

The Luger Journal

APRIL 1966

NUMBER ELEVEN

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION : \$4.00 YEARLY

ADVERTISING : EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY ADVERTISE ONE LUGER PER MONTH FREE OF CHARGE. ADDITIONAL LUGERS 50¢.

THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULFSTREAM ROAD, MIAMI, FLORIDA. 33157 ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED.

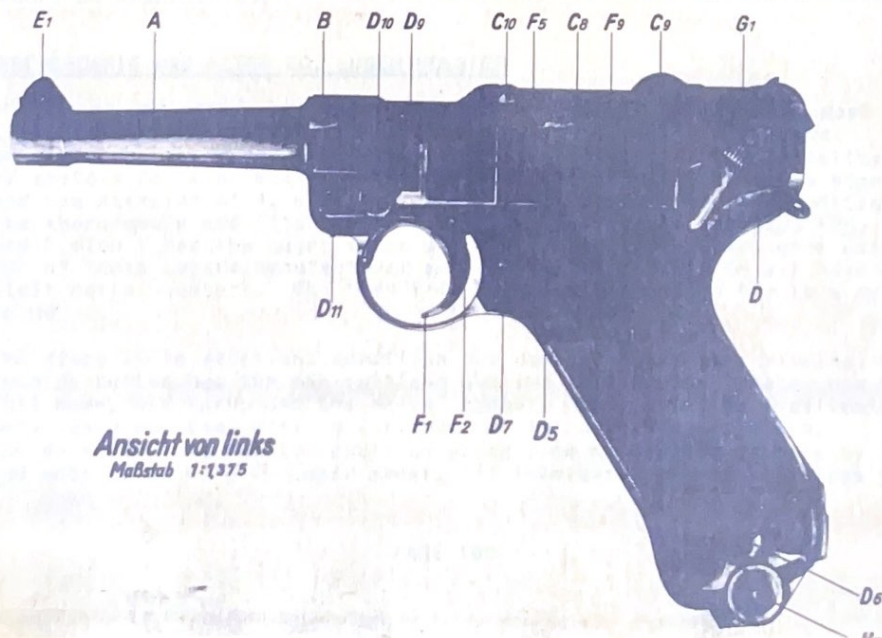
TEST LUGERS

Generally all gun manufacturers of note have followed strict testing procedures as part of their development and manufacturing process. Lugers, very highly developed weapons, are not exceptions and the various Luger manufacturers all produced pilot models, parts, and test pieces to determine the quality and weaknesses of their products. Mauser, a huge manufacturing complex right up to 1945, was particularly known for the quality of its weapons and while the Luger pistol had been manufactured for some 30 years by the time Mauser started its production, the Oberndorf firm was not satisfied to accept fully the experience of DWM and the other Luger producers.

During the course of their Luger production test pieces were made by Mauser for various purposes, to test barrels, extractors, ejectors, magazines, pressures, new safeties etc. etc., and testing was mostly by means of self destruction. Test pieces were worked until they were destroyed or ruined beyond further use and were then discarded. As a result few test pieces survived and those that have are desirable and valuable collectors items.

In most cases test pieces were not finished weapons, except as to bearing surfaces, and if blued at all were blued only to prevent rust. Parts were usually loose shop pick-ups rejected for surfaces blemishes or other minor defects. Also these Lugers were usually assembled without sights and grips and other non-essential parts.

Whether or not these used Lugers were "acquired" by shop personnel after testing is a matter of conjecture, but certainly their presence in the hands of collectors is not proof that they were sold by the factories.



TEST LUGERS CONTINUED

The illustration on page one of this issue is a reduced Mauser wall drawing printed in 1940 and used in the factory and distributed to the military forces.

Mauser Luger test pieces, not intended for sale were marked with a particular identifying mark intended to alert officials and prospective purchasers that the piece was not a finished product ready for use, but a test weapon and as such not guaranteed by the factory as safe for use.

Üb LUGERS

Mauser test Lugers were marked Üb to indicate ÜBUNG or TEST piece. Several variations are known and all are unusual.

VARIATION NUMBER 1: This variation has a removable set screw on the top of the toggle approximately 5/16" in diameter to measure breech pressure. The barrel is 4" long and is in 9m/m. The barrel vent is approximately 1" forward of the chamber. The barrel and remainder of the gun is rough finished with mill and file marks visible. This test piece is blued all over including the small parts which are shop pick-ups. The serial number, in the 11,000 range, is hand stamped with Mauser dies, the toggle is S/42. The safety well is marked GESICHERT, the hold open is stamped 42 (a Mauser replacement part). The early type magazine is unmarked and the gun has no grips. General condition of the piece is NRA very good or better, the bore is excellent.

The gun has no proofs of any kind.

VARIATION NUMBER 2: Another variation, similar to the above, has a large capital "A" on the barrel where the removable set screw appears on gun number one. The toggle is also S/42 and the small parts are also shop pick-ups.

VARIATION NUMBER 3: This variation has the Üb on the chamber and is numbered in the 12,000 range. In addition to the Üb stamp the chamber is dated 1939 and a large "A" appears on the barrel in front of the chamber. The left grip is marked Üb and also has a large "A" burnt into the grip with red paint in the letters and a painted Üb at the top of the grip. This Luger also was found with an ERMA 22 unit in it.

IF LUGER JOURNAL READERS KNOW OF ADDITIONAL LUGERS SO MARKED PLEASE ADVISE. ALSO THE LUGER JOURNAL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW OF ANY STRANGE LUGER PARTS OR ACCESSORIES.

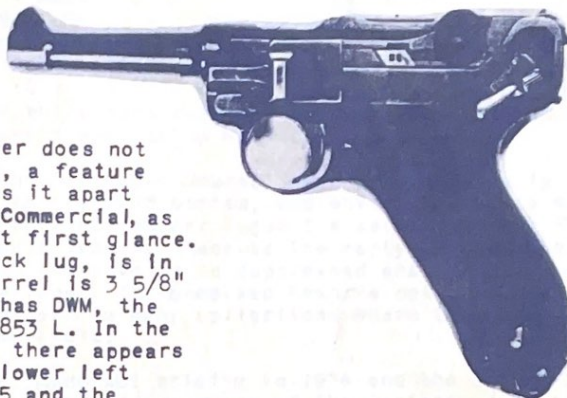
ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH CO. LUGER HOLSTER

Few Luger collectors are interested only in the Luger Pistole, most Luger collectors are interested in and acquire, when and wherever possible, holsters and other Luger accessories. While the mortality of pistols is relatively low the mortality of holsters is quite high and few examples of A. & F. holsters are to be found in any condition. The Abercrombie and Fitch holster in my collection is numbered 435, and I wish I had the Luger to go with it. Supposedly there were only 100 of these Lugers manufactured and they were reported to all have 4 digit serial numbers. Why then this holster is numbered 435 is a mystery to me.

The piece is in excellent condition but has the lower snap missing. The outside button has the A&F initials and the back of the holster has the full name, New York, and the serial number. The leather is excellent, very heavy and semi-soft in the shape of the old model holsters. Incidentally this holster could be pried from my collection only by trade and only to an A. & F. Luger owner. If interested let me hear from you.

UNUSUAL VARIATION

The following description is of an extremely interesting variation not previously known to the author. If you have information about this Luger, or wish to speculate on its origin, send what ever you have to the Luger Journal. Any information will be appreciated.



Note that this Luger does not have the stock lug, a feature that first set this it apart from being a 1920 Commercial, as it appears to be at first glance. It never had a stock lug, is in 7.65m/m and the barrel is 3 5/8" long. The toggle has DWM, the serial number is 9853 L. In the middle of the well there appears a small a, to the lower left corner there is a 5 and the lower right corner appears to have part of an O. There is an addition-mark to the right of the small a but it is indistinguishable but might be a small 3 laying face down. (The marks are not similar to any 1920 commercial or military that I have seen). The entire gun is numbered in the military system, front of the frame, top of the safety lever, on the holdopen, which has been added and has a small Crown proof mark on the lever and the outside of the frame where the pin was placed, on the grips, trigger, sear bar safety latch, on the sear itself, which has not been cut and is full length, on the rear of the toggle and underneath the toggle, also on the stop lug on the bottom of the receiver and on the bottom of the stop bolt, on the bottom of the barrel and the SIDE of the side plate, on the forward toggle left side but not on the magazine which is an early model with plain unmarked aluminum bottom. On the bottom of the barrel is "Made in Germany".

The most interesting part of this Luger, however, are the proof marks which are small Crowned N proofs that do not stand up right but lie on their sides like the early Commercials. The proofs are smaller in size than these early commercials however. The proofs appear on the bottom of the barrel, low on the left receiver and on the left side rail, on the front toggle top left side and no where else. These proofs and their location is identical to some Krieghoffs I have seen, though the Krieghoffs were marked with their own name.

The condition of the piece is near mint, a most interesting Luger. The Luger Journal will report in a later edition the comments of the readers, and if any other collectors have similar Lugers please let us hear from you, too.

NOTE

PROOF MARKS ARE BADLY NEEDED FOR CONTINUED LUGER JOURNAL RESEARCH ESPECIALLY LUGERS OF THE WORLD WAR ONE AND POST WORLD WAR ONE ERA. PLEASE COPY YOUR COMMON AND UNUSUAL PROOFS AND FORWARD TO THE LUGER JOURNAL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THEM ILLUSTRATED IN THE JOURNAL PLEASE ADVISE. IN TIME, AND WITH CONTINUING RESEARCH, THE FULL PROOF MARK STORY MAY BE TOLD. AT PRESENT THERE ARE STILL MANY GAPS LEFT TO BE FILLED.

G DATE LUGERS

IN 1935 Mauser was in full production of the respected and ageless Luger Pistole. For over 20 years the standard side arm of the German army the new Mauser Luger was now being produced in quantity for the ever expanding Third Reich. The G Date, the code symbol for the year 1935, was the first Mauser Luger made in full production for an entire year. Prior to 1935 DWM Lugers were assembled, rejuvenated, and reworked by Mauser and some were partially or fully manufactured by the Oberndorf firm. Those latter manufactured Lugers had no name on the toggle area until 1934 when the K date (the symbol for 1934) was introduced. The G Date while more common than the K Date is not as frequently found as the more common dated Mausers.


Previous editions of the Luger Journal have discussed early Nazi Lugers, those made prior to the S/42 series, and while the K Date was commonly considered the earliest Mauser Luger the earlier Mauser Reworks are the first of the Nazi issues. Because the early reworks are not well known to collectors their value is suppressed and the K Dates are generally higher priced. The unmarked Reworks being the sleepers in many gun shops and even in many collections where they are considered unmarked 1920 Commercials.

The S/42 K Date was made but briefly in 1934 and the S/42 G Date followed in 1935. Few collectors are aware of the variations of the G Date however, briefly there are 3 major and 2 minor variations.



MAJOR ONE: S/42 Toggle (SCRIPTIC) with S190 and S191 proofs.

These are really carry overs from the K Dates and most have K Date markings in the well area.

TWO: S/42 Toggle (NORMAL) with S190 and S191 proofs.

THREE: S/42 Toggle (NORMAL) with Eagle proofs.  ₆₃

MINOR ONE: G Date with EV
GW3 proof, usually with SCRIPTIC. S/42
All proofs are K Date.

TWO: G Date with W154 and S192 proofs. These are late G Dates and some carry  proof.
On G Dates with W/154 proofs  this proof also appears on the barrel.

The great variety of markings on G Dates is the cause of much speculation amongst collectors who generally agree that the G Dates are an extremely interesting Mauser variation. One thing about the G Dates is certain and that is they are among the finest of the Mauser Lugers. They were produced in 1935, when the Nazi influence was almost at its peak and German arms production was at its finest quality. The finish of the G Dates is a beautiful deep rich blue much like the quality of the early commercials.



THE CLEARING HOUSE OF LUGER INFORMATION

ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED VICKERS LUGER in good or better condition. Please describe fully and state price. Harold H. Hassler, 1020 N. Maple, Cookeville, Tenn.

WANTED LUGERS FOR PARTS: Need Swiss 23-29 and Bern. I.J. Rath, 1102 Wyoming Street, St. Louis, Mo., 63118

WANTED Numbers 2 and 4 of the Luger Journal. Paul W. Schulz, Mare Terr., Portsmouth, Rhode Island. 02871

FOR SALE EARLY REWORK LUGER no date, no name, 9m/m, 4" barrel, Exc.+. All numbers match incl. the clip. Course-checked grips un-numbered, L.A.I. 14. on forward strap. Has sear safety and had a mag. safety that has been removed. #2896u, clip #2896-2 \$235.00. George W. Davis, Jr., FG3071587, Box C 7715, Lowry AFB, Colorado, 80230

FOR SALE 1920 CARBINE #130, 30 cal., squeeze safety, matching small parts, fine bore, good wood, 98% blue. Rarer than the 1902 Carbine. \$625.00;
KRIEGHOFF DATED 1936 #4932, All matching incl. magazine, extra fine grips, fine bore, 94% blue, Mech. ex., rich straw color. Collection quality \$250.;
1917 ARTILLERY 9mm, 8" barrel, fine tune rear sights, all matching serials, bright bore 92% blue, good straw, with ORIGINAL HOLSTER \$165.;
1929 SWISS #51608 near mint in and out, all matching, has the brown grips and original magazine, \$300.
 COMPLETE LIST 20¢. Ralph E. Shattuck, 6661 Castle Drive, Birmingham, Mich.

1934 MAUSER GNR FOR SALE 7.65mm, Banner model, all matching incl. clip, 99% original blue #2224v \$200.;
1900 AMERICAN EAGLE 7.65mm, all matching numbers, 80% original blue, serial number 10415 \$150.;
1906 Swiss Police 7.65mm, Swiss Cross in matted Shield, all matching nos., including clip, 100% original finish #9732 \$325., with original holster.
1923 SAFE AND LOADED 7.65 mm, DWM, plain chamber, all match. nos., 85% original blue, serial no. 90656 \$185.
1906 COMMERCIAL "FRANCAISE d'ARMES & CYCLES de SAINT-ETIENNE" from chamber to front sight. 7.65mm, DWM, all match. nos. 75% original blue, one of two imported. Serial #58414. \$450.
1935 MAUSER G DATE 9mm, all matching nos. 90% original blue, serial no. 6580g. \$110. Michael Reese, 2123 Coliseum St., New Orleans, La.

WANTED POST WORLD WAR ONE AND NAZI ERA LUGERS FOR RESEARCH including Carbines, Ku, byf's, 42, Banners, Krieghoffs, etc., in very good or better condition. Also holsters and other accessories including conversion kits and any unusual Luger items. Top prices paid or will trade. Advise condition, full description and price in your first letter. Also need literature, articles and photos of Lugers. Robert B. Marvin, % The Luger Journal, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Florida

ADVERTISEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE LUGER JOURNAL. SEND YOUR FREE AD IN TODAY. HUNDREDS OF READERS ARE WAITING TO BUY. ONE AD FREE TO EACH SUBSCRIBER, ADDITIONAL LUGERS 50¢.

The Luger Journal accepts no responsibility for the advertisements entered within but suggests when you buy deal with the reliable and give and expect a money back guarantee. Also send statement as required by State and Federal laws.