

# The Luger Journal

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WITH THIS ISSUE THE LUGER JOURNAL IS ONE YEAR OLD AND ON ITS ANNIVERSARY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN RESPONSE TO MANY REQUESTS A LIMITED NUMBER OF ALL PAST ISSUES WILL BE PRINTED. IN ADDITION A COMPLETE SET OF THE FIRST YEAR WILL BE OFFERED IN A FOLDER TYPE BINDER. FOR COMPLETE DETAILS SEE PAGE TWO.

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PAST ISSUES: PAST ISSUES MAY BE ORDERED, AS LONG AS THE SUPPLY LASTS,  
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FILLED IN THAT ORDER. HOWEVER PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR PRINT-  
ING, ASSEMBLING AND MAILING. THANK YOU.

KRIEGHOFF LUGERS: (EARLY MODELS)

Krieghoff, a comparatively small firm in the 1920's, was even then known for its quality weapons, especially shotguns. Hermann Goering a devoted hunter was particularly fond of the Krieghoff weapons and for this reason tried to help Krieghoff in the 30's by arranging governmental purchase of Krieghoff items. Some people, collectors, historians and the like, have speculated that Goering was financially involved with the Krieghoff firm either directly or indirectly. I happen to doubt this for many reasons. Krieghoff was in excellent financial condition, so I am told, and actually did not benefit from any of the government orders that it received. In fact the Luger orders that Krieghoff was given proved to me a tremendous burden for the firm and apparently came as a complete shock. At any rate Krieghoff was a popular favorite with Goering who very well may have felt that his Luftwaffe MUST have special Lugers and that only Krieghoff could do the job.

Krieghoff Lugers do not start with the Luftwaffe, however, the Krieghoff story rightfully starts in the very early 1920's, about 1923. During the 1920's the effects of the war were still felt in Germany, raw materials were scarce, though the German manufacturing machine was pretty well intact, and Krieghoff like many other manufacturers in Germany had the plant but little materials from which products could be made. The Krieghoff firm was in a dangerous position and turned to remanufacturing as a temporary measure much the same as did DWM. By 1923 DWM was, however, preparing to completely manufacture Lugers from raw materials having subsisted on the 1920 models since the close of the war. (WW1) Thus the Krieghoff effort was relatively short lived and few early Krieghoff Lugers were produced, or remanufactured, at this time.

The very earliest Krieghoff Lugers have no Krieghoff identification EXCEPT for the proof marks and their location. These earliest Krieghoff Lugers have the DWM toggle but have a SMALLER Crown over N proof that lies on its side on the left receiver and the left side rail. (The proofs are quite close together.) A similar proof is on the left side of the front toggle. (The author described one version of this Krieghoff in the April Luger Journal. Correspondence received seems to confirm that this Luger is definitely an early Krieghoff.)

Better known early Krieghoffs are the models with the "KRIEGHOFF SUHL" lettering on various places such as the rear section, side rails etc. These Lugers should be examined very carefully and if a high price is involved get a guarantee (money back) and the opinion of an expert before you buy. These Lugers can be and are being faked. In the last analysis the proof marks on the unmarked Krieghoffs are the positive means of their identification.

The early Krieghoffs are definitely commercial models and were not, in this writers opinion, intended for any military purposes but rather for foreign markets, the U.S. etc. Just how many of these were produced and sold is a matter of question and as records do not seem to be available little additional information can be expected in this regard.

KRIEGHOFF LUGERS (EARLY MODELS) CONTINUED :NUMBER 3662

Number 3662 is an extremely interesting Luger variation. The chamber is dated 1920, the right receiver has the correct 1920 military proofs (three eagles) and the toggle is DWM. On the left receiver and left side rail are the horizontal Crown N Proofs and they are also on the left front toggle. These are not the Commercial or DWM Military proofs that sometimes appear with the 1920 Militaries.

So at this point we have a 1920 Military with Krieghoff early proofs.

The entire gun is numbered in the military fashion. Two digits appear on the side plate, front toggle, rear toggle and behind the rear sight. The full serial number appears on the left receiver to the rear of the horizontal proof, on the bottom of the barrel (also on the barrel is the measurement mark 884) and on the front of the frame. Two digits also appear on both grips, the trigger, locking bolt, rear toggle pin, sear, and the left side of the toggle where it is hidden under the frame. All parts match incidentally. Also on the left side of the front toggle is a 1920 Military proof, the same as is on the right side of the receiver.

The next very unusual feature is the barrel.

As indicated above the barrel is matching numbered. On the bottom are the following marks:

The first is a SIMSON PROOF:

THE SERIAL NUMBER :

THE BARREL MEASUREMENT :



: 3662

8.84

Just what the two under the SIMSON proof stands for is a mystery to me as I have never seen this particular number on a SIMSON proof previously.

To add to the confusion, on the top of the barrel to the left side are 2 additional SIMSON proofs the first with the usual 33 proof but the other has "363" clearly stamped under the Simson eagle. I have never before seen this mark either.

So at this point we have a 1920 Military with Krieghoff proofs and a Simson reworked barrel. (Just when this all happened I can't begin to guess. The story is not all told however)

Inside the grips are the correct last two digits of the serial numbers. The left grip bears a large L, for left, and a strange Crown proof that is impossible to make out clearly. The right grip, however, has a Mauser proof over "154" and above that an S/42.

It would seem that "everyone" had a hand in this Luger and the history might be something like this.

1. Started out as a 1920 Military (Dated 1920 then).
2. Reworked by Simson when the barrel was changed.
3. Claimed by Krieghoff in the late 1920's when it was reproofed.
4. Reissued as a Mauser Rework in the very early 1930's.

However your guess is as good as mine and I would be most interested in any speculation from the readers on this very proofed Luger.

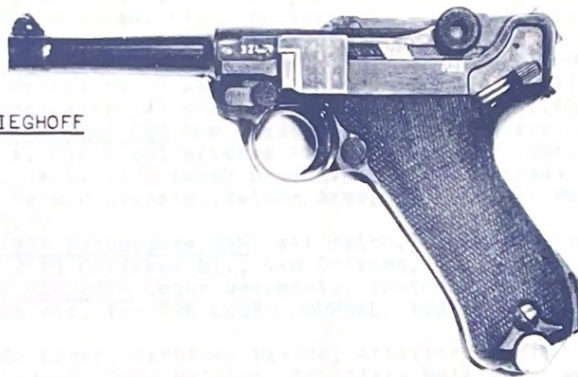
In closing the firing pin is fluted and numbered 62, the magazine is not matching but is of WW2 vintage, and the general overall condition ex+.

NOTE: The fluted firing pin is commonly thought to have originated in the 1930's indicating that the gun was being worked on at least at that point.

KRIEGHOFFS CONTINUED

Ku KRIEGHOFF

On the preceding pages some of the early Krieghoffs have been discussed, and incidentally it is hoped that the Journal will receive sufficient additional information in the near future from its readers that a more complete story can be told. The Ku Krieghoff is NOT an early Krieghoff and is discussed here only to illustrate that Krieghoff was still trying to fill the Luftwaffe orders as late as 1941. The Ku is, of course, a very interesting, unusual and until recently unknown variation. They are scarce, usually one of the last Krieghoffs to be added to a collection, and they are expensive and getting more so. (I have seen few Ku's sold where the owner knew what they were that brought less than \$400.)



THE Ku KRIEGHOFF

Ku 3227

Briefly the Ku Lugers were the end result of Krieghoffs attempt to fill the orders for the much needed Luftwaffe Lugers. It is easy to suppose all kinds of things but most likely Krieghoff got the Luger order in the first place because of Goering political pull, whether Krieghoff wanted the order or not. Goering could very easily have insisted that his Luftwaffe must have Krieghoff Lugers, that none other would do for his pilots, and that when the Lugers were just not there he was unable at that time to secure them elsewhere.

This Ku was a 42 toggle (MAUSER) dated 41, a fairly rare military Mauser these days. It has some Mauser numbers and some Krieghoff, though they are all matching as to digits but not as to style. The Ku appears before the serial number on the left receiver and this serial number is larger than the Mauser numbering. The larger Krieghoff numbers also appear on the front of the frame, the side plate and directly behind the toggle code "42". The smaller Mauser numbers appear on the sear, the extractor, the locking bolt and on the trigger. The large numbers also appear on the grips, all four digits. The barrel has no serial numbers but does have a tiny 42 on the bottom.

Krieghoff proofs appear on the right receiver, the left side of the barrel along with a Mauser military proof, and on the left side of the front toggle.

The finish is a combination of both manufacturers. The Krieghoff portion is minutely scarred from the Krieghoff finishing process and the Mauser portion shows the rough machine lines on the chamber area, side plate etc. Generally the finish of the gun is much smoother than a 41 date Mauser and shows much more careful fitting and finishing. The grips are near perfect and show careful fitting. The magazine is a mismatch.

The Luger Journal would like to bring more of the Krieghoff story in future issues and is especially interested in hearing from Krieghoff owners and those with Ku variations.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED: Simson parts, Eagle over 6 proofs, side plate with o2 serial number, take down lever, same barrel, same or all with any serial. D.W. Cain, RT#1, McCook, Nebraska.

WANTED: Luger Journal #1 to 7, Fritz, 1806 Grand Council, Bluffs, Iowa, 5150

FOR SALE 1902 Eagle Luger, \$175., Not perfect mechanically, looks Ok, All nos. match. SN 22760. The gun was reblued a long time ago, but the job was done carefully, and the corners were not appreciably rounded. The Eagle marking was worn down somewhat, but is still clearly visible. Satisfaction guaranteed. Jeff Caves, 3945 15th Ave., S., Seattle, Wash., 98108.

FOR SALE Mauser Banner, chamber date 1939, 9mm, black plastic grips, all original and all matching, all parts numbered including barrel. Mag. does not match, excellent cond., inside and out, satisfaction guaranteed, \$125., Send stamp for list, C.W. Foote, 1140 Violet Dr., Birmingham, Ala., NOTE: MR. FOOTE HAS A NICE LIST, SEVERAL ARTILLERIES ETC.

WANTED: Who will put me in touch with an A.F. Stoeger-marked Luger pistol Carbine? I have the ultra-rare, all leather case for it, properly marked and in excellent condition, to accommodate both pistol and stock. Thomas F. Smith, 307 Crest Drive, Homewood, Ala., 35209

FOR SALE 1900 American Eagle, old time reblue all numbers matching, bore poor, gun mechanically ex., "flaming bomb" (??) on clip and well. \$140., Raymond Henry, #4 King Drive, Rolla, Missouri, 65401.

FOR SALE DWM 1920/1920 9mm, restamped serial numbers, matching, DWM and Nazi proofs. Early but altered firing pin. Blue 75%, very interesting variation. Cert. bank check or money order., Express collect. 3 day inspection, Return prepaid., Watson Arms, 21215 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park, Ohio Price \$125.00

FOR SALE 1934 Portuguese GNR, all match., 99% original blue, #2224v \$200.; M. Reese, 2123 Coliseum St., New Orleans, La.

WANTED FOR RESEARCH Luger documents, photos, information, pictures of proof marks etc. for THE LUGER JOURNAL, 19251 Gulfstream Rd., Miami Fla., 33157.

WANTED 1902 Luger, Carbine, Navies, Artilleries, 1900 Commercial, all Nazi era Lugers, Navy Holster, Artillery Holster, Conversion kits, original Swiss magazine with inserts, Krieghoff dated 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945. Shoulder holster for Luger with straps if possible, and any other Lugers or Luger items. R.B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami, Florida, 33157.

WANTED EX OR BETTER 1900 Commercial, will buy outright or trade other Lugers for this item. Charles Kenyon, 1549 Alaska Rd., Woodbridge, Va.

FOR SALE 1936 S/42 #7404m, last to have white receiver inside rails (starting with N series 1936 receivers were all blue) 99% original finish, nice orig. grips and straw colors, excellent bore, light freckling of finish but no pits, all matching except mag., \$90. B. Lafferty, Box 934, Pittsfield, Mass., 01201.

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