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Reader's comments

BTW, about the military stock refinish. I have even easier process. To remove ALL dings (except where wood's missing) and also grease. I put several stocks in a bathtub, weighted down with few lead bricks, add washing machine detergent and fill with very hot water. Leave overnight, next day remove - time to take shower! - then fill bathtub with hot water only and put stock back for half a day to let the detergent leach out and any left over dirt. Then let dry SLOWLY to prevent cracks. Not on sun or near stove. Now the stock (I did Turkish Mausers) look already fancy. The rest I cleaned by light scraping with broken glass, before regular finish. I had only one stock where there were two very small gouges, that previously looked beyond any hope. All of them came out as new, well almost. Of course all depends how many people are there waiting for shower. It does leave something to clean in the tub.

Ed (dongres@manitouwadge.lakeheadu.ca)

David Tomlinson (director? of Canadian NFA) has published a variety of knowledgable firearms related Posts in the Cdn-firearms Digest during the past few years. Most of these are archived at the NFA Web site.

These posts have been primarily about Firearm Legalities and politics in, and around, Canada but there are a number of good technical articles about both Mausers and firearms in general (The Marvelous Mauser 98, Ignition sources for firearms propellants, Weapons through the ages, etc).

The biggest problem has been finding the digest which contains material you need, since they are archived by digest number and not by contents.

Someone has published a Web page with links to the results of content searches done against these archives.

If you open web page http://www.magma.ca/~asd/dat/dat_top.html you will have a selection of types of search results to link to. Currently, the "Specific Postings" link is the best for our purpose. It will lead to a second page where digest links are listed by topic. Mausers are currently at the bottom of the page.

Development of this site and these searches are ongoing, so you may find more info as time goes on.

Note; The links are to Email digests, so you will have to page through them in order to reach the desired article.

Lee Scroggins (goobr2@ptd.net)

I am particularly interested in rebuilding a pair of commercial Mauser rifles a friend offered to sell me. Both look quite a bit like a model 98 but they sport bases for claw mounts, hinged floor plates with lever release and double set triggers.

Neither have stocks and one is the receiver only while the other has a nicely shaped tapered barrel with a solid full length rib that seems to be machined from the same blank as the barrel. It was a .323 cal but the bore is so badly corroded that a bullet will almost drop through.

Since both actions are almost identical I would like to build up a pair of hunting rifles for my wife and I. Re barreling the bare action is my most likely step but I would really like to find out what I can do to retain the ribbed barrel and end up with a shooter for eastern whitetails.

(Any of our gunsmiths out there have any ideas on relining or reboring? - Ward)

Many thanks
Rod LaHaise
New Brunswick Canada (lcruiser@nbnet.nb.ca)

Waffenamt Conundrum

By: Kyrleellis@aol.com

It seems to be generally (if not universally) accepted that no waffenamt was assigned to more than one Waffenamt officer at one time, and that no Waffenamp officer was assigned to more than one factory at a time. Richard Law sums this view up neatly on page 71 of his fine "Backbone of the Wehrmacht":

"When a Waffenamt officer assumed command of an inspection team he received a commission number and a correspondingly numbered set of Abnahmestemple or acceptance stamps, commonly known as waffenamt stamps. If the officer was transferred to another factory he took his stamps with him, but left the rest of the inspection team for the next officer. These transfers were not uncommon - for example the waffenamt number '280' appears on Kar98ks made by Erfurter Maschinenfabrik (ERMA) from 1936 to 1942, and then on Kar98ks made by J P Sauer and Sohn in 1942, 1943, and 1944."

This is datum is a valuable rule, as it permits a collector to recognize at which factory any waffenamt part was inspected, and in some cases roughly when in any given year the part was inspected. But I've come across one that does not seem to fit the rule - the usage of the E/359 waffenamt.

Collectors of Kar98k rifles will identify the E/359 as the stamp of the Waffenamt officer assigned to the J. P. Sauer and Sohn factory, as the E/359 appears on many of the Kar98k rifles made at that factory during the period 1936 - 1943 (Law, "Backbone of the Wehrmacht").

But the collectors of Walther pistols will identify the E/359 as the stamp of the Waffenamt officer assigned to the Carl Walther factory, as no other waffenamt appears on Walther P.38, PP, and PPK pistols procured for the German army (Still, "AXIS Pistols", Rankin, "Walther Pistols").

Additionally, collectors of Sauer & Sohn Model 38H pistols recognize the E/37 waffenamt as that of the Waffenamt officer assigned to the J. P. Sauer and Sohn factory, as the E/37 appears on the Model 38H pistols procured from Sauer and Sohn (Still, "AXIS Pistols").

To add to this rather confusing state of affairs, the E/359 waffenamt is also found on 1941 ax (ERMA - Feinmechanische Werke GmbH, Erfurt) and 1941 ax/ar (ERMA/Mauser Borsigwalde) Kar98k rifles (Law, "Backbone of the Wehrmacht").

For the convenience of the reader, here is a rundown (from a perusal of "Backbone of the Wehrmacht") on when E/359 may be found on the action rings of Kar98k rifles. Please note that this lists only action ring markings, and E/359 may be found on rear sight assembly parts of many of these rifles. I've included notes on position of the E/359 in the forms:

E/359 X X to indicate receiver inspection

X E/359 X to indicate receiver inspection and barreled action w/bolt and trigger mechanisms inspection

E/359 E/359 X to indicate barreled action w/bolt and trigger mechanisms inspection

E/359 to indicate this is the only waffenamt present

1936, S/147 (E/359 X X)

1937, S/147 (E/359 X X)

1938, S/147 (E/359 X X)

1938, 147 (E/359 E/359 X)

1939, 147 (E/359 X X)

1940, 147 (E/359 X X)

1941, ce (E/359 X X)

1941, ax (X E/359 X)

1941, ax/ar (only waffenamt present)

1942, ce (only waffenamt present)

1943 ce (E/359 E/359 E/359)

All of this appears to challenge the conventional wisdom of one Waffenamt officer/waffenamt stamp/factory. If anyone has information that might clear this up I'd be most interested. I suspect this may be one of those things that collectors can turn into hours upon hours of interesting speculation :-)

Confessions of a Mauser Addict

By HD

(Note – HD sent me this article as an attachment, and like a dummy I neglected to note the e-mail address and name. HD, if you wish either to appear, let me know and I'll include them in a future issue. Oops. --Ward)

I thought I might be able to share my experiences with my Swedish Mausers with your readers.

My name is H.D., I am a Mauser addict. I hope I can save one of you from this fate. Allow me to share my story. I bought my first Swede M96 in good to very good condition in 1990 at a discount store for \$69. Two months later I bought another Swede at the same store for the same price in excellent condition. With two rifles I figured I could experiment on the lower condition one and use what worked on the nicer rifle. This is where my downhill spiral began.

Since the Century Arms ammo was cheaper than buying Norma brass (this was back in '90 remember) I bought the inexpensive ammo. I fired one round through the old rifle and spent a half-hour cleaning the asphalt bullet sealer out of the barrel. No problem, I ordered Lee dies (I was poor), and borrowed a kinetic bullet puller. After hammering dents in the concrete and not

budging the bullet, I ordered a Forster collet type bullet puller. After pulling all the bullets and resizing (resizing is very easy, pulling century's Yugoslavian ammo isn't!!!) I checked the length of the unfired cases. There were differences of almost a tenth of an inch in the lot, so I ordered a .264 pilot for the trimmer and trimmed the cases. Then I noticed the primer flash holes were cratered inside the cases, so I deburred each case too.

Now I had more work in the cases than most people do in their match ammo, but this whole thing was starting to keep me up past bedtime. I had to borrow a reloading manual from the 1960's to get load info, as the 6.5 hadn't achieved its current popularity yet. I had a large amount of 4350, so I figured I'd load it very light and see what happened. (My previous experiences in .270 and 30-06 hunting loads showed as the amount of 4350 increased the size of groups lowered) (ok, this relationship held to the point where the bolt handle wouldn't lift and the case wouldn't extract). I started out using 42 grains of 4350, Winchester primers and Sierra 140 gr BTSP bullets. I also loaded the 4350 to 44 and 46 grains.

Range day was bright and sunny; I sandbagged the uglier rifle, and squeezed off a shot. It didn't even hit the target at 100 yards. Two rounds later I hadn't hit the target yet. I did however make exploding dirt piles about two feet higher than the target on the backstop. Still no problem, I just posted another target two foot above the one I was aiming at. The first two shots I put on paper were about an inch apart. After trying all three loads that group remained the largest of the day. And true to my experiences the 46-grain load made the bolt lift and extraction almost impossible. (DON'T DO THIS! IT IS FOOLHARDY AND DANGEROUS!!!) (REPEAT! THIS IS DANGEROUS!)

I didn't know where to get a higher sight (SARCO and Springfield Sporters now have them) to bring the bullet down so I decided to load lighter loads. I found that 37.5 grains of 4895 put the bullets to point of sight at 100 yards. 36 grain loads shot 12 inches low, 40 grain loads shot 12 inches high. I cleaned and reloaded the Century bullets I had pulled and they opened my groups up to almost two inches. Want to see some twice-pulled bullets?

I switched to Remington 140-grain bullets and had the same results as I did with the Sierras, only the Remingtons had a cannellure and looked like mini-ICBMs. In the fall of 1991 I used the uglier rifle to harvest a deer (a mini-doe) at a whopping 20 yards.

I found a box of 85-grain Sierra HPs at a show and loaded them for the uglier rifle. I didn't hit the target at 50 or 25 yards. When I got the target back to about twenty feet I was able to discover these bullets flew sideways. I pulled them also. They are still for sale, cheap.

Fast forward to 1998. Last fall I backslid and ordered high front sites from two different sources. I got them switched up and don't know which came from where, but only one was truly higher than the standard. (The sight blades have numbers, the higher the number the taller the sight, the taller the sight the lower the point of impact) Using the taller front site, last November I used my original 44 grain 4350 load behind the Remington 140s. At 100 yards both rifles kept groups under 1 inch. I realized my almost 100 year old iron sighted rifles were getting as good as and usually much better accuracy than all the guys around me using their newest sporting rifle costing five times as much.

I know that I was very fortunate to find two rifles that shoot as well as mine, and that I did very little load development to find the rifles' accuracy. I haven't had near as much luck with my two 8mm Mausers (a Portuguese and a K98) but I do have a long and a short Argentine(s) that are showing promise.

Some other quick random things I'd like to share: I thoroughly clean all my barrels with shooters choice copper remover (a very long process). I tried a replacement trigger but the Mauser two stage units work well when you get used to them. I seat my bullets out as far as they will go and still clear the magazine. There are some super super clean 1909 (DWM) Argentines on the

market right now.

Publisher's Comments

By: *Ward M. Clark* (wclark1046@aol.com)

An interesting development this month. The Monthly was mentioned in the Canadian e-mail list, Cdn-Firearms Digest, and as a result we have a bunch of new readers from Canada signed on. To all our new readers, welcome (and if any of you have any leads on good hunting in your areas, I'd love to hear about it!)

My thanks to Kyrieellis and HD for the great articles for this issue! Kyrie, as usual, gave us some great info for collectibles. It's often difficult to wade through masses of data to identify a particular piece's point of origin, any clarification on the waffenamt process sure helps! And HD's confession of Mauser addiction, well, that rang awfully true...

HD's mention of the 1909 was timely, for me. I just recently came across a very nice 1909 Argentine action priced at \$100, and grabbed it up. I think this one may well go for the heavy barrel 6mm I've been contemplating for a while now.

Any of you who might be in the Grand Junction, CO area on March 13-14, look for the Mauser Man at the Grand Junction Knife and Gun show that weekend – we will be travelling to Grand Junction for that show, and I'll have the usual table full of Mausers and assorted parts, pieces and paraphernalia. It's always nice to get out of the Denver area for a weekend.

Great issue this month – everybody keep those stories and tips coming!

Until next month -

Good Shooting!

- Ward