

The Luger Journal

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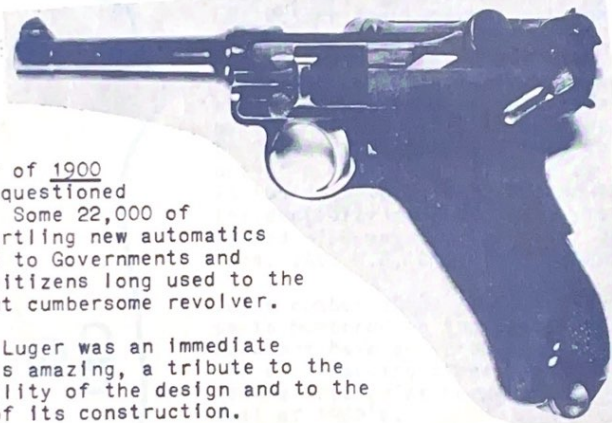
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EACH ADDITIONAL AD \$.50-AN ADVERTISEMENT INCLUDES DESCRIPTION, PRICE AND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

ALSO ACCEPTED ARE LUGERS WANTED AND LUGERS FOR TRADE.

THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULFSTREAM ROAD MIAMI 57, FLORIDA

THE 1902 LUGER



1902
9mm

The Luger of 1900 was an unquestioned success. Some 22,000 of these startling new automatics were sold to Governments and private citizens long used to the tested but cumbersome revolver.

That the Luger was an immediate success is amazing, a tribute to the acceptability of the design and to the quality of its construction.

Why then a new design in 1902 when the first model was certainly still marketable? Because in addition to a new weapon Georg Luger was also interested in a new cartridge. So the model 1902 introduced the now famous 9mm Luger cartridge, perhaps the most famous of all automatic ammunition.

Less than 1,000 of these Lugers were made including commercials and American Eagles (Lugers marked for sale to this Country). They are not considered to have been successful due to the small number manufactured, however many collectors believe the pistole was essentially a test series prior to the introduction of the 1904 model aimed at interesting the German Government in the Luger. Nevertheless the series 1902 is one of the rarest of all production Lugers and one of the most interesting.

SERIAL NUMBERS

1902 Lugers are numbered from 22,401 to 23,400 according to the best information available. Later in this issue a little known fact will be discussed that 1902 Lugers WERE sold to the United States Government.

This as yet unpublished information is a Luger Journal scoop as well as part of the serial number range of the much argued 1900 American Eagles, and the serial numbers of the U.S. 1902's.

1902 PROOF MARKS



In addition a barrel proof was sometimes used, and is very similar to the receiver proof as shown with the cross pointing forward and with either a "B", "U", or "G" under the crown.

1902 LUGER NUMBER 22884 (TELESCOPING HOLSTER MODEL)

The Luger described here is living proof that fine collectors pieces are still available and are still found in the most unexpected places. This variation was purchased from an elderly gentlemen who had had the piece almost from new and who was able to supply me with extremely interesting and pertinent facts after I had ALREADY obtained the Luger.

Luger #22884 is exceptional in that it is in new condition, all bright and shiny blue with a stainless barrel and is equipped with metal backed grips obviously of prototype design. An outline of the actual left grip is shown. Note the interesting adjustment lever to the right of the lower screw. From what I have been able to uncover this was a feature that was not incorporated in later production models. The grips are smooth, as are later production models; and incidentally for you interested collectors the Luger is all complete as issued.



The owner recently advised me that the gun was purchased after it was offered for sale by the US Govt., a fact supposedly supplied by Captain Curtis, and that this piece was one of a lot being released by the Government including several 1902's, and 1900's. Incidentally none of these pistols were marked with any bomb or other US ordinance markings. (SEE U.S. ORDINANCE LUGERS)

Luger number 22884 is fully serialized with parts numbered in the commercial manner but does not have any proof anywhere on the gun. The only marking other than the serial numbers is the triangular marking that appears in the well of 1902's.

The clip is unnumbered but bears the early 1900 proof that is frequently mistaken for an ordinance proof.

The full story of this Luger may never be known but the best guess is that it was prepared to present the holster-stock feature to the U.S. Government at a time when this Country was still considering additional purchases of the Luger in the much more powerful 9mm.

#22884 American Eagle

NOTE: Of the approximately 1,000 1902 Lugers manufactured about 700 were American Eagle models, the remainder were commercials intended for sale inside Germany.

While it has always been assumed that Switzerland was the first Country to accept the Luger there is recent information that may support our Countries claim to this distinction. This may be the reason for the larger portion of the 1902 series being marked with the American Eagle on the chamber.

COLLECTOR OF THE MONTH

R.J. De BURGH , 110 W. HIGHLAND DRIVE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98119

Ray De Burgh is an outstanding Luger collector and has one of the largest collections in this Country. His Lugers number over 120 and include such rare pieces as BULGARIAN, 1923 NAVAL COMMERCIAL, KREIGHOFF-TURKISH, NAZI NAVAL K DATE, CONSECUTIVE NUMBERED 1902 CARTRIDGE COUNTERS, 1902 CARBINE AND many many others.

Ray is interested in any unusual Luger, has been collecting for 10 years, and will correspond with any collector interested in Lugers and 9mm Military automatics.

Ray is a real decent fellow and is humble to the point that even the most basic collector will find a friendly ear.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST IN LUGERS PLEASE DO SO SOON-IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR NAME LISTED UNDER "COLLECTOR OF THE MONTH". EVEN THE MOST BASIC COLLECTOR IS WELCOME.

UNITED STATES ORDNANCE LUGERS

An earlier issue of the Luger Journal illustrated the correct U.S. Ordnance bomb marking that sometimes appeared on U.S. Ordnance Lugers .

Some readers have written and asked whether the bomb marking appeared on all U.S. Ordnance Lugers , and whether any Lugers not so marked can definitely be eliminated as being Ordnance models.

The answer is not so definite for it is known that many Lugers were marked with the "bomb" proof while others were not. One advisor to the Journal suggests that the Ordnance proof was applied to Lugers while in a Government Armory for repairs-to distinguish Lugers acquired by the Government from regular issue weapons.

However whether or not this was true it is definitely known that all of the 1,000 original Lugers ordered by the U.S. Government were not so marked. MOST OF THE ORIGINAL 1,000 PIECES PROBABLY DO NOT HAVE THE BOMB.

SERIAL NUMBERS:

All of the questions concerning the serial number range of the 1900 Ordnance Lugers are not yet answered, however:

THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THESE PIECES IN ALL PROBABILITY RANGE FROM 6100 TO 7100 PLUS OR MINUS A FEW NUMBERS AT EITHER END. THE FOLLOWING LUGERS HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN LOCATED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES:

IN 7.65mm

6167	6601
6196	6602
6282	6885
6361	7018
6541	

1900 U.S. ORDNANCE LUGERS

IN ADDITION: Several Lugers in 9mm have also been located in the National Records. All indications are that in 1904 the Ordnance Dept. traded even with the New York Luger Agent 50 1900 7.65 Lugers for 50 1902 9mm Lugers. All 50 9mm Lugers were Cartridge Counter Models.

THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THESE PIECES ARE:

IN 9mm

22414
22425
22433

(THE OTHER 50 NUMBERS HAVE NOT YET KNOWN)

COMMERCIAL SECTION

DWM 1900 COMMERCIAL checkered safety original excellent #4485. Few spots left side but a choice piece. Marked Germany. Trade for CETME or G-3 rifle.

DWM 1917 4" 9mm blue good, marked "S.D. IV" and serial, for Eichmann's Special Final Solution office of the Sicherheits Dienst; with letter of opinion from former Afrika Korps subaltern, unusual piece, make trade offer; full description SAE please. William B. Edwards, Gold Rush Gun Shop, 1757 Stockton St., San Francisco Calif. 94133.

LUGER 1920 COMMERCIAL 95% blue, perfect bore and good trigger pull, 7.63 (Note must be in error and in 7.65 cal.) mm. Excellent condition. \$85.00. V.K. Chun, 2417 34 St., Santa Monica, Calif.

WANTED: KREIGHOFF, VICKERS DUTCH, AND NAZI LUGERS. Please give price and details first letter. All letters will be answered. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Florida.

WANTED JAP. LUGER. Must be correct and with original finish. Also interested in all Lugers or what have you. Jimmie Brown, 11630 SW 62nd Ave., Miami, Florida

WANTED LUGERS. Send price and description to Eric Powers, 520 SW 72nd Court, Miami, Florida. NOTE: I am also interested in Wings of the world, and will trade.

FOR SALE: 1906 SWISS POLICE excellent+, mint bore. #10156 \$250.00., Model 1914 Artillery Dated 1917, DWM #1213d matching except mag., fine tune sights front and rear. 98% blue & straw, bore near mint. English proofs, with excellent holster, original tool and cleaning rod both are proofed. \$175.00., Double date 1920/1918 DWM #9579k, Matching except mag., with sear safety and magazine safety with trigger and mag. extension cut off. 99% blue & straw, grip chipped under safety lever \$85.00. Trade for contract -commercial models. Will give gun/s &/or cash. WANTED 1906 SWISS SUNBURST, 1929 Swiss, Stoeger, Port.G.N.R., others. Top cash paid by wire. Charles Kenyon, 1549 Alaska Road, Woodbridge, Va., FFL #54-2756

NOTE: IF YOU WANT LUGERS, HAVE ANY FOR SALE OR TRADE LIST THEM IN THE JOURNAL. THE LUGER JOURNAL GOES TO STRICKLY LUGER ENTHUSIASTS AND PROBABLY REACHES MORE LUGER COLLECTORS THAN ANY OTHER MEDIUM IN PRINT, AND CERTAINLY YOUR LUGERS ARE NOT LOST IN A THOUSAND DIFFERENT KINDS OF ADS.

THE LUGER JOURNAL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY KIND IN THE REPRESENTATION OR SALE OF ANY ITEMS. ENCLOSE PROPER STATEMENT WHEN YOU ORDER TO COMPLY WITH ALL EXISTING LAWS.

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COMMUNICATION SECTION

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO BRING SOMETHING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE L.J. READERS THIS IS THE PLACE. THERE IS NO CHARGE.

PROOF MARKS WANTED: I need drawings of your Luger proof marks for a new publication being prepared. Any proof marks, serial numbers or well marks are needed. Please send to Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami, 57, Florida. Many thanks.