

AUTO MAG

AUTOMATIC MAGAZINE

NATIONAL AUTOMATIC PISTOL COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

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JULY - 2008

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND OLD FRIENDS

George H. August, Jr. - Connecticut
Rex B. McLellan - Texas

William A. Hartlein - Pennsylvania
Michael Rumsey - Virginia

Stephen Ryan - New York

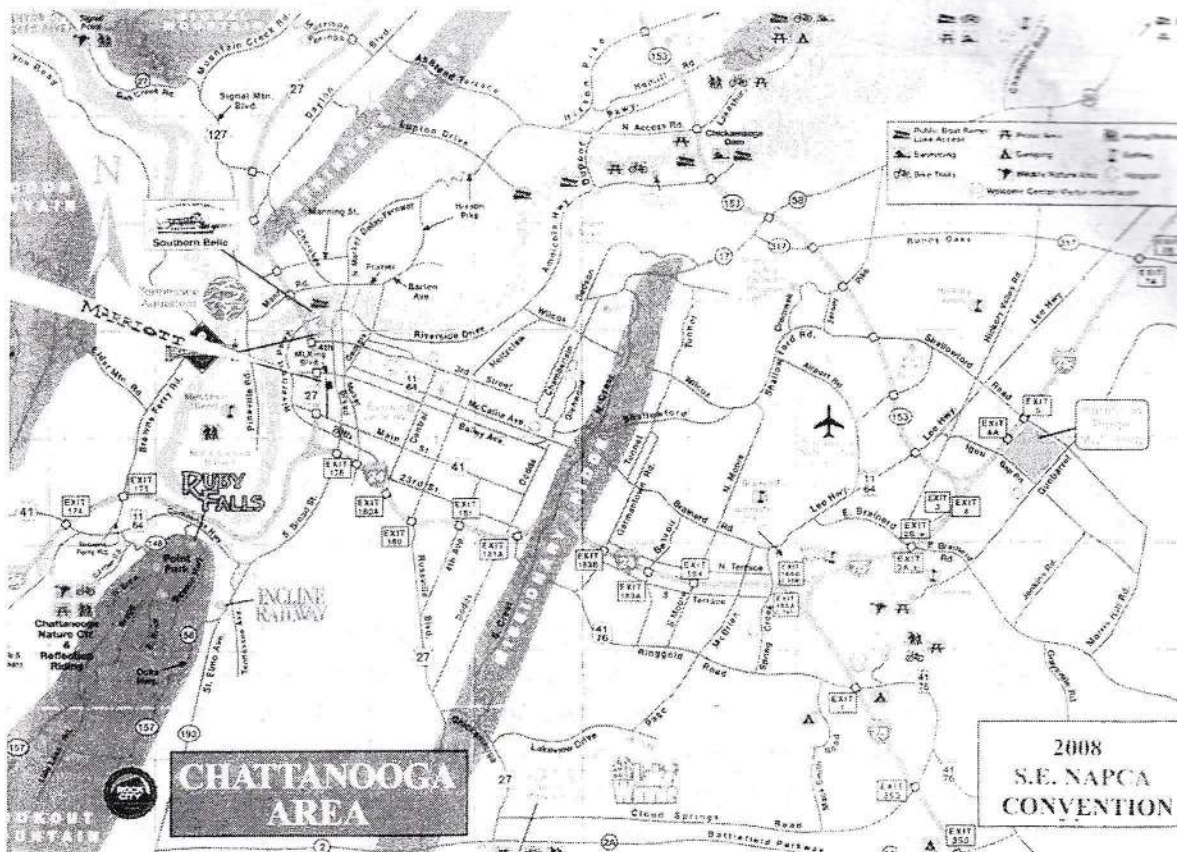
FROM KEVIN NULL: Thanks to whoever posted the listing for Jan Beck's past AutoMags in the Nov 07 issue from Kevin Null - I called Jan he still had the past issue of AutoMag and I managed to get them shipped to me. The \$46 shipping cost, plus the minimal he requested for them was more than worth the cost. Jan provided me with the Volumes 17 - 24 and while I am only about half way through reading them, there is a wealth of information in them and it certainly appears that there has been more than one topic (Lugers) that the membership is passionate about. I only wish I would have heeded Bill Drollinger's advice back in the late 1970's when he told me to join.

To Freddy Greer: In the May 07 issue, Freddy mentioned that P-38s were being imported and would make a good collection. I've certainly seen quite a few of them recently and with different markings as well. Not sure if I really want to get into collecting Walthers just yet as I am working on 1922 FNs, but you mentioned that they were available in three primary calibers. Any ideas on where I might find one in 22 cal for sale?

* There are quite a few reference books on pre-war markings on pistols, especially Lugers. Does anyone know of a good reference source for post war police markings? Many of the 1922 FNs I collect were used in post war Europe and I'm starting to get list of unknown markings and need reference material.

THE 2008th S.E. NAPCA CONVENTION - CHATTANOOGA

AUGUST 1, 2 and 3



Dial 1-800-841-1674 to reserve your room at the 15th S.E. National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association's convention, or you can book online at www.marriott.com/chadt (chadt is correct) and under the code enter NAPNAPA. Sleeping room rates are \$108 per night. John James will be our banquet speaker this year. We are looking forward to John's presentation on holsters.

Directions to the convention are below:

From Birmingham or Huntsville you will be arriving on I-24, but take the Downtown 27-127 exit and then at the second exit turn right onto M.L.King. Turn right at the first traffic light. The Marriott hotel will be in the second block on the left.

From Knoxville or Atlanta you will be arriving on I-75. Get onto I-24 at the I-75/24 split and go into the city on I-24 until you see the Hwy 27-127 signs. Once on 27 exit off on the second exit, M.L.King. At the first traffic light turn right. The Marriott hotel will be in the second block on the left.

NOTE: Call or email Freddy Greer for convention and table reservations. Tables are \$75 in advance or \$100 at the door. Admission and banquet charge is \$45 per person in advance or \$50 at the door. Fgreerp38@aol.com / 1-478-825-3570

California Department of Justice
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
George B. Anderson, Director



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Subject:

**CALIFORNIA FIREARMS LICENSEE CHECK
(CFLC) PROGRAM**

No.

2008-BOF-05

Date:

5/29/08

Bureau of Firearms

TO: ALL FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES (FFLs)

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide important information to nationwide Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) regarding the new California Firearms Licensee Check (CFLC) Program. Information contained herein does not apply to Type 03 or 06 FFLs.

Beginning July 1, 2008, California Penal Code Section 12072(f)(1) prohibits all FFLs from shipping firearms to an FFL in California unless, prior to delivery, the FFL intending to deliver, sell or transfer the firearm obtains a verification approval number from the California Department of Justice (CADOJ) Bureau of Firearms. This includes transfers that occur at gun shows. The verification approval number, which the Bureau of Firearms provides in a Firearms Shipment Approval letter, confirms that the intended recipient of the firearm shipment is properly licensed and listed in the state's database of persons/entities authorized to receive firearm shipments. If the intended CA FFL recipient is **not** listed in the state's database, the transaction will result in a Do Not Ship letter, and it is a crime for the intended recipient to receive the firearms (Penal Code Section 12083(c)(1)).

In order for a shipper to obtain a Firearms Shipment Approval letter from the Bureau of Firearms, the shipper must have the California FFL's five digit Centralized List number.

As a courtesy to impacted FFLs, the Bureau of Firearms has established an Internet application that is available to FFLs nationwide 24 hours a day 7 days a week (24/7) to obtain shipping approval letters. All Internet transactions will be handled on a secure server, and the information provided will be used solely for the purposes associated with the administration of the CFLC program. For FFLs that do not have Internet access, the Bureau has established a telephone service that allows nationwide FFL shippers to enroll and obtain Firearms Shipment Approval letters via telephone or facsimile prior to shipping firearms to a California FFL. However, the telephone service availability will be limited to Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

Complete instructions in how to enroll and obtain Firearms Shipment Approval letters can be found on the reverse side of this bulletin. For additional information regarding this new program, please review the enclosed *CFLC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* or visit our website at www.ag.ca.gov/firearms.

Sincerely,

WILFREDO CID, Chief
Bureau of Firearms

For EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Attorney General

FROM TOM KNOX: This letter was sent out to EVERY FFL dealer in the country.
Is there no sanity left in California?

TO: MEMBERSHIP
FROM: PETER HISCHIER

For more than a year now I have been following the debate in Auto Mag about whether member, John Pearson, is correct in his assertion that Walther caliber .22 PP and PPK pistols were used in the concentration camps to routinely kill inmates. I recently got a book (recommended by a long time Holocaust researcher) which I believe finally answers this question. The book, titled "The Naked Puppets", is a first hand account of life in Auschwitz, and the English version was published in 1978 by Ferni Publishing House, Geneva. Included is a photocopy of the title page. I found no copyright restriction of any kind included in the book, so the few pages enclosed can be freely reprinted.

The key information is presented on pages 90 through 93, and is testimony presented after the end of the war by an SS guard at Auschwitz named Pery Broad. I am including a page for background on SS Guard Broad. In reading, note that they picked the small caliber pistol to keep the noise down, and shot the selected inmates in the back of the neck just as described by John Pearson. They even mention a gun barrel "soiled with blood" confirming the cause of the rust damage to the front portion of the Walther pistols which have been documented as coming from the camps. On an added note, during the war Walther redesigned their PP caliber .22 magazine so that it would hold more than 10 rounds.....could this possibly be at the request of the SS?

FROM TOM TREBBY to the Editor and the Membership : I have personally known John Pearson for well over 20 years. He is also well known to the collecting community. He has freely contributed his knowledge and research over the years. And I have found it to be quite accurate. Now I do not always agree with every collector. But I agree to disagree. But to state to John (Auto Mag Feb. 2008) " I feel you have gone " a bridge too far" I feel Tom, that you went too far !!! Now John is no longer a member of Auto Mag and NAPCA has lost a valuable asset !!!

RE: NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS FROM: Bill Drollinger
The frequent comments on the use of Walther PP/PPK .22 pistols, in these WWII concentration camps, continues to be interesting; overall, these camps are an indictment of mankind's inhumanity to man, of course. John Pearson has given several very well written/presented commentaries on the possible use of these .22 Walthers that have merit and should not be discounted 'out of hand'. Who knows, perhaps Himmler, or even Hitler, made some informal remarks which were quickly and quietly implemented at the camps...? There's no 'official record' of such an order or suggestion that we know of, but this is a possibility and could have happened. If you recall that great movie "JUDGMENT AT NUERNBERG", there is also a more recent book that I would call to your attention. To read even more on this tragic, infamous & terrible chapter from the 20th century, Joshua Greene's book is well researched and written. It's titled: "JUSTICE AT DACHAU". A book that I found both fascinating and informative, addressing the postwar military tribunals for the smaller/lesser camps and the human tragedy of these concentration camps which are frequently overlooked/forgotten in the larger picture. Maybe Steven Spielberg will make a movie of this book too...?

FROM TOM KNOX: I respect John's research and knowledge as much as does all of our membership. However, that does not mean I will blindly accept everything he, or anyone else says. Were some .22 pistols used in camps? Possibly. Was this a wide spread situation, I just can't believe it was. Could I be wrong? Certainly. Do I find this entire subject repulsive? ABSOLUTELY! If you cannot accept an opinion that differs from yours, then you best not start the fire.

THE NAKED PUPPETS

Auschwitz

FERNI PUBLISHING HOUSE

1943, their files and dossiers were burned. On the dossiers sent by the Gestapo, there was sometimes the indication: 'Nacht und Nebel,' night and fog; this secret indication was understood only by the chief of the political bureau, he knew what had to be done with the prisoner: he was to die within the following three months."

Maximilian Grabner directed the political bureau until December, 1943. Pery Broad—who started his S.S. career at Auschwitz as a simple guard and finished as the chief of the political bureau of the Gypsy camp—had perfectly analyzed Grabner.

"Anyone who knew the old camp of Auschwitz,¹ knew

1. A few weeks after his arrest, Pery Broad wrote a long "memoire" on Auschwitz for British Army Intelligence. This "memoire" was published ten years later by the "Auschwitz Museum." This document completed the "confession" of commandant Rudolph Hoess since Broad knew how to observe and remember "at his level" a subaltern's memory. Concerned with detail and (it seems) the truth, he spared neither his friends nor his enemies. This is a portrait drawn up by Dounia Ourisson:

"S.S. Broad was the most educated of all S.S. guards working in the Auschwitz Political Bureau. He spoke English, French and Russian. The works of Molière and Racine never left his table. He loved music and painting. S.S. Broad was of American descent by his father; his mother was a German from Berlin. In 1943, S.S. Broad was sent by S.S. Schruz, successor of Grabner at the Political Bureau, to Birkenau in the gypsy camp in order to create a Political Bureau annex. When S.S. Broad returned to Auschwitz, he spoke with enthusiasm of how the gypsies were musicians and that he had created the greatest gypsy orchestra in the world. In the beginning of 1944, the prisoners working with the files of the Political Bureau received the order to leave all files of gypsies, except those who were in the Wehrmacht before their arrest. Then a thousand files on gypsies; men, women and children, were tied into piles and burned at the crematorium in Birkenau. Two days later, all gypsies, except for one hundred to one hundred and fifty, who had served in the Wehrmacht, and who were transferred to Ravensbrück, were directed to the gas chambers by S.S. Broad. This fine musician

everyone, Aumeier made a large X by methodically tracing small dashes next to the selected prisoner's name with a large blue pencil. The meaning of the term 'sentence 2' was a secret to no-one. The first prisoners, whom, once again, we allowed to live, were taken to the camp where their punishments were administered. In the meantime, the large communal cells on the ground floor and first floor with windows on the courtyard, were emptied of their occupants. In the communal cells, often more than one hundred persons are piled: camp internees and civilian prisoners. They are taken, men and women separately, to cells located on the other side of the building.

"The death candidates will be taken to a washroom located on the ground floor. The prisoners used in block 11 as cleaners and scribes mask the window with a cover and recommend to their unfortunate comrades that they undress. On the bodies of the condemned they mark their numbers in large letters with a copying pencil in order to facilitate the registration of the bodies at the morgue or crematorium. The victims have no visible will to live and, perhaps, they feel a certain relief in the thought that, in a few minutes, they will be free from their tyrants and delivered from their suffering. During this time, Aumeier, Grabner and a few other S.S. officials go to the courtyard: but most of them have already left. The presence of Grabner makes everyone feel uneasy, since it is dangerous to be endlessly accused of being too soft by the Gestapo official. And yet, the majority of Grabner's staff were fanatics who could be accused of everything but sensitivity in their hearts.

"In the courtyard of block 11, a black screen is mounted against the brick wall. For thousands of innocent men, the patriots who did not want to commit treason against their country for material gain, prisoners who escaped the hell of Auschwitz, but who were unlucky enough to be recaptured, for good citizens of both sexes of all countries occupied by the Germans, this black screen

became the gatepost marking the end of their earthly existence.

"It is the reporting officer or a jailer who is responsible for the execution.¹ To avoid drawing the attention of the passers-by on the neighboring road, they use a small-caliber weapon with a magazine of ten to fifteen rounds. Aumeier, Grabner and the executioner hide their already loaded weapons behind their backs and take a military posture, drunk with the sense of power. Toward the rear, a few frightened stretcher bearers wait for the moment when they will perform their sad duty. They cannot overcome the terror engraved on their faces. A prisoner, armed with a shovel, holds himself ready, near the black screen. Another prisoner, chosen from the most robust janitors, brings the first two victims, running at double time. He grasps them firmly by the arms and pushes them facing the screen. "Prosto" (Straight!), someone commands, when they try to turn their heads. Most of these living skeletons can barely stand up, having passed long nights in the stinking prison cells, under conditions barely tolerable even for an animal.

"And yet, there are many who still have the strength to cry, at that ultimate moment: 'long live Poland!' or 'long live liberty!'. The executioner then hurries to fire a shot in the neck, or tries to brutally reduce them to silence by kicking them. The S.S., so sure of their power, emit convulsive sneers, for they look upon this demonstration of national pride and love of freedom, which even in terror has not been dampened, as being repugnant. This is how they died, the Polish and Jews who, according to Nazi propaganda, were natural slaves, begging for mercy, and having no right to live; in any case, not the type of life that only Germans deserved to live! However, the tyrants were forced to see the same phenomenon repeated

1. Broad does not tell the entire truth: the officials of the Politische Abteilung, to which he belonged, shot the prisoners themselves.

time and again: all of these condemned, men or women, young or old, gathered their last forces in order to die with dignity. Not one cry for mercy left their mouths and, often they threw a profound look of contempt at their executioners, and these primitive assassins only knew how to answer with a fit of rage.

"The barely audible shots ring out one by one. The victims sink with a thud at the foot of the wall. The executioner checks to see if the shots in the neck, fired from a distance of a few centimeters, were aimed properly. He puts his foot on the forehead of a body extended on the ground and pushes the skin with the tip of his boot, to see if the corpse is really dead or not. Aumeier and Grabner observe with interest. If a victim is still alive one of the two S.S. chiefs cries the order: 'Another round for this one,' and a bullet in the temple, or in the eye, then ends this tormented life. The stretcher bearers run with their stretchers and load the bodies, which are then piled up at the other end of the courtyard. The bloody bodies are stacked up, more and more numerous. For a few minutes, after each execution, a thin stream of blood seeps from the wound in the neck and runs along the spine. Each time two victims are taken away the prisoner with the shovel silently approaches and, with no sign of emotion, covers the pool of foamy blood with sand. The executioner mechanically reloads his weapon and continues his task. If a pause occurs, he puts his gun aside, while whistling a song, or discusses trifling subjects with the others watching the spectacle. He wants to prove to the others that he wastes no emotion while 'finishing off all this vermin' and that he is 'hardened.' He is proud to feel no remorse at killing innocent men. If one of the condemned turns his head, he places the barrel of his weapon against their neck and pushes their face against the wall. This happens especially in cases of patriotic cries screamed by the condemned. Because the S.S. realize that this ultimate profession of fanatic faith by tortured martyrs arouses the national

sentiment of those hearing it on the other side of the wall.

"It often happens that the last moments of the prisoners to be executed in front of the black screen are painfully prolonged. They already feel the cold pressure of the gun-barrel against their necks, soiled with blood, they feel the movement of the trigger...the gun is jammed! The executioner, annoyed, interrupts his task, manipulates his gun with an air of great importance and informs the others that it's high time to get a new weapon. No one worries about the mortal anguish experienced by the unfortunate waiting near the screen. A hand of steel seizes him by the arm and holds him firmly. Finally, the gun is again pushed against his neck and it will probably function this time, unless it jams again. It is only an hour later that this odious game terminates.

"Grabner has 'cleaned' his bunker and is now eating a copious lunch. The courtyard of block 11 seems completely deserted. The sand in front of the black screen is freshly raked. A swarm of flies buzz above some of the largest dark spots at the other end of the courtyard. A broad somber shadow passes over the camp. It arises at the heavy wooden door, equipped with a peephole, defending the entrance to the courtyard of block 11, and goes to the exit of the camp in the direction of the crematorium.

"At the camp entrance, an orchestra of prisoners plays a light German march for the commandos that are leaving for the midday shift change. It is not easy to keep in step with feet hindered by the heavy clogs and scraped raw. But woe is he that stumbles—he receives a brutal kick in the back, or a fist in the face.

"In the washroom of block 11, the janitors sort the miserable clothing left by the executed. The executioner, in excellent humor, removes a few spots of blood from his uniform and prepares himself for a conference with the soldiers on the subject of 'the Responsibilities of the S.S. in Europe.'"

TO JOHN PEARSON FROM DICK MCEVOY: My remarks in May AM regarding .22 cal. pistol use in death camps was written before I received the April issue in which evidence from two sources supported your research. About the same time I also received confirmation from Europe's leading collector/archivist that .22 cal. (Kleinkaliber or Zielmunition Kal. 5,6 mm officially) was produced during the war and readily available in Europe¹. This mitigated my scepticism regarding supply and transport. While Typhoons, P-47 & P-51's in the west and Stormoviks & P-2s in the east savaged rail and truck convoys laden with priority items, local .22 munition could be easily moved by cart or auto. While recognizing the hygienic and quiet acoustic advantages of the .22 for specialized close up use, I still suspect the ubiquitous .32 auto and 9mm. guns did a great share of this vile work. In closing I believe you've proved your case for the not-so-innocent little .22, Walther or otherwise. A retched subject well researched, my friend. I'll never look at my .22 PP the same way again.

Regarding your interesting analysis of the "NV" suffix Lugers in May AM, I can only say that later discussions with Don Hallock, 1937 Luger specialist Jared Valeski and Joop Van De Kant revealed that these collectors can't recall having seen a '37 s/42 in the "W" suffix block². Nor had Joachim Görtz, Don said. They reasoned "W's" absence was explained by Mausers use of the odd "NV" suffix, perhaps to avoid conflict with a concurrent "W" block of commercial Banners already in production. This contrasts with the statement "...the military Lugers proceeded into the "W" serial suffix range." If this was so, where are they? Bear in mind the adage in science that the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. To wit, has anyone seen or owned a '37 "W" suffix s/42? Whether "NV" is theoretically "V" becomes academic if no "W's" can be found and there are many "V" suffix '37 s/42s.

An interesting note is in searching unsuccessfully for a lower case "W" resembling *W* in old German alphabets³ I discovered the 1911 Sutterlin script "e" & "o" if combined can produce the *W* under discussion. Even the later 1934 script "e" & "o" can approximate it. Someone's initials perhaps? Thanks John for opening Pandora's Box to acquaint newer members with this old enigma and invigorating our thinking once again. Thanks to those senior collectors who contributed their knowledge for this article. This is the stuff of Auto Mags past. My role here has been one of surrogate and student.

1911 Sutterlin script alphabet

¹ European availability mention by old friend and fellow architect H, Prausser who saw service from early '43 until captured near Caen in '44 while on a HJ recon.

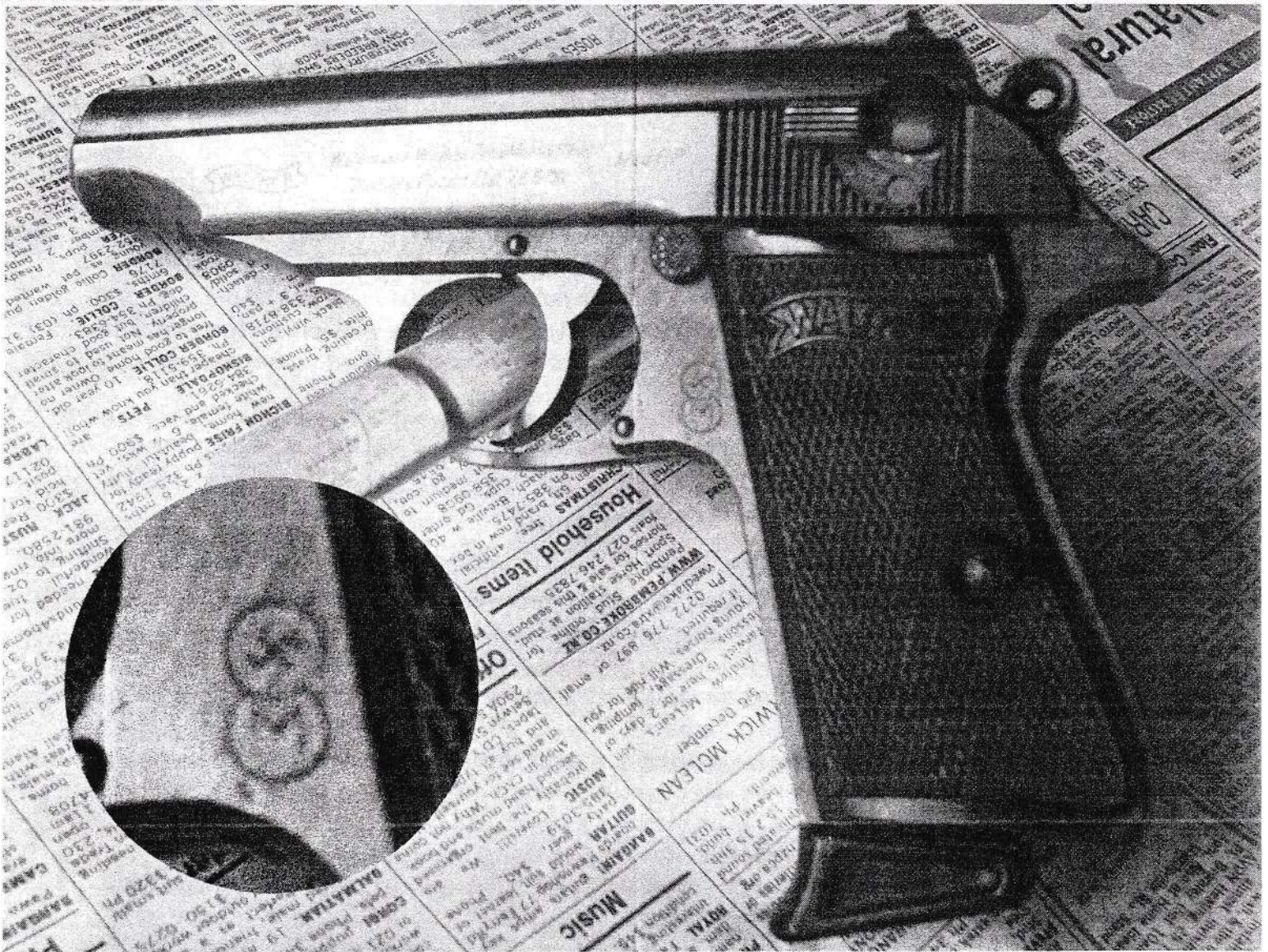
² Jan Still's Central Powers Pistole, pg. 1 Erratum alphabet shows "NV" symbol as "W."

³ There are a bewildering number of Old German script alphabets to confuse researchers. The more florid handwritten styles circa 1900 are virtually unreadable to contemporary readers. See "The Navy Luger" pg. 6 and numerous internet postings.

1934 Richtformen Verkehrsschrift script alphabet

(From Dieter Marschall, AM Jan. '98)

FROM COLIN DOANE: On a recent visit to New Zealand, a friend showed me Walther PP, #327157P. On the left side of the frame, just below the magazine catch, is the engraved marking shown in the photo. I have discussed this marking with Tom Knox, who informs me that it is a known Kriegsmarine acceptance marking, but previously only observed on leather items (holsters, belts, 98k ammo pouches, bayonet frogs, etc.). Tom further stated that he had never seen this marking used on any firearm, nor had he ever seen or heard of any Walther product (other than flare guns) displaying any form of KM acceptance....yet here it is. Any thoughts/comments?



TO HERMAN KAFURA FROM DAN MAUS: Thanks very much for posting information and a grip strap photo of your 1914 Erfurt P08 SN 2446 marked G.K.122. After several false starts, my research has led me to believe this was the marking of the *Gendarmerie-Korps* of Hesse during the early 1920s. I have come to this conclusion largely by a process of elimination that will be explained in my book on German police markings.

TO REINHARD KORNMAYER FROM DWIGHT GRUBER: Your notes on the Norwegian Lugers was very interesting. Thank you particularly for the report of the Norwegian test gun #19765; this information is a valuable addition to the commercial database.

Thiel PPK's, Part I

By Rick Powell

Around 10 years ago, Jim Cate and Martin Krause made some discoveries about Thiel marked PPK's. They had successfully identified the company symbol found engraved on the grip-strap to be that of the clock and fuse factory, not that of a naval anchor as some had perceived. It is in fact, a watch pendulum. When I first heard about these pistols about a year ago, I was truly fascinated by them. Thanks to wonderful contacts within NAPCA, I was given the opportunity to acquire one. And it is here that I began to do more research into the Thiel werkschutz PPK's. I wanted to know; which of the three factories did my Thiel PPK come from? How many Thiel marked PPK's were contracted from Walther? What were the differences between the 3 factories of Thiel at the locations of Ruhla, Seebach, and Muhlhausen? Is it possible that we incorrectly believed that there were originally 90 Thiel PPK's? Lastly, is it possible to find fuses, watches, and documents that show the relationship between Thiel and the War? Some of my favorite World War II historians such as John Keegan point out that war is driven by the cog wheels of its industry. Without the factories producing fuses and other equipment there would be no need for the many army accepted pistols that we so prize. The prized DAF Honor Standarte that factories sometimes earned reflects this idea.

We know that Thiel made a clockwork fuse for the German Army and Navy during the Third Reich. They continued to make watches during this time and I have seen a "D...H" marked Thiel watch. This indicates property or use of the Heer.

How many Thiel PPK's were made to order at the Walther Factory? First, let us point out that some Thiel PPK's show a prefix letter "M" before the inventory number which is 1 thru 30. Other Thiel PPK's have only the inventory number. Martin Krause was able to get a letter from Edwin Thiel back in 1998. Edwin Thiel was the company owner during the Third Reich and responded to the question of the existence of these Thiel marked PPK's. In this letter, Mr. Thiel writes that 30 PPK's were ordered for Seebach/Ruhla and 30 PPK's for Muhlhausen. I present to the members of NAPCA that we had originally mistook the letter as saying 30 for each of the three factories. The number of PPK's was originally interpreted to be 90. However, a quick look at the letter indicates a "slash" mark between Seebach and Ruhla. These two factories are the much older and established Thiel factories and less than 5 miles apart in Thuringia. Muhlhausen's Thiel factory was 32 miles away and was created by the Nazi government to be built up by their cost in 1937 and then the private company of Thiel rented it and managed it. I have discovered, with the help of Michael Heidler who wrote a book on German Ordinance Codes, that the Muhlhausen Thiel factory was actually named Geratebau GmbH. By much research I was able to find a fuse from this actual factory. With the huge numbers of men from the 6th Armored Division that took Muhlhausen, and most of Thuringia on their way to the famous liberation of Buchenwald Camp on April 11, 1945, why haven't we ever seen a Seebach or "S" marked prefix Thiel PPK? This is because none exist. 30 PPK's were ordered for Seebach/Ruhla, and then 30 were ordered for Muhlhausen and marked with an "M" prefix

before the inventory number. Therefore, I believe there were 60 original Thiel PPK's. (But don't tell Rock Island Auction or they'll use this to make things even crazier) **joking**

Here is the updated list of known Thiel PPK's, including the one that showed up at Poulin's Auction in March and the one I now own. As you can see, none of the Thiel PPK's have an "S" prefix. This list shows there are 9 known Thiel PPK's out of the original 60. Please email me with other Thiel PPK's, hothmobile@gmail.com. I would greatly appreciate any forwarded Thiel serials.

Serial	property number	other info
866526	.20	7.65mm, mottled brown
866540	.26	7,65mm, flat bottom mag
866541	.27	7,65mm, mag unknown
875307	M.7	7,65mm, mag unknown
878778	.30	7.65mm, made in Germany
930712	M.29	7,65mm, mag unknown
932661	M.20	7,65mm, mag unknown
933112	M.26	7,65mm, rare trans, 2 nd vari.
937008	M.18	7,65mm, mag unknown

Note that the later serial numbers are from the Muhlhausen factory which was ran by Thiel starting around 1937 with full war time fuse production starting in 1941. This fits the dates with the Walther serial numbers closely. I have yet to locate a living veteran of the 6th armored division to ask them if they remember entering any of these fuse factories. I also have not been successful in finding period photos of the factories. An email to the newly organized Thiel-Ruhla watch company was not replied to.



a copy of the 1998 letter from Edwin Thiel

EDWIN THIEL
1915 ZIMMERSTRASSE 10
D-30634 N. O. O. - 48129
D-30634 N. O. O. - 48129
21.10.1998

Herrn
Herrn Krause

Sehr geehrter Herr Krause,

Ich bestätige hiermit die Schreiben vom 26.11.1998. - Ein
weil ich Ihnen hiermit bestätige:

Sehr geehrter Herr Krause,

Die Firma Gebrüder Thiel GmbH, Krefeld, war mit drei Betrieben tätig:

Die war als Luftfahrzeugteile für die Reparatur der beiden weiteren lagen die weltweit größte und
bestmögliche Hersteller für Flugzeuge und Zerstörer der Luft- und Wasserlande-
die war für die weltweit führenden Hersteller von Flugzeugen/Flugzeugteilen für die
Luftfahrt.

Die war durchgehenden die in Deutschland größte Hersteller von Flugzeug-Teilnehmern für die
Flugzeugteile.

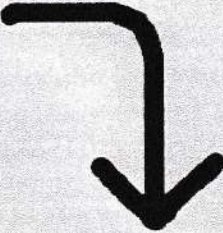
Die bestmögliche in der Welt waren größten Reparatur in Luft- und der Flugzeugteile in
Luft- und Wasserlande-Teilnehmern, mehr als 10.000 Personen.

Die bestmögliche die der gesamte weltweite durch Fertigung seitlich der bestmöglichen in allen
Betrieben weltweit.

Die war einen Bestmögliche in Krefeld Krefeld in Luft- und der Flugzeugteile - in Krefeld Krefeld
und in allen Betrieben weltweit.

Die war einen Bestmöglichen Krefeld Krefeld in Krefeld Krefeld in Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld
die der drei Bestmöglichen Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld
bestmögliche weltweit sein, die in Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld
bestmögliche weltweit - über die Bestmögliche die Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld Krefeld.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



je 30 Walther PPK an Ruhla/Seebach und an Mühlhausen

text showing Ruhla/Seebach as one entity

This is why I believe there are no "S" prefix Seebach Thiel PPK's.

GEBRÜDER THIEL

RUHLA

Firma

Bernhard Sander,
Maschinen u. Werkzeuge,

G e r a



IHRE ZEICHEN

--

IHRE NACHRICHT VOM

Kte. v. 28.1.37

UNSER ZEICHEN

Me

140

30. Januar 1937

Betrifft: Gewindeschneidmaschinen.

Wir danken für Ihre Karte und übersenden Ihnen beigeschlossen das Prospektblatt GS 33 über die von uns hergestellten Gewindeschneidmaschinen. Diese Maschinen eignen sich auch zum Schneiden von Gewinde in Teilen aus Kunstpressstoff, und zwar kommen dann die Maschinen mit Leitpatronen-Einrichtung zur Verwendung.

Bevor wir Ihnen weiteres mitteilen, wollen Sie uns bitte noch wissen lassen, in welchem Lande Ihr Kunde wohnt, damit wir Ihnen evtl. unseren zuständigen Vertreter nennen können, mit dem Sie dann die Angelegenheit weiter bearbeiten können.

Ueber den Autal-Gewindeschneidapparat ist uns näheres nicht bekannt, da dieser Apparat für uns als Konkurrenzfabrikat nicht in Frage kommt.

Wir erwarten gern Ihre weiteren Nachrichten.

Heil Hitler !

GEBRÜDER THIEL

RUHLA SEEBACH

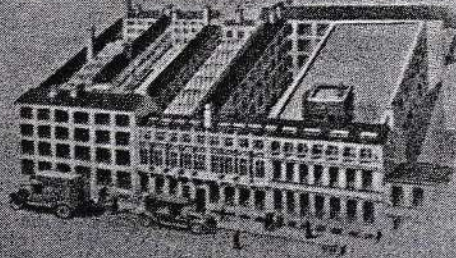
1 Prospekt GS 33

In summary, the original Thiel factory in Ruhla and Seebach was established much earlier than the State funded factory in Muhlhausen. I believe there were only 60 original Thiel PPK's ordered in total. 30 for Ruhla/Seebach, and 30 for Muhlhausen. In the next article on Thiel PPK's I will introduce information specific to the Muhlhausen factory and it's involvement in the war from two sources. I will also list the secret armament codes of these factories and display some factory items along with my Muhlhausen PPK. Questions ?.... Rick hothmobile@gmail.com

The 1925 Revolver, Automatic Pistol and Air Pistol catalogue, cancels all previous lists.

Revolvers & Automatic Pistols

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 1323 VICTORIA.

FROM STEVE CUTHBERTSON: I've attached a couple of pages from the Webley & Scott catalogue of 1925 for the NAPCA. The model shown was commonly known as the 'African' model. By 1930 it could only be bought 'on special order.'

WEBLEY & SCOTT NEW MILITARY & POLICE AUTOMATIC PISTOL
 9 m.m.

Supplied with stocks
 checkered or plain.

Weight of Pistol	2 lb.	Weight of Bullet	145 grs.
Capacity of Magazine	8 shots.	Muzzle Velocity	1,070 F.S.
Weight of Magazine	2 oz.	Muzzle Energy	280 Ft. lbs.
Length overall	8 in.		
Depth	5 in.		

This pistol is the outcome of 30 years' experience with Automatic Pistols, and in it has embodied all the latest developments and improvements, including a patent positive safety.

13

Spreeverk "cvq" Code Analysis

From Jan Balcar:

First of all I would like to say thank you to everyone that has contributed a photograph of their "cvq" marked pistol on the previous post and especially to Ron for his assistance.

First a little about myself: I graduated as an engineer/technician from Western Bohemian University. For many years I was an employee of Skoda works in Plzen in a machine tool factory (which was a former armory). Among other things, I am skilled in die production. Currently my brother and I are co-owners of a small company. The main focus of our business is milled steel products and welded frameworks.

The cyq vs. cvq battle has fascinated me for a long time, and I was a "code change guy". I found the "Broken Die Theory" (BDT) unbelievable, because no single factory anywhere in the world is based on one die! I also found the "Rathgeber production theory" unbelievable as well, because the other markings on these pistols are the same as regular Spreeverk production. And a late war pistol that was stolen from the factory in late April 1945 had mixed markings of cyq and cvq.

Watching TV can become a bad habit. The impulse for this "forensic analysis" probably comes from my wife. She watches the TV series CSI Miami, and CSI Las Vegas. Yes, my inspiration comes from Horatio Caine and Bill Grissom.....

And how we find out:

Early production pistols have the cyq code that is done with a pantograph machine. Dies were not used. The pantographic engraving machine is a device which is based on the principle of parallelogram, coupled with a rotating ball end milling cutter. The characteristic signs that a pantograph engraver has been used, are that the bottom of the engraved letters show the evidence of tool marks, and the margin of the letters are not raised. Example pistols are: 1149b, 3897b, and 9725b.

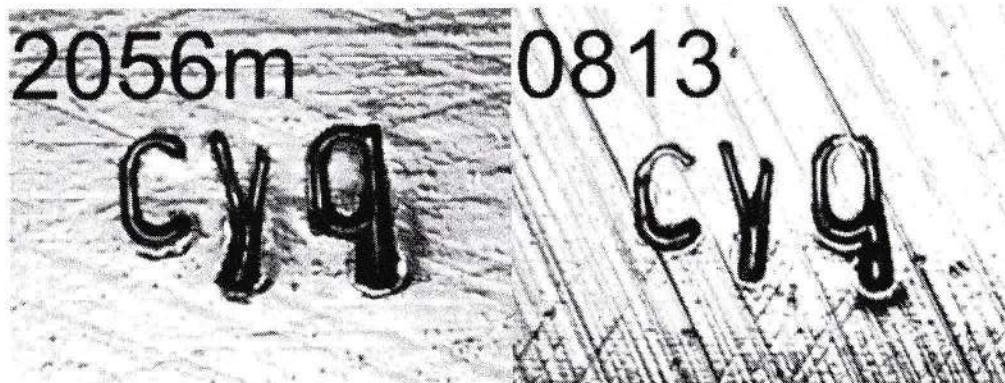


The vast majority of the pistols from the first alphabet series (a-z suffix) are marked with the cyq die. Pistols from the second alphabet series (a&b pre-fix) and the zero series have the mixed markings-cyq and cvq (some of each appear). The stamp was applied by hand with a copper hammer to prevent it from bouncing and causing a double strike. Because it was done by hand, the position of each stamp varies from slide to slide. The characteristic sign that a die has been used, is that the margins of the letters are raised.

A little bit about die production:

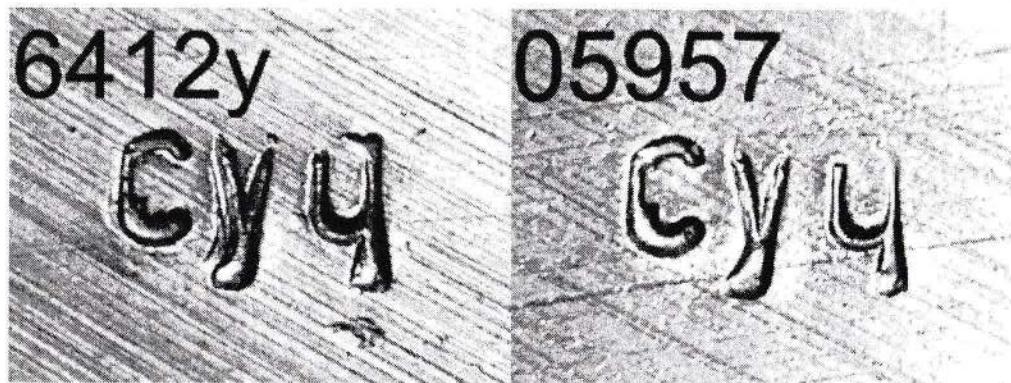
The older method of die production (also during WW2) was based on an engraved plate with a hand engraved positive image. This was the matrix or "master" plate. This matrix is made of steel, and after it is engraved, it is then hardened. The die is also made of steel. It is then heated to an "orange glow" and pressed into the matrix. This steel stick with the desired negative image is cooled gradually to prevent it from becoming hard. The die is in a "soft state" at this time and the final tapering and correcting of the details can be done with a file. After this the die is then hardened. From one matrix many dies can be made. The matrix is expensive to produce, the dies are not. I have never seen a situation where just one die was made from one matrix. All dies made from the same matrix would be similar, but not exactly the same because they are hand corrected with a file.

My analysis shows that there was more than one die used. In the production of pistols that lasted almost three years, some dies became worn. These produced non-specific stampings with different identifiable defects. From the pictures I have taken it is clear that one die has a normal letter "c", and another die (or dies) have a defect on the letter "c". The SN of the pistols with the **normal letter "c"** are: 2056m, and 0813.

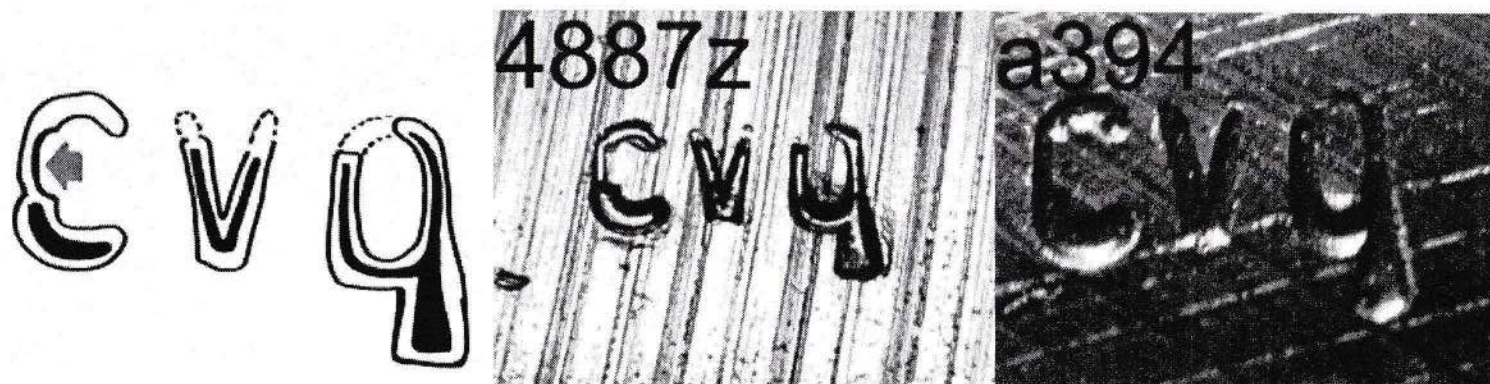


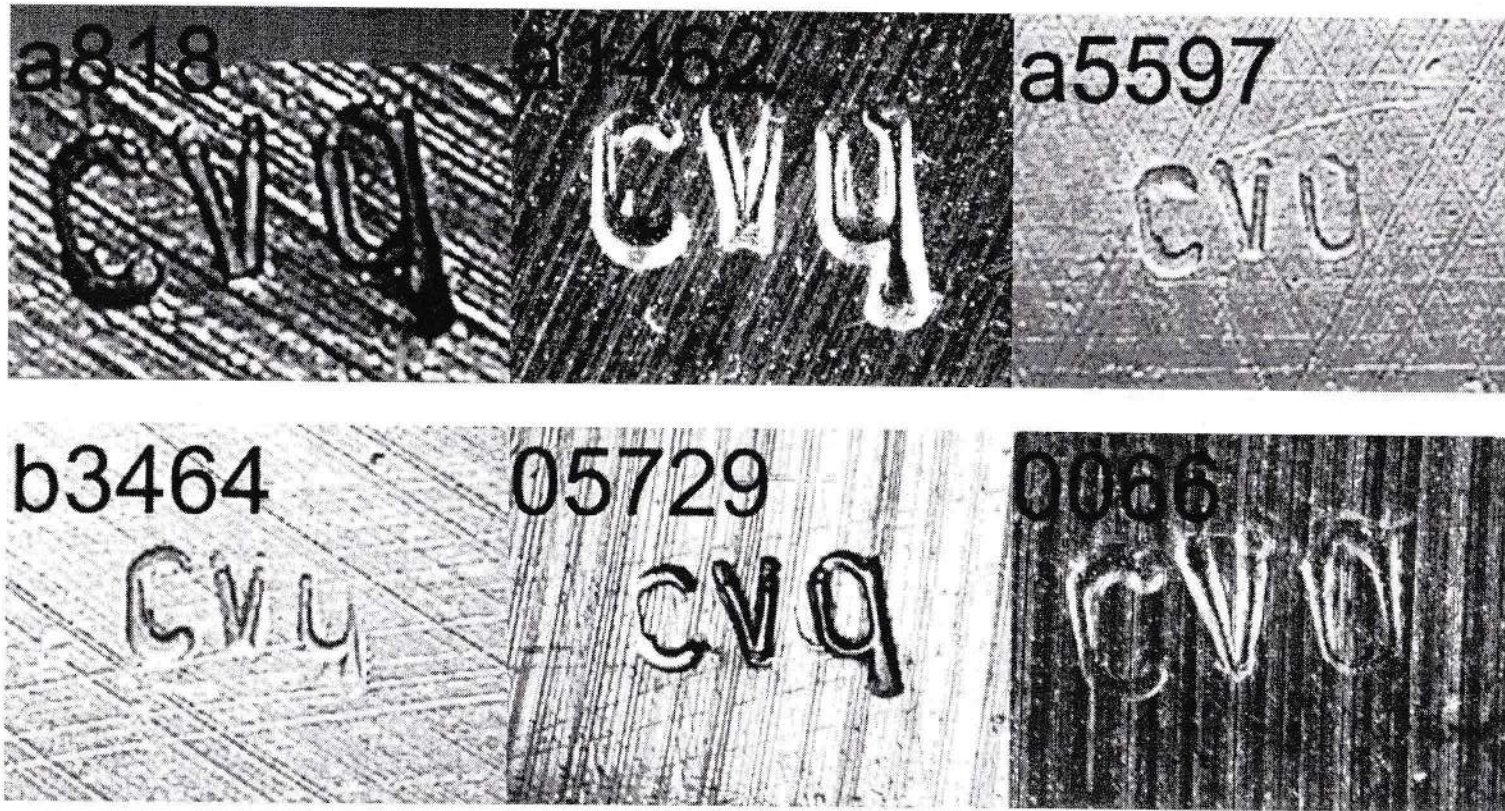
The examples of the cyq stamping with the **defect in the letter "c"** are: 6412y, and 05957. These two are VERY IMPORTANT! Note: that these two codes both have (besides the defect in the "c") a wider lower portion of the letters "y" and "q". It is a sign of wear, and it is my conclusion that this particular die was made of defective steel, or was not hardened

properly. **THIS WAS THE SPECIFIC DIE THAT LATER WAS BROKEN!** I am confident you can find in your collections a lot of pistols from the end of the first alphabetical code that will have the cvq code with the defective letter “c”, although this may not be visible with the naked eye. You may have to use magnification to observe this.



From the middle of the “z” suffix in the first alphabetical series there are some pistols marked with the cvq code. The same situation is present in the second pre-fixed alphabetical series as well as the zero series. You will see here 9 examples of the cvq code: 4887z, a394, a818, a1462, a5597, a8208, b3464, 05729, and 0066. All of these have the cvq code stamps that have the defect in the letter “c”, similar defects on the upper part of the letters “v” and “q”, and also the widened lower part of the letter “q”. This same die that produced this cvq code shows further wear as time goes on. The progression of SN’s now also shows that the lower part of the “q” is fading. The only exceptions are two pistols from zero series production. SN 05957 has the cvq marking done with the same die that has the defective letter “c”, and the marking seems to be done from an earlier time such as around the same time as SN 4887z. My explanation is that both pistols have mismatched barrels, and the frames are not numbered. Both of these pistols were stolen from the factory in the last days of the war.





And now the final analysis:

The Sprewerk factory had more than one cyq die.

Dies were used together side by side.

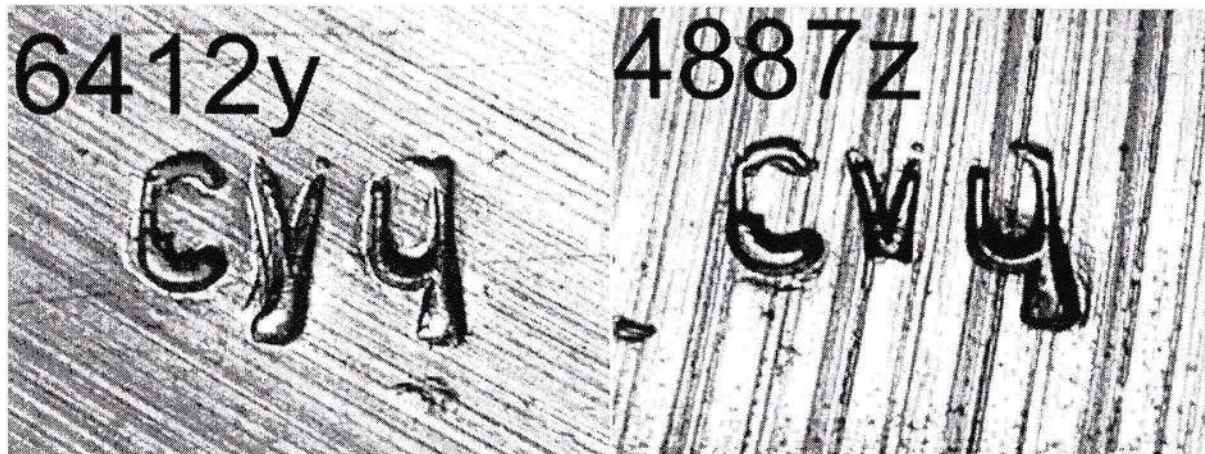
Worn dies were substituted.

One cyq die was made incorrectly, either with defective steel or was not hardened properly.

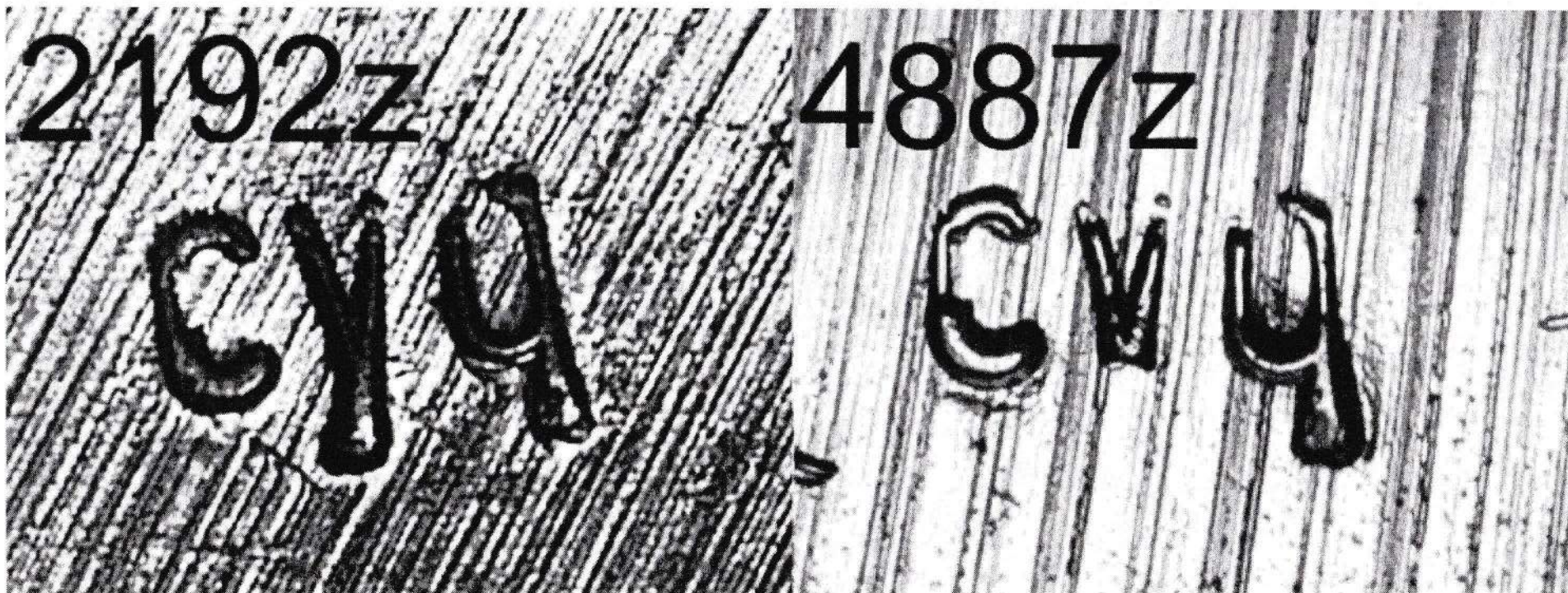
Sometime in January 1945 the die with the defect in the letter "c" was broken and the letter "y" then looks like a "v"

Slides were further stamped with a few different dies, of which one of these was broken.

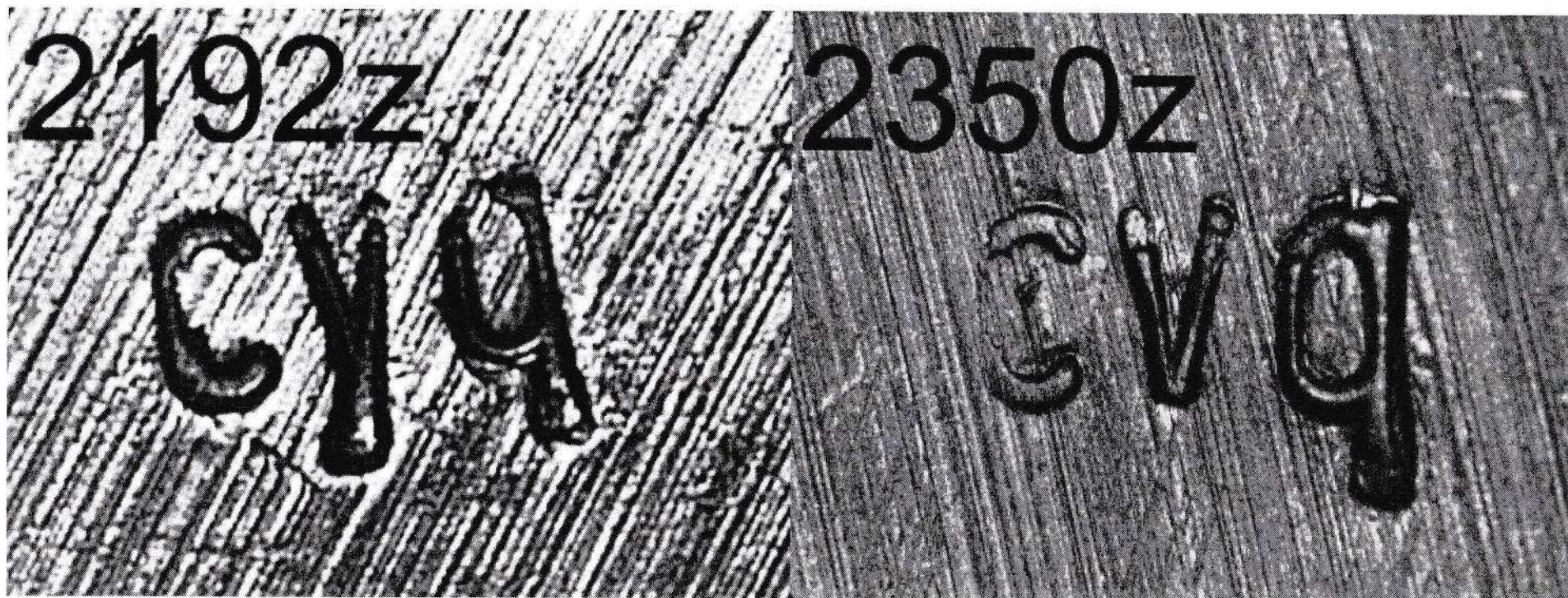
It is not easy for a former "code change guy" to say I was mistaken. The broken die theory is correct. To any critics: If you are still of the opinion we do not have enough examples to come to this conclusion- please send more pictures.



And now we have a smaller gap in-between these stamps.

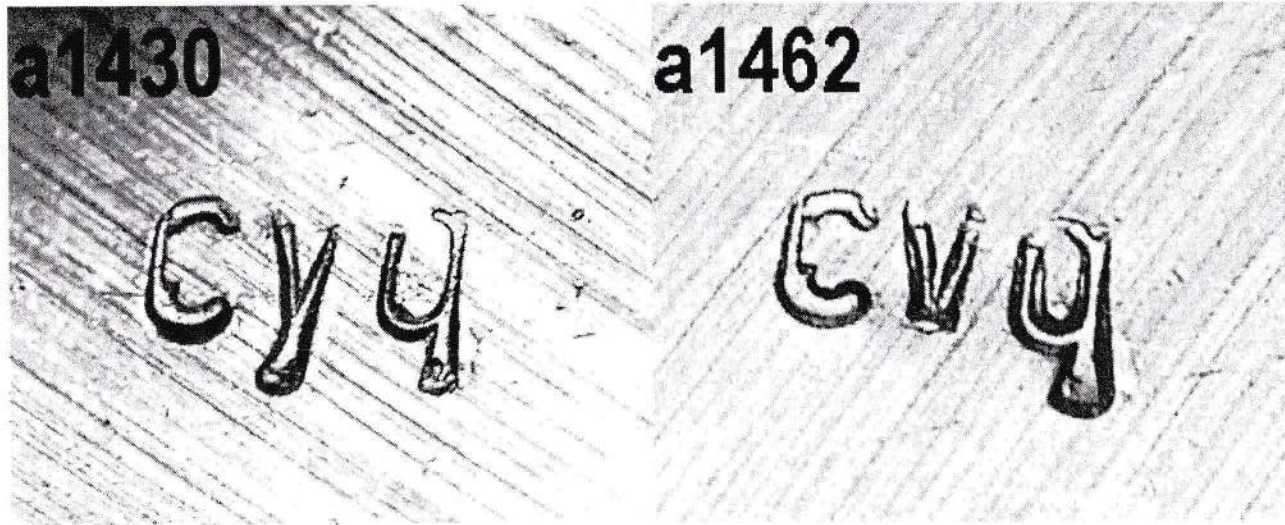


And finally perhaps the smallest gap we can expect. Only 158 pistols separate these two. The photo of pistol 2350z was submitted by Dietrich Jonke of Germany. This pistol is important because it is the earliest "cvq" pistol we can document with our research that was stamped with this broken die. It had been speculated that the "cvq" code started showing up around the middle of the "z" block of pistols. But now of course we can prove that it was earlier.

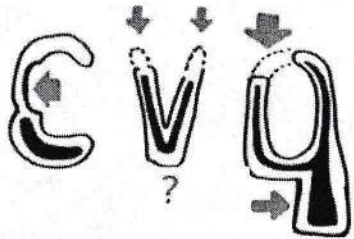


UPDATE 1/28/08:

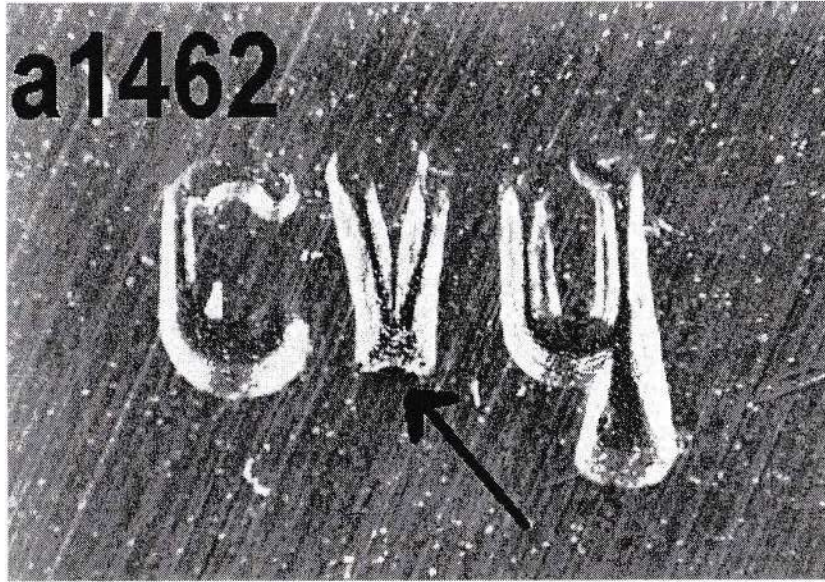
These two pistols are very close in SN, however we can see that the slide on SN a1430 was code stamped before the damage occurred to the die. As of now it appears that the damage to this die occurred at about SN2300 of the "z" block of pistols. So we can see that these earlier "cyq" slides were assembled onto later SN'd pistols.



And here we see a better drawing that points out these key indicators or "identifiers" of this die. Although the above photos were taken from slightly different distances, angles, and with different cameras and lighting. I believe these "identifiers" are quite noticeable.



So far in this research: Every photo that has been submitted where the detail has been usable for this research on the late war "cvq" pistols, has shown these "identifiers" from this die are present. They are all stamped with this same die!



Also please note in the above photo submitted by Leon, that the bottom of the letter "v" is quite jagged in appearance. It is neither a flat bottom or a pointed bottom. And it is quite obvious that it is broken. Again, the stamp has all the other "identifiers" associated with this same die.

More Discussion:

For more discussion on this topic, see the links below:

<http://forums.p38forum.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=14246&start=0&postdays=0&postorder=asc&highlight=>

<http://forums.p38forum.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=14211&start=0&postdays=0&postorder=asc&highlight=>

Research and theory conducted and presented by Jan Balcar and Ron Clarin. January 2008.

FOR SALE / TRADE

ASTRA M900 EXHIBITION QUALITY, GOLD DAMASCENE, 7.63mm; SN: 33786; Pearl Grips, w/Damascene ShoulderStock, Factory Case & a detailed Historical Letter by Dr. Antaris who has matching stock..long story! Photocopy from an earlier auction catalog presentation available. A truly incredible beauty! \$22500
BROWNING M1910, 7.65mm, SN: 97821; Exceptional example & from early production making it quite scarce. Perf. mechanically w/Exc. original mag. & grips. Mirror bore too! Retains almost 99% original blue. **VERY RARE BEAUTY!** \$950
BROWNING M1910/22, 9mmK/.380ACP, SN: 60463; Desirable **DUTCH CONTRACT** Crown/"W" top of slide. Matched numbers on Barrel/Slide/Extension; Mag. SN doesn't match, but is original FN, albeit a refinished mag. Original grips fine, showing only normal use/wear; lanyard loop present; mechanically perfect, w/bright bore. Shows about 98% quality, original blued finish. **EXC!** \$550
BROWNING "MEDALIST", .22 Cal., 81271T7; Big, gorgeous target model w/beautiful oversized Target Grips, Large Presentation Case w/all Accys, except screw driver. Not made in years, it's magnificent and virtually **PERFECT!** \$1100
CAMPO-GIRO M1913-16 9mmL; SN: 09321 DELUXE FACTORY ENGRAVED, EXHIBITION GRADE, Silver plated/lite Gold Wash w/simulated Pearl/Ivory Grips. Exc. original mag. & perfect bore. Predecessor to the more common & better known Astra line. Gorgeous and retains nearly 99% original finish; gold is thinning a bit. An especially impressive & **MUSEUM QUALITY RARITY! NEAR PERFECT** \$9000
CHAROLA-y-ANITUA, 5mm, SN: 828; Very early & very scarce Spanish design, which is similar to 19th Century Bergmann/Mauser designs. Pearl grips are fine w/2 miniscule chips seen only on closest exam. Fine original blued finish w/about 95% smooth coverage, but faded on straps. Marked on top of barrel (tiny rollstamp) **"BEST SHOOTING PISTOL"** & **"PATENT"** (top of chamber). It's also mech. fine. An obscure & fascinating antique design! Near **EXC!** \$5000
CHAROLA-y-ANITUA, 7mm, SN: 10363; Incredible & **EXHIBITION GRADE GOLD DAMASCENE** w/fine Pearl Grips. Such a high SN implies 7mm production began at 10000; so very few are known that such a high SN is almost impossible & very few 7mm Charolas even exist! Professionally/beautifully restored, this is an **ENGRAVED, DAMASCENE GOLD PRESENTATION RARITY** and a **SUPERB ANTIQUE!** \$10000
COLT/STAR M30/PK 9mm; One of just 20 from US Test Program for selecting a 9mm service pistol; in 1987 Beretta was chosen from all the "XM9" candidates. Marked **"COLT FIREARMS"** on frame, plus normal std. Star markings. Original box, cleaning materials & historically important Colt Letter from the Sr. Colt Engineer, attesting that it is one of the 20 Colt/STARS! **MINT!** \$5000
HARRINGTON & RICHARDSON SINGLESHOT "USRA" .22 Cal., SN: 2945; Understand fewer than 4000 made pre-WWII & it beat the Colt "Camp Perry" at the Camp Perry National Matches! Perfect mirror bore w/10" bbl. Complete w/original H&R Factory Box, Brochure & Test Target; shot 1/4" group @60'! Box shows some handling/age/wear; exceptionally scarce to even have a box! Retains 98%+ beautiful blued finish, except very minor spotting, minor flaking @strap, & few hairline scratches @small area on left side. Perfect 1-piece wooden grip checkered three sides! Hard to find, or to upgrade, & **SUPERB!** \$2000
HI-STANDARD H-D MIL., .22 Cal., SN: 168982; Virtually as new in box; box shows minimal edge wear/handling/age, but very impressive! Long 6.75" barrel is perfect. Spare Magazine (also in tiny original box!) & instructions sheet are included, plus period box .22LR Cartridges. Outstanding & **MINT!** \$1250
LUGER, DWM M1900 "AM.EAGLE TEST", 7.65mm, SN: 7244; Perf. mech. w/mirror bore. Retains 100% of beautiful restoration by Gale Morgan; grips also perfect. Straw colors are lovely, rich, dark golden color & with all other correct features; authentic throughout! One of the **HIGHEST TEST SNs** recorded; may be the highest? This was a 'keeper' for years. **BEAUTIFUL TREASURE!** \$5000
LUGER, M1929 SWISS, 7.65mm, SN: 66785; Original, dark brown plastic grips have tiny logos for Bern WF & maker in pattern. Retains 99%+ original military finish. Not the most beautiful of Lugers but very desirable & **MINT!** \$3000
 (NOTE: Also see the two Swiss M1882/29 Revolvers which are listed just below.)
 I also have two fine quality Swiss Swords! (Continued on next page...)

***** (continued from previous page) *****

MAUSER M1896 "CONEHAMMER BROOMHANDLE" 7.63mm, SN: 9140; Very early production, with a 4-digit SN! Complete w/ORIGINAL MATCHING SHOULDER-STOCK, it's very special to be complete after so many years. Stock has few normal handling dings. Stock metal faded but smooth, w/fine surface rust on hinge. Pistol is lovely, w/exceptional 'fire-blue' on appropriate small parts and about 98% original blue, w/slight fading on barrel & some minimal surface rust on front strap & a few other small areas. Mech. perfect with exc., mirror bore, this ANTIQUE B/H Set is an early 'GEM', overall rating EXC+! **\$6500**

MAUSER M1896 "CONEHAMMER BROOMHANDLE" 7.63mm, SN: 11205; Very early example & w/original "WESTLEY RICHARDS & Co." @rear sight. Original grips fine with only normal handling. Mech. perfect w/mirror bore! Has 98% original blue coverage, with some slight fading. Nowadays RARE & an EXC. ANTIQUE! **\$4000**

MAUSER M1896 "CONEHAMMER BROOMHANDLE" 7.63mm, SN: 11801; Early B/H w/original, matching Shoulder-Stock! Stock is beautiful, dark wood, w/usual dings and handling, but no visible cracks! Retains ~95% blue, w/significant fading @barrel, w/dark bore. Mech. Perfect, w/fine original grips, this stocked B/H Set presents a really attractive appearance! Over 110 years old, and ****** a very desirable, hard to find outfit! Overall its an EXC. ANTIQUE! **\$6000**

SWISS M1882/29 REVOLVER, 7.5mm, SN: 52272; Light brown checkered plastic grips on a perfect example of a rare type. Perfect mirror bore & mechanically.

****** Except miniscule wear @muzzle, this superb Swiss is virtually NEW! **\$1375**

SWISS M1882/29 REVOLVER 7.5mm, SN: 66026; Late production example w/dark brown checkered plastic grips; tiny Bern logo +maker's name showing in pattern.

****** Very hard to find, it's another rare example that's virtually NEW! **\$1375**

WALTHER MODEL 6, 9mm, SN: 1015; Bright bore w/some frost & mech. fine. Unusual fine original grips, showing some age, but much better than usually seen! Magazine refinished & a possible replacement. Original finish rates about 90%, exhibiting some minor handling and usual dullness. Markings clear & legible presenting a fine appearance! Very rare big 9mm Walther from WWI,

****** and only 1500 were ever made. (X-Bruce Stern collection) VERY RARE! **\$6000**

WALTHER P38 "ac44" 9mm, SN: 4203f; Not recent import, w/"WaA359" proofed mag. & on all parts. Perf. Mech. & original grips & w/mirror bore. Very crisp, showing very little handling, retaining ~98%+ original finish. Quality we don't see offered for sale often, and for many years already! EXC+! **\$950**

NOTE! **Marked are from collection of Bruce Stern, NRA Director and celebrated collector of considerable renown. Bruce resided in CT & his famous collection of MG's was also auctioned for his estate. **AWESOME!** More to come, possibly..?! (NOTE: Most are "C&R" & a few are ANTIQUE; some to be shipped from other FFLs) Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed with 10-day inspection/return privileges. But you must phone immediately if a return is to be made. Phone to reserve any item(s) and discuss payment & shipping arrangements. Bill Drollinger, PO Box A Castroville CA 95012 (PHONE: 831/770-1787 9AM-5PM PST please! FAX on request)

"System Mauser" by Breathed & Schroeder, 2nd printing, excellent condition with some notes inside, DJ near new but small (1/2") piece missing form back side **\$150.00**

"Merchants of Death", 1934 by Engelbrecht and Hanighen, 1st edition, signed by co-author Hanighen **\$75.00**

"Commando, a Boer Journal of the Boer War" by Deneys Reitz, 1929 in London, "a gripping read" **\$35.00**

RICK ENGEL 402-493-1650, e-mail: rickeengel@excite.com