

# GUN WORLD

FEBRUARY, 1964

GUN WORLD



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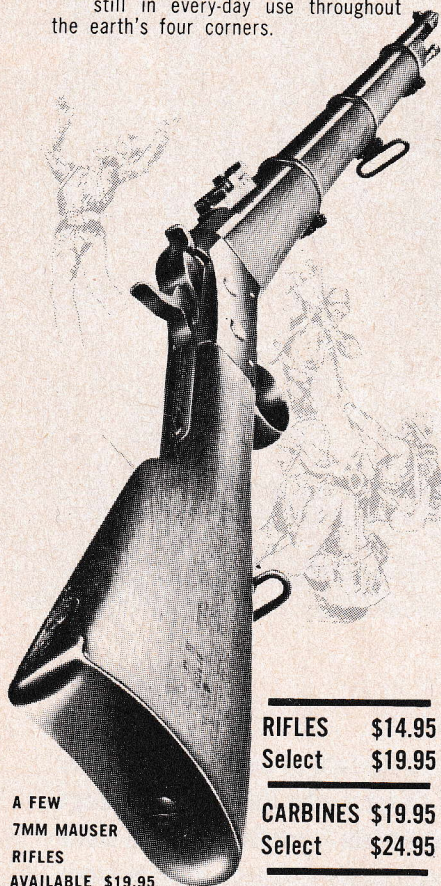
gun test:  
RUSSIAN  
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**ON THE COVER:** The Russian-built Margolin .22 target automatic is shown with its case and some of its "packaged" accessories. This gun, used by several Olympic shooters, is tested in this issue. Photo by Jim Sullivan.



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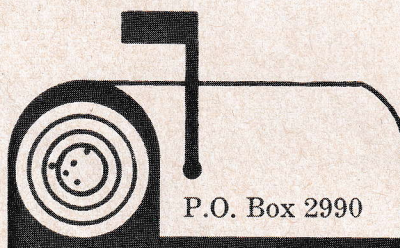
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## SCATTER SHOTS



### GATES GREAT

I am writing in regard to *The White Ixer of Bula Khan* by Elgin Gates in your December 63 issue. I look forward to each issue of GUN WORLD, hoping that a story by Gates is in it. I sure hope you continue to print stories by Gates, a wonderful hunter and sportsman. Just one more thing. Please have Gates' stories closer together. One every month would be better than one story in three months.

Frank R. Baner,  
Berwyn, Illinois

(We concur!)

### LUGER LOOK

Several days ago, a close friend introduced me to GUN WORLD. I am a collector of Luger pistols and a handgun fancier. I have been reloading for only several months. It is unfortunate for me that I was not aware of your existence at that time. I feel certain I could have avoided making the usual beginner mistakes.

I extend my thanks, as a gun fancier, for your efforts to increase the safety, knowledge and good fun of shooting and its allied interests.

Richard L. Smith  
Philadelphia, Penn.

### GUEST SHOT

In the September 63 GUN WORLD, I noticed a feature, *Guest Shot*. I am not sure if this is the first time this has appeared in the magazine, but it is a good idea to show the better known people who are associated with firearms and to print their feelings and views concerning firearms legislation.

Sure, we all know that shooters, gunsmiths, gun lovers and collectors are against any law or legislation/registration which contradicts or side-steps the Constitution of the United States. However, many

persons in the gun field are unaware of the celebrities such as Audie Murphy who are also opposed to restrictive gun laws.

Harry E. Jones,  
Torrance, California

### BLACK POWDER

Just finished the article by Bob Furst, *Two Centuries of Black Powder in Slow Motion*, (GW, October 63). A fine article and one that must have taken a lot of work to set up.

But I was disappointed that Furst didn't follow up on his grandfather's old saw . . . "Always be careful; a gun is dangerous without lock, stock or barrel." Someone should ask, "How can that be?" The answer: "You can beat a man to death with the ramrod!"

Paul H. Adams,  
Guantanamo Bay Rifle &  
Pistol Club,  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

### NEW ZEALAND TIPS

Thank you for publishing my letter in the September 62 GUN WORLD. Many answers were from prospective hunters to N.Z. and required information regarding hunting, the conditions and license problem.

In New Zealand, we have no license at all, and the only permission you have to obtain is to enter any state forest or private land. This would be obtained by your guide in the case of state land and by yourself or guide in the case of the private landowner. This is seldom refused as long as the hunter doesn't shoot hell out of everything in sight.

There is no law as to what caliber can be used. You can use anything from a .22 to a .650, although the .303, .308, .270, .30-30, .30-06, 7mm, 6.5mm and 8mm are the most used. A few of the faster magnum calibers are making their appearance, but the old .303 is always being cleaned after a deer has been shot.

Although we have most ammo calibers available, I would suggest you ship your own when you come to N.Z. This way, you are sure of having the right fodder for your cannon.

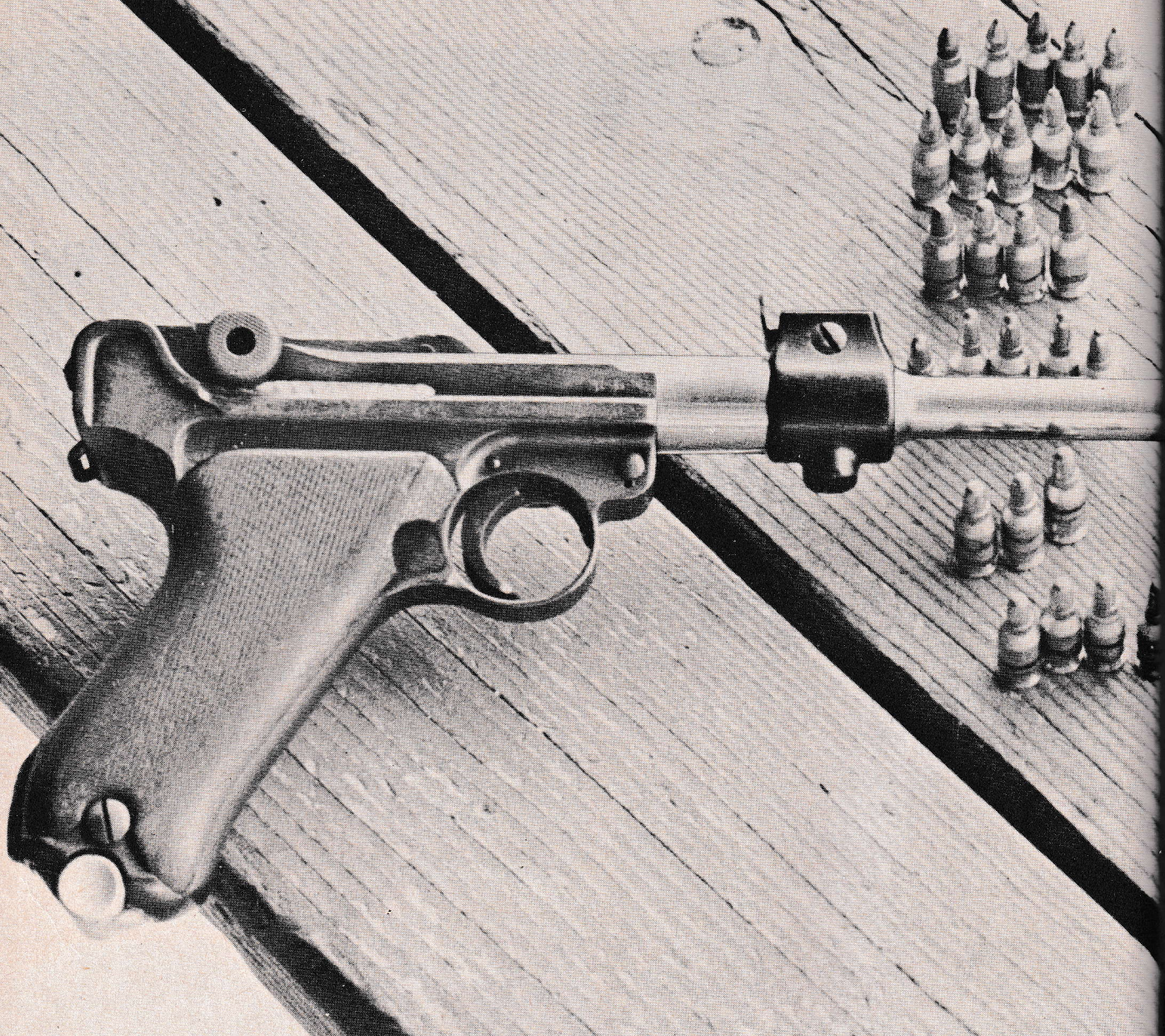
We have most types of deer, as well as the chamois and thar. We also have wapti, moose and wild pig and there are a few wallabies still to be had in some parts of N.Z. There is no limit on deer and pigs, but in most cases, you have to draw a block by ballot to shoot wapti.

For bird shooting, there is only

(Continued on page 33)



# the .224 Goldstein



Here Is An  
Experimental Model  
That Is Creating  
Talk Wherever  
It's Fired!

AN inquisitive dip into the international cauldron of names associated with that "Septagenarian Selfloader," the Luger pistol, reveals a bountiful roster! I was surprised, for instance, to learn that Sir Hiram Maxim had more or less influenced the design of this gun's breech mechanism... at least in its original concept. This was the "knee-action" autoloader conceived by American inventor Hugo Borchardt. After a brief period of

manufacture in Germany, another now-famous name became associated with this pistol after Georg Luger inviscited some of his own ideas on its design.

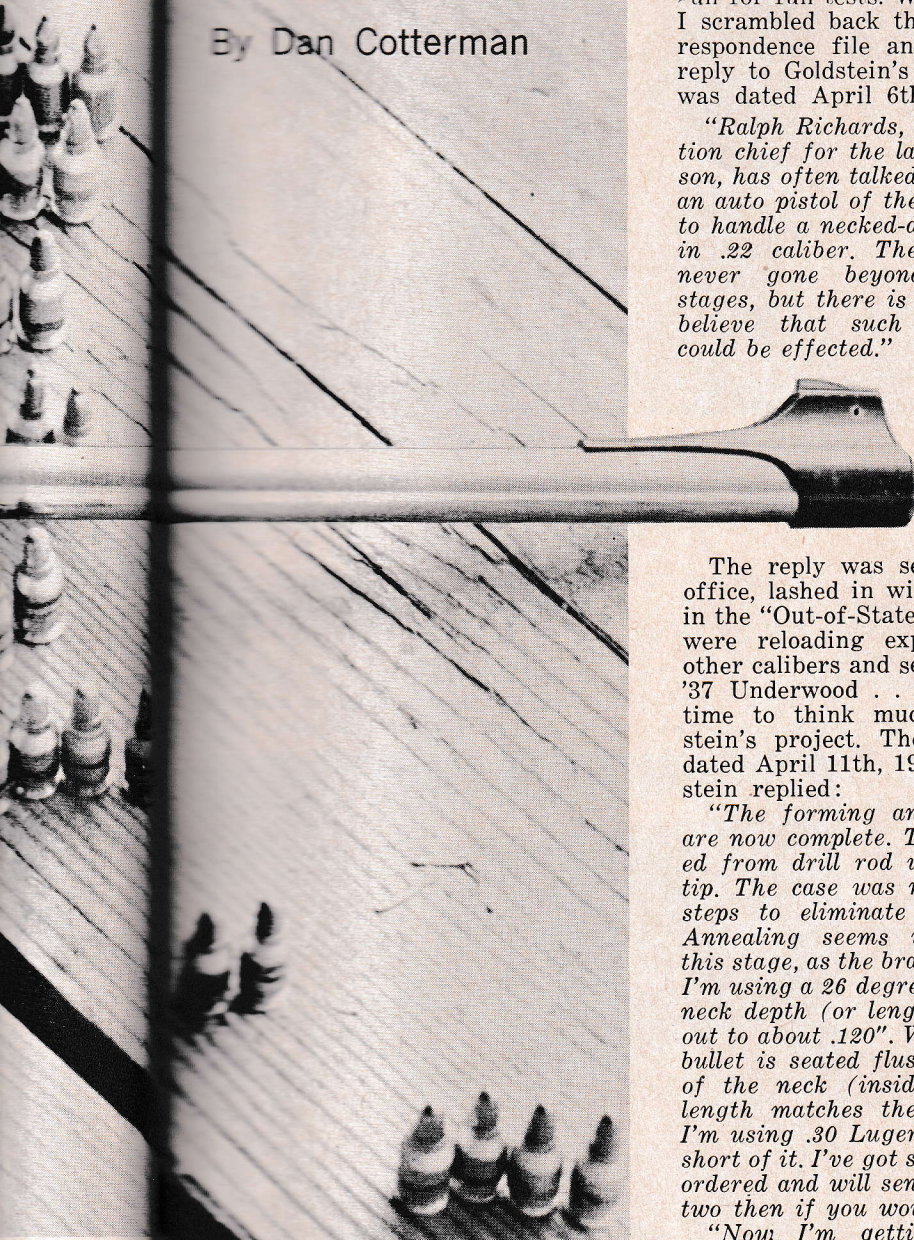
There are experts on Luger lore. I don't count myself among them... the gun's a study in itself! Still, I feel qualified to say that the name Goldstein didn't assume any Luger significance until about a year ago!

My first contact with news of this most unusual wildcat conver-



# in LUGER

By Dan Cotterman



ket like the tottering tower of something-or-other! Jerry Goldstein's letter was the first of a series of idea exchanges that ultimately led to having him send the gun for full tests. When it arrived, I scrambled back through my correspondence file and dug out my reply to Goldstein's first letter. It was dated April 6th, 1963:

*"Ralph Richards, former production chief for the late J. D. Pederson, has often talked about altering an auto pistol of the Luger variety to handle a necked-down centerfire in .22 caliber. These plans have never gone beyond the talking stages, but there is good reason to believe that such an alteration could be effected."*

The reply was sent to the post office, lashed in with other letters in the "Out-of-State" bundle. There were reloading experiments with other calibers and sessions with the '37 Underwood . . . I didn't have time to think much about Goldstein's project. Then, in a letter dated April 11th, 1963, Jerry Goldstein replied:

*"The forming and loading dies are now complete. They were turned from drill rod using a carbide tip. The case was necked in three steps to eliminate loss problems. Annealing seems unnecessary at this stage, as the brass works easily. I'm using a 26 degree shoulder. The neck depth (or length) then comes out to about .120". When a 40 grain bullet is seated flush with the end of the neck (inside), the overall length matches the original load. I'm using .30 Luger brass, and am short of it. I've got some more brass ordered and will send you a case or two then if you would like."*

*"Now I'm getting the barrel turned and chambered. It will be about twelve inches and have adjustable sights. I've got a set of Numerich ramp rifle sights to be installed."*

The exchange of letters, the step-by-step description of developments, went on through the writing of hundreds of words. A few months of this brand of interest-tweaking and I started to await the coming of the next "chapter" in the building of this weird Luger with increased interest. The ".224 Goldstein Luger" could be a real varmint stomper with a range of ballistics that'd equal or exceed ability

to hit over distances in excess of a hundred yards.

As I said, the gun had been completed and sent to me for testing before I ever went digging back into the letter file for that original note from Goldstein. When I broke the seal on the package, I found that, as promised, the forming and loading dies also had been included, as well as fifteen empty .224 G. Luger hulls. I'd need more brass.

The stuff that came with the gun was Remington brass, already necked down and fired. Wanting to try another kind of brass, I tried to get a box of Western empties for reloading. The Winchesters advertise the stuff as available for \$7 per hundred, unprimed. I found that it is available, but only on a special-order basis. I wound up buying a box of .30 Luger loads and pulling the bullets. They're \$5.75 a box of fifty. My curiosity still did not suffer much of a dent . . . I wanted to find out what this rascal would do! Besides, I used the RCBS bullet puller in the A-2 press and the little 93-grain .30 Luger bullets are still in good shape. I'll save 'em for some velocity testing with some .30 caliber rifle in the future!

Goldstein lists strength of the case as one of his chief reasons for choosing the .30 Luger cartridge for his necking-down operations. I might add that the shoulder on this round, slight as it may be, makes the mouth-squeezing by steps a snap. The "tricks" next to mousing down .357 Magnum cases for .22 caliber bullets gave people fits for quite a while. It'd be even tougher with these shorter .30 Luger hulls were it not for this slight shoulder. The diameter at the shoulder is .374 inches, about the same as for the .357 hull, and what might turn out to be a "hull" of a job is softened by the fact that the neck diameter is only about .332 inches! Taking 'em down in three steps cuts case loss to zero if you're careful.

The first of Goldstein's "drill rod" dies is a two-ended affair, fully threaded. I ran it into the A-2 press from underneath, or, inside the "O" configuration of the casting. Using the large end of the first forming die, I ran the empties through the first step in necking-down. This reduced the diameter of the neck to about .308 inches. First run complete, the die was turned around for the next step. This one took 'em down to .275 inches. The final forming step is done in the regular full-length sizing die. What you wind up with is a thoroughly rare looking little fatso that, even if it didn't shoot, would be worth

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sion came at the very time that Ralph Richards, former production chief for the late J. D. Pederson, and I were discussing the possibilities of 'catting up a self-loading pistol to handle some hot .22 center fire cartridge! The news that someone had already done it was in the form of one of those rather routine "Letters to the Editor." They're a common sight in this room where I do reloading and writing, and usually bend my "Answer Now" bas-





Author uses brace at range to determine capabilities of this wildcat insofar as accuracy is concerned. Results were less weird than gun design.

the carrying just for the curiosity of it! But shoot, it does, and we'll be coming to that later.

As Goldstein pointed out earlier, the shoulder angles from body to neck at about twenty-six degrees. The case is about three-quarters of an inch long and measures roughly .388 inch at the base and is of the rimless variety. It'll hold too much (11.5 grains) 2400, since I found that about 9.5 grains is tops with 40-grain bullets. Even this amount of 2400 — more so 10 grains of 4227 — requires the use of CCI #550 (small pistol, magnum) primers to prevent the occurrence of unburned powder flakes in the barrel.

Speaking of bullets, I tried a 45-grain spitzer (pointed) type in this case, but it's just a bit too long. The overall length of the loaded round can't exceed around 1.125 inch if they're to feed through the magazine clip. Then, too, those pointed lead tips get a thorough bending when they're rammed against the feed ramp. The best bullets, because of length and nose shape, are the 40 grainers. One of the ones I found particularly well adapted is the .224 40-grain Hornet bullet by Sierra. We'll turn it loose by saying that the bullet will have to be short and blunt nosed. There are several that meet those requirements.

That original letter had also asked me what I thought of pressure limitations of the Luger. I had replied that I felt that 40,000 psi was about the outer limit for this one. A subsequent letter from Goldstein indicated that Fred Datig

(another name that is closely associated with the Luger) in his *Luger Variations* has spotted 40M psi as the limit in pressures. None of the loads tested indicated signs of excessive pressures . . . Signs, yes, but *not* dangerous. There was some mild cratering of primer firing pin marks with the hottest of loads. This would indicate that, using 40-grain blunts and the right powders, this .224/.30 Luger will make a significant bid for attention in the performance efficiency category.

When I got 'hold of the gun and those fifteen empties, its originator was a jump ahead of me on the reloading scene, having written:

*"The gun is exceptionally strong: While experimenting with loads I've blown brass apart without injuring myself or the pistol. I still don't have too much information on loads."*

*"It seems that 6.0 or 6.5 grains of Unique with a 40-grain Sierra gives good accuracy and reasonable pressures. I have loaded all the way up to 8.0 grains (of Unique) but it is way too hot and destroys the cases every time."*

Luger and selected loads were sent by Goldstein to Alcan of Alton, Illinois last spring. Alcan's reply reads thus:

*"Dear Mr. Goldstein:*

*The testing on your .224 Goldstein Luger loads for velocity has been completed and the velocities are as follows:*

**TEST NO. 1.**

40 Grain Speer Bullet  
6.0 Grs. Unique Powder  
W-W Small Pistol Primer

**Remington .30 Luger Case**

- 1) 2247 ft/sec.
- 2) 2247 ft/sec.
- 3) 2204 ft/sec.
- 4) 2216 ft/sec.
- 5) 2228 ft/sec.

Average: 2228 ft/sec.

**TEST NO. 2.**

55 Gr. Speer Bullet  
7.5 Grs. #2400 Powder  
W-W Small Pistol Primer  
Remington .30 Luger Case

- 1) 1643 ft/sec.
- 2) 1688 ft/sec.
- 3) no reading
- 4) 1633 ft/sec.
- 5) 1677 ft/sec.

Average: 1660 ft/sec.

**TEST NO. 3.**

40 Grain Speer Bullet  
9.0 Grs. #2400 Powder  
W-W Small Pistol Powder  
Remington .30 Luger Case

- 1) 2162 ft/sec.
- 2) 2222 ft/sec.
- 3) 2235 ft/sec.
- 4) no reading
- 5) 2122 ft/sec.

Average: 2185 ft/sec.

*"The above velocity figures are instrumental and are taken at ten feet."*

*"All fired shells, but one, was extracted and ejected by hand. The second shot of Test No. 2 ejected the shell clear of the gun."*

*These empty shells were replaced in their original sacks, marked by the loads they had contained prior to firing and returned to Goldstein. He had forwarded them to me with the gun. I examined them and found little more than normal pressure indications."*

I duplicated the loads tested by Alcan and found the loads using 6 grains of Unique powder performers, accuracy-wise.

As I have already said, I don't believe in loading long bullets in this little wildcat. There's just too much of 'em! They have to be seated so deep that the base is almost touching the primer from the inside before the overall cartridge length can be short enough for the magazine clip. Weight is also an encumbering factor with this relatively small capacity hull, as is evidenced by the mundane 1600-odd ft/sec. velocities obtained. It is possible to double the velocities one can get with the regular .30 Luger, but only with 40-grain slugs.

*(Continued on next page)*



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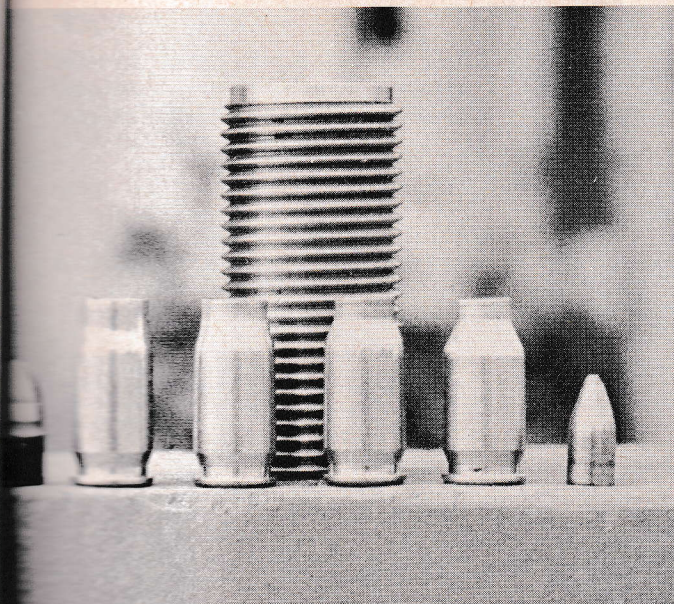
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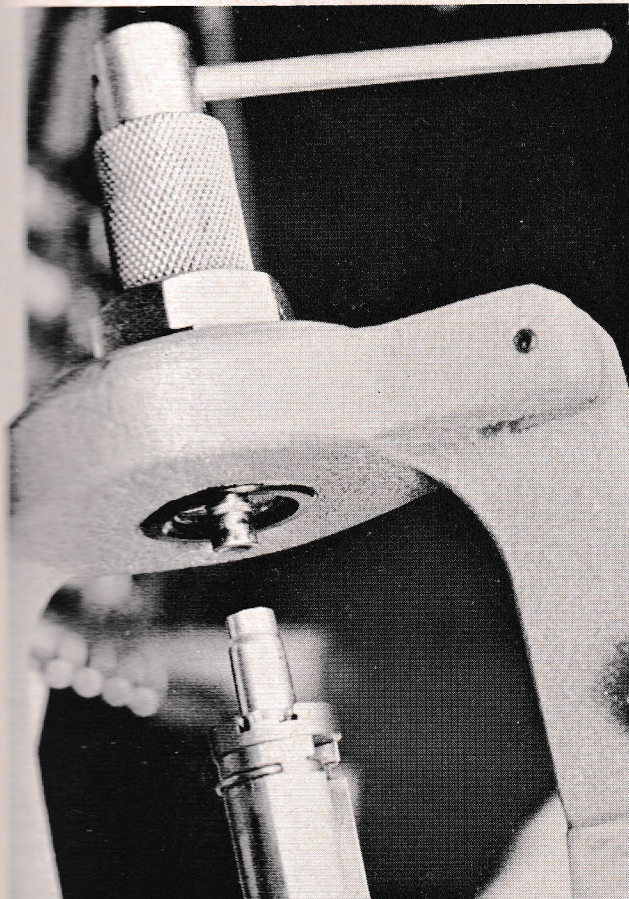
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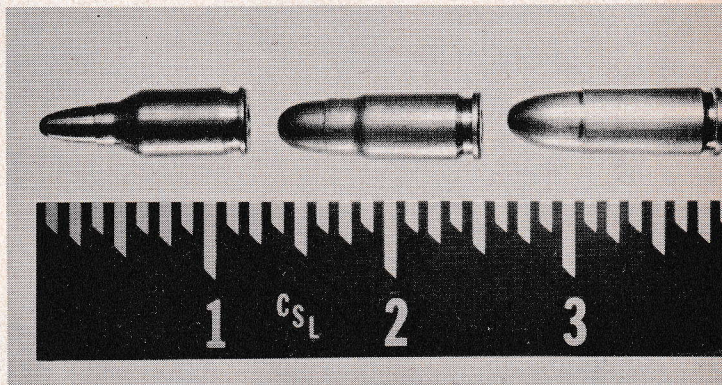


Forming stages for reducing the .30 Luger to .22/30 Goldstein are: (from left) .30 Luger bullet beside its case. First steps and second step are illustrated in center, while the formed brass and the 40-grain bullet follow.

Author was required to pull bullets from loaded .30 Luger rounds to salvage brass for reloading. Empty brass can be obtained only on special order. Tools are RCBS.

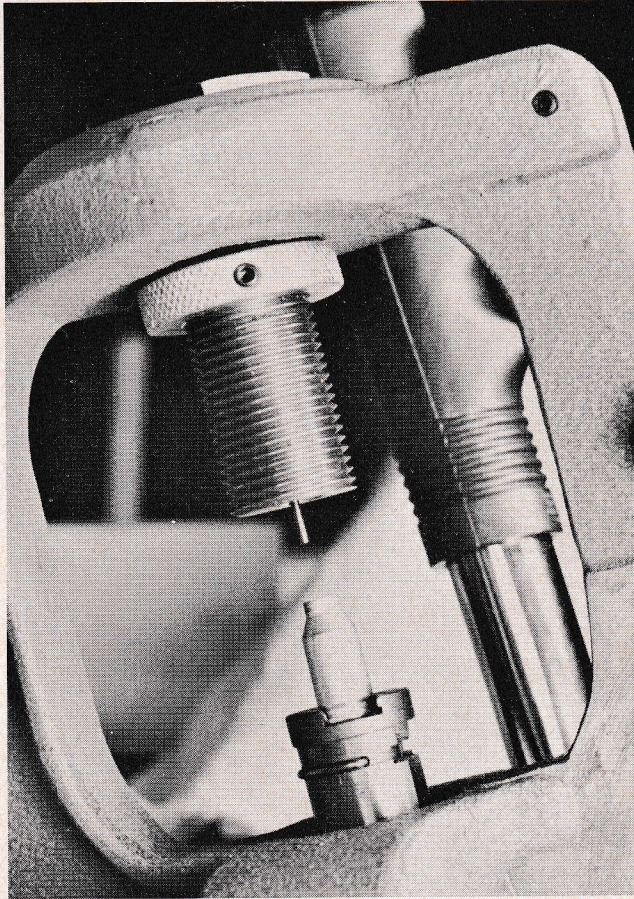


## GUN WORLD RELOAD TEST

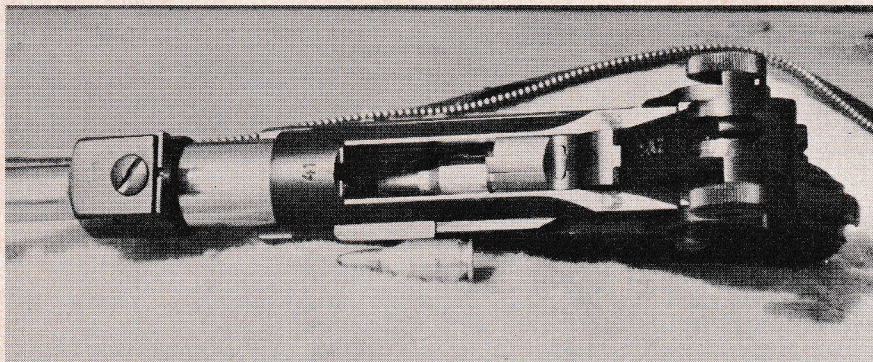


For the sake of comparison, this wildcat caliber is shown with other Luger standards. From left are: .224 Goldstein round with its 40-grain Sierra bullet; the standard .30 caliber Luger round popular 9mm cartridge.

Special dies were run into large A-2 press from its underside. Here the fully formed .22/30 Goldstein case goes through the intricate resizing, decapping operation.







Left: Cartridge redesigned for this experimental model appears strangely disproportioned to design of gun.



Above: As illustrated with this steel tape, the overall length of the Goldstein Luger is an even 16 inches.

Below: Cotterman took the gun into the bush for some serious plinking to learn that this hold gives results.



Back now to the reloading I did with this cartridge, I list the following:

Bullet		Amt.	Est. Vel.	Remarks
.224		grs.	ft./sec.	
Sierra	Powder			
40 gr.	AL-5	5.0	1,900	Could be worked up to about 6.0 grains.
40 gr.	4227	10.0	2,100	Use CCI #550 primer.
40 gr.	AL-8	8.0	2,250	Excellent loading.
40 gr.	Acapnia	5.0	2,000	Good. Might be increased to 5.5 grains.
40 gr.	2400	9.5	2,250	Absolute Maximum load! Used CCI #550 primers.
40 gr.	Unique	6.3	2,275	Absolute Maximum load! Used W-W primers.

I also ran some loads using Hi-Skor and Bullseye, both fast burners, but found them not particularly suited to a cartridge of this type, at least for the long-range shooting this pistol was designed for. If you build one of these and like to plink around, 3 grains of Hi Skor and the 40-grain bullet will do the job. This load, however, cannot be expected to work the action of this gun. The gun I worked with is, as of this time, not altered for the lighter recoil of this cartridge. That makes it necessary to hand-eject all but an occasional hull. One in several will work the action, but it can't be counted on. There'll have to be some lightening of resistance.

The last communication I received from Jerry Goldstein, just prior to this writing, exposed a few more facts:

"This barrel blank was made by Nu-Line Guns in St. Louis, (they bought out Ted Holmes, the benchrester from Mattoon, Illinois.).

"Finished barrel length is 11 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches from the breech. (Effective length is eleven inches.)

"My good friend Ken Merritt of Champagne (Illinois) helped me with much of the machine work and deserves credit.

This latter alteration might bring about the action functioning I mentioned earlier. As Goldstein said, "Functioning is still not perfect and you might mention that the gun is still being developed."

Personally, one of those developmental additions I'd like to see is the advantage of a pistol scope. There are several good ones, any one of which should turn this rakish looking handgun into a fine long-range varmint! ●