

# The Luger Journal

PAGE ONE

NUMBER NINETEEN

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION : YEARLY \$5.00

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

## SIMSON AND Co. LUGERS

Last month's LUGER JOURNAL featured the background and historical development of the INTERLUDE YEARS and how it affected Luger production.

It was brought out, for those that may not have read last month's issue, that Germany was under strict treaty restrictions, and had Allied inspectors in Germany to enforce the Versailles treaty requirements.

Germany at the time, limited to a 100,000 man "Army", felt a need for additional troops especially as Poland was at that time a powerful neighbor and Germany feared her borders were not secure. In secret she elected to establish a supplemental army of some 20,000 plus troops. It is THE LUGER JOURNAL'S OPINION that because the existing arms factories, especially DWM as concerns Lugers, had inspectors on their premises insuring that a controlled amount of Lugers were available, and because additional Lugers were needed for the SECRET ARMY, a contract was given to SIMSON for Lugers. Further THE LUGER JOURNAL holds the opinion that SIMSON made small amounts of COMMERCIAL pieces as a front concealing the real purpose of her activity, the bulk of her Lugers going to THE SECRET ARMY.

Very little of SIMSON is known and previous information stating that SIMSON Lugers were for the LEGAL 100,000 man army was only based upon supposition and not official records. Rather than accept mere here-say THE LUGER JOURNAL believes it more reasonable to assume that DWM Lugers, available at the end of WW1 and in production shortly after the war as 1920 MILITARIES, 1920 POLICE, DOUBLE DATES etc., were used for the basic 100,000 man force, and that SIMSON Lugers available about 5 years after the war could only have been for the purpose of arming the additional forces.

Naturally this is only our opinion but THE LUGER JOURNAL does not mind being controversial if it serves to explore some of the mysteries surrounding the LUGER PISTOLE.

## SIMSON LUGER #4597

This Luger is typical of SIMSON production and represents the type of SIMSON that is most frequently seen. The SIMSON described in last month's issue was unusual and seldom seen and was one of the variations of commercial pieces made by SIMSON.

SIMSON #4597 is proofed in the military manner, has the fat grip frequently seen on SIMSON Lugers, is undated as are most SIMSONS. This Luger has a sear safety, part of the magazine safety but like most Lugers with magazine safeties it does not have the trigger connector piece.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SIMSON LUGERS AND THIS TYPE ESPECIALLY PLEASE REFER TO ISSUE NUMBER EIGHT OF THE LUGER JOURNAL. NOTE THAT THE OPINION OF THE LUGER JOURNAL REGARDING THE USE OF SIMSON LUGERS FOR THE SECRET ARMY IS A RECENT ONE AND WAS NOT HELD IN THE PRIOR ISSUE. THE INCORRECT SPELLING OF SIMSON IN THE EARLIER ISSUE WAS A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR CAUSED BY MY TYPIST WHO BELIEVED AT THE TIME THAT SIMSON WAS AN "ENGLISH" FIRM. (A LA SIMPSON)



SIMSON #7798

The next SIMSON in THE LUGER JOURNAL collection is an exceptionally interesting one. It is definitely a military variation and has a full history dating from the earliest to the latest.

LONG FRAME SIMSON (DATED 1918)

Two different frame styles were used in Luger production. The first was the long frame series (just slightly longer than the short frame) and the standard most frequently seen version, known as the short frame.

All the 1900 series and the 1902 CARBINE have the long frame. The 1902 9mm however, has the short frame. Some of the later Lugers also had the long frame including the 7.65mm 1906 Eagle, the 1906 Swiss, all in 7.65mm, the 1906 Naval in 9mm, the 1906 commercial in 7.65mm and a few others.

The interesting part of this story is that SIMSON #7798 has the long frame indicating that it was made (after WW1) from one of the older Lugers.

The FRAME is cut for a grip safety but the grip safety was removed, evidently by SIMSON, when the piece was changed to a conventional safety. This LONG FRAME HAS A STOCK LUG which means it probably started out as a 1904 NAVAL or a 1906 NAVAL, as the 1904 and 1906 NAVALS had stock lugs, the long frame and grips safeties.

There are no proof marks on the frame itself and the finish is of commercial quality with no tool marks in evidence. The blue is the durable early DWM finish. There is a serial number on the front of the frame that is an important part of this story-more on that later.

PROOF MARKS

As indicated above there are no proof marks on the frame itself but there are ERFURT proofs on the trigger (right side) and on the right side of the magazine release. On the toggle there is a mixture of ERFURT and SIMSON proofs plus the last two digits of the serial number on each part. The serial numbers are in two sizes and all numbers are matching.

At this point it is obvious that this SIMSON was made from WW1 ERFURT parts and an early NAVY. The toggle is typical SIMSON, has rough tool marks, and the usual SIMSON finish.

The next step in the analysis of this Luger is, I think, the most interesting. The barrel is numbered to the gun but does not have any SIMSON proofs but DOES have a small S/42, a MAUSER BANNER proof and a barrel measurement (ALL ON THE BOTTOM) and on the upper left hand side of the barrel is an EAGLE 63 proof (NAZI ERA). The grips have SIMSON and S/42 PROOFS along with ERFURT PROOFING. The barrel is the only NEW addition to the gun and was added by the NAZIS.

SERIAL NUMBERS

As indicated earlier there are several types of serial numbers on this Luger and each applied independently of the previous numbers. The toggle assembly bears ERFURT and SIMSON numbers (all 98) the side plate, locking lug etc. all numbered 98 in the SIMSON fashion. The LEFT HAND SIDE of the receiver bears the much larger MAUSER full serial number as does the FRONT OF THE FRAME. The numbers are the same style and size of the type that was used by MAUSER on the Ku Lugers.

SIMSON # 7798 (CONTINUED)

The history of this Luger then runs the full range of the Luger era—from the earlier DWM series including World War One production and into the Post WW1 period. At this point the piece is not unusual for a military SIMSON. Most early SIMSONS (the dates were not removed on the first SIMSONS) used whatever parts were available including a mixture—as this one has. BUT ALL PARTS MUST MATCH IN SERIAL NUMBERS AND ALL PARTS MUST BE PROOFED CORRECTLY as this Luger is. Obviously this SIMSON continued in use into the Nazi era and was rebarreled and reissued sometime around 1935 (as per the proofing). I would not say that this is a MAUSER REWORK, however, as the identity of the SIMSON was retained and the only major MAUSER repair was the addition of the MAUSER barrel which is, incidentally, of commercial quality, and the addition of the MAUSER serial numbers on the receiver and frame.

OTHER SIMSON LUGERS

There are several other SIMSONS in THE LUGER JOURNAL collection including several variations of REWORKS and several variations of Lugers where the SIMSON parts proof was applied after repairs were made. Evidentially SIMSON had a contract not only for the manufacture of Lugers but for repairs as well.

If you have a SIMSON Luger that you feel is unusual please advise THE LUGER JOURNAL.

IN CONCLUSION

THE LUGER JOURNAL has long felt that the SIMSON LUGERS have not received proper attention from Luger Collectors. It is our opinion that in todays market SIMSONS are one of the few underpriced Lugers and frequently sell for prices in the same range as the far more common Artillery Lugers. We have speculated that perhaps this lack of attention was due in part to the secrecy of the period from which the SIMSON came. Certainly the fact that little detailed information is available on the SIMSON firm is a contributing factor. In preparation for this series we were unable to obtain any new information on the actual SIMSON COMPANY and if any is available we would certainly appreciate being advised.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE LUGER JOURNAL WILL FEATURE THE 1906 COMMERCIALS INCLUDING THE SELDOM SEEN 9mm COMMERCIAL.

ADVERTISEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE LUGER JOURNAL AND WILL HELP TO MAKE THIS PAPER SUCCEED. IF YOU HAVE LUGERS FOR SALE PLEASE LIST THEM IN THE LUGER JOURNAL.

WANTED 1908 MILITARY First and Second Issue models, also K Date and G Date. Please describe fully and state price in 1st letter. Will trade or buy for cash. Douglas Stake, 8137 Irvine St., North Hollywood, Calif. 91605 (1-67)

FOR SALE LUGERS WRITE FOR LIST (6 months subscription \$1.00)  
RALPH SHATTUCK, 6661 Castle Drive, Birmingham, Ala.

\*\*

ADDRESS CHANGE : PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS OF THE LUGER JOURNAL

BOX 12206  
PLANTATION  
FLORIDA

THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN AND ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED.