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American RIFLEMAN



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American RIFLEMAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to "keep and bear arms," believes that every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

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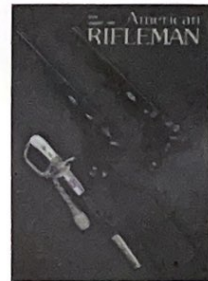
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THE COVER

Interarms' new Mauser-made Parabellum Karabiner is shown in comparison to an original DWM model which lacks its stock. The ivory-scaled German hunting knife, dating



from the 1920s, is properly called a *Hirschfaenger* (stag knife or cutlass) and was used to administer the coup de grace to downed game. Photo by Randy Lamson.

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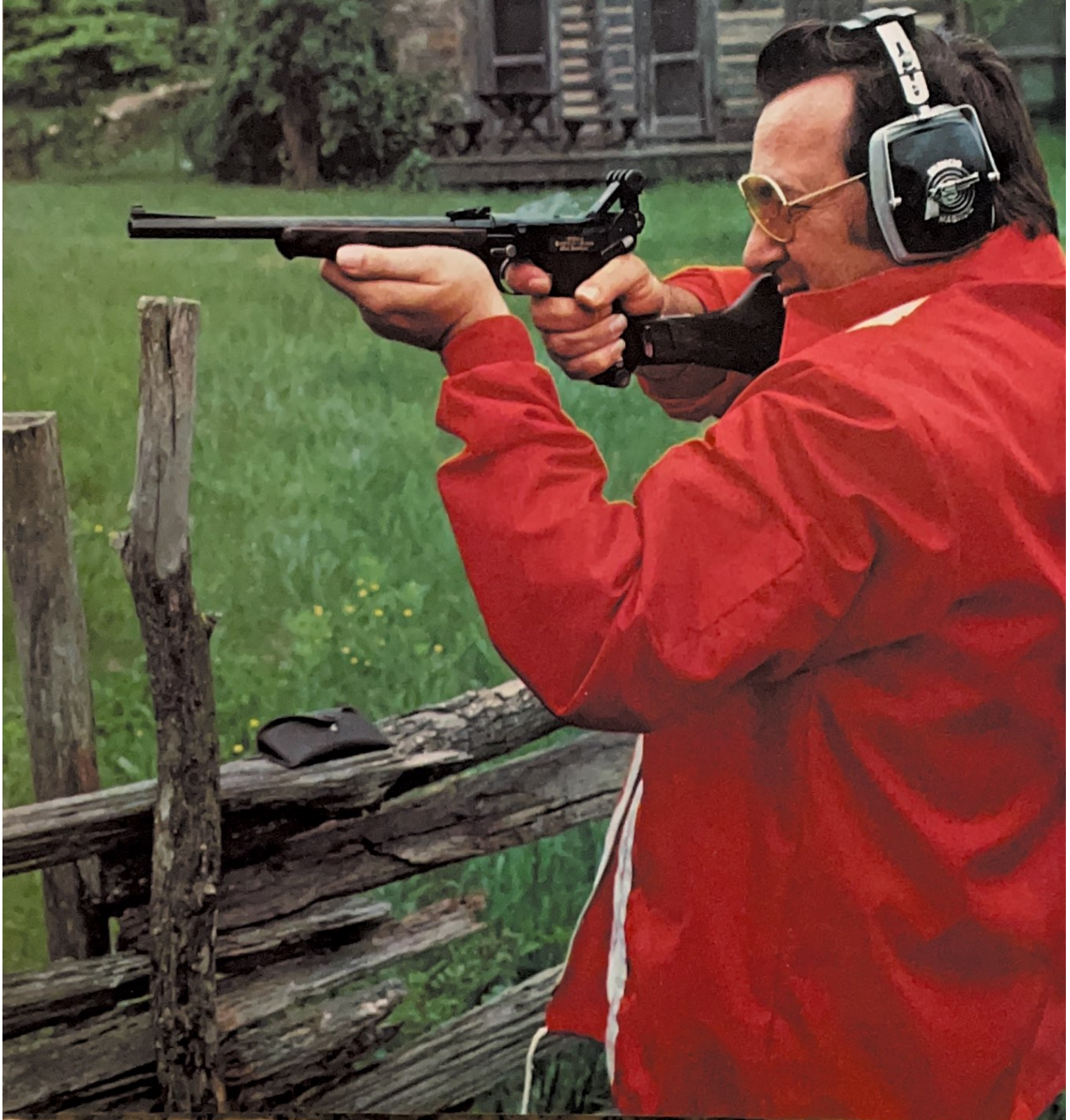
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Mauser's new offering for Luger collectors
is the imperial heir of...

The Kaiser's





Karabiner

THE presence of either a physical handicap or Kaiser Wilhelm II would be enough to depress most people, and it's hard to imagine any good coming out of a combination of the two. Certainly, World War I was no boon to mankind.

Historians claim that the Kaiser's bellicose nature caused the great war; psychologists claim that his withered left arm caused his nature.

Whether either claim is justified or not, it is known that Kaiser Willie, as he was unaffectionately called, was extremely defensive about his handicap, which is understandable, and extremely interested in hunting, which is laudable. It is also known that he used the Model 1902 Luger Carbine in deer hunting on his vast estates. He had more than one carbine, apparently, for he is said to have given Theodore Roosevelt one when Teddy visited Willie prior to the war.

It is said also, but not proven, that the Model 1902 was designed specifically for the Kaiser, to compensate for his weak arm and enable him to hunt successfully and for extended periods without fatigue.

The facts surrounding the design, production, and sale of the original Luger Carbine are not fully known but are generally accepted to be as follows:

Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (DWM) made carbine prototypes as early as 1900 and production guns by no later than 1904. These are now known as Model 1902 Carbines.

Two or three thousand were made and sold before the war in 7.65 mm Parabellum cal., and one gun, at least, was reported made in 9 mm cal. Most had the contoured toggle ears, grip safety, and flat mainspring of the "old" 1900 Luger, 11.8" barrels, a supplementary recoil spring in the fore-end, and a buffalo horn buttplate on the finely checkered stock. The 7.65 mm cartridge used was loaded to higher velocity and pressure than the standard pistol round. This was necessary to obtain proper functioning of the heavy recoiling parts.

The Model 1902 was the first Luger to be supplied with a stock and the first to be made with a stock lug, though its predecessor, the Borchardt, was regularly supplied as a pistol/carbine.

The war presumably stopped production of this sporting gun, for it had no military application. But around 1920, DWM put out another

model in very limited numbers. It was quite similar to the Model 1902, but had slightly different checkering and the "new" symmetrical toggle ears. Some, perhaps all, were made up from parts, and variations exist, including those that lack the fore-end extension assist spring.

In addition to the Models 1902 and 1920, DWM produced transitional models and presentation pieces. Adding all together, the quantity produced was small, and all are of great value to collectors today. They are of superlative quality and in no way comparable in intended use or in numbers produced to

continued on p. 70

Automatische Jagd-Karabiner!



A 1912 catalog of the German gun-dealing firm of H. Burgsmüller & Söhne referred to the DWM self-loader as a Jagd-Karabiner, which translates to "hunting carbine." The gun carried a price of 115 Marks, 40 Marks more than the standard Luger pistol.



The upper pistol in each of the groupings above is an original DWM M1902 which has the supplementary recoil lug on the barrel. The "75th Year" Mauser lacks that feature and is made with coil mainspring and flat toggle grips.

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Luger Carbine

continued from p. 35

the relatively common slab-stocked, long-barreled, military pistol/carbines which lacked fore-ends.

Lots of people talk about the commercial Luger Carbines, some collectors own them, and all would like to, but few have had a chance to shoot one. Interarms' recent importation of the Mauser-made 1980 vintage carbine can make shooting possible for anyone who wants to do so, provided one has the \$7500 necessary for its purchase (including the \$200 federal transfer tax fee), and provided the guns are still available when the purchase price is accumulated. Of the total production run of 250 pieces, less than half are reserved for the U.S. market.

A sample carbine, first announced in the December, 1979, *American Rifleman*, was made available for testing by NRA staff members recently. The new gun resembles the later Model 1920 DWMs, as it has a coil mainspring and circular toggle ears but lacks the supplementary fore-end spring. Mauser makes it in 9 mm Luger cal. only, complete with the original DWM monogram on the bolt. As the number to be sold is far less than the number of serious Luger collectors, it is probable that the Mausers will be housed under lock and key and displayed as valuable curiosities rather than being shot. That may be just as well, as the sample we tried looks good, feels good, but functions less than well with many types of U.S. ammunition.

Several brands of American cartridges with hollow soft-point and full-jacketed bullets gave spotty performance in feeding. Some JHPs wouldn't feed at all. Only some corrosive, Berdan-primed surplus Czech ammunition (like the carbine,

VELOCITY RESULTS

9 mm Luger Cartridge	Vel. @ 15' Luger 4" Barrel	Vel. @ 15' Carbine 11.8" Barrel	Velocity Difference (f.p.s.)
Remington R9MM1 115-gr. JHP	1089	1348	259
Remington R9MM2 124-gr. FMJ	1050	1277	227
Federal 9AP 123-gr. FMJ	1036	1203	167
Federal 9BP 115-gr. JHP	1028	1263	235
Speer 3620 125-gr. JSP	1007	1189	182
Speer 3610 100-gr. JHP	1249	1496	247
Dynamit-Nobel (Geco) 123-gr. FMJ	1178	1371	193
PMC 9A 115-gr. FMJ	1022	1264	242
Canadian Military 1943 121-gr. FMJ	1185	1412	227
Czech Military 100-gr. FMJ	1238	1435	197

imported and sold by Interarms) and Canadian military ammunition seemed to run through the pistol/carbine without trouble. This should come as no surprise when it is remembered that the early DWMs required special loadings — and supplementary fore-end springs — in order to function well.

In the course of firing the sample, however, we put aside confusing thoughts about running corrosive ammunition through the beautifully crafted Mauser and rattled off a couple of hundred Czech and Canadian shells as fast as the magazines could be recharged. There was surprisingly little noise and recoil when compared to the same loads fired from Luger pistols with 4" and 6" barrels. When the carbine was fired with the stock detached, it felt cumbersome and almost unpleasant in comparison to the superbly balanced shorter-barreled pistols, but there would seem to be no reason to fire the carbine without stock when its installation is so quick and simple.

The 11.8" barrel length of the Mauser Parabellum carbine provides a significant increase in velocity compared to the same ammunition fired in a shorter barrel 9 mm pistol. As a matter of interest, a variety of 9 mm ammunition was chronographed in the Mauser Parabellum and in a DWM 1918 Luger with 4" barrel. The average gain in velocity was about 218 f.p.s., or 28 f.p.s. for each additional inch of barrel length. This compares quite closely with Technical Staff experience comparing

other handgun cartridges, when fired in both handguns and rifles. (See *American Rifleman*, February, 1979, p. 35). Results are shown in the accompanying table.

The greatest difference in velocity between the carbine and standard Luger pistol was obtained with Remington 115-gr. JHP cartridges; the smallest difference was observed with Federal 123-gr. FMJ ammunition. The highest velocity obtained in the standard Luger pistol was 1249 f.p.s., obtained with Speer 100-gr. JHP cartridges. This loading also gave the highest average velocity in the 11.8" barrel carbine.

Accuracy of the stocked Luger carbine was quite adequate. Although no formal accuracy tests were conducted, 10-shot groups fired casually at 25 yds. during the chronographing sessions averaged about 2" with the Remington and Federal commercial loads and with 1943 Canadian surplus cartridges. Groups were somewhat larger when firing Czech military, Korean (PMC) ball ammunition, and Geco (Dynamit-Nobel) commercial FMJ cartridges.

Ignoring the underpowered American ammunition and the questionable practicality of the pistol/carbine, then, we judged the new Mauser to be a work of art and an instant collectors' item.

If, as has been rumored, the Kaiser is to be credited for the existence of Parabellum Carbiners in the first place, we can't say, "Willy, all is forgiven," but we can say with some reservation, as Teddy Roosevelt probably did, "Thanks."

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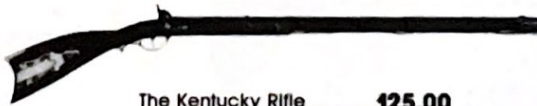
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