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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND OLD FRIENDS

William C. Castle - Ohio

Allen S. Gerth - Washington

FROM JIM CATE: The Convention was a great success! Almost 70 members and wives were present for our convention. John James gave a great presentation at our banquet. If you missed it, you missed a lot of great deals and a lot of great folks you really need to get to know!

FROM TOM KNOX: Erfurt P08, dated 1916, #3468 (no letter), all matched except mag, top was 75% but the frame was in the white. Front grips strap marked: I. R. 71. M. G. Walked into the shop this morning, but I didn't want to invest that in such a tired example.....

FROM STAN FARMER: Have been curious about a letter 'G' stamped on the upper left trigger guard web of my Walther 4. While searching a forum today, I found the following information: "The following markings have been identified: AS = August Schuler, Suhl; S&H = Schmidt und Habermann, Suhl; GR = Gebruder Rempt, Suhl; GM = Gebruder Merkel, Suhl; G = H.M. Gering, Heidersbach; an "Anchor" = Heinrich Krieghoff, Suhl and M or IM = Immanuel Meffert, Suhl." Are these correct? Are there any others?

FROM KEVIN NULL: I've finally compiled my list of 1922 FN variations and markings after keeping notes for 30 years. I want to thank all who have provided information, especially Anthony Vanderlinden, Mike Shade, and Bill Drollinger, without whose discussion and patience with me would not have made the list possible. However, please note that this list was created from observations, hearsay, and other reference sources, such as Anthony Vanderlinden's Belgian Browning Pistols book, and various internet sites (GunBroker.com & AuctionArms.com for example) and it is most likely incomplete. I have no hard evidence on the validity of my observations, other than this is what others have told me and what I have seen. If any member has new variations or additional information, please forward to me. I'm especially looking for information on the ones I've listed as unknown examples (ones I've seen in photos or physically, but don't have a clue what the mark stands for) and the reported but unverified variations (referenced in AutoMag or on the internet, but no photo or physical example seen).

* I've worked my way through 16 years of past AutoMags and have a couple of questions.

1) In Oct 84 - Ed Faust stated that he just received two batches of FN 1922's. One lot came from Mexico and the other from Thailand. He offered to send the serial number ranges to anyone who requested them. Does anyone still have that list of serial numbers? If so, I'd like to get a copy.

2) In Jun 85 - Bob Burden noted that he had a Romanian Crested 1922 FN for sale, No price, just make offer. Bob, are you still taking offers?

FROM JIM CATE: Tom, print this in AUTOMAG next time. We need more people to support our cause rather than bitching about it all the time.

The following Gunboards post is from Doss White who does the Banzai Newsletter for Japanese Collectors. Talk about supporting the cause ...

There are several moments in life that stick with a person. One for me is the rainy afternoon in the mid 70s when I returned home from work in Pittsburgh, PA and found a letter from a person I had never met, one Don Harper in Wheatland, Wyoming. He was proposing a "news letter" for collectors of Japanese militaria. That afternoon letter is as clear as a bell in my mind's eye. The same can be said with an email I opened a few minutes ago. A member of the Banzai family, who wishes to remain unidentified to the rest of the world, is sending a check for \$5,000 to pay for the new copy machine!!! For once I'm speechless. Now I'll have to change my "ways" as the editor, no more cut and paste for an issue, everything will have to be scanned into the PC and printed from the computer. Should make for a cleaner copy. As I "keyboard" this I'm still stunned. But for all of us that think BANZAI is something special, Mr. Un IDed benefactor, a tremendous THANK YOU!!!

Quick List of 1922 FN variations

	Variations	Identifying Mark	Serial Number Range
Commercial (unmarked)	Straight serial number (pre & post war, both calibers)	No Markings other than typical Belgian proofs and standard FN slide inscription	20015 - 39710 48639 & 52837 & 70363 123837 - 189486 277048 251632 - 287007
	A prefix serial number (Post War)	A prefix serial number & some Nazi production parts	A0166-A19859 & A85724-A114337
	Lunch Box	No serial number	No number visible
Yugoslavic	State Gov (BoJHo)	Yugo Crest & Slide Marked "Bojho Apyabh" in cyrillic	1-70031 & 231260-238902
	Officers	Yugo Crest & Slide Marked "OoNUNPCJN" in cyrillic	5411-7256 & 213260-243894
	Police - City of Nic	Yugo Crest & Slide Marked "APKABHA IIOJINUNJA HNIII" in cyrillic	257277
	Navy	Yugo Crest with words Mornarica over Kral Jevine under the crest	Unknown
	Financial Police - Zagreb	Yugo Crest & top left side of slide marked "DRZAVNA POLICIJA ZAGREB Br xxx"	242257 (issue # Br 479)
	City Park Authority - Verazdin	Yugo Crest & top left side of slide marked "GRADSKO REDARTSVO VERAZDIN Br xx"	227177
	Postal Issue	Yugo Crest & Slide Marked "IIOWTA xx"	205573
	Unknown Police	Yugo Crest & Slide Marked "IIOANUJCKN No. xxx"	262149
	Military Technical Works (Yugo arsenal reworks)	Various parts (primarily barrels) marked "BOJ. TEXH 3ABOA"	various

Dutch

Rijiks Veldwacht (Rural Police)	RV in oval for crest	26-276 & 1478 (Note: serial numbers 1 - 1500 per AutoMag Article Oct 95)
Koninklijke Marechaussee (Royal Military Constabulary)	Kon. Mar. xxx over date on slide	348 (Note: serial numbers 1 - 1200 per AutoMag Article Oct 95)
Politie Troepen (Police Troops)	Pol. Tr. xxx over date on slide	1253-1834 (Note: serial numbers 1201 - 2075 per AutoMag Article Oct 95)
Queen Wilhelmina (Crown W)	Crown over W for crest	3071-61251 & 75410
Queen Juliana (Crown J)	Crown over J for crest	BZ856 & BZ4280
Dept of Finance	Beleved to have slide marked "D.v.F." but may be marked Dep.V.Fin as 1910's are marked	A85724, A85994, & A111436
Stoomvaart Mastschappij Nederland Steamship Line	Marked "SMN" on right side of slide	A109450
Dutch Fed Home Affairs	Marked "BiZa" on right side of slide	A108818
Dutch National Bank	Beleved to be marked "Nederlandsche Bank" on slide	unknown
Exercise Pistol	Brass ring on muzzle and brass plate inscribed "Exercitie Pistool" over "Verboden Hieruit Te Schieten" on left side of slide	unknown
Cutaway	Various areas of frame, slide, & barrel removed so that internal parts visible	unknown
Dutch State Arsenal Accepted	Rear of frame has crown over letter indicating Dutch State Arsenal in Hembrug accepted, but no other marks to indicate where used	unknown
French		
Navy - Pre War	Anchor for crest	1009-5473
City of Toulouse Police	Slide marked "POLICE MUNICIPALE DE TOULOUSE"	261772 & 263786
Post War French	Unmarked, but described by A. Vanderlinden to be serial #'s 1-30,000, 16 slide serriations, wood grips, no lanyard, round barrel extension	1-30,000

Turkish	Property of the Armed Forces	Slide marked TC Ordusuna mahsustur	240549 & 243595
	Property of Officer of the Armed Forces	Slide marked TC Subaylara mahsustur with Turkish crescent moon logo	256713 & 259759
	Officer of the Republic of Turkey	Slide marked TC Subay	774-2829
	TC Subay and German Factory Security Office for A.E.G.	Right side of slide marked TC Subay and "Eigentum / d. Werkschutz AEG"	1104
Greek	Army	Slide marked with E flanked by an sigma sign and issue number	202966-215964
Chinese	Shanghai Police	Grip strap has two chinese characters, letters GM and issue number	245517-248739
Romanian	Dept of Interior	Romanian crest under ROMANIA	209801 & 248750
Danish	Fed Police 1st Var	Left side of frame marked "Rplt. Nr. xxx"	263935-264150
	Fed Police 2nd Var	Right side of slide marked "Rplt. over xxx"	267177-267290
	Fed Police 3rd Var	Right side of frame marked Rplt.B.-xxx"	A105751
	Municipal Police	Left side of frame marked "P.K. Nr. xxx"	250524
Mexican	Federal Police	Slide marked "GOBICRNO DEL DISTRITO FEDERAL" with and or without a Mexican crest	219786 & 223212
Czechoslovakian	Czech Proofed	Bow and arrow proof mark inside of circle or hexagon with issue number on grip strap	202864

Finnish	Army	Left side of frame and slide have SA inside of box and right side of trigger guard has either N6 or N7 inspector mark	No #'s available
	OW	Left side of slide has standard inscription replaced with FN-BELGIQUE over OW (Note: Frame has N7 Finnish mark, but meaning of OW unknown)	268695
German - Nazi	WaA 613 (32 cal)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 613 marks	20466-28177 & 70370-77678 (should be part of Dutch contract but unmarked as Dutch)
	WaA 613 (380 cal - 7 variations)		288901 to 289563 and 63000 to 77000
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 1.	Dutch Crest, full Belgian proofs, single WaA 613 marks on left side of trigger guard	288901-289563 and 63015-64971
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 2.	Same as variation 1. but without crest	reported to be about 65000-72000, in AutoMag with one reported at 64736
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 3.	Same as variation 2. but adds WaA on underside of barrel	reported about 72000, in AutoMag with one reported at 72618
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 4.	No Belgian proofs, WaA 613 on left trigger guard, and Military test eagle on frame, slide & barrel	reported late 72000 to low 73000 in AutoMag
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 5.	No Belgian proofs, WaA 613 on left trigger guard and frame, and Military test eagle on frame, slide & barrel	reported about 73000 to 75000 in AutoMag
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 6.	No Belgian proofs, WaA 613 on underside of barrel, 2 times on frame, and 3 times on slide, and Military test eagle on frame, slide & barrel	reported in 75000 to 76000, in AutoMag with one reported at 75073 & 76593
	WaA 613 380 cal - Variation 7.	Belgian proofs on slide & frame, but not on barrel, WaA 613 on slide and frame, Military test eagle on barrel	reported in 77000 range, in AutoMag with one reported at 77790

WaA 103	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 103 marks	25786-57838
WaA 140 (straight number)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 140 marks	21600-218453
WaA 140 (a suffix)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 140 marks but serial number ends with a	534a-99037a
WaA 140 (b suffix)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 140 marks but serial number ends with b (Note: May examples above 79000b will have full number on slide only with all other locations (frame, barrel, barrel ext) having only the last 3 or 4 digets with a b suffix)	0926b-97708b
WaA 140 (c suffix)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA 140 marks but serial number ends with c (Note: May examples above c suffix range will have full number on slide only with all other locations (frame, barrel, barrel ext) having only the last 4 digets with a c suffix)	0044c-40954c
Eagle N	Left side of frame and slide have numerous stylized eagles over N marks	62588-267241 & 20879a-89614a & 2463b-98261b & 9089c
Eagle Test Proof only	Marked with eagle test only, no WaA or Eagle N	various as appears to be taken from general Nazi production
Inverted Diamond	Inverted diamond on rear of frame, observed with and without Eagle N	various as appears to be taken from general Nazi production
Police Eagle L	Left side of trigger guard has Nazi Police L mark and Nazi Eagle N marks	37113c reported in AutoMag Aug 89
Political Party - NSDAP	Disk on right side of grip with National Sozialistische over DAP encircling Nazi swastika & BU5289 next to serial #	68556 (with WaA103)
Political Party - SA (Note: This may be fake as SA was pretty much disestablished when WaA 103 mark was in use)	Left side of frame and slide have numerous WaA marks and SA inside circle on right side of slide	39935 (with WaA103)
Dealer - AKAH	Shooting policeman mark on slide and frame and Nazi markings	various as taken from general Nazi production

FROM DOUG LAWRENCE: Just wanted to let the membership know that member Finn Nielson passed away in early August after a valiant, three year battle against cancer. I know he valued all of the friends that he made through NAPCA, and we will all miss him.

	Dealer - Geco	Left side of trigger guard had large circular G with eco inside of it	unknown
	Factory - A.E.G.	Right side of slide marked "Eigentum / d. Werkschutz AEG"	75813 (WaA 613)
	Factory - Wachdienst Erkner Werk	Right side of slide marked "WACHDIENST ERKNER"	100003 (Eagle N)
German Post War - Relssue	Initial Post War Police	Grip strap marked with A B F or S and roman numeral and multipointed star over Nazi proofs (Note: Pre-Volkspolizel)	80428a
	Volkspolizel (Peoples Police)	Various places on slide and frame there will be a starburst proof (generally over Nazi proofs) and a sunburst containing a shield with a number.	108436 & 15086a & 36860b & 35630c (all originally WaA140)
German Police - West Berlin	Chrysanthemum A	Right side of frame just behind trigger stamped with chrysanthemum and letter A	127788-130532
	Chrysanthemum B	Right side of frame just behind trigger stamped with chrysanthemum and letter B	140788-149433 & 171073
	Chrysanthemem A/B	Right side of frame just behind trigger stamped with chrysanthemum and letter A/B	129814 & 129912 & 154295
German Police - Hamburg	Hamburg Police - All Caps	Right side of frame above trigger has POL. HBG xxx in capital letters	139066-139642 & 161256-162282
	Hamburg Police - Upper & Lower Case	Right side of frame above trigger has Pol. Hbg xxx in lower case letters	165943 & 166955
German Railway Police	Post War Railway Police	Right side of slide marked "Bahnpolizei U.S. Zone"	131942-138687

Israeli	Army	Right side of frame behind grip marked with a "tsadi" property mark inside of a circle and a "nun" mark enclosed inside of a 5 pointed star	46719 (with WaA140)
English	English Proofed - 1925-1955	Various parts marked with crown over V inside of a circle, crown over GP inside of a circle, NP and NOT ENGLISH MAKE inside of a seriated edged box	98179 (with WaA140)
	English Proofed - Post 1955	Std British proofs with proof pressure stamped on chamber	231145 (Yugo officers)
Norwegian	Norwegian Police	Top of slide near rear sight has Norwegian coat of arm and POLITI over number	Frame # unknown (Nazi production) but issue numbers between 1 - 1789
Bavarian	Bavarian Banks	Right side of slide marked "BAVARIAN BANKS"	137592-143132
	Bavaria Border Police	Right side of slide marked "BAVARIA BORDER POLICE"	4782c (Nazi production)
Belgian	Belgian Military	Right side of trigger guard has Belgian military acceptance mark of crown over two letters inside of circle	A96835-A103819
	Gendarmerie or National Police	Right side of slide has Gd. year next to FN in oval logo	1017
	Political Police	Marked C.P.I.M. but specific location unknown	unknown but reported in ATF C&R eligible list
Syrian	Police	Right side of slide marked "Police De Syrie"	32140

Unknowns Seen physically or in photos	P-151	Right side of slide marked P 151	118769
	Y prefix	Y prefix serial number	Y.2670 & Y.1936
	P.M. & Anchor	Left side of frame marked with a P.M. and anchor - Possible Mexican but nothing verified	173256 & 222547
	Anchor	Left side of trigger guard has small anchor, but generally found with Nazi proofs as these were reissued pieces - Possible post war French Navy, but not confirmed	38725 (with WaA103)
	Stp.	Left side of frame marked Stp. xxx	249044 Gunboards Discussion 12/07
	P.S.	Left side of slide marked P.S.	235283
	Boxing Lion	Left side of slide behind serriation stamped with a boxing lion figure	unknown, but also WaA 613 proofed from olarmyjoel.com website
	R.F.V. No 1066	Slide marked R.F.V. No. 1066 forward of ejection port and KDW to rear of ejection port. Per "The Luger Book" by John Walter, the R.F.V. stands for Reichsfinanzverwaltung or the financial administrative service of the Third Reich. While Lugers and Walther PPKs have grip straps with this mark, they do not use the "No" and the RFV and number are in italics and this example is post war production so mark is unknown	26419
Reported but Unverified No actual observation or photo	Austrian Mil	Marked "LBPN" (West German military?)	Reported on Gunboards 1-06
	Berlin West	Marked "Berlin West Zone"	Reported on Gunboards 2-06
	Cuban Police	Unmarked but within serial number block	Reported by Randy Bessler, but no serial number block provided
	Eagle/88	German Eagle over 88 marked	AutoMag 4-98 serial # 151372
	Eagle/F	German Eagle over F marked (police mark?)	AutoMag 1-87

Nazi SS	Marked on trigger guard	G&G sales in 2001
Lithuanian	Lithuanian "Gates of Vilnius" inspector marked	AutoMag XXV serial # 10164b
F.G.V. - 252	Grip strap marked with a F.G.V. -252	http://www.egun.de/market/item.php?id=1691505&PHPSESSID=c17f76e5e670c3edbd0bcd7a57f3191 3/08 no pic of mark, but wood grips, but not nazi marked from pic of left side
23	Right side of frame, behind the grip is stamped with numbers 23	Reported in Feb 87 AutoMag by Tom Kyriakakis and with serial # 25655
KM37S	Grip strap stamped "KM 37 S" possible Dutch Naval or Kriegsmarine as also Crown W crest, but nothing verified	25514
EF No. 111	Slide marked "EF No. 111"	unknown
POL. BR. Over L.U.S.	Slide marked POL. BR. Over L.U.S. forward of ejection port on right side of slide	495584 Reported by Rockey Poole as 1910 FN in Nov 92 AutoMag and Identified in Jan 93 AutoMag as 1922 FN by Al Hoffmeyer as Polish Air Corps

From Mike Morris to Dick McEvoy: Thanks for your reply on the Belgian proofed 1916 navy Luger. Yes, that was my opinion also, similar to the British proofed Lugers, if it was foreign and remained in the country it had to be proofed. And yes, Heinrich Lutjens is the nephew of Gunter Lutjens, Kriegsmarine admiral of the Bismark. As a personal friend, he opened a lot of doors for me when we were doing hotels buys in Germany many decades ago. A very well educated man and knowledgeable collector.

TO WALT HALLMAN FROM JEAN C. KEMPF: Heard about a French MANUFRANCE type Armée, # 7640 finned barrel and slide. Another one to add at your files. (EN: I have two of the 9mm Browning Long MANUFRANCE pistols - finned barrel variation is #9644, smooth barrel variation is #5916)

FROM TOM KNOX, JR.: After a lot of trial and error, the new and improved NAPCA forum is up and running. However, some members, like John James and Jim Cate, have been experiencing problems viewing postings listed prior to the change. We also had a glitch with folks who use SAFARI as their search engine. This changeover was necessary. Had we not updated the forum, the old format would have been obsolete within a year, and we would have lost all of the existing postings. That said, I have noticed a distinct drop off in activity since the new and improved version went on line. This tells me that many of you must be having problems. If so, please contact me and let's get it worked out: webmaster@napcanet

Revisiting the History of the Menz/Bergmann P.B. "Spezial" Pistol

By Joe Wotka and Martin Krause

With the help of new NAPCA member Martin Krause who has uncovered some interesting documentation on the Menz/Bergmann production of the P.B. "Spezial" pistol, I believe that we should revisit some of the accepted statements concerning the history of this pistol. In reference works over the past forty years, the story has been repeated that August Menz developed his design for the P.B. "Spezial" in the early 1930s and started production. In financial difficulties, the firm was then absorbed by the A.G. (Aktiengesellschaft) Lignose that then marketed the "Spezial" pistol under a Bergmann name as the Lignose Company had taken control of the Theodor Bergmann Company in the early 1920s.

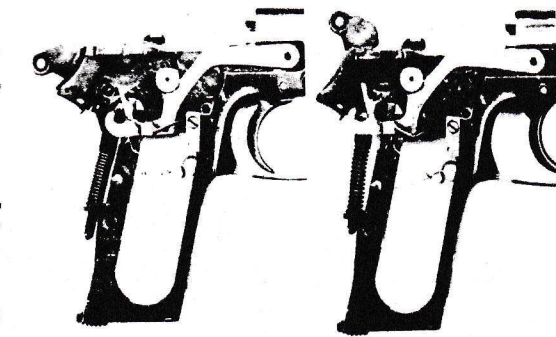
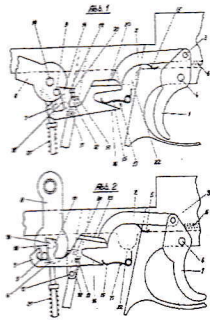


revolver like double action. But in addition, the hammer can also be manually cocked single action and fired. On both models, the safety is mounted at the left upper rear of the frame and physically blocks the hammer from contact with the firing pin. Examining the lock-work, one sees a lineage from the "Little



In a discussion of the "Spezial" model, some acknowledgement needs to be given to other Menz pistols that were the predecessors of the "Spezial", the "P&B Pistole Cal 7.65"/Models IV and IVA. These pistols were discussed by James Stewart in his 1974 *Gun Collector's Digest* article on all Menz pistols.ⁱ Only a few of these models are known and the design appears to mimic the Walther PP/PPK. The lock-work of the Mod IV is a full revolver trigger action with semi-automatic feature. The trigger must be pulled through completely to fire each shot as the semi-auto action ejects and loads another round similar to the CZ 38 pistol. In the P & B Mod.IVA, the lock-work is normal semi-automatic function. If the hammer is lowered on a chambered cartridge with the safety applied, then it can be fired with a full completely to fire each shot as the semi-auto action ejects and loads another round similar to the CZ 38 pistol. In the P & B Mod.IVA, the lock-work is normal semi-automatic function. If the hammer is lowered on a chambered cartridge with the safety applied, then it can be fired with a full "Little Tom" pistol the patent of which had expired in the 1920s.ⁱⁱ The pistol's magazine release is located on the left side of the frame in front of the grip plate similar to the PP/PPK design. The slide is secured with a partial stirrup release on the front right side of the trigger guard. Magazine content is the same: eight rounds. All of these features were pointed out in the Stewart article three decades ago. The one example viewed is numbered #1023.

Production of the models P&B IV and IVA ended for some reason. Stewart suggests the pistol models were terminated because of a lack of sale. He goes on to explain that Menz felt his IV and IVA pistols were not competitive with the Walther PPK product, so he looked for a design for a pistol that would match the famous PPK. He found it. But whereas previous authors had praised August Menz for the design, Martin Krause's investigation has revealed a different set of facts. Martin found patent # 734 985 that had been filed in the German Patent Office for examination on November 3, 1934.ⁱⁱⁱ The design protected by this patent shown below was the



Leistungspistole mit Spannarzug

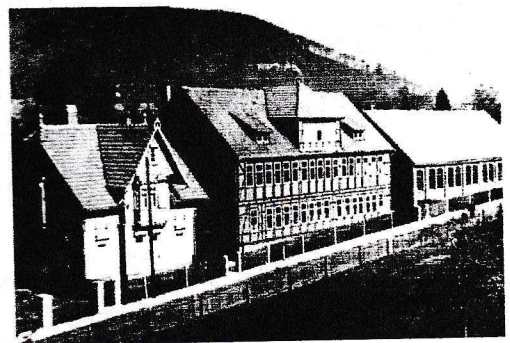
Patentiert im Deutschen Reich vom 4. November 1934 an
 Patenterteilung bekanntgemacht am 1. April 1945

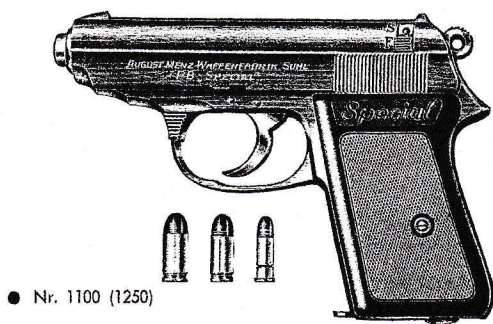
lock-work mechanism used in the Menz P.B. "Spezial" pistol that is shown below to achieve the "hammer cocked by trigger" feature.^{iv} But this patent was **not** accepted for consideration from August Menz of Suhl or his company. The patent application was filed by an entity with a last name that began with the letter K. Subsequently, a patent application was filed in Belgium to secure the identical design of # 734 985.^v The information in the Belgian patent stated the filing party to be Adalbert Kadits, a designer of Austro-Hungarian descent working in Suhl, Germany^{vi}. Obviously, Kadits also filed patent # 734 985 back in Germany. As the patent belonged to Kadits, the Menz Company had to either license the use of this lock work or

purchase the patent. Also at this time, the Menz Company was involved in other firearm production endeavors. It had joined with others in producing the newly authorized Deutsches Sport Modell 1934 rifle that was being purchased by the many affiliated organizations of the NSDAP like the SS and SA.^{vii} And, Menz was producing magazines for the P08 in Suhl under a contract from Krieghoff.^{viii}

Production of the "Spezial" evidently started a short time later in Suhl with total production of the model generally thought to be only 1000 guns in a range from 3000 to 4000. The production facilities consisted of three modest buildings located at Erffastrasse 3-7. An early photograph of the factory is shown below.^{ix} The earliest recorded "Spezial" in a data base assembled with the help of NAPCA members is numbered 3072. Several other early production pieces have been reported, including #3267 shown and mentioned in Mathews' 1969 work Firearms Identification.^x A Menz P. & B. "Spezial" presentation pistol #3332 discovered a few years ago in the Czech Republic and dated "Okt. 1936" was brought to the attention of collectors by Jim Cate.^{xi}

Advertising for the new model that is shown below appeared in the 1937 GECO factory catalog that illustrated the new pistol with the inscription "Waffenfabrik August Menz Suhl/ Modell P&B "Spezial". But the actual production inscription was modified slightly to "Waffenfabrik Aug. Menz Suhl/ Modell P & B 'Spezial'" (2-line). The pistol was a handsome design with size and some physical characteristics similar to the Walther PPK and earlier Models IV and IVA. The newly designed safety was located on the upper rear left of the slide where the thumb could slide the small lever up to safe revealing a green dot. This movement turned the firing pin block clockwise out of line with the hammer creating a positive safety. Pushing the lever down, revealed a red dot indicating the firing pin had rotated in line with the hammer allowing the gun to fire. With the safety in either position, the hammer could be cocked by pulling the trigger to the rear. The trigger remained at the rear ready to allow a more accurate first shot. While the Walther PP/PPK design dropped the hammer when the safety was applied, the Menz required the safety to be engaged before the hammer was dropped by firing. This unique safety design was not protected by DRGM registration until late 1938.





Für Formationen, Polizei und Behörden

Bedeutender Vorteil durch neuartige, unübertroffene Bauart und Führung des Schlagbolzens. Mit Leuchtkorn und Leuchtstreifen braunen Galalithschalen, Spann-Abzug.

Nr. 1100 (1250) P.- u. B.-Spezialpistole, Kal. 7,65 mm, Spann-Abzug mit äußerem Hahn

Wichtige Daten	
Länge	157
Höhe	110
Stärke	22
Laufflänge	90
Gewicht	575
Anzahl der Patronen im Magazin	9

Ausführliche Beschreibung steht zur Verfügung!

The "Spezial" slide was removed by first lowering the stirrup block that was hinged at the rear of the trigger guard, then drawing the slide to the rear and off the gun. A magazine hold-open catch was spring activated

and located on the left of the frame. The magazine was held by a bottom release catch and did not have the ease of disassembly of the Walther product. Two slots on the right magazine side showed cartridges loaded and the size allowed use with either a 7.65mm and 9mmK production "Spezial". Both sights were fixed and were advertised with similar Walther options of glowing front and rear sights. A major point of difference between the "Spezial" and the PPK was the lock-work design. The PPK lock-work was neatly contained and protected with no obvious springs or levers visible upon removal of the grip. On the other hand, the removal of the "Spezial" grips revealed no less than three springs immediately visible and subject to potential damage, as well as the critical connector piece between the trigger and hammer. This situation could not help but influence potential purchasers of the gun.

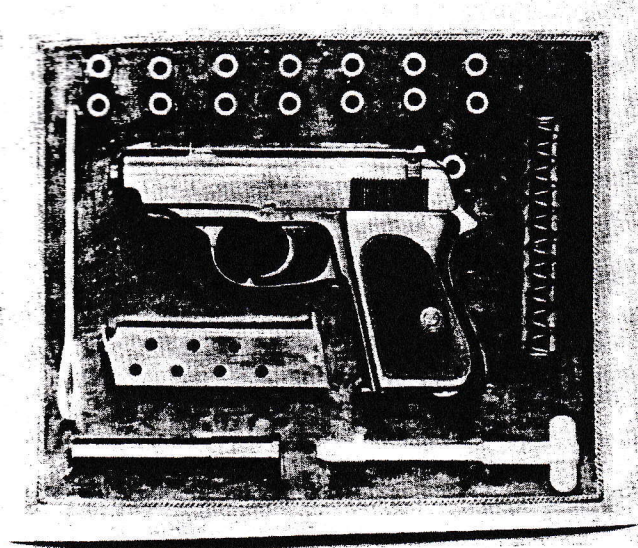


The 1937 GECO Catalog advertisement here also indicated the brown grip plates were made of Galalith, an interesting early plastic processed from the interaction of milk protein caseins with formaldehyde. But there is some question whether these plates are Galalith as the material could not be cast in specific forms, but had to be carved and worked into shape. The "Spezial" grips display obvious sign of casting, including the checkering and hollow rounded butt. But in a departure from earlier IV and IVA grip plates that were attached to a solid grip frame like the Walther PP, the two "Spezial" halves of the molded grip fitted against the front grip strap completely enclosing rear internal frame support and the main spring. Contrary to the advertising, the "Spezial" grips were

available either in solid black or a red-brown color with darker colored simulated wood grain striations that emulated the coloring pattern and grip design of the Walther PPK. The material of Galalith plastic or some other composition did not have the resiliency offered by the Walther Trolitan plastic grips and would suffer chips and fractures. But this advertisement also presented some contradictions to actual production, as the magazine capacity of the 7.65mm pistol is eight rounds, not nine as written there, as well as the illustrated slide legend being changed in actual production form. But the bottom line was evident. Menz offered their competitive lookalike pistol at RM 43.50.^{xii} The Walther PPK was selling for RM 42.00 (without loaded indicator) and with a large discount for multiple NSDAP buyers. By 1939, the Walther PPK was retailing lower in price at RM 39.00 without loaded indicator or RM 40.55 with the indicator.^{xiii}

Past articles on the Menz/Bergmann "Spezial" have discussed the supposed availability of the pistol in .22 and 9mmShort calibers, in addition to the standard 7.65mm Browning. Stewart described the two larger calibers as being available with exchangeable barrels.^{xiv} Mathews also avers to the model being available in the two large calibers.^{xv} An engraved 2-line Menz # 3172 and a Menz #3676 with 2-line modified inscription have been reported in 9mmK. There are no caliber markings on the slide. The Geco

catalog "Spezial" advertisement offered an Einstecklauf (barrel insert) for the pistol that would allow use of the special cartridges .22 Type "N" (center fire).^{xvi} There are three cartridges illustrated below the drawing of the "Spezial": 9mmKurz, 7.65mmBrowning and the .22 "N". Other than the above mentioned barrel insert, no other caliber is mentioned in the ad besides the standard 7.65mm Browning. The Einstecklauf would appear to function like the barrel insert used on the Walther PP/PPKs, as Stahlpatronen (steel cartridges) to hold the .22 "N" cartridges were offered with the barrel insert.




This photograph of a cased Menz "Spezial" provided in Auto Mag by Jim Cate from the Suhl Archive shows what is apparently a pistol in either 7.65mm or 9mmK with the conversion barrel for the .22 Type "N" cartridge.^{xvii} The magazine with seven holes is a different configuration than the standard magazine with slots. Perhaps it is for the special steel insert cartridges, or it and the magazine in the pistol are both different from standard issue. The odd tool at the bottom right would be the wrench to remove the "Spezial" barrel from the frame after removal of the slide and trigger/hammer connector from the lock work on the right side. By inserting the tool and turning clockwise, the square portion of the barrel breach that locks the barrel to the frame is freed and the barrel can be removed to the rear. The alternate barrel for the insert cartridges was then

inserted, turned and locked with the tool. The spring on the right would then be installed over the new barrel and the parts and slide replaced. The cleaning rod on the left also served to punch out the expended .22 cartridges. The odd thing about this photo is the difference in the slide and grips. No slide legend is visible, nor is "Special" molded into the grip panel that also features a different checkering pattern.

Continuing his research further, Martin discovered German Amending Patent (*Zusatzpatent*) # 739 126 filed in the German Patent Office for examination on November 25, 1938 modifying a patent # 734 985 filed on November 3, 1934; the original patent for the Menz pistol lock-work.^{xviii} This new amending patent application shown below in two parts modified the lock-work design somewhat. Martin pointed out to me that the filing number began with the letter B, indicating the first letter of the filing party's last name. Moreover, German patent law required the applicant for a *Zusatzpatent* had to be the owner of the patent or patent application that the amendment was modifying. Looking for a connection with any DRGM filings, Martin found a filing on November 25, 1938 that registered the revised patent design protected by Patent

DEUTSCHES REICH



REICHSPATENTAMT
PATENTSCHRIFT

Nr. 739 126
KLASSE 72h GRUPPE 5 02
B 185365 XI/72h *

AUSGEGEBEN AM
11. SEPTEMBER 1943

Die Erfindernennung unterbleibt auf Antrag

Herrn. Wehrauch Gewehr- u. Fahrradteilefabrik in Zella-Mehlis, Thür.
Selbstladepistole mit Spannzug

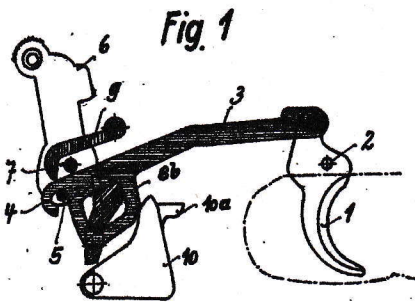
Zusatz zum Patent 734 985
Patentiert im Deutschen Reich vom 26. November 1938 an
Das Hauptpatent hat angefangen am 4. November 1934
Patenterteilung bekanntgemacht am 5. August 1943

739 126. But this DRGM filing was entered for the firm *Theodor Bergmann Erben*, (Theodor Bergmann Heirs) *GmbH*. So obviously this Bergmann Company filed the Amending Patent # 739 126 as the owners of that patent for the Menz lock-work, the patent application of which was filed by Adalbert Kadits in 1934. There was another Bergmann firm named *Theodor Bergmann & Co. G.m.b.H.* of Gaggenau and Berlin and in Martin's opinion, the two firms had to be associated in order to share the same Bergmann name in the firearms business.^{xix}

Again from Martin's research, we find there was a trademark and design infringement lawsuit filed by *Waffenfabrik Walther* against *Waffenfabrik Menz* concerning the P&B name as well as issues of packaging design. We know that the trial decision in April 1938 required Menz to discontinue

the use of the term P & B (Polizei & Behörden) on their pistols. The original 2-line inscription was changed between production numbers 3640 and 3663 to "Waffenfabrik Aug. Menz Suhl/Menz-Spezial-Modell" (2-line modified) thus eliminating the "P & B". This change must have coincided with the decree of the court judgment.

Zu der Patentschrift 739 126
Kl. 72h Gr. 5 02



The slide legend changed again to "Menz Spezial Modell" (1-line) including serifs in the font, sometime between pistol #3676 (2-line modified) and pistol #3688 with the new 1-line inscription. Pistol #3810 is a one-line inscription model and has been verified with the owner. It must represent a transitional aberration, as the gun's serial number is after the #3721 to #3797 range in which the change from the 1-line Menz inscription to the final slide legend "Theodor Bergmann Erben/Waffenfabrik Suhl/Spezial-Modell" (3-line) has been noted. This final legend change occurred probably after the loss of the lawsuit by Menz in April 1938 and before or at the time of the filing of the Zusatzpatent by the Bergmann Erben firm in November 1938. In addition to the DRGM registration for the Kadit's lock work, Martin Krause found another DRGM registration document by Bergmann Erben for the special

firing pin safety design Menz had incorporated into the Spezial dated within a few days of the lock work DRGM registration. Another odd serial number reported by the late Randall Gibson is # 5111. Randall reported it as a 2-line slide legend but that would mean a gun produced in the serial range before #3688.^{xx} Not only that, but the number exceeds the recognized production range. Until the gun can be verified, we must consider this example questionable. All Menz/Bergmann "Spezial" pistols were produced before January 15, 1940 and are proofed with the crown/N mark.

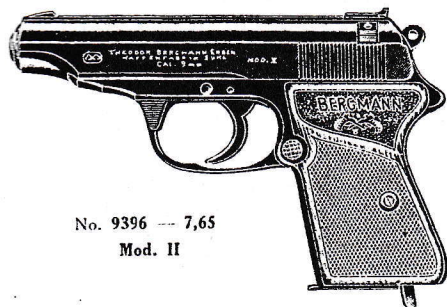
As pointed out above, Menz had lost the court case to Walther in April 1938. Martin has described this loss as potentially very costly, as the losers in German civil litigation were assessed all court costs and the legal costs of the victorious party. And damages could be added to the total. The financial results of the legal loss were evidently catastrophic and were added to the business loss from lack of acceptance of the pistols. As a result, Bergmann gained ownership of the Menz factory and the licensed lock-work patent and the Menz production name seemed to disappear. But it has been a contention of past Menz articles that A.G. Lignose bought Menz and used the Bergmann Erben name as a marketing ploy.^{xxi} Noted firearms expert Dr. Han-Jürgen Fritze of Suhl, Germany advised me that Lignose AG acquired Waffenfabrik Menz on April 1, 1938.^{xxii} But we know now that if Lignose indeed bought Waffenfabrik Menz, then it was done through a wholly owned Bergmann subsidiary corporation. And this corporation was not the Theodor Bergmann GmbH that was located in Berlin and is believed to be the subsidiary of A.G. Lignose. We have been unable to locate any documentation of that Lignose/Bergmann Erben association.

Th. Bergmann Erben G.m.b.H continued production of the "Spezial" from mid-1938 for approximately two hundred pistols. The Bergmann production of the "Spezial" introduced design changes in the lock work, apart from the slide legend change. The earlier Menz designed single action semi-auto action functioned with springs configured in a pretzel like twist. Those springs look to have been simplified into a wishbone configuration. The design changes appeared over time and there is an obvious use of the older Menz springs in the transition range.

The company was evidently looking to change the marketing and planned on introducing a pair of successor Th. Bergmann Erben "Spezial" look-a-likes found in the 1940 Akah Catalog- the Bergmann Erben Pistolen Mod.I and Mod.II.^{xxiii} The advertisement shown below featured a drawing of a "Mod.II" that looked like a "Spezial", except that the magazine release was moved to the left side next to trigger guard, like the earlier Menz IVA and the Walther PP/PPK. The front and rear sight shapes were modified slightly and the grip plate design was changed. The drawing seemed to show a vestigial bottom magazine release lever or lanyard loop; but it is unclear what it was. The slide in the drawing is marked "Cal.9mm", though both Model I and II were indicated only in 7.65mm caliber. The Mod.II had a larger magazine

capacity of nine rounds and the external hammer cocked by the trigger as the "Spezial". The Mod. I was anticipated to be a downsized Mod. II; shorter by 10mm, 100g lighter and holding only eight shots.

Bergmann-Pistolen Kal. 7,65 mm mit außenliegendem Hahn und Spannabzug



No. 9396 -- 7,65
Mod. II

- No. 9395 Bergmann-Pistole Mod. I, 8 Schuß, Lauflänge 85 mm, ganze Länge 155 mm, Gewicht 600 gr, Kal. 7,65 mm
 .. 9396 Bergmann-Pistole Mod. II, 9 Schuß, Lauflänge 95 mm, ganze Länge 165 mm, Gewicht 700 gr, Kal. 7,65 mm
 Beide Modelle befinden sich noch in Vorbereitung und sind erst im Jahre 1940 lieferbar. Preise auf Anfrage.

Akah catalog No. 175 (1940), page 108

Curiously, the physical characteristics of these two pistols are almost identical to the PP and PPK. It is noted in the 1940 Akah catalog that these "... new pistol models are in preparation and will be available in 1940." In the advertisement, notice the crossed pistols on the slide and grip of the pistol in the drawing. These two crossed pistols with the initials "Th" above and "B" below was the new trademark of the Th. Bergmann Erben GmbH of Suhl that was applied for on May 21, 1938 and registered on March 2, 1939.^{xxiv} I do not believe that an example of these new Bergmann pistols has surfaced, though the trademark is seen on other Bergmann pistol models, notably their reissue of the Menz Mod. II. Stewart did not acknowledge the designs in the advertisement in his work, though Mathews must have seen the ad or heard about it as he discussed a Bergmann Erben Model II in 7.65mm and 9mm as similar to the "Spezial".^{xxv}

After the initial acceptance of each patent application and DRGM registration, the applications were considered by the German patent office. Martin pointed out that sometimes patents were granted very quickly, while often there was an extended period of examination. DRGM applications were usually completed in a few months. However, an extended period of examination was the case with the two "Spezial" pistol lock-work patents illustrated here. They were finally accepted and patents granted in **1943**, nine years after the first filing and **five** years after the second. But in an odd twist of ownership, the patents indicate that the firm to which the patents were granted was *Herm. Weihrauch Gewehr- und Fahrradteilefabrik* (Hermann Weihrauch Rifle and Bicycle Parts Company) of Zella-Mehlis. In addition, the DRGM registrations for the lock work and for the unique safety design was also transferred to the Weihrauch Company. How and why the ownership of these rights was transferred to Weihrauch can only be surmised, but the facts exist. That company was a respected rifle company that was located in Zella-Mehlis in 1943 and is still in operation in Germany though not in Z-M. Adalbert Kadits from Suhl and Weihrauch of Zella-Mehlis were not unknown to each other. They collaborated on another patent granted in 1942 for a target air pistol design. Inquiries to the firm regarding this matter were not productive.

My interest in the Menz pistol was piqued when I discovered by research a July 1940 list of pistols issued to members of Hitler's immediate bodyguard force, the Reichssicherheitsdienst (RSD). The men, for the

Ministerial-Amtsgeh.	Sidow	Menz	4521
"	Hoffmann	"	4522
"	Krüger	"	4528
"	Koslowski	"	4529
"	Kulowsky	"	4526
Angestellter	Witte	"	4503
"	Karigus	"	4524
"	Prenß	"	4525
"	Schumacher	"	4530
"	Blaesing	"	4527

most part professional police detectives, received a group of Sauer, Walther and Menz pistols. I provided this information to Jim Cate for his book as there was one Leicht Model included along with ten Sauers from 267 771 to 267 780. Ten Menz pistols are listed in the 4500 range. So I began searching for an example of the "Spezial" as I believed in 1940 that was the type of Menz issued. I must say that this listing of pistols confuses me because of the information I have assembled. Production apparently ceased

by 4000. One aberrant serial number has not been verified. By 1940, the pistols would have been

marketed as Bergmanns, if they were produced this late. Were they the new Bergmann pistols of the Akah advertisement? No Menz/Bergmann "Spezial" has ever appeared of that late a serial number. I am at a loss to explain these guns.

We have related the history of the Menz/Bergmann P. & B. "Spezial" pistol to you, from the original lock-work design by Adalbert Kadits, through the production and marketing of Waffenfabrik Menz. The legal challenge by Waffenfabrik Walther ultimately crushed the well know Suhl arms maker and resulted in their take-over by an apparent subsidiary of the giant arms maker AG Lignose. The final production and abandonment of the pistol design by Bergmann Erben resulted in the transfer of all patent and DRGM rights to the lock work and safety design to the Zella-Mehlis arms maker Hermann Weihrauch.

Reported Serial Number Range/ Slide Legend Wording/ Approximate Production Date gathered with the assistance of Don Andrews, Len Hunter, Bob Hogan, Bill Chase, Bill Lawrence, Len Antaris, Tom Gebhardt, Roland Guth and other individuals.

All pistols are in 7.65mm Browning caliber and proofed Crown/N unless otherwise noted. The caliber is not indicated on the slide.

- 3072 "Waffenfabrik Aug. Menz Suhl/Modell PB "Spezial" (2-line)
- 3172 (2-line) engraved gold wash, white grip material. 9mmK
- 3255 (2-line)
- 3267 (2-line)
- 3273 oak leaf engraved & plated with dubious mfg legend "AUG.MENZ SUHL/B.P.SPECIAL"
- 3288 (2-line)
- 3313 (2-line)
- 3332 (2-line) "Verwaltungsführerkorps des SS Abschnitt XVIII, Okt. 1936" oak leaf/acorn, brown grips.
- 3360 (2-line slide)
- 3396 "Meine Ehre Heißt Treue", no manufacturer inscription. Engraved and restored.^{xxvi}
- 3404 (2-line slide)
- 3547 (2-line slide) oak leaf engraving & nickel plate
- 3571 (2-line slide)
- 3640 (2-line slide) brown grips **Pre-April 1938**
- 3663 Waffenfabrik Aug. Menz Suhl/Menz Spezial Modell (2 line modified), brown grips **Post April 1938**
- 3676 (2-line modified slide) brown grips
- 3688 Menz- Spezial- Modell (1-line slide) brown grips 9mmK
- 3706 (1-line slide) blk grips
- 3756 (1-line slide)
- 3721 (1-line slide)
- 3797 Theodor Bergmann Erben/Waffenfabrik Suhl/ Spezial Modell (3-line) **April to Nov 1938**
- 3810 (1-line slide) Transitional use of older slide?
- 3917 (3-line slide) brown grips
- 3919 (3-line slide) blk grips
- 3986 (3-line slide) **Pre-January 15, 1940**
- 5111 (2-line slide) Brown grips; questionable, misread number?

Sources

- 1940 Akah Catalog No.175, Albrecht Kind, Hunsteig, Germany
- 1937 Geco Catalog, Gustav Genschow u. Co. Berlin, Germany
- 1939 Catalog, Richard Marholdt u.Sohn, Innsbruck, Austria
- "Automatic Magazine/Auto Mag", Journal of the National Automatic Pistol Collectors Association, St. Louis, MO, Volumes XXVII, XXVIII, XXXI
- Email correspondence with Jim Cate, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- Email correspondence with Martin Krause, Germany.
- Email correspondence with Dr. Hans-Jürgen Fritze, Suhl, Germany.
- Firearms Identification, Vol.1, J.Howard Mathews, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL 1973
- Firearms Identification Vol.2, J.Howard Mathews, Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL 1973

"The Handguns of August Menz", James B. Stewart, Gun Collector's Digest, DBI Books Inc., Northfield, IL, 1974

Heinrich Krieghoff Geschichte einer deutschen Waffenfabrik, Hans-Jürgen Fritze, Peter-Arfmann-Verlag, 2003

Mauser Small-bore Rifles, Jon Speed, Collector Grade Publications Inc., Ontario, Canada 1998.

"The Mystery Menz", William Blynn, Guns, January 1980

APPENDIX COMPARISON OF "SPEZIAL" SLIDE LEGENDS

2-line legend



2-line modified



1-line



3-line



i	Stewart, p46
ii	Photo courtesy of Tom Gebhardt
iii	Patent courtesy of Martin Krause
iv	Photo courtesy of Roland Guth
v	Patent courtesy of Martin Krause
vi	Dr. Hans-Jürgen Fritze, 05-17-08
vii	Speedl, p.234
viii	AutoMag XXVII/3 p.62
ix	With kind permission of Dr. Fritze, p.29
x	Mathews, Vol II p.132
xi	Email Jim Cate 12/5/05
xii	Geco catalog, p.120
xiii	Marholdt catalog , p.40
xiv	Stewart, p.44
xv	Mathews I, p.243
xvi	Geco catalog, p.120
xvii	Auto Mag XXXI/8, p.171
xviii	Patent courtesy of Martin Krause
xix	Email Martin Krause, 03/29/08
xx	Auto Mag XXVIII p.276
xxi	Stewart, p47
xxii	Email Dr. Fritze,05-17-08
xxiii	Krause Collection
xxiv	Martin Krause
xxv	Mathews, Vol. I, p243
xxvi	Blynn, p.46

FROM BOB BURDEN: Below is the slide marking found on a Romanian Interior Ministry contract FN 1910/22, #248750. This is the only one I have ever seen or heard of - are there any more out there in NAPCALand?

- Anyone know anything about this leather holster (opposite/top) with a corduroy grooved interior? The grooves are not corduroy cloth, but carved into the leather. Suppose it makes the flap more flexible, but I've never seen it before.
- Shown is a Chinese contract, 1930 transitional C96 (opposite/bottom). I would like to know more about this variation: serial ranges, number in contract, etc. I assume these were put together at the tail end of the bolo guns. This example has characteristics of both the bolo and the 1930. I also assume that when they started up production of the 1930's, they had lost track of the last serial used, but knew it was in the 700K range, so they just started with 800K. This one has the SHANGHI MUNICIPAL DEFENSE marking on the slide. Are there any other out there?

