

# AUTO MAG

NATIONAL AUTOMATIC PISTOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 15738 • TOWER GROVE STATION • ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63163

VOLUME XXV - ISSUE 4

JULY 1992

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND OLD FRIENDS

Peter H. Brown - Missouri  
Robert C. Kurfess - Virginia  
Bryan L. Bossier, Sr. - Louisiana  
Richard S. Thomas - Maryland

Alejandro Gherovici - Pennsylvania  
Leighton Longhi - Connecticut  
Charles W. Stratton - Tennessee

BILL ALLMAN Lugers have been a little slow lately, so I've been playing with an East German Makarov to pass the time. These are nice little guns, very well made, and dirt cheap. I know of a good source for Makarov parts/accessories: Siegmund Stephan, 925 Rogers Ln., Florissant, Mo. 63033. Siegmund spends about half the year in Germany buying, and the other half making the show circuit here in the states. Brand new Makarov mags and grips are \$8 each, with your choice of Russian or German manufacture. He also has most internal parts, for \$1 to \$3 each; holsters; and tons of other Com Bloc militaria. I'll be seeing him again at the end of August - 513-879-5246

RICH THOMAS Re the comments directed to Don Andrews about the (H) on the FN 1910/22 in the March issue. Since I am a new member, I did not receive the last few issues (EN: on the way), so I missed the response to this query. I have an E/N 1910/22, 4584c, with an (H) on the slide so this certainly isn't necessarily a military mark. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

TO BILL DROLLINGER FROM TOM KNOX Sorry to have confused the issue. FN 1910/22, 45007c, is indeed a .32 - only the WaA accepted mag was .380. According to all the texts, the highest known 10/22s with WaA, are in the mid-plus 30,000 range. The specimen in question has NO WaA, rather a full display of Belgian proofing. It was my understanding that FN picked up their numbering where they had stopped prior to occupation. Having written to them on numerous occasions, I know they will not even acknowledge any firearms made during occupation, so I didn't bother to write them about this example. Since this is a direct vet returned piece, I wonder if it could have been a post-occupation assembled pistol produced prior to the end of the war.

TO GENE MEDLIN & JEAN HUON The only true post-war French issue 1910/22s that I was aware of, were typical Nazi issues with a staple lanyard added in the bottom rear corner of the left grip - PPs and HSc were modified in a similar manner. Have only heard the rumors re the 'A' pistols,



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The Auto Mag is published each month by the National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association: Thompson D. Knox, President; and Editor, Joan E. Knox, Secretary Treasurer; Ernie Lang, Vice-President; Daniel M. Byrne, Donald Crews and John R. Carlson, Governors. Executive and Editorial address: Post Office Box 15738, Tower Grove Station, St. Louis, Missouri 63163. Manuscripts and art material will be carefully considered, but will be received only with the understanding that the Editor shall not be responsible for loss. Photographs submitted should be black and white, no larger than 8x10. Unless return is requested, all photographs become the property of NAPCA. Material must be received by the 20th of the month in order to appear in the next monthly issue. The Auto Mag will not knowingly insert any text from other than reliable persons. Membership rates: \$35.00 per year for the United States, Canada and Mexico; \$45.00 per year elsewhere. All memberships expire yearly on the 31st of March. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or part, in English or other languages, is prohibited. All rights reserved throughout the world. Reprinting not permitted except by special authorization. First class postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri.

FROM: JIM CATE

25.MA

RE: DEATH-HEAD MARKED LUGERS:

ENCLOSED IS PHOTO OF SOME EARLY NAZI THUGS WITH THEIR FLAG. PERSONALLY I FEEL THE LAZY S ( or ) IS INDICATIVE OF THE RIGHT OR LEFT SIDE OF THE BIT THAT'S PART OF A HORSE'S BRIDLE. THIS IS A CARRY OVER INTO WEIMAR TIMES FROM WWI TO DESIGNATE THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE MOUNTED HUSSAR TROOPS AND THE SKULL THEY WORE FOR IDENTIFICATION.

TO: JOHN CASSADY

THREAD SIZE FOR BARREL NUT FOR ERMA SEL BARREL CAL. 9mm IS MBx.75mm.

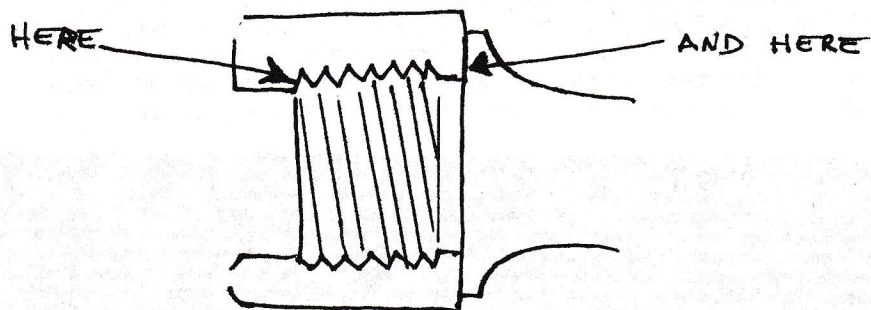
TO: NICO VAN GIJN

RE: APRIL '92 AUTOMAG, PAGE 21

1. DIFFERENCES OF LUGER BARRELS AND
2. BREECHBLOCK TO RECEIVER OPENINGS.

YOUR A AND B DIFFERENCES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN C AND D.

THE 9mm & 7.65mm HEADSPACE ON THE DEPTH THE CASE; OR PUT IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE CASE GOES TOO DEEP INTO THE BARREL THE FIRING PIN CAN NOT HIT THE PRIMER. NEITHER BARREL PICTURED CAN BE SCREWED ANY DEEPER INTO THE RECEIVER. IF THE TOGGLE COULD NOT COMPLETELY CLOSE THEN A CHAMBER REAMER WAS USED TO ELONGATE THE CHAMBER SO THE CASE COULD GO DEEPER. IF THE CHAMBER WAS TOO DEEP THEN A (OR B) ON YOUR PICTURE WOULD BE TRIMMED ON THE REAR NEXT TO THE THREADS TO SCREW THE BARREL IN 1 COMPLETE TURN. BUT THIS WAS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE BARREL THREADS WOULD BE INTERRUPTED ON THE INSIDE OF THE RECEIVER DUE TO THE INTERNAL SHOULDER (THE BARREL STOP) OF THE RECEIVER. THE BARREL MAKES RIGID CONTACT ON THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF THE RECEIVER.



ON EXAMINATION YOU WILL FIND THE "C OR D" GAP (AS PER YOUR PHOTO) ON H. KRIEGHOFF LUGERS VERY WIDE. WHY I DO NOT KNOW.



From Klaus to John Cassady !

May 30th 1992

Your Weimar unit mark "4./F.2.2." stands for :  
"4. Eskadron, 2. preussische Fahrabteilung, Waffe Nr. 2."  
"4. squad, 2. Prussian Supply-Train-Battalion, weapon # 2."

Weimar unit mark : "III./J.R.17./23." stands for :  
"III. Battalion Infantry Regiment # 17, Staff, weapon # 23."

Note : Observed just recently DWM 1921, s/n 8625a, unit marked :  
"II./J.R.4.21.", all matching but clip, price : \$ 675.-

xxxxxxxxxxxx

From Klaus to Joachim Görtz !

May 30th 1992

Re : Page 279 of March issue. Thanks for the info on Ernst Jünger. Unfortunately, Tom didn't put the picture along with my article in AM. I had this picture from his book "In Stahlgewitter" especially developed from a "Pro" for the membership. Too bad !

xxxxxxxxxxxx

From Klaus to the membership !

May 30th 1992.

Re : Page 280 of March issue. Regrettably, the picture of my spiked helmet was not shown in AM and the label rather illegible. The label should read :

Grenadier

S T A H L

2. Badisches Grenadier Regt. No. 110

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TO GERRY TOMEK FROM KARL SCHAEFER : To the best of my knowledge, the P 08 magazine bottom pieces you mentioned are either made of teak or box-tree wood.

TO RICK BARR, MARK NEWCOMB, and all other members being interested in Webley & Scott automatic pistols. The Stocker-Schmid AG Publishing House, Dietikon/Switzerland is just going to publish a book in English language on that subject. The book WEBLEY & SCOTT AUTOMATIC PISTOLS by Gordon Bruce covers on 304 pages with 368 photographs and drawings the entire historical and technical development of these guns.

\* Found a Sauer & Sohn mod. 38 H, Serial number 405 738, eagle/N, late war finish, grey trigger. This pistol has unusual "fat" wood grips with checkering which, however, seem to be factory original.

\* During the year 91 I asked twice for information on manufacturer markings to be found on Mauser C 96 carrying leather. Shame on you all ! How many members do we have ? How many of those own a C 96 harness ? Nobody knows, but it seems that this is one of the rarest equipment pieces to be found because I got six ( 6 ) answers so far !!!

TO SCOTT MEADOWS AND TOM SAMEAN : You are right, **SILESIA** is not only the name of a German land but also an official trademark protected by law for the following listed firms :

- a) CARL HENCKELL, Hamburg, Hopfensack 8.  
This was a dealer firm which applied for the SILESIA trademark on 4 Feb 1908 and got it granted on 10 Oct 1909.
- b) KASPAR+ KRUEGER G.m.b.H., Schweidnitz, Waffen & Munitionsfabrik;  
application 3 June 1922, grant 8 Nov 1922.
- c) KASPAR & KRUEGER G.m.b.H., Hannover, Fabrikation u. Grossvertrieb von Waffen, Munition und Jagdartikeln (Production and Wholesale of arms, ammunition and huntig gear); application 27 Feb 1926, grant 5 July 1926.

\* Can any member be of some assistance in getting the correct mail address of a " POLICE DEPARTMENT " in the Chicago area which obviously has a large reference collection of firearms and also owns one of the only two known to exist MAUSER C 07 prototype pistols ? If yes, please write to Karl Schaefer, Zwingerstrasse 11, D-6780 Pirmasens, Germany.

DICK SMITH Re complete serial numbers - opposite is from a 1981 operating manual for the NCIC computer. Obviously it's true. However, trying to convince an airport police person, security officer or a police person with an 'attitude' that your serial number is NOT a hit, can be frustrating. Thus, there is merit in partial serial numbers as used by some of us.

GUN FILE  
SECTION 2--ENTRY

2.4 Serial Number (SER) Field (Continued)

Each separate wartime manufacturer of Luger pistols used his own system of serializing the weapons, thus generating duplication of numbers. Therefore, the make, serial number, type, and caliber do not sufficiently describe a Luger for entry in NCIC. Accordingly, it is essential to include (1) any letter prefix or suffix which appears with the serial number, (without the letter, if present, the serial number is incomplete), (2) the year of manufacture engraved over the chamber, and (3) identifying trademark of the manufacturer. With reference to the trademark, you should place in the MIS Field the manufacturer's initials or name found on the center toggle link on top of the gun. For example, byf appears on Lugers manufactured by Mauser (see BYF in MAK codes on page 4-29). Shown below is a chart of script letters which may appear prefixed or suffixed to Luger serial numbers:

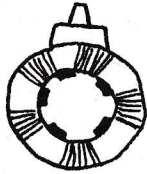
<i>aa</i>	<i>bbb</i>	<i>cc</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>eee</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>ggg</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>hh</i>	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
<i>i</i>	<i>j</i>	<i>kkk</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>oo</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>qq</i>	<i>r</i>
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
<i>ss</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>oo</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>oo</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
S	T	U	V		W		X	Y	Z

In the event more than one number appears on the firearm, the frame or receiver number should be entered in the SER Field and the other number(s) should be entered in the MIS Field of the EG record.

The true (manufacturer's) serial number of the gun or Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms assigned number, not a national match number, model number, stock control number or owner-applied number assigned in connection with a theft prevention program, should be entered. If the number on the gun is determined not to be a unique serial number--but rather a model, owner-applied, or stock control number, etc.--the gun should not be entered. If already in file, the record should be canceled. The exceptions to the above would be where a stolen gun has a distinct point(s) of identification or is connected with a major criminal investigation in which instance the point(s) of identification or the connection to the major criminal investigation must be fully described in the MIS Field. A recovered gun that has a nonunique serial number cannot be entered since use of the MIS Field in an ERG record is prohibited and therefore, a description of the weapon cannot be included.

To Elliot TOKSON (Feb 92 page 263) from Jean Claude KEMPF :

Back to your question about "polished muzzles" on WW1 P 08. It is very easy to see if an old WW1 P 08 has been refinished. You just look at its inside. It must be in white. Mines all have their muzzle in grey colour, not as blue as the rest of the guns. I am sure they were never refinished. But this could be an explanation: when you fired many rounds with a gun, its muzzle is "flashed" with burning powder just like that:



when you have to clean it, you take a brush and you scrap it on the muzzle in order to put those dirty marks away, and the muzzle loses its blue protection.

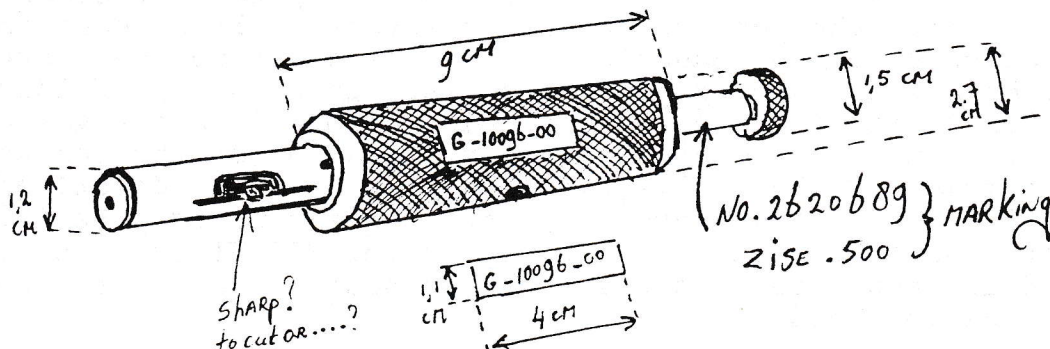
So if your two guns have never fired a cartridge, and if they are white inside, it could be normal they have kept their blued muzzle. Don't forget too, you have artilleries made by ERFURT in 1914 only.

To Larry Beach from Joachim Görtz, 22 May 1992

This refers to AUTO MAG of May 1992, page 41, and the Sauer & Sohn "Behörden-Modell" mentioned in your letter. It appears that the "K in sunburst" marking was the stamp of "Waffenrevisor Krause", who was a smallarms inspector of the Prussian police in the 1930s. His name "Krause" would correspond with "Curly" in English.

5 juni 1992 From Nico van Gijn to Shayne MacMahon (Automag May 92)

The tool you discripe in May edition is the same I have. Only my tool has no Mauser stamp. I thought allready that this tool had something to do with arms, because it came in together with a lot of spare parts of all kind and types of smallarms. Fun to know that I have not been able to identify the same kind of tool, and you at the other side of the world having the same problem. Mr Coe ~~was the same~~ thought it was somekind of tool to fresh up the muzzle of a barrel. So the stamp "size .500" is related to a MG Browning .50 ?? I do not know but the large plunger assembly with the firing pin size deep depression in it, has a small sharp part inside, sticking out, that can be adjust with the screw at the other end. So please Shayne, if you ever find out what kind of tool we have, let me know, and free me of the headages.



1906 SERIES

- LJ54. 1906 PROTOTYPE 9mm COMMERCIAL "GL" ON REAR TOGGLE  
LJ55. 1906 TRANSITION 7.65mm AMERICAN EAGLE. Old style frame, narrow trigger guard with wide trigger. Coil type recoil spring and marked GERMANY.  
LJ56. 1906 TRANSITION 7.65mm COMMERCIAL. Same as above but with "GESICHERT" in safety area and not machined as with other 1906 series Lugers.  
LJ57. 1906 PRESENTATION 7.65mm. Standard 1906 commercial with GL toggle.  
LJ58. 1906 COMMERCIAL 7.65mm 4 3/4" BBL.  
LJ59. 1906 PRESENTATION 9mm. Standard 1906 commercial with GL toggle.  
LJ60. 1906 COMMERCIAL 9mm 4" BBL. with "BUG" PROOFS.  
LJ61. 1906 COMMERCIAL 9mm 4" BBL. with "CROWN N" PROOFS.  
LJ62. 1906 COMMERCIAL 7.65mm SMOOTH GRIPS FOR HOLSTER/STOCK.  
LJ63. 1906 SWISS 7.65mm 4 3/4" BBL.  
LJ64. 1906 SWISS POLICE (CROSS IN SHIELD-OVER CHAMBER)  
LJ65. 1906 SWISS 6" BBL. 9mm  
LJ66. 1906 SWISS COMMERCIAL WITHOUT MARKS ON CHAMBER (HAS SWISS PROOFS)  
LJ67. 1906 SWISS BERN (1906/24 SWISS) TOGGLE MARKED WAFFEN-FABRIK BERN.  
LJ68. 1906 SWISS BERN EXPERIMENTAL in 9mm. (5 digit numbers)  
LJ69. 1906 SWISS POLICE REWORKS. SWISS SHIELDS OVER CHAMBER BUT MADE FROM GERMAN MILITARY SERIES AND ARE ALL REBLUED.  
LJ70. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE IN 7.65mm, 4 3/4" BBL.  
LJ71. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE IN 9mm, 4" BBL.  
LJ72. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE IN 7.65mm with SMOOTH GRIPS.  
LJ73. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE IN 7.65mm MARKED STOEGERS.  
LJ74. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE IN 9mm EXTRACTOR MARKED "LOADED".  
LJ75. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE "DOUBLE STRUCK EAGLE".  
LJ76. 1906 AMERICAN EAGLE WITH SEMI-OCTAGONAL BBL.  
LJ77. 1906 BRAZILIAN 7.65mm.  
LJ78. 1906 BRAZILIAN 9mm.  
LJ79. 1906 BRAZILIAN 7.65mm with NAVY TYPE REAR SIGHT. SIGHT NUMBERED TO MATCH GUN.  
LJ80. 1906 DUTCH 9mm 4" BBL.  
LJ81. 1906 DUTCH 9mm 4" BBL. with "KL" marks (DUTCH AIRFORCE)  
LJ82. 1906 DUTCH 9mm 4" BBL. with INDONESIAN STAR.

To Any or All Luger People Out There

In reviewing the identification and pricing of Luger pistols circa 1968, published by Robert B. Marvin, Publisher of the Luger Journal, on page 15 under LJ75 I find the description "1906 AMERICAN EAGLE 'DOUBLE STRUCK EAGLE'." I have no idea what this refers to but would surely love to have an explanation.

Ray Willas

TO WALTHER COLLECTORS FROM KARL SCHAEFER : Going along with the discussion on Austrian municipal and/or rural police markings ( Joe Wotka, Burt Zwibel and others ) I want to pass the following information to our members. Presently, a German dealer firm offers Manurhin PPs which were formerly used by the Vienna Sicherheitswache. The pistols are in excellent condition and are accompanied by the original factory box with manual, cleaning rod, extra magazine, and the used, darkbrown leather holster marked <sup>with</sup> an inventory number ( S W followed by a up to four digit number ) which is also engraved in the left side of the pistol just above the magazine release button. For example, my pistol is serial number 30 959 and has the inventory number SW 7089 on both gun and holster.

\* The attached photographs show an unusual P 38 holster recently found in France. The holster is professionally made of natural tanned calf leather, stitching is white. Besides the stamp ZIEH HIER (draw here) on the closure snap and the handwritten name CAVANNAH of a former owner, there are no other markings on that piece. What do I have here ?





The Bavarian "Sniper Luger", spotted by Joachim Görtz, May 10, 1992

The photo is a poor-quality blow-up from a picture-postcard made in WW I, showing a group of Bavarian snipers at the Italian front. The men's outfit comprises mod. 98 Mauser rifles (with sniperscopes), binoculars, hand grenades, and Luger pistols 08 specially produced for left-hand use. No wonder: The sniper would use his right hand for carrying his rifle, for handling of the binoculars, and to throw hand grenades. Consequently, the pistol (serving him for close combat and self-defence only) was held and fired by his left hand. -  
A very rare Luger model, calling for very very high collector's prices!



Of course I am kidding. The photographer who made the blow-ups for me produced mirror-image enlargements, mistaking left for right. There is a fact adding to the confusion: Most of the men pictured in the original photo have folded or buttoned their anoraks in the "female" way, which in this mirror image seems to be the correct "male" way of buttoning a shirt or a tunic. For the collector and historian: Although barely visible in this enlargement, the sniper carries his pistol 08 by means of a lanyard presumably made from cloth, while one of his fellows pictured in the original photo has a leather loop sewn to the lanyard loop, so as to carry the pistol dangling from the wrist.

JAMES HELLYER/OBSERVATIONS C96, .30, early large ring transitional, 12667, missing rear sight; FN 1910, .32, 384286; W&S, .32, 150369; H&R, .32, 1506; Colt, .25 hammerless, 243472; plated P08 mag, wood base, 5450g; Steyr Pieper, .25, 103834a; brown P08 holster, C. Rose Berlin/1917

DON THOMAS Recently, a fellow member asked about the Kareen auto pistol. The Kareen is a copy of the FN HP, manufactured in Isreal, by J. O. Arms, 27 Stampper St., Petah-Tikva, Isreal 49290. The Kareen is imported into the U.S. by KDF, Inc., 2485 N. Hwy 46, Seguin, Tx. 78155. The Kareen differs from the original HP in that it employs an external extractor, a roll pin for fixing the sear lever and a spur hammer. The finish is blue and the grips are checkered wood.

TO JOHN LITTLE FROM BILL ALLMAN I have a Simson mag very similiar to the one you reported. Mine is #3227, with a large II under the serial, and a single E/6 as well as the S/triangle/circle. My guess on these is that they were leftover military bottom pieces that were marked for commercial sale, but later routed to the German police system...my specimen came from Norway.

WALT PERRY My Sterling PPL, #000771, .22lr, was acquired in 1971. The gun is a standard Sterling PPL. Box: bottom is gold with white stripes; top is solid gold; measures 3 7/8" x 5 1/2". Label is located on outside bottom of box bottom: line 1) STERLING ARMS CORP.; line 2) MODEL PPL; line 3) BBL LGTH; line 4) WEIGHT; line 5) SERIAL NO. 771. Contents of box: disassembly & cleaning instructions, liability statement & warrenty card, two allen wrenches for trigger adjustment, fibre batting pad for cushioning and packing. Name & address on warrenty return card: Sterling Arms, Ltd., 2206 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. 14216

ALAN SMITH/OBSERVATION P08, 1939 42, #7018u. All matched except mag - very poor condition. Backstrap marked: N. Z. over 3. Can anyone explain/identify this marking - I have been unable to find it in any of the reference books.

TO COLT COLLECTORS FROM HEINZ RUTTI: I have in my collection a Colt M 1905 pistol, serial number 4354. On the right side of its slide - just above the upper right corner of the slidelock recess - I noticed a small crack, apparently caused by shooting-imposed stresses when some previous owner fired too strong cartridges from this gun.

Of course, the M 1905 was designed for the use of the ".45 Rimless Smokeless" ammo which was - as I suppose - somewhat less powerful than the .45 ACP ammo later used in the M 1911. What is the difference between these two cartridges? Could that crack be the result of firing .45 ACP rounds?

I also own a commercial Colt M 1911, serial number C32389, indicating that the gun was made in 1916. This pistol is in very nice condition, with most of its blueing intact (except for the worn grip straps and a few slightly worn places on the slide). All corners as well as the slide legends, markings, and the rampant Colt logo are sharp.

While all parts of the gun seem to be original, I am not quite sure whether the same is true for its finish. What kind of blue was applied to the commercial M 1911 pistols of 1916-vintage? Mine shows a high-polish deep blue finish that almost looks "too fresh" on this old piece. The small parts appear a bit duller and darker than the rest of the pistol, and the chamber area of the barrel visible through the ejection port is unblued and polished bright. Is this correct?

Fellow Fanatics:

Noted all the pistol import info in the May issue. Here are some Century Arms imports serial numbers for everybody:

CZ52 7.62 mm Tokarev cal. J 12749 1953 mfg.  
D 08936 1954 mfg.

Above have perfect bores, assume they have been rebuilt, etc. These CZ 52's are the most powerful military pistol ever and lots of fun to shoot. Have not noticed Steve Bunch's problem with "trigger finger biting".

Hungarian PA-63 9mm Makarov cal. BH 5618  
Slide just has "PA-63" and is not over stamped with more jargon.

East German Makarov: AV 5594 small grip screw, 1961 mfg.  
AO 8561 large grip screw, 1962 mfg.  
The latter is a wierd shooter, first few shots are 5 o'clock, sneakes up into the black. These pistols have some sort of wierd retrofit grips. Are they to sneak in under the !@#\$ "point system"?

Century claims they eyeballed every dam CZ52 in one import batch looking for a "52" date and could NOT find one.

On p. 29 Shayne MacMahon asks about some more cartridges. Have no idea about unmarked rounds. 9mm METALIVERKEN over 9,00 rds probably have a larger 5.0 mm primer. These are Swedish. Got a box of 50 rds. decades ago with a Mauser Military from Minneapolis area. Pretty sure Herter's imported this ammo. Z headstamped pistol rounds are Czech.

Reproduced CBC 7.62mm NATO ammo warnings are really scary. I always test new lots of ammo for corrosive primers but really thought the dam importers did some shooting or something to make sure the ammo was safe! Have always avoided CBC ammo since it always to advertised with "hard" or "bad" primer warnings, otherwise probably would have purchased some to shoot!

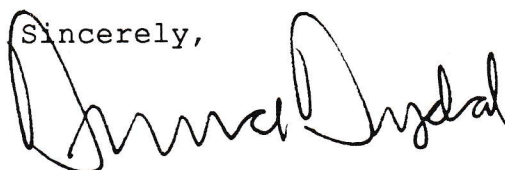
Wrote a nice (I thought) note to Century about their "9mm Steyr Largo" ammo ads months ago. My letter, or others(s) or a combination thereof, seem to have gotten they to correct 9mm Largo (Bergmann-Bayard) nomenclature. Looks like nice NC ammo for blasters.

Sile Distributors, Inc., 103 N. Jefferson, Ossian, IN 46777 should have the Benelli B76 mag. J. P. Current is looking for.

Jack Valenti's pair of Mamba's may be a "hanger and a banger" pair sold by Navy Arms several years ago. They may have been climbing the learning curve regarding proper heat treatment of the slide and other technical details. You better write Navy Arms to find out if either is actually safe to shoot. Carefully eyeball the internal slide locking lug area anyhow after every few shots.

Keep up the good work fellas!

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Bydal

DOUG COFFEY Picked up that M34 Beretta, #512381 (originally reported to me as E12381 - thanks to the members who informed me there was no such number). Pistol is dated '36, PSF proofed. Backstrap is engraved as follows, in two lines: GLI UFFICIALI del 58 GRUPPO C.A. over al COMte AURELIO PROF. CALANDRA. Calandra may be Calundra. Can anyone give me info on what the 58th Gruppo was (army, navy, police, blackshirts, air force)? What does the C.A. mean? Who was Calandra? Does anybody have any ideas on where or how to research this?

\* Also picked up a '39 eagle Radom, 47541. This came in a black, Theuerman patent AKAH drop style holster, Has anyone seen such a holster for a Radom? Pistol fits perfectly, and none other I've tried even comes close. Any idea what group got captured Radoms? There are no proofs of any kind on the holster, but AKAH is well marked on the back. It's a vet bring back, 99%, with two Polish mags.

\* Found a 34 Mauser holster (E/c PPK was in it), marked inside the flap: P.O./ N.S.D.A.P./Gau Hesson-Nassau (all one ink stamp) and 2233 (a seperate ink stamp). What does the P.o. stand for?

\* Observed in a local shop - DWM mismatch P08, Simson receiver #3003 w/DWM toggle - anyone need the receiver?

\* Also observed connecting iron #29538 for a Mauser six shot, large ring. The pistol is pictured on page 81, Belford & Dunlap. Anyone know who owns it now? The guy doesn't want to sell the iron, but I'm working on him.

\* Someone wanted to know how Hitler's gun came back. Opposite is an article about it. If true, this was the worlds dumbest GI... Heard the gun was donated to a museum on the west coast.

TO GARLAND BARNES I remember hearing about a navy Luger up there, but could never find the trail. Congrats...15 years is a long search!

\* Have capture papers for Luger #32. If anyone needs it, I'll send it to you.

TO BAILEY BROWER Thanks for your help on getting me out of that nest of Savages I almost stepped in...

TO TOM KNOX FROM BUCK SQUIRES Do you have any idea what this 2mm x 2mm marking means? It was found on P08, 1940/42, 6831c, KM N.4294. It is located on the right frame, just behind the trigger above the grip.

(EN: If memory serves, I reported an identical marking several years ago - on a 6" 1914 naval with Belgian proofs. I don't recall anyone coming up with a definate answer)

\* Need some help with unit markings on a couple of holsters: II./A.R.6.20. Black rework of a 1918 Otto Graf WWI issue. Has additions for cleaning rod added under the flap; P08, Gustav Reinhardt, Berlin, Waa 18 and M/anchor. Marked I KWA ZZZ (no periods) on front. Additions for rod under flap, Norwegian belt adaptation.

TO KLAUS SCHAD I now have four unit marked Lugers. I know the units and where they fought in WWI. Is there some source that can tell me which American units (if any) they may have fought against? Here are the guns: 1) P08, DWM 1910, 7398c, B.6.R(script) 4.1. - 6h Bavarian Infantry, Kaiser Wilhelm, King of Prussia, fought with the 6th Bavarian Division; 2) P08, DWM 1910, 2559d, 16.D. .25. - staff, 16 Prussian Dragons, 2nd Hannover. This unit fought with the 5th Ersatz Division, the 17th Division, the 18th Division, the 84th Division and the 187th Division, as squadrons of calvery. Was the 2nd Hannoverian Dragons associated with the British Royal family as honorary officers? 3) LP08, 1917 DWM, 8687e, 172 R.4.5. The 172nd Infantry fought as part of the 39th Division. 4) LP08, 1918 DWM, 1672, J.R.473.12. The 473rd fought as part of the 241st Division and was from Saxony (19th Corps District). Any info or regimental histories concerning these units would be appreciated - especially with regard to American troop involvement: FOB 31787, Charlotte, N.C. 28231

\* Need help to ID the following: P08, DWM 1921, Simson proofed, 8112, S.S.110. no sear safety, matched tin mag with alloy base - matched, but no proof on mag.



# Hitler's Fabulous Treasure Surfaces

By Ron Laytner

Genoa, Nev.

It began almost 40 years ago: World War II was just about over. Hitler had ended his life in a bunker below the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. A few hundred miles south, several American soldiers — the only survivors of a platoon that had slogged and fought its way from North Africa to Germany — were going through an official Nazi building in Munich, birthplace of the war machine Hitler had begun just 12 years before.

"We were looking for souvenirs of the war, flags with swastikas on them or maybe a ceremonial dagger," said one of the soldiers, "but the building had been pretty well gone over.... Then I went down into the basement."

And there the exhausted soldier discovered one of the greatest historical treasures of the Second World War: personal gold and silver items, diamonds, paintings and photographs, a jeweled ring, medals — the private possessions of Adolf Hitler, poised for a flight to Argentina he never took.

Now, 37 years later, the man who owns the treasure has decided to let the world see it.

"My wife and children don't want me to keep them any longer," said 67-year-old Ray Bily of Genoa, who acquired the treasure eight years ago from the soldier who had kept it wrapped in a box under his bed for 29 years. "I'm getting older. My children don't want the responsibility of owning what Hitler left as mementos of his terrible life. And my wife doesn't want me to keep them any longer either."

In April 1945, the tired young soldier, an army sergeant who wants to be known only by his first name, Joseph, climbed down the steps of the Fuhrerbau building in Munich.

"The water system had been knocked out," said the soldier, now a retired railroad worker in Pennsylvania. "And there were two or three inches of water across the basement floor. In the water was a box everyone was using as a stepping stone to keep their feet dry.

"It was addressed to some woman in Argentina. I gave it a kick, and it broke open on one side, so I started to examine it, thinking it contained some of the broken crystal glasses that were all over the place. 'It was full of things wrapped in newspapers, and I was sure it was going to be glasses. But when I reached inside, I found a box containing a gold watch with the same initials we saw on the crystal glasses. 'A.H.' I thought, 'Great! I've actually found something.'"

"I reached in again and found a heavy red leather-covered book, some kind of a diary. On the cover were the initials 'A.H.' again. I looked inside, but it was just pages and pages of handwriting in German. So I threw it down in the water."

"I reached in again, hoping not to attract the other soldiers, also searching in the building. And this time I pulled out a gold pistol. It had these same initials 'A.H.' on it, and I was thrilled. 'Boy, I thought, a gold pistol. You've really got something here.'"

Scoping up the box, the sergeant climbed to the abandoned offices on the third floor in which he and his platoon were bedding down. He was thrilled with his treasure, but unaware of just how valuable they were. "I never realized that 'A.H.' was Adolf Hitler at that point.

"Upstairs I pulled out another black box," he recalled. "Inside was a silver ball like a world globe with engraved swastikas on its sides. Then there was another box, something like people got Purple Heart decorations in, only bigger. Inside was a bunch of diamonds — from little ones all the way up to the size of quarters. But I knew they couldn't be real.

"Then I opened this other black box, and by

God, inside was another gold pistol, this one finer than the first one, with engravings all around it and inscriptions, one containing the name of Hitler and a lot of German words.

"Suddenly I got really excited... terrified. All those 'A.H.' initials on everything. I realized the stuff must have belonged to Adolf Hitler and that book I threw down in the basement must have been Hitler's diary."

With his booty wrapped in an Army poncho and guarded by a trusted friend, Sergeant Joseph raced back to the basement, "but the diary was gone. Somebody must have picked it up," he said in a 90-minute recording made when he retired from his railroad job after 30 years.

Upstairs, he opened the silver globe to find a ring made of gold, platinum and rubies fashioned in the shape of a swastika rising out of a city.

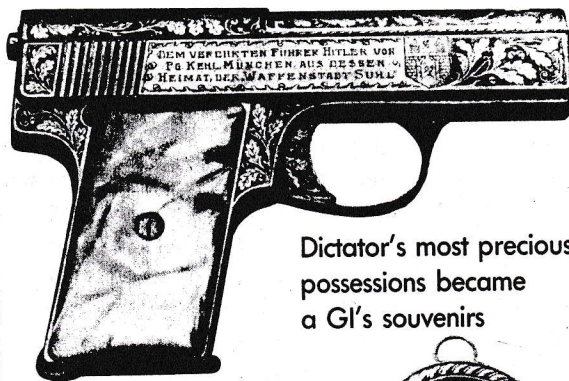
There were other items: A leather box held a few dozen individually felt-wrapped, mint-condition ancient German gold and silver coins, an oval painting on ivory of a lady with strong blue eyes (Adolf Hitler's mother), a silver-framed photograph of a dog with the handwritten identification "Blondi" (Hitler's famous pet), various cutlery engraved "A.H.," an ornate blood-red flag with a large swastika (later identified as the banner of an early brown-shirt regiment), and an iron cross and eagle medallion celebrating the return of the Saar region to Germany in 1918.

An ornate leather-bound book with an eagle holding a swastika on its cover was to have been presented to Benito Mussolini on a state visit by the Italian leader to Monaco and Munich in 1937, but Hitler apparently kept it for himself. The book contained hour-by-hour details of the visit and many hand-painted pictures of the sights Mussolini would see.

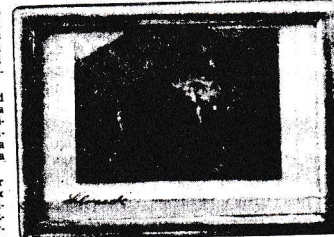
Also included and undoubtedly precious to Hitler was the March 13, 1933, edition of Time magazine, which for the first time featured him on its cover and reported his keynote speech to the German Reichstag, "Rebirth of Bolshevism!"

Sergeant Joseph was thrilled but still didn't realize he possessed what may be the most valuable and historic treasure plundered by any private individual in the Second World War.

He began giving away and losing parts of the treasure. "My Captain came into the room and saw one of the gold guns, the bigger one, which was unwrapped," Hey," he said, "You've got a lot of Hitler stuff here. Gimme that gun." He picked it up," said Sergeant Joseph, "and started toward the door. I pulled out my Browning 9-mm. auto-



Dictator's most precious possessions became a GI's souvenirs



Hitler's personal gold handgun, a photograph of his beloved dog Blondi and a portrait of his mother

matic pistol and warned him, "You step over that threshold and I'm going to blow your foot off." After a heated argument, the sergeant said he was browbeaten into selling the gun to his captain for \$500. (That gun is now in the private collection of Andrew Wright of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada.)

Until he was shipped home, the sergeant carried the intricately engraved remaining gold gun, loaded and stuck in his belt, when he went

priceless diamonds, returned to America and got a job on a railroad.

From time to time he dipped into the treasure in the box under his bed: He gave a girlfriend the swastika ring, and she wore it for 11 years on a string around her neck. "My wife finally made me go over one day," said Sergeant Joseph, "and convince her to let me have it back."

He gave away the gold and silver German coins and much of Hitler's silver service to friends and relatives. For a time he wore Hitler's watch. Once, he left it lying in the men's room of a Pittsburgh coffee shop after washing his hands and managed to get it back a week later. But he left it in another public restroom soon afterward and lost it for good.

Over the years the treasure made the retired sergeant locally famous. Eventually, gun-collector Ray Bily, then owner of a California cheese factory, heard about Sergeant Joseph.

Eight years ago Bily flew east to view the treasure — and purchased it for an undisclosed price. Then he began a three-year search to authenticate the booty.

In Munich, agents of Bily located August Priesack, art historian from 1935 to 1939 in the main archives of the Nazi party, under the command of Rudolf Hess.

"The eight objects, of which I have 15 color photographs before me, and which I have been asked to authenticate, I find to be genuine and coming from the ownership of the April 10, 1890, born artist, and later Chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler," Dr. Priesack ruled.

"This gold plated extravagant pistol (manufactured by the Weapons Factory August Menz from Suhl, a model 11A caliber 7.65 mm engraved by Richard Schilling from Suhl) was a gift from Max Kehl of Suhl and Munich. Because Hitler always carried a pistol with him, he liked very much this especially fine model....

"The ring on a silver-mounted pedestal which forms the swastika in the colors black, white and red, has a precious ruby in the center — a fine example of modern goldsmithing. It's very plain that this treasure remained in his (Hitler's) possession."

An internationally famous expert on valuable weapons, Sam Costanzo, president of World of Lugers in Willoughby Hills, Ohio, in an appraisal of the gun in December 1960, said:

"Without a doubt this pistol is the most valuable firearm, ounce-for-ounce, in the world and probably the most valuable gun in existence still in private, non-institutional hands. Our experience in dealing in firearms of great importance to collectors leads us to the conclusion that this unique pistol could be correctly classified as priceless. However, for purposes of insurance, etc. it is our opinion that the value of this gun would be a minimum of \$375,000 on today's (1960) market."

For eight years Ray Bily stored the gun and the other Hitler possessions secretly in a bank vault in Reno, Nev., dropping in often to sit in silence in the vault, touching and staring at the Fuhrer's golden gun, trying on his ruby swastika ring, hefting the weight of the big shooting trophy, studying the family snapshots of Hitler's mother and dog.

"Every time I look at them I can feel the tremendous power of this man," he said. "But I cannot forget the horror that he unleashed on the world. If I don't sell Hitler's golden gun in the next year or so, I'm going to bequeath it to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington."

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## For 29 years the priceless booty lay wrapped in a box under a bed

out nights drinking with his U.S. Army occupation buddies. The other treasures were jammed in the bottom of his duffel bag.

When it came time to leave, however, a lieutenant warned the sergeant he'd never get his booty back into the United States without customs officials seizing it. Since footlockers of officers were not being searched, he said he'd bring the sergeant's belongings through for a price.

Going through Hitler's mementos, the lieutenant opened the box of cut diamonds and gasped. "I'll take this," he is reported to have said. "In exchange I'll get everything through when we reach the U.S."

The sergeant, certain the diamonds were imitation, agreed, but was himself amazed when the lieutenant used one large stone to cut out a pane of window glass.

"Do you know what you just gave me?" asked the lieutenant. "Sure. Maybe a million dollars worth of diamonds," said Sergeant Joseph, "but I'm no Indian-giver."

The lieutenant fulfilled his part of the bargain, and Sergeant Joseph, minus one of Hitler's two guns, his personal diary and a box full of



For eight years Ray Bily kept the treasures secretly in a bank vault, where he periodically visited them

FROM ALEX GHEROVICI TO THE MEMBERSHIP: The subject of the source and quality of the materials used in the manufacture of the Argentinian military pistols is filled with tales and strange stories. For some people these pistols are made of "battleship steel" and for other, are made of "cast iron". The right answer is "none of the above" and I will try to clarify this subject.

GRAF SPEE STEEL: To the best of my knowledge this ship remains sunken in the River Plate (Rio de la Plata) were it was scuttled more than fifty years ago. Anyway, not only the task of salvaging a ship of those characteristics was beyond Argentina or Uruguay's capabilities, but also is economically impractical to salvage a sunken ship to recover its steel, to be used as scrap.

BATTLESHIP STEEL: In 1910 the Argentinian Navy bought in the USA two battleships, the ARA Moreno and the ARA Rivadavia. A tale tells that the Ballester-Molinas and the DGFMs (the Colt M1911A1 made under license in Argentina) were made of steel salvaged from these ships. The true is that the Moreno was sold to, and scrapped in Japan between 1957 and 1959. The Rivadavia suffered the same fate in Italy, during those same years.

Two important facts are evident. First no Ballester-Molina was made using that steel, because their manufacture ended in 1953. Second, since both ships were scrapped half world away from Argentina it makes no sense to bring back the scrap metal from those distant places.

Finally, it is a world wide practice to melt the salvaged steel to make new steel. So the properties and heat treatment of the naval alloy steel would had been lost during the melting process.

BRITISH STEEL: During the Second World War England bought 10,000 Ballester-Molina pistols from HAFDASA. Since there was a shortage of strategic materials in Argentina, the British agreed to supply the steels needed in the manufacture of those pistols. Because of the risk posed by the German submarines to the merchant navy, England shipped more than the required amount of steel, in order to cover eventual losses during the sea transit. HAFDASA used this surplus steel to build pistols for the local market. So the FACT is that the British and some Argentinians Ballester-Molinas were made of "British steel".

I have the materials specs used in the manufacture of the Ballester-Molina. HAFDASA used standard american and european commercial steels.

I hope that this comments will shed some light on this subject.

TO SCOTT MEADOWS: In answer to your query about some Argentinian M1911A1 pistols marked with the letters I.P., I have noticed that the grips that appear in the picture (AutoMag, March 1992) are not standard Argentinian manufacture. Unless the grips are replacement, their pattern suggest Brazilian origin. If this is the case these pistols are those made by the Fabrica de Itajuba, between 1965-1973. This theory is based in circumstantial evidence, but it is one theory.

TO COLIN DOANE, BILL EDWARDS AND KARL KARASH: Thanks for your help in my research, I appreciate your coloboration.

TO ORV REICHERT AND TOM KNOX FROM CHUCK PATTERSON. Your report of the Mauser and P38 from Vietnam strikes a chord with me. During the Tet offensive of 1968 I was with the 3d Marine Division and a North Vietnamese Major "Chieu Hoi"ed (surrendered) to my Company. I took his sidearm. It was a Radom with Nazi proofs, Russian Cyrillic markings, Chinese characters and crude black plastic grips. When I stripped the gun to clean it I found that the grips were made from phonograph records. In fact one of the grip screws ran through the spindle hole and still had a part of the label attached, it was a German recording of a speech by Hitler.

Before I left Vietnam I turned the gun in to Division G-2 for clearance. Of course, it disappeared.

TO JOHN LACROIX FROM CHUCK PATTERSON. I cannot speak to the marking you describe on your 1910. However, I believe that the mark on your Pre War Commercial Broom is probably what I have drawn below.



Seventy percent of the Pre War Commercials which I have examined have this mark on the barrel just in front of the flat under the chamber. In ninety five percent of those cases, there is a 1.5mm x 1.5mm M just forward of it.

The mark only appears on Pre War Commercials. A six pointed star and the same M appear with the same frequency on War Time Commercials according to my research so far.

**TO SHAYNE MACMAHON FROM JACK VALENTI: RE: 9MM BRASS CASE WITH NICKEL BULLET MARKED "METALLVERKEN 9,00 " THEY ARE SWEDISH POST WAR COMMERCIAL. I HAVE TWO FULL (COLORED DEEP RED) BOXES. BOXES ARE MARKED ON FLAP "AB SVENSHA METALLVERHEN-STOCKHOLM-SWEDEN " BOTTOM IS MARKED "CONTENTS: 50 PCS RIMLESS CARTRIDGES WITH METAL JACKETED BULLETS 116 GRAINS. NON-CORROSIVE AND NON-ERROSIVE. PARABELLUM (LUGER), WALTHER P-38, NEUHAUSEN, LAHTI (HUSQVARNA), SUBMACHINE GUNS." I HAVE BOTH LARGE AND SMALL PRINT. THE fb MARKED ROUNDS ARE GERMAN WW II (1944 LOT 3) BY MANSFELD A.-G., ABT. METALLWARENFABRIK, WERKE ROTHENBURG/SAALE. (I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ONE FOR MY COLLECTION, AS THAT IS A DATE & LOT NUMBER THAT I DO NOT HAVE). SORRY I DON'T HAVE ANY INFO ON THE OTHERS.**

TO JOHNNY PEPPERS AND JIM BALLOU FROM JOHN BRUNNER In reference to the April issue query about 1911A1 6102971 and 6107128 listed in Greeley's Book. These are a transcription error. The original RIA records show these two serial numbers to be 2102971 and 2107128. 3455005 is on the list prepared by RIA but do not rule out the possibility of another typo at an earlier stage.

TO JEAN HUON FROM TOM KNOX In recent correspondence with Gene Medlin, I have been advised that you are not really positive that the FN 1910/22 pistols, marked with the large anchor on the top of the slide, are actually a french naval contract. Although I have no documentation, these have been accepted as French for as long as I have collected - have no idea where this designation originated from. If not French, do you have any thoughts on who these pistols were intended for?

From Colin Doane to Steve Bunch and other CZ52 owners: I am impressed by the CZ52. I don't suffer from trigger pinch, but my trigger finger is pretty thick, having passed between the belt and sprocket of a swamp cooler some years ago. Occasionally the knuckle of my thumb inadvertently sets the safety on. My 52 is reliable with commercial (Fiocchi) 7.63 Mauser ammo and doesn't require the super-powered M 48 Czech stuff. My holster is made of thin leather and the hole in the tab is misplaced by about 1/2 inch. There is a good article on the CZ52 in the May 1990 issue of The American Rifleman. They were made in 1952, 53 and 54. 52 is the rarest production date, 53 the most common. In the '70s, many pistols were rebuilt: pins were staked to keep them in place, which prevents removal of the sideplate on my pistol. If necessary new barrels serially numbered to the pistol were installed. They were shot for accuracy, one pin punch on the top rib on the slide indicates best accuracy, four punches indicate worst. Mine has two punches, about 1 1/2 inch apart. Then they were hot dip blued over the original parkerizing, resulting in a very dark color. The original color was apparently the light grey parkerizing now found on the magazines. What with three years of production, four grades of accuracy and rebuilt vs original guns, there is enough to keep collectors busy for quite a while.

Does anyone have reliable velocity data on the M 48 cartridge, either chronograph readings, or preferably quotes from official Czech sources?

*From: Jim Petty*

*To: Larry Beach*

*I also have a Walther P.38 AC 40 added pistol in my collection that has a matching magazine, numbered on the bottom of the left side of the mag. The serial number of my pistol is 1156a and the mag. is numbered 1156 (same style as on frame and slide) with no letter suffix. I personally have believed that these clips were numbered at the factory and is a transitional variation. The lack of surviving early AC 40 added P.38s with matching clips leads to the disagreement on this issue.*

*Description of the clips for this variation are:*

*Bottom left side: P.38 over serial number.*

*Bottom of spine: Double stamped eagle over 359.*

*Also have clip number 1177+ in this variation.*

*To the Membership: Would appreciate any comments on the AC marked P.38 clips. Known examples: P.38 over AC: No acceptance stamp - and those with single eagle over 359 - what for? Why? When?*



**To the membership from Peter Fitchen (re: Warren Buxton's comments):** In last month's issue of AUTO MAG, Tom Knox published the first half of Warren Buxton's response to my comments on pages 143 and 144 of the September 1990 issue dealing with the question of the code change on the Spreewerke P.38s. Tom felt that Warren's arguments in their entirety were too lengthy to publish in a single issue but agreed to publish them instead in two successive issues. What follows then is the second part of the serialization of Warren's excellent comments.

Also mentioned in the last part of your article was the barrel's cyq code and its status vis-a-vis the slide's cyq/cvq code. The barrel code and its status has absolutely nothing to do with whether the cyq to cvq code came about due to a broken die(s) or due to a purposeful change in codes, and that status cannot be used to support the idea of broken dies. The contention, more or less, advanced in the AutoMag article was that no barrels have been seen with a cvq code, so, therefore, the conclusion was arrived at that a code change did not take place. First, if a die used on the slide, and not only one but at least two dies as has been proposed in the article, somehow became broken so as to produce the cvq, then why did not the barrel die also break and produce another "cvq" code? The die (or dies?) used with the barrel and those used with the slide were no different for all practical purposes, so if the slide dies were so fragile that more than one broke it seems reasonable to assume that the barrel die would also break at least eventually. That obviously did not happen. Second, there is no reason to try and link the barrel code's status with the slide code's status. Third, two components were routinely produced in larger quantities than were the others and these two were the magazine and the barrel. (Magazine production, incidentally, is briefly discussed in Vol. 3.) It was quite possible that barrel production was far enough ahead of the production of slides (and, probably, also frames) that there wasn't time enough before the war ended for the supply of the cyq marked examples to be exhausted and to allow the cvq marked specimens to begin appearing in noticeable quantities. Fourth, there is little doubt that a definite lag, as just explained, could easily exist between the production of one component with a new mark (the cvq code) and one with the old mark (the cyq code), and there is a well known precedent, or example, for this. When the change was made from the Mauser associated eagle over 135 acceptance stamp to the eagle over WaA135 acceptance stamp on the P.38's slide there was a definite lag between the time the WaA135 version first started appearing on the slide and when it started to appear on the barrel and frame. Fifth, there was not that much time between when the code was changed (whether due to a broken die or a purposeful change) and the war's end. At most the time would have been approximately six months and could have been as short as a month. In either case, barrel production with cyq marked barrels could have been far enough ahead to have very easily filled in for time periods such as those.

This idea of a "broken die" leaves me far more uncomfortable than does the more logical and reasonably acceptable (to me, to others, obviously not so) idea of a code change. For a number of years Spreewerke manufactured P.38s in the many, many thousands up to the advent of our subject here. Before then, though, not one die broke to my knowledge at least. Then, all of a sudden, and just when the codes were starting to be changed industry wide, this cyq die breaks. Not only does one die break but at least two break (according to the AutoMag article), and when they break both break in a very unusual manner, i.e. only the tail (or stem) of the "y" is

affected. This implies very strongly that the die(s) were rather fragile, but, yet, they never broke before. That makes one wonder or it should. And if they were flawed or fragile (or even if they were not, but let us continue to assume that they were somehow breaking or getting broken) then why was the stem of the "q" never affected? Both of these stems are very close together, so it is difficult to comprehend how the y's stem could be completely, catastrophically obliterated by being neatly and cleanly sheared off in the horizontal plane from the face of the die and yet the q's stem was not even scratched, dented, dinged, poked, or verbally insulted even though that stem becomes very exposed and vulnerable when the y's stem is gone. When the y's stem disappeared (was broken off) it, we apparently are asked to believe, left not a trace, not even a splinter or not even a hole or depression, on or in the face of the die where it (the stem) once was located that could be seen in the pistol's metal surface. Now, that is a really clean and smooth break done on an extremely hard surface. There are some machinists who can't do that good of work.

These so called broken dies not only break at an unusual and opportune time, but they break at the approximate same time, and in the same manner, and in an unusual and well protected location, and only a very very small area of the die's face is affected, and of that area the portion within a tiny fraction of an inch next to it is totally and completely unscathed, and it is the absolutely positively exactly same kind and type of break on all dies concerned, and after the basic style that these dies represented had given many years of unbroken (neat pun, don't you think?) service, after all that, there is more; only the dies associated with one component break namely those used on the slide. Those used with the barrel never break even though they are the exact same kind of die and even though the implication is is that this basic style of die had some kind of flaw or was rather fragile.

Let us assume the opposite from the above, i.e. that the die(s) were not flawed, were not fragile, and that what happened was simply a fluke, an accident. If an accident can happen to a number of dies with certain shared characteristics (as alleged in the AutoMag article) such as a similarity of letter type (letter style or font), similarity in die size, etc., then by definition this same kind of accident can easily happen to other dies with the same or similar characteristics. Therefore, why did the y in Mauser's byf die never give any trouble? This would include not only P.38 production but also Luger production and machine gun production and rifle production and cannon production, and parts production, and machine tool production, all of which were involved with this particular code. This included many different dies in numerous and widely separated plants, and yet not one of them to my knowledge ever broke let alone in just one teeny-weeny area of their faces. Why is it, for that matter, that, in the entire German military/industrial complex that was using code dies for many years, not one other example of a broken die has been verified to my knowledge on any kind of other equipment made by any other manufacturer during any time period one wishes to examine in this era? It seems that if one or more dies as used by one company (Spreewerke) suddenly broke then the possibility of other dies breaking with with other companies would be very very good. Apparently, that did not happen. Also, if no, or extremely few, dies broke in the entire military/industrial manufacturing complex for the total duration of the era under consideration here then this very strongly implies that the dies as group were very sturdy, were not fragile, were not flawed in any basic manner, and did not break and were not prone to breakage. This is reflected back to Spreewerke in

a very strong implication that the Spreewerke dies did not break either.

Chance and coincidence as well as credulity (i.e. is it reasonable under the circumstances?), play an important and significant role in the kinds of occurrences outlined above. But one of the purposes of the above paragraphs is to say that, in my opinion, this is stretching chance and coincidence as well as credulity just a touchy-poo too far.

With respect to the appearance of the code itself on the gun, I would like to address that aspect of this subject in the next few paragraphs.

I feel that regardless of the tilt of the die or even it was somehow broken there is no way that a perfectly formed, flat bottomed V, with symmetrical arms could be formed with every strike of the die during the entire production run from the y of the cvq. The cvq die impression shown in figures G, H, and I of Vol.2 illustrate this flat bottomed, perfectly formed V. Notice that the metal surface below the v's bottom in all the figures is smooth and undisturbed (with the exception of machine marks). If the die was broken in such a catastrophic manner as to completely obliterate the y's tail then I maintain that it would be almost completely impossible for that tail to had broken off without leaving a hole or depression where the stem once was and/or leaving a sliver or some residue or tiny lump of metal from the edge or from some part of the interior of the stem. This hole and/or sliver would had made some kind of impression (convex or concave as the case may be) in the metal; there is none as shown in the figures and I have never seen any such residual impressions on any of the cvq guns I have examined. This indicates with very little doubt that the surface of the die head below the v was perfectly flat and smooth and this points to a die that was purposely made that way.

Although there are exceptions (the edge of broken glass for instance), a broken area or edge is not a clean edge or surface. The area or surface on the die's face from which the y's stem was broken off could not, in my opinion, end up being a completely clean or smooth surface.

The slight angle (pointed to as an indication of a broken die in the AutoMag article) on the flat bottomed v's bottom is simply the way the die was cut when it was made, or, since the angle is so slight as to be almost nonexistent, it could be easily had been due to the gun's metal surface irregularities, or due to common die wear. And also notice figure I, that v's bottom has no angle at all, so does this now mean that there are more broken dies with all the "ifs" outlined above and in addition the break is now perfectly horizontal in exactly the right place?

The illustrations of the cvq code in Vol. 2, especially figure G, show letters that are perfectly formed (excluding the effect of metal surface irregularities and, possibly, the final finishing of the metal's). When these codes were struck, in other words, the dies were not excessively tilted or twisted in respect to the horizontal plane of the slide's surface, and, as a result, the v in the cvq is perfectly formed. If the die was broken so as to form the bogus cvq code, e.g. see figures E, F, then there is no way in this world that this same or a similarly broken die could had formed the code shown in figure G.

Figures H and I show cvq codes with irregularities. In figure H the c is partially missing, the top of the arms of the v are not completely formed, a piece is missing out of the loop of the q. In figure I the appearance is as if the approximate upper right angle of the upper right quadrant of the die was not struck and the tail of

the q is partially missing. Such an appearance very obviously could not be the result of a tilted die (it would have to be tilted in two directions at the same time) because the loop of the q and the v as well as the c are correctly formed in all other respects, and this indicates that the die was not tilted or twisted and instead was struck square on. However, the bottom of the v in both illustrations is correctly formed, i.e. flat with the possible exception of the incredibly slight angle on its bottom but its cause was mentioned above. The irregularities that are seen in the photos are simply the result of metal surface irregularities, machine marks, rough surface machining, and possibly the result of the finishing of the slide's surface after the code had been struck on.

Some rudimentary finishing possibly was done after the code had been struck on probably to prepare the slide for the blueing baths and to remove major burrs and machine marks (although with Spreewerke, those marks that were left on the gun in many cases were still significant blemishes). Classed in with the burrs and machine marks are raised edges around the edges of the letter depressions. When the die enters the metal it displaces it and pushes it out along these edges. On many of these guns there are no significantly raised edges around the edges of the letter depressions. To remove these edges a quick swipe is made with a finishing machine. In Spreewerke's case, their workmanship was very sloppy in this area, and they either removed too much, or introduced more machine marks, or did a spotty job, any of which could easily had caused the deformed appearance of the codes as seen here. Could this finishing step had removed the residual impressions mentioned above that would be below the y if it had been broken? In some cases yes, but in most cases no, because to had done that a significant amount of metal had to had been removed and that would had further deformed the appearance of the codes probably almost to the point where they became illegible. There is an unusual effect of this finishing and it can be seen in figure I. Note here that the surface of the metal is very smooth and free of machine marks which indicates that the finishing step was done much better, by far, than with the guns shown in the other illustrations (this hit and miss quality of workmanship is another Spreewerke characteristic as is well known). It was this finishing step that resulted in the unusual appearance of this code and not because its die was tilted, twisted, or broken.

With respect to the possibility that the dies were tilted or twisted in some manner as to form the cvq code, I fail to see how such a tilted die could form the flat bottomed v. But this aside, if tilted dies did form that flat bottomed v then that means that every one of the dies in use, and there is little doubt that more than one die was in use during the life time of this code, had to be tilted at exactly the same angle for the entire production run. The code's location on the slide varied to a large degree and sometimes considerably. This indicated that the code was struck by hand or else the holder for the die and/or slide in a marking machine was very very loose. In either case I, again, fail to see how exactly the same angle thus exactly the same code could be maintained for such a long period on so many separate components, and this would be a valid observation even if only one die had been used.

Also, the appearance of the cvq code is very consistent over its entire life time (excluding the effects of surface irregularities, varying hammer blows or rolling pressures, finishing effects, machine mark effects, etc. as discussed above). If this cvq was originally produced via a broken die then it would have had some fine and delicate edges along the break and these would had slowly worn away (while the remainder of the die, as would be normal, would had worn

much slower) which would have changed the appearance of the code to a considerable extent. This radical change of appearance did not happen. For that matter, the cvq code retained its same basic, crisp appearance throughout its entire production run; this indicated a new die that was not used long enough (there were not that many cvq guns made before production stopped) for appreciable die wear to take place and become noticeable. It was quite, and very, possible that some quick wear took place along the sharp edges of the new cvq die or dies, such as along the narrow flat bottom of the v. Such minor wear could have easily resulted in the very tiny angle along this bottom as pointed to in the AutoMag article.

The cvq dies were characterized, in part, by having rather narrow lines, or die face ridges. This is shown in for example figure D. Sometimes when the cvq was very deeply struck it resulted in what appeared as thick lines such as in figure A, but a deep strike like this is easily recognized. The cvq die, on the other hand, was characterized by thick lines, in fact very thick lines. A deeply struck cvq is quite obvious as shown in figure G but even one that is struck normally is still quite different from the thin line line cvq, see figure H. This difference in line widths indicates different dies, not the same dies broken. I will concede that this line width argument could be viewed as a moot point due to the effect of the hammer strike or rolling pressure used to impress the die into the metal as well as metal surface irregularities, metal hardness, machine marks, die wear etc. etc., so, other than for mentioning it, I don't feel it is worth dwelling on for now at least.

Have I proven anything here, no. But I definitely feel that the broken or misstruck die ideas have not been proven either with respect to forming the true, and consistent cvq code as seen on these P.38s. In the absence of primary source documentation nothing can really be "proven" about this subject as stated at the beginning of this discussion. I remain convinced that the cvq symbol is a legitimate code purposely made and applied; I have seen no evidence or heard no compelling arguments that would cause a change of mind here. I hope, however, that in this brief discussion I have given some additional food for thought for those who care to consider it.

#### SALE/TRADE

MAGAZINES - Colt .455, exc, \$150; Colt 2nd type (keyhole), vg, \$150; have various older Colt .22 conversion unit mags (Ace, Serv Mod Ace, etc.) - will trade for items in WANTED. Taps 504-833-0357 after 6pm EST

Mauser HSc, .380, 15shot, blue w/extra mag, instructions & original box, as new - test fired only, \$325. Tommy Hinson, Rt. 5, Box 955, Gray, Ga. 31032 912-986-3757 after 7pm EDT

#### WANTED

WWII Colt & HS 'lend-lease' .45 barrels; Colt orig blue 'Model of 1911 U. S. ARMY' marked slide (stripped okay). Both in vg or better condition - will purchase or trade. Taps 504-833-0357 after 6pm EST

Haenel Schmeisser police mag, type III, E/L, no serial; Mauser P08 sideplate #91. Tommy Hinson 912-986-3757 after 7pm EDT

Orig grips for the following wartime autos: Brown P38; Czech Duo; walnut for HSc; Sauer 38H; brown Radom. PISTOLS: police E/L Steyr; Astra 300, .32; CZ24 with test proof; FN 1910/22, 61000 - 78000 range. Rick Thomas, 3123 Pyles Dr., Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772 301-336-4393

WANTED

HSc grips, original wood; Sauer 38H, left grip or set; Walther PP, left side/weighted. Jim Cate, 406 Pine Bluff Dr., Chat., Tn. 37412

Luger accessories - steel Navy cleaning rod w/brass tip; 6" naval holster, stock mounted style; 'CAL. 9mm' marked naval mag; commercial LPO8 holster; 'GERMANY' marked, 1920 commercial type mags. Chuck Watts, POB 1834, Loomis, Ca. 95650 916-652-6727

1920 commercial Luger, with serial ending in '10'; LPO8 rear sight parts; naval 100/200 meter rear sight; 1900 DWM receiver parts or complete assembly w/barrel; contoured shoulder stock for Luger; exc wood bottom mag; 1900 DWM trigger; 1900 DWM side plate. Dan Desmond 203-443-2360

Colt Woodsman, Ace, Service Model Ace and conversion units - especially interested in examples with King features. Also, associated parts, boxes, memorabilia and commercial large frames. Bill Holler, 750 W. Plymouth Ave., DeLand, Fl. 32720 904-736-0197 evenings

Finnish L35; Nazi issue holster for Star B. Harry White, POB 716, Columbia, Mo. 65205 314-443-4129

LPO8 holster and/or complete rig (less gun), dated 1914 or 1915; Luger mag pouches of the same vintage; Navy Luger leather, stocks, mag pouches; have naval stocks available to trade for examples marked I.S.B. or II T.D.; have some nice holsters/guns to trade for wanted items. Buck Squires, POB 31787, Charlotte, NC 28231 704-336-2670 work or 704-376-6454 home (before 10pm)

Original scope & mount for Mauser K43, prefer as new with box, rubber eyepiece, etc.; Polish Radom, prefer pre-war eagle, 80% or better; holster for same. Have Axis pistols to trade. Harvey Roscow 813-531-4870 after 7pm EST

Mauser P08 sideplate #04; original walnut grips for Mauser HSc; Broom stock iron #034. John Boncuore, 7311 W. 57th St., Summit, Il. 60501 708-458-1798

Cylinder & loading gate system for M79 or M83 Reichsrevolver (would buy cheap junker to obtain parts); KAR 98k rifle barrel, must be WaA63, w/sights. Phillip Long, 1815 Meadowlark Rd., Clay Center, Ks. 67432

ac40, 480 code, ac no date, 1900 Lugers, Buxton vol I & II. Mark Rendina 816-361-2087

FN HP flat board stock, original or repre; odd .22lr conversion units for anything; Nazi HP with serial above 61000b. William Chase 414-628-4669 after 6pm or 414-463-1004 days

Exc or better condition, drop-in holsters for the HSc, PP, PPK, Frommer, Mauser, Sauer, etc. - will pay top dollar for specimens in outstanding condition; like condition high polish HSc & Sauer pistols. Ed Rothgeb, Box 98 Lentz Ln., Shipman, Va. 22971 804-263-5272

One set of original hard rubber grips for the Colt M 1902 Military .38, in fair or better condition, complete with ferrules and - if possible - four screws. Heinz Rutti, Schanzenstr. 4, 4410 Liestal/BL, Switzerland.

French Unique M17 w/two line inscription on left slide, within serial range from 1 to 57000; French Mab D, older model with muzzle latching lever under the slide, serial range from 31000 to 47000, no added markings such as POLICE D'ETAT, etc. Gene Medlin, 100 Golden Barrel, El Paso, Tx. 79927 915-852-4953

SALE/TRADE

Have you been looking for years to match up that one or two mismatched parts on your P08? I'll keep these numbered parts that you need on file and will notify you if I part out a gun with the proper part. Please write note with manufacturer, year of production, blue or straw, and serial number. Also have parts for Mausers, Walthers, Schmeisser, Dreyse, Langehan, Ortgies, etc. HOLSTERS: Austrian Steyr 08/34, marked EIGENTUM der SICHERHEITSWACHE/Wein, vg @ \$25 or exc @ \$40; Austrian Steyr .25, same police markings, vg @ \$25; old Austrian revolver holster, exc @ \$35; Italian M34/35, green PP pattern, vg @ \$50; Italian M34/35, breen Italian pattern, vg @ \$50; modified Italian M34/35, vg @ \$30; Portuguese Savage M07, brown, wire belt brackets, exc @ \$50; Swiss PP size single flap w/shoulder strap, J. Froshy/Lausanne, exc @ \$75; Scandinavian WWII era, single flap PP/HSc size, black, exc @ \$60; another PP size w/horse head in horse shoe logo, brown, exc @ \$50; another PP/Ruby size, marked INGENJORSKONJAR/PALLIN, single flap, black, vg @ \$40; German Mauser 10/14, single flap, brown, exc @ \$60; German Mauser 14, B.A.XI, black, dry, g @ \$40; German Langehan, 1917, B.A.XI, brown, vg @ \$65; same, 1918, LZA, brown, vg @ \$60; German Walther 8, dual flap, brown, exc @ \$80; German PP, brown, vg @ \$50; German PPK, DRGM, g @ \$50; German PP, brown ersatz, short closure strap, exc @ \$35; German HSc, AKAH/DRGM & 'MAUSER 7,65', vg @ \$125; same, brown, unmarked, exc @ \$50; same, variant closure strap, vg @ \$40; German Unique 17, WaAD20, black, vg @ \$50; German CZ27, EZGJ 1944, black vg @ \$50 or exc @ \$75; same, RBN 4 & stock number inside flap, black, vg @ \$50; German postwar S&W M&P revolver holster, AKAH, black, exc @ \$60. Tom Heller, POB 398, St. Charles, Mo. 63302 314-441-3006

FOR SALE: Astra model 400 pistol w/holster, ser # 88,545 matched, rare lot confiscated from factory, no proofs or military marks, \$250.00 or trade for Nazi accepted Astra 600. Philip Long 913 632 6478

Beretta M-35, 4/UT, 95%, \$325; FN M-1922, Eagle N, Nazi commercial, no military marks, 98%, \$275; Italian Brixia M-1912, 85%, \$550; Colt M-1901, .38 L/C rev., U.S. Army marked, 95%, \$350; French MAS M-1950 leather holster, tan, Vietnam "bring back", v.g. cond., \$65; 8mm Lithuanian FN M-1924 rifle, (gates of Vilna, "GINKLU FONDAS", "24L", on receiver, "RFV" on butt plate), matching bolt, 95%, \$585; Polish Trng. rifle, .22 cal., single shot, bolt action, barrel marked "P.W.U. FABRYKA KAR-ABINOW WARSAWA" on left side, "K.B.K.S. WZ. A. PATENT No. 72A KAL 22 LONG-RIFLE" on right side, military style butt plate and sling swivels, 50-100 meter wheel elevated rear sight, 90%, \$425. All prices + shipping. John Du Bois, P.O. Box 1422, Gainesville, Tx. 76240, (817-665-0413)

Mauser, 1930 broom, 98% bright blue, \$795. Eagle Luger, 9 m/m, 97% \$925. Byf 41, Luger, serial No. 1A, \$850. Banner Luger 1940 commercial, .30 cal., 97%, \$1895. Sauer 38H, full slide markings with safety, Eagle & 37 proofs, orig. grips, 98%, \$290. Colt .25, 1908, 99%, unfired, \$295. Swiss Luger sight adjusting tool & Swiss 29 mag., new, \$150. Luger tool, proofed, \$35. Colt .45 ACP Mk. IV barrel & bushing, as new, \$40. Colt .45 two-tone bright blue (1919) com. mag., exc. \$45. Sauer 38H left grip \$20. Sauer 38H repro. grips \$20. Walther PPK .380 post war mag. new \$15. Gene Glover 40 Martin Cir., Paducah, Ky. 42001, 502-554-9676.

For Sale: Mauser Carbine, Large Ring, 14 1/2 inch barrel, serial number 576. 98% gun is superb. Chuck Patterson Home(After 7 pm PCT) (310) 456-9096; Office (213) 488-7452.

SALE/TRADE

Two Beretta 4/ut rigs, phosphate, both near new, \$375 each or \$700 for pair; PP, commercial/high polish, 99%, \$450; Astra 300, WAA, near new, \$475; Sauer E/c rig, 98%/high polish, black police holster, \$650; Sauer 38H, E/37, 97%/high polish, \$395; HSc, E/L, rig, late, near new, \$650; T14, 5.5, 98%, \$425; T14, 12.?, un-numbered mag, near new, \$450; Anschutz 4mm training rifle, near new, \$650; have a number of outstanding concition holsters (P08, P38, etc.) that I will trade for holsters I need...will trade anything listed for a phosphate Radom w/serrated wood grips in outstanding condition...will trade super holsters for original manuals for the Sauer 38H, Beretta, P38. Ed Rothgeb, Box 98 Lentx Ln., Shipman, Va. 22971 804-263-5272

Bound back issues of Auto Mag - Vol IX ('76) thru Vol XVIII ('85) & Vol XXIII ('90) @ \$30 per volume; loose back issues @ \$2 each: Vol V. 7-8-9-10, VII 2-3-10-12, XV 1-3 & 6-12, XIX 1-2-3 & 8-11, VI 2-4-7-8, VIII 3-11-12, XVIII 1-7 & 9-12; SMALL ARMS OF THE WORLD - Etzel, 12th edition, \$40; INTERNATIONAL ARMAMENT - Johnson & Lockhoven, two volumes w/dust jackets, \$115; collection of six Colt historical prints, 1836 - 1873, \$75; Pederson device manual - an old photo copy entitled NOTES ON CALIBER .30 MODEL OF 1918 PISTOL, prepared by Small Arms Division, Ord. Dept. Machine Gun Section, dated 12/2/19, 40 pages & 10 photos, \$250 (xerox copies @ \$30); 350 rounds of Pederson ammo, most in boxes, \$300; Plainfield 71/72 operation manual, copies @ \$3 (I have 00672 boxed w/conversion); pre-war Belgian HP, tangent/slotted, 93%, \$950; Astra 300, .32, as new, 5973xx, \$575; Hi Standard Supermatic, .22lr w/.22s conversion, NIB, \$950; S&W .38/.44 Outdoorsman, special dot front sight, 95%, \$595. Wm. Chase 414-628-4669 after 6pm 414-463-1004 days

Radom, slotted, C0380, 97%, small chip @ top of right grip screw, small spot very light pitting top of slide, exc bnz holster w/spare mag, \$575; Radom, F5567, thin late finish, brown grips, exc black grz 44 holster, two E/189 mags, \$500. Would trade for early Rem Rand 1911A1 or late '45 Ithaca 1911A1. FFL & postage. Bob Gonzalez 805-964-5924 all day

P38, cvq, 'a' prefix, 98%, \$575; P38, ac42, 'h' block, 98%, \$575; P38, byf44, dual tone, 100%, \$575; P38, ac43, Belgian slide, dual tone, 100%, \$1100; P38, ac44, Belgian slide, 100%, \$1100. Mark Rendina 816-361-2087

P08, byf42, plastic grips/mag base, 96%, \$750; Luger, '23 commercial, 97%, \$650; 1908 commercial, appears to be Nazi era re-work, 90%, \$625; 1920 commercial, restored to 100%, \$525; Erfurt LPO8, 90%, lug milled narrow so stock won't attach, \$850. Robt. Beers, 1045 County Rd. 459, Tyler, Al. 36785 205-872-1424 days or 205-872-7342 evenings

Walther PP, .380, WAA359, match mag, exc, \$2500. Send SASE for list of 20 post war Walther pistols for sale - most are personal imports w/o importers markings. Harold Anderson, POB 55486, Lexington, Ky. 40555

Mauser 1910/34, 417280, exc, \$375; Mauser 1934, E/N, 623884, exc, \$295; SACM 35A, WAA, 95%, \$225; P38, ac/44, Vopo with C/N barrel, \$365. Wing Keung, 42 Fawn Ridge Ln., Wilton, Conn. 06897 203-834-2747

Walther HP, WAA, 20495, 98%, \$1000; Walther PP, SA der NSDAP GRUPPE FRANKEN, 991355, \$1000; Sauer 38H, SA GRUPPE ALPENLAND, 465175, \$1750; Mauser 1934, KM, 564741, barrel not matched - mag does, \$500. Doug Coffey, 1117 Glenn Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95125

Barrels for .25 acp pistols. Most are so-so and priced accordingly. I pay postage and satisfaction or your money back less postage. Bergman, nice \$20; Bernedo, \$15; Delu, \$15; Dreyse, \$20; Hope, \$15; Jieffeco, \$15; Kommer, nice, \$20; Libia, \$15; Lignose, \$15; Schmeisser, \$15; Swiss (that is what Shelley Braverman had marked on the package), \$15; Verney Garron, \$15; Zehna, \$15; Bob Krauss, Box 21139, Phila., PA 19114