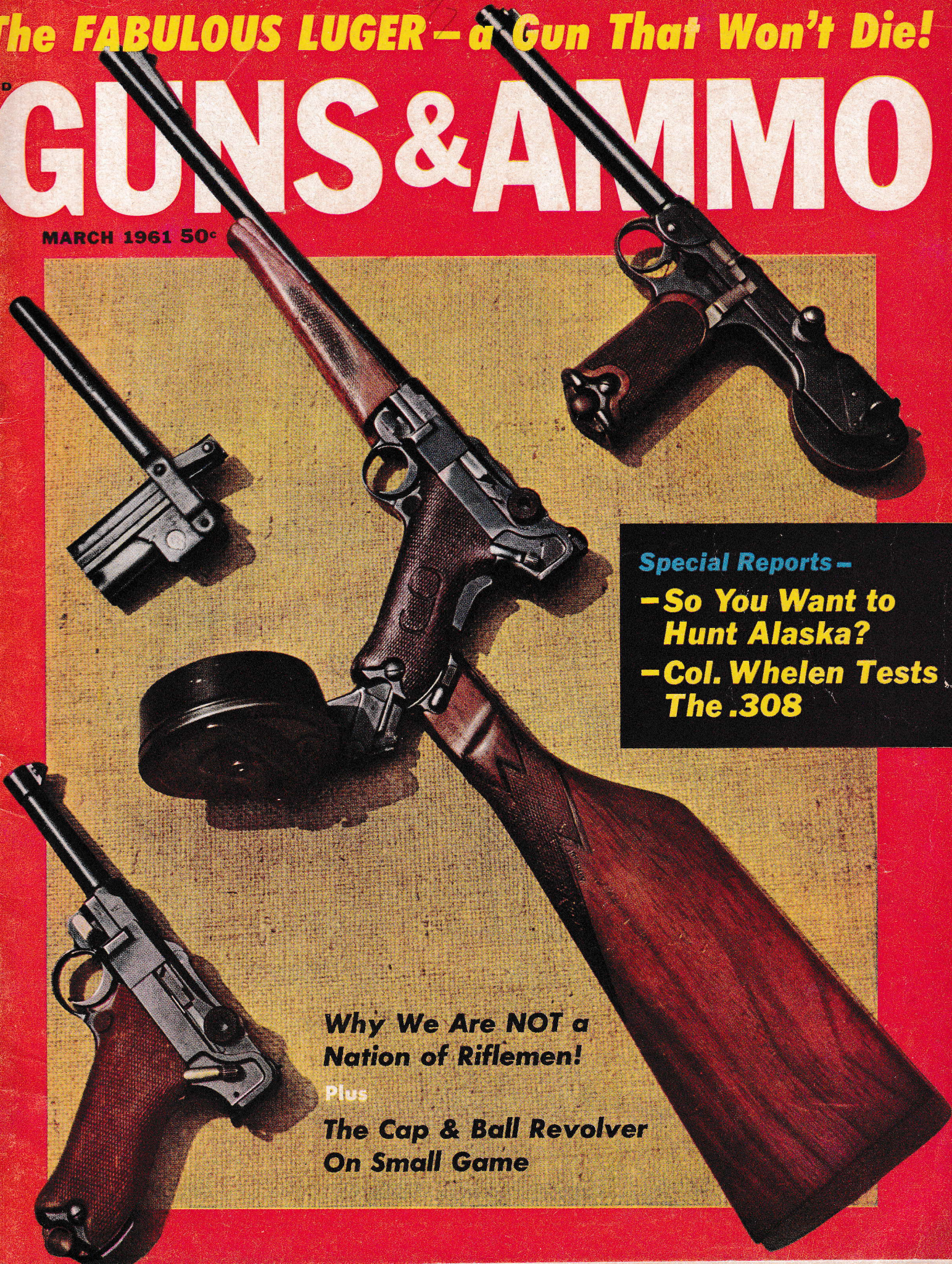


The **FABULOUS LUGER** — a Gun That Won't Die!

IND

GUNS & AMMO

MARCH 1961 50¢



Special Reports —

—So You Want to Hunt Alaska?

—Col. Whelen Tests The .308

Why We Are NOT a Nation of Riflemen!

Plus

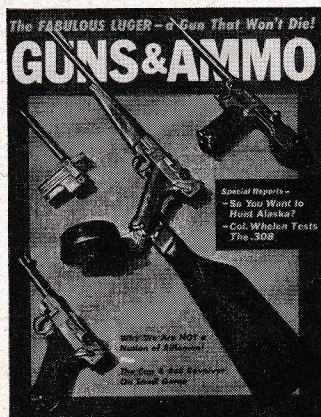
The Cap & Ball Revolver On Small Game

GUNS & AMMO

Volume Four No. 3

March 1961

Published Monthly



THE COVER—From top is the original 1893 Borchardt pistol, forerunner of the Luger. At center is a Luger sporting carbine with detachable wooden stock and at bottom is a conventional 9mm 1908 Luger. The 4x5 Ektachrome transparency by Al Palocz.

TECHNICAL STAFF

Rifles & Shooting
COLONEL TOWNSEND WHELEN

P. O. ACKLEY
Technical Data

HARVEY DONALDSON
Experimental

JAC WELLER
Military Arms

DAVID O. MORETON
Handguns

HOMER McCOY
Shotguns

FRED DATIG
European Arms

ALFRED AKIN, JR.
Optics

JEFF COOPER
Field Testing

LEE PARKINSON
Reloading

FRANCIS E. SELL
Reloading

ARNOLD M. CHERNOFF
Antique Arms

ED STEMBRIDGE
Technical Research

DEWEY LINZE
Research

WYANT LaMONT, JR.
Librarian

EDITORIAL STAFF: TOM SIATOS, Editor; E. G. BELL, JR., Managing Editor; ROBERT HUTTON, Technical Editor; AL ISAACS, Art Director; DICK FISCHER, Assistant Art Director; CAROL THIBODEAUX, Editorial Assistant; GEORGE WALLACE, Staff Artist; YVONNE HULL, Production; MARIE DONNELL, Production.

BUSINESS STAFF: ROBERT E. PETERSEN, Publisher; KENNETH M. BAYLESS, Editorial Director; A. M. BENEDICT, Advertising Director; GEORGE MARTIN, Advertising Manager; HARRY FOSTER, Advertising Production; LEE RYAN, General Manager; HERB METCALF, Circulation Manager.



FEATURES

NOT A 'NATION OF RIFLEMEN!' 16
Maitland Stewart

LONG LIVE THE LUGER 22
Fred A. Datig

THE GILT-EDGED .308 26
Col. Townsend Whelen

'SUBSTITUTE WOODCHUCKING' 30
Roger Barlow

THE LEWIS MACHINE GUN 36
Lt. Col. Robert H. Rankin

THE CAP & BALL ON SMALL GAME 42
Alfred J. Goerg

WALK 'n DRAW 50
Jack Lawrence

ALASKA — THE LAST FRONTIER 52

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 6

ACKLEY RIFLE QUERIES 10

WHAT'S IN A NAME 41

COLLECTOR'S CORNER 46

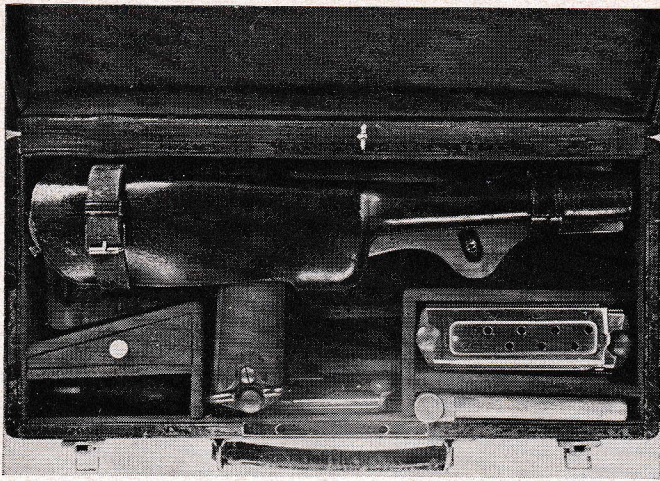
HANDLOADING 58

THE TECHNICAL SIDE 60

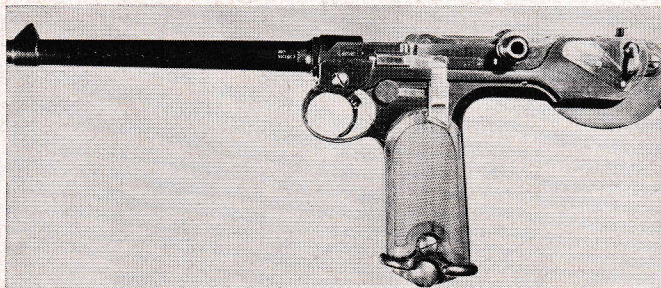
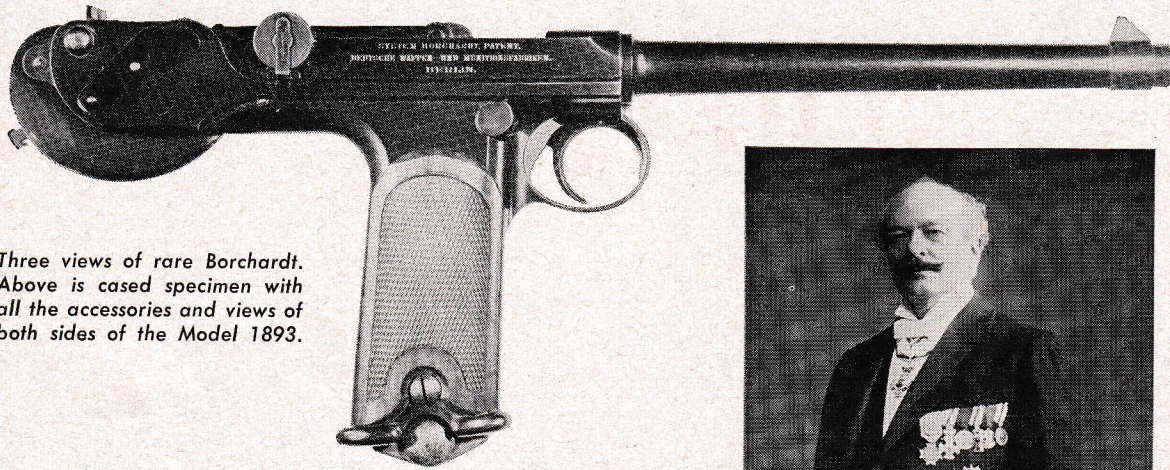
NEW PRODUCTS 66

CLASSIFIED 82

GUNS & AMMO, U.S. Copyright 1961 by Petersen Publishing Company, 5959 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 28, Calif. Phone HOLLYWOOD 6-2111. Second-class postage paid at Mt. Morris, Ill. Published monthly at 404 N. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, Ill. Single copy 50¢. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: U.S. possessions, Canada one year \$5, two years \$9. Other countries — one year \$6, two years \$11. ADVERTISING OFFICES: 5959 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 28, Calif. Detroit Office, 3337 Book Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich. Phone WOODWARD 3-8245. New York Office, 17 East 48th St., New York 17, N.Y. Phone PLAZA 1-6690. Chicago Office, 360 North Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill. Phone FRANKLIN 2-6067. Cleveland Office, 1405 East 6th St., Room 602, Cleveland 14, Ohio. Phone MAIn 1-1139. St. Louis Office, 915 Olive St., Room 939, St. Louis 1, Missouri. Phone GARfield 1-5153. San Francisco Office, 155 Montgomery St., Room 210, San Francisco 4, Calif. Phone EXbrook 7-5367. CONTRIBUTIONS: Material returned only if self-addressed, stamped envelope included. Not responsible for unsolicited material. Send to GUNS & AMMO, 5959 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 28, California. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Give six weeks notice. Send both old and new address, and address imprint from recent issue. Send to: GUNS & AMMO, 5959 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 28, Calif. Printed in U.S.A.



Three views of rare Borchardt. Above is cased specimen with all the accessories and views of both sides of the Model 1893.



The Model 1906 Luger, a later and more popular version of the 1904 Navy. This one is unusual in that it bears commercial proofing marks.

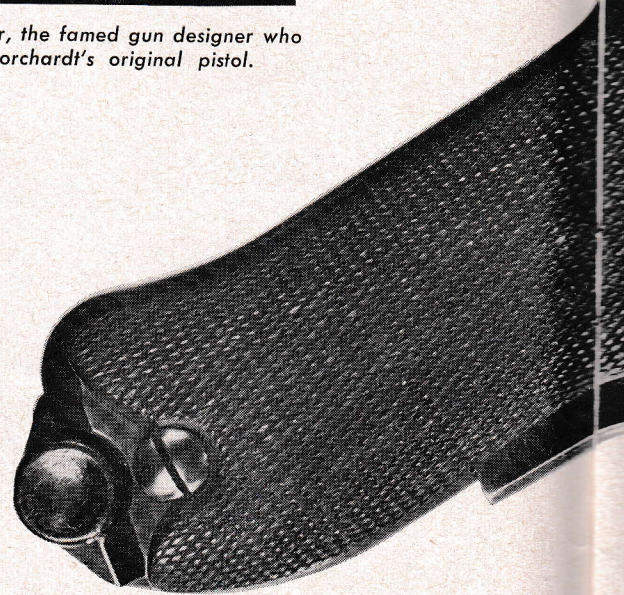


Georg Luger, the famed gun designer who improved Borchardt's original pistol.



Above is beautiful example of the Luger carbine with fore-end and ramp type rifle front sight. It has a grip safety and graduated rear sight.

This Luger is a prototype model 1902 in 9mm caliber which was purchased from Springfield Armory in 1913. A rare gun, the serial no. is 10030B.





LONG LIVE THE LUGER

BY FRED A. DATIG

Throughout the entire history of firearms, very few guns may be termed "timeless." Among these might be included such famous weapons as Colt's Single Action Army, Winchester's Lever Action Carbine, Mauser's Bolt Action Rifle, Maxim's Machine Gun and Luger's "Parabellum" Automatic Pistol.

Of these, and perhaps a handful more that might fall into this category, the Luger "Parabellum" Pistol is perhaps the only one whose name is well known throughout the world to the extreme corners of the globe. With the possible exception of the famous Mauser rifles, the widespread popularity of the Luger is without parallel. Why exactly does such an arm achieve this paramount acclaim? Is it because its design is so exceedingly superior, perhaps far in advance of its time? Or possibly it might be due to super salesmanship, costly promotional devices or political influence. It might even be a combination of all of these circumstances.

In analysing these possibilities we find that the Luger was, indeed, an advanced design for its day. It has been argued, and rightly so, that not too long after the zenith of the Luger's popularity, other automatic pistols of more practical design reached the market. Why, then, did not the popularity of the Luger decline as others rose to take its place? Was the Luger sold by high pressure methods of salesmanship in the way that many other firearms, both good and bad, were forced upon gul-

libe purchasers? Such was not the case. Costly promotional devices may also be ruled out. Political influence was exerted to a point but it is almost impossible to "sell" any given government on any item without a certain amount of power behind it. Many a fine weapon has fallen by the wayside due only to a lack of the necessary political backing.

Summing it up, we find that the Luger *was* an advanced design for its day, that it did have a certain amount of political influence behind it. We also note that its immediate success was due mainly to its quality and the fact that prospective purchasers had the ability to appreciate its many advantages and

Originally invented by an American, this pistol has that indefinable touch of magic which assures it a top spot in gundom's hall of fame.

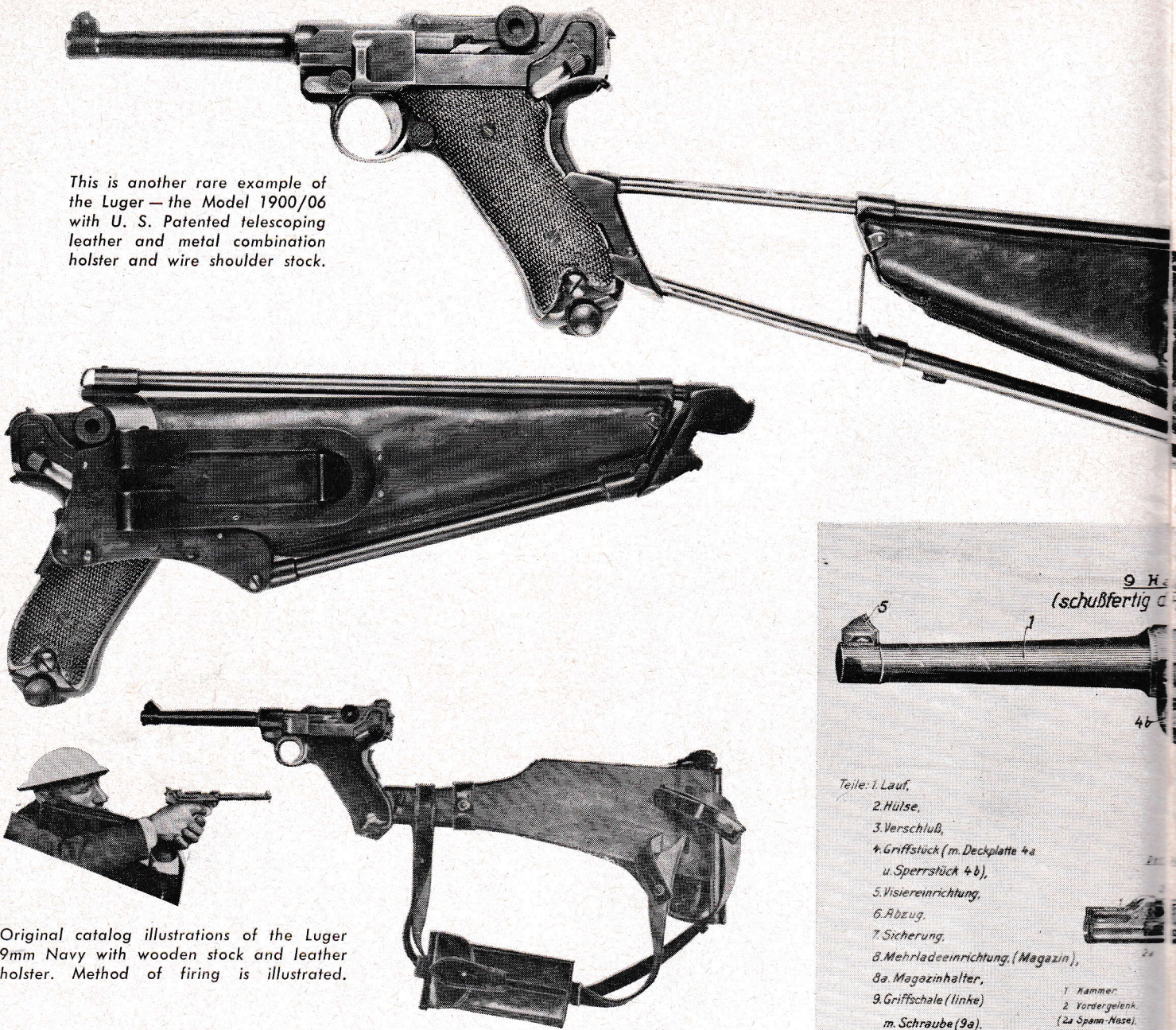
to back up those praises with orders. It has lasted over the many decades since its inception due mainly to the undying faith originally placed in it and in living up to its almost legendary name.

But the one thing that has made the Luger one of the "greats" is that little bit of magic with which only a fraction of a percentage of persons, places or things are endowed. It might be called a unique charm, a touch of greatness or simply sheer magic — but by whatever name it is called, the Luger had, has and most likely always will have it.

Thousands, perhaps even millions of words have been written concerning every possible phase of the pistol its background, history, variations, collectors interest, military value, ad infinitum. And yet the story never ceases to fire the imagination or lose one speck of sparkle or appeal to countless generations or avid fans the world over.

It is well known to most that the Luger pistol saw its early beginnings in America, through the eyes of Hugo Borchardt, a professional inventor of no small talent. Georg Luger, the Austrian whose name it bears, has become a well-known figure these many years after his death due mainly to the publicity given to his part in perfecting the pistol which bears the name so proudly. Intricately dedicated works on the subject relate the series of circumstances which led to the design and marketing of the pistol as it is well known today, of Borchardt's failures and Georg Luger's successes with his friend's invention.

This is another rare example of the Luger — the Model 1900/06 with U. S. Patented telescoping leather and metal combination holster and wire shoulder stock.



Original catalog illustrations of the Luger 9mm Navy with wooden stock and leather holster. Method of firing is illustrated.

LUGER

To call Borchardt a professional inventor is entirely correct. So numerous were his designs, and so diversified, that he could hardly be called by any other term. Despite the fact that his great talent devised one of history's finest firearms, it took the equally great but infinitely more highly specialized talents of Luger, the professional soldier, to bring the world the king of handguns. Luger had indeed started his professional career as an Austrian Army officer, with every intention of making that his chosen lifetime vocation. His great love and inborn knowledge of firearms mechanics was to write finis to his military career at an early stage, however, and, while still a young man, find him resigning his commission in favor of a

position with the noted arms designer, Ferdinand von Mannlicher. Many of the designs bearing the latter's name were actually the brainchildren of Luger.

Luger was the type of man whose love of and interest in his work predestined that he was "cut out" to be a success despite himself. Had he continued his soldiering, it is doubtful that his name would today be as well-known throughout military circles in the capacity of "great military leader" as it has become when entitled "great arms designer." His only chance of great renown lay in the gun designing field and that is where his destiny led him. Truly great men in any field are those whose love of their work is foremost in their lives though they find themselves wading through countless sidepaths on the road to their niche in life. Georg



Luger was one of these dedicated men. Few designs or inventions are accorded immediate approval and acclaim, but Luger's pistol was an exception. The Swiss, the initial customers for the pistol and still among its most avid fans, did much in furthering its early successes. Within the first decade after its introduction, Luger's pistol had been officially adopted, tested

or approved by nations such as Switzerland, the United States, Germany, Holland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Russia, Brazil and a number of others. Many of these countries, early to foresee the pistol's great potential, still employ it as an official or secondary sidearm after 60 years! In this fact may be found the living example of the true "magic" of Luger's pistol.

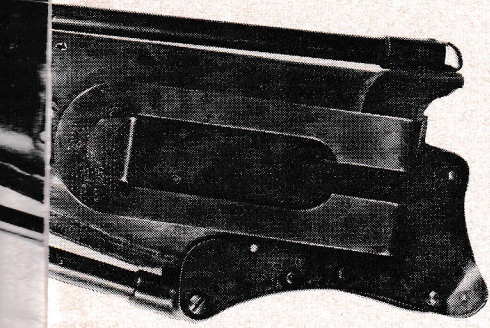
While "magic" is a convenient word used to describe something which cannot be readily explained, the popularity and longevity of the Luger pistol cannot be completely written off that easily. There are good solid reasons why it is so classed. First of all, the Luger has the finest "instinctive" pointing qualities of any pistol ever designed. The best way to prove this is to take a Luger in hand,

allowing it to hang at the side, barrel downward. Then select a target, preferably at eye level. Once having chosen the target, close both eyes and bring the pistol to the place where it is felt to be aiming straight at said chosen target. Then open your eyes and see how near to the target the barrel "instinctively" points. Then try it again from the beginning with *any other handgun*. Nine times out of ten, the Luger will be "on target" whereas any other handgun will fall far short of the mark.

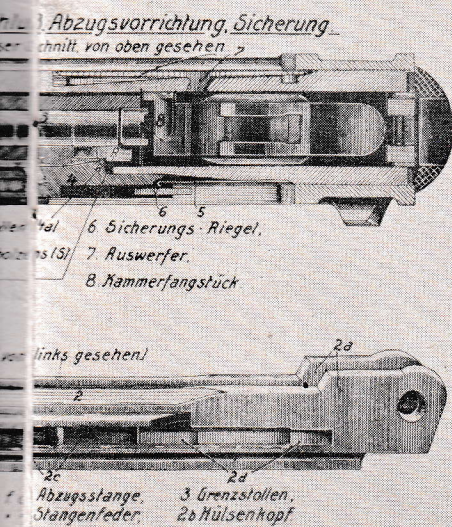
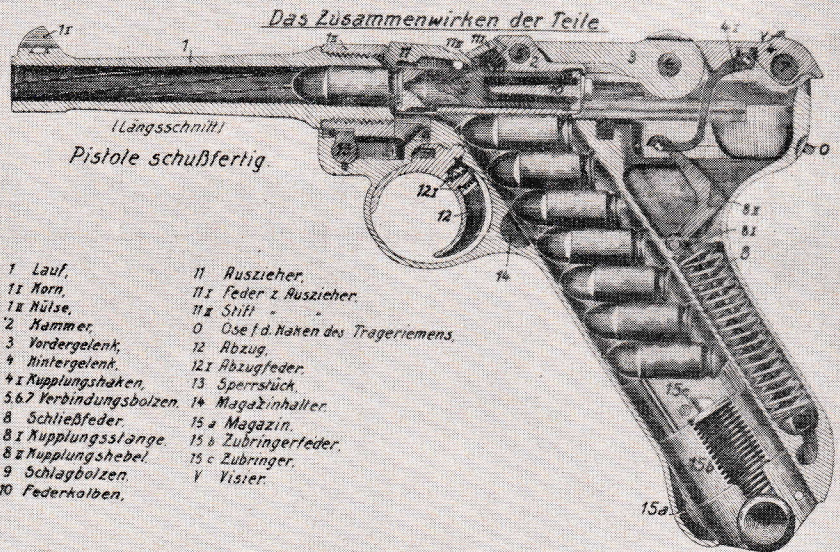
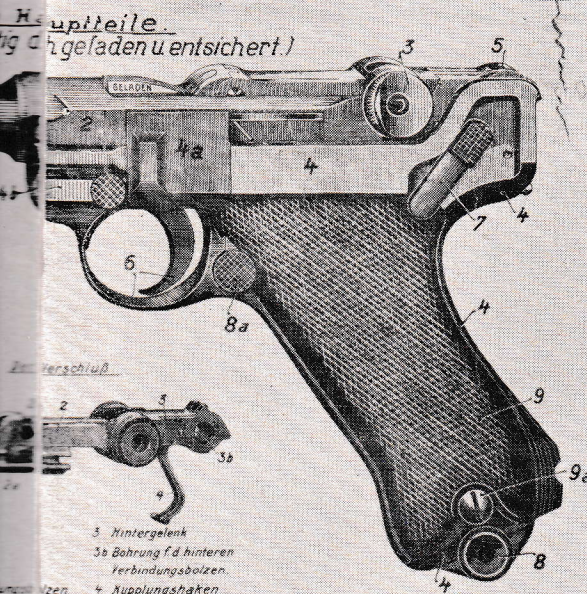
The general outline and overall appearance of the Luger seems to excite the imagination of gun lovers the world over. Looking at the pistol immediately imparts the strength of design both mechanically and artistically, looking both

continued on page 70

Interesting photograph of original drawings for 1908 Model Luger before production.

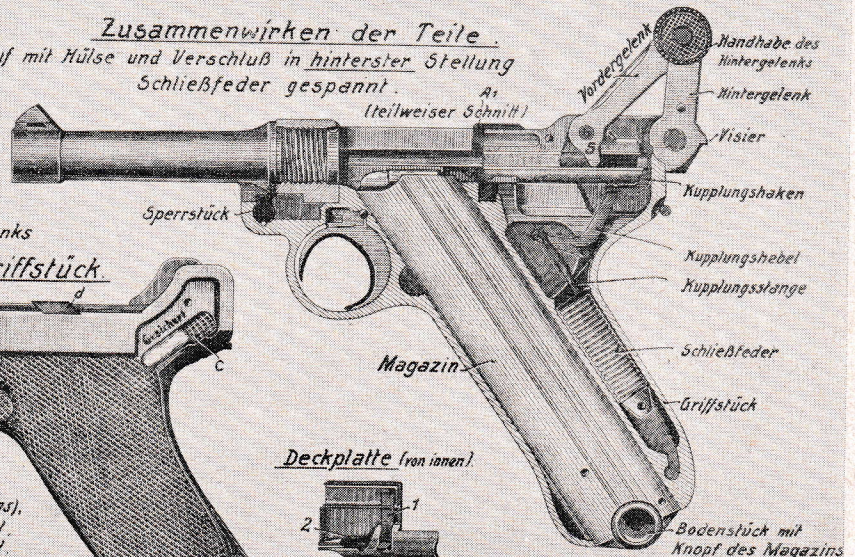
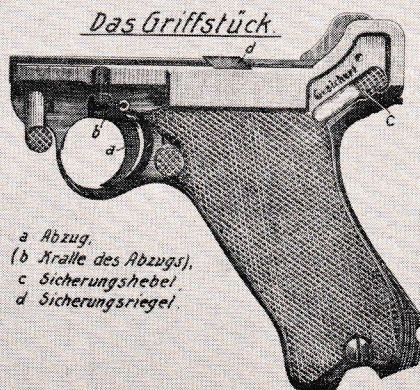


Pistole 08.



Zusammenwirken der Teile. Lauf mit Hülse und Verschluss in hinterster Stellung Schließfeder gespannt.

- A Auswerfer.
A1 Auszieher.
5 Spann-Nase
des Vordergelenks



Deckplatte (von innen)

- 1 Abzugshebel,
2 Abzugsstift,
(Sperrstück siehe oben)

A35205

RUEDIGER

SINCE
1903

A SUPERB GERMAN SCOPE AT UNBELIEVABLE LOW PRICE

The PRECISION scope for a fraction of its value from the home of the acknowledged masters of optical sciences. It represents the superior design and craftsmanship of the German optical industry for more than half a century.

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE



\$3928

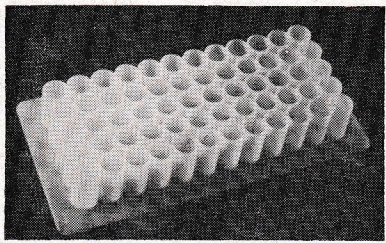
See Your Dealer or Write for Illustrated Literature. IF ORDERING DIRECT: Send Check or Money Order for \$39.28 plus 75c postage and handling. Leather lens caps \$1.00. Calif. residents add 4% State tax.

4 Power Free Brochure Available
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED
Exclusive Factory Representative and Distributor in U.S. for OTTO-OTTO; Hildesheim, Germany

VICTOR AUGUS

2950 1/2 B Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles 27, Calif.

"THE EASY SIXTY" PLASTIC LOADING BLOCK



Holds sixty cases. Universal size holes offer easy access to any calibre cartridge.

ORDER DIRECT \$1.00

Prepaid in United States

Dealer and Jobber inquiries invited.

COLE'S SPORTING GOODS

109 S. La Brea Inglewood 1, Calif.

Insures shooting comfort under any conditions

Pachmayr White Stripe Recoil Pads

At dealers everywhere

FREE!
Write for
FREE 16-page brochure.

PACHMAYR GUN WORKS, INC.

Dept. GA-3

1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 15, Calif.

CUSTOM LOADING DIE LUBRICANT #324

Formulated, after extensive experimenting and research, by the combined efforts of experienced ammo loaders and Industrial Engineers, for the toughest resizing and loading die work of the finest non-corrosive materials to assure VELVET-SMOOTH DIE operation and protection. EXTREMELY CONCENTRATED FOR ECONOMY.

Packaged in attractive lock spout 2 oz. plastic cylinder. Sold on money back guarantee. Must be tried to appreciate. \$1.60 per cylinder postpaid. No COD please. Calif. Res. add 4 percent Tax. Dealer Inquiries Invited.

P.O. BOX 1042
GLENDALE 1,
CALIFORNIA
Dept. B-2

DeWitt
CUSTOM LUBRICANTS



LONG LIVE THE LUGER

continued from page 25

wicked and beautifully flowing at the same time. No one could ever make the statement that the Luger pistol is not a "man's" weapon or that its appearance is not "businesslike." And yet it has won artistic prizes for its symmetry!

Its German ancestry undoubtedly endears it to Germans and to certain pro-Germanic factions. Its certainty of fire and accuracy place it far ahead of any other handgun with the Swiss, "Nation of Marksmen." Because it was cherished as the foremost souvenir of both World War I and then World War II, was the reason behind its extreme appeal in the United States where it has become, almost overnight, the most sought after marque (with the possible exception of Colt items) on the great list of firearms manufacturers. It is said that, where less than a decade ago Lugers were veritably unknown as an item for a complete collection, today there are over 1,000 collectors of the Luger pistol in the United States, many of whom collect no other weapon than the Luger! It has reached the point where many find the mere thought of actually firing one a sacrilege. In England, a group known as "The Parabellum Pistol Club of England" (of which membership your author holds the treasured title of Honorary Vice President) is enjoying ever increasing popularity both from a collecting and shooting standpoint. Some of the famous Bisley marksmen are numbered among the members. And so it is, not only in the United States, but in many countries throughout the world!

Even after almost 20 years since the production of these pistols ceased, its popularity continues to grow in leaps and bounds. It is responsible for having literally changed the lives of some, many of which became familiar with it a number of years after production was halted. Among these are Harry Jones, author of "Luger Variations" and your author, who has also written the widely accepted book, "The Luger Pistol." To one deserving personage the great increase in the pistol's popularity has opened up a new interest and brought long overdue fame to an elderly man long since retired into a life of relative inactivity and obscurity. This man, Herr August Weiss of Oberndorf a/N. and Berlin, Germany, has been more responsible for the production of Luger pistols than any other living person. He was formerly in charge of its production, first at the giant DWM firm in Berlin and later with Mauser-Werke of Oberndorf a/N. Until 1955, Herr Weiss had been one of the cogs in the great Luger producing machine and, while the foreman of that branch, was

completely unknown outside his own immediate surroundings. Since, the appearance of "The Luger Pistol," in which Herr Weiss' great role was finally divulged, he has been made an honorary vice president in the above mentioned British Parabellum Pistol Club, receives mail from all over the world seeking his great knowledge of the Luger and receives visitors from many foreign localities at his modest home in the Black Forest town of Oberndorf on the River Neckar.

All of this fame has come to a man fully retired from his lifetime position these past 15 years at the age of almost 70 years! So great was and is his knowledge of the Luger pistol that, 10 years after he retired from a lifetime of relative obscurity, the (Luger collecting) world has finally come to the realization that he is a truly great personage among the fraternity of Luger pistol enthusiasts and they are now literally beating a path to his door. For an old man to receive such acclaim so late in life when all thoughts of his life's work were put behind him, has not only brought a great deal of happiness into his waning years but has also, in some fractional way, given him some of the credit, fame and honors that he has so long deserved. He is a man of modest means, existing without the many luxuries of life to which he had so long been accustomed in his capacity as foreman for the huge Mauser firm. Anyone wishing to SERIOUSLY correspond with Herr Weiss may contact him at his home, Bollersteige 13, Oberndorf a/N., Germany. If doing so, please remember that he is a collector of fine coins and that any additions to his collection, which his modest pension does not allow him to purchase, would be gratefully received.

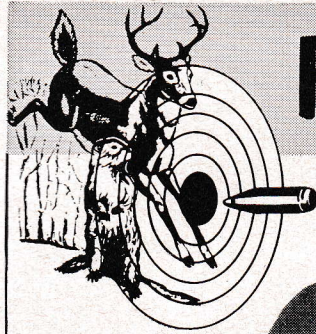
In the United States, the Luger pistol is rapidly reaching the category in which Colt's percussion revolvers reside; that of a collector's item rather than of that which it was originally intended, a shooting piece. Collectors abhor the thought of laymen rebluing, refinishing or in any way altering original Lugers. Yet many still shoot this highly popular and reliably accurate weapon. Almost every nation in the world produces or employs the well known 9mm Luger "Parabellum" cartridge and it is to be found in a great variety of loadings and bullet types. While most of today's loadings are intended for use in military weapons, many of the leading cartridge manufacturers still offer loadings for use in the Luger pistol (and other pistols employing the Luger cartridge). Among these are Winchester, Western, Peters, Norma, Genschow, Fiochi, Eley-Kynoch, Canadian Industries, Ltd. and so on throughout the major countries.

The 7.65mm (.30) Luger-Parabellum cartridge is still manufactured by a few firms but has become less popular over the years as the popularity of its big brother, the 9mm, has increased. Cartridges for the smaller caliber pistol are still readily obtainable and are not as undesirable as many people believe. One interesting feature of the Luger is that only one replacement part is required to change the caliber from the smaller 7.65mm to the 9mm, that being the barrel. All other parts are completely interchangeable from the one caliber to the other.

Shooting a Luger enjoys a great deal of popularity in both Switzerland and England where official matches are sponsored at regular intervals. Many American shooters prefer the Luger to other of the more cumbersome and inaccurate automatic pistols. When recently altered to take the big caliber .45 ACP cartridge, it was found that the Luger handles this huge caliber better than most pistols originally chambered for it. Strangely enough, some commercially loaded lots of the 9mm Luger cartridge are too *WEAK* to properly work the action in firing. Others are claimed to be far too hot to use safely but this, too, is a misconception. The only commercially available rounds which should *NOT* be used in the Luger are specially potent loadings for use in machine guns or pressure test or "proof" rounds. It is untrue that the black-cased or "special loadings for machine pistols" rounds manufactured in huge quantities during World War II are unsafe in a mechanically perfect Luger pistol. Many pistols require these "hot" loadings to insure proper functioning. The popular 115 grain bullet, offered by most manufacturers, gives approximately 1150 feet per second muzzle velocity. The slightly heavier 124 grain bullet will give only a few feet per second less, say around 1120 or 1130. The 93 grain and 98 grain 7.65mm Luger cartridges give similar velocities.

Most shooters prefer the much sought after six-inch Navy Model, having found that accuracy and "feel" in the hand reach the best balance with pistols having barrels of that intermediate length. The four-inch Army Model is too short for most and the eight-inch Artillery Model too long. However, Naval Model Lugers are so greatly sought after by collectors that it is a fortunate shooter who possesses one. Consequently, many shooters have to satisfy themselves with the more common four-inch barrel variety. Once having become accustomed to the "feel" of the shorter barrel, it will be found that accurate shooting comes as easy with the four-inch as it does with one of six-inches.

continued on page 72



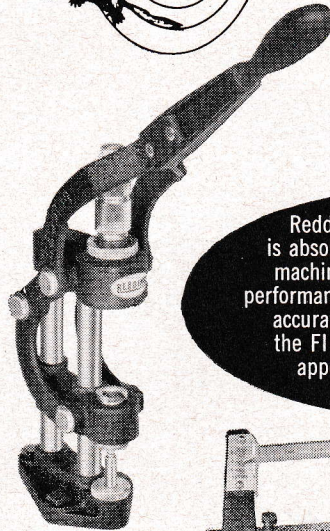
FIRST CHOICE

REDDING FOR FAST, ACCURATE, DEPENDABLE RELOADING

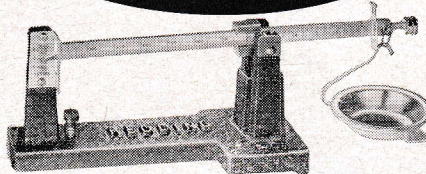
Master Powder Measure
All caliber tube; micrometer settings.
Capacity 1/2 to 100 grains.

\$18.50

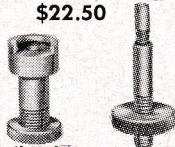
Redding reloading equipment is absolutely top quality, precision machined and finished. Matched performance assures the most efficient, accurate and easy operation... the **FIRST CHOICE** for attractive appearance, lifetime design and moderate cost.



Standard Reloading Press
All rifle and pistol cartridges.
\$22.50



Powder and Bullet Scale \$14.00
Standard of the Industry. Guaranteed accurate to a tenth grain.
Capacity 325 grains.



Shell Holder Primer Post
\$1.80



\$1.50



Master Case Trimmer
One-pass trim and chamfer any caliber rifle or pistol case. **\$14.50**

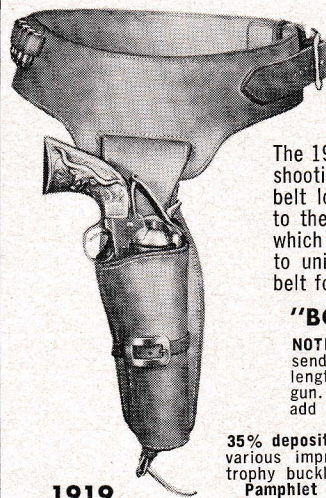


Removable metering chamber. Capacity 0 to 100 grains.
Standard Powder Measure
\$12.50

Your Satisfaction Guaranteed

Available through jobbers and dealers

REDDING-HUNTER, INC.
113 Starr Rd. Cortland, N. Y.



1919
Patented with Stainless Steel Buckles.
Complete Outfit.
Tan . . . \$36.50
Black . . . \$38.50

Finest quality leather and workmanship unconditionally guaranteed.

BOHLIN'S "GUNSLINGER" HOLSTERS...

THESE BELTS AND HOLSTERS HAVE NO EQUAL FOR SUPER-FAST DRAWING.

The 1919 walk and draw holster with forward "lean" for competition shooting, is made with 3 1/2" drop which together with the reinforced belt loop is permanently contoured to the hip and locked securely to the belt, needing no tie-down. Cylinder spins free in the holster which is guaranteed to retain shape under all usual conditions. Due to unique design gun handle has wide clearance from holster and belt for free action which minimizes accidental firing while drawing.

"BOHLIN'S SPECIAL"

NOTICE: When ordering be sure and send waist and hip measurements, length of gun barrel, caliber, make of gun. Include \$1.00 for postage. In Calif. add 4% Sales Tax.

35% deposit required on C.O.D.s. Free folder showing various improved fast-draw holsters and gunfighter trophy buckles. Also Derringer Holsters on Request. Pamphlet of Instructions Free with First Order.
SPECIALIZING in plain & silver mounted saddles & access for equestrians & sportsmen for over 40 yrs.
"Bohlin's Special" Add'l charge . . . black \$1.50
With 22 Caliber Cartridge Loops . . . Add 2.00
With Stainless Steel Buckles . . . Add 3.25
If you wish the Holster Lined . . . Add 2.50



\$1875
Finest Quality & Workmanship

EDWARD H. BOHLIN

"WORLD'S FINEST" . . . 931 N. Highland, Hollywood 38, Calif

**Authentic Western
GUNFIGHTING
RIG**

\$16⁹⁵ complete

You receive one .38 SMITH & WESSON CALIBER SIXSHOOTER, guaranteed mechanically perfect. Will fire standard .38 S & W ammo available in any sporting goods store. PURCHASE PRICE ALSO INCLUDES one top grain all-weather official FAST DRAW HOLSTER with leg tie and all-weather matching BUSCADERO BELT. Specify waist and right or left hand holster when you order.

NOTE: Also available in .45 Caliber, if desired, at \$16.95

TO ORDER: Send check, cash or money order. \$5 deposit for C.O.D. Shipped F.O.B. Culver City. 10-day money back guarantee.

2-Gun Rig, \$31.95

NEW! WAX LOAD KIT
FOR FAST DRAW PRACTICE. Kit of 50 primed .38 S&W or .45 ACP with Cal. Brass cartridges, loading wax and instructions. Complete . . . \$2.45

WEAPONS, INC. 11029 WASHINGTON BLVD.
CULVER CITY 52, CALIF.

**DEER HUNTERS!
RIFLESCOPE**

\$9.95 p.p.d. incl. mount



CHOICE OF POWER—2½X, 4X or 6X. Features coated prec. glass optics throughout, color corrected, long eye relief—2½ to 4", internal adjustments. Wide field—40° at 100 yds.—2½X. U.S. Mfg. Easy to install. Fits over 350 U.S. & Foreign rifle makes incl. Enfield. ORDER NOW! Only \$9.95 p.p.d. incl. FREE mount. Send cash, check or M.O. COD's require \$5 deposit. Add \$1 for Air Mail. Be sure to specify make & model of rifle. plus indicate scope power for riflescope. Immediate Delivery! Guaranteed Satisfaction.

PAN TECHNICS, LTD.
1230 Pan Technics Bldg., Encinitas 59, Calif.

**WHOLESALE
TO DEALERS ONLY**

- Hercules
- DuPont
- Alcan
- Forster
- RCBS
- Pacific
- Nosler
- Freeland
- Sierra
- Speer
- Hornady
- Lyman
- Redding
- Guns
- Scopes
- Sights
- Mounts
- Fajen
- Mec
- CCI
- Sisk
- Echo
- C-H
- Norma

10.00 Net Cash Orders Post Paid
100.00 Net Cash Orders Pre Paid
East of the Mississippi

AURAND'S 227-235 E. Third St.
LEWISTOWN, PA. PHONE 248-0171

REAMERS



**Roughers-Finishers
Case Sizers-Throaters**

Solid and Removable Pilot Type
Spiral Fluted Shotgun Reamers

264 Win. Magn. — 30-338 Win. Magn.

All Calibers Available—Wildcats & Specials

Send For List Prompt Delivery

CLYMER GRINDING CO. 14241 W. Eleven Mile
Oak Park 37-GA3, Mich.

**.30 M-1 CARBINES
EX. TO NEW
\$79.95**

Order now — limited supply

S. SLOPER

Westwood (Lassen County), California

LONG LIVE THE LUGER

continued from page 71

Lugers have been made with barrels in lengths of 3½", 4", 6", 8" and 11¼" as production items. A few were produced with barrels of variant lengths up to a reputed 24"! They have been produced not only in the well known calibers of 7.65mm and 9mm but also in caliber .45, cal. .22 and a few in caliber .32. Records even indicate the possible existence of one or more in caliber 6.5mm (approximately .25). Conversion units to .22 have been available for many years for use in the standard models as have European conversion units for the popular European 4mm indoor cartridge.

Most interesting of the limited production models undoubtedly falls to the Luger Carbine with its 11¼" barrel of caliber 7.65mm (a few were produced in caliber 9mm but they are extreme rarities). This pistol is in actuality a pistol-carbine, the barrel being fitted with a wooden fore-end much the same as a double barreled shotgun employs. A detachable wooden shoulder stock transforms the weapon from an unwieldy, overly-long barreled pistol to a compact and relatively short-barreled carbine. The German Kaiser Wilhelm, due to his withered arm, was said to favor the Luger Carbine quite highly, shooting, even hunting with it often in the days of his reign. Luger Carbines are today mostly neatly tucked away in collections but are sometimes found for sale on the open market. The extreme value to collectors of one of these highly desirable pieces makes them equally costly, usually far out of the realm of a shooting piece. Specially loaded cartridges holding about 20% more powder than the normal were used due to the added recoil spring situated in the wooden fore-end. These cartridges usually had a blackened case or were (if manufactured by DWM, the maker of the carbine) headstamped "471-A" rather than the plain "471" which indicated the standard loading.

As a military weapon, the Luger is still in everyday use in many countries today, especially in Switzerland where it is highly prized. Some parts are still available but no new pistols have been produced since the termination of production by the Mauser-Werke in 1942. A few pieces were assembled from existing parts immediately after WW II.

Due to the Luger's extreme popularity, which is rapidly increasing rather than decreasing, the obvious question is "why doesn't someone resume production" or "why did they ever stop production in the first place?" There is one VERY good answer for both of these questions and that is cost. The Luger is a relatively expensive pistol

to manufacture, costing about 50% to 150% more to turn out than the average pistol of a similar nature today. A great number of hand operations were required in finishing the Luger but it is believed by many that employment of today's methods would cut these operations considerably without actually altering the pistol itself. At least a dozen individuals and 2 or 3 big firms have given serious thought to the resumption of production but so far nothing has been done in the way of actually resuming production. Trends show that the possibility of once again seeing new Luger pistols for sale in showrooms may very well become a reality in the near future. Some feel that, should this new production take place, the old pistol should be modified. A caliber .45 pistol is favored by some, a .22 by others. Many are in favor of "modernizing" it while others call for the new pistol to be absolutely unchanged. Both sides have their advantages and disadvantages but were the "old," familiar Luger to be altered *in the slightest*, the magic might very well be lost in the doing much as it was when the Colt Single Action "Six-Shooter" was resumed. To the real fraternity of Luger lovers this would be catastrophic. Also, the possibility of rejuvenating the many tens of thousands of old pistols still in existence by the transplanting into them of new parts would sound the death knell of weapons that might otherwise give yet another half-century of faithful service.

No one knows whether or not Luger pistol production will actually be resumed, but if it is, we believe that the pistol should not only remain unchanged in its entirety but that special care should be taken to see that all parts would interchange with corresponding parts from pistols of the "old" generations. In our one-man crusade for the resumption of the manufacturing of the Luger pistol, we have heard not one voice raised against the idea. On the contrary, it would be a simple matter to solicit literally thousands of orders for these pistols once the green light was given to "Project Parabellum." It would be no prohibitive task to offer both grip safety and "standard" types, long barrels and short barrels, varieties of calibers such as .22, 7.65mm and 9mm, perhaps even .45. Even a new version of the Luger Carbine would be far from out of the question, though the barrel would have to be of a length of at least 16-inches or possibly 18-inches in order to fall into the "legal" category where National firearms laws are concerned. It is more than possible that collectors, shooters and even governments would rush to be among the first to purchase such pistols. Personally, we would like nothing better. ■