

The Luger Journal

NUMBER TWENTY FIVE

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INTRODUCTION (THE REASON FOR OUR PRINTING DELAY)

This issue of THE LUGER JOURNAL marks another step forward in our program of printing for the Luger collector. Our progress has been slow, for we are strictly a part time endeavor, but we have in the past few years grown in spite of our faults. Last year we added top quality photographs to our paper and this year we attempt a far more significant step forward, (we think) and that is this new style and size of format.

For some time many of our subscribers have suggested a booklet style or shape, one that would be easier to carry and store, and to bind together in one form or another. We were willing to do this, of course, but lacking the size or support of having sufficient numbers of subscribers we had to put it off. Also in the past few years we have had a sharp increase in our costs including the recent 50% increase in postal rates for this type of paper, and that added to the delay. But anyway here we are and we hope you approve. We also hope you note that the paper has 50% more printing space than prior issues and we hope to expand it further.

ROBERT B. MARVIN

LUGER MODEL 1898/1899

The subject of this month's research is the most elusive model we have yet presented for though we knew of its existence many years ago, and have had photos for about three years, we have been prevented from publishing pictures because of the secrecy that has surrounded this particular pistole.

We must say, however, that none of this was the doing of Mr. Joseph F. Pagniano who freely contributed the pictures of HIS Model 1898/1899 and for which we are very much indebted.

We would also like to say, in passing, that although we had pictures of this model Luger for these years, and of course are very much motivated by the desire to be the first to publish about an unknown Luger, we do, in EVERY case, respect the wishes of those who share their pieces and information with us. We do have faults, as every one of you who has received his JOURNAL late can tell you, but breaking a confidence is not one of them, and now that we have that little plug over with lets get on with the story.

Briefly there were three stages from the Borchartt to the production run of 1900 and they were as follows:

1. THE MODEL 1898 BORCHARDT/LUGER TRANSITIONAL PISTOL
2. THE MODEL 1899 BORCHARDT/LUGER TRANSITIONAL PISTOL
3. THE MODEL 1898/1899 LUGER PROTOTYPE

The first two in this series more closely resemble the Borchartt than the Luger in some ways, such as the rear of the pistol which has a larger more protruding rear frame than the Luger, while the third one is a Luger in every way. In the first two the most similiar feature to the production Luger is the slant and shape of the grip which very closely resembles the 1900 Luger. The grip checkering does not extend to the edge of the grip, however but is only in the center like the Borchartt. Also the first two have the distinctive

side plate which the Borchardt did not have.

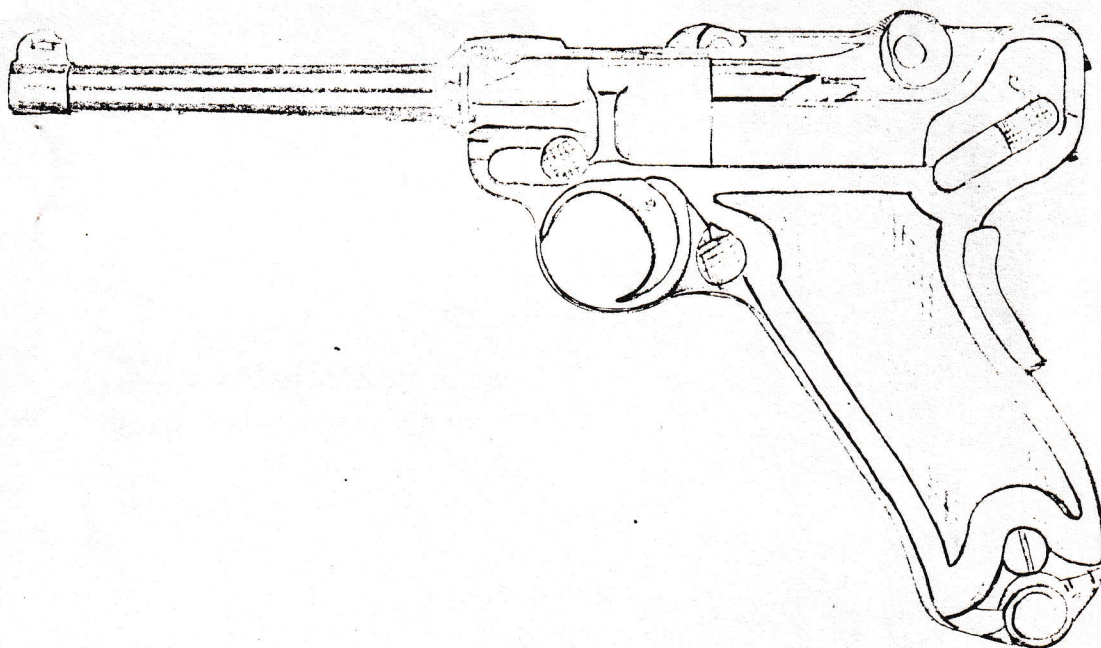
It should be stated at this point, that the dates mentioned previously are a matter of opinion and vary from authority to authority by a year or so, and also the actual transition from the Borchardt to the Luger has several opposing views. What is certain, however, is that there were transitional pistols prior to the Luger prototypes tested by the Swiss.

The drawing on page four illustrates the first series of Luger prototypes. Note the Borchardt type of grips that were on all Swiss pieces up to about number 30. From about 30 on the design of the grips were the same as all later 1900 grips. Note the early style of checkering that does not extend to the edges on the first pieces. This border is a little reminiscent of the Krieghoff style of grips that also had a border.

In addition to the grips the gun has several other interesting features that separate it from the 1900 series.

1. It has a double spring firing pin as shown in the original patent drawings.
2. The serial numbers (under 30) appear on the rear toggle link, just forward of the rear sight; on the back of the gun, just above the lanyard loop; and underneath the barrel itself, just forward of where the barrel screws into the frame. There are no markings (serial numbers) on the front of the trigger guard underneath the barrel but the serial number does appear on the side plate.

Some parts of these pieces do have the look that they were not production machined and may reflect late changes in the design just prior to their being tested by the Swiss.



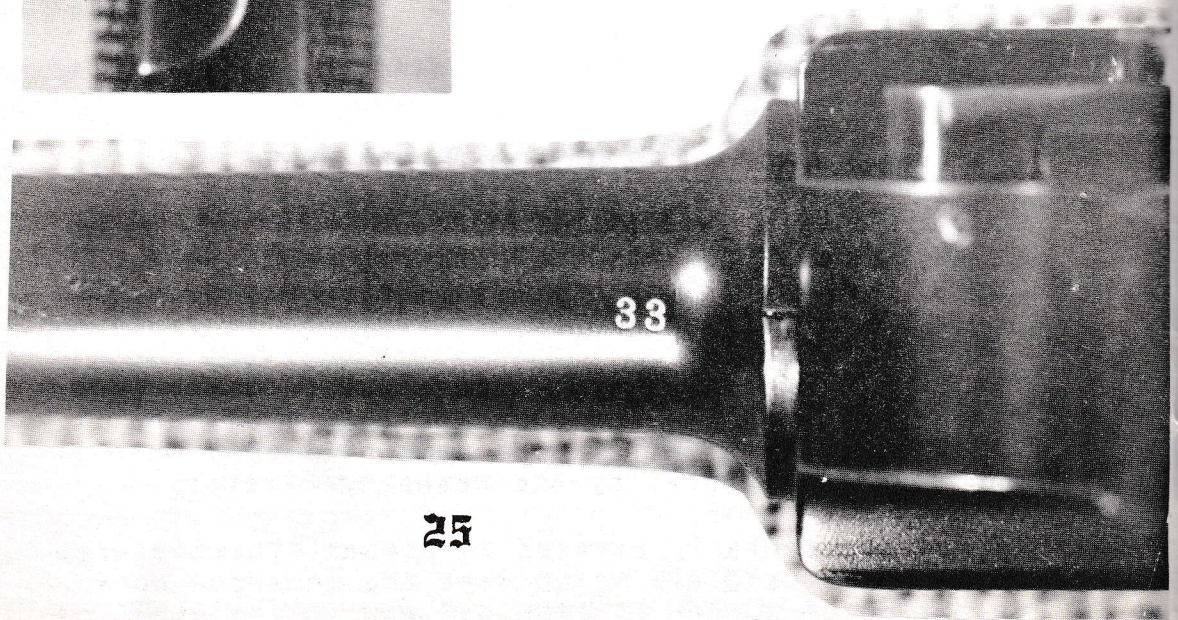
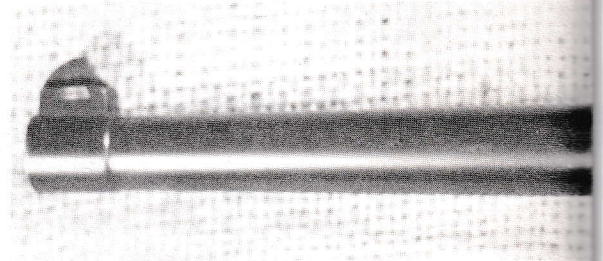
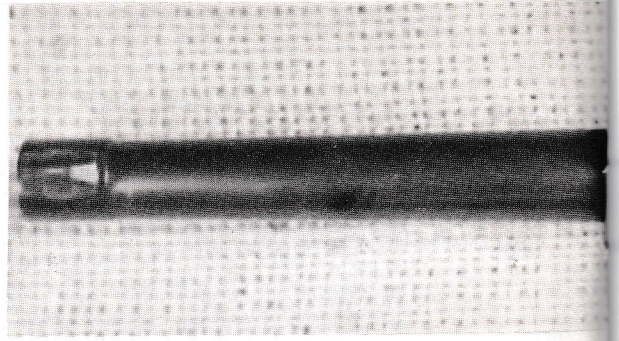
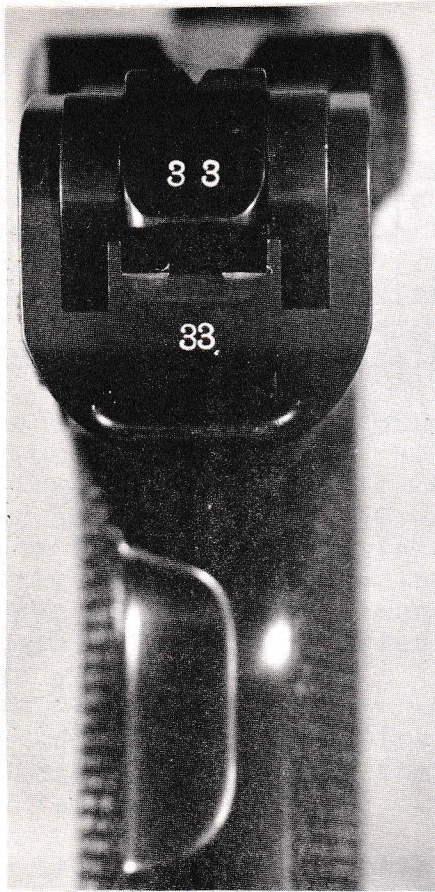
1899 SWISS TEST LUGER NUMBER THIRTY THREE

Luger number 33 is the subject of this month's LUGER JOURNAL and it is one of 50 such pieces made by DWM and sent to Switzerland for testing.

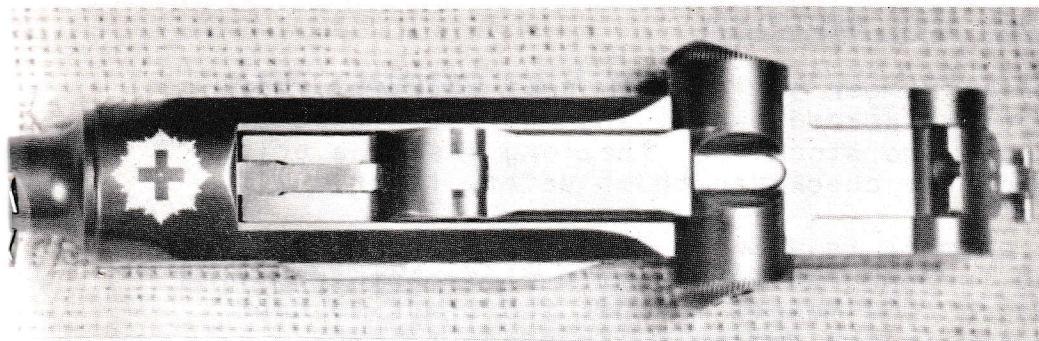
The Swiss, who were very impressed with these test pieces, adopted the Luger on April 2, 1901, and it remained their official side arm until 1948 when it was finally replaced by the Newhauser Pistol.

We are particularly pleased to present the pictures on page five and six which were the generous contribution of JOSEPH F. PAGNIANO who is the owner of the exceptionally fine piece.

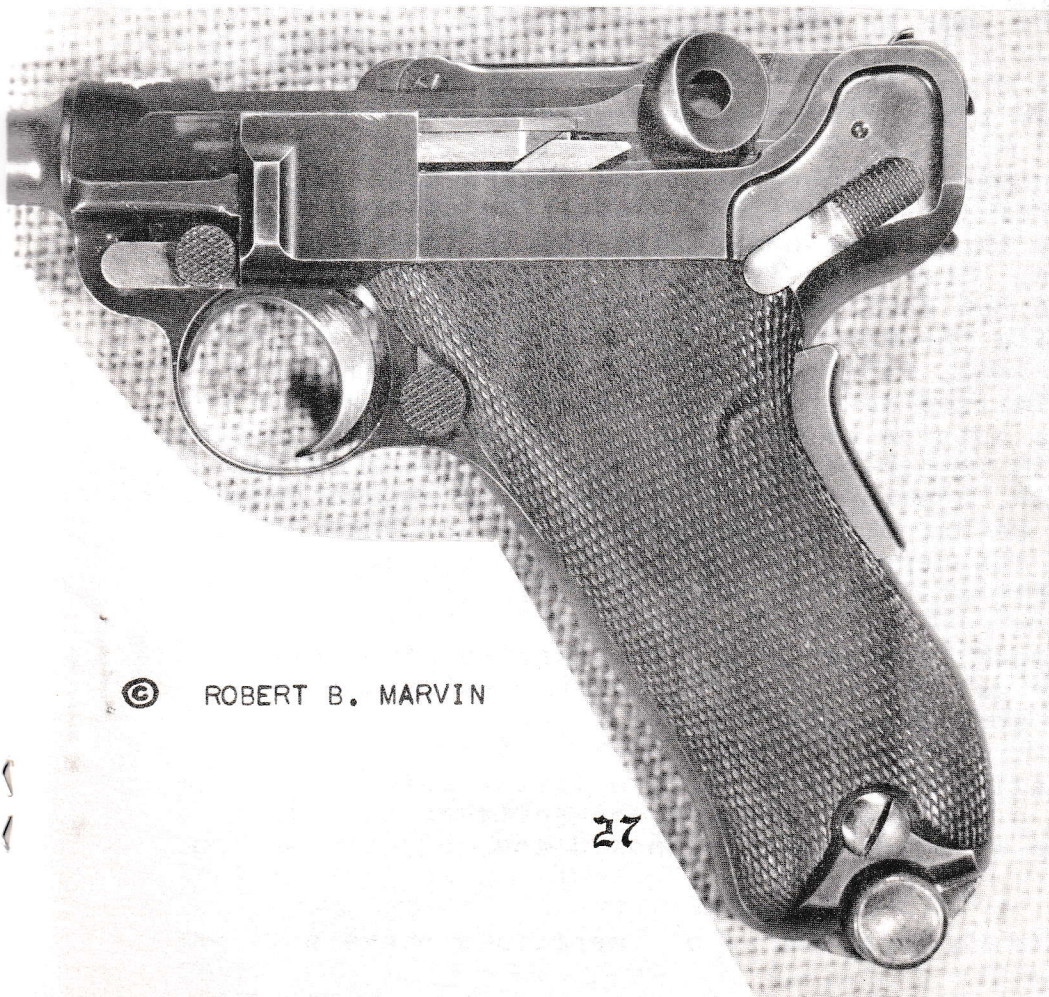
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LUGER MODEL 1899 PROTOTYPE

Luger serial number 33 is in 30 cal. (7.65mm), has a 4 3/4" slim tapered barrel and has the dished toggle knobs, no stock lug, the long frame, a grip safety and flat checkered thumb safety lever.

Over the chamber is a Swiss Cross in Sunburst but the Cross in Sunburst is slightly different from the standard 1900 models in that the Cross is hand engraved and is cut deeper. The shape is also slightly different, but the overall appearance is about the same as the standard version.

Note the blank toggle in picture number 26 where the usual DWM trademark normally appears.

Serial number 33 appears on the underneath side of the barrel in the horizontal position, where normally the serial number appears in the vertical position. The frame is not serialized in the usual position but is serialized on the back of the frame just below the rear toggle link and just above the lanyard loop. The locking bolt and magazine catch are serialized on the back side and can be seen from the outside of the right side view of the pistol. Number 33 is scribed on the underneath side of the extractor, ejector, thumb safety lever and wooden grips. Serial number 33 appears on the underneath side of the sear bar which is straw colored, and completely original to this pistole.

The trigger, toggle lock, sear bar, locking bolt, magazine catch, thumb safety lever, extractor and ejector are straw colored.

The magazine has the very thin flat loading button and the grips and frame are not relieved to take a magazine with the later standard and thicker loading button.

There are no proof marks or inspectors marks anywhere on the pistole.

The interior parts are finely polished and some parts such as the coupling link appear to be hand made and expertly finished. The exterior of the pistole is

of excellent quality with a rich polished blue found only on the very early model 1900 Lugers.

JOSEPH F. PAGNIANO

(NOTE: THE LUGER JOURNAL again wishes to thank Mr. Pagniano for his interesting article on this exceptional piece.)

THE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF LUGER PISTOLES

Two years in the making this major work on the Luger Pistole is now available and should be ready for **shipment** by the time this issue reaches you. It is now at the printers and the plates of the photos we used in this work are beautiful.

Included in this detailed reference work are descriptions of the basic types of Lugers, by manufacturers and by year of production, and a listing and specific description of over 350 Luger variations.

The work is profusely illustrated with many previously unpublished photos, and includes a separate price list of most of the variations listed.

The book is divided first into sections according to manufacturer, (DWM, ERFURT, MAUSER, KRIEGHOFF, SIMSON, VICKERS, BERN AND SPANDAU), and then into production series, (1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1906 etc.), with a separate listing of contracts, commercials, and militaries within each manufacturers group.

Each Luger listed is also given a permanent identifying number which will greatly simplify your task of describing Lugers in letters, lists and advertisements. For example the MAUSER BANNER LATVIAN CONTRACT WITH GRIP SAFETY, IN 7.65MM, WITH A 3 3/4" BARREL, V SERIAL NUMBER AND DATED 1937 is number LJ312 in the book. (Incidentally 2 other Latvian Contracts are also listed.) The present price of this

work is \$7.50 for LUGER JOURNAL subscribers and \$10. for non-subscribers. We think that you will find this a most helpful addition to your Luger reference library, and by the way the first 100 issues are consecutively numbered and will be issued in the order in which orders are received.

Please make checks or money orders payable to THE LUGER JOURNAL, POST OFFICE BOX 12206, PLANTATION, FLORIDA.

THE LUGER JOURNAL COMMERCIAL SECTION

This Section is available to subscribers (20 words free per month-space permitting) for the advertisements of Lugers and Luger items or related items.

WANTED FOR 1906 LUGER an original and commercially numbered side plate (number 08) and locking bolt. Can be un-numbered. Ronald J. Ormond, 2327 1/2 Duane Street, Los Angeles, Calif., 90034

WANTED MINT MAUSER MILITARY with Nazi Eagle and Swastika proofs. All matching numbers including clip. Describe fully. Leonard Schwall, 192 Boland Ave., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 18702

LUGER PARTS FOR SALE. WRITE RE YOUR NEEDS. Michael Reese 11, 3619 State Street Drive, New Orleans, La. FOR TRADE OR SALE 1906 EAGLE 9MM, with very rare original factory S mark at thumb safety. All matching pistol serials. Has been altered by installation of target sights. For a complete description send a stamped self-addressed envelope to J.M. Clabault, 110 Deerfield Lane, Matawan, N.J., 07747

WANTED KRIEGHOFF MANUFACTURED 9MM LUGER. Must be all matching including clip. Excellent to mint condition. I will pay up to \$400. Write giving full particulars. Also need concentric ring Naval clip, for serial number 108, 1917 Dated Naval Luger. H. Bullock, 983 East Brentwood, Detroit, Michigan.

WANTED MAUSER BANNER LUGER 1939 DATE IN 30 Cal.; MAUSER DUTCH with 1939 Date; Scarce and rare Mauser made Lugers. Send best cash price and condition in first letter. James N. Belford, Box 649, Stuttgart, Ark., 72160

FOR SALE 1903 LUGER, super rare variation \$1,450.; Chamber dated 1941 KRIEGHOFF \$900.; MAUSER/KRIEGHOFF Ku, toggle byf \$245.; 1933 KI NAZI WEST POINT LUGER \$325.; These and many other Lugers are available from Ralph Shattuck, 6661 Castle Drive, Birmingham, Michigan, 48010. His list sells for \$1.25 for 1/2 year and is a bargain for Luger Collectors.

FOR SALE 1923 COMMERCIAL 7.65MM, in top collector condition with 98% original bright blue finish, plus 95% straw coloring. Serial number 81135. These 5 digit 1923 commercials are tough to find and I have had this one for many years. \$175. or trade on Nazi era Lugers or Nazi items. Robert B. Marvin, PO Box 12206, Plantation, Florida.

WANTED LUGER RELATIVES: Adjustable rear Jap above serial 7000, fixed rear below serial 6000. Dowler, 842 S. Poplar, Wichita, Kansas.

WANTED FOR RESEARCH NOT FOR RESALE ANY AND ALL ITEMS OF NAZI MANUFACTURE INCLUDING HATS, DAGGERS, BOOKS, FLAGS, UNIFORMS, ART ITEMS, PICTURES ETC. ETC. WRITE KURT MOHR, MUSEUM OF THE DEUTCHES REICH, PO BOX 12206, PLANTATION, FLORIDA.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOW IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT POST PAID.

THE LUGER JOURNAL VOLUME ONE ISSUES 1-12	\$5.00
THE LUGER JOURNAL VOLUME TWO ISSUES 13-24	5.00
THE LUGER JOURNAL CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION	6.00
THE BOOKLET OF LUGER PROOFMARKS	1.50
THE BOOKLET OF MAUSER VALUES	1.50
THE BOOKLET OF WALTHER VALUES	1.50
THE BOOKLET OF SECRET NAZI CODES	1.50
NAZI RELICS QUARTERLY (PER YEAR)	5.00

A POLITICAL ISSUE

Over the past three years THE LUGER JOURNAL has avoided giving space to anything not directly connected with the collecting of Luger pistoles. While we are not ready to change our basic philosophy, in that respect, we are ready and willing to give whatever is required of us, in this most critical of election years, to protect the rights of those stable, loyal, lawabiding, freedom loving citizens who collect Lugers and other weapons.

We do not believe that our concern is motivated by any selfish motives, but rather we believe that the freedom to own and collect weapons is a basic birthright provided by the Constitution. We believe further that this original amendment was intended by the Founders of this great land to reserve to each and every citizen the ultimate right to protect himself, and his family, if the need should arise.

We do not intend to argue with those who claim that gun-control laws will reduce crime for the records speak for themselves that just the opposite is true. Where law-abiding citizens are denied the right to protect themselves crime increases. Proponents of gun-control laws say the police will protect us, or let the police fight the criminals, but what they are really saying is that the police have the responsibility to protect us while we do not have the right to protect ourselves. We do not believe that the basic birth-right of a person can be replaced by the mere responsibility of another.

We believe that the right to keep and bear arms is a very real right, and we believe that the anti-freedom forces that caused the framers of the Constitution to include that right in the Constitution are tame by comparison with the modern-day anti-freedom forces that are seeking to remove this right and all our rights.

Therefore-we hope that all our readers will judge the candidates for public office on the issues and not by their personalities. A candidate who advocates removing one of our basic rights can be expected to do worse. We intend to support and vote for those candidates who guarantee to protect our rights, who support states rights where the true spirit of our Democratic-Republic remains, and who recognize the rights of the majority as well as those of the minority. We hope that you will do the same. If you have thoughts on the subject we will be happy to hear them. If you want your letter printed please give us your permission to do so.

THE LUGER JOURNAL