

Gun of THE MONTH



THE OLD • THE NEW • THE UNUSUAL

**HIGH NAZI OFFICIAL'S FAVORITE
GUN WAS AMERICAN REVOLVER
WORN AT TIME HE SURRENDERED**



Goering surrendered to U. S. Army 40 miles inside German lines in 1945. Aide, right, was Col. Von Brauchitsch.

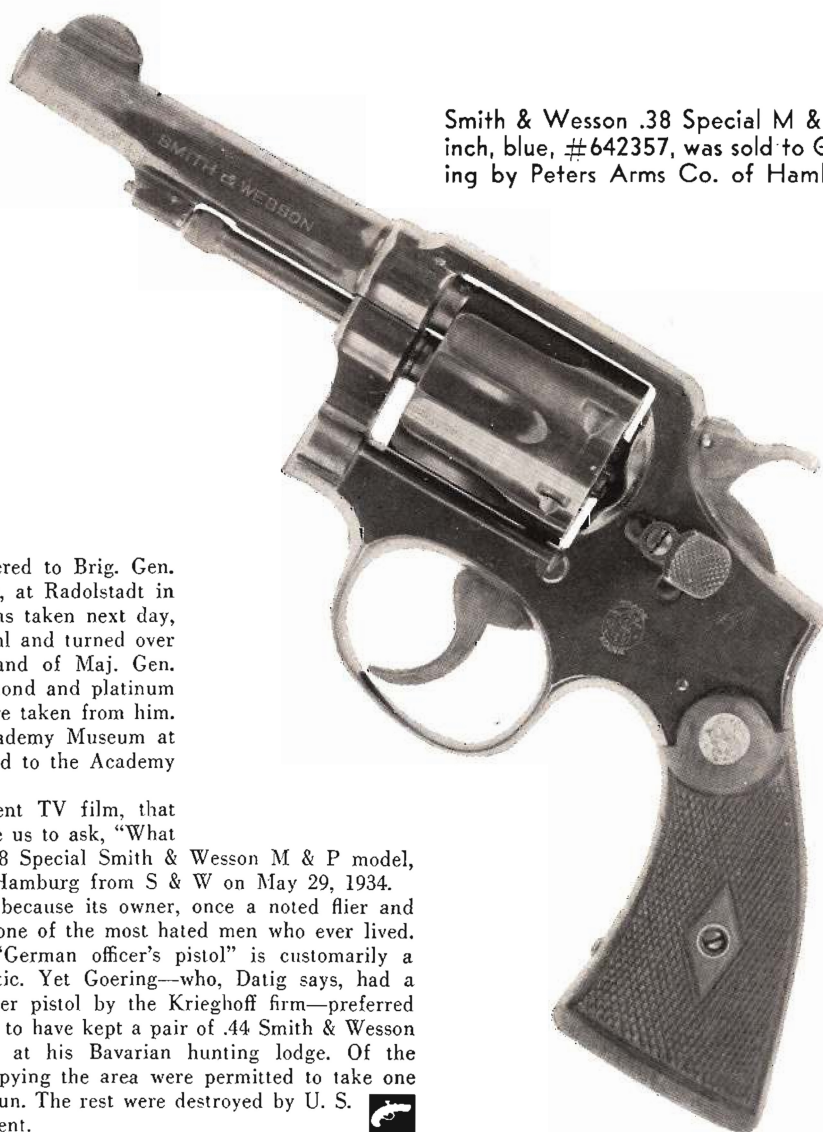


High Nazi's M & P and holster (it is identical to holster in surrender photo) were presented to West Point Museum.

REICHSMARSHAL Herman Goering surrendered to Brig. Gen. Robert I. Stack, 36th Division U. S. Army, at Radolstadt in Austria, 40 miles inside the German lines. He was taken next day, May 9, 1945, to the Texas Division Hq at Kitzbuhl and turned over to 7th Army Interrogation Center under command of Maj. Gen. Arthur A. White. At that time his fabulous diamond and platinum marshal's baton, parade dagger, and revolver, were taken from him. Dagger and baton are in the U. S. Military Academy Museum at West Point and, recently, the pistol was presented to the Academy by Gen. White.

A sharp-eyed GUNS reader noticed, in a recent TV film, that Goering was wearing a *revolver*. The reader wrote us to ask, "What kind?" Now we can say that it was, and is, a .38 Special Smith & Wesson M & P model, No. 642357, shipped to the Peters Arms Co. of Hamburg from S & W on May 29, 1934.

This historic weapon is important principally because its owner, once a noted flier and hero of World War I, rose in infamy to become one of the most hated men who ever lived. It is additionally unusual because the typical "German officer's pistol" is customarily a Luger, Mauser, P-38, or smaller pocket automatic. Yet Goering—who, Datig says, had a financial interest in the manufacture of the Luger pistol by the Krieghoff firm—preferred an American Smith & Wesson revolver. He is said to have kept a pair of .44 Smith & Wesson "New Century" or 1926 Triple Lock revolvers at his Bavarian hunting lodge. Of the Bavarian guns, some of the U. S. personnel occupying the area were permitted to take one gun each, authenticated by the CO as Goering's gun. The rest were destroyed by U. S. Forces authorities during German civil disarmament.



Smith & Wesson .38 Special M & P 4-inch, blue, #642357, was sold to Goering by Peters Arms Co. of Hamburg.