

The Luger Journal

SEPTEMBER 1966

NUMBER SIXTEEN

NOTE
CHANGES
IN
RATES

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION : YEARLY \$5.00

ADVERTISING : EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY HAVE 20 WORDS FREE PER MONTH. ADDITIONAL WORDS 2¢ 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.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The questionnaires sent to subscribers of THE LUGER JOURNAL have started to come back and with them a pattern is beginning to develop as to the interests of the readers in general. More will be reported on this in later issues. If you haven't returned your questionnaire and plan to do so an early reply will be appreciated. At this point it does appear, however, that a substantial portion of readers are interested in more basic information on Lugers and articles on Luger Collecting such as that which appeared in the July issue. Many subscribers also asked questions about THE LUGER JOURNAL from a publishing standpoint and while no-one was actually critical of the publishing irregularity many politely suggested that a more dependable publishing schedule would be appreciated. Also there were many fine suggestions such as that from one reader suggesting a question and answer section.

Interestingly many subscribers reported bad dealings and freely listed the names of collectors and shops who have made misrepresentations. In several cases more than one subscriber reported the same name. THE LUGER JOURNAL guarantees to protect those who furnish names and incidences involving fraud or misrepresentations. It is considering in the future a service whereby a purchaser may send a name to THE LUGER JOURNAL, enclosing a return envelope, in which a simple statement will be returned such as GOOD REPORTS, BAD REPORTS, NO REPORTS. The person's name about whom the report is made will not be used in the reporting statement and the contributor will in every case be protected. The reason for this action is that far too many collectors have complained about bad dealings involving even some of the better known collectors causing many collectors to regard even the most honest collector or dealer with scepticism. THE LUGER JOURNAL would like to help limit the success of the crooks and aid those with reputations for fair dealings. At this point such a service is only under consideration but if you have first hand knowledge, good or bad, feel free to share it with THE LUGER JOURNAL, and if in the future such a service is possible you will have helped make the collecting of Lugers a safer avocation.

At this point in my report to the subscribers I would like to give a little personal information on the JOURNAL, some of its problems but mostly its reason for existing. I am first and foremost a Luger collector. I am not in any sense of the word a dealer. I do not even have an FFL number and sell only a few spare or duplicate pieces mostly through trades. I earn my living by assisting hospitals in financial evaluations of their private and charity patient programs and in these days with the recent advent of MEDICARE I have been plenty busy. My income is in direct proportion to the amount of time I can spend in my work and as I have married family responsibilities I can not suffer my profession for the sake of my hobby. The only reason I even mention this is that I want the readers to know why the JOURNAL is published on a rather flexible schedule.

Without exception, almost, the subscribers and readers of THE LUGER JOURNAL are an understanding bunch and bear with me, and for that they have my deepest appreciation.

The business of producing this paper involves a constant searching for information, new whenever possible; for information to correct mistaken ideas and to further explore that which is already known. Letters go all over this Country and to many overseas, especially Germany and Switzerland. Information when received is checked and cross referenced in my files (without a doubt the best and most extensive Luger files in existence so I am told) and further letters are sent to follow up each and every lead as best possible.

From the assortment of information at hand, much of it only partially complete, articles are written with as much care as time permits, usually straight off on the typewriter as this one is without any outline or preliminary sketch, or from notes. When completed the total issue is prepared for printing, plates are made for the photos, paste-ups applied, corrections made etc., and the thing is on the press. Next comes the assembling, stapling and addressing with monthly corrections for changed addresses. The issue is then stamped, folded, stapled and postage applied. Then off to the mails.

In addition to the actual publication of the JOURNAL, and the research letters, THE LUGER JOURNAL receives several HUNDRED letters per week requesting information. As much as is possible every letter receives an answer. Then there are the new subscribers who must receive an initial copy, be recorded on the roles, have a master card printed, an address plate made and usually a letter answered. The existing subscribers must receive a reminder when their subscription expires and ads must be written for the various publications in which the LUGER JOURNAL advertises. Also the time must be spent to research, write and have printed the various other publications that I have written and have hopes to write. All this and more is done after hours and on days off that include teaching and preparing a high school Sunday school class and being an active President in a major civic organization plus various club memberships etc.

Now if you should wonder why I do all this the only real reason is a dedication to the Luger Pistole and to those who collect them. Financially there is very little reward, and because the income received is so slight in terms of time spent and in hours lost from my own livelihood it has been necessary to raise the subscription rates from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per year. In response to many requests free advertising will return, 20 FREE words per month, additional words 2¢ each. The new subscription rate will be effective November 15, 1966, for new and renewal subscribers. Subscribers who renew before 11/15/66 may renew at the old rate. The advertising change is effective immediately. Also it will be appreciated if letters that ask for information include a stamped, addressed envelope.

So my friends, fellow Luger collectors and enthusiasts, this is the LUGER JOURNAL today, not a professional publication by any stretch of the imagination but only a purest publication dedicated to and supported only by Luger collectors. I hope you will agree that in this age of vast commercialism and corrupt literary license THE LUGER JOURNAL is worthy of your continued support.

Robert B. Marvin
THE LUGER JOURNAL

THE LUGER PISTOLE IN WORLD WAR ONE

By 1914 the Luger had achieved a significant degree of prominence in German Military circles. Accepted by the German Army in 1908 the Luger was a major product of Germany's great economic development under "THE NEW EMPIRE". (1871 to 1914)

From 1871 German industrial capitalism proceeded with such rapidity that in many areas it exceeded even Great Britain where the Industrial Revolution had begun some time earlier. During this time Germany's population increased from 41 million to 68 million assisting the Industrial Revolution and prompting a territorial expansion.

The annexation of ALSACE-LORRAINE provided great new iron-ore deposits needed for the ever increasing demands of German industrial growth, an industrialization financed by estate taxes and by "defence contributions" from the whole of Germany. Thus the ancient and divided German States were united by a dynamic industrial and armament program. During this time German coal and steel production increased from that of a 2nd rate nation to rival even that of England's and because the production increased after the beginning of the industrial revolution many advanced production methods were employed making these German industries the most modern in the world.

A distinctive feature of Germany's industrial development was the growth of Cartels (Federations of Businesses) and the close relationship between industry and banking. Through the system of Cartels companies formed together to control prices, amount of production etc., and because industry was so dependent upon coal and steel a few Cartels became the great leaders and core of German industrialization and national philosophy. While in England such "Restraint of Trade Agreements" were not enforceable and in The United States anti-trust laws were passed, in Germany these monopolistic combines received full legal protection.

During this period of time Germany pursued a Foreign Policy of isolation creating an increasing dependence on Austria. Relations with England worsened as Germany's Navy, under Tirpitz, rivaled England's. In 1911, with Europe on the verge of war, Germany elected to increase her Naval strength planning a fleet of 41 battleships. Lugers in large quantities were ordered for both the Army and the Navy with the German Navy particularly interested in its own version of Georg Luger's pistol, The Parabellum, in a 6" barrel type. Incidentally these Navy models are amongst the most popular of all Lugers and are the most valuable of the so called "common" military Lugers.



FIRST WORLD WAR NAVY LUGER #7856

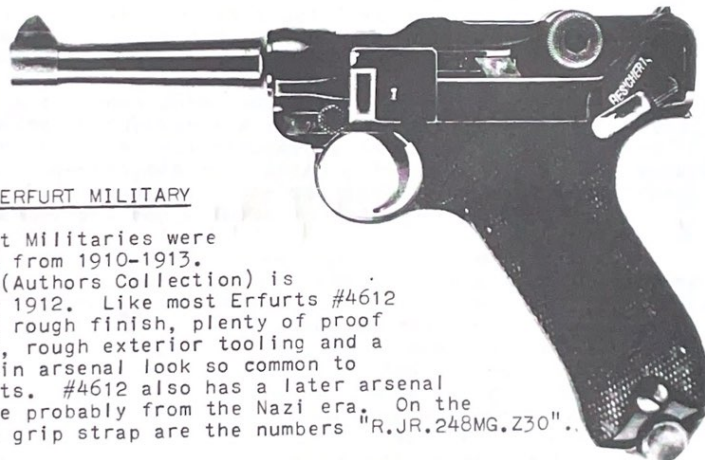
In the period just prior to 1914 German armament increased at a furious rate committing a substantial portion of her gross national product for war materials. The Luger pistole was an important part of German preparation and from the early NAVIES to the MILITARIZED COMMERCIALS of 1908 through the WORLD WAR ONE models the Luger assumed, and assumed with honor and dignity, the position of Germany's "STANDARD" in sidearm weapons.

(For a good selection of WW1 and other era Lugers write for Ralph E. Shattuck's list 20¢ per list, 1/2yr.\$1.00.,6661 Castle Drive,Birmingham, Michigan., 48010)

WORLD WAR ONE LUGERS

The following is a list of the basic types of Lugers that saw regular service in World War One. It does not include Lugers that were not issued but were privately owned and brought from home, usually by non-coms, and officers.

1. 1904 Naval (These are very scarce-few were made)
2. 1906 Naval First Issue
3. 1906 Naval Second Issue
4. 1908 Naval
5. 1908 Militarized Commercials (SEE LUGER JOURNAL JUNE AND JULY 1966)
6. 1908 Military First Issue
7. 1908 Military Second Issue
8. 1908 Military Third Issue
9. 1908 Erfurt Military (Dated 1910-1913)
10. 1914 DWM Military (Dated 1914-1918)
11. 1914 DWM Military 8" Artillery Model (Dated 1914-1918)
12. 1914 DWM NAVAL (DATED 1914-1918)
13. 1914 Erfurt Military (DATED 1914-1918)
14. 1914 Erfurt Military 8" Artillery Model (Dated 1914-1918)
15. 1918 Spandau (Spandau Arsenal pieces-partially remanufactured with some Spandau parts from DWM Lugers)

1908 ERFURT MILITARY

Erfurt Militaries were dated from 1910-1913. #4612 (Authors Collection) is dated 1912. Like most Erfurts #4612 has a rough finish, plenty of proof marks, rough exterior tooling and a certain arsenal look so common to Erfurts. #4612 also has a later arsenal reblue probably from the Nazi era. On the front grip strap are the numbers "R.JR.248MG.Z30".

THE COLLECTING OF WORLD WAR ONE LUGERS

For some time THE LUGER JOURNAL has supported the collecting of Lugers by period types. Certainly World War One Lugers offer the most fertile area for the less advanced collectors; those limited by finances or the scarcity of Lugers in their area; and those collectors especially interested in the historical era of the First World War.

The prices of World War One Lugers are particularly stable and because they are the most common the cost is quite reasonable. Fine examples in excellent, near mint and mint condition are highly desirable and sought by Luger Collectors in general. Such examples make good trading pieces as well. Naturally it follows that the more common an item is the more important the condition becomes. With World War One Lugers, especially the 4" barrel variations, condition is of prime importance. (Prices vary considerably.) The common, average, 4" WW 1 Luger in very good condition (some blue wear here and there, some darkness in the barrel, most of the straw color etc.) should bring in most retail areas \$70 to \$80. The near mint pieces (near perfect grips, a bright shiny bore, 98% of its original blue etc.) will bring a price of \$95. to \$125. (without much haggling at that price.) With this price variance in mind the purchaser should evaluate carefully the total condition of the piece considering that the better condition the Luger is in the more his investment is protected.