

THE LUGER JOURNAL

by **Robert B. Marvin**

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THE LUGER JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

THE LUGER JOURNAL is most pleased to report on developments affecting our ability to publish this periodical.

As you all know we have been troubled for many years by the lack of time needed to accumulate information and to write and publish this labor of love. For the most part our readers have been splendid, showing far more patience than we had any right to expect. That certainly encouraged us to continue and to search for a solution.

To compound our problems my doctor demanded that I stop my double time effort or else, either give up my position in hospital administration or drop the JOURNAL.

The many months that followed, therefore, were occupied with the difficult decision to give up my profession or to drop the LUGER JOURNAL. As you can imagine it is not an easy task to give up the security of the known for the unknown, especially in light of family responsibilities etc. Since it took us many months to work out the details, to plan, make financial readjustments and to try and gear ourselves for a different kind of living we felt it best to keep our plans to ourselves until we were sure that our decision would be a final one. And now, after that introduction, we are most pleased to announce that I will publish THE LUGER JOURNAL, and some other works, on a full time basis. Please note that these are not tentative plans. I have severed my connections with the business community and am presently looking for a suitable rural environment most conducive to this endeavor.

We hope that you are as pleased as we are that THE LUGER JOURNAL will survive, and we hope that we can count on your continued support.

Since we now have nothing else to do we can honestly pledge our fullest attention to this effort; our mutual interest in the Luger Pistole.

In an effort to put more quality into the publication, and to streamline the operation, we have decided to publish the JOURNAL on a quarterly basis but in an expanded edition. Therefore, we are scheduling issues for SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER, MARCH, and JUNE.

We hope that you like this expanded format and will share your interest in the Luger with us by sending articles, bits of information, pictures and anything else of interest to Luger collectors.

Robert B. Marvin
Publisher

CURRENT TRENDS

It was not so awfully long ago that the Luger was a relatively inexpensive gun to collect. Most of us, who have been involved for five years or more, can remember that the common military Luger sold everywhere for about \$45. while scarce early models brought just under \$100.

While it may be true that no gun will ever take the place of the Colt as America's favorite weapon, it is also true that the Luger has nearly caught up and is a close second in both value and interest. Today,

Lugers that were made in far greater quantities than Colts will bring more in certain areas, while there are still parts of this Country that are not interested in "that foreign made gun".

Has the Luger reached the top of its popularity? I seriously doubt it, as evidenced by its recent resurgence in popularity after a slight slump around the time of the new arms legislations.

Collectors interests change, however, even among Luger Collectors. The hot items from one part of the country will differ from another, and this year it may be one variation while the next year it will be another. Of course this is always what makes the world go around.

What about prices? Prices are perhaps the most critical of all elements that affect popularity, for while prices are within reason a great bulk of collectors stay interested and the less affluent fellow is attracted to the more common items, or pieces that are not necessarily mint. When prices peal, however, it is because the price of everything has gone so high that there are not enough collectors around to pay the price, and the more common stuff may not even have a buyer. This is really what happened to Colts, for today the more common pieces, in average shape, will stay on tables looking for a home. Collectors do become discouraged, and sometimes go elsewhere, and to a limited extent this applies to Lugers as well. What has saved Lugers, however, is that there has been enough good stuff available, at fair prices, to attract enough collectors to keep it going. This, then, is the story today. Luger

collectors frequently divide themselves into eras (early or late, military or commercials etc.) and in this way find enough to keep up their interest.

Will Luger prices continue to climb? The answer to that question requires a crystal ball. My guess, however, is that they will, but that the pace will not be nearly as great as it was in the early days, and that is to be expected, now that the Luger is firmly entrenched as a popular collectors item.

One thing is certain, and that is that condition is more important than ever before, and it IS tough to find that today. Since so much of the "minty" Lugers have found permanent homes, the poorer stuff is often all alone at shows and in stores, and is actually attracting buyers because there is nothing else. This stuff may be fair or it may be junk, but it takes a careful look to tell the difference. When you spend your hard earned money make sure it's for the real thing, not for mismatched junk that will never be worth more than what you paid for it, if that much.

HOT ITEMS:

1. ARTILLERY MODELS - average prices now \$250.00 and up.
2. NAVY MODELS - these were always popular. Common military models selling for \$375. - \$400. and up.
3. KRIEGHOFFS - Prices start at \$375. and go up up.
4. MAUSER BANNERS - coming on strong, excellent pieces going for well over \$500.

Swiss

SWISS VARIATIONS

1906 SWISS REWORK

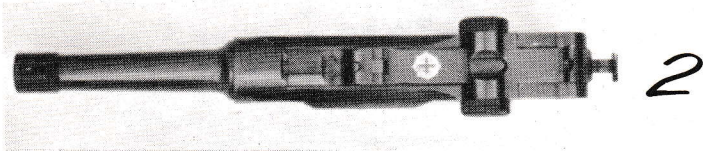
MODEL : 1906 SWISS REWORK
CALIBRE: 9mm
BARREL: 4" STANDARD TYPE
BLUE: RUST BLUE

The Luger illustrated in photo number 1 is an unusual and previously unknown variation. It bears all the characteristics of a common 1906 DWM variation, complete with grip safety etc., except as shown in photo 2 where the Swiss Cross in Sunburst appears on the toggle area, instead of the usual DWM scroll.

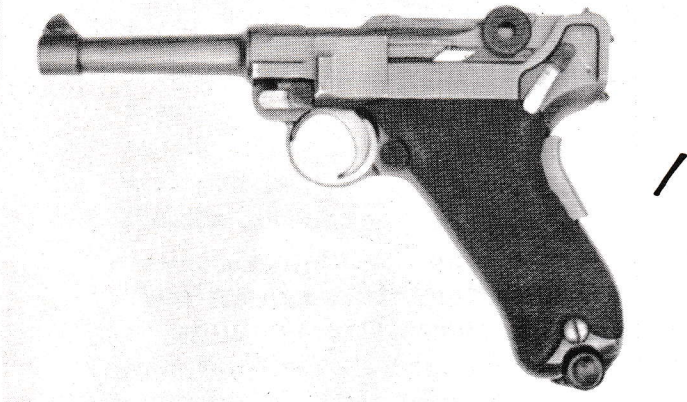
Its not known just how this Swiss marking came to be placed on the toggle area. Is it a prototype piece, or perhaps the work of the Swiss arsenal? The only information that I have is that it came to this country from Switzerland complete with this unusual marking.

There is evidence that the gun may have been refinished some years ago since the early rust finish covers some slight smoothing of the usual surface markings and numbers. It is possible that this refinishing may have been done when the piece was marked with its Swiss Cross.

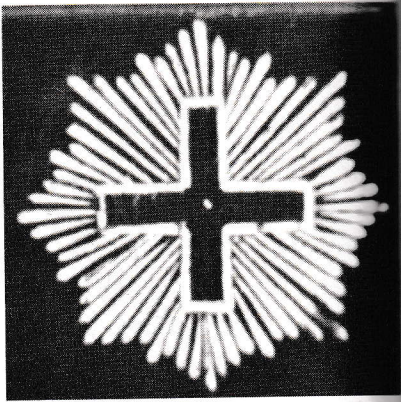
Photo number 3 illustrates a comparison between the author's 1900 Swiss and the 1906 described above. Note that both Crests are Cross in Sunburst types but that there is a considerable difference in the two designs. The 1900 has the usual bold cross, with the points of the sunburst making a series of right angles, while the 1906 is a more



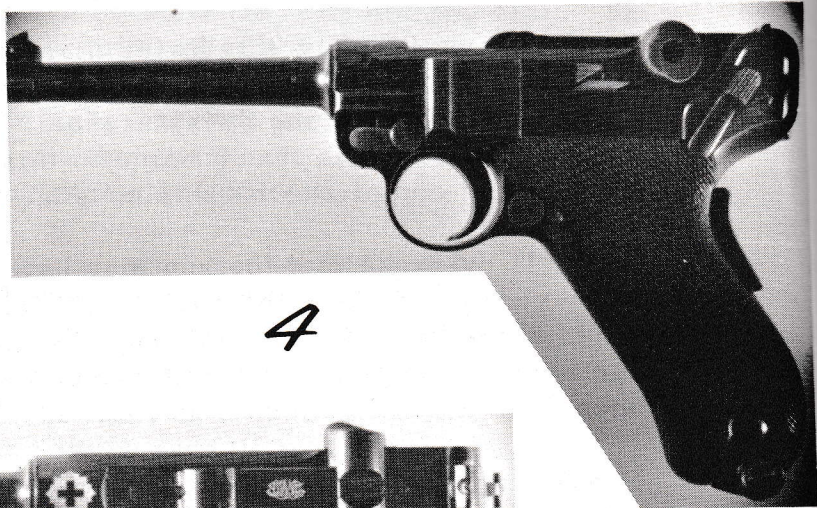
2



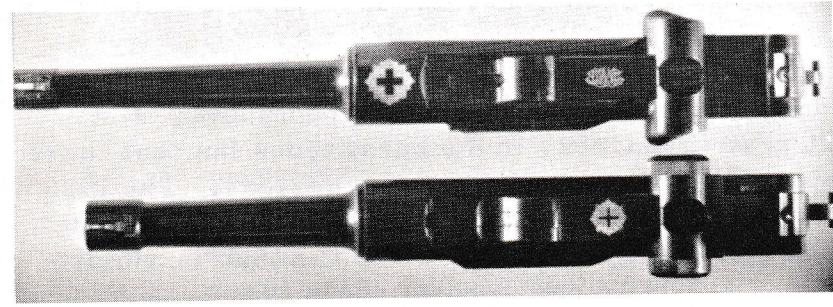
1



9



4



3

8

rounded type of sunburst with only the major points of the sunburst extending beyond the basic pattern.

Photo number 4 illustrates the side view of this nearly mint 1900 series Swiss, which a dusty negative has not properly reproduced.

SWISS CONVERSION

Photo number 5 is an illustration of a first class Luger accessory. It is a Swiss 22 calibre conversion kit made especially for the 1900 Swiss. The kit is complete with: A Barrel, Barrel Extension, Cartridge Holder (which contains the firing pin) an Extractor Rod and a Wire Brush that attaches to the extractor rod.

The entire kit is contained in a cedar box and is in like new condition.

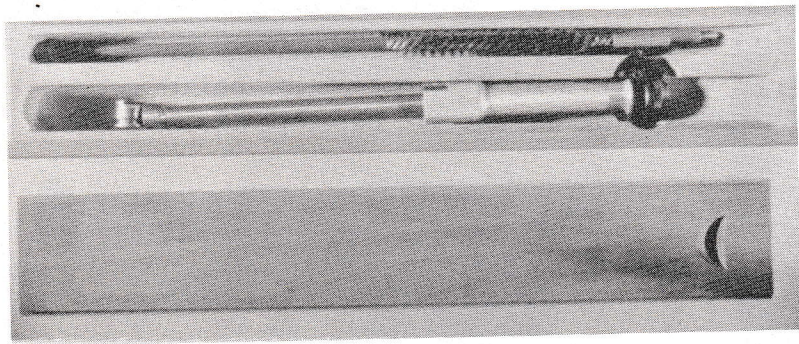
Photo number 6 shows the parts outside their box, while illustrations 7 and 8 show how the pieces fit into the 1900 Swiss.

This is an exceptionally well made accessory and converts the 1900 Swiss, or any 1900 or 1906 4 3/4" slender barrel Luger, into a fascinating 22 calibre target pistol.

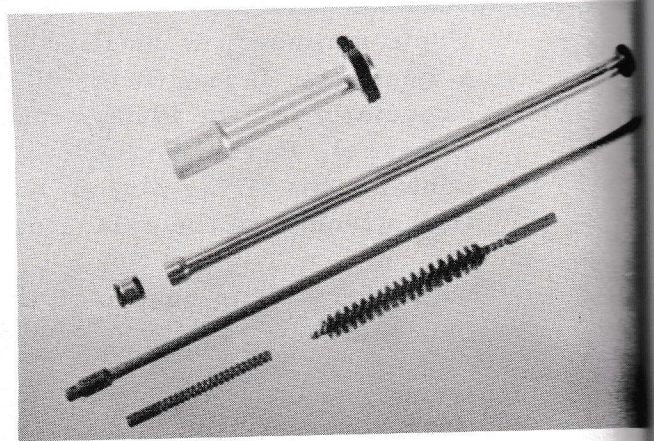
In its 22 calibre form it is quite accurate, and most pleasant to shoot since the weight of the Luger completely absorbs the shock of the small 22 calibre cartridge.

The 22 does not have sufficient energy to recoil the Luger, eliminating any inclination to waste ammo, something that entirely fits the Swiss scheme of things.

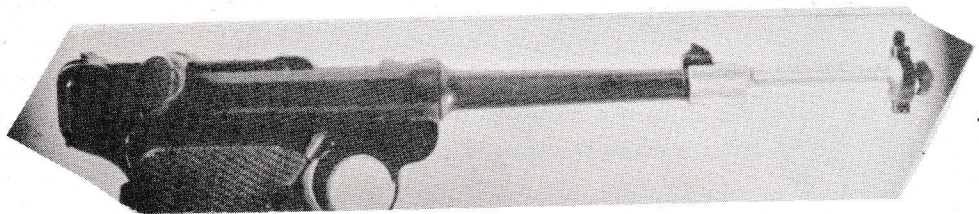
All in all this is a great package and far more fun to shoot than any of the new Lugers recently introduced.



5



6



7



8

10

FRONT SIGHT ADJUSTORS

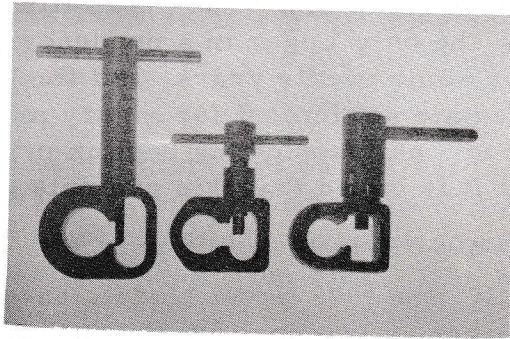
Few Luger collectors have ever had the fortune of seeing one of these scarce items. They were made in several variations by all of the Luger manufacturers who provided them with bulk shipments of Lugers to the military.

I do not know if any were issued with Lugers sold for commercial use, however a good bet says they were not since they are such a scarce commodity.

Unfortunately, since they do not lend themselves to any easy diagnosis of their use, at least from their appearance, many were probably misplaced or thrown out.

If you should happen to discover one hold on to it for it's a tough one to find.

The picture of these three was graciously provided by Mr. Ralph Shattuck.



10

1906 UNALTERED FIRST ISSUE NAVY

by CAPT. JAMES A. WINGATE (USAF)

Some Luger variations seem to have special appeal to collectors. The long barrel, potent-looking Artilleries, the exotic Carbines, the classic models of 1900, and the intrigue-laden Krieghoffs are some examples. Nearly all Luger collectors hold these in special esteem. Certainly no less appealing are the Naval Lugers.

Naval models appeared in the 1904, 1906, 1908, 1914 and 1920 forms. Both military and commercial types were produced. The subject of this article is the 1906 Naval First Issue variation, which possesses several facets of interest to the Luger collector including its mechanics, markings, history, small production quantity, and its beauty.

Before beginning, however, let's make a point about present-day Luger collecting. Luger prices have become quite high, and are probably justified in many cases. However, the collector of modest means (including the author) should not "throw in the towel" for the attics and bureau drawers still contain treasured collectors items awaiting discovery. The pistol illustrated in this article was the only Luger in a nondescript gun collection in Ohio, for some twenty years, and finally was offered as part of an estate settlement for a very modest price. The "don't give up" philosophy has been in print many times before, but it is hoped that this example will reinforce its truth.

Mechanically, the 1906 Naval Models have the 6" barrel, in 9mm calibre, a two position 100-200 meter rear sight, stock lug, coil recoil spring, full toggle knobs with the

locks, grip safety, contoured breechblock with extractor marked GELADEN, and a wooden-bottomed magazine with 3 concentric rings.

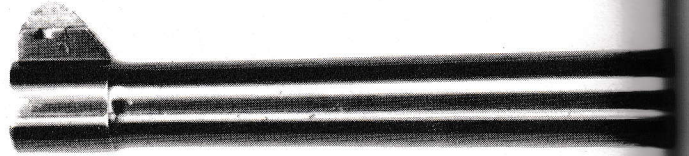
The feature of special interest is the GRIP SAFETY, which is marked GESICHERT in the thumb safety lever well on the frame. It is commonly held that the 1906 Naval First Issue was the first Luger to bear this marking. Most earlier pieces had a bright, unfinished area (the same approximate size and shape as the safety lever) which was exposed in the safety well when the lever was in the safe position.

The 1906 Naval First Issue (and the 1906 Naval Commercial which is mechanically identical) is "SAFE" when the thumb lever is up, and GESICHERT is stamped in the bottom position. The 1906 Naval Second Issue is different only in that the weapon is safe when the lever is down, so GESICHERT appears in the top position. This arrangement was more efficient for one-hand operation, and the First Issue Pistoles were recalled for similiar safety modification. A few escaped this alteration. Those which remain original, i. e. with GESICHERT at bottom, pistole safe with lever up, are not often found.

According the know serials a few over 8000 First Issue models were produced. The pistole illustrated has serial number 8047.

Besides the safety markings, the First Issue carries the scrolled DWM toggle, and no chamber marking or date. The serial numbers are placed in commercial style with parts numbering hidden from view. The Naval proofs (crown and crown over M) are used in the standard Naval manner, with proofing on barrel, receiver, breechblock, magazine bottompiece, and the frame (under the grip).

1906 NAVY FIRST ISS



By Capt. J. A. Wingate

UE



UNALTERED

As seen in the photograph, pistole 8047 has the crested initials J.H.S. engraved in a diamond shape on the sideplate. (The sideplate matches the gun as do all other parts.) The engraving is well executed, very ornate and evidently very old. The backstrap is marked II .M.D. over 15. This is stamped very precisely over a finely scribed guideline, rather than punched haphazardly as most Navals are found. Could the initials belong to the officer to whom it was issued by II.M.D. (Second Naval Division ?) prior to World War One ? Since officers of the Imperial Navy of WWI Germany were usually aristocratic types anyway, J.H.S. might well have had the same crest placed on his personal effects, beer stein, etc. as well as his sidearm, but probably after the war was over. A personally crested issue weapon would not have been "uniform". If any reader is able to shed light on J.H.S. or II.M.D.'s exact designation, the author would greatly appreciate the help.

As for beauty, this early Luger certainly has it. Its machinework is excellent both inside and out, as smooth as any 1900 Model (tough competition indeed). The finish is the deep rust blue of pre-WWI fame, and the straw coloring is exceptionally deep and gorgeous. The grips are top grade walnut and show very fine checkering. The pistole is a relic of an era in which the highest standards of quality were the norm, and were not sacrificed even in mass-production weapons for military use. Unfortunately, this era is long past and not likely to return.

EDITORS NOTE: The LUGER JOURNAL is indebted to Capt. Wingate for his most interesting and informative article. Readers who would like to correspond with the Capt. may write him at : 1754 W. Mountain View Dr., Mesa, Arizona 85201.

MAUSER BANNER LUGERS

MAUSER BANNER NUMBER 4988v SWISS CONTRACT

DATED: 1937
CALIBRE: 7.65mm
BARREL: 4 3/4" SLENDER 1900/1906 TYPE
BLUE: RUST TYPE

This is an exceptional piece, is in near mint condition, and is very rare in both type and condition.

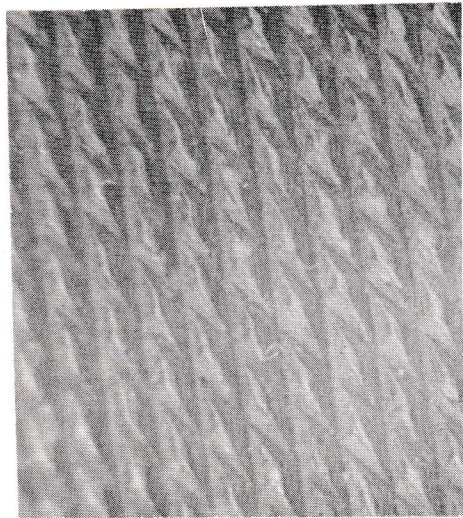
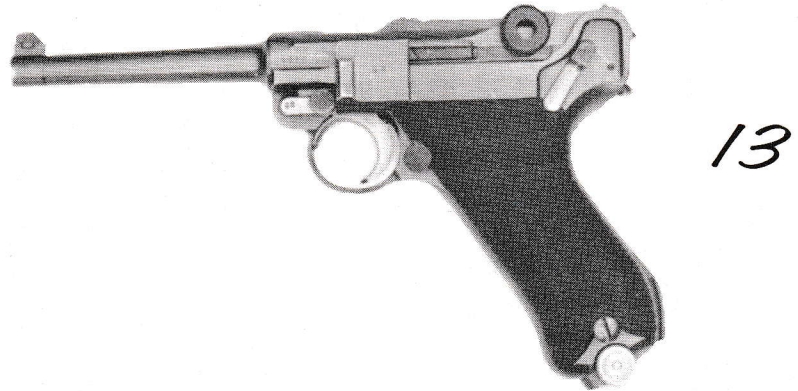
HISTORY

4988v is especially unusual since most of these "Swiss Banners" were manufactured with a grip safety. According to most reliable sources these Lugers were made in Germany for the Swiss on a contract basis of fifty Lugers. Apparently they were not made in sequence, and therefore proofing varies from piece to piece. Of the few examples known number 3636 has Oberndorf proofs, 3641 Nazi military proofs, and 3535 has Nazi commercial proofs. Note that these three Lugers are closely numbered while 4988 is not in a similiar range.

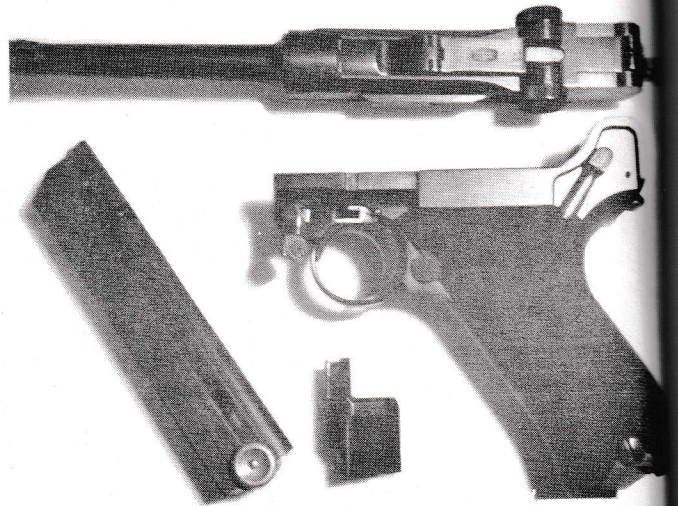
Sights on 4988 are typically Swiss with the wide notch rear sight and standard Swiss military front sight. Some of the above examples are dated 1937, including number 2282, while others are undated.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Picture number 12 shows the beautiful outline of the 1906 slender barrel. Note the last two digits of the serial

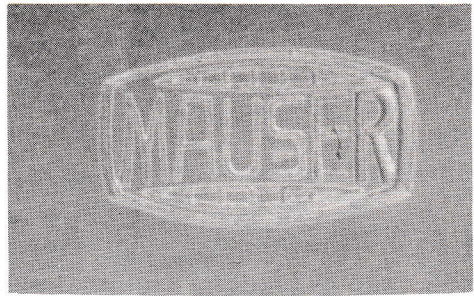


15



14

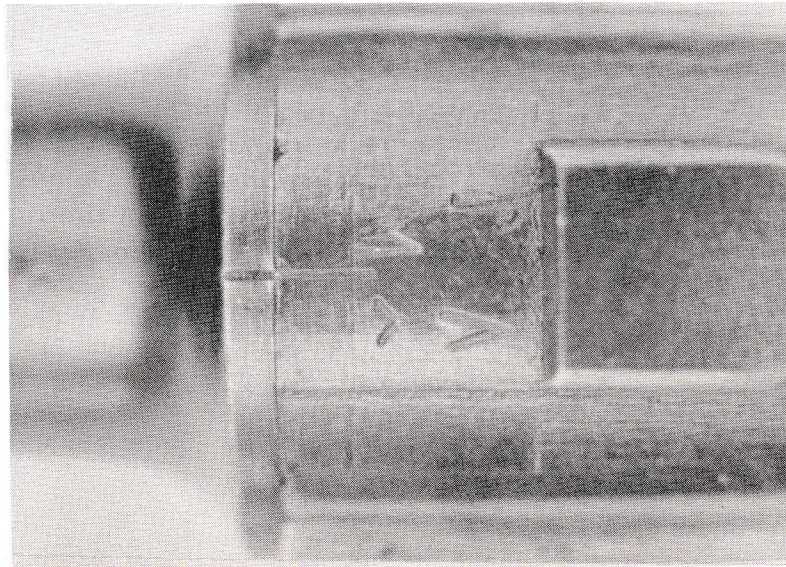
18



18



16



17

number applied in typical military fashion.

Illustration number 13 shows the wide blade front sight, the date 1937, and the small Banner shown enlarged in photo number 18 .

Note the Hanel Schmeisser magazine in photo number 14 correctly numbered to this gun while photo number 15 shows the beautifully cut grips. Photo number 16 illustrates the Oberndorf proof and photo number 17 the bottom of the receiver.

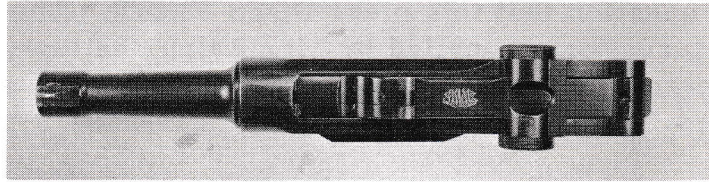
VALUE

The rarity of these pieces is evident in their value which, according to Ralph Shattuck who has sold several, varies from \$850.00 to \$950.00 for the grip safety models, and from \$950.00 to \$1,000.00 for the non-grip safety variations, such as the subject piece, number 4988v.

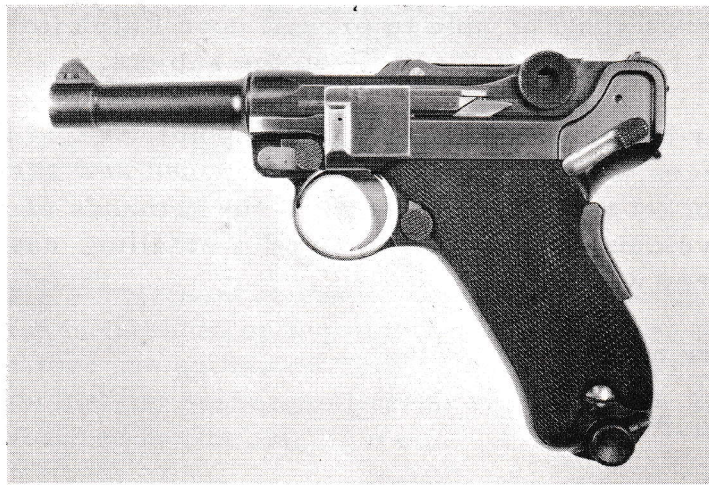
ADDITIONAL PIECES

We would very much like to receive any information, and pictures if possible, of any other similiar Mauser Banner pieces. These have long been sleepers, and the real worth not known until lately, so it's quite possible that astute collectors might find them most anywhere, though their availability is mostly limited by their great rarity.

BABY LUGER



19



20

Text on next page.....

BABY LUGER

The Luger illustrated on the preceeding page is the famous Baby model, in 7.65mm.

No question that this piece DOES EXIST. The pictures were supplied by Mr. Ralph Shattuck, a generous supporter of the Luger Journal in many ways.

Unfortunately we do not have all the details on this extremely interesting and rare item. Perhaps one day we shall be able to prevail upon Ralph for a full length feature article on the subject.

Our best understanding, at this point, is that these pieces were prototypes of a proposed new series of "pocket type" Lugers to meet the demands of a developing market that wanted a smaller, easier to carry weapon.

How many were made?

Value?

Where did these come from?

All good questions for you Ralph.....

THE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING
OF
LUGER PISTOLES

BY : ROBERT B. MARVIN

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NOTICE TO BUYERS AND SELLERS

This supplement to the reference work by the same title is intended as a guide to current Luger values. Neither the author or THE LUGER JOURNAL assume any responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained herein.

The reference work to which this pricing guide relates is available from THE LUGER JOURNAL, and is described at the rear of this book.

EST. - Means an estimate of value.

1. na	48. na	92. 450-350	152. 350-275
2. na	49. na	93. 400-325	153. 350
3. 4000	50. 2000-1500	94. 700-450	154. na
4. 375-250	51. na	95. 1100-600	155. 450
5. 350-250	54. na	96. 700-500	156. 450
6. 2500	55. na	97. 750-550	157. 200
7. 400-325	56. na	98. 550-500	158. na
8. 400-325	57. na	99. 10,000-6,000	159. 2,000-1500
9. 400-325	58. 325-250	110. 425-300	160. 225-150
10. na	59. na	111. 375-250	166. 175-150
11. 500	60. 375-250	112. 850-750	167. 175-150
12. 375-275	61. 350-225	113. 275-175	168. 475-400
13. 375-275	62. 350-250	114. 300-225	169. 525-400
14. 375-275	63. 350-275	115. 275-200	170. 175-135
15. 375-275	64. 375-250	116. 375-300	171. 175-150
16. 550	65. na	117. na	172. 175-135
17. 600	66. 375-275	118. 400-275	173. 250-200(*1)
18. 425-325	67. 375-275	119. 225-175	174. 325-300
19. 600	68. na	120. 250-175	175. 450-400
20. 425-325	69. 325-225	121. 200-150	176. 375-300
21. 450-300	70. 325-225	122. 275-225	177. 275-200
22. 3000	71. 375-225	128. 300-200	178. 400-325
23. 1300	72. 400	129. 175-150	179. 275-175
24. 1200	73. 500	130. 400	180. 1,100-950
25. na	74. 375-300	131. 175-150	181. 1,100-950
26. na	75. na	132. 200	182. 1,000-800
27. na	76. na	133. 300-225.	183. 1,000-800
31. na	77. 275	134. 275	184. na
32. na	78. 400	135. 275	185. 1,100-950
33. na	79. na	136. 400	186. 375
34. 7500	80. 400	137. 275	187. 900
35. 8000	81. 450-350	138. 300-250	188. na
36. 1500-1100	82. na	139. na	189. na
37. 1100	83. 275-200	140. 225	190. 600-500
38. 1800-1200	84. na	141. na	191. 650-550
39. 1100-900	85. 600	142. 375-300	192. 600-500
40. 1100-850	86. 1000	143. 175-150	193. 600-500
41. 1100-875	87. 650-500	144. 200	194. 700
42. na	88. 1100-800	145. 200-175	195. 650
43. na	89. 600-450	146. 400	196. 700
44. na	90. na	147. 800	197. na
45. na	91. 575-400	151. 200-150	200. EST.750

203.	200-150	261.	225-175	320.	350-275	385.	400-350
204.	200-150	262.	300-250	321.	250-225	386.	na
205.	300-200	263.	350-325	322.	300-250	387.	250-175
206.	325-275	264.	450	323.	500-350	393.	400-350
207.	EST. 500	265.	350-325	324.	na	394.	400-350
208.	EST. 500	266.	na	325.	325-275	395.	500-475
209.	350	271.	275-200	326.	900	396.	1,500
210.	250-200	272.	275-200	335.	EST. 500	397.	2,500
211.	275-225	273.	275-200	336.	275-200	398.	2,500
212.	325-275	274.	275-200	337.	275-200	399.	1,750
213.	275-225	275.	275-200	338.	300-225	400.	1,500
214.	EST. 500	276.	550-400	344.	350-300	401.	400-350
215.	EST. 500	277.	275-225	345.	325-275	402.	550-450
216.	600-500	281.	300-250	346.	300-275	403.	400-350
217.	600-500	282.	275-225	347.	300-275	404.	400-350
218.	EST. 600	283.	400	348.	350-275	405.	600-500
219.	750	284.	275-225	349.	325-225	406.	400-350
225.	200-150	288.	na	352.	na	407.	600
227.	EST. 250	289.	na	353.	300-225	408.	450-400
229.	200-150	290.	na	354.	275-200	409.	550-500
230.	CAUTION	291.	na	355.	275-200	410.	600
231.	300	294.	500-450	356.	275-200	411.	550
232.	na	295.	800-750	357.	325-275	412.	600
233.	CAUTION	301.	650-500	358.	275-200	413.	650
237.	200-135	302.	375-250	359.	200-150	414.	SEE MAUSER
238.	325	303.	750-700	360.	EST. 500	415.	EST. 1,200
241.	200-150	304.	500-300	361.	CAUTION	416.	na
242.	200-150	305.	475	362.	225-175	417.	400
243.	200-150	306.	500	363.	300-225	418.	na
248.	250-175	307.	500	364.	225	419.	550
249.	275-200	308.	350	365.	CAUTION	420.	900
250.	250-200	309.	450	366.	CAUTION	421.	750
251.	300-250	310.	350	367.	na	422.	900
252.	250-150	311.	na	371.	200-150	423.	1,200
253.	250-150	312.	500	372.	250-200	424.	1,250
254.	250-150	313.	475	373.	225-175	425.	1,300
255.	275-200	314.	325-300	374.	400-350	426.	1,500
256.	275-225	315.	na	375.	250-175	427.	2,500
257.	250-175	316.	na	376.	300-225	428.	450
258.	250-175	317.	na	377.	400-350	429.	600
259.	225-175	318.	650-500	378.	CAUTION	430.	na
260.	225-175	319.	EST. 750	384.	175-150	431.	na

432. 650
433. 600
434. 800
435. 350
436. 350
437. 350
438. 350
446. 900
447. 550
448. 950
449. 400-350
450. na
451. na
454. 400-325
455. 425-350
459. CAUTION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

386. These are Russian pieces. The code means USSR
326. 1937 MAUSER BANNER, WITH SMALL BANNER, 43/4" BB., 7.65mm, U notch sight and Swiss front sight. There are only three of these known. They are reported to be a Swiss Contract and VERY RARE.

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