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EARLY NAZI LUGERS

The first issue of "THE LUGER JOURNAL" carried an article on early Nazi Lugers and introduced for the FIRST time, in print, the now widely known Nazi Reworks of the early 30's.

While only one hundred of the first issue of the Luger Journal were printed, the word circulated of these rare Nazi Lugers, and many collectors have requested additional information since then.

The Luger Journal, in June 1965, pointed out that until the "discovery" of the REWORKS it was commonly held that the "K" Date S/42 Coded Lugers were the first of the Nazi issues. These "K" Date Lugers and other Lugers by Mauser are commonly referred to as 1934 Lugers. The Nazi Reworks are Mausers, and Simpsons, of the earlier 1930's.

THE KL OR KI LUGERS

In the early 30's the young but powerful and growing SA Hitler organization purchased and issued to their police divisions Lugers with the KI and a date, usually 1933, on the chambers. These are perhaps the earliest of the Nazi Lugers, and are not in the true sense of the word, Reworks. The KI Lugers are DWM's and Erfurts that were repaired, if necessary, and issued directly to the SA. The condition of these are usually on the poor side, having seen much service, but they are a true "sleeper" and will increase in value as they become more widely known.

VERY EARLY REWORK

One of the readers has sent in a description of a very early rework. This Luger numbered in the 4,000 range with a serial no. is in 9mm, the chamber and toggle are unmarked, (the unmarked toggle and chamber are typical of the reworks) the grips and magazine are mismatched. The right hand side of the receiver and barrel are proofed as illustrated below.



This Luger has no well markings and no proof on the receiver stop lug. The toggle has no serial number, but has a small K underneath. The front grip strap has "L. Sch. 266" stamped on it. The LEFT SIDE OF THE RECEIVER has the serial number but with NO small letter. The front sight block has a D on the front portion, and the barrel has the full serial number but no caliber measurement.

THE CLEARING HOUSE FOR LUGER INFORMATION

VERY EARLY REWORK CONTINUED

The frame has the full serial number on the front, and has the letter B stamped in various places on the left side under the grips. The frame, however, has the letter O stamped on the lower rear of the frame near the stock lug. There are no serial numbers on the holdopen, the safety or the sear bar. The last two digits of the serial number appear on the side plate (bottom exterior), the locking bolt (bottom), and the trigger (left side, top,), also on the rear toggle, and the connecting pin. The firing pin is fluted but misnumbered. The breechblock has the proof illustrated below but is not numbered with the other parts, the extractor has the same misnumber however.

BREECHBLOCK PROOF

The extractor is marked GELADEN and the pistole has a sear safety, and also the rear portion of the mag. safety. The magazine safety hole in the frame is 6.45mm in diameter, the frame is 129.3 mm, the receiver is 129.8mm and the receiver ring is 18.8mm in length. The trigger guard is 11.6mm wide, the recoil spring has 20+ turns of 1.40 diameter wire(mm), the stop lug travel is 10.5mm, the frame width is 15mm and the recoil distance before the toggle strikes the ramp is 6mm. The toggle knobs are 18mm in diameter and measure 36.1 mm face-to-face. The knobs have checkering on their faces with lines 0.825mm apart. Interestingly this Luger has circumferential milling on the toggle knobs that goes 225° around and is sharp with no flats between the grooves. Also the lanyard sticks out further than most Lugers, an easy identifying point for the reworks as most reworks have this in common.

The important question as regards this particular Luger is whether or not the misnumbered parts are original with this reworked gun. It is my guess that they are, and this being a very early rework the care was not taken to have all parts matching as in the case of the later reworks. Later being only months later.

SOME ADDITIONAL SPECULATION

While the author has indicated above that early reworks are less apt to be matching that later reworks a note of additional comment is due. The current conclusion is that reworks were produced first from spare parts left over from the DWM works when the manufacture of Lugers shifted from DWM to Mauser, and that included used parts as well as new, unissued parts etc., and then later manufactured Mauser parts. However the author has a REWORK Luger of earlier manufacture than the one above & it is mint and all matching. (It is reasonable to conclude, as a result of considerable study, that reworks are numbered consecutively using the letter system and only a 4 digit number.) The justification for this conclusion is that the reworks were not fully parts proofed, as many of the earlier and later Lugers, and that the workman involved who were Mauser technicians, had pretty much of a free hand grinding out these Lugers, a weapon new and strange to them. Certainly the lack of any identification is some proof that Mauser was hesitant to claim credit for their manufacture. The author is not disputing that the lack of identification was also due to Nazi secrecy. It is, though, reasonable to assume that the quality of these reworks varied greatly and that an individual evaluation is necessary to determine if a particular Luger is original as produced.

REWORKS CONTINUED

Rework number 3805 is typical of the best of the reworks. Bearing the group indication on the front grip strap of L.L. 147, it is all matching with some mixing of commercial and military STYLE numbers. The left hand side of the receiver bears the full serial number, but without the letter, and has an upright commercial Crown over N proof. The WaA66 proof appears alone on the right hand side of the receiver. The barrel has the full serial number, with the letter, but no measurement designation, and also has the Crown over N proof. The sideplate bears the large last two digits of the serial number on the face of the side plate, and a small 05 on the bottom in commercial fashion. The top of the toggle has a large 05, the rear a small 05 and the extractor also has a small 05. The front sight block has an S in the front, the sear bar is numbered with a large 05 and the safety when exposed shows a small 05. The holdopen device has the small 05, the well an S, the grips are neither numbered nor proofed.

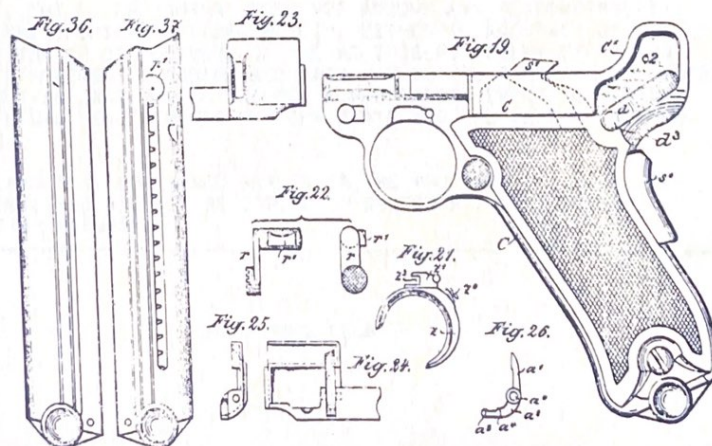
The measurements are similar to the Very Early Rework, as are the toggles. The front sight band is similar to the K and the G dated Lugers, having a sharp edge where it meets the barrel and not smoothly sloped into the barrel like earlier DWM Lugers and later Mauser models. This Luger also has a sear safety and the rear portion of the magazine safety. The magazine appears original to the gun but is not numbered. It is a "HAENEL SCHMEISSER PATENT" with the arrow signature and bears an early Banner proof.

Additional information has been received on the reworks including those of Simpson and Krieghoff that will be covered in later issues of the Luger Journal. In the meantime if you have any knowledge of these interesting Lugers please forward it to the Luger Journal. The full and complete story of these comparatively rare Lugers remains to be told.

PATENT DRAWINGS

The following is an early patent drawing illustrating a 1900 prototype Luger. A complete set of these drawings are available-10 for \$1.50 from the Luger Journal. NOTE: These drawings are very well reproduced, however the originals were very old and abused so the copy is somewhat lacking as well but worth the price and an important addition to the study of the Luger pistole. Incidentally note the grips resemblance to the BORCHARDT PISTOLE.

NOTE: ONLY PART OF PAGE NINE IS PRESENTED HERE, THERE ARE 10 PAGES IN ALL.



MISCELLANEOUS

The following are some interesting Lugers that have been reported to the Luger Journal. If you have details on any of these we would appreciate hearing from you.

Early Krieghoff with East German proofs.

1906 Portugese Army with Navy type rear sight, all matching numbers.

DWM with Krieghoff Suhl on the area above the lanyard loop, one of the letters is out of line and we need more info. on these.

English proofed Krieghoff, possibly from a downed Luftwaffe plane?

Lugers with an usual safety, such as a thumb rest etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED MINT CONDITION 1900 Luger, either Swiss or American Eagle. Will pay cash. Vic Chun, 2417 34th St., Santa Monica, California.

WANTED SIDEPLATE complete with number 54. George M. Felty, Oneida, Ky.

FOR SALE 1906 9mm COMMERCIAL 80% finish or more, in excellent mechanical condition but shows very light pitting on the side plate area. Overall appearance is very good and these are tough Lugers to find in any condition. This is not a "Germany" marked import but a German Commercial for sale in Germany. It has the grip safety, no stock lug, a commercial unnumbered clip that I assume is original and very nice fitting grips. A scarce gun and a buy at \$160. or will trade for Nazi era Lugers. Robert B. Marvin, 19251 Gulfstream Road, Miami 57, Florida.

NAZI DAGGERS

Sorry to put such a heading in the Luger Journal, it won't happen again, but so many Luger Collectors have expressed an interest in Nazi daggers that I wanted to see how many Luger Collectors would be interested in a monthly publication dedicated to Nazi and German daggers. If you have feelings on the subject please let me know.

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