

The Luger Journal

NUMBER TWENTY SIX

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Our new work THE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF LUGER
PISTOLES has finally been completed and is in the process
of being shipped. We do want to express our thanks to
the many collectors who wrote us about our new work. We
very much appreciate your support and your kind words of
encouragement. It took us a long time, and effort, to
complete this work and it is nice to know that so many have
found it helpful.

We are already accumulating material for the first supple-
ment, which will include additional photos and information
as well as the latest pricing information. Incidentally
as far as prices are concerned we note that of late Luger
prices have taken another step upwards and it doesn't
appear that legislation has hurt prices in the least.
We do not intend to predict the future however, but for
the moment our investments appear to be secure. Our best
guess is that the common, still manufactured, market may
suffer but that top collectors pieces will hold their own
as collectors will continue to seek them out at shows,
from dealers etc. Please note that we have not sold or
disposed of any more than the usual duplicate pieces so
far this year and do not intend to either.

NOTE : NUMBERS WHICH APPEAR IN THE LUGER JOURNAL SUCH AS LJ320 AND LJ294 ARE THE PERMANENT NUMBERS OF THESE PIECES AS LISTED IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF LUGER PISTOLES . ALL LUGERS DISCUSSED IN THIS PERIODICAL WILL BE SO KEYED TO THE I.P.L.P. BOOK.

LUGER HOLSTERS (SEE PAGE FIFTEEN FOR PHOTOS)

For some time THE LUGER JOURNAL has been accumulating information and pictures of Luger holsters which we hope to someday put in a little book on Luger accessories. Included in this issue's photo section are three very fine examples of Luger holster variations. We do not have permission to list the owners name but any one who is interested in corresponding with JRC, the owner, may write him in care of THE LUGER JOURNAL, PO BOX 12206, PLANTATION, FLORIDA.

From top to bottom these holsters are tentatively identified as :

1. AUSTRIAN

This holster bears the same hallmark as Steyr holsters, and has been obviously reworked. Any readers have any ideas on this one?

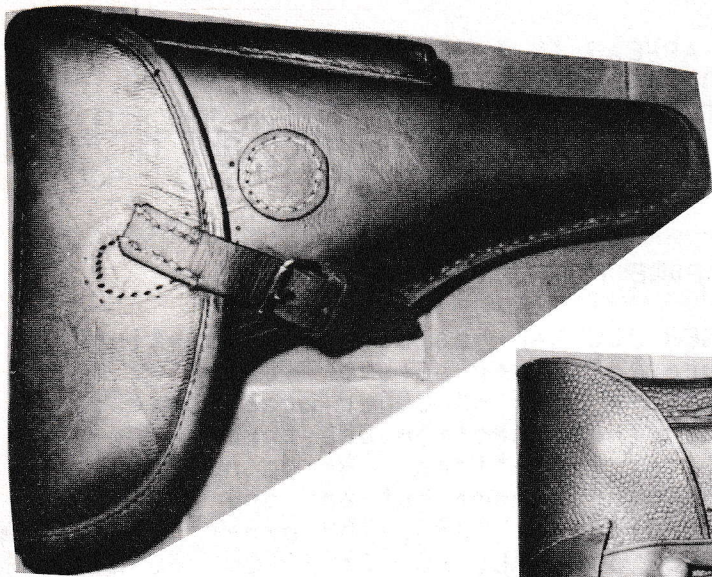
2. A real wierdo

This holster is hallmarked 1917 and what was once a front magazine pouch has been moved to the typical magazine location on the long side. A 1908 Luger came in this holster but likely does not match.

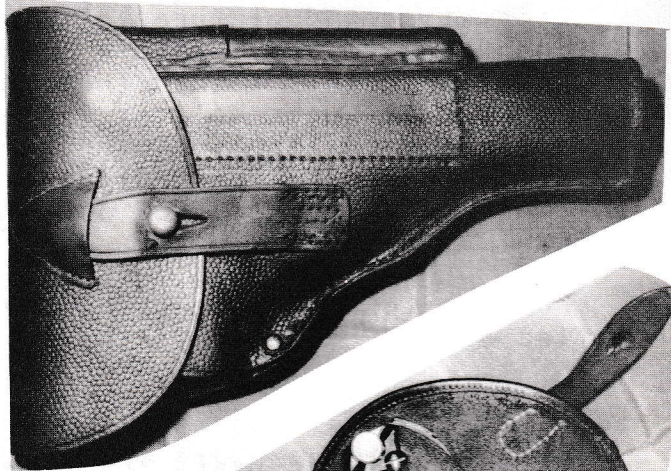
3. A Rework ?

This holster has all the earmarks of a rework—but from what? We have our own opinions but would like to hear from our readers.

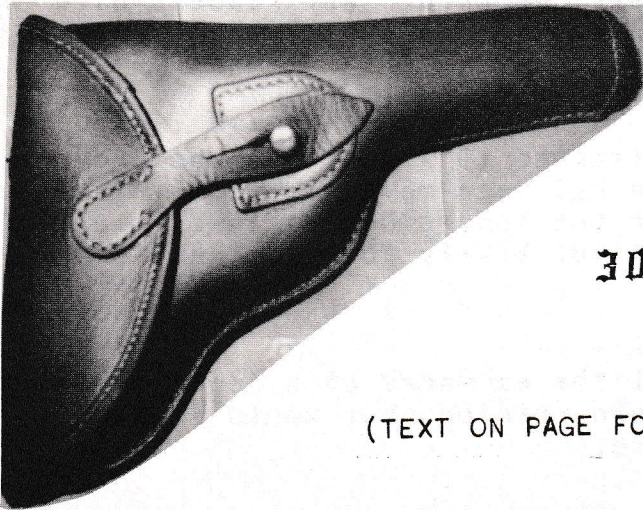
We hope that these three pictures will stimulate some additional interest in Luger holsters, which are, unfortunately, the forgotten Luger accessory.



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(TEXT ON PAGE FOURTEEN)



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LUGER MODEL 1934 GNR (1906/1934), LJ320.

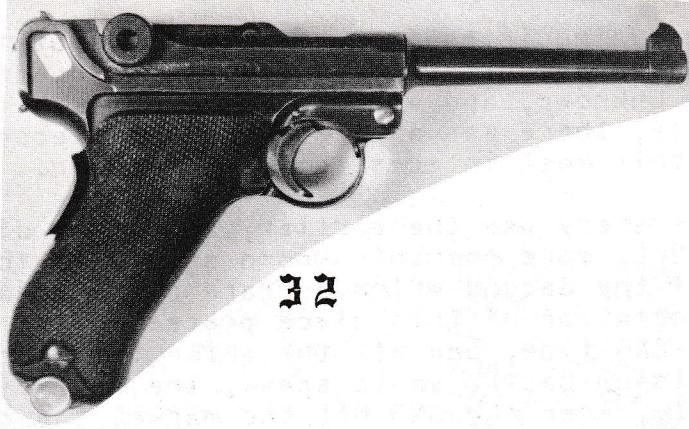
We have received many inquiries from collectors about this recently uncovered variation. Until a few years ago this model Luger was an unknown, and while rumours were in fact supported by reality, there was a great deal of misconception regarding this most interesting Mauser Luger.

A partner in this mystery was the earlier, and first discovered model of 1906, more commonly known as the M2 for the Crown of Manual the Second which appears on the chamber area. The importation of this piece preceeded the "discovery" of the GNR type, and all the while the Portugal Officials were "holding back", so to speak, the real finders plumb. Surprisingly, when the GNR hit the market the reception was rather restrained for so obviously a rare piece, and collectors were able to buy these choice items for about \$100. give or take a little. A fair portion of those imported had their sideplates refinished-apparently the Portuguese officials thought they could improve the appearance of the pieces a bit and raise the price. Were they surprized when they learned the hard way that the value of those pieces were, in fact, greatly reduced. At any rate the pieces did make it to the States and were offered by several of the larger dealers.

One of these dealers was the well known NATIONAL GUN TRADERS OF MIAMI, with whom I am well acquainted, who offered these pieces for sale in two lots (according to condition), and who sold them on a first come first served basis. I remember they were around a long time, a fact that very much surprized me, but anyway they were a very good buy for those that bought them there for National returned all the reblued pieces and they were subsequently sold elsewhere.

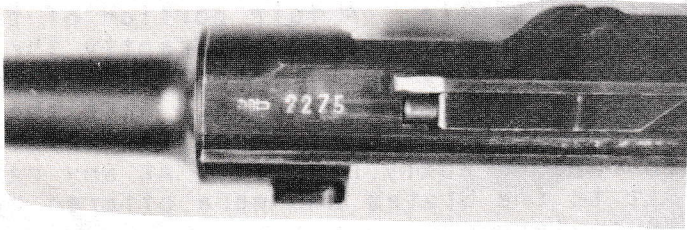
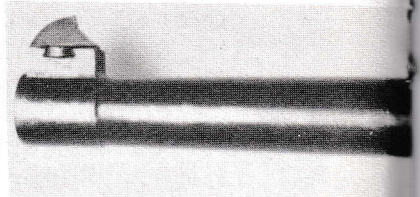
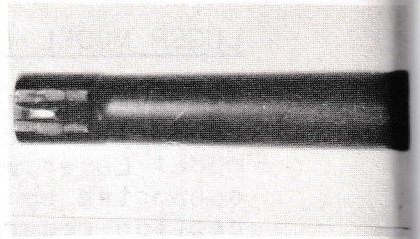
At any rate I obtained number 2275, the piece in study in this issue, from National in 1966 for about \$125. Because I live in this area with National, I was able to look over the entire group and make my selection from the whole lot. I can say in all honesty that the condition of most of the pieces was quite uniformly the same. Most had about 90% of the original blue remaining with little or no pits in the entire lot. I should say, at this point, that they are all gone now and it is a generally accepted fact that the present day value of these Lugers is about \$250.

17.

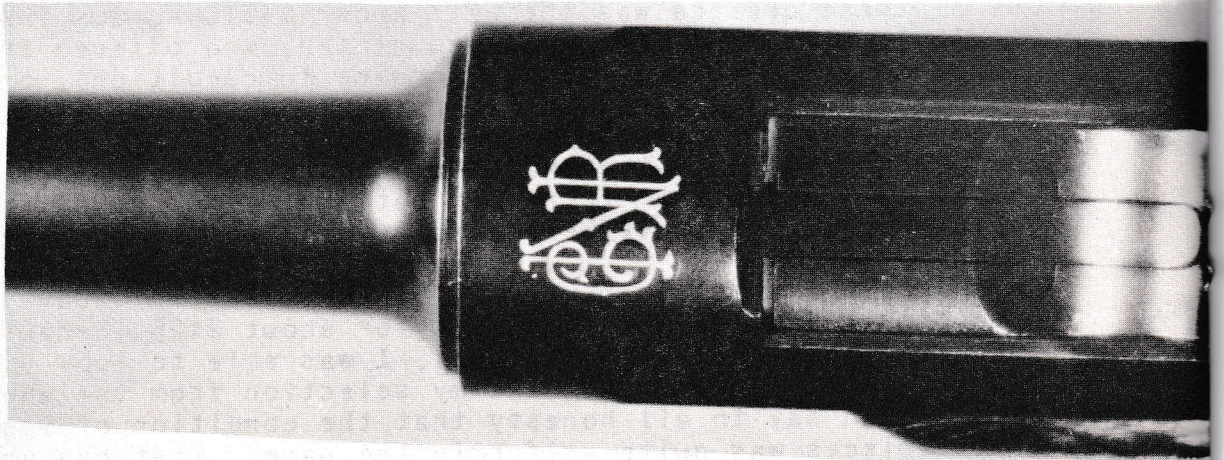


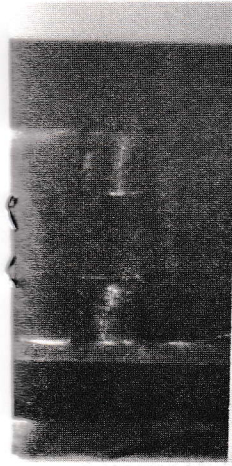
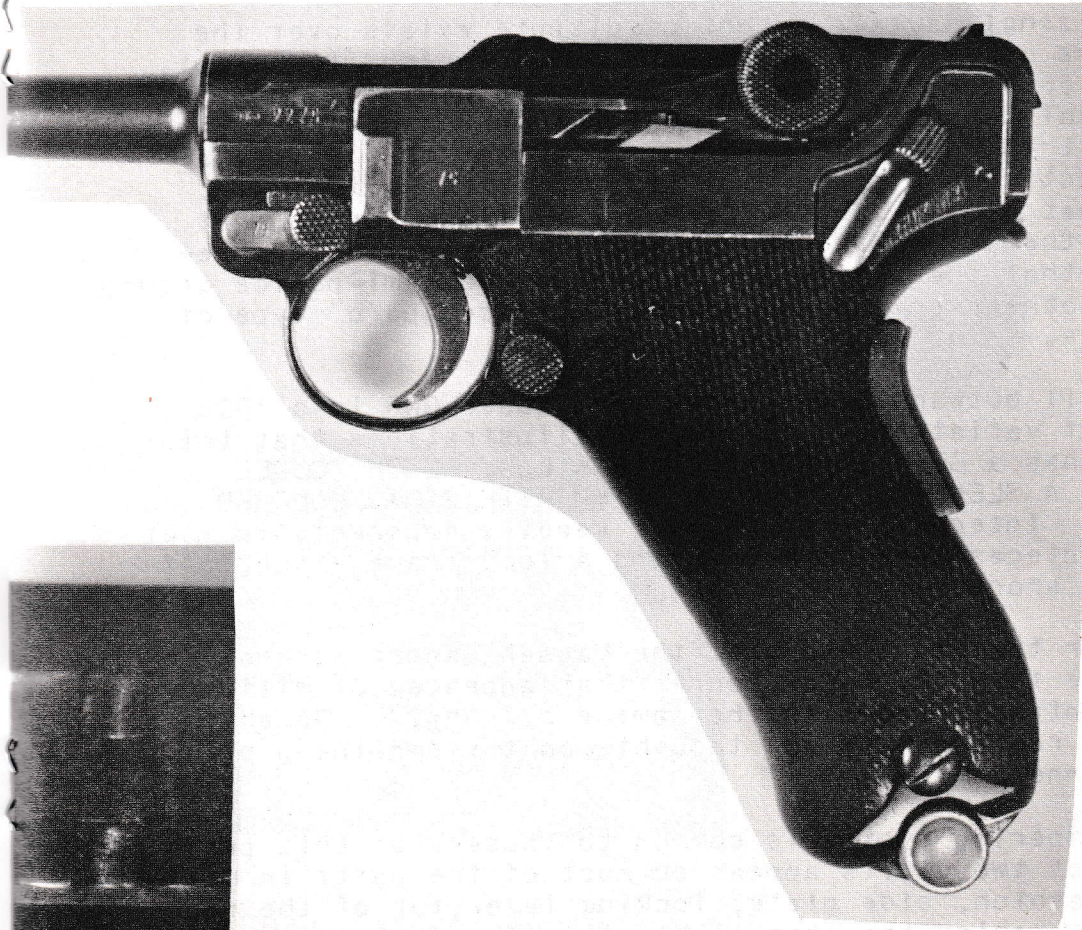
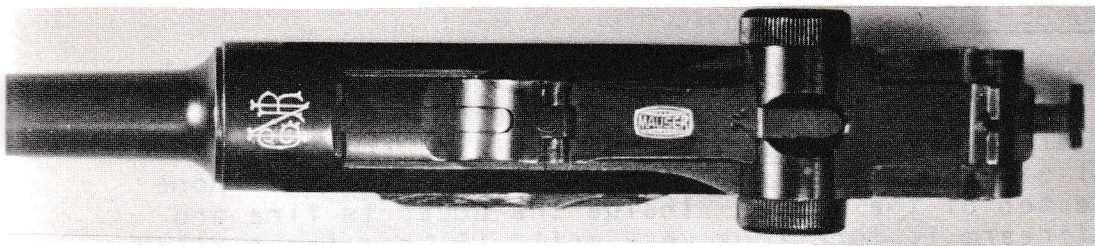
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GNR NUMBER 2275

You can see in PHOTO 36 that this is not a mint Luger, but it is, never the less, one of the best of the lot. There are shiny places on the side plate, some on the barrel side, a little on the rails etc, but almost none on the top of the piece. Inside the Luger is fine and as a firearm it functions very well. (I know for I fired this already well fired piece myself).

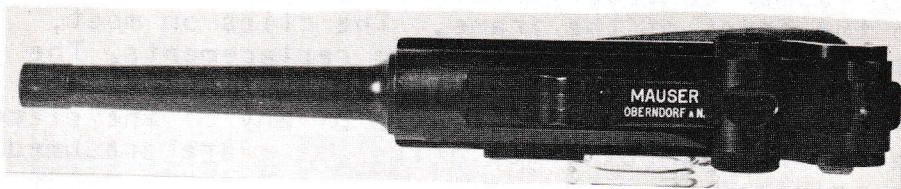
Surprisingly a fair amount of dispute exists over the origins of this piece, and the use to which it was put. Most collectors agree that the GNR stands for the Portugal National Guard and that it was a contract piece. I don't think there can be any question that it was a contract piece, one of the last that the Nazi's made, and that it was used by Portugal military forces, but there the uniform agreement ends. Some collectors believe that these military forces were a semi-police group, which others envision a special "palace guard" type of service.

From all outward appearances the Mauser GNR is a 1906 type of variation. Note in the illustrations that this piece has a GRIP SAFETY, NO STOCK LUG, FLUSH TOGGLE LOCKS, A SLENDER BARREL IN 7.65MM WITH STRAW COLORED PARTS. Interestingly, but not readily apparent, is that these pieces were made by using a long frame shaved off to the shorter length.

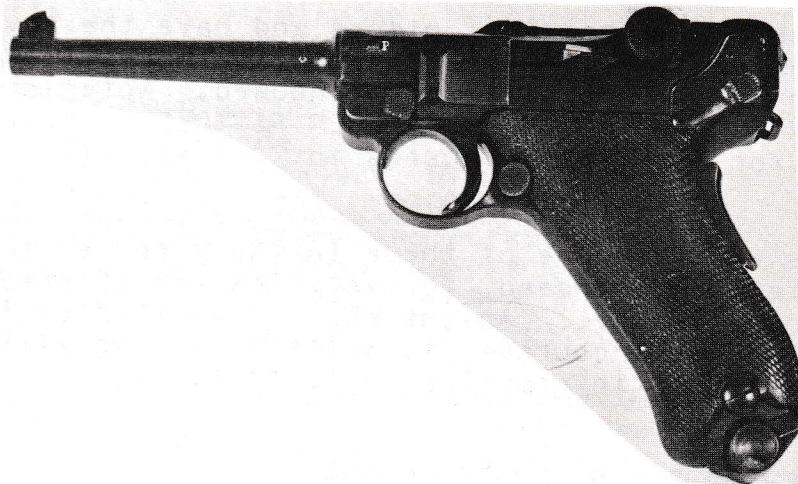
Note on the top photo that the Mauser Banner is smaller in size than the usual Banner that appeared on military and contract pieces in the same era. Why? Do any of our readers have any thoughts on the smallness of the Banner?

The numbering system is common to Mausers of this period. The last two digits appear on most of the parts in military fashion, side plate, locking lever, top of the rear toggle, behind the rear sight etc. The full four digit serial number appears on the left hand side of the chamber (behind the Crown U proof) across the bottom of the barrel and on the front of the frame.

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(MAUSER OBERNDORF a. N. - TEXT ON PAGE TWENTY ONE)

The v (for Mauser contract) appears below the serial number on the front of the frame. The clips on most, or all, of these pieces are aluminum replacements. The grips are a coarse type of checking in quality walnut. There are no markings on either grip of any of the pieces that I have examined but these grips are presumed to be the originals.

These Mausers are beautiful pieces and have the lovely slender barrels usually associated with the earlier Lugers, though many Mausers were also so endowed. Note in THE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF LUGER PISTOLS on pages 41, 42 and 43 for additional Mausers in 7.65 and with slender barrels.

Collectors who have one of these in their collections can feel fortunate indeed, for very few are offered for sale in today's market. Anyone who has additional information to add is encouraged to write us and we will be happy to add this information in later issues.

MAUSER OBERNDORF a.N. LUGER, LJ294

The pictures of this Luger are the contribution of Donald A. Lane of Maryland, and are shown as part of the early Mauser story.

In overall appearance this piece is very similar to the GNR discussed previously, has a grip safety, with overall 1906 appearance, but an unusual toggle markings. Note photo number 37 which illustrates the "MAUSER OBERNDORF a N that appears on the toggle.

Note from the illustrations that this piece bears Swiss proofing and the Crown N proof, and also a large P on the left chamber side.

While we have not personally examined this piece the photos seem to indicate some type of Swiss reblue or other reblue as this Luger finish does not have a factory look about it. It certainly is an interesting piece, however, and while not much is known of this Luger's involvement it does lend itself to some interesting speculation.

COMMERCIAL SECTION : See inside front cover for rates.

For sale LUGER CUTAWAY BY MAUSER, 9mm, number 20, all working parts. An extremely RARE Luger; \$1,250. MAUSER DUTCH #2931v, safety marked RUST \$800; ERFURT ARTILLERY Dated 1917 ONLY GOOD FINISH but cheap at \$135 and another at \$130. PLUS MANY OTHERS WRITE RALPH E. SHATTUCK, 6661 Castle Drive, Birmingham, Michigan 48010.

Wanted LONG BARREL LUGERS, state price and condition R.E. Kaschaf, PO Box 5672, Orlando, Florida, 32805

For Sale 1929 SWISS, excellent and original \$340., Will take part in trade, other Lugers only. Must be original. Gordon Holcomb, Box 824, Glendora, Calif., 91740

Wanted DRUM MAGAZINE, LOADING TOOL, ARTILLERY HOLSTER with or without stock and straps VG or better. J.H. Helms, 603 N. Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90210. TRADE NARROW GRIP SAFETY FOR WIDE GRIP SAFETY. Mine is #60 need #59. Paul Caraher, Box 1263, Costa Mesa, Calif., 92626.

NOTE : As long as space allows THE LUGER JOURNAL will accept ads for other than Lugers from its readers and subscribers. Lugers and Luger items will, however, always have priority.

Wanted NAZI PEAKED CAPS, common and rare ones, all types, styles and condition. Especially want high ranking caps and uniforms that are identified with particular men. These items are for our collection and are not for resale. Please advise full details, price, condition etc. in first letter. Only originals are acceptable, however. Thanks. Robert B. Marvin, Post Office Box 12206, Plantation, Florida

NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue of THE LUGER JOURNAL will discuss the KI LUGER in detail and will feature pictures of this rare and unusual Luger. All readers who have KI's are invited to send us details of their pieces and they will be included in this issue.

If you have reliable information about the history of these pieces please tell us that too. All contributors will be listed if they desire.

OTHER WORKS PUBLISHED BY THE LUGER JOURNALTHE IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF LUGER PISTOLES

New and just released this work lists about 350 Luger variations, the most complete, by far, of any work ever attempted. Each Luger is given a permanent identifying number used in THE LUGER JOURNAL and available for use by all Luger collectors as a ready reference.

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This work lists most of the major and minor variations of Walther rifles and pistols and lists the average for most of them. \$2.00

MAUSER VALUES

This is a companion work to Walther Values and lists most of the Mauser variations of both rifles and pistols with a valuation of most. \$2.00

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