KEY

C	Commercial
AE	American Eagle
TE	TEst eagle
CC	Cartridge Counter
S	Swiss
F/trans.	Old Model/New Model transitional "French"
P04	New Model commercial version Navy P04
C *Fr	*Fr = Francais des Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne
08C	P-08 Commercial without stock lug
P08	P-08 Commercial with stock lug (instituted in 1913)
GT	GT = German Test
DT	DT = Dutch Test
Bul	1900 Bulgarian
**	= suspected fake
***	= parts mismatch gun
	Bannerman's Test Eagle auction list
6xxx	**TE -** specific serial numbers mentioned in cavalry test report of 2nd. Lieutenant Orlando B. Palmer
	Established Cartridge Counter range
----/1920	Weimar property mark, no chamber date

This database was compiled from many sources. Published sources include:

- Imperial Lugers--Jan C. Still
- Weimar Lugers--Jan C. Still
- The Dutch Luger--Martens & deVries
- Parabellum--Bobba
- The Luger Story--Walter
- The Krieghoff Parabellum--Gibson
- Luger Variations--Jones
- World of Lugers Proof Marks--Costanzo
- World of Lugers Hans Tauscher Serial Numbers--Costanzo
- Lugers At Random--Kenyon
- Gun Report--Lugers At Random--Kenyon
- Auto Mag

It also includes material ferreted out of online dealer and auction postings, and dealer sales lists extending back almost 45 years.

NOTES

1900AE with type-1 safety, BUG proofs pp.62-63 "Luger Variations"

2,025 Lugers shipped to Canada 1913-1914
1,733 of these guns siezed and destroyed
serial numbers not available
--Costanzo

"GERMANY is stamped on most, but not all, of the back-frame [Krieghoff Suhl stamped] examples." --Gibson

Thanks to Ron Wood for an early Luger database and 1900 U.S. Test Eagle database to get this project going.

Thanks to Doug Coffey for the Rivera/Soracco database, and to Orv Reichert for the alphabetic key; to Ed Tinker, Howard Collins, and Charles Wagner for their dealer list archives; and to Don Maus for access to his Police databases.

Thanks particularly to all of the participants in the online Luger Forum, Jan Still's Gunboards Luger Forum, the NAPCA forum and Auto Mag, and patient gun show table-holders and collectors who graciously provided information about guns from their collections for this survey.

READING THE DATABASE

Some of the collector designations used in the database and these remarks may not be the ones collectors are used to seeing and using. I have chosen to use the designations as revised by Jan Still in Weimar Lugers.

The first thing to keep in mind while perusing this database is that it represents documentation and reporting. It is not, and cannot provide on its own, certification of authenticity of any particular Luger, especially those of rare or noteworthy variation.

Luger collecting as a serious endeavor began more than 60 years ago, and boosting, altering, and downright faking of Lugers followed almost immediately. As this database is assembled from information from 45 years ago to the present day, it is inevitable that some of the more exotic or unique variations associated with their serial numbers may not be authentic.

Occasional entries do include notation that a particular example is questionable, or in some cases an actual fake. These are the results of direct or photographic examinations which have identified bogus characteristics (pantographed application of markings which are properly found stamped, for example) or identification of rare examples which are clearly out-of-sequence or -date-range (such as model “1903” barrels stamped *Manufacture Français d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne*).

This faking becomes a particular problem with rare variations which do not fall into a single documented serial number range, a circumstance all too common with commercial series Lugers. Particular care must be taken when considering all Stoeger-marked guns, all 1902 variations, all carbines, Russian-attributed Lugers, Abercrombie & Fitch marked guns, Reichsmarine unit marks, unusual or exotic chamber marks, and all French variations. These are not the only variations to look at critically, but they are commonly and easily faked. Particular care should be taken with three-line Stoeger marked Lugers outside the recognized v suffix range, and 1902 Cartridge Counter Lugers outside the established sn 22401-sn 22450 range.

1906 Lugers sold by *Manufacture Français d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne* are also commonly faked. This retailer stamped an inventory number on the grip strap toe of these guns. If the number or its absence is reported, it is included as a comment. Most reports of these guns, however, have not included a report of this feature; the corresponding notation only indicates the lack of report, not necessarily absence of the number. These pistols were only marketed 1909-1914, so any listings outside this time frame should be cautiously considered.

A new addition to this version of the database is a separate section for POST-WAR CARBINES. The detail cells of this variation are pretty scanty, as the main sources of information (dealer sales lists) do not go into too much detail. When considering 1920 Carbines, it should be remembered that they are not necessarily consistent in their characteristics, and are often found mismatched. This makes it easy to fabricate a fake, and there is no way to know if any individual entry in the database is in fact bogus. The 1920 Carbine section represents the beginning of an area of research, and I hope to gather many more examples and much more data to help establish the patterns of physical characteristics of these guns.

Another area for study, in which the database has only so far scratched the surface, is Lugers from South America. Entries in the database support other evidence that this was a thriving Luger market (there have been more than 300 Lugers registered with the police in Rio de Janeiro alone). Language probably plays a part in scant reporting. A much larger role is certainly played by reticence of gun owners who participate in this hobby surreptitiously due to harsh gun control measures in South American countries.

The “Notes” category includes, among other things, associated characteristics of the pistol—whether it has Ideal grips or rig, a matching shoulder stock, an unrelieved frame, interesting or unusual markings, observed or reported mismatch, etc. These represent the conditions of the pistol at the time of report. As some of the reports can be very old this may not represent the condition of the pistol now.

Some database entries are noted as restored. This information comes from descriptions by owners or from sales list descriptions. Occasionally an example will be described as in poor condition. This comes from direct or photo observation, and will be useful in the future when a pistol whose condition is described as nearly new and original is compared to such a database entry.

The Swiss Military Lugers are numbered in their own serial number range, identical to the DWM Commercial number range. Many collectors and records of Swiss 1900 and 1906, particularly old sales lists, do not differentiate between Military or Commercial in their descriptions. With the exception of the Dave Soracco data list (which makes the distinction), I have not included 1900 or 1906 Swiss Commercial numbers which are not positively identifiable by the presence of c/BUG proofs. I am certain that I have passed up many Swiss Commercial numbers because

of this.

Finland received a very large number of Lugers over a long period of time. The main contract order was delivered from Alphabet Commercial production, but Lugers of many descriptions—some being earlier commercial pistols—made their way there. The Finnish Army (Suomi Armejna) began stamping their SA mark in 1941. These guns are identified with a “Finnish SA” entry. Other guns identified as Finnish—police guns, prison guard guns, guns reported from Finnish Army documents, or otherwise identified as Finnish but without report of the stamp—are identified with a “Finnish” entry.

Thanks to Orv Reichert and Don Hallock, the alphabetic key to the Dave Sorocco database, which forms a large part of this work, has been acquired. The key has been applied to confirm these data reports, and there are no longer any “conditional” entries.

Finally, this database has resulted from the transcription of huge amounts of information, often from secondary or tertiary sources. Each time a number is transcribed from one source to another the possibility for error creeps in. Although I cannot account for errors in the source material, I have made every effort to accurately transfer information into the database itself. Ultimately any errors in this transcription are my responsibility, and I will make factual corrections in future releases of the database as the information becomes known.

The Commercial Luger database is an ongoing research project, and I am still seeking data on DWM Commercial Lugers. If you have a Luger which is not represented here, or if you can provide additional information on any guns already listed, please email me,
dwightg600@gmail,com

Dwight Gruber
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