

1ST LUGER SHOOTING



What could be more fun than shooting a Luger in competition and shooting against nothing but other Lugers?

THE FIRST ANNUAL Luger shootout took place on September 6, 1970, at the Scarsdale Shooting Range, Scarsdale, Louisiana, which is located just outside the city limits of grand old New Orleans. The competition was open to the general public, and anyone who possessed a genuine P. 08 Luger could participate. The event was sponsored and officially scored by New Orleans Arms Co. There were two shooting events and trophies were awarded to the top three scores in each event. A trophy was also presented for the most unusual Luger displayed at the competition.

Luger collectors as well as competitors were present for the competition and there were enough Lugers seen at the event to arm a small army. The collectors were in abundance as they sensed the possibility that one of the competitors or other collectors might be persuaded to sell or trade one of their prized Lugers. Some of the more serious competitors brought as many as five Lugers of various barrel lengths for the shoot. Lugers seen during the day were: pre-World War I DWM Commercials, WWI Crown Erfurt Militaries, WWI DWM 4-inch Militaries, WWI 6-inch Navals, WWI 8-inch DWM Artilleries, post WWI DWM 1920 Commercials, WWII Mauser Militaries coded S/42, 42, BYF, and last but not least a 1940 Krieghoff Air Force Luger.

The first business of the day was registration for the shooting events. When registration was completed the rules committee presented the rules governing the competition. During the shoot only Lugers manufactured before 1946 could be used. The first event would be shot at 15 yards, 20 shots; 10 slow fire followed by 10 shots rapid fire. The second event to be fired at 25 yards, again shooting 20 shots. Having finished with the registration and the rules, the firing line was then opened for 30 minutes of practice for those who wished to sharpen their shooting eye before the competition began.

The first event at 15 yards started promptly at 10:00 A. M. and when the last shot had been fired and all the smoke had cleared these contestants were the winners:

1st Place: Norman Davis 146X200 shooting a 1920 DWM Commercial.

2nd Place: Bill Heslin 139X200 shooting a 1915 DWM Military.

3rd Place: Joe Sullen 111X200 shooting a Mauser S/42 1937 Military.

After the first event was over there was a break in the action for lunch and to reposition the targets at 25 yards for the second event. The winners of the second event at 25 yards were:

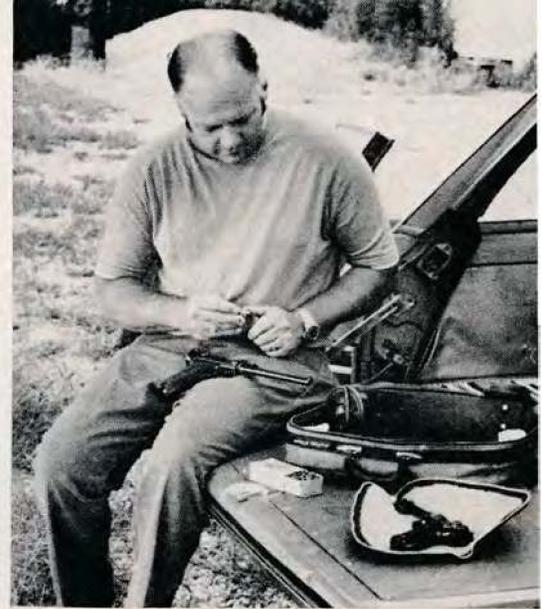
1st Place: Lyn McKenzie 135X200 shooting a 1908

MATCH

By H. W. HESLIN, JR.



This was the way the firing line looked during the actual second event of the competition. Author is the third shooter from right. Although none of the scores were outstanding, they were good from the standpoint that they were shot with unaltered, issue Lugers.



One of the contestants readies his equipment before the first event.



This 1917 Erfurt Artillery model was used with an Erma .22 caliber conversion unit for the matches.

DWM Commercial.

2nd Place: Norman Davis 113X200 shooting a 1920 DWM Commercial.

3rd Place: Bill Heslin 109X200 shooting a 1915 DWM Military.

The scores of the contestants in the two events while not staggering are quite respectable considering the fact that the Luger was produced primarily as a military sidearm and not as a target pistol. Also all the Lugers that were used in the shoot were in their original production state and not altered in any way to increase their shooting capabilities.

The shooting events completed, the trophies were presented to the winners by Arthur Turner of New Orleans Arms Co. The award for the most unusual Luger displayed was presented to Micheal Reese for his U. S. Test Trials 1900 American Eagle Luger.

Everyone who attended the event enjoyed themselves thoroughly and are looking forward to the shoot next year. George Luger would be proud to know that so many people still treasured the pistol he invented over 70 years ago.



The winners with their trophies, standing from left: Arthur Turner, official scorer; Norman Davis; Lyn McKenzie. Kneeling, fom left: Joe Sullen; Bill Heslin, author; and Michael Reese.