

JUNE 1965

NUMBER ONE

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION: YEARLY RATE \$4.00, THREE MONTHS \$1.00

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### EARLY NAZI LUGERS

From 1908 until 1945 the Pistole '08, or Luger as it is known to Americans, was the most familiar and respected sidearm to millions of German Soldiers.

Under the treaties of the First World War Germany was limited in the amounts and kinds of armaments it could produce. While many people blame Hitler alone for the breaking of the treaties and the planning of the Second World War the Luger pistol gives the collector additional insight into the preliminary period where the seeds of the Second World War were planted. It is doubtful that the aging Hindenburg ever seriously thought of involving Germany in another war, especially in a war of aggression, and as the world during the late 1920's was seeking peace at any price Hindenburg would have had little reason to arm Germany for defensive measures. However in the late '20's and early '30's, before the days of Hitlers military power, the German General Staff was making definite military plans. Part of the plan concerned the Luger pistol.

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor and his rise to military power began. While Hitler had enjoyed substantial power on the German political scene before 1933 he had actually had little effect on the military leadership, the aging but determined German General Staff. After 1933 Hitlers' military and political leadership was unquestioned for all practical purposes. As it was one of Hitlers first major moves to strengthen the new German Army many collectors assume that the manufacture of the new "Mauser" Luger was part of his plan. True, two Lugers were manufactured by Mauser in 1934. They were:

1. The Mauser Oberndorf with the Mauser Banner over the Chamber and dated 1934. (# 127 in The Booklet of Luger Values.)
2. The coded S/42 K date. K representing the code for 1934; S/42 the secret code for Mauser. (# 128 in The Booklet of Luger Values.)

Up until this time, the time of the Mauser takeover, Lugers were manufactured and also assembled from World War One parts by the firm of Simpson and Company and the old and tired firm of DWM.

During the late 1920's and early '30's the control of the army and armaments were under the control of first Von Seeckt and then Von Schleicher. Von Schleicher realizing the need for vast reserves of armaments ordered the full scale resumption of the manufacture of the Luger pistol, some 4 years before Hitlers rise to power. As DWM was not up to the task either financially or otherwise a policy decision was made to transfer the task of Luger production from DWM to the mighty Mauser firm. The decision was made and the task given to August Weiss an engineer who had been with DWM from 1904. While it is generally believed that the transfer took four years and that the first pistols were those of 1934 mentioned above, actually production began with the year 1933. The little known Luger called the Mauser ReWork, made from World War One left over parts and parts from Lugers manufactured during the 1920's by DWM and Simpson, started Mauser on a production schedule lasting 10 years.

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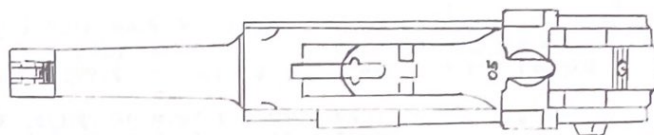
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THE MAUSER REWORK OF 1933

Luger #3805, in 9mm, has no markings on the toggle except the last two digits of the serial number. This Luger has no date and therefore is frequently mistaken for an unmarked 1920 Commercial.

The Oberndorf proof, Crown over N, appears on the left side of the receiver as it does on the 1920 Commercial. Unlike the '20 Commercial, however, the 4 digits of the serial number follows the proof mark.

The barrel is proofed and numbered in the commercial manner. Most of the parts are numbered in the commercial fashion but additional numbers appear



on the side plate, the sear and on top of the toggle. On the right side of the receiver appears the proof WaA66 under an eagle. Inside, in the well, appears a small S, nothing is on the grips, but the last two digits of the serial number appear on the holdopen device. The clip is an un-numbered extruded model by "Haenel Schmeisser" with the arrow and name appearing on the side. The bottom of the clip is aluminum with an early Mauser proof.



This particular rework has a sear safety. Reworks also appear with the magazine safety or with parts of one. On the front grip strap appears L.L. 147 probably a group or police number.

How many of these Mausers were made is as yet a mystery. Probably less were made than the S/42K dates. It is possible that the Mauser Banner was put on the chamber and Oberndorf 1934 on the toggles making the reworks into the Mauser Oberndorf. Some of the reworks have an M beside the proof indicating Mauser Arbeiten or Mauser reworked.



When you find a Commercial give it the once over and you may have one of these scarce reworks in your hand.

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Dear Friends, fellow Luger Collectors:

To you who have received this the first monthly issue of the Luger Journal I would like to explain some of the ideas behind this little paper.

From time to time collectors, who have received and used the Booklet of Luger Values, have suggested a need for a medium where, in a small private group, Luger Collectors might offer to buy and sell their prizes, and without the rest of the gun world looking over their shoulders.

This paper is published because I believe a need for such a thing does exist and that there should also be a place where collectors of Lugers may share their views and knowledge. Your help can make it truly effective.

To my knowledge none other has ever attempted such a venture. Naturally, there being only a small group of Luger collectors, the financial reward can only be slight. If you have Lugers for sale, or if you wish to buy a specific Luger, list them in the Luger Journal. It is my hope that the Journal will reach most of the 450 collectors who are Luger enthusiasts, establishing a ready market for the Luger pistol.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Marvin  
The Luger Journal  
19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Fla.

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1. KRIEGHOFF S DATE EARLY ALMOST MINT, 95% FINISH SOME OUTSIDE BLUE WEAR, INSIDE MINT. CORRECT MARKS, ALL MATCHING EXCEPT CLIP. LOOKS LIKE JONES PAGE 222.
  2. ERFURT DEATHS HEAD DATED 1917. 95% ORIGINAL FINISH ALL MATCHING EXCEPT CLIP. HAS THE RC PROOF, UNDER THE CROWN, INDICATING ARSENAL WORK. (ED. NOTE: A VERY RARE AND INTERESTING GUN)
  3. MAUSER BANNER 2 DIGIT DATE, DATED 42 ALL MATCHING, NEAR MINT. EAGLE WITH N PROOFS ON LEFT OF RECEIVER AND FRONT SIGHT ONLY.
  4. SIMPSON AND SUHL 1923 TOGGLE MARKED SIMPSON AND SUHL. SHOWS HOLSTER WEAR, 75% ORIGINAL FINISH. TOGGLE AND RECEIVER AREA EXCELLENT TO MINT REST OF GUN VERY GOOD. ALL MATCHING AND CORRECT PROOFS.
  5. 1914 DWM ARTILLERY EXCELLENT TO MINT, 98% ORIGINAL FINISH. ALL MATCHING, BORE EXCELLENT, CLIP NOT MATCHING.
  6. 1914 NAVAL VERY GOOD ORIGINAL FINISH. RECEIVER RING AND REAR OF BARREL HAS FEW MINOR PITS. TOGGLE AND REAR AREA OF RECEIVER EXCELLENT. BORE PERFECT.  
  
AVAILABLE FROM ED WEITZMAN, 103 ROANOKE ROAD, CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY. ED. WILL TRADE FOR LUGER CARBINE, NAVALS OR OTHER LUGERS. LET HIM KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE.
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7. 1914 DWM ARTILLERY IN GOOD TO VERY GOOD CONDITION. HAS ENGLISH PROOF MARKS WITH CORRECT ARTILLERY PROOFS. \$110.  
AVAILABLE FROM STEVE STIVERS, 4300A CONWAY ROAD, ORLANDO, FLORIDA.
  8. 1906 9mm AM. EAGLE 98% ORIGINAL BLUE, ALL MATCHING INCL. CLIP \$250.
  9. 1908 NAVAL LUGER 95% ORIGINAL BLUE, ALL MATCHING EXCEPT CLIP BUT WHICH IS CORRECT NAVAL TYPE. \$325. INCLUDING EXTRA SET OF GRIPS.  
  
AVAILABLE FROM R.A. WASHBURN, ROUTE 1, BOX 1067, SPANAWAY, WASHINGTON.
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10. KU BYF DATED 41 GOOD TO VERY GOOD WITH FEW MINOR PITTING ON RIGHT SIDE OF FRAME AND BARREL. SOME BLUE WEAR OTHER PLACES. BORE IS BRIGHT AND SHARP. CLIP IS MIS-MATCHED AND BROKEN. MAKE OFFER.  
  
AVAILABLE FROM ED'S BARGIN SPOT, 1722 PIKE AVENUE, N. LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
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11. CASED MINT BORCHARDT WITH ALL ACCESSORIES EXCEPT LEATHER HOLSTER. HAS STOCK, 4 MATCHING CLIPS, DUMMY CLIP, SCREWDRIVER, CHEEK PIECE, ALL EXCELLENT TO MINT EXCEPT CASE WHICH IS VERY GOOD. \$900.
  12. 1923 STOEGERS 8" AMERICAN EAGLE, EXCELLENT TO MINT. MAY HAVE HAD AN EARLY REBLUE JOB. NO RAMP SIGHT BUT HAS REAR BLOCK ON BARREL. INTERESTING. \$500.
  13. MINT JAP 42 TOGGLE DATED 1940 JUST LIKE JONES. PERFECT ALL THE WAY NEW. PERFECTLY CORRECT. \$750.00  
  
AVAILABLE FROM R.B. MARVIN, 19251 GULFSTREAM ROAD, MIAMI 57, FLA.  
NOTE: THESE ARE NOT MY OWN GUNS, HAVE THEM FOR ANOTHER COLLECTOR WHO IS OUT OF TOWN.
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14. MAUSER 42 TOGGLE TWO DIGIT DATE DATED 41 WORN FINISH AND GRIPS BUT STILL THE RARE TWO DIGIT DATE MODEL. CLIP IS HARD TO REMOVE BUT BARREL IS GOOD AND SHOTS FINE. A GOOD RARE SHOOTER AT \$65.
  15. ERFURT DOUBLE DATE 1920 OVER 1917 WELL WORN BUT ALL MATCHING AS IS THE ABOVE LUGER AND THIS ONE HAS MATCHING CLIP AS WELL. BORE IS FAIR. AN OLD LUGER WITH LOTS OF HISTORY WRITTEN ALL OVER IT. \$60.  
  
AVAILABLE FROM ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULFSTREAM ROAD, MIAMI 57, FLA.
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