

NATIONAL AUTOMATIC PISTOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 15738 • TOWER GROVE STATION

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63163

VOLUME XL - ISSUE 7

OCTOBER - 2007

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND OLD FRIENDS

GEORGE J. DILLMAN - TEXAS

TAMARA KEEL - TENNESSEE

DAVID M. MOLCHEN - OHIO

ROBERT C. SHERBOURNE - S. CAROLINA

RUSSEL WITHEEN - OREGON

MICHAEL P. HART - CALIFORNIA

ROBERT I. LANDIES - OHIO

CHARLES R. ODOM - VIRGINIA

SCOTT WEBB - TENNESSEE

NAPCA NOTES: Our affiliations with both the National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Program are both current. As an affiliate of the CMP, NAPCA members are eligible to purchase available surplus arms from that group. You will need a form and membership card - just drop me a SASE and I will furnish both.

- Submissions are getting very sparse - hard to imagine that 700+ collectors have such little to say. PLEASE submit your articles, questions, answers, general comments and/or ads either to the address above, or feel free to email them to me at [tomknox@NAPCA.net](mailto:tomknox@NAPCA.net).
- On the back of most issues, are both a membership application and directory application. Please pass the membership application along to a collector friend, and return the directory application to Chuck Wagner ASAP.
- Don't forget to sign up on the NAPCA forum ([www.NAPCA.net](http://www.NAPCA.net)). Click on "Members" in the right column, and just follow the instructions.

145

AUTO MAG is published each month by the National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association: Thompson D. Knox, Sr., President/Editor; Thompson D. Knox, Jr., Secretary; Jeffrey T. Knox, Treasurer; Daniel M. Byrne, John R. Carlson, Donald G. Crews and Ernest J. Lang, Founders. 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 8 X 10. 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: \$50.00 per year for the United States; \$55.00 per year for Canada and Mexico; \$65.00 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, in whole or part, not permitted except by special authorization. Membership mailing list is not, nor will ever be sold, traded or given to any person and/or organization. First class postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri.

To HSc COLLECTORS:

From ALAN BURNHAM:

Recently discovered Mauser factory drawings #1MC14-12, "*Griffschale, links*" (Grip Panel, left), dated August 9, 1940, and #1MC14-13, "*Griffschale, rechts*" (Grip Panel, right), dated August 12, 1940, are interesting for two reasons:

- 1) The material listing is "*Kunstharz - Preßstoff*", making this the earliest reference to HSc plastic (synthetic resin) grips found so far.
- 2) The grip screw holes are shown in the higher position, not the typical early "Low Grip Screw" location.

Therefore, with reference to these drawings and other historical documents, it would seem logical that the following was the timeline of events leading up to HSc production:

#### Pre-Production Grip Screw Revision

At some point prior to August, 1940, a decision was made to relocate the grip screws about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " higher on the frame than originally designed. Traditionally, this was said to have been done to provide more support to the upper part of the wooden grips. It does, however, also strengthen the base of the frame where all the force of the mainspring is concentrated, thus preventing a possible fracture in that area. This revision would constitute a major change to the HSc frame, requiring new forgings to be made.

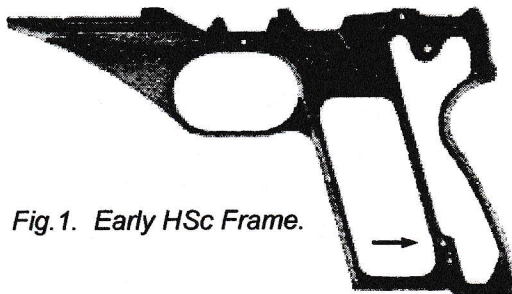


Fig. 1. Early HSc Frame.

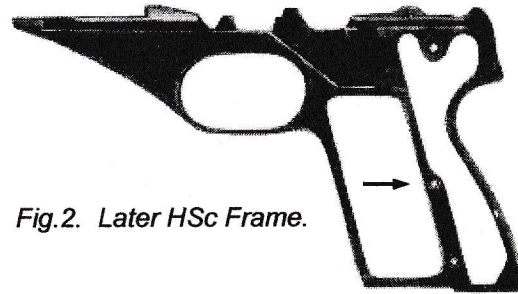
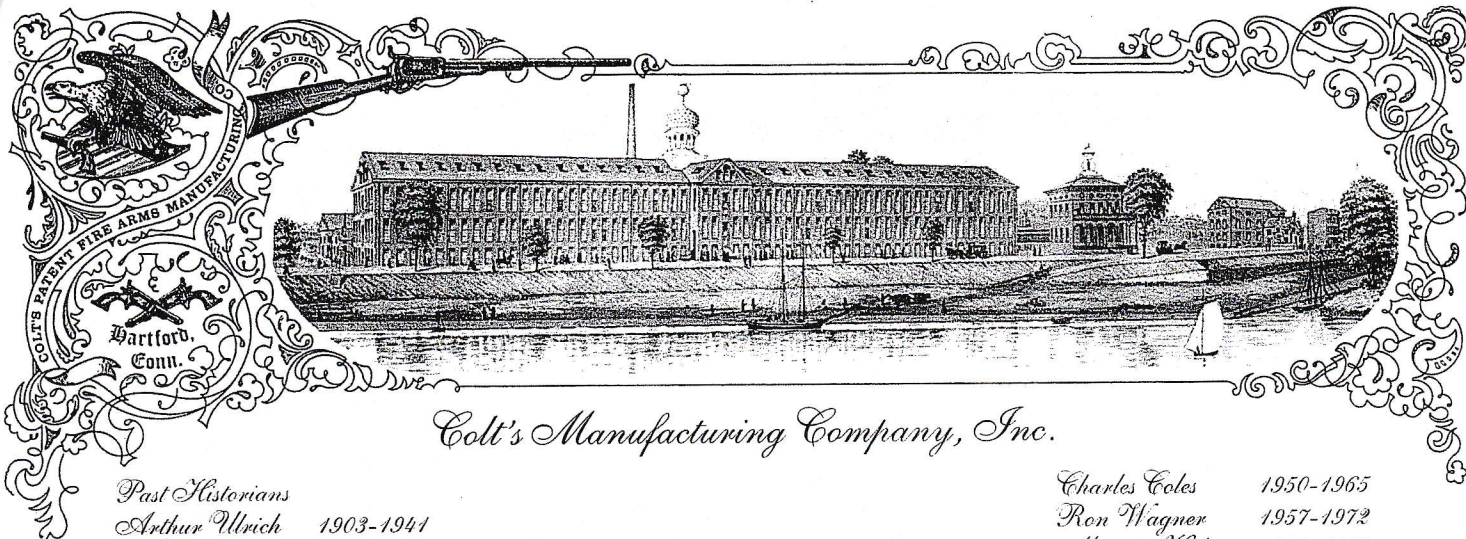


Fig. 2. Later HSc Frame.

Considering that the first 1,345 (Low Grip Screw) pistols were assembled beginning in December, 1940, with unmodified frames, we can theorize that these were already in inventory at the factory and the replacement forgings would have been ordered before the first HSc came off the assembly line. Had the original frames not been available, production would have been delayed beyond the December startup waiting for the foundry to retool and process the new frames. With HSc production already delayed over two years by the military authorities, it is understandable that any further postponement would be intolerable to the Mauser management group.

To take it a step further, since there were no Army HSc purchases until after the revision was made, the *Heereswaffenamt*, as the controlling wartime military agency and largest potential customer, would certainly have had some responsibility in mandating this costly modification. Because the *Kriegsmarine* (Wartime Navy) was fiercely independent of the *Heereswaffenamt*, they went ahead and purchased about half of the initial production Low Grip Screw HSc's, the balance finding their way into the commercial market.

As always, comments and questions can be posted in AUTOMAG or emailed to me at [burnham@nfdc.net](mailto:burnham@nfdc.net).



*Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.*

*Past Historians*

*Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941*  
*Harold Hart 1942-1945*

*Charles Coles 1950-1965*  
*Ron Wagner 1957-1972*  
*Martin Huber 1972-1993*

July 24, 2007

Mr. Roger Tremblay  
 458 Brandy Hill Road  
 Thompson, Connecticut 06277-2426

Dear Mr. Tremblay:

Colt, by the means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manufacture of the Colt firearm with the following serial number:

**COLT Z-40 DOUBLE ACTION SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOL**

Serial Number:	A0108
Caliber:	.40 S&W
Barrel Length:	4"
Finish:	Matte Blue
Type of Stocks:	Black Polymer
Sights:	Three-dot sight system
Accessories:	Furnished with an extra magazine.
Special Notation:	Used Gun
Shipped To:	John C. Keosayian
Address:	Chester Heights, Pennsylvania
Date of Shipment:	May 20, 1999
Number of Same Type	
Guns in Shipment:	3

Remarks: The original factory records further indicate that only about 800 Colt Z-40 pistols were produced.

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to be of interest.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen J. Hoyt*  
 Kathleen J. Hoyt  
 Historian

©2007 Colt's Archive Properties LLC

FROM ROGER TREMBLAY TO JUERG SIEGENTHALLER: The Colt factory letter for the CZ40 DA arrived, so I wanted to share it with you. Of the 800 produced, per letter, no estimate was given of the guns in the U.S. Does anyone have this info?





## From Dave Noll

I just had to send in pictures of this wonderful little Charola pistol. It is for sure art on steel. The original owner had to be a wealthy rancher. Who ever L.Y. was. I hope you enjoy looking at this gun as much as I have. Wish you could see the great detail and color of the gold on the black background.

*My pictures just don't do the gun justice.*

To Wm. L. Morris from Juerg Siegenthaler

Re: Zehna

For your database: SN 6155 first variation, SN 9443 second variation

To James D. Brown from Juerg Siegenthaler

Re: CZ 36/45

For your database:

CZ 36 SN 24405, first variation, with safety lever, no proof but 6'35

CZ 45 SN B584334, sixth variation, no safety lever, proof 66

**TO GRAHAM JOHNSON FROM JIM CATE: Regarding: SUHL's location - I would imagine Don Maus will answer your inquiry about Suhl being in Thüringia also. I agree it is confusing because Thüringia has two meanings: it's a region, as well as the name of a State founded in 1919. So Suhl is located in Thüringia (the region), but in the State of Prussia...not Sachsen (or Saxony in the English language). In 1919 the former eight (8) independent "Royal" states of:**

- 1/ Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach**
- 2/ Sachsen-Altenburg**
- 3/ Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha**
- 4/ Sachsen Meiningen**
- 5/ Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt**
- 6/ Schwarzburg-Sondershausen**
- 7/ Reuss Altere Linie (Greiz)**
- 8/ Reuss Jüngere Linie (Gera) merged into the Free State (Freistaat) Thüringia.**

Suhl did not belong to the new Free State Thüringia but still was located in the region called Thüringia. Zella-Mehlis had belonged to Sachsen Meiningen before 1919, but after 1919 Zella-Mehlis belonged to the Free State of Thüringia. Therefore Zella-Mehlis and Suhl were in different States after 1919, and that is the reason both cities had their own Proofhouses also.

TOM,  
PLEASE PUBLISH THIS AND THE PHOTO AS WELL,

TO THE MEMBERSHIP,

RE: MAB MODEL A, 6.35MM SERIAL NUMBER 108137 WITH WAFFENAMPT 251 PROOF MARK ON THE REAR TANG. PLEASE SEE PICTURES. THIS HAS NO NAZI TEST PROOF ON THE BARREL. #37 ON THE BARREL AND SLIDE INTERNALLY. MISSING LOWER GRIPS SCREWS-THE GRIPS HAVE SOME SHRINKAGE.

1) WHITTINGTON VOLUME I SAYS 1130 PROCURED FROM FACTORY BETWEEN SERIAL #107900-- #109240

2) WHITTINGTON VOLUME II SAYS 1130 SOLD TO COMMERCIAL DEALERS BETWEEN 1940 AND 1942.

3) STILL SAYS THAT THESE DID NOT HAVE ANY NAZI PROOF.

I HAVE NOT SEEN ONE IN MY MANY-30 PLUS YEARS AS A DEALER.

HAS ANYONE SEEN ONE OF THESE AND/OR KNOW ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE QUANTITY WITH WaA251 MARKINGS AND A SPECIFIC SERIAL RANGE FOR PISTOLS WITH THE PROOFING?

LET ME KNOW VIA THIS NEWSLETTER,

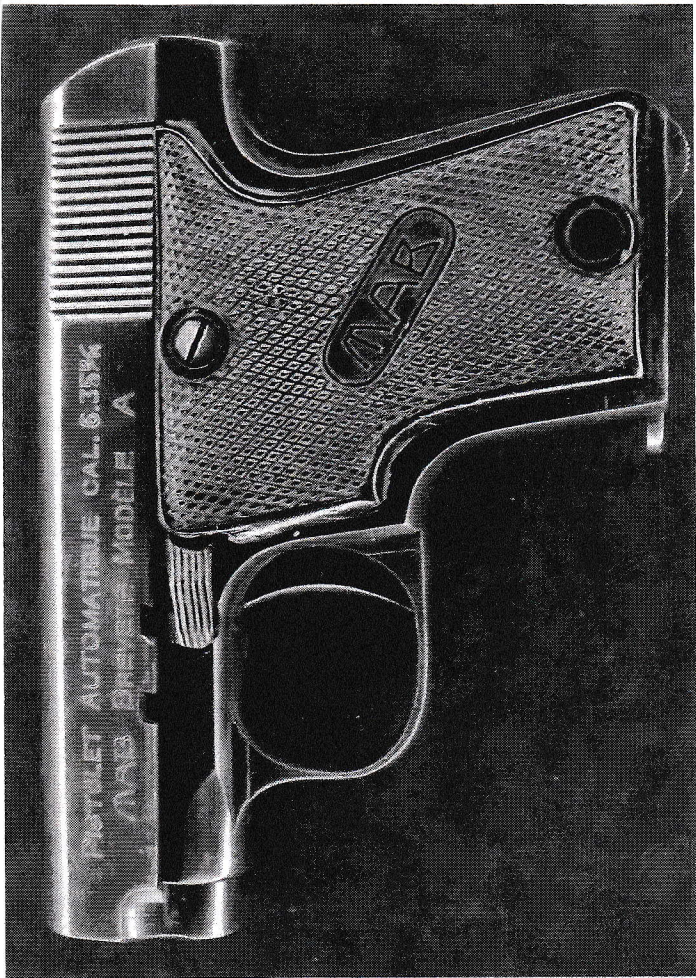
THANKS,

DAVID RACHWAL

- FROM RENE DUQUESNE: I noticed your mention of the appearance at about the same date of modified German holsters, with a U.S belt hanger. It would seem odd to me that they could be issued to any Police force in the world: this hanger would mandate the use of a U.S M1936 pistol belt or some kind of web belt. This appears in contradiction with a Police use, which would rather mandate some leather belt. Then it appears these German holsters were modified for a military or paramilitary use. Now the relevant country is to be determined...

FROM TOM KNOX: Good point! I don't remember all that much about these holsters, except that they were all modified Nazi issues, and the claim was that they were Norwegian. Since they came in the same time as all of the police marked guns, the connection was made. Guess we need someone from Norway to fill us in!?!?

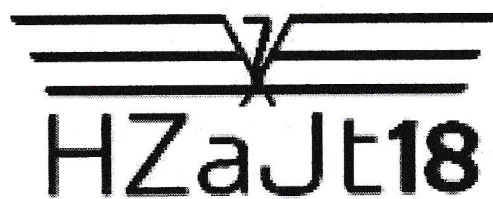
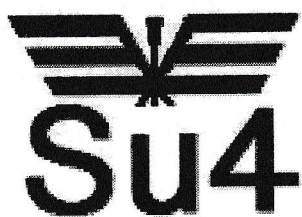
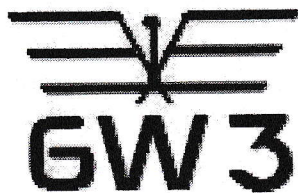
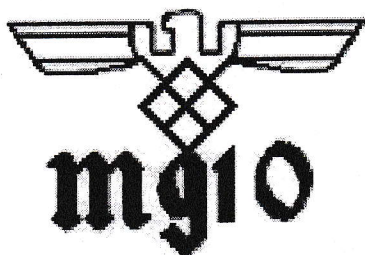
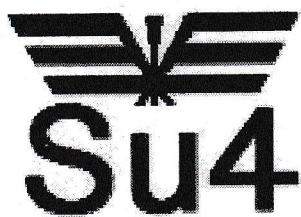
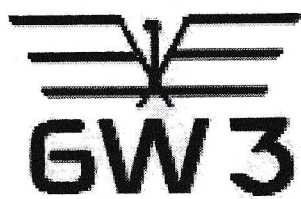
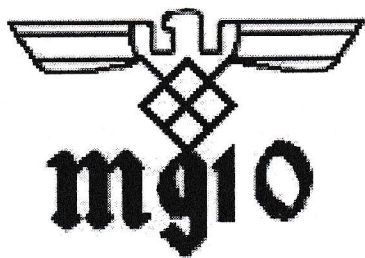
TO JIM BROWN FROM LEROY THOMPSON: Re CZ36 and CZ45--I found the info on these pistols very interesting. I can't really add any production info but I can add a bit of trivia. The CZ36 or CZ45 was the issue weapon for the Gehlen Bureau, the post-war West German intelligence service sponsored by the USA and formed from former members of the Abwehr with expertise about the Russians. They carried the little pistol in a shoulder holster. The STB, the Czech Communist Intell Service, also used CZ45s or the later versions at least into the 1960s, though they may have used other pistols as well.



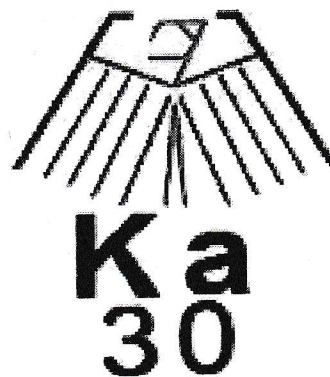
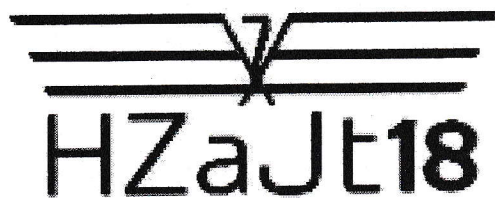
To the Membership, From Ryan Liebhaber: I am the owner of a Browning Hi Power that was a Vietnam bring-back that I acquired from the veteran. The Vet, a retired Army Colonel, took the pistol off of a dead NVA officer during his first tour in Vietnam, and then carried it as his personal sidearm for his next two tours. Included with the pistol are the official War Trophy Registration, Republic of South Vietnam Capture Certificate, an Arms Room turn-in document receipt, and a Saigon-made shoulder holster. Interestingly, the upper and lower receivers are mismatched, but one of the documents refers to the upper receiver number (# 104472), and another refers to the lower receiver number (# 96966), showing that the pistol came back in this configuration. I have often wondered if the pistol may have originally been US Property, taken off of a KIA U.S. service member by the NVA officer, and then "re-captured" by the US service member that I acquired it from. What makes me wonder this that the address line on the slide is *Browning Arms Company, St. Louis Mo. & Montreal F.Q.*, and underneath the magazine well "U.S." is stamped twice. Does anyone know if the US Military ever made a purchase of Browning Hi Powers? Is there any way for me to determine who the pistol (or pistols since there are two different serial numbers) were originally sold to? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

\*About two years ago I purchased a Broomhandle Mauser "Red 9" off of the Gunbroker auction website. The pistol was not in that great of condition, but in one of the photos I noticed that it had the rare "Erfurt style" Prussian trigger guard eagle, as well as the more common magazine well Prussian eagle (I had never seen a Broomhandle with both types of Prussian Eagles). Upon receiving the pistol and examining it, I noticed that on the back of the grip strap above the stock slot there was a very small straight wing eagle stamp that most certainly looked like a WWII era waffenamt. As I pulled out my magnifying glass I couldn't believe my eyes, it was a definite German WWII straight wing eagle. I took some photos of it and used Jan Still's website to help me identify it as the E/Mg10 stamp (shown in both World of Lugers, and in Weimar Lugers). Since then I have acquired several more WWII era reworked Broomhandles with the E/GW3, E/HZaJt18, and E/Su4 stamps. I am trying to compile data on WWII era reworked Broomhandles, so I am asking the membership to provide information on any pistols with such markings. Below are graphic depictions of the various WWII era stamps I have encountered on Broomhandles thus far. Any new information would be greatly appreciated! Also, any pictures of WWII era soldiers carrying Broomhandles would also be greatly appreciated. They can be emailed to [ryanliebhaber@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanliebhaber@hotmail.com). I will compile them and submit them in a future Auto Mag article.





Ka30  
noted on  
stocks  
only



Ka30  
noted on  
stocks  
only

**TO HARRIS COHEN AND MEMBERS FROM BURGESS MASON: SUBJECT - MAUSER POCKET PISTOLS.** I just received the August 2007 AutoMag and I was delighted to see Harris' articles discussing .25 cal Mauser pocket pistols. I am in the process of writing an update to Pender's work on the subject and thought this would be good opportunity to solicit information from members as well as respond to that article. The example described, serial number 3983XX, eagle N proof on barrel may be a rare reworked 1910/34. Pender mentions reworks of .25 cal examples on page 91 of his book. I have observed other reworked examples and if the full serial number of this pistol is 398346 I have seen images of it. Is the slide proof a crown/U and the barrel proof eagle/N? If so this is an indication that the barrel was replaced when the grips were. The eagle/N on the barrel helps rule out that the grips were simply replaced. The eagle/N proof is only reported on examples above the 428000 serial number range. Do all of the serial numbers match? Rework replacement parts are usually re-numbered to match. It maybe that this pistol started as a 1910/34 transitional or perhaps serial numbered parts were not assembled until sometime after 1940. Of the examples I have with curved grips two of them, serial number 404767 and 411558, have markings that indicate export. 404757 is engraved "Made in Germany" in the same style that A. F. Stoeger did on .32 cal pistols (see Pender page 131). 411558 have Czechoslovakian proofs stamped on the slide. I have another Czechoslovakian proofed example in my database as well as 2 examples with British proofs. For these reasons I believe that they were exported. Serial number 3842XX is also what I refer to as a 1910/34 transitional. This designation is defined as .25 cal with Mauser-Werke address and straight grip serial, numbers between 345000-403300. The hot/salt finish actually first appeared in this serial number range. From the range of serial numbers recorded in my database I estimate that about 41,000 to 58,000 were produced. The 1910/34 rig, serial number 426,364 is a beautiful example. I estimate about 30,000 were produced. Early examples will not have a slot for the slide serial number. Above serial number 423000 have the slot for the slide serial number. As stated the very last produced will have the eagle/N proof. A few are factory nickel plated. 428622 is the highest reported serial number. John Lacroix's articles are by far the most detailed research to date. They are a little difficult to decipher without examples in the serial number range to examine and compare. I currently have 232) .25 cal and 665) .32 cal examples recorded in my data base. The records include model, serial number, condition, grip type, proof, markings and comments. If any members are willing to provide data on examples in their collections it would be greatly appreciated. I do not enter records without complete serial numbers and keep the source of the information confidential. I am also soliciting for information and images of examples with unusual markings. In a future submission I will be providing a list of marking images that I have so that anyone wanting to provide them will not be duplicating what I already have. Anyone wishing to be acknowledged for their contribution must please provide permission. I plan to publish my research to provide comprehensive information based on current knowledge in a format that can be easily understood by either a beginning or

advanced collector. I plan to include color images that will depict the features being described, a serial number data base and a by year production chart. I would like to acknowledge Eugene Medlin for his help and suggestions. I am uncertain at this time as to the final form the hard copies. I am not ready to contact printers but the finished work will also be available on CD. Any help from members would be appreciated. My e-mail is [fxdx21@hotmail.com](mailto:fxdx21@hotmail.com)

TO HARRIS COHEN FROM AL HOFFMEYER: re; Aug/07 front page. I also picked up an even earlier "new model" curved grip 1910/14. Mine has serial number XX,XXX. Sorry just being a Smart A--. However in my 50 years of Collecting I have ALWAYS felt that NOT telling a serial number meant the gun was probably stolen and it was to nice to return to legal owner.

FROM JOHN JAMES: I know Smith & Wesson and Colt were selling various revolvers into prewar Germany in the late twenties if not the early to mid-thirties. This same marketing was taking place into Japan and probably China. We also know what models were being listed for sale from various German catalogs of that period so my question to all you S&W/Colt experts out there is: Does anyone know of or have possession of a AKAH or GECO marked S&W or Colt revolver?

FROM GREG GRAHAM: I have a humble Spanish made 7.65mm Ruby type pistol that I can't identify the maker. There are no proof marks on this pistol. The serial number is 3353 and it has "Spain" stamped by the serial number on the right side frame. The assembly number is 19 and is stamped on most of the internal parts besides frame, slide, barrel and safety lever. Slide legend is simple:

765 AUTOMATIC 1914 MODEL AUTOMATIC PISTOL  
MILITARY

I have looked through Pistols of the World, Zhuk's book, Gangerosa's Spanish Pistol book and saw some comparable examples but nothing definitive. I figure it is a post war commercial version of the Model 1914. I would appreciate any illumination; otherwise, I will keep it listed as Anonymous Manufacturer.

To membership: This is not a request regarding autos but it is an interest and something I want to investigate. I am interested in trying to put together a data base on Walther side-by-side shotguns. I would really like to get an idea of how many exist and the years of their manufacturing. I would also be happy to share my findings except for the owners' names. I would like to know the gauge, date of manufacture and if it has single or double trigger and what the engraving looks like and the barrel length. Send to: John Cornish 667 Wood St, New Bethlehem, PA 16242-1144 814-275-1870 or [jc-cc@comcast.net](mailto:jc-cc@comcast.net)  
Thanks

FROM GLENN KAYE: I recently acquired a Nazi rework (to 9mm Parabellum) of a Romanian contract Steyr-Hahn model 1912, with the Romanian crest and other markings completely intact. I have never seen one before this in which the crest had not been ground off. Has anyone else seen one?

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMMERCIAL DATABASE—Part 2

© 2007 Dwight Gruber

This is the second part of this article. The first part was published in a previous issue.

### 1906 "NEW MODEL" PARABELLUM

The "New Model" Parabellum is characterized primarily by its coil mainspring. This feature was in development as early as 1904-1905, when Lugers with short old-model frames, modified with coil recoil springs, were delivered to the Dutch for testing.

The first military delivery of this variation was to the German Navy in mid-1906. This dates the 1906 entries in the database, and provides the collector designation. It may be coincidence or the limits of the data that the first 1906 entry in the database is a Navy Commercial.

### 1906 Frames

1906 models are found as Commercials, American Eagles, a few Swiss Commercials, and Navy Commercials. With the exception of the Navy Commercials, production of all models varies with long and short frames being intermixed (Navy Commercials are always long-framed). As I started gathering frame-length data late in the process, most 1906 entries do not include this information. I look forward to getting data in the future to back-fill these entries, to see if any kind of manufacturing pattern appears.

1906 commercial series pistols are all on "safe" with the thumb safety lever in its upward position, as was the practice in the initial 1906 Navy delivery. In 1912 the Navy required a change in manufacture, for the lever to be "safe" in the down position. Commercial production did not follow this alteration.

Although most of the 1906 commercial pistols have a routed-out polished area as a "safe" indicator, the earliest commercial production was stamped GESICHERT in the safety well instead, following Navy contract practice. The question is raised whether these might be over-production of military frames or frames which failed military inspection, or if DWM made a conscious decision to return to the safety marking method of the Old Model. This is another feature which I started collecting late in the process, so there is currently not enough data to establish a pattern.

The Navy Commercial is the only 1906 commercial variation, which has a stock lug. These pistols were originally sold with a complete holster/stock rig, following the Navy contract practice. The database includes the presence of these accessories where known.

1906 Lugers are found in both .30 Luger and 9mm. This detail is pretty thoroughly reported, and there seems to be no particular pattern to the practice. There are long stretches of fairly complete number reports with a single caliber, however.

### The American Eagles

1906 American Eagle Lugers are found with proofs and without. Pre-1911 (c/BUG) proofs seem to be pretty random; post-1911 (c/N) most AE appear to be proofed, although the reporting sample for this detail is comparatively small. 1906 Commercial are found with proofs and without in the same pattern.

Many American Eagles are found with LOADED marked extractors. This is another feature, which entered the survey very late, so there are not enough samples to come to any conclusion about their distribution.

More than 2,000 database entries are from Hans Tauscher's sales lists as documented by Sam Costanzo in his World of Lugers: Serial Numbers of Lugers Issued to German Agents in the United States 1913-1916. The serial numbers and calibers are listed, but other than 1906 Navy Commercials the particular models are not. Entries verified from other sources with added information are mostly 1906 American Eagles, as might be expected; four reports are Commercials.

### Crown/BUG to Crown/N

The wellspring question for the database is answered some 53,000 guns into Luger production. Conditional proof reporting suggests that the changeover from c/BUG to lazy c/N proofs was completed somewhere between sn 52828 and sn 53175. There is a handful of sporadic lazy c/N proofed guns between sn 49074 and sn 51431, but the guns reported in this range are overwhelmingly c/BUG proofed.

Martin Krause and Jim Cate have discovered documentation confirming that two of the German state proof houses devised the crown-over-N as the Nitro proof mark in 1910, and three of them implemented it in 1911. This establishes a firm date for production of this range of Commercial Luger production.

Production of all 1906 commercial models appears to have concluded by the middle of 1913, around sn 69100.

### **1908 COMMERCIALS**

The 1908 model Luger was developed for the German Army in response to the Army's desire for reduced complexity and production cost by elimination of the grip safety and holdopen. The Army accepted the resulting Pistole 08 in 1908, and let the production contract with DWM in December 1908.

The first P-08 Commercial recorded in the database is sn 39142. It seems likely that very few, if any, 1908 commercial Lugers were made before the beginning of 1909.

### **1914 COMMERCIALS**

The 1914 Commercial Lugers share the main characteristics of their military counterparts: the addition of a stock lug and holdopen. They also share the same mis-assigned collector designation, as the stock lug was actually instituted by an Army instruction August of 1913.

DWM modified the frame of the standard P-08 by eliminating the spur in the recoil spring well, giving the front of the well a flat profile. This change occurred in 1914, in a military serial number range probably representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year. DWM Commercial production followed suit sometime between sn 70362 and sn 72353. The change dates this range approximately to the beginning of WWI in August, 1914.

### The Great War

The serial number range from 69000 to 76000 is one of the more interesting stretches of Luger production. As the European political situation rapidly evolved toward the inevitable conflict, the nature of DWM commercial production changed as well.

As noted previously, 1906 commercial production gave way completely to commercial production of the Army-style P-08. By the end of the sn 69000 serial range most of the guns reported show evidence of diversion to military delivery. These are the 1908 and 1914 Commercial Army models, having 5-digit commercial serial numbers,

but *without* the commercial lazy c/N proofs. These guns are all c/X, c/X, c/X army inspector stamped and army power proofed.

At this time commercial P-08 were also being issued to the *Reichs Gendarmerie*, the militarized police force which patrolled the Alsace-Lorraine region. These are the side-frame RG marked Lugers, both 1908 and 1914 variations. Unlike the Commercial Army pistols, the RG Lugers are commercially lazy c/N proofed, suggesting non-military procurement and delivery.

At the beginning of the war, very approximately around sn 71000, serial number reporting shows that commercial production was drastically curtailed. At this time, however, a very small number of a unique commercial variation appears. Designated "1913 Commercial" by Kenyon, these are standard 1914 commercial construction (with stock lug), but also having a grip safety. The thumb safety operates in the standard 1908/1914 manner—on "safe" down—and is stamped GESICHERT.

Bill Reupke (Weimar Lugers and Auto Mag 11/05) has proposed the existent of a sub-variation, the 1916 Commercial, identified for the year the relieved sear bar was instituted. These appear at approximately sn 75400, and suggests a date for this part of the serial number range. This provides an interesting breakdown of the Commercial Lugers manufactured during WWI: less than 5,000 pistols between the beginning of the war in 1914 and the modified sear bar in 1916; and 550 pistols between 1916 and the end of the proof mark application characterizing the 1914 variation.

It seems unusual that DWM would continue to manufacture commercial Lugers during wartime, although it is true that officers were required to purchase their own pistols—it might have been profitable for DWM to maintain commercial production to allow them to buy from the commercial market. It has long been asserted that DWM parts which did not pass military inspection were diverted to commercial production. The small number of Commercial pistols produced 1914-1918 certainly seems to beg the question of whether or not DWM WWI commercial production might have been *entirely* the result of military parts rejection.

The existence of a 1914 Commercial (post-1916 sear bar) with a Navy-style large-flange toggle pin tends to support the theory of diversion of military parts to Commercial production

**20DWM**

On Proof Marks

The identification of a particular Luger variation sometimes turns on the characteristic of the proof which has been applied to the gun. This is particularly the case with the 1914 (or 1916) Commercial variation and the 20DWM, identical guns whose sole difference is the orientation of the commercial proof mark—horizontal on the 1914, vertical on the 20DWM.

As collectors we tend to act as though proof marks are applied as a willful factory designation to differentiate production. Because of this various correspondents have developed sometimes elaborate theories as to why some guns are "transitional" in nature; or appear to be numbered "out of sequence" in a production range—such as the range from sn 73282 to sn 76071 in which are found both 20DWM and 1914 Commercial.

As noted earlier, proofing of commercial firearms in Germany was done by state proof houses. This designation of the proof stamp and its application was entirely the responsibility of the proof house itself. Thus, identification and designation of particular variants on the basis of proof marks is entirely coincidental to their application, and literally has nothing whatever to do with manufacture (or rework) identification of the guns themselves.

So, at some time between 1916 and 1920, the proof house which served DWM in Berlin changed its stamping procedure from a sideways, "lazy" c/N on the left receiver to an upright c/N. There is no documentation forthcoming as to when (or why) this was changed, and there is no ancillary information in the database itself which suggests dates any closer.

A simple explanation can be inferred, however, for the "out of sequence" production problem. These guns were simply not sent to be proofed in serial-number order.

Production of commercial Lugers was very small during the war, and thus cannot have been much of a priority for DWM. It is easy to imagine that completed pistols sat for a long time before being sent to be proofed, perhaps waiting for a large enough batch to make it worthwhile. It is nonsensical to imagine that anyone cared whether or not a strict serial number sequence was maintained once the guns themselves had been completed. Guns could have been stored out of sequence, or they could have been selected for a proof run simply because they were easy to reach—there is no knowing, and it really makes no difference. There is simply nothing more meaningful to be inferred from the range of changeover.

The question remains as to the actual date of the change from lazy c/N to upright c/N. Perhaps something is suggested by the numbers.



Less than 5,000 commercial pistols were made from the beginning of the war to 1916. It is important to note here that some upright c/N commercials are reported late in this production range. The changeover range from 1916 to the last lazy c/N pistol reported is 550 guns. Production from the last lazy c/N report to the next datable example—a 1920 chamber date—is 7,899 pistols.

These figures, and the pattern of reports in the database, suggest to me with high confidence that the proof changeover from lazy c/N to upright c/N occurred well before the end 1916.

### The Basel Police Lugers

*(Although not 20DWM, these comments which have occurred to me about some of the Basel police pistols can only sensibly follow the foregoing proof mark discussion--DG)*

In the November 2005 issue of "Auto Mag" Bill Reupke presents an article about some Lugers shipped to the police forces of the Basel canton in Switzerland in 1921. The pistols he describes are proofed lazy c/N and are mostly near the end of the changeover range from lazy to upright c/N. He describes some physical characteristics which include defective slide guides at the rear of the frame.

Although mostly outside the scope of the database comments, two things related to the proof mark comments above occur to me. The first is the 1921 shipment of such old-production guns. In the years between 1916 and 1921 more than 10,000 commercial guns were manufactured. It cannot be guessed how many of these pistols remained in factory stock, or for how long. One has to wonder if one reason for the disparity in shipment date might be due simply to selling off shelf stock in reverse order to which it was manufactured (the newest guns being closest to the "front of the shelves"), and not getting to the 1916-produced pistols for five years?

I also wonder if the flaws in the frame are further evidence toward the supposition that commercial production was based on rejected military parts?

### Dated Commercials

Many of the 20DWM examples are reported in cal. 9mm. Most, but certainly not all of these, are police pistols.

The 20DWM Commercial range contains a number of 1920 and 1921 chamber dated examples, the primary benchmark for dating this range of guns. Although not all the

chamber dated guns are reported with police characteristics, all the examples with caliber reported are 9mm.

During 1920 and 1921 DWM defied the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles by producing Lugers specifically for police use. These were a separate serial-numbered series of pistols specifically examined and accepted by the Heeres Waffenamts. They are all chamber dated 1921 and 1922.

One wonders if the chamber dated 20DWM are the result of taking parts out this other production line, as the case with the model 1900 Swiss Cross marked barrels, or if this is another example of reject parts going to commercial production?

### Safe/Loaded and the End of 5-digit Commercials

The Safe/Loaded Commercial variation is a series of standard, .30 cal. production Lugers marked LOADED on their extractor and SAFE in the thumb safety well, with no mark over the chamber. Some confusion exists in the literature about this variation. Kenyon asserts that as many as 6,000 of these guns were produced and they are found in a range from sn 735000 to sn 96000. Other sources, or perhaps "conventional wisdom", reputedly have these guns as the result of a contract made by A.F. Stoeger for 2,000 pieces

There are individual Safe/Loaded Lugers, some with American Eagles on the chamber, found scattered throughout the database. Kenyon is obviously including these in his numbers. The database itself confirms a consecutive run of nearly 2,000 pistols around sn 90000. The other sporadic Safe/Loaded examples scattered throughout the database should not be considered part of the contract variation.

There is a conditional report of one gun within the Safe/Loaded contract range which may be marked GESICHERT/GELADEN.

Almost all published sources have the 20DWM variation ending at sn 96000. Still (Weimar Lugers) maintains that the 5-digit serial numbering method ends just before sn 92000. The Commercial database tends to confirm the lower figure. Although there are four sporadic entries numbered between sn 93595 and sn 96080, prolific entries end at sn 91989 and the higher numbers represent unexplained anomalies.

## **ALPHABET COMMERCIALS**

The Alphabet Commercial series begins with sn 2000 *i*, the 4-digit/suffix equivalent to sn 92000. The presence of 1921 chamber dated examples establishes their 1921 origin, and tends to confirm the numbering changeover scheme. As with the odd above-92000 guns, there are seemingly out-of-place *i* suffix Alphabet Commercials with lower *i* suffix numbers. As with the high 5-digit guns, there is no good explanation for the anomaly.

The serial number range of this variation accounts for nearly 90,000 guns. The literature and conventional wisdom dismiss these guns as the most common and mundane of all Lugers.

This cannot be farther from the truth.

The Alphabet Commercial range encompasses the greatest variety of any of the recognized ranges, Commercial or Military. Included in this range are the Krieghoff back-frame stamped Lugers; Stoeger 2-line guns; Swiss-style conversions including Abercrombie and Fitch; Finnish Lugers; and Weimar Police conversions.

In addition, many uncommon and unique examples are found here, particularly unexpected guns with SAFE marks, American Eagles, Navy or Artillery configurations or very long barrels, and Lugers modified after import by Pacific Arms and others.

## **[B]29DWM[/B]**

The 29DWM variation—the *s*, *t*, and *u* suffix Commercials—represents the End of Days for DWM. Although technically Commercial Lugers (proofed with upright c/N), almost all the listed production of these pistols went to Police use and many are additionally stamped with the acceptance marks of the Heers Waffenamt. A large range after sn 8400[*i*]<sub>s</sub>[/*i*] bear unit marks representing their shipment to the Kriegsmarine.

In 1930 the manufacturing inventory of DWM was transferred from Berlin, to Mauser in Oberndorf. DWM's 30-year history as the producer of the Pistole Parabellum ended, and the Commercial database ends here as well. There are a few *v* suffix pistols recorded with c/N proofs, but their story is properly part of Mauser's history as a Luger distributor and producer.

## **READING THE DATABASE**

Some of the collector designations used in the database and these remarks may not be the ones collectors are used to seeing and using. I have chosen to use the designations as revised by Jan Still in Weimar Lugers.

The first thing to keep in mind while perusing this database is that it represents documentation and reporting. It is not, and cannot provide on its own, certification of authenticity of any particular Luger, especially those of rare or noteworthy variation.

Luger collecting as a serious endeavor began more than 60 years ago, and boosting, altering, and downright faking of Lugers followed almost immediately. As this database is assembled from information from 45 years ago to the present day, it is inevitable that some of the more exotic or unique variations associated with their serial numbers may not be authentic.

Occasional entries do include notation that a particular example is questionable, or in some cases an actual fake. These are the results of direct or photographic examinations which have identified bogus characteristics (pantograph application of markings which are properly found stamped, for example) or identification of rare examples which are clearly out-of-sequence or -date-range (such as model "1903" barrels stamped *Manufacture Français d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne*).

This faking becomes a particular problem with rare variations, which do not fall into a single documented serial number range, a circumstance all too common with commercial series Lugers. Particular care must be taken when considering all Stoeger-marked guns, all 1902 variations, all carbines, Russian-attributed Lugers, Abercrombie & Fitch marked guns, Reichsmarine unit marks, unusual or exotic chamber marks, and all French variations. These are not the only variations to look at critically, but they are commonly and easily faked. Particular care should be taken with three-line Stoeger marked Lugers outside the recognized v suffix range, and 1902 Cartridge Counter Lugers outside the established sn 22401-sn 22450 range.

1906 Lugers sold by *Manufacture Français d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne* are also commonly faked. This retailer stamped an inventory number on the grip strap toe of these guns. If the number or its absence is reported, it is included as a comment. Most reports of these guns, however, have not included a report of this feature; the corresponding notation only indicates the lack of report, not necessarily absence of the number. These pistols were only marketed 1909-1914, so any listings outside this time frame should be cautiously considered.

A new addition to this version of the database is a separate section for 1920 CARBINES. The detail cells of this variation are pretty scanty, as the main sources of information (dealer sales lists) do not go into too much detail. When considering 1920 Carbines, it should be remembered that they are not necessarily consistent in their characteristics, and are often found mismatched. This makes it easy to fabricate a fake, and there is no way to know if any individual entry in the database is in fact bogus. The 1920 Carbine section represents the beginning of an area of research, and I hope to gather many more examples and much more data to help establish the patterns of physical characteristics of these guns.

Another area for study, in which the database has only so far scratched the surface, is Lugers from South America. Entries in the database support other evidence that this was a thriving Luger market. There have been more than 300 Lugers registered with the police in Rio de Janeiro alone.

Language probably plays a part in scant reporting. A much larger role is certainly played by reticence of gun owners who participate in this hobby surreptitiously due to harsh gun control measures in South American countries.

The "Notes" category includes, among other things, associated characteristics of the pistol—whether it has Ideal grips or rig, a matching shoulder stock, an unrelieved frame, interesting or unusual markings, observed or reported mismatch, etc. These represent the conditions of the pistol at the time of report. As some of the reports can be very old this may not represent the condition of the pistol now.

Some database entries are noted as restored. This information comes from descriptions by owners or from sales list descriptions. Occasionally an example will be described as in poor condition. This comes from direct or photo observation, and will be useful in the future when a pistol whose condition is described as nearly new and original is compared to such a database entry.

The Swiss Military Lugers are numbered in their own serial number range, identical to the DWM Commercial number range. Many collectors and records of Swiss 1900 and 1906, particularly old sales lists, do not differentiate between Military or Commercial in their descriptions. With the exception of the Dave Soracco data list (which makes the distinction), I have not included 1900 or 1906 Swiss Commercial numbers, which are not positively identifiable by the presence of c/BUG proofs. I am certain that I have passed up many Swiss Commercial numbers because of this.

Finland received a very large number of Lugers over a long period of time. The main contract order was delivered from Alphabet Commercial production, but Lugers of many descriptions—some being earlier commercial pistols—made their way there. The Finnish Army (Suomi Armeijna) began stamping their SA mark in 1941. These

guns are identified with a "Finnish SA" entry. Other guns identified as Finnish—police guns, prison guard guns, guns reported from Finnish Army documents, or otherwise identified as Finnish but without report of the stamp—are identified with a "Finnish" entry.

I have noted many times that this database includes a very large database originally collected by Dave Rivera and Dave Soracco. The individual pistol characteristics are described by alphabetic code entries, for which there is no key. This has proved to be a matter of considerable frustration. As the database has grown, correlation between these alphabetic code entries and independently reported characteristics has become apparent, reinforced by the general patterns established by these reports.

Having lived with this database for awhile now, and given the matter much thought and consideration, I have included most of the deduced alphabetic-keyed information on a conditional basis—the entries are identified by being italicized, in grey type. I have come to be confident of their accuracy, but care should be taken in drawing conclusions based on these entries.

I am still looking for the alphabetic key, and I hope that owners of these guns will send along information, which will confirm (or correct!) the entries.

Finally, this database has resulted from the transcription of huge amounts of information, often from secondary or tertiary sources. Each time a number is transcribed from one source to another the possibility for error creeps in. Although I cannot account for errors in the source material, I have made every effort to accurately transfer information into the database itself. Ultimately any errors in this transcription are my responsibility, and I will make factual corrections in future releases of the database as the information becomes known.

FROM JOE WOTKA: The discussion in the past issues of *AutoMag* centered on the list of several weapons confiscated from the Fritz Walther home by the occupying US forces. One of these was a cased Olympia .22 pistol with a presentation engraving. It is not known if the case was lettered in any way. If anyone knows whether the case was marked, please let us know here. Also, if anyone knows the complete inscription on the pistol, we would appreciate this information. In older photos, the flash obscured the complete inscription. Harold Anderson and I are trying to figure out to whom that gun belonged.

FOR SALE / TRADE

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\* SCHALL .22 Cal. Repeating Pistol. Falls somewhere between Fiala examples and High-Standard. With less than 300 total ever made, this very scarce & little known pistol resembles "B" Model Hi-Standard. Bore appears perfect with excellent original magazine & lightly grooved wood grips. Reportedly restored some 40 years ago, it looks original & rates an impressive EXC+! If you like prewar .22 pistols, this one is nearly impossible to upgrade! Correct SN-range, per John Stimson, my "Expert" on the prewar .22's. \$650

Recently acquired BHP & two other COLLECTOR HOLSTERS are available as follow:

\*\* Scarce, Early 1941 example is coded "jor41" & "WaA920". Shows some field use, but still a fine 1st year 'Breakaway'. A very small inoffensive hole in belt loop (centered @rear) is not readily seen as it doesn't show when displayed. First year Nazi BHP holsters are very hard to this nice! \$275

\*\* MAUSER M1934/HSc: "OTTO SINDEL BERLIN/1943" w/Police Eagle Proof! Single flap w/downward closure strap, spare mag. pkt., in std. black leather. A 'generic' type used w/many WWII Police pistols. Shows very little use and should clean easily to EXC+! Exceptional & very desirable example! \$135

\*\* WALTHER PP: Black leather, 'Breakaway' type w/spare mag.pkt., single wide beltloop. Deeply embossed "PP.." +round ink stamp (illegible) inside flap make it interesting. Shows some use and should clean easily to EXC! \$135

Shipped prepaid to "NAPCA" members w/satisfaction 100% guaranteed, as always!  
Bill Drollinger, PO Box A, Castroville CA 95012

Phone/FAX (831)770-1787 9AM-5PM PST (that's Noon-8PM EST please!)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

HIGH QUALITY JAPANESE MADE SHOULDER/HOLSTER-STOCKS REPRODUCTIONS MADE IN VERY limited numbers & may never be available again; very few remain at this time!

\*\* LUGER CARBINE; One of only 25 made! Fine quality/appearance! List: \$595

\*\* LUGER ARTY. M1913; FULLY INCLOSED PROTOTYPE, totally protecting pistol! An extremely rare variant as shown in some references. Quality & rarity make for a great stock! Act soon as only 40 reproductions were made! List: \$795

\*\* LUGER ARTY. C96; Type shown in 1929 Stoeger's and only 15 were made! \$695

\*\* MAUSER C96 "BROOMHANDLE"; Fine quality repro of original "C96"/M712 Mauser Holster-STOCK! Lovely, darker wood & quality manufacture makes for a much better appearance than those recent, common Chinese B/H stocks. List: \$279

Prepaid shipping to NAPCA members w/satisfaction 100% guaranteed, as always!!  
Bill Drollinger, PO Box A, Castroville CA 95012

Phone/FAX (831)770-1787 9AM-5PM PST (that's Noon-8PM EST please!)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## WANTED

Info on Mauser C96's with British Empire connections: special sights, dealer markings, unit names, individual names, serial numbers, etc., for future article in AUTO MAG. Also, references in books, magazines, retailers catalogs, photos - any/all may be of interest to purchase for my collection; Mauser large ring number 30840, marked VL&D, New York. I used to own it a long time ago and sold it at a weak moment - I'd like to buy it back. Rick Engel 402-493-1650 Email: [rickeengel@excite.com](mailto:rickeengel@excite.com)

LUGER - DWM or Erfurt, standard P08 or LP08, 1914 chamber date. MUST have at least 98% original finish (90% straw). MUST have at least one original, magazine. Complete rig okay. PLEASE, no Waffenfabrik USA reworks. Fred Scharer, Box 50808, Mendota Hgts., Mn. 55150 651-260-3811

Original pair of grips for the early version of the Webley M1906, .32; one original grip screw for the Webley M1906, .32; original spare mag for early Webley .32; original SIDE RELEASE magazine for the Bernardon-Martin .32; original pair of hard rubber grips for the Unique Model 19 (FN 1910 copy); original pair of checkered wood grips for a Gaspar Arizaga [Ruby]; original pair of grips for the Rumanian AP74; original pair (or just the left) of grips for the Polish PA 63; Spanish Ruby magazine coded GB; original East German/Czech P38 magazine. Tom Knox, POB 15738, St. Louis, Mo. 63163 314-638-6505 (days) Email: [tomknox@napca.net](mailto:tomknox@napca.net)