

The Luger Journal

JANUARY 1966

NUMBER EIGHT

RATES: SUBSCRIPTION \$4.00 YEAPLY

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THE LUGER JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED BY ROBERT B. MARVIN, 19251 GULFSTREAM ROAD, MIAMI 57, FLORIDA (33157)

SIMPSON & CO
SUHL

After the "Great War to end all Wars" strong restrictions were placed on German armament and the great munitions factories, very much intact after the war, were disassembled or closed by Allied peace requirements.

Under the terms of the treaty of Peace the great Luger manufacturer, the old and well known firm of DWM, was prohibited from producing Lugers in 9mm and was restricted to 7.65mm. (The actual value of this restriction is a point of debate that has continued to this day) At any rate DWM converted old war models and used new parts with 7.65mm barrels to make the Luger Variation of 1920. The 1920 was discussed in last months "Luger Journal".

The arsenal works of Erfurt ceased their Luger production at the end of hostilities and so it was DWM that carried Luger production from the end of the war until the early 1920's. In the very early 20's, probably 1922, the well known firm of SIMPSON & CO., of Suhl, Germany, was given orders to supply Lugers for the Reichwehr (German Armed Forces). The majority of these Lugers were assembled from left over World War One new and used Luger parts. Most of these Lugers have no date but close examination of the chamber area will disclose where a date was ground off and polished. Some will be seen with dates, usually 1917 and 1918, these were the earliest Simpsons produced and a later factory decision decided to up grade the look of the weapon by removing an identification of an earlier era.

SIMPSON NUMBER 548a

Luger number 548a is an exceptional example of the Simpson Luger. ALL MATCHING with TWO MATCHING MAGAZINES AND MATCHING NUMBERED HOLSTER this Luger is in as near new condition as a Luger can be.

All parts are properly proofed with the interesting Simpson proof. Typical of the best of the Simpsons Lugers #548a has the "fat" Simpson grip that varied in quality from Simpson to Simpson. In this particular Luger the grips are fine and well fitted and unusually comfortable. Only the Simpson Luger had these fat grips and to all who have tried them they are the best.



THE CLEARING HOUSE FOR LUGER INFORMATION

SIMPSON NUMBER 548a

This particular Simpson is one of the early ones and is a re-manufactured/assembled Luger. The actual history of the manufacturing of one of these Lugers is impossible to determine. All early proof marks have been removed, from the parts that were previously proofed, and the entire complete piece has been proofed with the distinctive Simpson proofs.

The chamber area is smoother than the rest of the gun, an indication that a prior date had been removed in the manufacturing process. The barrel is unquestionably a new Simpson barrel added at the time of manufacture and has no signs of any prior proofing. The barrel is excellent and has no wear inside or out. Only the blueing on the muzzle is less than new, showing flame burns on the blue that remains on the muzzle, an indication incidentally that the gun has not been fired much as the blue on the muzzle of any gun is the first to wear and disappears with only very little use.

The toggles on the Simpsons are another interesting variation from the patterns of other Lugers. Simpson toggles are perfectly flat on their sides and are not rounded as are the DWMs, the Mausers and the Krieghoffs. Because they are not rounded at the edges they appear slightly larger than other manufacturers toggles and as in the case in this particular Luger are an easy means of determining if the toggles are new or remanufactured. In the case of #548a the toggle is of Simpson manufacture and is not a surplus part.

The blue on Simpson Lugers is not up to the quality of the DWM finish, or the Mauser either for that matter. Few Simpsons are seen with a good example of the Simpson finish as they are not durable, most are worn severely especially in the wear areas. The finish is not the deep rich blue of the DWM rust method but a mass produced blue-black. The finish on #548a is the closest to a DWM finish that I have ever seen on a Simpson. Most of the Simpsons will be found with poor finishes much like the illustration in the Jones Book "Luger Variations" on page 165.

The Luger under discussion has a sear safety and part of the magazine safety. Few of the magazine safeties are found intact, and Luger #548a has the trigger connector piece missing. While these magazine safeties are of questionable value, almost all of them have been removed from the Lugers where they were installed, they never-the-less contributed much to the early success of the Walther firm, the original inventor.

The Simpson Lugers are certainly one of the more interesting of the military Lugers, and while of military designation are not nearly as common as the Mauser of WW2 or the DWM and Erfurt of WW1. While not rare they are scarce in any condition and as time passes will be more difficult to obtain and a more important contribution to any Luger collection.

SIMPSON PROOFS

{ there are usually 5 of these }
 { proofs on the right receiver, }
 { the last proof is the final }
 { proof mark. }



(parts proof)

WELL MARKINGS

While considerable research has gone into the study of the Luger Pistole, and much more will be done in the future, little has been accomplished to understand the well markings of the Luger.

As a result of the encouragement of many Luger Journal readers the "Journal" will attempt to do a study on well markings of the various Luger variations. Of course there is a pattern to such marks, but there are so many exceptions to the known or currently established rules that it is obvious there is much to be learned from such a study.

To be successful the Luger Journal will need help from its readers. What ever the variety of Lugers you have, common or rare please send simple drawings of the marks to be found in the well area, and any other markings that you think are significant. I can assure you that no one person knows all the answers and many more questions can be solved about Lugers by a group effort than ever can be solved by the individual knowledge of even the most scholarly collector. Who knows perhaps you have a rare Luger under the disguise of a common backyard variety.

When you send your proof marks please give the variation of the Luger and also the serial number as there may be a strong relationship between well marks and the serial number ranges.

SOME UNUSUAL LUGERS

A reader reports a 1906 in the 25,000 serial number range with B.U.G. proofs, AND 4 3/4" barrel and the 1900 long type frame and receiver. (#25)

Another report is on an American Eagle, 1906 variety, in the 37,000 range, with the old style frame and receiver but with a narrow trigger guard and wide trigger, AND the new type coil spring. This a 1906 in every way except for the frame. (#12)

Have details on a "G" dated Krieghoff with a very low number. (#41)

1920 Swiss with a 4 digit serial number and letter, with the Swiss sunburst and a LONG receiver, with a 6" barrel and in 30 cal., Navy sights, grip safety, etc. This Luger is reported to be the same as Jones page 110-111 (Loewe and Company) except for its having the Sunburst. (#6)

I have also received word of an S/42 Mauser dated '41 with a Ku serial number, (#44) and many Su numbered Lugers.

The Luger Journal receives approximately 50 pieces of mail weekly with information about Lugers; mail from the serious collector and from the individual with only one Luger; mail from this Country and abroad. While it is gratifying indeed to know that the Luger Journal is reaching so many people it is more rewarding indeed to know that the field of Luger collecting is growing and attracting more and more collectors. The field of Luger collecting is based upon the interest and investment of Luger enthusiasts who give their time, their money and their energy. If you can help-let the "Journal" be the medium for an exchange of your ideas and your knowledge.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WILL TRADE 1936 KRIEGHOFF ex.+, 95% or better condition for 12" 1920 Commercial. Contact Ed. Weitzman, 144 N. Broadway, Camden, N.J.

WANT 1902 CARTRIDGE COUNTER LUGER, also 1900 or 1902 Comm., & Am. Eagle Lugers. Will pay cash or trade towards fine & unusual dished toggle Lugers. State price, description and wants. M. Pancino, 2513 Grant Ave., Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278.

WANT SWISS BERN AND 23-29, also any Country marked Lugers.

Ignatius J. Rath, 1102 Wyoming St., St. Louis, Mo.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Mauser Banner "GNR" over chamber, 98% blue, orig. blue, \$200; 1900 Am. Eagle, dished toggle, Germany, Rough, 50% blue-\$150.; 1906 French Importers with "Manufacture Francaise d Armes & Cycles de Saint Etienne" on barrel. Rough, 70% blue, see Jones only 2 imported. \$450.; M-2 Port., 90% blue, Matching clip \$165.; 1917 Naval, rough \$150.; 1917 Erfurt, 90% blue \$100.; 1920 "Safe and Loaded", 80% blue, \$200.; 1917 DWM Police \$85.; 1906 Swiss Police, Mint, \$300. 100% blue.; Mauser S/42 G Date \$100. 90% blue. Michael Reese, 2123 Coliseum St., New Orleans, La.

WANTED ANY ORIGINAL DWM undated Luger. Condition must be excellent or better. Particularly 1906 Navy Comm., 1906 9mm Comm., 1906 Navy 1st Issue unaltered, 1906 Navy 2nd issue-must be mint etc., Dr. Jerome F. Walker, 8151 Forestdale Rd., Kirtland, Ohio, 44094

WANTED VERY GOOD TO EX. unusual factory Lugers, P.K. Wallace, P.O. Box 871, Tulsa, Okla. 74102

LUGERS WANTED EC. COND. OR better, Raymond E. Davis, Pinehurst, Ga.

WANTED KRIEGHOFF dated Luger, original and matching except for magazine. Lt. R.D. Whittington, USNPPEODIIS, Indian Head, Maryland. FOR SALE DWM 1900 COMMERCIAL checkered safety, original ex.#4485, few spots left side but a choice piece, marked Germany. Trade for CETME or G-3 Rifle., DWM 1917 4" barrel, 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. Wm. B. Edwards, Gold Rush Gun Shop, 1757 Stockton St., San Francisco, Calif. 94133.

WANTED CARBINE STOCK, Navy stock, snail drum magazine. Peter DeRose, 28 Prospect Ave., Northampton, Mass.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: 1900 BULGARIAN serial #20057 - an ex. very rare Luger. Only 5 known; Nazi reworked to 9mm in ex. condition with most of the original finish. Has grip safety, Bulgarian safety marks (the first ever put on a Luger) the Bulgarian crest on the chamber etc. NOTE: Bulgaria was an ally of Germany in WW2 and somehow this aged Luger that had served Bulgaria for 40 odd years served the Third Reich for several more. Make offer on this one, cash or trade.; 1920/1914 DOUBLE DATE ARTILLERY WITH NAVY MARKINGS in ex.+ cond., all matching including the clip. All artillery model Lugers are hard to find. This one is a double date AND the super rare Navy version with Navy group marks. Most of the original finish remains. \$300., Robert B. Marvin, 1925i Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Florida.

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