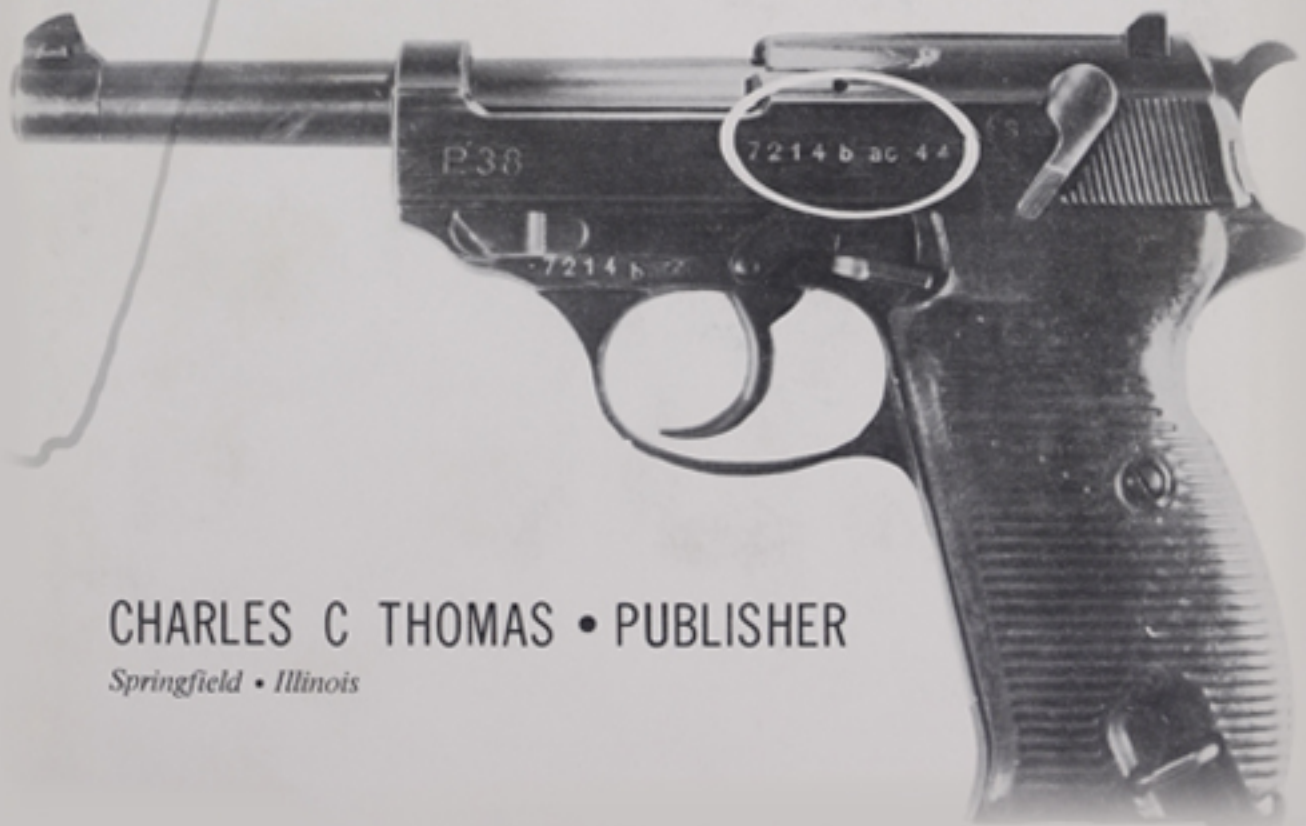


A HANDBOOK ON THE PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION OF REVOLVERS AND SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS

JOHN T. MILLARD



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Springfield • Illinois

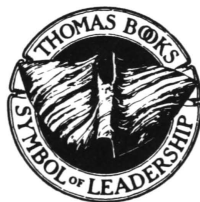
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DEDICATED TO

The Officers of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department, with whom I have had the opportunity of sharing the frustrations and complexities, that arise in the identification of firearms.

FOREWORD

IN July of 1934, the Canadian Government passed legislation requiring the registration of all handguns. Thus, from 1934 Canada has had a system that not only compiled an accurate means of recording all handguns but also gave a system that allows more accurate information when a firearm is lost, stolen or missing.

As we have now entered the computer age in law enforcement, it is imperative that the description of a firearm be accurate in all respects. The day of “I think this is the serial number” or “It looks like a —” are over. Proper identification is a must and it is the main theme behind this handbook. To ensure a proper recording in the first instance, the person taking the description must have at least a basic knowledge of the Seven Points of the Primary Phase of Firearms Identification.

The author realizes that those engaged in law enforcement do not, normally on a daily basis, have to identify firearms. It is for these officers that this book is specifically directed.

As it would be an impossible task to compile a handbook covering all weapons, particularly, revolvers and semiautomatic pistols that flood the retail market each year, the writer has chosen a cross-section of handguns which he feels will suffice in showing the reader where certain pertinent points of the Seven Point System can be found.

As you read this handbook you will note that stress is placed on the importance of the Primary Seven Point System. This system, when care is used, will produce an accurate recording for identification purposes.

John T. Millard

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO thank everyone who, in the past, has been responsible in assisting in the preparation of this handbook, would be a monumental task. Therefore, I will mention those few that have been directly involved, and to the others my sincere gratitude.

To the Board of Commissioners of Police, Metropolitan Toronto Police Department, to Chief of Police Harold Adamson, to Deputy Chief Andrew Hamilton and Staff Superintendent F. M. Adair, whose patience and understanding have made this possible and, to my own Staff, who, under sometime trying conditions have so ably assisted.

My sincere thanks are also extended to Robert “Bob” Nichols, head of the Firearm and Tool Mark Section of the Center of Forensic Science, Ministry of Justice for the Province of Ontario, and to Edward Anderson and Finn Neilson, of his efficient staff, who have been most helpful at all times.

I would also like to thank Mr. Vaclav “Jack” Krcma, Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and author of the excellent publication *The Identification and Registration of Firearms*, and a man whom I consider to be one of those fortunate few who are fully knowledgeable on European semiautomatic weapons.

And last, but definitely not the least, I offer a very special “thank you” to all of the law abiding citizens who, realizing that registration is a sensible means of protecting their property, have on a daily basis brought their “restricted” in for registration.

J.T.M.

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**A HANDBOOK ON THE
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Chapter I

THE PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

FOR the main purpose of identification in the first instance, the Seven Point System is the basic theme. To obtain a proper description of the weapon in question it is essential that accurate observation be made on all seven points. The system is a combination and therefore has to be taken and considered in its entirety. Although this book deals with handguns it should be noted that the Seven Point System can be used for any type of firearm.

The Seven Essential points in the system are:

1. the MAKE or MANUFACTURER;
2. the TYPE – Single Shot Pistol, Revolver, Semiautomatic Pistol, Full Automatics, Rifles, Shotguns;
3. the CALIBER;
4. the SERIAL NUMBER;
5. the MODEL;
6. the NUMBER OF SHOTS;
7. the BARREL LENGTH.

Now, it would be a simple matter for the person examining the firearm if all of the seven points were visible. Unfortunately situations do arise where one, two or three of the points are not evident and therefore a complete description is not possible. I have had these situations arise and have handled the description with what I had on observation. For example, a single shot pistol is presented for identification. On examining the weapon I cannot find a name, but on breaking open the barrel chamber I find a Belgium proof-mark. Therefore, the firearm is an unknown Belgium make. The type is obvious, it is a single shot pistol. Examination of the barrel reveals that it is a .22 caliber. By removing the grips, I find the number 6284 stamped on the left side of the tang. Again the number of shots is obvious as it is a single shot pistol. Measurement of the barrel reveals a barrel length

of approximately 2 1/2 inches in length, therefore, assumption would be that the firearm is a derringer model. Now to summarize, you have an unknown Belgium, single-shot pistol TYPE, with a CALIBER of .22, the serial number is 6284 and the MODEL is obviously a derringer. We know that the NUMBER OF SHOTS is one and that the BARREL LENGTH is 2 1/2 inches.

This situation has been used to cite a prime example of identification at the primary level. At least 75 per cent of examinations reveal a name or a visible proof-mark. As one progresses into this handbook take note that I have used certain abbreviations. These are handy when recording descriptions of several weapons.

For the pistol that I identified in the previous paragraph, I would record it as:

UNKNOWN BELGIUM (P) .22 Cal., Serial #6284,
Mod: Derringer, No. of shots: 1, BBL. length: 2 1/2".

It should be noted that there are four items in the seven point system that are constant – caliber, number of shots and barrel length and the type. These are constants that are observed and noted in examination. One is therefore assured that four points out of the seven will always be present. The remaining three have to be searched for but it is very seldom that a situation arises when some trace of the remainder of the points cannot be found. Experience in examination is the greatest teacher in these problems.

Chapter II

THE SEVEN POINTS

MANUFACTURE

SINCE the beginning of time, homo sapiens have used some mark as a means of identifying his possessions. The mark identified the object as his and no one else's. Possession was distinguished through the mark he had made.

As he advanced in his technology man had to make more of these objects, but in order to separate each one as an individual item he had to place a different mark on each one. Thus from the very beginning we have the affixing of a name on an object as well as means of identifying each object with the same name on an individual basis. Thus we have the purpose of manufacturers' name and modelling and serialling – a means of complete identification to show that the object belongs to a certain person and no one else. This is the basic objective of placing the name, or model or serial number on a firearm. It is the primary means of firearm identification.

Under normal circumstances the name of the manufacturer of a semiautomatic pistol can be found on the left or right side of the slide. At times the name can be found on the top of the slide and this also applies to, in some instances, revolvers and single shot pistols. As the author has noted, "under normal circumstances" naturally does not apply to those firearms that have a code affixed or stamped where the manufacturer's name would normally be found. In some cases a serial number and a proof-mark may be the only means of identification.

On the whole subject of primary identification the basic element for proper identification is the answer to the question of "who made the firearm?" There are many pitfalls for the inexperienced examiner. The name on the slide on a semiautomatic pistol may bear the name of a distributor and not the

manufacturer. To name the distributor as the manufacturer indicates an improper identification. For example to this point, the HAWES FIREARMS CO., Los Angeles, California distribute a .25 caliber, semiautomatic pistol. Clearly marked on the left side of the slide or receiver is marked "MADE IN GERMANY." This is not a Hawes firearm for purposes of identification but a semiautomatic pistol of .25 caliber that should be identified as GERMAN MAKE (Dist. Hawes Firearms Co., U.S.A.) This is the proper identification that the examiner should record.

Another problem which the examiner finds is the matter of experimental models. Although most of these firearms find their way into the hands of experienced collectors, they do at times turn up for identification. If a code has been stamped on the firearm then identification can be made. If no code or proof-mark is noted then the firearm must be examined minutely for any marks that might bear on the identification.

Failing any physical means of identification, the firearm can be then classed as an "UNKNOWN MAKER," and if the examination was in the Dominion of Canada a serial number would be stamped by a local Registrar and registration carried out.

Proof-Marks

Proof-marks date back to the sixteenth century in English speaking countries. They were basically brought into effect so that firearms could be submitted to an official test before being sold. Proof-marking was the means of determining that a firearm was safe.

To note all existing proof-marks would take a volume in itself. For purposes of identification of a basic nature, the author has noted only six common proof-marks. From experience I have found that these are common proofs indicative to European firearms. The proof-mark is a good means of association with a country of origin. Care must be exercised, though, for the proof-mark may be the final proof on a firearm of foreign make before it is allowed to be sold in the country that affixed the mark.

Under normal circumstances a proof-mark can be found on the

frame, slide (receiver of a semiautomatic pistol) or on the barrel, but to hold on any one position on these parts would be facetious. In examining proof-marks, care must be taken by the examiner to be able to clearly identify the mark. In the past I have found that some proofs have been stamped evenly and thus assure proper identification whereas others have been placed unevenly and tend to wear off causing discrepancy. Proper identification should be made with a good hand magnifying glass.

Before closing this phase of identification via manufacture, mention should be made of “bootleg” handguns. These are firearms that are manufactured by unknown, basement gun makers. They are usually copies of well known market weapons and must be examined thoroughly. I have found that these “bootlegs” even contain very rough attempts at placing a proof-mark on the weapon. Care must be exercised in the examination of these weapons.

Manufacturer’s Listing (Semiautomatic Pistols)

The following is a list of European Manufacturers of Semi-automatic Pistols. For the convenience of the reader the list is formatted as: The Country, The Name or Model of the Weapon, Manufacturer or Origin and the Country Location.

AUSTRIA:

<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
DORMUS	Dormus Salador	Austria
ERIKA	Unknown	Austria
KRNKA	Oesterrichische Waffenfabrik	Steyr, Austria
LITTLE TOM	Wiener Waffenfabrik	Vienna, Austria
O.W.A.	Oesterrichische Werke GWS Anstalt	Vienna, Austria
SCHONBERGER	Oesterrichische Waffenfabrik AG	Steyr, Austria

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
STEYR	A.G. Steyr, Waffenfabrik	Steyr, Austria
STEYR (Pieper Patent)	Oster, Waffenfabrik Ges (Steyr-Daimler, Puch, AG)	Steyr, Austria
ROTH-STEYR	A.G. Steyr, Waffenfabrik (Also Hungarian listing)	Steyr, Austria
BELGIUM		
AUTOMATIC	Mre. D'Armes A. Feu	Liege, Belgium
BASCULANT	Nicholas Pieper	Liege, Belgium
BAYARD	Anc. Etablissements Pieper S.A.	Herstal, Belgium
BAYARD BERGMANN	Anc. Etablissements Pieper S.A.	Herstal, Belgium
BROWNING	Fab. Nationale D'Armes de Guerre	Herstal, Belgium
CLEMENT	Charles Ph. Clement also: M. Neumann	Liege, Belgium
CONTINENTAL (Belgium)	M. Neumann	Liege, Belgium
DELU	Fabrique d'Armes (Delu & Co.)	Liege, Belgium
DEMONANT (Pieper)	Nicholas Pieper	Liege, Belgium
DICTATOR (Centaure)	Soc. Anonyme des Fab. d'Armes Reunies	Liege, Belgium
DURABEL	Unknown	Belgium
FAR	Soc. Anon. des Fab. d'Armes Reunies	Liege, Belgium
FRANCOTTE	August Francotte et Cie	Liege, Belgium

The Seven Points

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
"A. G." (Gavage)	Fab. d'Armes de Guerre Haute Precision, Armand Gavage	Liege, Belgium
"H & D"	A. Henrion & T. Dasey	Liege, Belgium
JIEFFECO	Robar et Cie	Liege, Belgium
LE FULGOR	Chas. Ph. Clement	Liege, Belgium
LEGIA (Demontants)	Nicolas Pieper	Liege, Belgium
LE MARTINY	Unknown	Liege, Belgium
LE PAGE	Mre. d'Armes Le Page	Liege, Belgium
LE RAPIDE	J. Bertrand	Liege, Belgium
"LIEGE"	Mre. Liegoise d'Armes a Feu	Liege, Belgium
MELIOR	Robar et Cie	Liege, Belgium
MONOBLOC	J. Jacquemart	Herstal, Belgium
OYEZ	Oyez Arms Co.	Liege, Belgium
PIEPER	N. Pieper	Herstal, Belgium
VICI	Unknown	Herstal, Belgium
WARNANT	L. & J. Warnant	Liege, Belgium
WEGRIA-CHARLIER	Unknown	Belgium

10 *Identification of Revolvers and Semiautomatic Pistols*

<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
CZECHOSLOVAKIA:		
AUT. PISTOLE ZKP-501-11	Posumauska Zbrojovka	Czechoslovakia
“CZ”	Ceska Zbrojovka	Strakonice, Czechoslovakia
“CZ” DUO	Fr. Dusek	Apocno, Czechoslovakia
CZECH. MOD.22	Cs.St.Zbrojovka	Brno, Czechoslovakia
CZECH. MOD.27	Bohmische Waffenfabrik (German for: Ceska Zbrojobaka)	Prague, Czechoslovakia
“DUO”	F. Dusek	Apocno, Czechoslovakia
FOX	Ceska Zbrojovka	Czechoslovakia
JAGA	F. Dusek	Apocno, Czechoslovakia
KOHOUT	Kohout & Spal	Kdyne, Czechoslovakia
MARS	Kohout 7 spal “Vilimec”	Kdyne, Czechoslovakia
NIVA	Kohout & Spal	Kdyne, Czechoslovakia
PRAGA	Zbrojovka Praga	Prague, Czechoslovakia
P.Z.K.	Posumavska Zbrojovka	Czechoslovakia
SLAVIA	A. Vilimec	Kdyne, Czechoslovakia
FRANCE:		
AUDAX	Mre. D’Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France

The Seven Points

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
AUTOMATIQUE-FRANCAIS	Soc. Francaise d'Armes Automatiques	Paris, France
BERNARDON-MARTIN	Bernardon-Martin (Thomas Martin)	St. Etienne, France
BURGHAM	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
CAPITON	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
CESAR	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
CHANTICLER	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
CHINESE-REINOR	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
COLONIAL	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
COW BOY	"Fabrication Francaise"	France
DENION "MARINE"	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
DEUX (DREUX)	Unknown	France
E.B.A.C. (DEALER)	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
ELITE	Mre. D'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
FRENCH 1935-A (S.A.C.M.)	Soc. Alsacienne de Constructions Mecaniques)	Cholet, France
FRENCH 1935-S (M.A.S.)	Mre. D'Armes de St. Etienne	St. Etienne, France
FRENCH 1935-S (M.A.T.)	Mre. D'Armes de Tuille	Tuille, France

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
FRENCH MOD. 35 S.M.I. (M.A.C.)	Mre. d'Armes de Chatellerault	St. Etienne, France
FRENCH MOD. 35 S.M.I. (S.A.G.E.M.)	Soc. de Applications General Electriques et Mecaniques	France
FUROR	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
GAULOIS REPEATING PISTOL	Mre. Francaise d'Armes et Cycles de St. Etienne	St. Etienne, France
GALLIA	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees (Also St. Etienne Marks)	Hendaye, France
J.C. HIGGINS MODEL 85	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
"H.V."	Hourat et Vie	Pau, France
IXOR	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
LE CHASSEUR (M.A.B.)	Mre. d'Armes Automatiques Bayonne	Bayonne, France
LE FRANCAIS	Mre. Francais d'Armes et Cycles	St. Etienne, France
LE MAJESTIC	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
LE SANS PAREIL	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
M.A.B.	Mre. d'Armes Automatiques Bayonne	Bayonne, France
MARS	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
MIKROS	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
MINIMA	M. Boyer	St. Etienne, France

The Seven Points

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
PERFECT	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
PRIMA	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
RANGER	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
RAPIDE-MAXIMA	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
ST. HUBERT	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
SELECTA	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
STEPH	L. Bergeron	St. Etienne, France
SYMPATHIQUE	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
REINA	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
S.A. AUTOMATIQUE	Soc. d'Armes Paris	Paris, France
TOURISTE	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
TRIOMPHE-FRANCAIS	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
UNION-PISTOLET AUT FRANCAIS	Fabrique a St. Etienne (Seytres)	St. Etienne, France
UNIQUE (FRENCH)	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
UNIS	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
VER CAR	M. Seytres (Verney-Carron)	St. Etienne, France

14 *Identification of Revolvers and Semiautomatic Pistols*

<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
VINDEX	Mre. d'Armes des Pyrenees	Hendaye, France
WALTHER (Under License)	Mre. de Machines du Haut Rhin	Mulhouse Bourtzwiller, France
WINFIELD (W.A.C.)	Mre. d'Armes Automatiques Bayonne	Bayonne, France
GERMANY:		
ADLER	Englebrecht and Wolff for: Adlerwaffenwerke, later Max Hermsdorff	Zella-Mehlis Germany
ARMINIUS	Friederich Pickert	Zella-Mehlis Germany
BEHOLLA	Becker & Hollander	Suhl, Germany
BERGMAN (Early models)	Eisenwerke Gaggeneau A.G. (Later: Bergmann Industriewerke)	Gaggeneau, Germany
BERGMANN (Pocker Models)	V. Chas. Schilling (For: Chas. Bergmann)	Suhl, Germany
BERGMANN- SIMPLEX	Bergmanns Industriewerke (Also: Mfg: Belgium & Spain)	Gaggeneau, Germany
BERGMANN-ERBEN	August Menz for: Bergmann Erben	Suhl, Germany
BIJOU (Same as KABA, OKZET and LILIPUT)	August Menz	Suhl, Germany
BORCHARDT	Ludwig Loewe & Co. (Mfg: 1897 by DWM)	Berlin Germany
B.S.W. SELBSTLADE	Berlin-Suhler Waffen u Fabzeugwerke G.m.b.H.	Berlin & Suhl, Germany
CONTINENTAL (German)	Rheinsche Waffen u Munitionsfabrik	Cologne, Germany

The Seven Points

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<i>NAME OR MODEL</i>	<i>MANUFACTURER OR ORIGIN</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
DREYSE	Rheinische Metallwaren u Maschinenfabrik	Sommerda, Germany
D.W.M.	Deutsche Waffen u Munitionsfabriken	Berlin, Germany
ERMA	Erma Waffenfabrik	Erfurt, Germany
GECADO	D.C. Dornheim	Suhl, Germany
GUSTLOFF	Gustloff-Werke Waffenfabrik	Suhl, Germany
HAENEL SCHMEISSER	C.G. Haenel Waffen u Fahrradfabrik	Suhl, Germany
HEIM	C. E. Heinzelman	Plochingen, Germany
HELFRIGHT (Or: HELKA)	A. Krauser Waffenfabrik	Zella-Mehlis, Germany
HE-MO	Unknown Maker	Germany
JAGER	Jager & Co.	Suhl, Germany
KABA "SPEZIAL"	August Menz (For: Karl Bauer, Berlin)	Suhl, Germany
KESSLER	F. W. Kessler	Suhl, Germany
KOMMER	Theodor Kommer	Zella-Mehlis, Germany
LANGENHAM "SELBSTLADER"	Fr. Langenham	Zella-Mehlis, Germany
LEONHARDT	H. M. Gering & Co.	Arnstadt, Germany
LIGNOSE	Theodor Bergmann for: AKI-Ces Lignose	Suhl, Germany