

By 1914 the Central Powers nations, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey were armed with a rich variety of semi-automatic pistols that had reached a fairly advanced state of development. A pistol triggered the Great War and pistols were one of the principal weapons used in the ensuing murderous close range and hand to hand combat. This war and subsequent peace set the stage for the rise of Nazi Germany and the next World War. Many of the World War I German pistols were reissued to the Reichswehr and right wing or early Nazi paramilitary groups. Both the wartime and post war reissue pistols bear specific military markings. These markings often indicate a military branch and sometimes a specific unit. These marked pistols reflect the history of this period and this book describes the historic setting, military markings, unit designations, production, specifications, ballistics and current market value of these pistols. Some of these are the most intricately machined and finely finished military pistols ever produced. Over 60 pistol variations are described and over 70 photographs presented. Much previously unpublished information on Lugers, Mausers, Walthers, Sauers, Brownings, Steyrs, other pistols and on military or police unit designations is presented. The book is an indispensable reference for both the Imperial and Nazi collector or dealer.





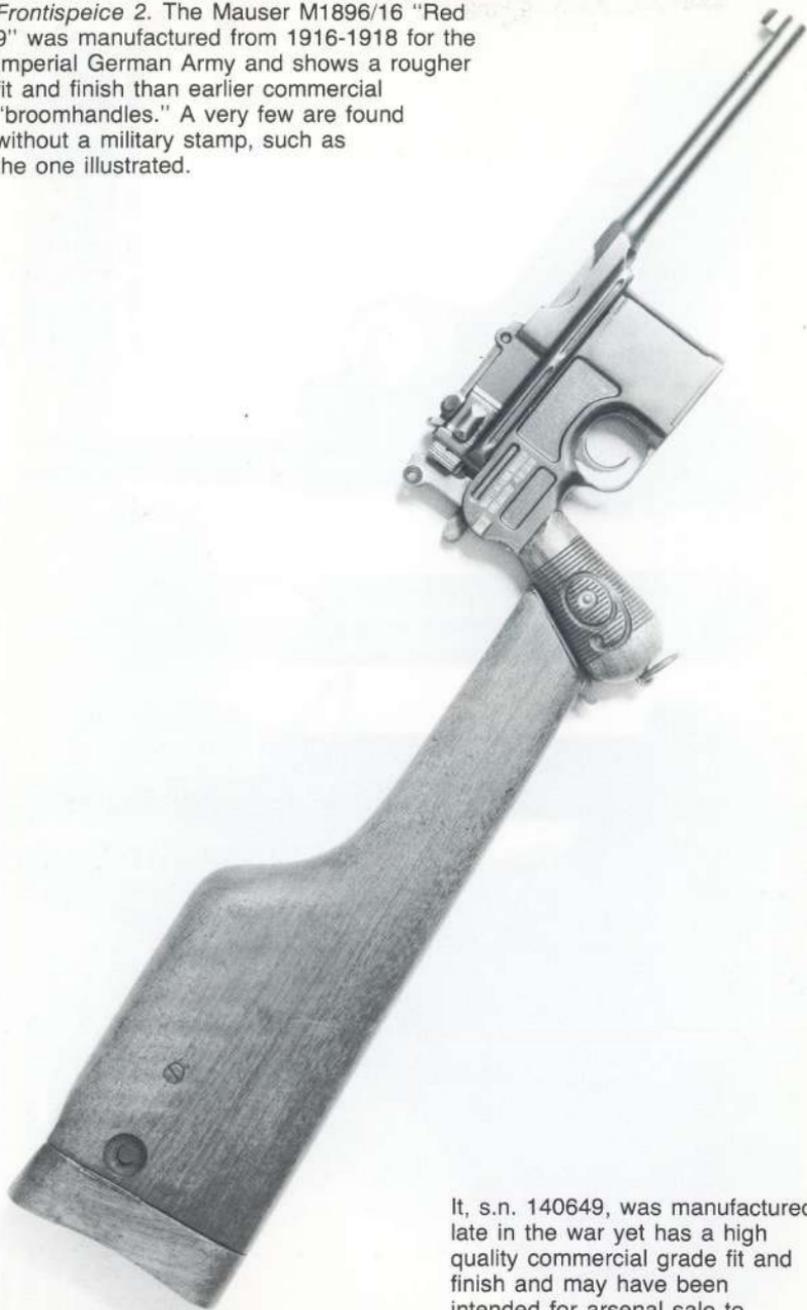
*Frontispiece 1.a.* 1908 and 1914 DWM Commercial Lugers were manufactured from 1908 to 1914 or 1915. A few were procured and marked by the Imperial German Army, Navy or Reichs Gendarmerie. Illustrated is a 1908 Commercial Army, s.n. 70756, that was manufactured in about 1913 with a hold open. It has military proofs unique to this variation, a matching magazine and a high grade commercial quality finish. See page 23.



*Frontispiece 1.b.* 1908 Commercial Army as issued with holster, loading tool and extra magazine. It is not commercially proofed.

The sear bar has been arsenal relieved and additional serial numbers placed in the military (exposed) style. A sear safety indicates police reissue after World War I.

*Frontispeice 2.* The Mauser M1896/16 "Red 9" was manufactured from 1916-1918 for the Imperial German Army and shows a rougher fit and finish than earlier commercial "broomhandles." A very few are found without a military stamp, such as the one illustrated.



It, s.n. 140649, was manufactured late in the war yet has a high quality commercial grade fit and finish and may have been intended for arsenal sale to officers. See page 37 and 126.

# The Pistols of Germany and It's Allies In Two World Wars

Volume 1

**Military Pistols Of Imperial Germany And  
Her World War I Allies And Postwar  
Military, Paramilitary And Police Reworks**

by

**Jan C. Still**

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## INTRODUCTION

By 1914 Europe was on the brink of war: bellicose nationalism, economic and territorial rivalries, and entangling alliances were the underlying causes. The June 28, 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir apparent to the Austrian throne) by a Serbian nationalist provided the trigger and within a year all Europe was a grim battlefield. Armies were fighting in France, Russia, Poland, Italy, the Balkans and Turkey along fronts over 500 miles wide. It was war waged on the land, sea and in the air with a scale, violence and industrial intensity the world had never seen. Barbed wire and machine guns dominated the defensive positions on the constricted Western Front while the vast spaces of the Eastern Front allowed expansive battles of sweeping maneuver. While poison gas and the machine gun extracted heavy casualties, fast firing artillery was the predominant killer most often blowing its victims to bits. In four years 13 million would die and another 30 million would be wounded. The harsh peace terms and German battle experience would set the stage for the next world war.

By 1914 the armies of the Central Powers had largely replaced the revolver with a rich variety of semi-automatic pistols, which had reached a fairly advanced state of development. Arms manufacturers in Germany, Austria-Hungary and Belgium supplied over 2.6 million semi-automatic pistols for official procurement to the military of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Specific military markings<sup>1</sup> were applied to the pistols procured by the armies of the Central Powers. In some cases a military branch or unit is indicated. These marked pistols reflect the history of the World War I era and this book describes these pistols. Although not capable of producing the casualties of artillery, machine guns or poison gas, the pistol as a personal defense weapon had a special significance to the officers and soldiers who carried them and they were one of the principal weapons used in the murderous close range and hand to hand combat that regularly occurred in the battles on every front. When his rifle or machine gun was jammed or empty and the enemy was charging at close range with blazing rifle and fixed bayonet, a soldier's life could well depend on a quick shot from his pistol.

<sup>1</sup>Generally termed ordnance or arsenal stamps.

This book will first briefly describe the historic wartime setting in which the pistols were used and then describe each pistol type and its military markings in detail. The last portion briefly describes the identification of unit markings and World War I military pistols reworked and reissued to the postwar German military or police. Appendix A covers wartime commercial pistols, issue revolvers and other pistols that may have been used or issued, while Appendix B contains pistol and ammunition specifications. Current prices for these collector pistols are in Appendix C. The map and table found in the back cover represent a summary of the more detailed information found in the text.

## GERMANY

### Military History

Mobilized Forces 11 million

Casualties 7.1 million

Late in the 19th century a strong German nation dominated by militaristic Prussia was forged from disunited states. By 1914 it was the military and economic rival of France, Britain and Russia. During this time, known as the Second Reich<sup>2</sup>, 1871-1918, Germany was dominated by Bismark and then Kaiser Wilhelm.

The German general staff, formed in the 19th century, through excellence, training and discipline forged the best led and manned army in Europe. Early in the 20th century the Schlieffen plan was developed by this general staff to meet the demands of a two front war (France in the west, Russia in the east). Its main concept was a holding action in the east and a powerful attack through neutral Belgium flanking the French fortifications and wheeling to take Paris and to hammer the bulk of the French army and fortifications from behind.

At the onset of war (August 3, 1914) Germany immediately put the Schlieffen plan into action. The imposing line of Belgium forts at Liege were literally crushed with huge (11.5-16.5 inch) howitzers; however, the ruthless drive through Belgium brought Great Britain directly into the war. By September the heavily fortified French forts had been flanked and German columns were within sight of Paris. With a last minute rally the French and British drove a wedge into a break in the German lines and stopped the German drive with savage hand to hand fighting at the First Battle of the Marne. A subsequent attempt to reach the Channel ports was stopped at Ypres (where Germany used poison gas for the first time on the western front). For the next four years this 350 mile front remained essentially static and great battles of attrition were fought with little gain. The bloody Somme and Verdun were such battles accounting for over ¾ of a million casualties.

At sea both Britain and Germany were armed with a new class of battleship. These powerful ½ mile long steel ships (termed dread-nought) bristling with long barrelled cannon (whose shells ripped

<sup>2</sup>The period 800-1800 is known as the First Reich of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation.

through the air like freight trains) epitomized this new era of mechanized warfare. The British fleet greatly outnumbered its German rival and it was Germany's strategy to avoid major fleet actions. The battle of Jutland in 1916 was the only major engagement and although Germany got the better of it materially it was strategically indecisive. Germany's use of unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917 against Britain was effective but indecisive, while the British economic and naval blockade starved and weakened the German civilian population.

The vast Eastern Front provided the maneuvering room for Germany to use its tactical superiority to inflict grievous defeats on the massive Russian armies. Russia's ill-equipped and led army suffered over 9 million casualties during three years of war, its greatest losses at the battles of Tannenberg (1914), Winter Battle (1915) and Gorlice-Tarnow (1915). By 1917 Russian losses on the battlefield and the Bolshevik Revolution knocked her out of the war. The subsequent Treaty of Brest-Litovsk imposed by Germany was the greatest humiliation in Russian military history. Under its harsh terms Russia was cut off from the Baltic, landlocked to the south, lost 34 percent of her population and 89% of her coal reserves.

With the east secured, German troops streamed westward for the final battles of the war (1918). In a series of 5 savage attacks (Kaiserschlacht), using special storm trooper infiltration tactics, the Germans made significant breakthroughs; however, with its loss of 800,000 men (mostly storm troopers) in four months the depleted and exhausted army was unable to capitalize on its gains. By this time the fresh Americans joined the battle in force. The turning point was the second battle of the Marne in which the British, for the first time, launched a massed tank attack (coordinated with air strikes) and, in what became known as the Black Day of the German army, she was decisively defeated. In November 1918 Germany surrendered.

Throughout the war Germany maintained the best led and manned Army in Europe. It inflicted twice the casualties on opposing armies and though consistently outnumbered 2½ to 1, it won the war on the Eastern Front and twice (1914 and 1918) came close to victory on the Western Front.

The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh territorial losses and an indemnity on Germany and severe restrictions on the military (restrictions were so detailed as to dictate the maximum caliber,

8mm, and barrel length, 3.94 inches, for pistols). It was a humiliation for Germany which only stimulated a revival of German nationalism and covert German rearmament in the early 1930s.

Over 2.1 million handguns were manufactured for the World War I German military by plants in Sömmerda, Zella, Suhl, Oberndorf, Erfurt, Berlin and Herstal in Belgium.

## GERMAN MILITARY PISTOLS

### German Manufacture

#### Proofs and Inspection Stamps

Pistols known to be officially procured by the Imperial German Army bear military inspection stamps and or proofs<sup>3</sup>. These take the form of stylized eagles and Germanic scriptic letters or symbols. On Lugers they are found on the receiver, barrel, breechblock, and other locations (World of Lugers Proof Marks by Costanzo contains a detailed listing). Military Lugers are not commercially proofed while some Commercial Military Lugers bear both commercial and military proofs. Other Army procured pistols (except the 1908 Bayard) bear crown/N or crown/U commercial proofs along with a military inspection stamp, usually at one location and some bear a military proof in the form of a stylized eagle.

Pistols known to be officially procured by the Imperial German Navy bear military inspection stamps in the form of a crown/M.

<sup>3</sup>Appendix A covers pistols without military stamps.

**P 04 IMPERIAL NAVY<sup>4</sup>** Fig. 1,2,3,Cal. 9mm P<sup>5</sup>**Military Stamp:****Commercial Proof:** None

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** 6-inch barrel, DWM toggle, stock lug, two position rear sight and commercial (hidden) style serial number placement are characteristic of all Navies.

Var. 1904: Thick barrel, blank chamber, long frame, toggle lock, grip safety-safe position with lever upward and originally no proofing or military stamps. Known serial range 35-1153. Est. Prod. 1200, very rare.

Var. 1906: blank chamber, long frame, and grip safety-safe position with lever upward; —most later altered to down position. Those without the altered safety are termed first issue and those with the altered safety second issue. Known serial range 9-998b. Est. Prod. 21,000.

Var. 1908: blank chamber, long frame and lack of grip safety distinguish this variation. Known serial range 1044b-9505b. Est. Prod. 8500.

Var. 1914: chamber, front sight, and left side of frame dated 1916, 1917 or 1918, short frame and sear bar and no grip safety. Known serial ranges: 1916, 44-9433; 1917, 20-7741a; 1918, 159-5309. Est. Prod. 32000.

In 1904 the Navy became the first branch of the German military to adapt the Luger. Five variations of "Navy" Luger were produced from 1904-1918 by Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken (DWM) in Berlin.

Most of these were issued with holster, cleaning rod, tool and two extra magazines in a pouch complete with shoulder stock that fastened to the back of the holster and attached to the pistol stock lug by means of an iron. A few were issued without the stock. Some have

<sup>4</sup>The German designation is *Marine Model 04*, the widely used collectors designation has been retained.

<sup>5</sup>Parabellum



Figure 1. Imperial Naval soldiers armed with the Naval Luger. Probably taken in 1911-1913 after completion of initial training. The bayonets are the Naval model 1911, a boarding saber. The inscription on the middle soldier's cap is Matrosen-Artillerie while that on the others is Torpedo-Division. (Luger-archiv Reinhard Kornmayer)



Figure 2. World War I Matrosen (sailer)-Infanterie armed with the Naval Luger.  
(Luger-archive Reinhard Kornmayer)



Figure 3a. P04 Navy-1914 variation dated 1917. The 6 inch barrel, two position rear sight, stock lug and lack of proofs on right receiver characterize all Imperial Naval Lugers.



Figure 3b. Left side view of 3a showing Imperial Naval stamps on the left receiver and the 1917 date on the left frame.

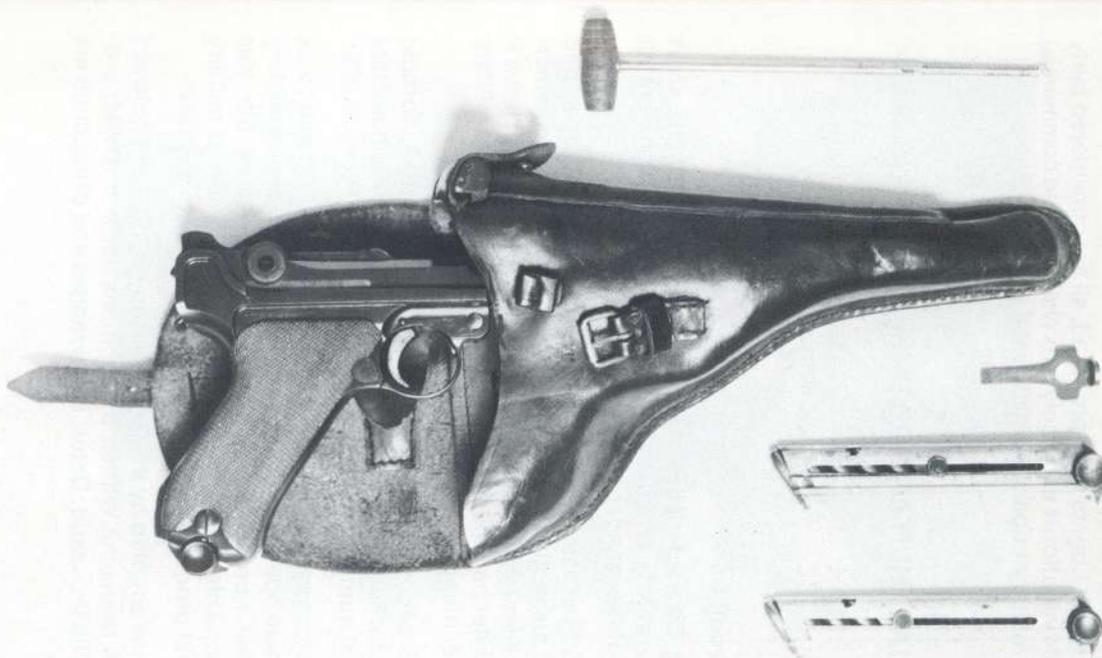


Figure 3c. Naval Luger shown with holster stamped JON. HUBER SATTLEREI, MÜNCHEN and stamped with crown over .l. This holster has belt loops and was never intended for attaching a board stock. Some P 04s were never issued with stock (**AUTO MAG VI**, p 191, Knox) the other accessories are tool, two extra magazines and issue cleaning rod.

unit markings on the grip strap. One of these markings has been identified as being issued to a Naval unit in China! (See table 3 for the identification of Imperial Naval unit markings.)

Only 62,000 Naval Lugers were procured, all are considered fairly rare and the 1904 variation is extremely rare. Navy proofed commercial and first issue military Lugers are discussed on pages 23 and 24.

## **P 08 IMPERIAL MILITARY DWM** Fig. 4, 5, 6      Cal. 9mm P.

**Military Stamp:**



 /scriptic sym.

**Commercial Proof:** None

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** 4-inch barrel, DWM toggle, short frame, military proofs on barrel, receiver and breechblock are all characteristic of the standard DWM military Luger.

Var. 1908 First Issue: blank chamber, lack of hold open and stock lug, distinctive proofs on left side of receiver and commercial style serial number placement characterize the first issue P 08. Most later had the hold open added and a few have military style serial numbers added. Est. Prod. 25,000, fairly rare.

Var. 1908 Second Issue: chamber dated 1910-1913, no hold open or stock lug, proofs on right side of receiver and military style serial number placement by mid 1912. Est. Prod. 70,000.

Var. 1914: chamber dated 1913 (few) and 1914-1918, with stock lug and hold open, proofs on right side of receiver and military style serial number placement, in 1916 the sear bar was shortened. This would be the basic configuration of military Luger until production ceased in 1942. Est. Prod. 570,000.

The Luger was adapted by the German Army in 1908 and between 1908 and 1918 Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken (DWM) produced about 665 thousand. Dates, serial ranges and production are given in Table 1.

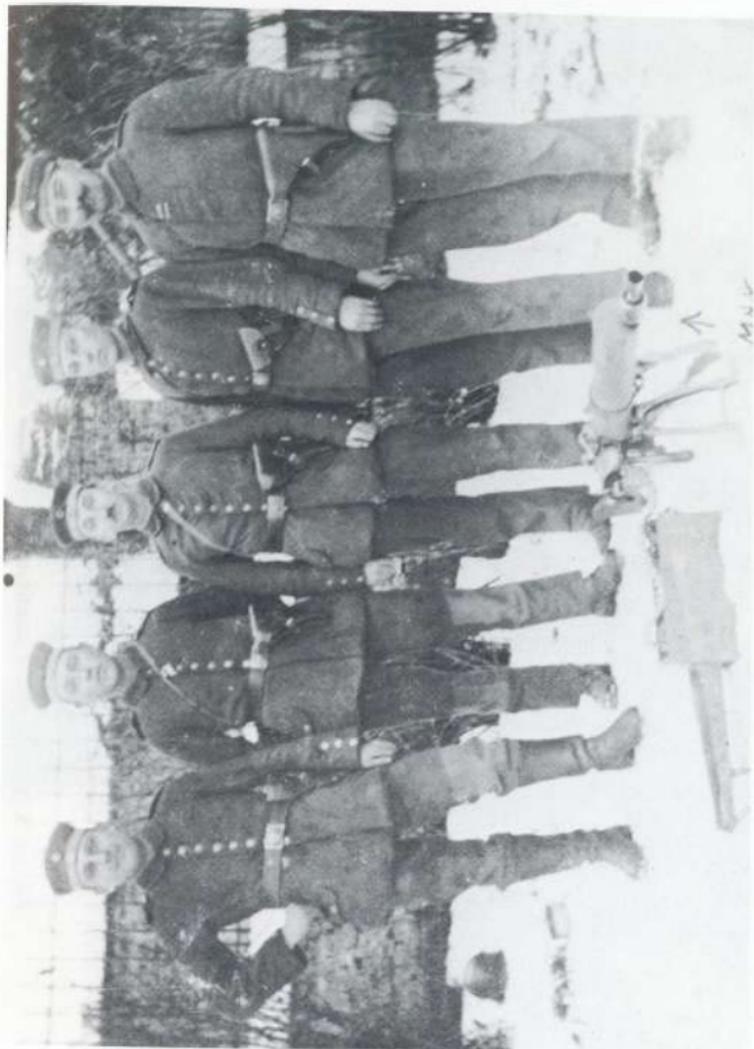


Figure 4. Photo marked France 26, Jan. 1918, showing German infantry soldiers armed with the military (Army) Luger. The second from right soldier is armed with a 7.65 caliber pistol. Each infantry company carried the light machine gun (08/15 shown) (Luger-archiv Reinhard Kornmayer)



left: Photo dated 6 Oct. 1915 showing ROLF JAMROWSKI, Second Lieutenant in Danziger Infanterie Regiment Nr. 128.

center: Soldier firing a heavy machine gun.

right: This photograph is marked "Arthur Rhode 1914-18." He was a gunner of a machine gun - sniper division 1917/1918.



Figure 5. World War I soldiers armed with the P 08. (Luger-archive Reinhard Kornmayer)



Figure 6a. Variations of the Imperial military (Army) Luger, top to bottom: 1908 first issue DWM, blank chamber, s.n. 2108a; 1908 second issue DWM, 1913 chamber date, s.n. 1386b; 1914 DWM, 1917 chamber date, s.n. 6302b; 1908 Erfurt, chamber date 1912, s.n. 5143; 1914 Erfurt, chamber date 1914, s.n. 1176; Note the lack of stock lug on the 1908 variations. 1917 DWM and 1914 Erfurt from the collection of E. Hildebrand, Douglas, Alaska.



*Figure 6b.* Chamber and toggle markings for the Lugers in figure 6a. The hidden-commercial style serial placement on the 1908 first issue (blank chamber) DWM contrasts with the military style placement on the other variations.

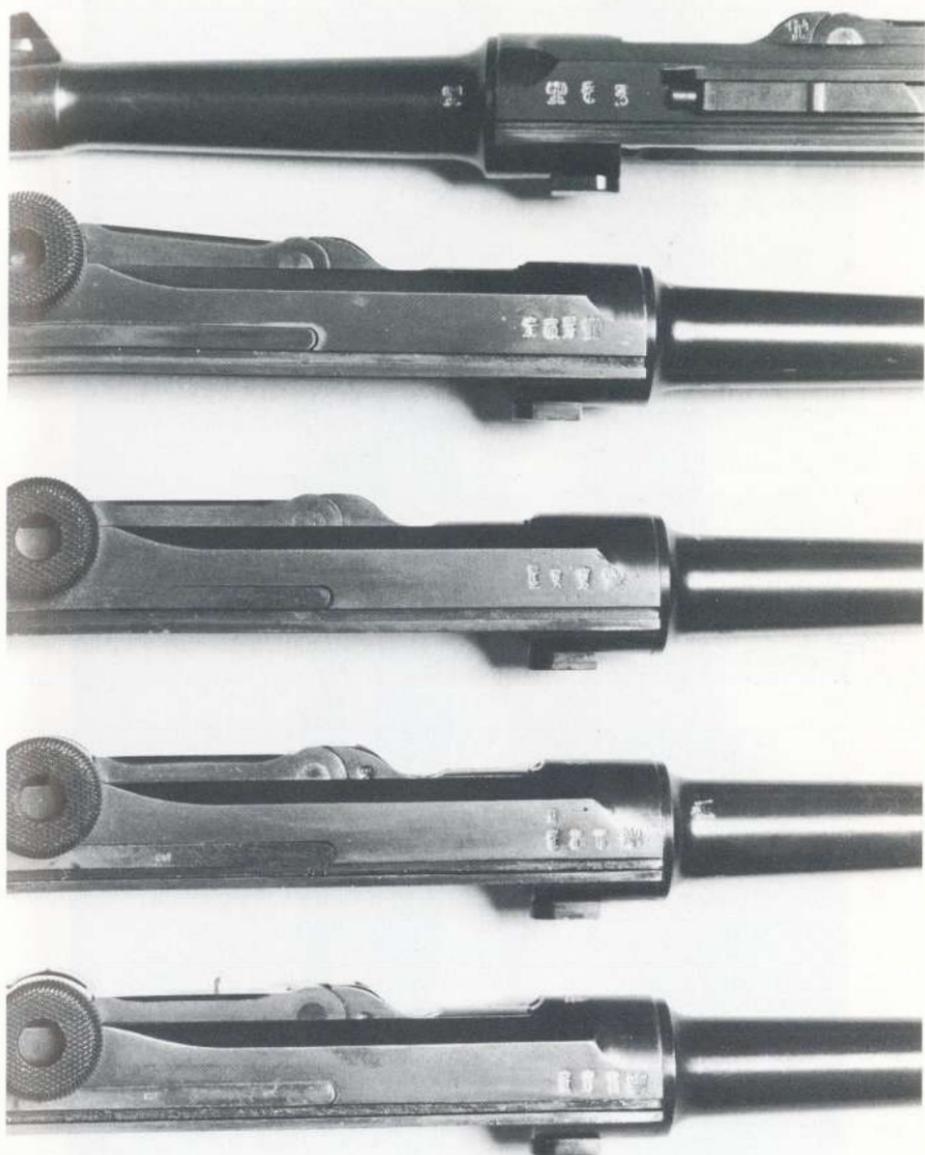
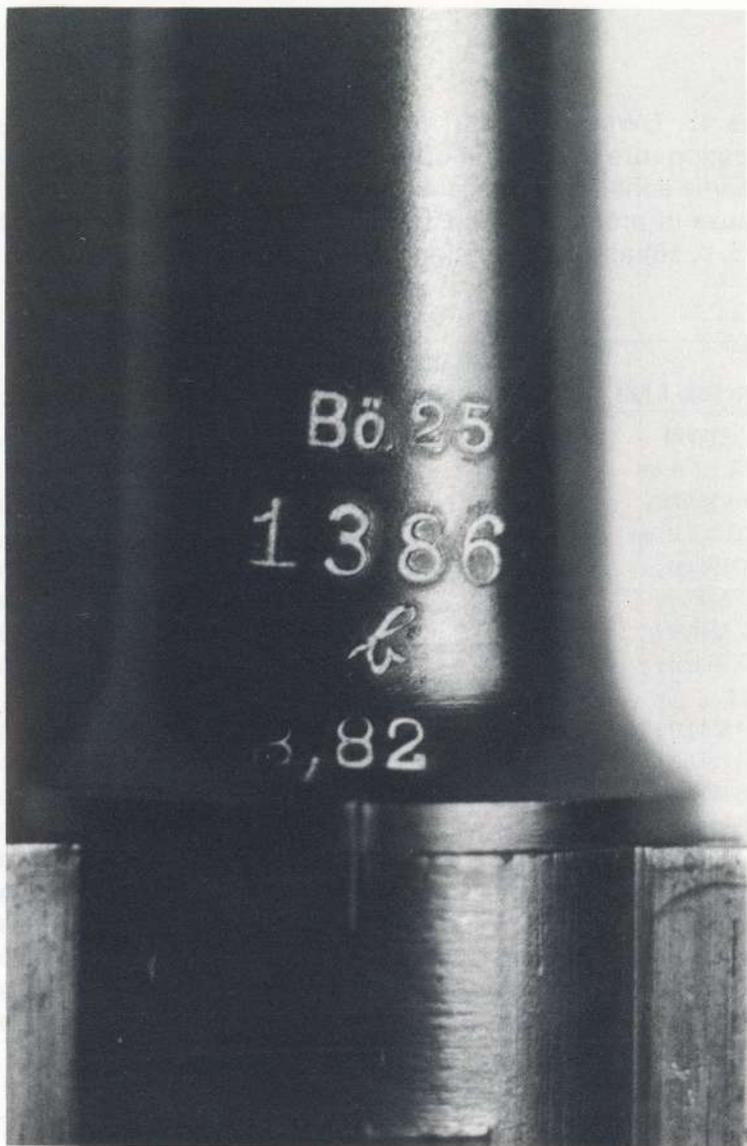


Figure 6c. P 08 Imperial receiver military stamps, top to bottom: 1908 DWM 1st issue, 1913 dated DWM, 1917 dated DWM, 1912 dated Erfurt and 1914 dated Erfurt.



*Figure 6d.* P 08-1912 dated Erfurt bearing Bavarian unit markings: Bavarian 13th Infantry Regiment 9th Company Weapon No. 5. See section covering Army unit marking for details. From the collection of Dan Kattenhorn, Juneau, Alaska.



*Figure 6e.* The Bö 25 stamp on this 1913 DWN indicates the barrel is made of Böhler steel. This stamp is found on a very few 1913 and 1914 DWM and Erfurt Lugers. It indicates hardness for an experimental hardness process.

**Table 1.** DWM and Erfurt military serial range and production. Indications are that in 1917 both the P 08 and the Lange P 08 occupy the same serial range because both fill the same letter blocks and because of production constraints. Based on the table by Lafferty (1975, p. 58) and conversation with Lafferty (1981).

Luger Model & Date	Known Letter Blocks n.l. = no letter or first	Known Serial Range	Est. Production
<b>DWM</b>			
M1908 1st Issue Blank Military	n.l., a, b	34 - 2636b	25000
M1908 2nd Issue			
1910 Military	b, c, d	5095b - 5358d	20000
1911 Military	d, e	7248d - 4825e	15000
1912 Military	n.l.	599 - 9974	10000
1913 Military	n.l., a, b	2617 - 3850b	25000
M1914			
1914 Military	n.l., a, b, c	282 - 6212c	40000
1914 Lange	n.l., a	4147 - 539a	10000
1915 Military	n.l., a, b, c, d, e, g, i	1398 - 2557i	100000
1915 Lange	n.l., a	2988 - 6166a	20000
1916 Military	n.l., a, b, c, d, e, f, h, k, m, n, q	287 - 5438q	180000
1916 Lange	n.l., a, b	1112 - 2660b	25000
1917 Military	n.l., b, c, d, e, f, m, n	587 - 3521n	60000
1917 Lange	n.l., a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, k, l, m	211 - 3085m	100000
1918 Military	n.l., a, b, c, d, e, g, k, r	3690 - 9018r	190000
1918 Lange	n.l., a, b	320 - 6402b	25000
	Total Production Military Model DWM		665000
	Total Production Lange Model DWM		180000

Table 1, Continued

Luger Model & Date	Known Letter Blocks n.l. = no letter or first	Known Serial Range	Est. Production
<b>ERFURT</b>			
M1908			
1911 Military	n.l.	575 - 9548	10000
1912 Military	n.l., a, b	255 - 866b	22000
1913 Military	n.l., a, b	575 - 2563b	25000
M1914			
1914 Military	n.l., a, b	2137 - 539a	25000
1914 Lange	n.l., a, b	318 - 3791b	25000
1915 Military	None Reported	—	—
1916 Military	n.l., a, c, d, e, g	13 - 5764g	80000
1917 Military	n.l., e, g, h, i, k, r, v	844 - 2854v	150000
1918 Military	n.l., b, c, d, g, l, m, n, r, s, t	304 - 5816s	180000
	*Total Production Military Model Erfurt		492000
	Total Production Lange Model Erfurt		25000

\*Note: it is likely that Erfurt skipped some letter blocks and the estimated production reflects this

Almost all P 08 Military<sup>6</sup> were procured by the Army for issue to Army units. An exception is a very few low serial number Lugers with some of the characteristics of the P 08 First Issue (blank chamber and no hold open) that bear Navy crown/M stamps and no other military stamps. Reported serial numbers are 76, 111 and 135.<sup>7</sup>

## 1908 and 1914 DWM COMMERCIAL MILITARY Fig. 7, Frontispiece , Fig. 25

Cal. 9mm P.

**Military Stamp:** crown/scriptic symbol, military eagle proof, Naval crown/M or R.G.

**Commercial Proof:** occasionally crown/N

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** 4-inch barrel, blank chamber, DWM toggle, long sear bar, short frame, hold open may not be present, five digit serial number, commercial style serial placement;—occasionally parts will be numbered in the military style, stock lug on the 1914 var. and absent on the 1908 var.

Var. Commercial Army: military (Army) stamp or unit marking. Est. Prod. 900

Var. Commercial Navy: Navy stamps. Est. Prod. few hundred

Var. Commercial Reichs Gendarmerie, R.G. unit markings engraved on the left frame panel. Est. Prod. 400

1908 and 1914 DWM Commercial Lugers were manufactured from 1908 to 1914 or 1915. They are of the highest quality and a few were procured and marked by the Imperial German Army, Navy, or Reichs

<sup>6</sup> "P 08 military" has long been used to describe the Luger model issued to Army units. Perhaps P 08 Army would be more descriptive. For the sake of consistency with past usage the term military is used where in some cases the term Army would probably be more precise.

<sup>7</sup> T. Knox reports that serial number 135 has Naval crown/M and or crown proofs on the left receiver, barrel and breech block, no commercial proofs and an added hold open. Unusual for a 1908 first issue, it has a stock lug. These may have been for a special Naval contract with its own serial range.

Gendarmerie. Kenyon (1969 p. 158) used the term 1908 Commercial Military to refer to those specifically procured by the Army. Here this term is used generally and the Army, Navy and R.G. marked variations are designated as such. Table 2 lists the various types of 1908 and 1914 Commercial Military and some commercial Lugers of interest.

The main serial range block for the 1908 Commercial Army is 69600-70907 Costanzo (p. 232). Commercial Army Lugers have military stamps on the right receiver that are unique to this variation, lack commercial proofs and were manufactured with a hold open. They were manufactured in about 1913 or 1914 and were apparently not test pistols but were routed to Army service. See frontispiece.

Navy proofed 1908 Commercials are reported in the 69111-69576 serial range while some commercials in the 71420-72215 range are Navy proofed. Most of these have crown/N commercial proofs with added Naval crown/M Stamps.

Two 1908 commercials with serials well below the above blocks, sn 60530 and 61477, have double crown/B military stamps on the right receiver. This stamp has not been observed or reported on any other commercial or military pistols but is almost certainly military. The former pistol, figure 7, has an R.G. 14<sup>b</sup> factory (?) engraved on its left frame panel. This marking has been documented (Kornmayer 1982) as designating the **Reichs Gendarmerie**, a special police force under the Imperial Reich. The presence of military stamps on this police pistol may indicate that the Reichs Gendarmerie was a militarized police unit with close ties to the Imperial military.

1908 and 1914 Commercial Reichs Gendarmerie Lugers are found in the 60530-74707 serial range and were produced from about 1912 to 1914 or 1915.<sup>a</sup> They are crown/N proofed, were manufactured with a hold open and are identified by an R.G. engraved in their left frame panel. See page 101 for additional information.

1908 and 1914 Commercial Military Lugers are rare and highly prized by collectors.

<sup>a</sup>According to Kenyon (p. 122) the 1914 Commercial was actually manufactured in 1913.



Figure 7 1908 DWM commercial military (s.n. 60530) Luger with double Crown/B military stamps on the receiver, 8.83 military barrel land diameter on the barrel, R.G. 14<sup>b</sup> engraved on left side panel before blueing and 14<sup>b</sup> stamped on magazine. The R.G. is the designation for the Reichs Gendarmerie, a paramilitary police force that was active in the Alsace Lorraine and the colonies prior to 1918. It likely had close ties to the Imperial military. See figure 25. *Pistol and photograph from the collection of D.J. Rousseau, Anchorage, Alaska.*

**Table 2.** Serial ranges and information on 1908 and 1914 DWM commercial Lugers with military stamps or Imperial police or military unit markings and some standard commercial Lugers of interest. After Jim Cate, **AUTO MAG** Vol. XII p. 109, and information from Pat Redmond, 1982.

- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 39142, without hold open, BUG proofed, Imperial crown stamped above chamber, H 141 unit marking on front grip strap.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 59953, naval stamp added.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 60530, double crown/B military stamp on right receiver, hold open, and long sear bar, barrel with 8.83 military land diameter, R.G. 14<sup>b</sup> engraved on left frame and the engraving is blued, 14<sup>b</sup> on magazine, holster manufacture F. BIERENBREIRER-KEHL RH. and marked R.G. 14<sup>b</sup> on inside of holster and H.9 inside flap. Holster has take down tool compartment, with punch compartment below it and cleaning rod compartment beside magazine compartment. See Figure 7.
- 1908 commercial, s.n. 61305, R.G. 27.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 61477, double crown/B military stamp on right receiver.
- 1908 Commercial, R.G. 41 (**AUTO MAG** XI p. 222.)  
 R.G. 51 (**AUTO MAG** XI p. 222.)  
 R.G. 109 with 109 marked magazine (**AUTO MAG** XI p. 222.)
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 69111, Naval stamp added.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 69182, Naval stamp added.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 69548, Naval stamp added.
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 69576, Naval stamp added.
- 1908 Commercial Army, s.n. range 69600-70907, no commercial proofs and Army stamps on right receiver, as reported by Costanzo 1977, p. 232.
- 1908 Commercial Army, sn. 69859
- 1908 Commercial Army, s.n. 70093.
- 1908 Commercial Army, s.n. 70756. See frontispiece
- 1908 Commercial, s.n. 71420, Naval stamp added.

*Table 2, Continued*

- 1914 Commercial, Kenyon, p. 122 reports a 1914 Commercial with added military proofs on the right receiver.
- 1914 Commercial, Navy, s.n. 72215, Naval stamps on left receiver and barrel, crown/N proofs on left receiver, bottom of barrel and breechblock, partial military style parts numbering.
- 1914 Commercial, Lange\*, s.n. 73396, lazy crown/N proofs, long sear and commercial style parts numbering (Morris, 1980, p. 26.)
- 1914 Commercial, s.n. 74012, R.G. 238, complete with two matching numbered magazines and holster marked R.G. 16.
- 1914 Commercial, s.n. 74036, R.G. 252.
- 1914 Commercial, s.n. 74275, chamber dated 1915, lazy crown/N proofs, military style serial numbering of parts. This may contradict Kenyons (p. 122) estimate that 1914 commercials were manufactured in 1913.
- 1914 Commercial, s.n. 74596, lazy crown/N commercial proofs, R.G. 136<sup>b</sup> engraved on left receiver and engraving is blued, partial military style serial number placement, hold open and long sear bar. See Figure 25.
- 1914 Commercial, s.n. 74707, R.G. 272.
- 1923 Commercial, s.n. 74845, upright crown/N proofs.

\*Long or Artillery Model

**P 08 IMPERIAL MILITARY ERFURT** Fig. 4, 5, 6 Cal. 9mm P.**Military Stamp:**  /scriptic sym.**Commercial Proof:** None

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** 4 inch barrel, crown Erfurt toggle, chamber date 1911-1918, except 1915, proofs on right side of receiver and military inspection stamps on all parts, military style serial number placement. In general, Erfurt produced Lugers have a rougher fit and finish than DWM produced Lugers.

Var. 1908: Chamber dated 1911-1913, no stock lug or hold open, most later had the hold open added. Est. Prod. 57,000.

Var. 1914: Chamber dated 1914, 1916, 1917, and 1918 with stock lug and hold open. Est. Prod. 435,000.

The Erfurt military Luger was produced by Erfurt Gewehrfabrik (the Prussian Royal Arsenal at Erfurt) from 1911-1918 (except 1915). Dates, serial ranges, and production are given in Table 1. About 492,000 were procured for the Army.

Some Lugers are stamped with military unit markings. Figure 6d. shows a Bavarian unit marking stamped on a 1912 Erfurt Luger.

**LANGE<sup>9</sup> P 08 ERFURT and DWM** Fig. 8, 9 Cal. 9mm P.**Military Stamp:** Erfurt  /scriptic sym.DWM  /scriptic sym.**Commercial Proof:** None**Distinguishing Characteristics:** 8-inch barrel with 9 position rear

<sup>9</sup>Long, termed *Artillery* by American collectors



*Figure 8. German soldier of the Field Artillery armed with the Lange P 08 with wooden stock. It is worn in the official style—note, the two pouches for the spare magazines fixed at the belt. His unit is "Gebirgs-Kanonen-Batterie No.2" (1914/15) a Prussian formation stationed in Waldkirch (Black Forest). It was under the command of army group "Deutscher Kornprinz" and armed with the 7.5 cm Gebirgs-Kanone type L/14 which shot a shell of 5.3 kg. (11.7 lbs.) over 6000 meters (3.7 miles). His helmet has the war cover. (Luger-archive Reinhard Kornmayer)*

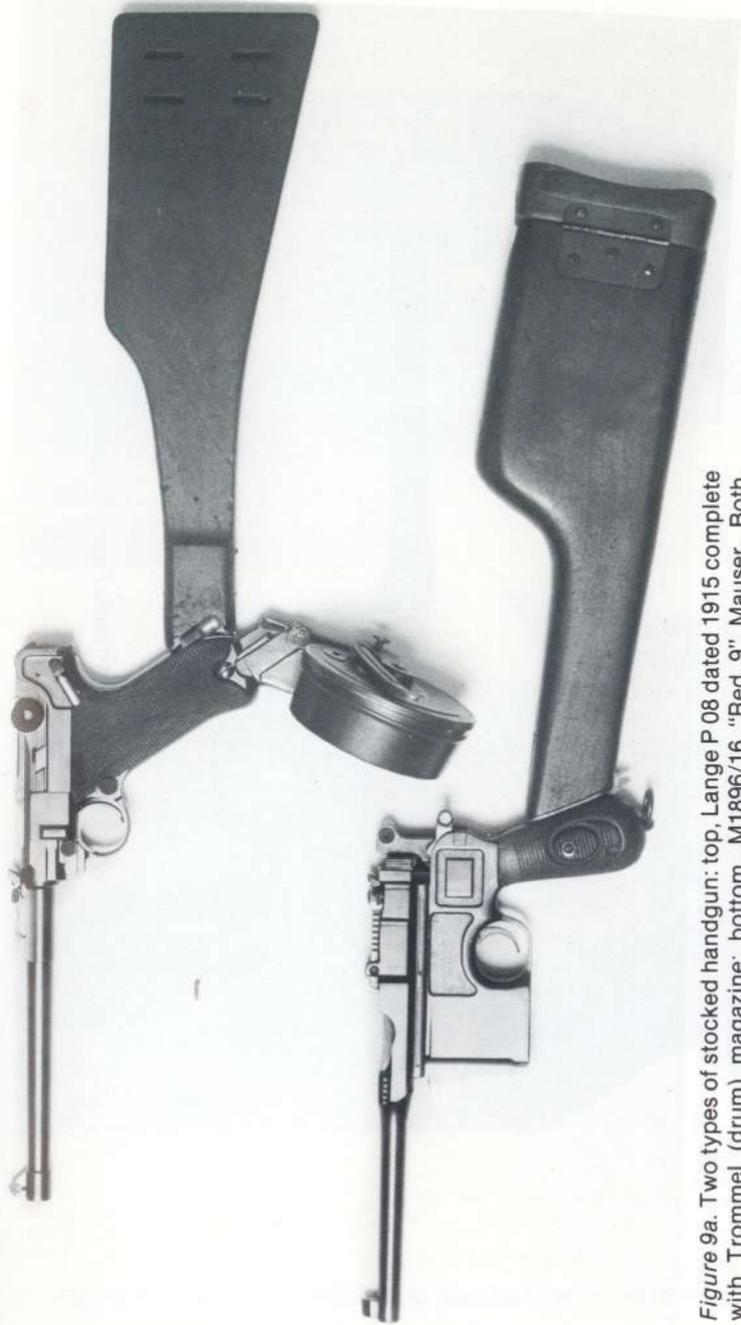


Figure 9a. Two types of stocked handgun: top, Lange P 08 dated 1915 complete with Trommel (drum) magazine; bottom, M1896/16 "Red 9" Mauser. Both, particularly the Lange P 08 with Trommel magazine, were capable of a formidable volume of close range fire. The 32 shot Trommel magazine was introduced in 1917. The "Red 9" with matching shoulder stock is from the collection of E. Hildebrand, Douglas, Alaska, who liberated it from a German arms depot in March 1945.

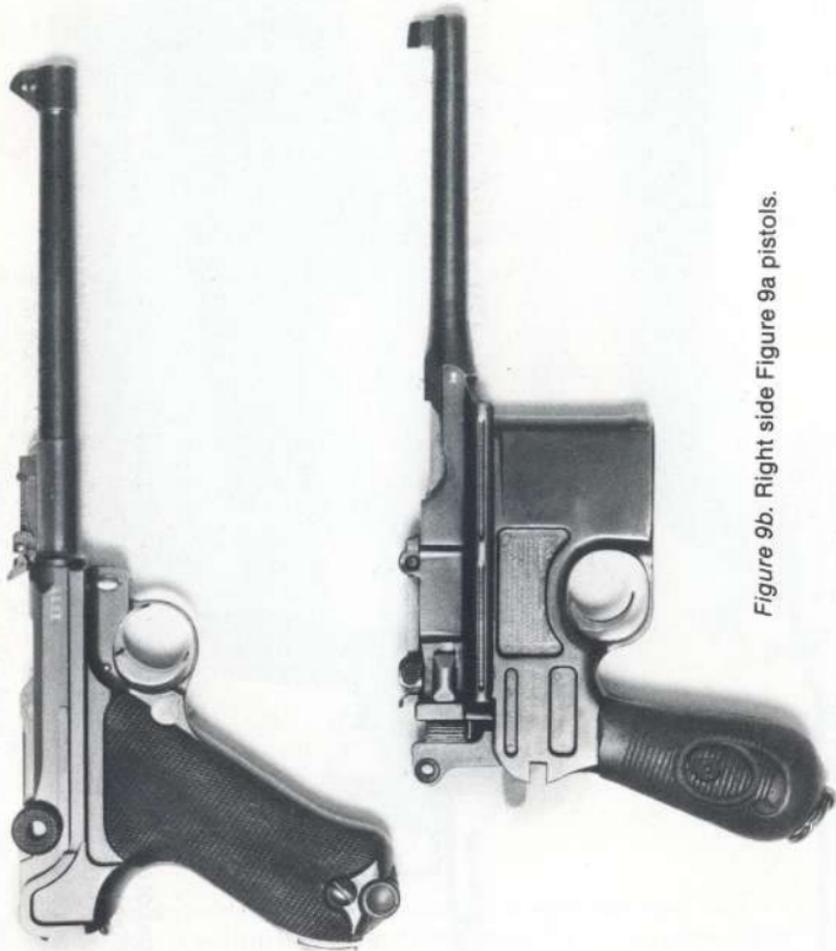


Figure 9b. Right side Figure 9a pistols.

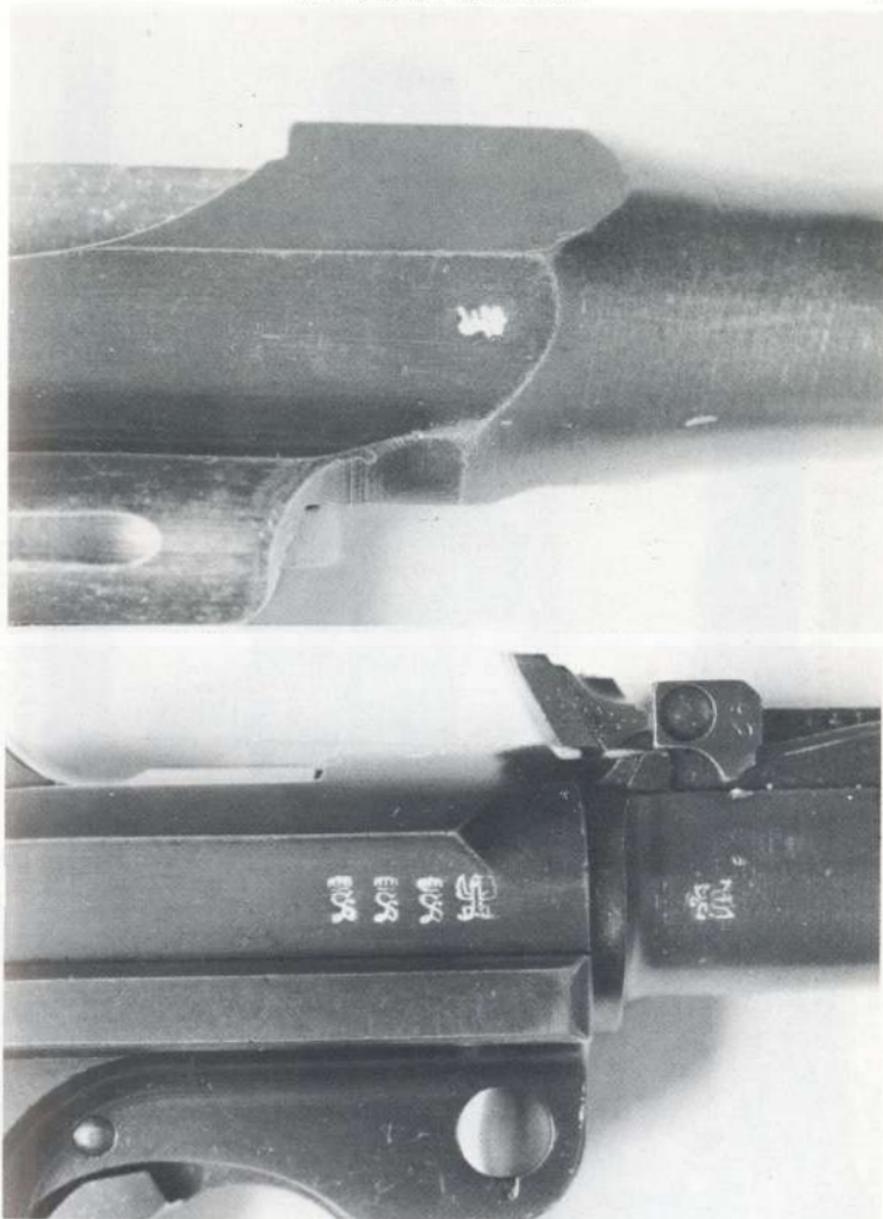


Figure 9c. Receiver proofs: top, M1896/16; bottom, 1915 dated Lange P 08.



Figure 9d. Leather holster attached to Lange P 08 shoulder stock and hollow wooden holster stock with harness for the M1896/16. This harness is manufacturer marked G. BILLEP SPANAU 1916 and unit marked F.A.R. 111/1 Batt. This unit marking is identified as **Feld-Artillerie-Regiment No.111**, 1. Batterie.

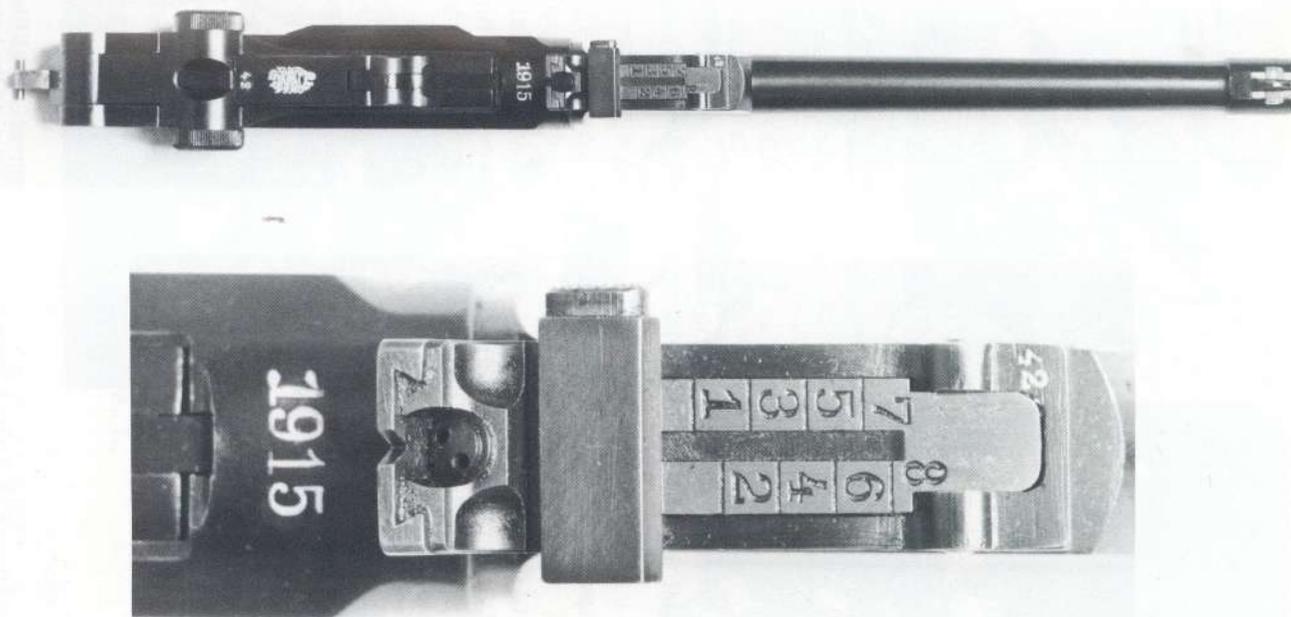
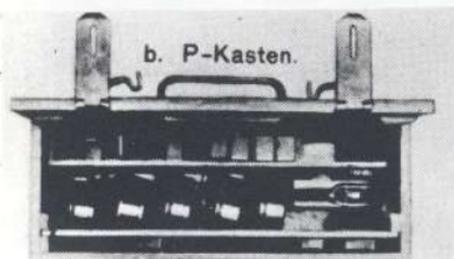


Figure 9e. Lange P 08 showing the top view and details of the fine tuned 8 position rear sight. A 1917 dated military manual states that the "long barrellled Parabellum, the rear sight of which is graduated to 800 meters, makes a formidable weapon for close combat, assault sorties and other special duties especially when equipped with the trommel magazine."



Füllen des Magazins.



(Inhalt: 5 T. M., 1 Füller, Munition.)



b. Zusammensetzen der Pistole.  
(Aufschieben des Griffstücks auf die Hülsen)



Figure 9f. Photographs from a 1917 dated German military manual on the Lange P 08 and drum or trommel magazine.

sight mounted on it, with stock lug and hold open, proofs on right side of receiver and military style serial number placement.

Var. Erfurt: Chamber dated, 1914, crown Erfurt toggle and military inspection stamps on all parts. Est. Prod. 25,000 fairly rare.

Var. DWM: Chamber dated 1914-18, and DWM toggle. Est. Prod. 180,000.

The Lange P 08 was adapted in 1913 (Walter 1977, p. 90) and manufacture commenced by the Prussian Royal Arsenal at Erfurt and by Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken in 1914. Manufacture ceased by Erfurt in late 1914 and continued at DWM until 1918. Dates, serial ranges and production are in Table 1. About 205,000 were procured for the Army.

A 1914 commercial<sup>10</sup> version of the Lange P 08, s.n. 73396, was recently discovered (Morris, 1980, p. 26). The commercial version of the Lange P 08 may have preceeded the military version and been the source of test pieces on which the 1913 adaption was based.

The long barrelled military P 08s were issued with a shoulder stock, holster, tool, cleaning rod and later a 32 round drum magazine (trommel magazine) and drum loading tool. The combination of pistol, stock and drum magazine formed a formidable source of mobile close range fire power and its success led to the development of the first submachine gun, MP181, later in the war.

The Lange P 08 was issued to artillerymen, airmen, machine gun units and others. According to Walter (1977 p. 27) many were withdrawn from the artillery and reissued to the Navy's gunboat crews towards the end of the war.

**Trommel Magazine (t.m.),**  
capacity 32 rounds, Fig. 9a., f.,

Cal. 9mm P.

**Military Stamp:**  $\frac{B}{N}$  on top and bottom  on top left side of magazine

<sup>10</sup> According to Kenyon (p. 122) the 1914 Commercial was actually manufactured in 1913.

Var.<sup>11</sup> 1st issue with sliding winding lever.

Var.<sup>11</sup> 2nd issue with folding winding lever.

The trommel magazine (also called snail drum) was manufactured by several subcontractors through DWM in 1917 and 1918. According to information presented by E. Sayre in **AUTO MAG** (Vol XIII p. 124) known serials range from 2114 to 708947. It is estimated that over 725,000 were procured mostly for use with the Lange P 08. A few thousand were issued for the Bergman MP181 submachine gun. This submachine gun was introduced at the war's end and only two to three thousand were procured (Wilson p. 272). According to a 1917 dated military manual the t.m.'s were issued in wooden ammunition boxes each containing 5 trommel magazines, a loading tool and ammunition, Figure 9f. It is stated in the above manual: "The t.m. can be used on the long and short barrelled Parabellums. The higher performance achieved with the long barrelled Parabellum, the rear sight of which is graduated to 800 meters, makes it a formidable weapon for close combat, assault sorties and other special duties, especially when equipped with the trommel magazine."

### M1896/16 MAUSER RED 9 Fig. 9

Cal. 9mm P

**Military Stamp:**



on right side of chamber and some have



on front of magazine housing

**Commercial Proof:** Crown U

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** Red 9 on grips, NS-new safety, tangent rear sight marked 50-500. Rougher fit and finish than earlier Mauser pistols.

The M1896/16 Mauser was manufactured by Waffenfabrik Mauser at Oberndorf from 1916-18 for the German Army. One hundred fifty

<sup>11</sup> Sayre (**AUTO MAG** Vol. XIII P. 124) lists a number of additional variations.

thousand were contracted for, and about 140 thousand were delivered by the end of the war. Serial numbers range from near 1 to over 140,000. A 9 was marked in the grips and filled with red paint to distinguish it from the 7.63 mm broomhandles already in service. Judging from variations in size and style of this 9, it was likely done at arsenals or regimental armourers and not at the factory. Collectors have termed the M1896/16 the Red 9. They were issued with shoulder stock-holster, leather harness and cleaning rod, mostly to machine gun units and artillery crews. Imperial Naval stamped holsters for the broomhandle have been reported.

Some M1896/16 have been observed without military stamps and many pistols in the 36000-38000 serial range are both without military stamps and Red 9 grips (**AUTO MAG** Vol. XIII p. 212). These may be commercial versions of the M1896/16 intended for officer self purchase. See Appendix A, wartime commercial pistols and Figure 31.

Military serials reported: 555, 1015, 3957, 5524, 22490, 26907, 38638, 49374, 51845, 54472, 70495, 91558, 93875, 99082, 109161, 135127.

Reported without military stamps: pistols in the 36000-38000 range, 126008, 139358, 140649.

## M1896/12 MAUSER

Cal. 7.63 mm Mauser

**Military Stamp:**  on right side of chamber

**Commercial Proof:** Crown/U

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** NS or new safety, tangent rear sight marked 50-1000, interspersed in serial range 290,090 to 433,900 (Breathed p. 124).

Many of these wartime commercial broomhandles bear military inspection stamps and many of the remainder were probably routed to self purchase by individuals in the military. About 50,000 bear military inspection stamps and were officially procured.

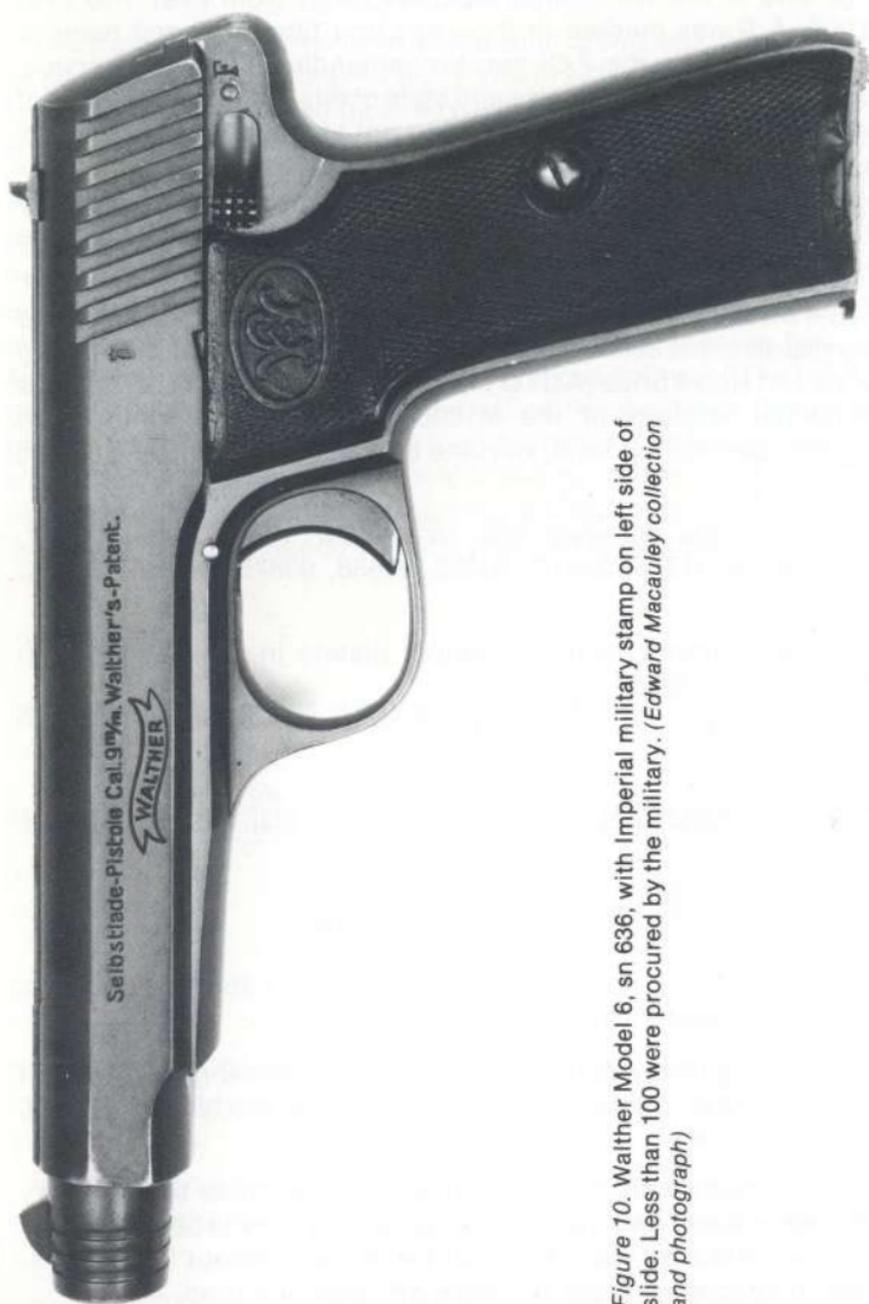


Figure 10. Walther Model 6, sn 636, with Imperial military stamp on left side of slide. Less than 100 were procured by the military. (Edward Macauley collection and photograph)

Military serials reported: 304021, 314765, 338196, 392194, 396452, 397674, 406731, 409047, 428420.

## M6 WALTHER Fig. 10

Cal. 9mm P.

**Military Stamp:**



**Commercial Proof:** Crown/N

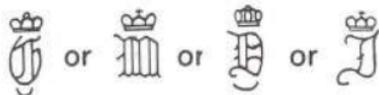
The Walther Model 6 looks like an enlarged version of the Model 4 (except ejection is to the right) and like the Model 4 it has an unlocked breech. Serial numbers range from approximately 1-2000 and about 2,000 were produced in 1915-17 by Carl Walther Waffenfabrik at Zella St. Blasii. It was specifically developed for military use; however, few were procured because the military didn't consider its unlocked action adequate for the 9mm Parabellum loading. Only two in the 600 s.n. range have been reported with military stamps and military procurement is estimated at less than 100. This is the rare WWI military.

Military serials reported: 636 and 682.

## M4 WALTHER Fig. 11

Cal. 7.65mm

**Military Stamp:**



located behind ejection port or on left trigger guard.

**Commercial Proof:** Crown/N

**Distinguishing Characteristics:** Left hand ejection.

Walther started production of the Model 4 in 1910 and it ceased at the end of the war with a total production of about 275,000. Data indicates the serials may be a continuation of the Model 3 range.

They start at about 30000 and range up to 275000 with a few odd serials in the 300000 and 400000 range. The latter serials may represent post war production. Military procurement probably started in 1915 and ended in 1918. Over 75000 were procured mostly for staff officers and reserves.

Military serials reported: 50628, 64112, 65149, 65411, 70585, 73492, 78886, 85272, 95573, 108892, 123578.

### 1913 SAUER Fig. 11

Cal 7.65mm

**Military Stamp:**  or  or  on right frame and some

have  on trigger guard. Note, this is the same

eagle stamp as found on the Erfurt military P 08. See Figure 6c.

#### Commercial Proof: Crown/N

Production of the 1913 Sauer started in 1913 at J.P. Sauer u. Sohn, Suhl and ended in 1930 with a total production of about 175,000. Known serials range from 3463-166292. Wartime production was about 100,000 and of these it is estimated that less than 10,000 were officially produced. It is one of the most compact and finest of the wartime pocket pistols and those with military stamps are fairly rare.

Military serials reported: 49778, 50837, 81085, 84344, 85467.

### 07 DREYSE Fig. 11

Cal. 7.65mm

**Military Stamp:**  or  or  located above ejection port.

#### Commercial Proof: Crown/N

The 1907 Dreyse was produced from 1907-1915<sup>12</sup> at Rheinische

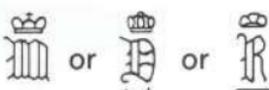
<sup>12</sup> Some references (*AUTO MAG*, Vol. X p. 11) indicate the 07 Dreyse was manufactured to 1918, considering the high production this may be the case.

Metallwaren u. Maschinenfabrik (shortened to Rheinmetall), Sommerda. Serials range from about 1-250000. About 250,000 were produced and about 80000 of the wartime production were officially procured. A sturdy and reliable pistol, some bear police markings and a 1943 dated Nazi police equipment manual indicates some remained in police service during the Nazi era. See pages 86 and 118.

Military serials reported: 113324, 117820, 132611, 134406, 140000, 148279, 174469, 190775.

### FL SELBSTLADER Fig. 11

Cal. 7.65mm

**Military Stamp:**  or  or  or  on left frame.

**Commercial Proof:** Crown/N

The FL Selbstlader was produced by Langenhan Gewehre und Fahrradfabrik at Zella-Mehlis from 1915-1918. Serials range from about 1-85000. Most of the 85,000 produced bear military stamps. A single screw holds a yoke that retains the slide to the breech block. If this screw works out and the yoke rotates upward the breech block could fly into the face of the shooter, however the probability is somewhat remote.

Military serials reported: 2856, 5122, 10003, 20366, 32470, 42087, 47502, 55223, 84134.

### BEHOLLA Fig. 11b

Cal. 7.65mm

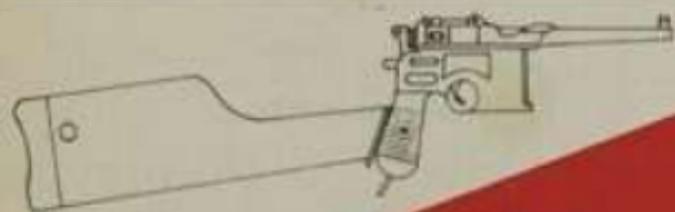
**Military Stamp:**  or  or  or  on left frame and some have  on trigger guard.

**Commercial Proof:** Crown/N

Manufacture of the Beholla started in 1915 at Becker and Hollander



# The Pistols of Germany and It's Allies In Two World Wars



Volume 1



Military Pistols Of Imperial Germany And  
Her World War I Allies And Postwar  
Military, Paramilitary And Police Reworks



by



Jan C. Still