

ARMS

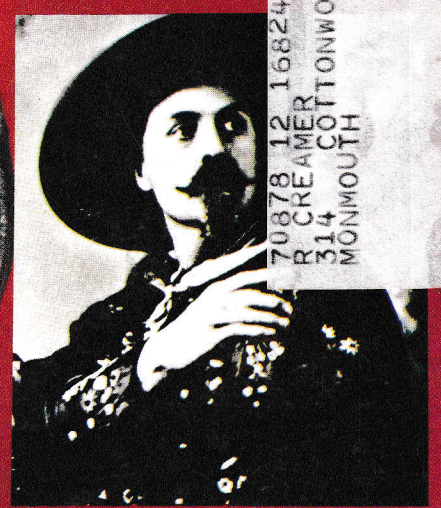
Gazette
NOVEMBER 1977

T & E 67622
\$1.25

Whitney Navy
Revolver
Variations

The Iranian
Parabellum

Winch
Mu



70878 12 168247 11 1000
R. CREAMER HHH
314 COTTONWOOD WAY
MONMOUTH OR 97361

The Evolution of
S&W Target Sights

Winfield
Publishing, Inc.

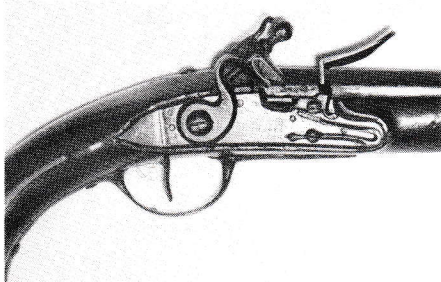
ARMS GAZETTE

CONTENTS

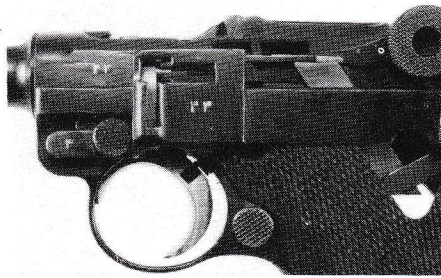
November 1977, Volume 5, Number 2



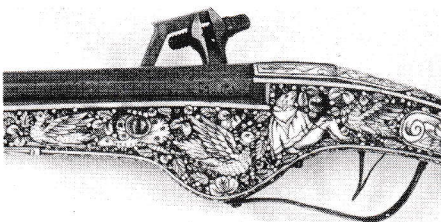
page 12



page 16



page 22



page 44

Features

THE WINCHESTER MUSEUM
This collection is one of the most comprehensive displays of firearms found anywhere.
 Konrad F. Schreier, Jr. 12

FIREARMS OF THE FRENCH GALLEY NAVY
These rare arms were used by troops aboard Mediterranean oar ships over 200 years ago.
 Charles Katsianos 16

THE IRANIAN PARABELLUM
These rare Lugers are a product of Germany's use of technological resources to gain "Great Power" status.
 C.L. Conrad & Ralph Shattuck . . 22

THE EVOLUTION OF SMITH & WESSON TARGET SIGHTS
Part I - Front Sights.
 Robert J. Neal 30

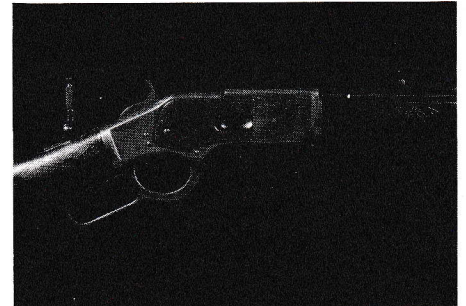
SOME WHITNEY REVOLVER VARIATIONS
Although as many as 30,000 Whitneys may have been made, variations from the standard production model are quite rare.
 Konrad F. Schreier, Jr. 36

CHIEF IODINE - INDIAN SCOUT
Correspondence between Iodine and the Army Ordnance Department provides some firsthand insight into the issue of military sidearms.
 C. Kenneth Moore 40

THE BRICKER COLLECTION GOES ON THE BLOCK
An auction sale will soon put some of the finest collectible firearms back into circulation.
 Staff Report 44

Departments

FIRST SHOT 6
 SINGLE ACTION - ACTION 8
 WORLD OF AUTOS 10
 QUESTIONS TO THE EDITORS . . . 35
 SHOW CALENDAR 43
 BOOK REVIEWS 50
 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING 57



COVER: The two spectacular rifles on this month's cover are contained in the Winchester Museum at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. The top rifle is a C.F. Ulrich engraved .44 rimfire, Model 1866. The bottom rifle is a model 1873 "1 of 1000." (Photos by Gene Ball) See the story on the Winchester Museum on page 12.

STAFF

WALLACE BEINFELD	Publisher & Editor
KEN FAUST	Managing Editor
HANNAH BENSON	Administrative Assistant
SCOTT BEINFELD	Art Director
MIKE THOMPSON	Photography Editor
ANNIE GOODMAN	Circulation Manager

FEATURE EDITORS

LARRY BAER	Shotguns
WILLIAM S. BROPHY	Marlins
ROBERT CHARLTON	Rugers
ARNOLD M. CHERNOFF	Colts
ROBERT E. P. CHERRY	Commemoratives
NORM FLAYDERMAN	Historical
RON GRAHAM	Single Actions
JOHN R. HANSEN	Rugers
HERBERT G. HOUZE	Museums & Collections
ROY JINKS	Smith & Wessons
GEORGE G. KASS	Cartridges
JOHN KOPEC	Single Actions
KARL MOLDENHAUER	Remingtons
HERB ROSENTHAL	Martial Arms
FRANK SELLERS	Sharps
RALPH E. SHATTUCK	Automatics
CHARLES R. SUYDAM	Antique Arms, General
ERIC VAULE	European Arms
WILLIAM R. WILLIAMSON	Edged Weapons

ARMS GAZETTE is registered trademark of Beinfeld Publishing, Inc., published monthly. ARMS GAZETTE, copyright © 1977 by Beinfeld Publishing, Inc., 13222 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, California 91605, all rights reserved. Telephone (213) 982-3700. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year \$12, two \$22, three \$30, single copies \$1.25 in the U.S. and Possessions, Mexico, Canada, and overseas, one year \$15. Please give 60 days notice for change of address. (Send old address or label from cover of the magazine, as well as new address). CONTRIBUTIONS: Should be mailed to 13222 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, California 91605. They MUST be accompanied by return postage, and we assume NO responsibility for loss or damage of unsolicited material. Any material accepted is subject to such revisions as are necessary, in our sole discretion, to meet the requirements of this publication. Upon publication payment will be made at our current rate, which covers all author's and/or contributor's rights, title, interest in and to the material mailed, including but not limited to, photos, drawings, charts and designs, which shall be considered as text. The act of mailing or delivering a manuscript and/or material shall constitute an express warranty by the contributor that the material is original, and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. LETTERS & QUESTIONS TO THE EDITORS: The act of mailing or delivering a letter or question shall constitute permission to publish that letter or any portion unless we are informed otherwise in that letter. The views and opinions of authors or advertisers, expressed or implied herein, are not necessarily those of the publisher or editor, and no responsibility for such views will be assumed. Second CLASS PERMIT PAID AT North Hollywood, California, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Please send For 3579 to ARMS GAZETTE, 13222 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, California 91605.

World of Automatics

by Ralph Shattuck

2-Inch BYF Luger

Q I have a Luger, BYF dated 41, with a 2-inch barrel. It has a very faint ring where it was cut toward the end of the barrel. *Very expertly done!* The barrel, frame and magazine has the letter G stamped under the matching serial numbers.

Could this have been done at the factory or for a special group that needed a shorter handgun?

I would appreciate any information concerning this piece and the value.

Edward Purdie III

A I have grave reservations about there having been any original two-inch BYF's, although I have encountered some on which the barrels have been altered by gunsmiths. A research of the available literature on this weapon reveals no factory-produced pieces with two-inch barrels.

Regarding the market value of BYF guns with two-inch barrels, my experience has been that they are worth in excellent condition around \$500.

Ralph E. Shattuck

Novel Cleaning Kit

Q A friend of mine turned up a cleaning kit at a gun show recently that to me, at least, is novel. In shape and appearance it duplicates an automatic pistol magazine; it comes very close to the .38 ACP 1900 Colt's magazine. Overall length is 5 5/16-inches assembled.

I would be grateful for any information you could provide on this item.

Thomas N. Casey

A I am in total agreement that it is a most unusual kit; actually, it is the first of its kind I have encountered to date.

In my opinion, the style is European and is similar to accessories displayed with Portuguese equipment from the 1900-1908 era. I have reservations about the kit's having been manufactured in the United States.

Ralph E. Shattuck

P-38 Shooter

Q Would you please try to answer some questions for me concerning my Walther P-38. On the left side of the slide is the following: 5672 m ac 43.

On the right side of the slide there are three marks: an eagle with a swastika underneath and two proof marks with the number 359 under them. The serial numbers on the barrel and frame match that on the slide. The left side of the front sight has the numeral 4 on it. The gun has the original grips, although the magazine is not the original. The safety may have been altered, since it shows "F" and "S" positions. The bluing on the weapon is poor and the gun shows many tool marks. There is no pitting and there are no signs of rust. The gun does show use, but is a highly accurate and shootable weapon.

Would you please tell me where and when this pistol was made. Also, is there any way to determine which segment of the armed forces it was used in? Finally, would you suggest that I use it as a shooting gun, or should I preserve it as a collector's item?

Peter W. Gonzales

A In my opinion, from the coding on the side, the gun was manufactured by Walther in 1943, probably in May of that year. From the proofing on the right side - eagle, swastika, proof marks, and three digits - it can be inferred that it was an Army issue weapon.

I would definitely suggest, from your description of the gun that you use it as a shooter. Collectible pieces should display a 98% or better rich blue with excellent or better bores.

Ralph E. Shattuck

Scoped Carbine?

Q I have recently acquired a 1902 Luger Carbine in 7.65 caliber #23896 which is complete, original and matching.

It appears to be a Special Order Carbine from DWM. The person I purchased it from, told me that it was made to take a Carl Zeiss Electronic Telescope which was made especially for the Luger Carbine. He said that he saw pictures of such a scope in an early (1920) Zeiss catalog. The scope is not with the gun. On the left side rail, above and parallel to the take-down lever, is a bar with a raised pin about 1/4 inch in diameter. About 1 inch behind

this is a recess also about 1/4 inch in diameter. Logically, it would seem that the scope mount has a hook which goes around the pin and a like pin which snaps into the recess to lock the scope in place.

Have you ever seen or heard of such a scope for a Luger Carbine? If so, I would sincerely appreciate any information you might be able to provide. I would also appreciate any information about the Zeiss Company and its catalogs.

While I am no expert, I have been a Luger collector for many years, as you know, and the feature on this Luger Carbine appears to me to be factory original. As an expert in the Luger field, I would appreciate any information you can give me.

Jack Chamberlaine

A You have most certainly aroused my curiosity regarding your Luger carbine that you believe will accommodate a scope. If I did not know you personally and consider you to be extremely knowledgeable about Lugers, I might even suspect you of perpetrating a hoax!

Seriously though I have never encountered a Luger that had been adapted for a scope. I have communicated with my contacts in Germany and they all assure me that they are totally unaware of such an adaptation as having been issued by any of the Luger factories. The question arises as to whether your carbine might have been fashioned by an individual gunsmith.

I would like to think that someday I may have the opportunity to examine your carbine.

Ralph E. Shattuck

1922 Browning

Q I hope that you will be able to give me some information on the pistol described below.

The gun, a Browning Model 1922, in 7.65mm caliber was found in an old barn in a flap holster with a spare clip. It retains 95% of the blue, and has walnut, checkered, grips. Serial number, 139,662 appears on frame, barrel, inside slide, and the slide extensions. The letters MR, appear on

(continued on page 46)



Persian cutaway—very rare. Only 50 were made.

The Iranian Parabellum

by C. L. Conrad and Ralph Shattuck

Among Luger collectors in the United States, little is known about the Parabellums obtained by the Iranian Government, except that they are rarely encountered and are concomitantly expensive when offered for sale. Although the total number of pistols procured and their approximate dates of delivery are generally regarded as well established, the historical background of this transaction remains obscure. It is, correspondingly, the purpose of this article to at least partially elucidate the military and commercial arrangement, of which the Luger procurement was but a single example, that prevailed between Persia and Germany. An elaboration of this theme will furnish some fascinating insights into the international arms trade, with specific reference to the rivalry existing among "Great Powers" for the control of developing nations.

The following observations appear in W. H. B. Smith's classic study of the rifles and handguns produced by Mauser.

"Germany infiltrated the entire South American continent and much of China by recognizing the elementary fact that whoever armed the police and military organizations of those countries, automatically exercised consider-

able control over their politics and policies. In world areas where police and military groups dominate, those who are in a position to provide arms and equipment and new military techniques have always been able to achieve a measure of power entirely out of relation to either the number of agents employed or the extent of the business they have done with those countries."

Smith's remarks provide a succinct description of what, to his way of thinking was a characteristically German brand of imperialism; under the circumstances, however, it was probably the only sensible option open to a young and vigorous nation which aspired to "Great Power" status. One must remember that the Germany of the late Nineteenth Century had only recently become a nation state via unification in 1871. Emulation of the imperialistic ventures of the British,

French or Dutch was out of the question, given the priorities and resources of Bismarck's Germany. As regards the value of territories that might be acquired in Eastern Europe, Bismarck is reported to have said that they were "not worth the bones of a Pomeranian grenadier." The "wild Junker" had, if anything, even less esteem for colonies in Africa or Asia. For in the last analysis, a state with imperialistic predilections need not assume the responsibilities associated with the overall management of a foreign land, in order to exert effective control. The obvious desire for a nation with the strengths and propensities peculiar to Germany was a land that: (1) lacked the requisite technological sophistication to produce arms domestically, (2) was dominated by some sort of military establishment, and (3) did not fall within the sphere of influence of an established "Great Power." Unfortunately, Persia only satisfied the first of the three preceding criteria.

Throughout the Nineteenth Century, Persia was subjected to the continual territorial encroachments of the Russians from the northwest and the British (based in India) from the southeast. It is apparent that each of these European nations sought to check the aggrandizement of the other and

These Rare Lugers Are A Product Of Imperial Germany's Use Of Technological Resources To Gain "World Power" Status.



The mystic and elusive Persians - their story is as fascinating as those of "Arabian Nights."

that, in the absence of such a balance of power, either Russia or Great Britain would have come to exert hegemony over Persian affairs. For its part, Germany required some severe disruption of this condition of equilibrium before incursions into Persia would prove practicable. World War I furnished just such an initial opportunity.

The Great War, as it unfolded in Persia, manifested itself in two distinct theaters. In the North, the Cossack Brigade, a Persian force commanded by Russian officers, fought the Turks; in the southern part of the country, the South Persia Rifles, an indigenous unit led by the British, sought to suppress the insurrections of various minorities that had grown restive under Persian rule. These disaffected minorities were encouraged in their insurgency by a number of German advisers, of whom

the most prominent was Wasmuss, an agent sufficiently notorious to be called the "German Lawrence." The debilitating influence of the war upon Great Britain, the effect of the Bolshevik Revolution on Russia, the intrigues of various foreign powers, and the general chaos accompanying the armed conflict in Persia all combined to make circumstances propitious for the appearance of a "man on horseback." Such a person was not long in coming; Reza Khan, a colonel in the Cossack Brigade, engineered a successful coup d'état in 1921, became Prime Minister in 1923 and was named Shah two years later.

After coming to power, Reza Khan had as his most exigent concern the reorganization and re-equipping of the native military establishment. Regrettably, there is a paucity of reliable information about the weapons with

which the Persians were outfitted during the early and middle 1920s. One would guess that a significant number of British and Russian arms were pressed into service, but this surmise cannot be corroborated in any detail. W. H. B. Smith asserts that the Persians were equipped with various models of the Mauser rifle, chambered, by and large, for the 7.65 x 53mm cartridge. Inasmuch as the existence of a Persian contract for 7.65mm Mausers has never been recognized by firearms authorities, it is reasonable to conclude that the rifles in question were captured from the Ottomans.

As far as sidearms are concerned, the Persian acquisition of an estimated 1,000 Mauser C-96 aut pistols is firmly established, although scholars are not in agreement concerning the date of this contract. For our purposes, however, it does not matter if the



Right side of Persian artillery, overall and close up of Tarsi inscription.

Persians came into possession of the C-96 pistols as early as 1910 or as late as 1915. The significant point to be noted is that either year antedates Reza Khan's seizure of power and therefore, the Mauser handguns in question could not have been among the weapons procured in the 1920s. By way of digression, we suspect for the following reasons, that the Persian C-96s were obtained for the Cossack Brigade. In the first place, it is believed that these handguns were secured for a genuine military unit in contradistinction to the native militia or some sort of police agency. The Cossack Brigade, which was created in 1882, was the only effective Persian military organization in existence prior to the coup d'état. Second, it will be recalled that the Cossack Brigade was under the command of Russian officers, who, one might reasonably conjecture, would exercise considerable influence over equipment procurement. Given the popularity of the Mauser Model 1896 pistol in Tsarist Russia, the selection of this sidearm for Persian utilization appears as a natural choice. In addition to the C-96s, Germany sold a small number of DWM produced machine guns to Persia sometime before the First World War. In all probability, these Maxim guns were also issued to the Cossack Brigade.

Reza Shah (another name for Reza Khan) is reported to have viewed Germany as a potentially friendly state which could serve as a countervailing power vis-a-vis Great Britain and the Soviet Union. This being the case, it is not surprising that the first generally acknowledged Persian rifle contract was for Model 98 Mausers. Nevertheless, since this contract was negotiated in the late 1920s, it is clear that the Mauser firm could not directly supply the rifles in question. At that

time, the Treaty of Versailles was still technically in force and, at any rate, any circumvention of the treaty that could have been accomplished by Germany would have been directed toward clandestine rearmament. Mauser, however, was well prepared for eventualities of this sort, for it had established ties with several manufacturers outside Germany. In effect, therefore, this arrangement permitted foreign arms orders to be filled whenever German weapons factories were unable, for one reason or another, to do so. By way of example, the newly formed Brno Arms Works (also known as CZ), situated in the equally newly created state of Czechoslovakia, obtained blueprints, specifications and machinery for producing rifles of Model 98 design from Mauser in 1922. In addition, the installation of this machinery was directed by Josef Nickl, a well-known Mauser designer and engineer. It is relevant to our story that Persia purchased considerable numbers of Brno produced rifles of basic Mauser pattern, designated the Model 98/29. These weapons were chambered for the 8 x 57mm round and were supplied in both a long rifle and short rifle configuration. Apparently, Czechoslovakia also exported an appreciable quantity of ZB-26 light machine guns to Persia. It is interesting to note that sometime in the 1920s or the 1930s, the Persians procured rifles very similar to the Czechoslovakian VZ 24 from FN, a Belgian arms manufacturer having ties with the Mauser firm which were established prior to 1900.

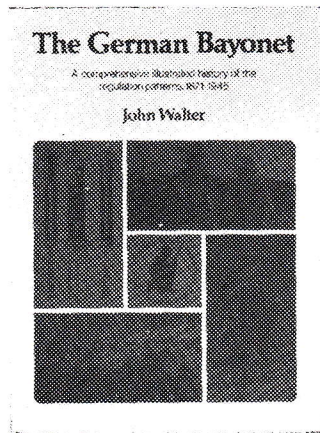
We have already observed that Reza Shah considered Germany to be a potentially effective instrument for frustrating Anglo-Soviet domination of his native land. With Hitler's rise to power, the Shah saw in Germany an even more attractive possible ally, for

he was favorably disposed toward the Nazis' blatant militarism and anti-Bolshevism. For their part, the Nazis recognized the strategic importance of Iran (the name assumed by Persia in 1935), both in terms of its geographic location and its oil reserves. Consequently, in the middle and late 1930s, many Germans emigrated to Iran, with a corresponding strengthening of cultural and commercial bonds between the two countries. It is at this time that the Parabellum pistol enters Iranian history. The folklore among collectors has long been that the Persian Lugers were not purchased by Iran, but instead were presented to Reza Shah for distribution among his officers. Although this allegation cannot be validated, it is not a variance with what is believed about German policies toward developing nations. The Iranian-marked Walther PP autopistols also date from this period; quite possibly, they were offered to the Shah in the same manner as were the Lugers.

We shall now pass from the historical background of the Iranian Parabellums to the guns themselves. It is not our intention to reproduce the data on this variation that appears in standard references but only to offer such emendations to the Conventional Wisdom as are suggested by our research. The central issue requiring clarification, in our opinion, is the frequently cited "1942 Iranian order." After examining a respectable number of Persian Lugers, we are convinced that there exists such an entity as a "Late Model Iranian Contract Parabellum." To be sure, such features as a salt blue finish and the distinctive Mauser "bulge" at the rear of the frame are scarcely reminiscent of Mauser production in 1936, but their

(continued on page 26)

**JUST RELEASED FOR
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY**



The German Bayonet

A comprehensive illustrated history of the
regulation patterns, 1871-1945

John Walter

THE GERMAN BAYONET, 1871-1945 is illustrated with photos of weapons in one of Britain's leading collections, complimented by the author's meticulous line drawings. This attractive and fact-filled book will be essential reading to all who have an interest in the equipment of the German army, and invaluable to bayonet collectors.

128 pages, nearly 200 illustrations.
Fully bound

ISBN 0 85368 211 9
Price \$12.50

FOR DELIVERY JUNE 15

Luger

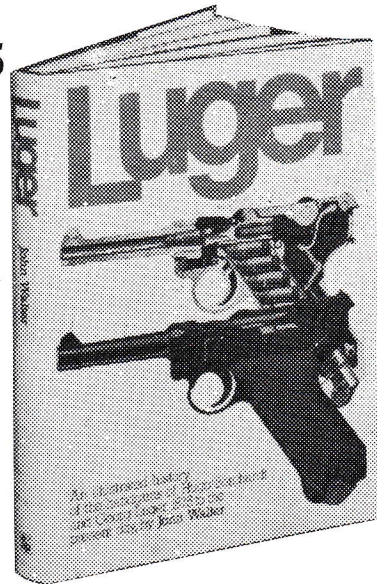
John Walter

One of the world's outstanding military sidearms is the subject of this comprehensive study.

The result of many years' diligent research, drawing extensively on official records, patent data, and the recollections of employees of the contractors involved in production of the Parabellum, this new study traces the story from its origins in the late 18th century to the present day and the output of Mauser Jagdwaffen GmbH.

Much new material that has come to light in recent years is incorporated and, as well as discussing the history, construction, production and performance of the Luger, John Walter provides a valuable perspective on its variants and adaptations, its rival and contemporary weapons, patents, ammunition, holsters and markings.

256 pages over 300 illustrations
Fully bound



ISBN 0 85368 131 7
Price \$27.50



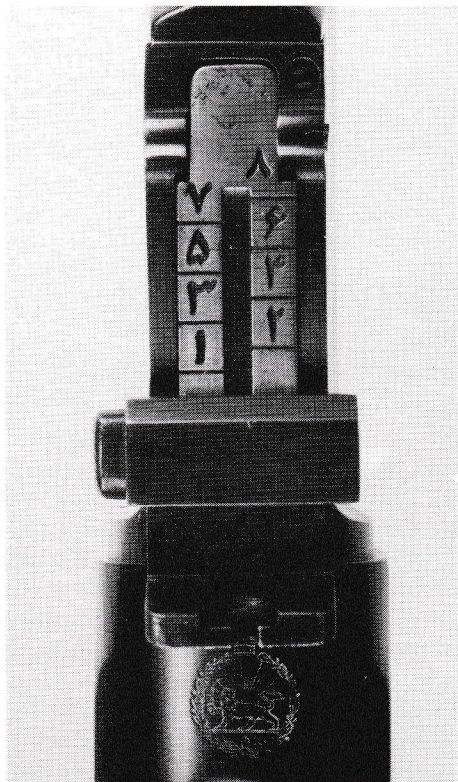
Fortress Publications Inc.

P.O. Box 241

Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada L8G 3X9

PUBLISHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS FOR:

Arms and Armour Press, England
Almark Publishing Co. Ltd., England
Photo Precision Ltd., (Balfour) Militaria Titles, England
Bivouac Books Ltd., England
The Lyon Press, England
Osprey Publishing Limited, England
Squadron Signal Publications, U.S.A.



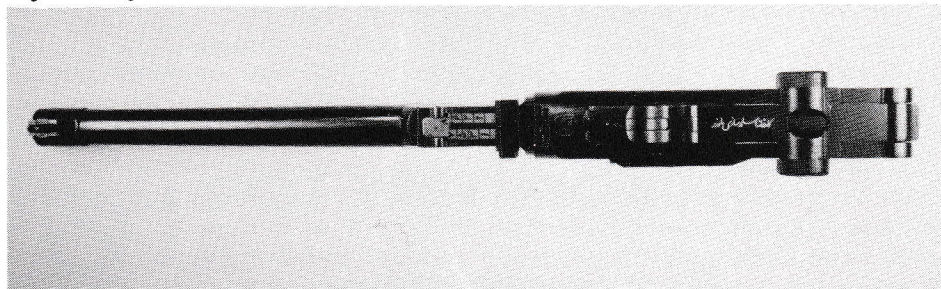
Close up of Persian seal or chamber and adjustable leaf sight. Numbers are in Tarsi 1-9.

presence does not imply a 1942 fabrication date either. The pivotal consideration here is one of the proof marks. An Iranian Luger bearing "Eagle N" commercial proofs has never come to our attention, though any contract piece produced in 1942 should be so marked, as should any Parabellums manufactured for export after April 1, 1940. Furthermore, it is exceedingly doubtful that any German weapons were delivered to Iran in 1942 because of the Anglo-Soviet invasion and subsequent occupation. The date on which this invasion took place is August 25, 1941. In conclusion, therefore, we believe that Iranian Lugers were produced after 1936 but the year 1942 cannot be accepted as a reasonable date of delivery.

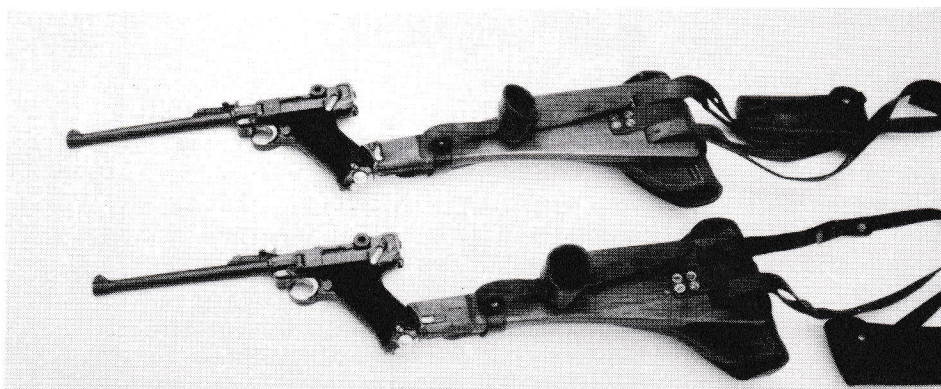
As our study comes to a close, we hope that the reader has come to regard the Iranian Parabellum as something more than a rare gun that bears exotic inscriptions. These pistols, in effect, tell a story about a developing country, the military elite indigenous to it and a "Great Power" which was both technologically sophisticated and expansionistic in its fundamental aims. Such a story is not without relevance today. □



Left side of a Persian artillery.



Top view of a Persian artillery.



Persian with full shoulder stock/holster rigs. Mike Morris Collection.

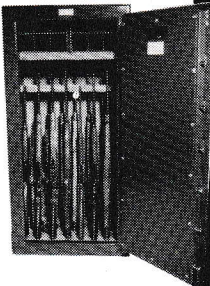
BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Armajani, Yahya, Iran, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1972.
2. Belford, James and Dunlap, Jack, The Mauser Self-Loading Pistol, Borden Publishing Company, 1969.
3. Datig, Fred, The Luger Pistol, Borden Publishing Company, 1962.
4. Kenyon, Charles, Lugers at Random, Handgun Press, 1969.
5. Mathews, J. Howard, Firearms Identification, Volume 1, Charles C. Thomas, 1973.
6. Musgrave, Daniel and Oliver, Smith, German Machineguns, MOR Associates, 1971.
7. Olson, Ludwig, Mauser Bolt Rifles, F. Brownell & Son, Inc., 1976.
8. Plimpton, John, "Mauser Pistols," Guns of the World, Petersen Publishing Company, 1972, pp. 324-336.
9. Rankin, James, Walther Models PP and PPK, privately published, 1974.
10. Schroeder, Joseph, "The Fabulous Mauser Broomhandle," Gun Collector's Digest, Digest Books, Inc., 1974, pp. 84-92.
11. Smith, W. H. B., Mauser, Walther & Mannlicher Firearms, Stackpole Books, 1971.
12. Smith, W. H. B., Small Arms of the World, Stackpole Books, 1966.
13. Taylor, A. J. P., The Course of German History, Capricorn Books, 1962.

KEEP YOUR GUNS SAFE

AT HOME

With the **Pro-Steel Security Vault**



Never worry about theft again with this heavy, all-steel sportsman's vault.

- Excellent security, reasonably priced
- 23-gun capacity
- Carpeted racks and interior
- Adjustable shelves
- Bank-style locking door
- Precision combination lock
- Installs neatly in wall, closet, basement
- Protection for guns, jewelry, and other valuables
- 5' and 6'8" models
- Constructed of steel plate
- 750#wt. 5' model

Write or Call Today For Our **FREE Brochure!**

PROVOSTEEL & SUPPLY CO.
P. O. Box 977; Dept. AG-9
Provo, UT 84601 (801) 373-2385

When you just can't shoot.

The harder you try the worse it gets.

Many scientists believe we go through up and down cycles all our lives.

If the moon's pull can lift ocean tides 20 feet, it must affect our bodies which are 60% water.

During these times our brains get a richer blood flow altering our behavior.

That more crimes and suicides take place during full moons is a proven fact.

My gun, the Krieghoff, makes a lot of sense in averaging out good and bad cycles. It was built to be an extension of your reflexes, not a gun to fumble with.

It's the end product of over a century of gunmaking know-how.

When nothing else is going right, a Krieghoff will.

I'll tell you more if you call me toll free at 1-800/327-1500.

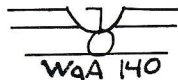
Hal du Pont

Krieghoff Gun Co., Box 48-1367, Miami, FL. 33148

World of Automatics

(continued from page 10)

the left side of trigger and bottom of chamber. The letter S, on the bottom of chamber. The numbers 03 appear on the bottom of the frame, by the magazine well. The number 6 appears under left grip. on the slide is: "FABRIQUE NATIONALE D'ARMS DE GUERRE HERSTAL BELGIQUE BROWNING'S PATENT DEPOSE."



appears twice on the slide, and on the frame, plus on the back of one magazine.

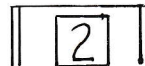


appears on the slide, top of barrel, and frame.



is on the back of the second magazine.

The holster is in excellent condition with the letters, "jsd," date, "1943," and this:



on the back of the flap. Inside, several words are unreadable, but I can make out "Browning Kal : 7.65mm," on the inside of the flap.

I would like to know as much as possible about these markings, and any idea as to a ballpark value.

Scott Malloy

A The 1922 Browning was an improvement over the 1910 Browning involving the lengthening of the barrel and the grips. It was one of the most popular pistols among European police. During the German occupation of Belgium in World War II it was issued primarily to German officials and to the police. It is interesting to observe that the Browning 1922 sold originally for \$10.

Concerning the WaA140, the WaA denotes the WaffenAmt Acceptance proof and the 140 is the Browning contract number. Likewise, the "WaA-103" incorporates the WaffenAmt Acceptance proof along with the con-

tract number of 103. New contract numbers were issued to contracts initiated in any given year, but pieces produced in accordance with any particular contract bore the number assigned to that contract.

regarding the holster, jsd indicates that the holster was manufactured by Carl Leiss of Berlin in 1943. The number 03 and 6 are inspectors' proofs. I am unable to offer an explanation as the meaning of the letters MR.

In my opinion this weapon has a current market value of approximately \$90.

Ralph E. Shattuck

Shooter

Q I acquired a Luger a couple ago and can't seem to run anything down about it. Could you tell me if it is a junker or what?

It has a 1937 chamber date, serial number 2130 on front of frame, 1226 on side of the chamber, Navy breechblock with 200 meter adjustable sight, No. 10 on take down latch, No. 30 on piece behind side plate,



on left side of toggle (can hardly make this out but that what it looks like.)

Its a .30 caliber, stamped on underside of barrel. Barrel and the gun looks like it's been reblued but never buffed, a real nice job. I'm positive it is a true Luger barrel. There is a name stamped on underside of barrel, if I can make it out what seems to be HOLDEN C.Y.U. Anything you can tell me about this piece will be greatly appreciated.

Richard W. Smith

A From the information contained in your letter I don't believe it would be classified since, if it is mechanically sound, it would be desirable as a shooter.

I further believe you are aware that it has relatively little value as a collection piece for the following reasons: (1) the serial numbers do not match; (2) the barrel length does not adhere to the barrel standards set by the original German manufacturers nor is the front sight band German; (3) the toggle is DWM and the receiver (on which the serial numbers have been restamped) is Mauser; and, (4) although pictures can be deceiving, it appears to have been reblued.

Ralph E. Shattuck