

The Luger Journal

JUNE 1966

NUMBER THIRTEEN

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION : YEARLY \$4.00,

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

ADS INCLUDE DESCRIPTION, PRICE AND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. AN AD MAY BE FOR A LUGER FOR SALE, TRADE, OR WANTED OR A LUGER ACCESSORY ITEM.

THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULF-STREAM ROAD, MIAMI 57, FLORIDA. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED.

KRIEGHOFF LUGERS (CONTINUED)

Last month's issue of the LUGER JOURNAL discussed early Krieghoff Lugers. This month the Journal will continue with early Krieghoffs, and also discuss the early military models.

Most of the early Krieghoff Lugers were commercial models and were not military versions. While generally Krieghoff is remembered most for his military Lugers, those delivered to the Luftwaffe, his early commercial models are collectors pieces of the first order. Some of these early Krieghoffs are difficult to distinguish, however, as many were not marked Krieghoff in any way. They do have, though, certain peculiarities common to Krieghoffs such as the location of the "early" Krieghoff proofs, and their finishes etc. Recognized authorities do not completely agree on identifying these variations and many unmarked Krieghoffs are in all probability as yet undiscovered as a result. Most Luger authorities do agree however, that there are several variations of Krieghoffs that do not bear the Krieghoff name or symbol and that some Lugers that do bear Krieghoff inscriptions are only fakes.

Issue number eleven described "AN UNUSUAL VARIATION" that is, in this writers opinion, an early commercial Krieghoff. Note JONES PAGE 230 for an illustration, faintly visible, of the early Krieghoff proofs that appear on the left chamber and left side rail of the early Krieghoff commercial. These proofs lie on their side and are not vertical as found on the DWM Lugers of the same period.

Issue number twelve described another Krieghoff variation, Luger #3662, and this one also does not bear any Krieghoff inscription but does have the same early Krieghoff proofs on the left side rail and chamber. (The proof on both of these Lugers also appears on the left front toggle) On this particular Luger there are many other markings indicating heavy handling by a multitude of firms and they are remnants of this particular Lugers heavy use. If this Luger could tell its story it would be interesting indeed.

KRIEGHOFF MILITARY LUGERS

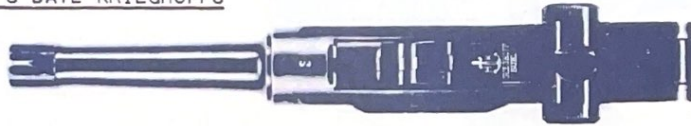
Though the Luger Journal has speculated on the causes of Krieghoff's part in Luger production, as has almost every Luger collector and enthusiast, and while as yet no one has an authoritative answer, it is never-the-less a most interesting area of conjecture. Consider the following several thoughts:

1. Mauser, a huge manufacturing organization, took over the responsibility of Luger production in the early 1930's and by the time of the first military Krieghoff Mauser was already in full Luger production.
2. The German Government was by 1935 pushing its suppliers as hard as possible for munitions.
3. Krieghoff was not a major military arms producer while Mauser was the very largest.

4. It was certainly obvious to the German General Staff that to have Krieghoff furnish Lugers was a delay in the manufacturing process as Krieghoff had first to purchase Lugers from Mauser in the early stage of their production. It would have been faster, easier and probably cheaper to buy Lugers for the Luftwaffe directly from Mauser and not involve Krieghoff at all.

Why then was Krieghoff involved in Luger production? I can see only one possible answer—Hermann Goering, the darling of the Luftwaffe and a Hitler favorite, the Field Marshal who got everything he wanted, and who egotistically did not want common, run of the mill Lugers for his flyers. Thus the Krieghoff became the Luftwaffe side arm and a most interesting addition to the Luger story.

THE S DATE KRIEGHOFFS



Military Krieghoffs are numbered consecutively from the test pieces for the Luftwaffe through the close of production in 1945 or 1946. This does not mean that stray pieces are not to be found with markings and numbers of one variation appearing in the serial number range of another variation. Such pieces are found occasionally.

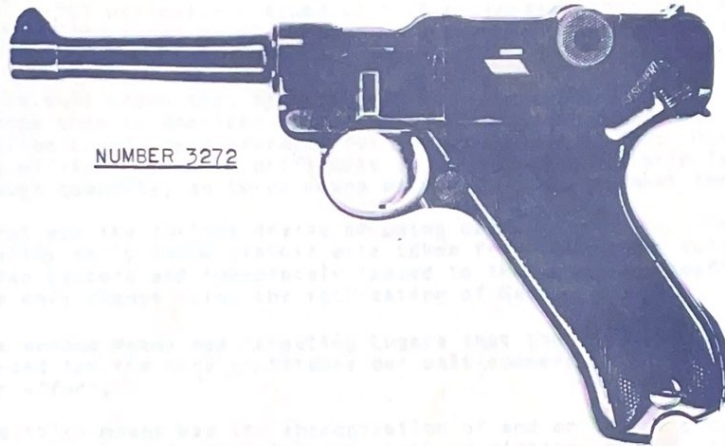
The S dates were the first of the production military Krieghoffs and were made in the year 1935. (The S code representing the year 1935.) Some 3700+ were made of which most were S date early models identified by the toggle that bears only the Krieghoff anchor symbol and SUHL. The name Krieghoff does not appear on the S date early models. The S date late models bear the Krieghoff name and have the beautiful fine checkered plastic grips. The early S dates may have either the plastic or wooden grips. Both of these S dates are very popular with collectors and while not the rarest of Lugers they do command a good price. The going price for an S date is in the neighborhood of \$250 to \$300 for a near mint one, the later models commanding slightly higher prices than the early ones.

S DATE LATE NUMBER 3273

Number 3273, in the authors collection, is a near mint Krieghoff. This fine example of the Krieghoff art is equipped with the fine checkered grips that bear the manufacturers number and insignia. The blue of the S Dates are beautiful. The finish is a deep blue-black unlike the Mauser finishes of the same era. Comparing the finish of the Krieghoff with a G Date Mauser for example, the G Date is a lighter blue similar to the fine rust finishes of the DWM models. While the G Dates in my collection have very little tool marks the Krieghoff has considerable, and the Mauser shows more attention to its finishing than does the Krieghoff of the same year. The Mauser, on the other hand, shows little circular tool marks on the safety lever area, right and left side, while the Krieghoff has most of these "MAUSER TOOL MARKS" removed with its minute pitting type of finish. The side rails and side plate on the Krieghoff are smooth from a buffing but the barrel shows very tiny lathe lines while the G date barrel is smooth. If the Krieghoff is supposed to be superior to the Mausers I can't see the improvement, and challenge the Krieghoff Lugers to equal the Mausers of the same year.

S DATE LATE NUMBER 3273 (CONTINUED)

While certainly the measure of any Luger is not in its finish I doubt that the Krieghoff is any better a weapon than the Mauser. After all Krieghoff started with Mauser parts so their Lugers cannot have any better steel than the Mauser and it is unlikely that Krieghoffs have any closer tolerances than the Mausers. There is not question, however, that the S Date Krieghoff in question is a lot more valuable than the G Date that I have compared it to.



NUMBER 3272

The Krieghoff system of proofing is much like the Erfurts of WW1 fame as most every part has the Krieghoff parts proof. The Krieghoff proofs are found on the right chamber area, on the barrel immediately in front of the side chamber area and on the bottom of the barrel, and everywhere else. The serial number is on the left chamber side, the front of the frame (all without a letter) inside the side plate, on the trigger etc. The clip on this piece is not matching.

SERIAL NUMBERS

Previous studies of the Krieghoff Lugers indicated the serial number range of these S Dates to be from 2800 to 3600. I have seen an S Date late with a serial number of 4200, well into the range of the '36 models. The LUGER JOURNAL would be most interested in learning of the range of serial numbers of KRIEGHOFFS owned by readers of the LJ.

MILITARIZED COMMERCIALS : BY RAY TAYLOR

A militarized commercial is a pistol pressed into military service due to an immediate need or general shortage. They form a very interesting field for the Luger collector, and they should not be neglected.

This article is concerned primarily with Lugers but brief mention should be made of other pistols that were used by the military services, especially by the Nazis after 1940. These pistols include those that were intended for commercial or police use but which were needed for military service. These include the fine J.P. Sauer, the Walther PP and PPK, and Dreyse, Mausers and many other variations. Small pistols were very popular with German officers, and they felt a large pistol was unbecoming. Perhaps the reader has noticed that he has never seen a picture of a WW1 officer of Captains rank or higher armed with an Artillery Luger. (Editors note: The Luger Journal does not fully agree with Mr. Taylors observation though it acknowledges that higher ranking officers preferred the smaller arms.)

MILITARIZED COMMERCIALS (CONTINUED)

Mauser 1910's were very popular for use as a side arm, while higher ranking officers permitted themselves the dangerous luxury of 6.35mm, or 25 cal. arms. Few, if any, high ranking German officers carried Lugers. This author has yet to see a photo of a German officer of, say, Majors rank carrying a P-38 or Luger. I have a neighbor who was born in Germany and he has given me much insight to the dress and arms used by the German military. In his words "A long barreled pistol was the badge of an enlisted man". But obviously a squad or section leader, usually armed with a Schmeisser MP 40, needed more than a ladies garter gun for use on the front lines. These are the men who carried Lugers.

It is well known that pistols were more liberally issued to German troops than to American GI's. It is also known that about 2.4 million Lugers were procured for use by German troops. Obviously the military had some difficulty in obtaining pistols in large enough quantity, so three means were used to supplement the supply.

First was the obvious devise of using captured pistols. The fine quality early RADOM pistols were taken from the famous Polish Upland Lancers and immediately issued to the German Luftwaffe, the only change being the fabricating of German holsters.

The second means was rerouting Lugers that the manufacturer intended for the more profitable per unit commercial market, to the war effort.

The third means was the appropriation of and or use of older commercial models that had once been in civilian hands. It is well known that Lugers had long been popular commercially in Austria, for example, and when the Nazi regime took over Austria they simply confiscated the Lugers of the people thus eliminating any possibility of a rebellion. (Austria had strict firearms laws and the Nazis had but to use the registers to locate the peoples weapons.)

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH. Mr. Taylor will discuss the models that are the commercial-militaries.

NOTES ON COLLECTING

The LUGER JOURNAL receives considerable correspondence from new collectors who wish advice for the collecting of Lugers. The advice generally given is to learn as much about Lugers as possible as ignorance is only the cause of costly and painful purchases.

In these days of deliberate tampering with Lugers the safe buy is the common or widely known type of variation and not the Luger that does not fit any of the known patterns. Stick to the Lugers that you know are correct and avoid the Luger that could be a combination of several types. As an example I have seen a Navy that was made into a SWISS NAVY by adding a Navy toggle to a Swiss frame. This made an interesting looking 7.65 mm Navy. Some time later I saw the same gun and it was now a 9mm Swiss Navy. Obviously the high price of Lugers prompts these tamperings. After all there are expensive enough types of Lugers to put ones money into and these are variations that will increase in value and give the avid collector much personal satisfaction. As your knowledge increases you will be more able to judge for yourself if an unusual Luger is correct. More on this later.

THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULF-STREAM ROAD, MIAMI, FLORIDA AND ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. MATERIAL MAY NOT BE COPIED, QUOTED OR REPRINTED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.

ADVERTISEMENTS

NEEDED SIDEPLATE MARKED 07 in the military style. Have a sideplate to sell or trade from a S/42 K date numbered S/42. Leonard Hunter RD#6, Meadville, Pa.

FOR SALE 1908 COMMERCIAL 9mm, no hold open, Ex. cond., 95% blue nice grips \$200. 1917 NAVY Ex.+ dated 1917. Mint bore 97% finish \$285. 1908 COMMERCIAL 9mm, BUG proofs, SN 43000, near mint cond. 97% blue \$265. Ed. Weitzman, 144 N. Broadway, Camden, N.J. Will trade for unusual 1920 commercials.

FOR SALE 1908 FIRST ISSUE #993, no small letter, never milled for a holdopen. 90% blue, \$150 cash or trade. all matching. 1937 COMMERCIAL PROOFED MAUSER BANNER #6004v, 85% blue, all match. Trade offers.

M-1938 DOUBLE ACTION CZECH ARMY .380, unfired mint presentation model. Complete with near mint original presentation case. (Presented to G.L. Richon) \$125. cash. Ray Taylor, 722 E. Grayson St., San Antonio, Tex.

FOR SALE 1914 DWM MILITARY date 1918 #4730d, all original except # of holdopen & clip. NRA VG+, \$75. Fritz, 1806 Grand Council Bluffs, Iowa.

FOR SALE 1934 MAUSER DUTCH chamber safety marked RUST smooth grips, nickel plated all matching incl. mag. rare. \$250.00 C.W.FOOTE, 1140 Violet Drive, Birmingham, Ala.

FOR SALE 1902 CARBINE 1st issue #24341, wood ex. 93% blue, all match incl. mag., has match. stock mech. like new. \$850. 1936 KRIEGHOFF #5911 deep rich blue 98%, mint grips, ex. straw color, matching, near mint. \$285.

KRIEGHOFF EARLY S CODE #581 all match. incl mag., ex. bore, 95-97% blue fat wood grips \$300. 1916 ERFURT SHOOTER #4379a all match. not

collection quality \$55. R.E. Shattuck, 6661 Castle Drive, Birmingham, Michigan. 48010. (ED. NOTE: RALPH HAS AN EXCELLENT LIST FOR 20¢ THAT SHOULD BE READ BY ALL LUGER COLLECTORS)

WANTED NAZI ERA LUGERS common and the unusual. Need byf in mint or near mint, Nazi Lugers with M proofs, engraving, barrel marks that are unusual, front grip straps with markings, Nazi Navy Lugers, Holsters and other accessories. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami, Florida, 33157.

INFORMATION NEEDED BY THE LUGER JOURNAL on the ANSCHUTZ Luger. Write The Luger Journal Please.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

ENTIRE FIRST YEARS LUGER JOURNAL	\$5.00
SINGLE ISSUES PER ISSUE	.50
THE BOOKLET OF LUGER VALUES (INCLUDING DEALER PRICES)	1.50
THE BOOKLET OF LUGER PROOFMARKS (VOLUME ONE)	1.50
THE BOOKLET OF LUGER COLLECTORS (VOLUME ONE)	1.00
NAZI RELICS (ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION)	4.00

ORDER FROM THE LUGER JOURNAL. (POST PAID)