

The Luger Journal

DECEMBER 1965

NUMBER SEVEN

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION : YEARLY \$4.00, QUARTERLY \$1.00

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.

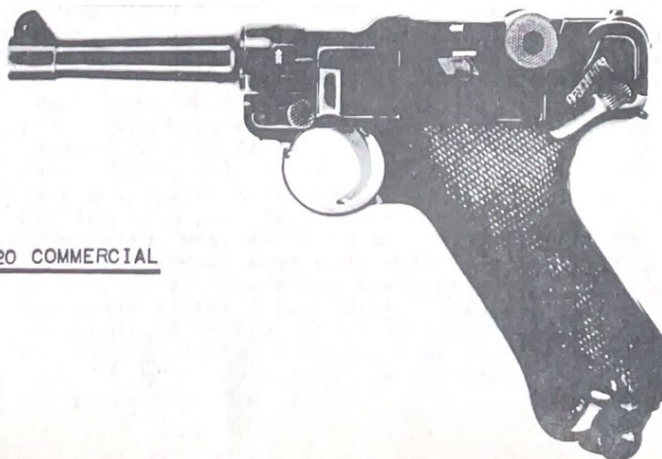
SEASONS GREETINGS: The Luger Journal wishes to extend to all its readers a wish for the best of the season and a joyous, prosperous New Year. To all who have helped the Luger Journal get started and who will help in the future many thanks. Without the continuing help of Luger enthusiasts the way ahead would be difficult indeed if not impossible.

During the past months this, perhaps insignificant, endeavor has learned many lessons the first and most important being that sincerity in purpose is deeply appreciated. The Luger Journal in its humble attempt to bring information on Lugers to collectors, with historical sidelights when possible, has gained the support of a significant portion of Luger Collectors in this Country, Canada, Mexico and others. Letters from collectors, with photographs and details on common and rare Lugers has been voluminous requiring much of the past months to answer by letter and to catalog. For this reason the Luger Journal has been published on a rather flexible basis. To those who have kindly suggested a more definite publishing date we bow to your wishes, and for our New Years resolution we will attempt to publish the Journal on the 20th of each month. Ads should be received no later than the 15th of the month for the issue in which you want them to appear.

Please note that the Journal is sent via 3rd class mail and as the Post Office assumes no responsibility for speedy delivery the length of time the Journal takes to reach you will naturally vary. Also 3rd class mail is not returned to its place of origin so we have no way of knowing if the Journal is reaching you unless you advise us.

While we are busy we want to hear from collectors and will always answer-sooner or later. We know how frustrating it is to write letters and not to receive the courtesy of a reply.

THE LUGER JOURNAL



1920 COMMERCIAL

THE 1920 COMMERCIAL LUGER

The Luger illustrated on page one of this "Journal" is one of the most common of all Lugers, and by popular choice all Lugers not otherwise listed are frequently called by this name.

After the first world war Germany, like her enemies, was trying to effect a financial rehabilitation and as the Luger Pistole had found a ready foreign market before the war it was correctly believed the market still existed after the war. Especially in America, where gun laws were not as prohibitive as in other Countries, the Luger was one of the more popular weapons. With thousands of used military weapons available as raw material, and many other thousands of un-used parts in the factories the way was reasonably clear for the production of a civilian version of the Luger.

The way was temporarily blocked, however, by the prohibitive but poorly enforced, Treaty of Versailles. Initially intended "to control German Military might forever" the Treaty imposed certain restrictions none of which had any serious affect but which required German hand guns to be of less than 9mm and of a barrel length not over 35/8".

As a result of the Treaty of Versailles the Luger of the early 1920's was produced in 7.65mm and of a barrel length of 3 5/8". The military models converted were first stripped down, the barrels were removed, and in many cases the pistols were buffed, removing the dates and surfaces scratches. The Lugers were then re-barrelled, re-numbered and re-blued. The quality of these military converts vary from excellent to average.

The new-production models were made up from new parts, assembled, and numbered in the commercial fashion. The grips of the new-production models and of the military converts are almost always new, some poorly stained and light in colour. The new models and the converts are identified most easily by identifying the converted models first. The military converted variations will have signs of spot buffing, or date removal where the chamber area is thinner than on other Lugers, (as seen from the front) military serial numbers or arsenal stamps & of course all Erfurts are military converts. All 1920 Commercial have a 4 digit or less serial number. Five digit models are 1923 commercials.

The following are some of the many variations of the 1920 series that are to be found. (Suggestion: There are so many of these variations that a collector could make an inexpensive (comparitively) collection of just 1920 Commercial.)

1. 1920 Parts Carbine
2. 1920/1914 Artillery commercial in both 7.65mm and 9mm.
3. 1920 DWM Commercial with Mauser proofs. (A later Mauser rework)
4. 1920 Unmarked "lunch box" models. Supposedly made from parts stolen by workman and smuggled home in their lunch boxes. These have no proofs usually.
5. 1920 Commercial in 9mm and with varying lengths of barrel.
6. 1920 Commercial with Krieghoff Suhl above the lanyard loop. Of course these are also considered to be a Krieghoff variation.
7. The common new-production commercial. (7.65mm and 9mm)
8. The most common military converted variation. (7.65mm and 9mm)
9. 1920 Commercial with early "thick barrel".
10. 1920 cased models with barrel lengths of up to and over 16".
11. 1920 Safe and loaded markings.
12. 1920 Carbine with auxiliary barrels.
13. 1920/1920 Dated. (Most of these were used by post WW1 police forces but there is evidence some were sold as commercial models.)
14. Many, many others. The above are some of the more interesting 1920 Commercial that I have seen. Some of those listed undoubtedly were 1st military models, then re-converted to civilian series and sold perhaps inside Germany, then in the late 30's converted back again to military models and so forth. Their history is in many instances truly fantastic.

RE THE FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS

The following is a letter received by one of the subscribers of the Luger Journal and reprinted in content for the benefit of the Luger Journal readers.

"Dear Mr.

This refers to your letter of October 7, 1965, requesting information concerning certain aspects of acquiring and possessing Luger pistols and attachable shoulder stocks.

In answer to your first supposition, if the Luger carbine was properly registered under the National Firearms Act, you could acquire other Luger pistols for resale or retention without bringing such pistols within the purview of the National Firearms Act, provided the shoulder stock was at no time associated with the other Lugers.

In answer to your second supposition, if the female attachment for the shoulder stock is not in your possession you would not have sufficient parts to assemble a "firearm" of the type subject to the National Firearms Act. Accordingly, possession of the shoulder stock without the attachment and a Luger pistol would not be in violation of the Act even though the male lug is left on the pistol.

Enclosed for your information is Publication No. 232 which contains the National Firearms Act regulations. Also enclosed are copies of Revenue Rulings 61-45, 61-203 and 54-606, which contain information on the subject matter about which you inquire.

Very truly yours,

Harold A. Serr,
Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division."

NOTE TO READERS: IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LAW LET THE LUGER JOURNAL CARRY IT FOR ALL.

COLLECTOR OF THE MONTH : DAVID E. BOOTH

David E. Booth, 14829 N. Danube Court, Phoenix, Arizona, 85023, has been collecting Lugers a little over 2 years. Dave has 30 Lugers in his collection and is especially interested in WW2 Militaries. (A field the writer is also especially interested in) and has 4 full Artillery rigs, All Swiss, 1908 Bulgarian 1920/1920 twice dated and a very interesting Mauser rework.

Dave wants to buy excellent plus to mint WW2 Militaries.

INFORMATION NEEDED ON THE FOLLOWING

1. Lugers with WaA proofs
2. WW2 Militaries
3. Simpsons, or any Luger you think might be a Simpson.
4. Krieghoffs
5. Blank toggle Lugers
6. Any Luger with S.D. Markings on the front grip strap.
7. Any Luger with S.S. Markings anywhere on the gun.

This information is for a study now underway on Nazi Lugers and that will appear in the Journal when completed. If you have any information that you think may be helpful PLEASE send it in.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE ERFURT LUGER Dated 1916. All match. except clip. Bore ex., 98% original blue, with original holster. Has extra clip(not match) and take down tool. Luger is number 1241. NRA VG+ \$90. Donald R. Squier, 423 Norton Ave., Barberton, Ohio. 44203

TRADE ON NAVAL LUGER VGto Ex a mismatched Simpson about 75% finish, rebarreled with ex. bore. Ex. mech shape, side plate matches but not original, take down bolt and trigger not matching. D.W. Cain, McCook Nebraska.

WANTED DISHED TOGGLE LUGERS cash or trade. Price and description pls., M. Pancino, 2513 Grant Ave., Apt C, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278.

FOR SALE G DATE MAUSER LUGER, Ex., all match., \$100 post pd., Ray Taylor #722 E. Grayson St., San Antonio, Texas.

WANTED SIDE PLATE complete with number 78. R.F. Kiener, 104 Brianwood Dr., West Seneca, New York. 14224

FOR SALE 1900 AM. EAGLE LUGER, 7.65mm, 4 3/4" barrel, serial no. 8424 "Germany" on frame under serial number. No finish left, no pitting, Bore poor. All numbers match. Grips replaced. First money order for \$95.00 steals it. Will clean up beautifully. Want a Simpson or 1923 Commercial 7.65mm. Need original shoulder stock and WW1 Snail Drum. G. Holcomb, 19145 Heber St., Glendora, Calif.

WANTED Ex. condition original type barrel and walnut grips for 1900 Luger. M.R. Rogers. 4026 Madrona Rd., Riverside, Calif.

OPEN FOR OFFER 1900 BULGARIAN LUGER, Nazi rework. This is one of 4 1900 Bulgarians known in this Country. Number 20057 was rebarreled in 9mm by the Nazis, the barrel number does not match, and the recoil spring was altered to the later coil type. (All arsenal rework) To make the 9mm barrel fit, the front of the receiver was ground down to accommodate the short threads of the later 9mm barrel. This is most interesting Luger, with lots of history, and bought for the purpose of describing it in the Journal. It appeared in the November issue. The receiver has the beautiful early Bulgarian Crest and the Bulgarian Safety Marks, the first safety marks to appear on any Luger. Everything matches except the barrel, and the toggle which is 059 instead of 057 undoubtedly an arsenal error. NOTE This is open for offers only. Please do not write regarding price. The pistol is valued at \$750 to \$1,000. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Florida.

DOUBLE DATE NAVY MARKED ARTILLERY For sale. In excellent condition and all matching including the clip. This Luger, a very rare Post WW1 Variation, was reissued to the Navy forces of the 20's and bears the M over Anchor over the number 1473 over N marks on the rear grip strap. Rare and seldom seen, the last Jones had was advertised for \$400, this one \$325. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Fla.

FOR SALE SIMPSON AND SUHL in mint condition and with matching numbered holster and two matching clips. Seldom seen and almost never in this condition and this complete; this is a bargain at \$300. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Fla.

NOTE: The Luger Journal and Robert B. Marvin assume no responsibility for any material advertised in the Luger Journal as to quality or accuracy of description or any other responsibility except that for items advertised under the publishers own name. All material contained within the Luger Journal is the property of the Luger Journal and may not be copied or quoted without expressed permission.