendix V
Observed Serials

#	Serial	#	Serial	#	Serial	#	Serial
1	15	26	317	51	894	76	1803
2	22	27	321	52	946	77	1815
3	53	28	323	53	1085	78	1971
4	62	29	335	54	1174	79	1977
5	67	30	338	55	1175	80	1983
6	130	31	371	56	1186	81	1991
7	135	32	375	57	1217	82	2037
8	144	33	385	58	1227	83	2245
9	154	34	394	59	1239	84	2250
10	162	35	401	60	1271	85	2314
11	190	36	404	61	1312	86	2322
12	206	37	406	62	1332	87	2367
13	208	38	415	63	1381	88	2419
14	211	39	431	64	1442	89	2433
15	215	40	493	65	1453	90	2434
16	216	41	535	66	1588	91	2451
17	283	42	554	67	1591	92	2468
18	286	43	576	68	1593	93	2572
19	291	44	747	69	1608	94	2596
20	300	45	786	70	1609	95	2600
21	303	46	810	71	1619	96	2625
22	308	47	819	72	1710	97	2633
23	309	48	848	73	1712	98	2718
24	312	49	869	74	1783	99	2759
25	316	50	878	75	1793	100	2790
						101	2825

Appendix VI References

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Notes

1. <https://www.lugerforums.com/threads/mauser-1914-humpback-variations.41738/page->

2. <https://www.tircollection.com/t40255-mauser-1914-humpback?highlight=humpback>