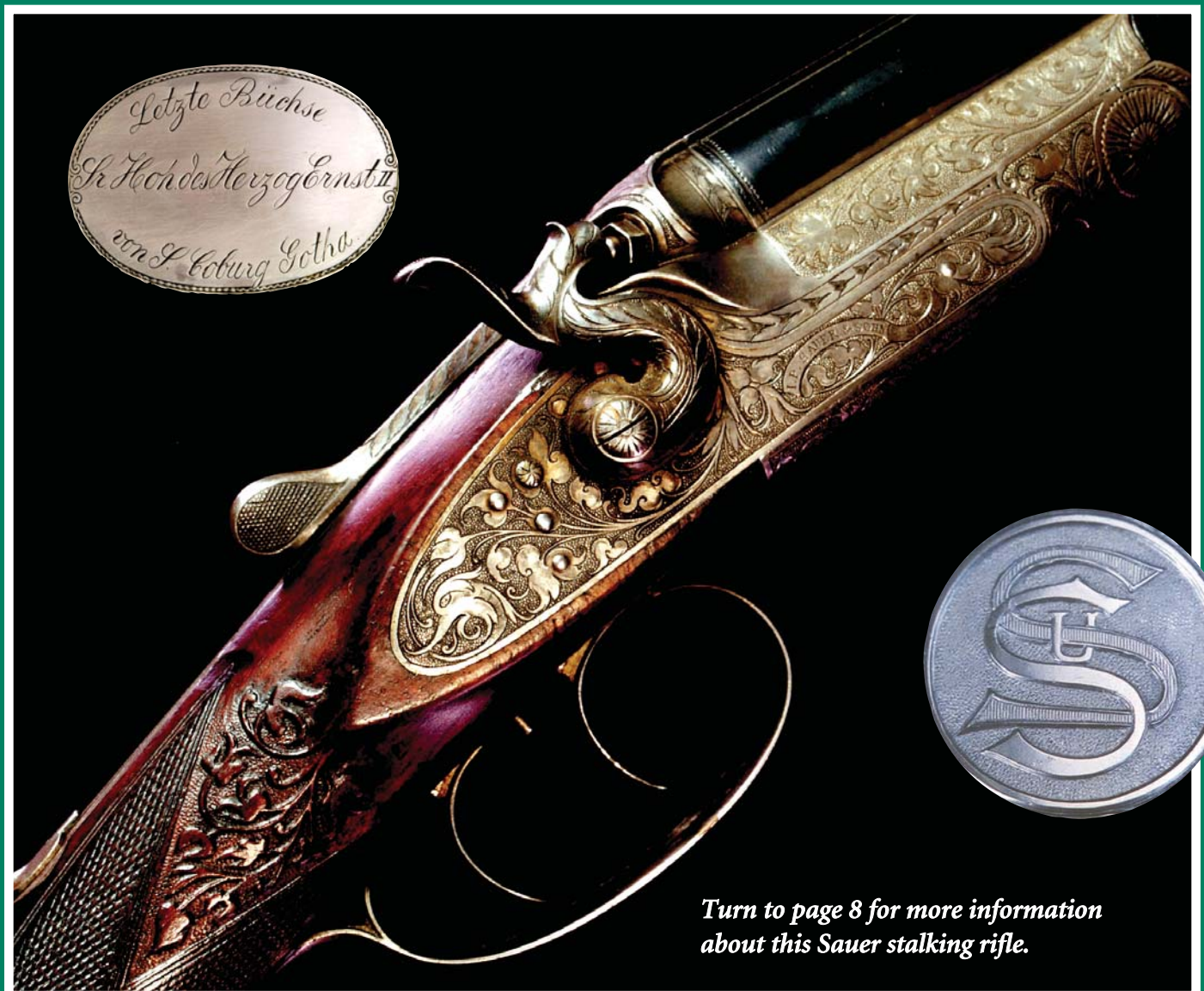




The Journal of the German Gun Collectors Association

No. 42, Spring 2010



*Turn to page 8 for more information  
about this Sauer stalking rifle.*

### **German Commemorative and Presentation Guns:**

*Footnotes to history, in war or in peace, for the good or the bad, for the famous or the infamous, but all made by the best gun makers and engravers in Suhl.*

# der Waffenschmied

"The Gunmaker"



## The journal of the German Gun Collectors Association

*Dedicated to enthusiasts of German  
hunting and sporting firearms*

*A 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

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### On our cover:

A Sauer Stalking Rifle

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### *Der Waffenschmied*

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## From the editor

For many of you it was a long and hard winter, and some of you are still facing severe flooding as I write this. We are very fortunate that the snow storms in the East and a windstorm that followed occurred just barely south of us. Although we were without electricity for 48 hours, my stand-by generator was well worth the expense. The cable connection was restored in time to see the last few days of the Winter Olympics, especially the Biathlon competition.

I am always happy to get mail in response to the latest Journal, and this time came a very nice card from Master Engraver and friend Winston Churchill. He always sends a card with one of his photos, and this is a good time to share it with you. He wrote that a blue jay perched in an apple tree close to his window and asked to be photographed. Spring is on the way.

As hard as I try, every Journal has mistakes and so does the last one. Winston pointed out to me that the floor plate with the dog was not engraved by him. My apology!

I very much appreciate comments and corrections, but some of them demand an explanation, especially about the Journal that will follow. I very much like to show you very good, very interesting and even exquisite guns we all wished we could own. I must point out, however, that these are not guns that are in museums, but gun lovers like you and I can now see these guns without visiting a museum, and we can even own them, since many of them came to America as war booty at the end of World War II.

I am always surprised how often one good thing is followed by another, and so it is with this Journal. Several very interesting historic and commemorative German guns came to my attention, almost forcing me to devote one com-



plete Journal to them. I hope that you will approve.

In my defense, I must point out that I never just show pretty guns, but also very unusual guns. I always try hard to combine them with the history of the maker and with pointing out the technical details of the mechanism. We men like to look at a pretty girl, and so it is with pretty guns. Fortunate are the men who have a woman in their life who supports their hobby.

Finally on the personal side I report to all of you who insisted that I must go on a vacation trip to Germany that I am leaving on the 25th. of April. I will fly into Frankfurt, and stay at the airport hotel for one night. I will then take the train to Switzerland, where I will visit my friend, Peter Koopmann, with whom I graduated from high school. By train I will then go to Vienna, where I will stay in the hotel some of you know from our visit. It will be a joy to have a much better room than the one I had before.

I will then board a river boat, a small but comfortable floating hotel that for six days will go on rivers and canals to Nuernberg.

By train I will then go for one week to Suhl, and stay in Goldener Hirsch that some of you will remember. Weather permitting I will walk in the mountains, meet with friends and say good-bye to my former homeland. All this thanks to you!

I always save a little space for thoughts that come to mind as I create the Journal. This one turned out to be a sentimental journey with some memories I would rather forget. But it is history and must be remembered and told.

Best regards and *Waidmannsheil!*



*Dietrich*



When we study the history of weapons and their makers all the way back to the swords, armor, crossbows and the early muzzle loading guns, we find that they were always highly prized possessions of the rulers and the nobility. They gave them prestige, and they were favored as gifts to prominent people and those who were in power. The best craftsmen, engravers and wood carvers settled near the castles and the courts in the major cities of the numerous principalities.

Our Association concentrates its efforts on German breechloading guns that came into use, with few exceptions, in the middle of the 19th Century. Most of these presentation and commemorative hunting guns were in the castles and residences of the nobility, in museums of major cities and in the capitals of the many former states.

Target shooting by the citizens goes back 800 years in German history, and a *Schützengilde* was already founded in 1139 in Düsseldorf. Men who could shoot accurately were needed to defend their towns and principalities, but

## German commemorative and presentation hunting guns

*Footnotes to history, in war or in peace, for the good or the bad, for the famous or the infamous, but all made by the best gun makers and engravers in Suhl.*

By Dietrich Apel

competitive shooting events became also a major part of the social life.

There was not a town in Germany that did not have a *Schützenverein* and a *Schützenhaus*. Competitive shoots were festive events. The most beautiful and elaborate guns went to the winners of major shoots. As the citizens became more prosperous, they could afford better and more embellished rifles that became prized possessions. All this is captured in three volumes of Tom Rowe's books *Alte Scheibenwaffen*. These books give a good overview of the history, and show a multitude of excellent photos of the guns that were used. The books can be ordered from our Association and are well worth the money.

German immigrants brought this tradition to the United States, and even here many or most respectable towns had a *Schützenhaus*, a *Schützenverein*, *Schützenfest* and competitive shoots. The negative reaction towards Germany at the beginning of World War I brought most of this to an end, and even today very few organizations like this remain.

When Hitler came to power in 1933 and right away started war preparations, he insisted that the *Schützen* movement would be used for training with military guns. The gun

industry turned into the production of military guns. Hermann Göring was an early supporter of Hitler and quickly rose to the rank of Field Marshall in charge of the German Air Force. He was a hunter,



liked fine guns and was also *Reichsjägermeister* of Germany, the top man of the German Forest Service. He and many top Nazis, Generals and war heroes received fine guns as gifts.

World War II began only six years after Hitler had come to power, and an all-out war effort drastically reduced the production of hunting guns. The younger men were drafted into the army, and only some older gun makers still made hunting and sporting guns. During these years Nazis were given fine guns for their collections and their hunts. Surprisingly the British or the American air forces never bombed Suhl and Zella-Mehlis, two important small arms gun making centers.

When American troops occupied a German town, including Suhl and Zella-Mehlis, all guns, cameras and binoculars had to be turned in right away. The guns were laid out on a street and tanks were driven over them. Others were burned. Fortunately, the American soldiers liked guns, and they saved many from this destruction and sent or brought them home. I was in Suhl as a 15-year-old and



witnessed it. Never did I dream that I would one day write about these very guns to preserve the history of their makers. Guns in museums or major collections were not destroyed but confiscated also found their way to this country.

To find out what the British troops did, I wrote to Jock Lamont, one of our British members that many of you know. He pointed out that he came to Germany only later, but related to me that all confiscated German guns were registered, to be returned to their owners at a later time. Some were stored in armories and other went to officers for their use.

By the mid-1950s all of them had disappeared. This came from Jock with the saying "The way to hell is paved with good intentions!" We can be reasonably sure that many found their way to the United States, because in England "rifles were not much sought after except for shooting in Germany, and Drillings were and still are considered heavy and badly balanced."

Suhl was fortunate in that American troops arrived first. The first American soldier I met was a black man who had his Colt 45 pistol in his hand and at first seemed very angry and nervous, and probably with good reason after he survived the Battle of the Bulge. I tried my school English on him, talked about my uncle in Philadelphia, and before we parted he gave me a candy bar and told me to come back the next day for more. He still owes me the promised candy bars, because his outfit had moved on by then. Our whole family made friends with some of the soldiers that followed. They brought the cream (condensed milk) and we had fresh strawberries. This is a good memory for me.

Gun making came to a standstill, but

CERTIFICATE

May 12, 1945  
(Date)

1. I certify that I have personally examined the items of captured enemy military equipment mailed by RFC. Miller W. Meek, PO 246725 that the trophy value of such items exceeds any training, service, or salvage value; that they do not include any explosives, and that the mailing thereof is in conformity with the provisions of Sect III, Cir 353, WD, 31 Aug 1944, and the existing regulations of the Theater Commander.

2. I further certify that the items mailed do not include any firearms capable of being concealed on the person, or any parts of firearms.

3. The items referred to are;

1 Enemy Rifle

(Signature) Joseph M. White  
(Rank and Branch) 1st Lt. 1st Inf. Div.  
(Organization) US Army

*A certificate like this was given by a commanding officer to an American soldier who wanted to bring or send a confiscated gun home.*



we know that the smaller gun makers assembled and finished some guns with the parts that had not been turned in. A carton of cigarettes or two could have been the pay, and one of our German members mentioned that gifts from an American soldier kept his family alive during those very hard months. But one day, due to the agreement made in Potsdam between Truman, Churchill and Stalin, the American troops pulled out in their jeeps and trucks. For one single day Suhl was not occupied, but then the Russian troops arrived in horse-drawn paddy wagons.

What Russian troops did when they entered a German town is not known to me. All we know is that all Germans that were able to leave fled to the West in a steady stream. Homeowners and apartment dwellers all over Germany took these refugees in.

Only two days ago I received an email inquiry from Russia with photos of a German gun with the name Otto Reif-Suhl on the top rib and the name Sauer somewhere on the action. I could not find the name Reif anywhere, and wrote to Dr. Fritze in Suhl. He right away sent me a detailed explanation of

who Otto Reif was, and also that he was known for selling guns made in Suhl from parts made by various makers to Russian officers. When the authorities discovered this in 1949, Reif fled to West Berlin, still possible because the Wall had not yet been erected.

During the years when the Eastern part of Germany became the DDR (German Democratic Republic) with a Communist government installed by Moscow, fine guns from Suhl were given to high party and government officials and to foreign heads of states of the Eastern Block and friendly states.

In the Western free part of Germany that was divided into an American, a British and a French Zone, Germans were not allowed to own guns for several years. After I had graduated from High School in Suhl I served a relatively short apprenticeship as an actioner and stock maker, and was allowed to become a Journeyman by the grace of the older masters who perhaps sensed what I wanted to do. I went to Berlin by train, took the subway, which at that time went through all sectors of the divided city, and got out in the American sector. Buses were waiting for the many refugees

*Sold by Otto Reif in Suhl to an officer of the Russian army.*



that were leaving East Germany every day. I arrived in the Free World on a British plane that had brought coal to the blockaded Berlin, covered with coal dust and looking like a chimney sweep. But I was free, and you can't imagine how much this meant to me even then!


Paul Jaeger, my uncle, had arranged a job for me as a gunsmith at the Wiesbaden Rod and Gun Club of the American Air Force. For this reason I can report with some accuracy what the gun business was like in these years. This gun club was the center of activities for the American servicemen who liked guns. The gun shop was staffed with a few local gunsmiths, but mostly with refugees from East Germany.


We only built bolt-action rifles using surplus Mauser military actions. Machine gun barrels were turned down to Sporter size, and pre-machined stocks came from Bishop in America. Roy Weatherby had already entered the market, and his stocks with high rollover cheek pieces and flashy ivory and ebony diamond inlays were in demand. German engravers added engravings in the German tradition, but more and more silver inlaid animals were favored that were later mostly inlaid in

gold. They were not best German masterpieces, but our American customers were happy and got real bargains.

When Germans were again allowed to make and own guns, makers from Suhl

and Zella-Mehlis who had left the East with the American troops, started over from scratch. But times had changed, and making gifts of luxurious guns seemed to have faded away. Just like the gold watch received upon retirement by a person who had worked for a company all his life. But then again they might well exist and hardly anybody knows about them. Makers like Krieghoff, Sauer, Heym, Blaser and the new Sauer in Eckernförde, as well as the gun makers in Ferlach certainly could produce very fine guns, but these are now mostly ordered by customers who can afford them and want them for their own collections and for use.

After this overview of historic events, let us look at some of the guns that were part of them, beginning with the Sauer stalking rifle on the front cover. 



**Wiesbaden, Germany**  
APO 633, USAF


9 March 1950

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Recommendation.

**TO:** Whom it may concern.

This is to certify that Mr Dietrich A p e l, has been employed under my supervision as a Master-Gunsmith since June 1949.

Mr Apel has shown keen interest in his work and his workmanship has been of the highest quality. Mr Apel intelligence appears to be above average and if given an opportunity to further his education, it is the opinion of the undersigned that he is capable, willing, and will make the most out of this opportunity.

  
**JOE L. FERNANDES**  
Captain, USAF  
12111-A  
Club Officer

Duke Ernst II of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha  
(1818-1893)

## Ernst II and *Deutscher Schützenbund*

In 1860, “Germany” was a collection of almost forty independent principalities, each with its own border controls, coinage, weights and measures, civil servants, and so on. Prussia and Austria were the dominant powers, but others were so small that it would challenge the average German today to locate some of them on a map. This state of affairs might have been good for the creators of romance novels and operettas but much less so for the functioning of a nation. One man who wished to see the nation peacefully united was the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Ernst II. Although his lands were relatively small, he was well connected to other royal families in Europe and reputed to be a just and enlightened sovereign. His strategy to unify Germany was to bring together in one national organization the ubiquitous and fundamentally German *Schützen* societies. Originally citizen militias formed to protect the towns and, as needed, to provide for civil order, many trace their history as far back as the thir-

teenth century.

In July of 1861, Ernst II summoned representatives from the four corners of Germany to Gotha where he bade them to “forget where their cradles stand” and to join together for sport, to enhance marksmanship, and to stand as protectors of the homeland. His proposal was met with enthusiasm and on July 11, 1861 Germany’s first national sporting federation, the *Deutscher Schützenbund* (DSB), was founded.

A gauge of the enthusiasm was the first competition held in Frankfurt in July of 1862, which attracted *eight thousand* marksmen from nine countries. Also there, as guests of honor and to make a point, was a delegation from the new Kingdom of Italy, unified the year before.

Germany united in 1871 under the King of Prussia (now Kaiser) Wilhelm I, who acknowledged at the time that it couldn’t have happened without the success of Ernst II in combining the cultural groups of the nation. A relative of



Ernst’s, Prince Andreas of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, is today lending his good name to the DSB as Protector. The Schuetzen Hall where the founding occurred stands today, recently refurbished at great expense by the city of Gotha. Nearby at Schloss Callenberg is the Schützen Museum of the DSB. The German Gun Collectors Association visited both during our trip to Germany in 2008.

—Jon Spencer

After the founding of *Deutscher Schützenbund* the first Bundesschiessen was held in Frankfurt in 1862 and took place in other major German cities every three years or so. These were events that can be compared with World Fairs, and



### His last rifle

On pages 8 and 9 we introduce you to a stalking rifle made by J.P. Sauer & Son in Suhl with the silver shield that states that this was the last rifle of Ernst II. This could mean that it is the last rifle he acquired before he passed away in 1893. He perhaps gave the rifle to a trusted member of the Court, who then added the engraved silver shield to the rifle.



*A joyful and festive beginning, but 73 years later came the first signs of a bitter end.*

elaborate shooting grounds with ranges for many shooters and meeting halls were the pride of each town.

Germany was united and prospered, but then came World War I that brought hardship to all of Europe. Germany lost the war, had to pay heavy reparations and went from a recession into a depression when the American stock market crashed. The Kaiser abdicated, riots fol-

lowed and the people had little faith in the new Weimar Republic, a first step towards a democratic government, and fertile ground for Hitler coming to power. Preparations for war started right away, and at the *Bundeschiessen* in Leipzig in 1934 the Nazis had taken over and military training took the place of Schuetzen competitions.

*continued on page 8*



From this postcard we can see the beginning of the end of the Schützen movement in Germany before World War II. The Swastika is shown on much of the promotional material, indicating how politics were taking over. The KK military style training rifle is pictured instead of a Scheibenbüchse.



The map above shows the many different principalities that existed in Germany before 1871. Suhl was located in the little island under the word Thuringia that belonged to Prussia. This explains why the guns from Suhl during this time had to be marked "Made in Prussia."

Deutscher Schützenbund is celebrating its 150th Anniversary in Gotha in 2011 and plans are afoot for us to go once again to the domains of Ernst II and participate in the festivities. If you are interested to come along, please let Jon Spencer know as soon as possible. Many groups from all over Germany will come to this event, and reservations in hotels will be hard to come by. Get in touch with Jon at 435-979-9723 or [sales@germanguns.com](mailto:sales@germanguns.com).

*Ernst II, continued*



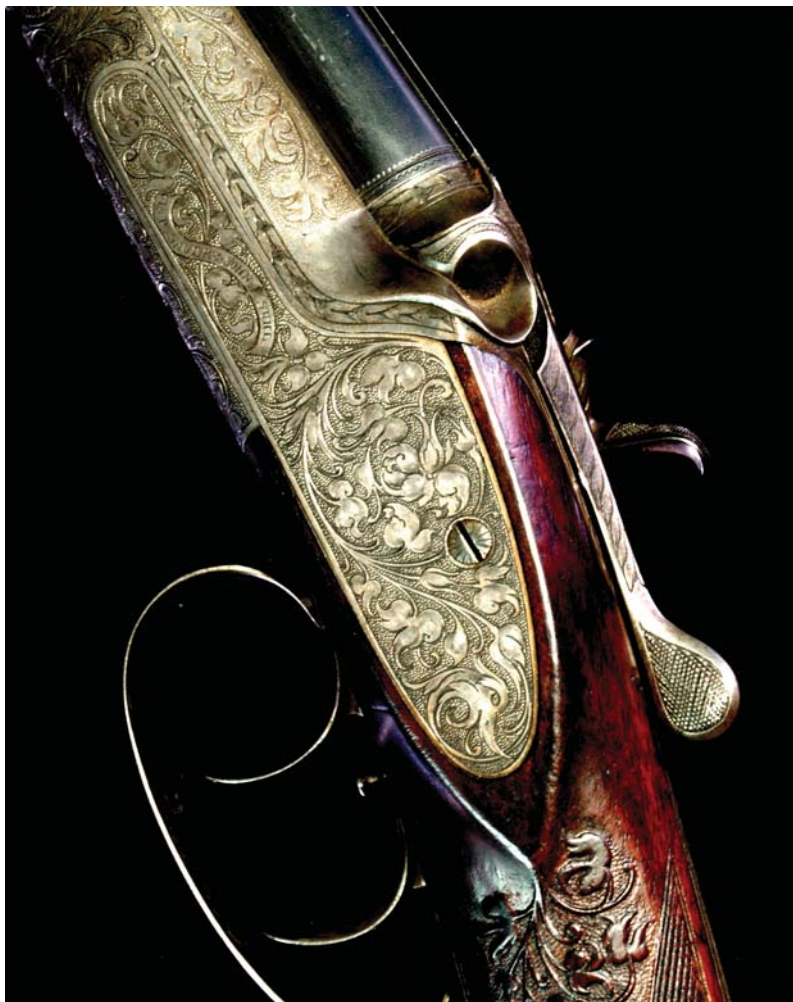
What could the inscription on the silver shield mean when it states that this is the last rifle of Herzog Ernst? Was it the last one he hunted with or the last one he added to his gun collection? Who installed the shield?

The answers we come up with are circumstantial and not supported by any proof. Judging by the serial number 38541 on the trigger guard and the forend iron, it must have been built by Sauer very late in Herzog Ernst's life, making it perhaps the last rifle he had ordered or had in his collection.

Dr. Müller in Germany, a serious collector and preserver of the history of Herzog Ernst and the Schützenbund suggested that the commemorative shield was most likely installed by a trusted servant or friend of the Herzog.

It is not known how this rifle found its way to America. It now belongs to Dr. Wallace, a life member in our Association and a former customer of mine. He bought the rifle from Kirby Hoyt, whose company, Vintage Doubles,

*This J.P. Sauer hammer stalking rifle is not a presentation piece by any measure. It is a good and well-made rifle with side plates and full coverage with German style arabesques. It has open sights and a Diopter (aperture sight) in the top tang that can be elevated to assist the shooter in lining up the sights with the target. Since Herzog Ernst II must have been up in age when he got the rifle, this must have been very important to him. The inscription on the barrel "Voll Korn," meaning to see the full or whole bead over the rear sight is an indication of this.*



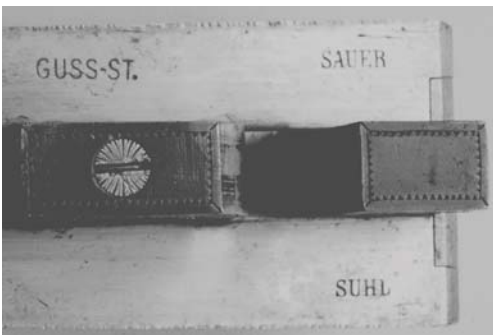


deals in fine used guns and has supported our Association for years as a corporate sponsor. Before he became a gun dealer, he collected German guns and had this rifle in his collection. When he ran into hard times he had to sell guns to survive, and this rifle was among them.

He had the opportunity to buy it back and felt that this rifle really belongs in a museum in Germany. He told Dr. Wallace the history behind the rifle, who found it so interesting that he bought it from Kirby. After he has shot it and hunted with it, he will designate in his will that it should go to a museum in Germany.

Dr. Müller has already expressed an interest to have it on display in the Museum of Deutscher Schützenbund in Schloss Kallenberg near Coburg. Wouldn't it be great if Dr. Wallace would join a group of our members and come along with his rifle to the 150th Anniversary celebration in Gotha next year, and perhaps even shoot it there?

Our thanks to Dr. Wallace and Kirby Hoyt for the support they have given our Association over the years.



## Special Ehrengaben rifles

Given to the winners of major shooting events in Germany and the United States



This exquisite *Stiegele Schützenrifles* was the top award at the 7th. Annual *Bundeschiessen* in Leipzig in July 1884. You can find more about it in our Journal Nr. 15, Fall 2002.

The rifle belongs to our member Allen Hallock, and can also be found in *Alte Scheibenwaffen*, Tom Rowe's excellent books that cover the tradition and the many rifles that were the pride of the German shooters.



This Winchester Model 1873 engraved in the German tradition, most likely by a German engraver, was the *Ehrenpreis* at a shooting event in San Jose, California and is a splendid example of a prize that represents the melding of the German and American shooting tradition. More information can be found in Journal Nr.32, Winter 2007.



## A Sauer side-by-side shotgun for the Krupps

photography by Jeff Stevens



The photo at left shows the coat of arms of the Krupp Family on the grip cap of a fine J.P. Sauer shotgun. It is shown in Jim

Cate's Sauer book on pages 86 to 88. We believe that it was most likely a gift of the Sauer Company to the Krupps. Most guns Sauer produced have the Krupp steel logos on the barrels, and a gift like this would have enhanced the business relationship that existed. The gun was proofed on April 15, 1912, two years before the beginning of World War I.

It is known that it was "liberated" on April 11, 1945 by a member of the 313th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army, the first to arrive at the Krupp estate. The 16 gauge gun has the serial number 146331, 65mm long chambers, automatic ejectors and a Greener safety. The action is tastefully engraved with fine English scroll engraving and the fences are deeply chiseled.

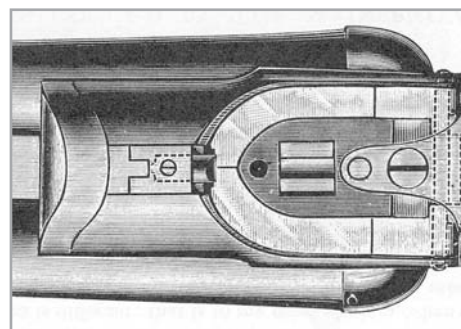
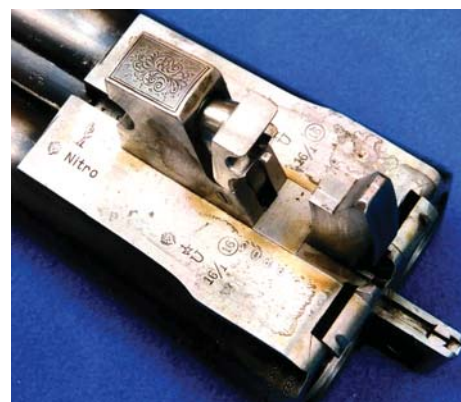
Those who take an interest in Sauer guns will notice right away that the action is very different from the many Sauer guns they have seen. The action is very short and shows only a screw slot on the cover screw at the hinge. Eliminated in this design are the usual hammer screws and the sear screws, each with small lock screws. In their place, two pin heads can be seen. One pin is for the tumblers or hidden hammers; the other, for the sears.

This action does not have any cocking levers, or a third pin would be showing. Looking at the underside of the action, we see that the bottom is well rounded

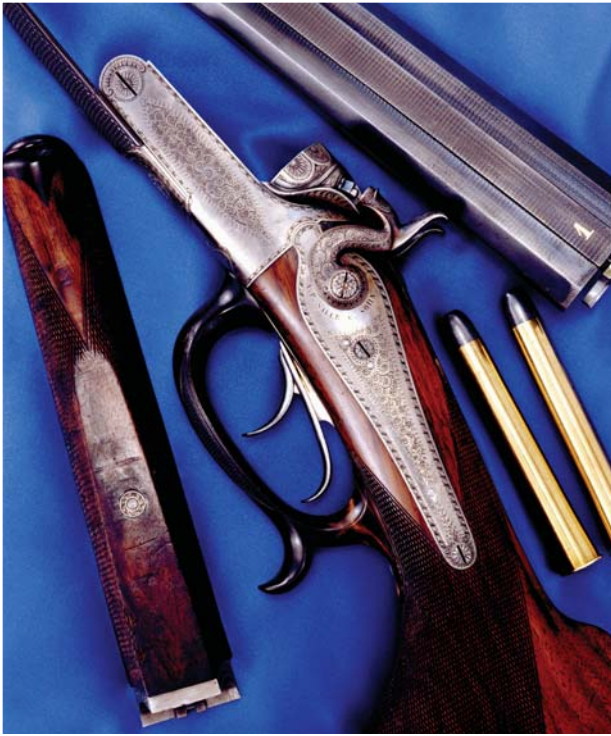


and the action very slim. This leads to the conclusion that this gun was possibly made for Bertha Krupp, the daughter of Alfred Krupp who married Gustav Krupp von Bohlen & Halbach. The action's firing mechanism is based on the "Facile Princes" Greener Patent Nr. 930 of March 2, 1880. The longer front end of the hammers or tumblers are bent and come together in the middle of the action. A pivoting hook is mounted in the forward lump that will engage the forward end of the hammers and cock them when the gun is opened. This design allows the action to be shorter, slimmer and more rounded. Did Sauer make the action? Who knows?

*Our thanks to Jim Cate for supplying the photography. His book about Sauer in Suhl is available from the GGCA, order Nr. B095.*



## A Sauer Double Rifle for Kaiser Wilhelm



apart from many other Sauer guns are the full length octagonal barrels and the arcaded fences, but more so the gold grip cap shown on the next page, where you can also read an explanation of what it contains.

The .450 BPE caliber Double Rifle is built on a Lefauchaux action and is tastefully engraved with fine English scroll and decorative borders. The back action locks have rebounding hammers, and the horn trigger guard has a hook that needs an explanation. Kaiser Wilhelm II was injured at birth which resulted in a

crippled left arm. If you look at the two paintings of the Kaiser, you see that his left arm is partially hidden on both. This might remind us of President Roosevelt, who did not want to be photographed in a wheelchair.

It is known that Kaiser Wilhelm was a good shot and successful hunter, but he



needed all the help he could get from the gun makers. Many of the Kaiser's guns with horn trigger guards have a hook like you see on this gun. Other guns have a steel hook that can be folded out of the forearm as the one shown below. It is called *Anstreichhaken* or also *Kaiserhaken* in Germany, and is used for steadying the gun by hooking it to a tree or post. The hook can be installed on



both sides of the forearm, was available to gun makers by companies that produced small gun

components, and its use was not limited to hunters that had a physical problem. A flat spring holds it securely in the folded-out or -in position. Other guns have a *Kaisergriff*, a very short pistol grip that sticks out further on the bottom than normal grips. A third and more complicated shooting aid made for the Kaiser is a gun without triggers, but with push buttons on top of the grip for firing the gun. This we will show in another issue.

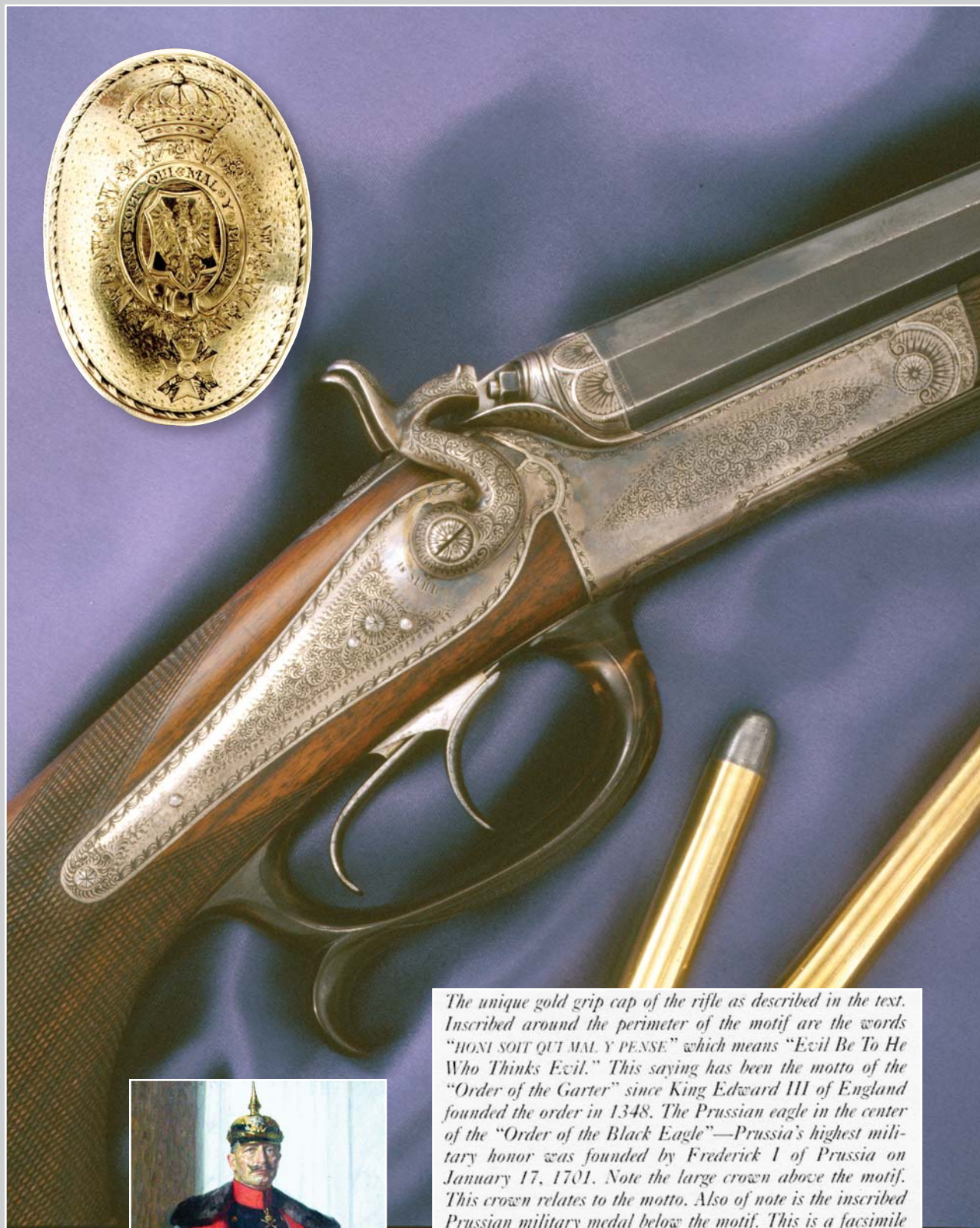
We found no historic guns of importance from between World War I and the beginning of World War II in our archive. Germany was in turmoil, the Treaty of Versailles placed a very heavy burden on the country, and was followed by recession and the Great Depression. Hitler came to power, and it was now the turn of the Nazi leadership to take over and receive expensive presents.

Now fast forward to the years when Hitler and the Nazis came to power...

Those of you who remember an article about Kaiser Wilhelm's bolt action rifles in Journal Nr.17, Spring 2003 might also remember that a list of the Kaiser's personal guns was found in the 1913 German hunting magazine *Wild & Hund*, and among the 13 guns listed were a pair of J.P. Sauer & Sohn Double Rifles given as a wedding present by Fürst Pless. Gun Nr.1 of this pair is shown on these pages, but unfortunately it is not known what happened to Nr. 2.

Thanks to Jeff Stephens, who supplied the photography and wrote about the rifle in the Winter 2003 issue of *Double Gun Journal*, we can include it in this line-up of hunting guns of historic importance. It was Kaiser Wilhelm I who built up the Prussian Army and had a very friendly relationship with the Krupp family, because Krupp cannons were decisive in winning the war of 1870 against France.

What sets this Sauer double rifle



The unique gold grip cap of the rifle as described in the text. Inscribed around the perimeter of the motif are the words "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE" which means "Evil Be To He Who Thinks Evil." This saying has been the motto of the "Order of the Garter" since King Edward III of England founded the order in 1348. The Prussian eagle in the center of the "Order of the Black Eagle"—Prussia's highest military honor was founded by Frederick I of Prussia on January 17, 1701. Note the large crown above the motif. This crown relates to the motto. Also of note is the inscribed Prussian military medal below the motif. This is a facsimile of the "Order of the Black Eagle" military honor. Surrounding the entire motif are numerous small Prussian eagles. Kaiser Wilhelm II was proud of his royal heritages, both German and English, but was a bit jealous of England's stature in the world. He would later undertake an unprecedented naval arms buildup with disastrous consequences for the world based on his perception that it was necessary for Germany to match England in gunboats in order to achieve England's and the world's respect.

## December 21, 1935

*A fateful day for the Simson family and Suhl*

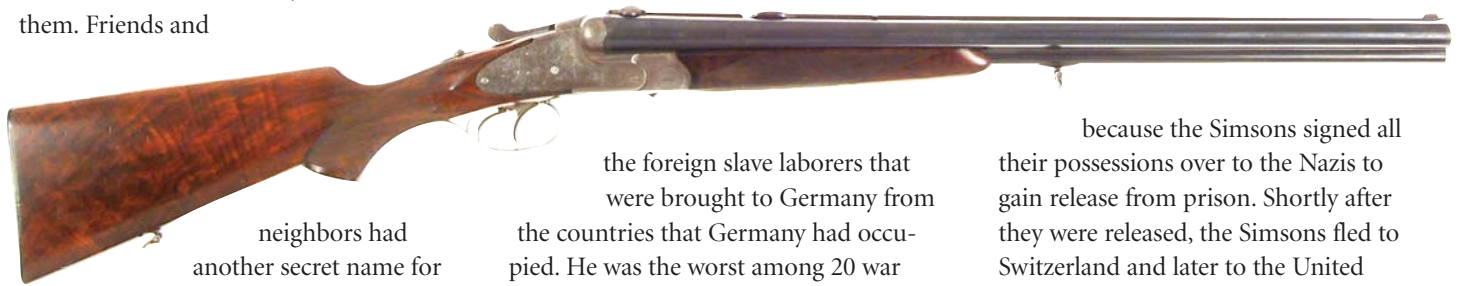
Fritz Saukel, the Nazi *Gauleiter* of Thuringia came to Suhl and first met with the Board of Directors of the former Simson Company, now called BSW (*Berlin-Sühler-Waffenwerk*) to inform them that the company had been taken over by the new government. Following this, all company employees assembled in a hall, and Gauleiter Saukel brought them the good news that they no longer had to work for the Jewish former owners, but were now part of the Third Reich with a hundred-year future.

Surely quite a few of these assembled workers shared this vision, but not all of them. Friends and

into concentration camps, and 267 synagogues were set on fire and destroyed. The synagogue in Suhl was among them.

Fritz Saukel came from a family of meager means and did not graduate from high school. He joined the Nazi party early on in 1924, and quickly rose through the ranks due to his fanatical belief in Hitler's doctrines. He became *Gauleiter* (Nazi administrator) of Thuringia in 1927. He was responsible for the concentration camp in Buchenwald where 56,000 people lost their lives. He was in also in charge of

army and police, the Nazi war department first insisted on having directors of their choice in management. Simson at that time changed the name to BSW. The Nazis then tried to take over the company through investments by the Nazi directors, named it WAFFA, but the very small investments did not make this legally possible. At that point Saukel took over, charged the Simsons with various crimes, arrested two of them and kept them in jail while trying to come up with legal reasons for their arrest and conviction. The case never went to trial,



neighbors had another secret name for the new company's initials:

*Bis Simson Wiederkommt*—“Until Simson comes back.” I was six years old at the time, and was not supposed to hear this because it could have landed you into a concentration camp that few survived. This was confirmed by others in Suhl, so it could not be said that I made up a story.

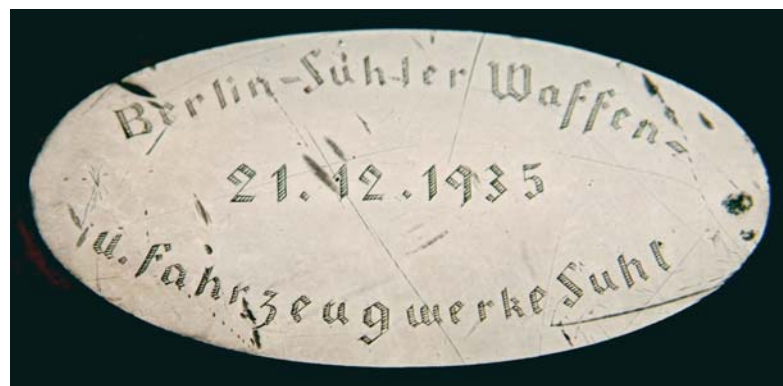
Those Germans who read Hitler's book *Mein Kampf* might have expected what would happen when Hitler came to power. Although most people had the book, few read it and even fewer understood what Hitler had in mind. Anti-Semitism was apparent even before Hitler came to power in 1933, but the *Kristallnacht*, the night of broken glass, on the 9th and 10th of November 1938 should not have left any doubt in the German population what Hitler had in mind. On that night, 91 Jews were murdered, over 25,000 arrested and placed

the foreign slave laborers that were brought to Germany from the countries that Germany had occupied. He was the worst among 20 war criminals who were convicted and hanged at the Nürnberg trials.

Saukel had his eye on the Simson Company early on and tried to take it over by all means available to him. The Simson Company had their main offices in Berlin, and since they were the only company after World War I that was allowed to make guns for the German

because the Simsons signed all their possessions over to the Nazis to gain release from prison. Shortly after they were released, the Simsons fled to Switzerland and later to the United States.

The belief that Simson asked the Allies after World War I to make them the only German company allowed to make guns for the small remaining German Army and the police is still being voiced today. To lay this to rest, an excerpt from the Treaty of Versailles is shown on page 21.





This BSW side-lock Drilling, made in the Simson factory by Simson gun makers, was sold at a Julia auction in June 2005, and we can show it to you thanks to Julia supplying us the photos. The gun has the serial number 37962, an 8x57JR rifle barrel and two 16 Ga. shotgun barrels. Each side lock has a cocking indicator, and the Greener safety is built into the left side plate. A pushbutton selector is on top of the grip. Exceptionally nice game scenes by Richard Schilling are on both side plates, surrounded by very fine English scroll. .

It is quite a coincidence that another BSW Drilling was brought to our attention and again by the Julia auctioneers. It was given to Hermann Göring, another Nazi leader, three years later and was sold at auction on March 15, 2010 for \$58,000. Turn the page to find out more about it.

#### **Our thanks to all those who contributed to this Journal:**

Page 1: Dr. Wallace – Kirby Hoyt

Page 2: Winston Churchill

Page 6: Jon Spencer

Page 10: Allen Hallock

Page 11: Jim Cate

Pages 12-13: Jeff Stevens

Pages 14-19: Julia Auctioneers

Page 19: R.E. Peithman

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A photo and text below appeared in our Journal Volume 1, Number 2, Winter 1998

*It was the privilege of the editor to meet two members of the Simson family recently. Arthur Simson and Ewald Mayer were arrested and jailed by the Nazis in 1935. The Simsons were Jewish and owned the most prominent manufacturing facility in Suhl. Not only did they make fine hunting and sporting guns, but also military guns, bicycles, motorcycles and automobiles.*

*It was Ewald Mayer who signed the Simson factories over to the Nazis as a condition for being released from jail. The Simson family made the wise decision to leave Germany right away, and after first spending some time in Switzerland, they came to the United States to build a new life.*

## Rare BSW double rifle Drilling presented to Hermann Göring

*Serial No. 42289, Calibers 9.3x74R – 9.3x74R – 12 Ga.*

*Listing in the Julia Catalog:*

Marked BSW (*Berlin Suhler Waffen- und Fahrzeugwerke*) in Suhl, Germany. 23-1/2" barrel cluster having a flat matted quarter rib with raised front sight pedestal and sunken concave matted center rib.

The quarter rib is mounted with typical German claw mounts and a two-position express rear sight with hand matted rear faces. The front sight is a removable caterpillar type silver bead.

The barrels have double under lugs and double barrel extensions for the modified Greener cross bolt, and have the very rare feature of ejectors for the two rifle barrels. They are each marked with the manufacturer's oval logo over "Suhl."

The receiver has full side plates with a Greener thumb safety in the left plate and cocking indicators on each side plate and one cocking indicator in the top tang of receiver for the shotgun barrel.

The top tang has a hand checkered locking sliding selector button for the shotgun barrel.

Both triggers can be set as hair triggers.

The stock is made with spectacular burl honey & chocolate French walnut with checkered rounded forearm and pistol grip, raised side panels and European style cheekpiece. Length of pull is 14-5/8" over a beautiful leather covered pad. On the bottom of the shotgun barrel and the stock are narrow European sling loops.

The grip cap is blued flat steel secured with two engraved screws and the gold inlaid lettering: *Herrn*

*Generalfeldmarschall Göring zugeeignet von der Wilhelm-Gustloff- Stiftung, Weimar 1938.* (Rough translation: To Field Marshall Göring as a present from





the Wilhelm-Gustloff Foundation in Weimar.)

**Gustloff** was a Swiss National who founded the Swiss NSDAP (Nazi Party). He became a Gauleiter (Party Leader) and was assassinated in Feb. 1936. Note: Field Marshall Göring's name is spelled "GÖRING" or "GOERING" when translated into English.

This spectacular double rifle Drilling, in German known as a *Doppelbüchsdrilling* has side plates and is spectacularly engraved with full coverage on the receiver, the side plates, the trigger guard and appended metal with incredibly fine foliate arabesque scrolls with heavily carved oak leaf & acorn patterns on the fences and laurel leaves & berries on the reinforcements below the fences.

The thumb lever boss has a spectacular rosette with the shotgun selector button inlaid in gold *SCHROT* (shot) and the thumb safety having a large "S" in gold. Engraving extends about 2-1/4" up

the barrels and the barrel extensions have matching, blending oak leaf patterns over their top edges to match the tops of the fences. The forend iron is engraved to match with the flat of the forend iron highly polished and hand jeweled. The action flats and the barrel flats are also polished bright and hand jeweled.

This is one of Suhl's finest and most elaborate Drillings, undoubtedly created for Field Marshall Göring on special order. A copy of an undated letter from Jan Mueller gives a brief history on this beautiful Drilling including some of the above information. He also states that this Drilling was apparently with Field Marshall Göring's collections at Karin Hall (sic), that it was on the train which was sent to Berchtesgaden (sic) with Göring's art collection and other personal effects in late April of 1945.

This wonderful Drilling was "liberated" by 4 star General Wade Hampton Haislip who was the Commander of 15th

Corps at that time. He was probably given this Drilling as a present from someone in the 101st Airborne Division who had captured it at Berchtesgaden. Gen. Haislip was born in Woodstock, VA, July 9, 1889, graduated from West Point in 1912 and served at various postings including Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914. From 1917-1921 during WWI he was with the American Expeditionary Forces, then in the occupation of Germany afterward. During the war he participated in the battles of Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Between WWI and WWII he was an instructor at West Point for two years and attended a variety of military schools. From 1928-1931 he was the Assistant Executive in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War. He was in the Budget & Legislative Planning Branch of the War Dept. General Staff from 1938-1941 and Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel. At the outbreak of WWII he organized the 85th Infantry Division and served as its Commander from April 1942-Feb 1943 after which he took command of XV Corps and served with it through Normandy, France, Rhineland and Central European campaigns. He then became Commander of the 7th United States Army through the end of the war. After the war he served in various senior staff positions, in 1949 became the Vice Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff for Administration and retired in 1951. Haislip was a life long friend of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, introduced Ike to Mamie, and served as pallbearer at Ike's funeral. He died on December 23, 1971 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

The gun is accompanied by a copy of a signed statement dated May 4, 1977 from Mrs. Wade Hampton Haislip stating that she was the owner of this Drilling and that it was the property of



her late husband. She states that she does not know how he obtained the Drilling but that it was captured at Berchtesgaden on May 4, 1945 and it was there that he obtained it as "war booty". She also states that after General Haislip had acquired the Drilling "It was always kept at our house as a trophy of war and was never fired." She also states that upon the General's death in Dec. 1971 she retained possession of the Drilling until she gave it to Charles E. Johnson to sell for her. Mrs. Haislip died in 1987 and is buried beside her husband in Arlington.

Also accompanying is a signed notarized statement from Eric E. Mueller wherein he states that his father Jan C.

Mueller, purchased this BSW Drilling from Mr. Charles Johnson who was the selling agent for Mrs. Haislip in 1977. He states that it was displayed in his father's library until his death in the year 2000 when ownership passed to him and it has remained in his possession until consigned to this auction. Also accompanying is a Washington, D.C. "RIFLE/SHOT GUN LICENSE" dated June 13, 1969 to Wade Hampton Haislip. There is no identification of any particular firearm and the intended use block states "DISPLAY ONLY AS TROPHY OF WAR".

Additionally it was accompanied by a replacement old green felt lined leather trunk case compartmented in the bottom

for the Drilling with two covered compartments containing nickel plated square oil bottles. Other compartments are missing their lids with the front two compartments containing a Zeiss *Zielvier* claw mount scope with 3-post reticule and leather scope covers. The other compartment contains a Zeiss *Zielmar* scope with crosshair, post and dot. Additionally there are two full 10-rd boxes of RWS rifle ammunition. CONDITION: Extremely fine plus.

Overall the gun retains virtually all of its original factory finish with strong bright blue on barrels and virtually all of its original French gray finish on the





receiver, the side plates and appended metal. The wood is sound, showing little or no wear with only one or two very minor handling and storage marks. The mechanics are crisp, the ejectors strong, and the bores brilliant shiny. The case is lightly soiled but solid with light moth damage in the lining and some minor damage in the bottom. Scopes are both fine with crisp optics. Ammunition is fine.”

The description of the gun and its history in the Julia Auction Catalog is very well done and is shown here with minor changes. The gun arrived very late and almost missed this auction. The fact that the gun does not have side locks, but side plates was discovered after the catalog had been printed, but this was announced before and during the auction.

What is listed as a modified Greener cross bolt is the invention of Gustav Kersten and therefore called the *Kersten* or *Strassburg Verschluss*. Using this is a much more expensive option, but it assures that the action will never develop looseness, even in heavy use. It could be said that the two barrel extensions would make the removal of the fired rifle brass cases cumbersome, but the gun has automatic ejectors for the two rifle barrels.

Thanks to the Julia Auction Company for the good photos they supplied. The gun was sold at auction for \$58,000, and well worth it even if it did not belong to Hermann Göring.

But what about the letters BSW on the gun, and the words *zugeeignet von der Wilhelm-Gustloff-Stiftung* on the grip

cap? The question was raised whether the Nazis would really give a gun to Hermann Göring marked with BSW and not *Wilhelm-Gustloff Stiftung*. The BSW side-by-side shotgun shown below came to the rescue just in time. It was made during the same period in time as the Göring Drilling and is unusual in more than one way.

Why would this gun have a shiny action and gold plated screws, and how

can it have both the BSW letters on the barrels and also the capital G, the trade mark of the re-named Gustloff Works? But then we discover that the inscription *GUSTLOFF WERKE – WAFFENERK SUHL* is roll marked over the BSW letters. We also have seen a gun that had the Simson Trade Mark on it, and also the BSW letters. It tells us that these were tumultuous times for the company.



Another BSW–Gustloff gun

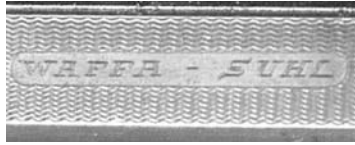


## Simson? WAFFA? BSW?

In our Journal Nr. 33 on page 19 we showed a Double Rifle Bock-Drilling that was marked with the letters WAFFA. At the time we stated that we did not know why these letters were used on a Simson gun. Thanks to Axel Pantermühl in Germany who sent us the copy of a letter with the name Simson & Company in the upper left, we can now draw some conclusions that might come close to what actually happened.



In another document it is stated that the Nazis insisted on having directors of their choice in the management of the company or Simson would not get any more military orders. Simson had already changed the company name to BSW, most likely to forestall attacks from the Nazis. They now had these directors invest small amounts of money, change the name to WAFFA, and tried to take over completely. The above letter was sent to customers of Simson and BSW, advising them of the changes and asking them for their continued support. It is interesting to note that this letter was not written on paper with a printed letterhead.



## Fritz Saukel and the Wilhelm-Gustloff-Stiftung

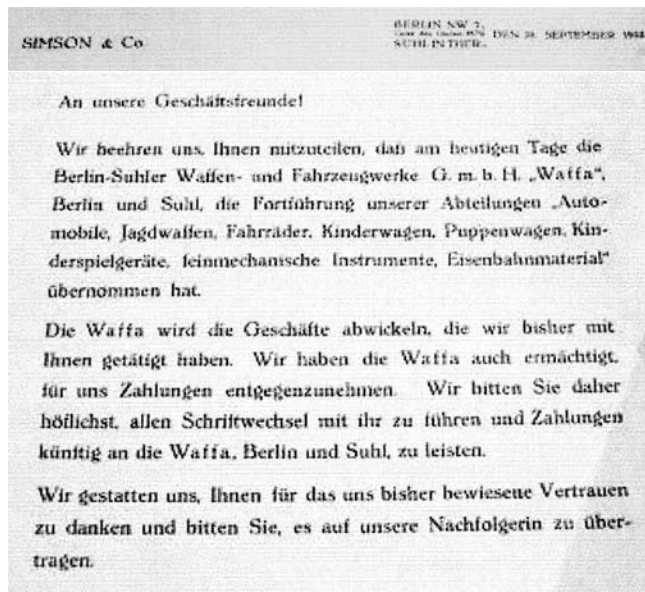
Wilhelm Gustloff, who worked for the Swiss Government, was the German leader of the Nazi Party in Switzerland. He was shot and killed in 1936 by the Jewish student David Frankfurter. Hitler and the Nazi Party elevated him to the status of a martyr at a state funeral in Schwerin, Germany that was attended by Hitler, Goebbels, Göring, Himmler and other Nazis, and he was later used as a

pretext in the propaganda for the 1938 *Kristallnacht*.

A new and very modern cruise ship used for vacations of party members was named after him. When the war started it first became a hospital ship, but was then used as a troop ship. On its last voyage, it took refugees out of Danzig that were fleeing ahead of the advancing Russian army. A Russian submarine sent it to the bottom of the ocean

and 9,000 refugees lost their lives.

In 1935 Fritz Saukel founded the Gustloff Foundation as a present to his Führer Adolf Hitler. In it he combined businesses he had taken over or founded, with Simson, now called *Gustloff Werke*, being the most prominent one. Others were *Hirtenberger Ammunition Factory* in Austria, *Ventimotor GmbH* in Weimar, *AGO Flugzeugwerke* in Oschersleben, *Flugzeugwerk REIMAHG* (Reichsmarschall Herman Göring) near Kahla, and the gun making facility at the Concentration Camp *Buchenwald*. Many



This attempt to take over the company apparently ran into legal hurdles and had to be given up. It is now that *Gauleiter* Fritz Saukel takes over and arrests two of the Simsons on fictitious charges and keeps them in jail while trying to prove these charges.

The case never came to trial, because under severe pressure the Simsons signed over all their properties to the Saukel government of Thuringia. After they got out of jail, the whole Simson family escaped to Switzerland and emigrated to the United States.

thousands died in the concentration camp, and thousands more in the camps for foreign slave laborers.

Only as I write this and search for factual information do I become aware of the fact that I belonged to this work force for a very short time when I had to report for duty with the Hitler Youth at the Kahla plant, where in tunnels in a mountain the first jet fighter planes were assembled. It is one of my worst memories, and eventually I will have to write about it.

## Reinhold Jaeger

In closing this chapter I have to give credit to a man who served the Simson family, but is the one who did not survive. Reinhold Jaeger was the youngest



brother of my grandfather, Franz Jaeger. He came to Suhl when he was seven

years old, grew up in my grandfather's house, went to school in Suhl, served an apprenticeship as a gun maker and studied business administration

He served in the army in World War I, was wounded and was a Russian prisoner. When he returned to Suhl, he worked in the business of his brother, Franz Jaeger. Kaethe, his fiancée, worked for the Simsons and they asked her whether Reinhold would come and work for them. Since times were hard and his brother had few orders, Reinhold accepted, worked for the Simsons, and was in charge of hunting gun sales.

When the Simsons lost the company he stayed on and had the misfortune that

he was also in charge of plant security and the foreign workers, whom he helped as much as he could. When the Russians came to Suhl, he was picked up one night and not heard from for years.

Only after the end of the cold war did his children get the news that he had died in the Buchenwald Concentration Camp.



## Excerpt from the Treaty of Versailles

The attacks by the Nazis and other German gun makers were defended with the statement that the Simson Company asked to be the exclusive maker of guns for the remaining German military and police. This has been proven to be fabrication. Other major gun companies like Mauser and Walther chose not to apply for becoming the one permitted gun maker. It is also known that the Simson family applied with great reluctance, but decided that this would bring work to Suhl and benefit the workers of Suhl.

### CHAPTER II

#### ARMAMENT, MUNITIONS AND MATERIAL

##### Article 164

Up till the time at which Germany is admitted as a member of the League of Nations the German Army must not possess an armament greater than the amounts fixed in Table No. II annexed to this Section, with the exception of an optional increase not exceeding one-twenty fifth part for small arms and one-fiftieth part for guns, which shall be exclusively used to provide for such eventual replacements as may be necessary.

Germany agrees that after she has become a member of the League of Nations the armaments fixed in the said Table shall remain in force until they are modified by the Council of the League. Furthermore she hereby agrees strictly to observe the decisions of the Council of the League on this subject.

##### Article 166

At the date of March 31, 1920, the stock of munitions which the German Army may have at its disposal shall not exceed the amounts fixed in Table No. III annexed to this Section.

Within the same period the German Government will store these stocks at points to be notified to the Governments of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers. The German Government is forbidden to establish any other stocks, depots or reserves of munition.

##### Article 168

The manufacture of arms, munitions, or any war material, shall only be carried out in factories or works the location of which shall be communicated to and approved by the Governments of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, and the number of which they retain the right to restrict.

Within three months from the coming into force of the present Treaty, all other establishments for the manufacture, preparation, storage or design of arms, munitions, or any war material whatever shall be closed down. The same applies to all arsenals except those used as depots for the authorised stocks of munitions. Within the same period the personnel of these arsenals will be dismissed.

##### Article 170

Importation into Germany of arms, munitions and war material of every kind shall be strictly prohibited.

The same applies to the manufacture for, and export to, foreign countries of arms, munitions and war material of every kind.

### Let the buyer beware!

Over the years, we got many inquiries and photos with the suggestion that the gun belonged to Herman Göring, but it must be remembered that he usually had items belonging to him not signed with mundane initials, but with his coat of arms, consisting of an armor protected arm holding a ring. You may see this not only on a rifle by his favorite gun maker Schiwy in Berlin, but also on Original Oberndorf Sporting Rifles, and on his stag and moose trophies in the museums of Munich and Lüneburg. The Reichsjägermeister patronized the gun makers Schiwy for his bolt action repeating rifles, Sauer & Sohn, Merkel and Krieghoff. He even had Mr. Schiwy and Mr. Sauer as representatives of gun making industry on his advisory staff. Before the Nazis came to power in 1933, Hermann Göring was practically broke, living on money of his Swedish wife and her von Rosen family. In 1933 the Nazis and Göring came to power; in 1934 he was made Reichsjägermeister. Göring was an avid big game hunter with little interest in target shooting.

## A Drilling for a Hero of the Ocean



If we saw this Drilling standing in a gun rack, it would most likely attract our attention because of the bright case colors on the action. Drillings don't usually come this way! Was it perhaps restored? If we pick it up we notice the great condition of the gun and look for a maker's name and find *Thieme & Schlegelmilch – Suhl*. To those who have been around German guns, the name is well known as owners of the trademark *Nimrod*.

The safety on the left side is also different from most Drillings. The safety shaft is near the upper tang, and this tells us that it blocks the hammers, or what



the English call tumblers. This is indeed a very good safety, much better than the safeties that block only the triggers.

Since there are no screws on either side of the action, we know that this is a Blitz Drilling, with all firing mechanism parts mounted on the trigger plate. This design can leave the wood on both sides rather thin to give clearance for this firing mechanism and can cause the stock to crack. In this case the maker installed a cross screw to forestall it.

From the only photo of the gun we have, we can tell that there are claw mount bases, but know little about the stock or the rest of the gun. The markings under the barrels tell us that the rifle caliber is 7x57R, and that it was Nitro proofed in Suhl in April of 1940. We are not sure what the other numbers mean. The shotgun barrels are most likely 16 Ga. and perhaps already with 2 3/4" long chambers.



*Günther Prien*  
*"The Bull of Scapa Flow"*



*The battleship Royal Oak*



The real surprise comes when we look at the buttplate with the inscription: *For the Hero of the Ocean, Günther Prien, with Waidmannsheil on all his Ways.* We can't decipher the name at the end. Many of you would not know what to make of this, and although I have a very bad name memory, this one rang a bell. It reminded me of the many special announcements on the radio in the first years of World War II. They always opened with the same music from a Wagner Opera, and every time I hear it on my Public Radio Station, I am reminded of the announcements that submarines had sent another ship to the bottom of the sea, and gave the name of the ship and its tonnage. I could not

help but think, even then, of the many lives that were lost. The outcome of this "Battle of the Atlantic" was a victory for the Allies, but 3,500 merchant ships and 175 warships were sunk and 783 German U-boats were lost at sea.

Günter Prien was a merchant mariner who joined the Nazi party in 1932 and quickly rose in rank after he joined the German Navy. He became the captain of submarine U-47 and was asked to do the daring mission of finding his way into the well protected British Royal Navy Base Scapa Flow. On October 14, 1939, he used the rising tide to get him over

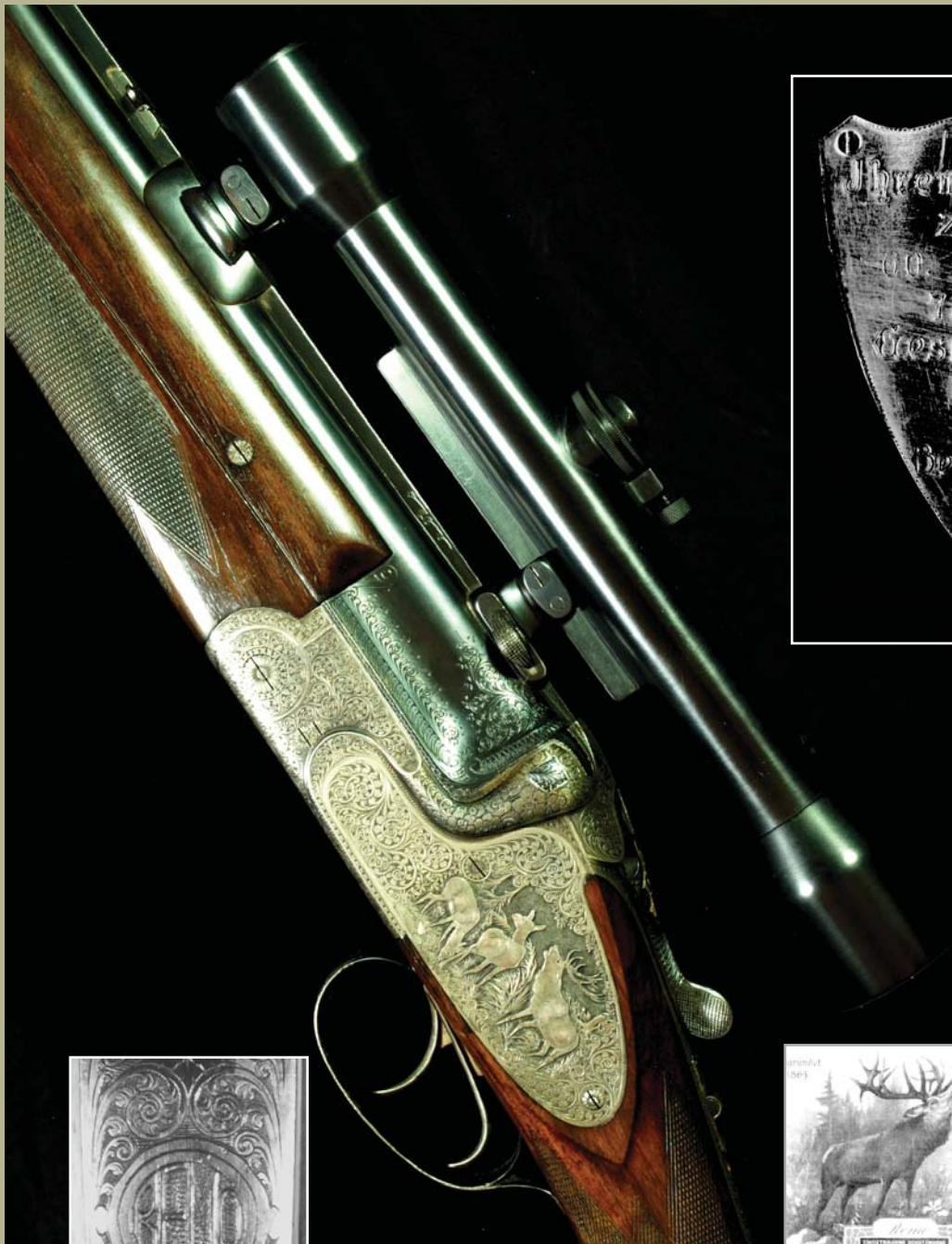
the cables that protected the harbor. To his disappointment, most of the British Navy had left port, but he spotted one remaining battleship, the *Royal Oak*, and sank it with two torpedoes while five others missed. He again used the outgoing tide to leave Scapa Flow.

This was a major accomplishment for which Adolf Hitler personally awarded him the Iron Cross on October 18, 1939. Thereafter he was called the "Bull of Scapa Flow." U-47, Günther Prien and his crew of 45 men were lost at sea on March 7 or 8, 1941.



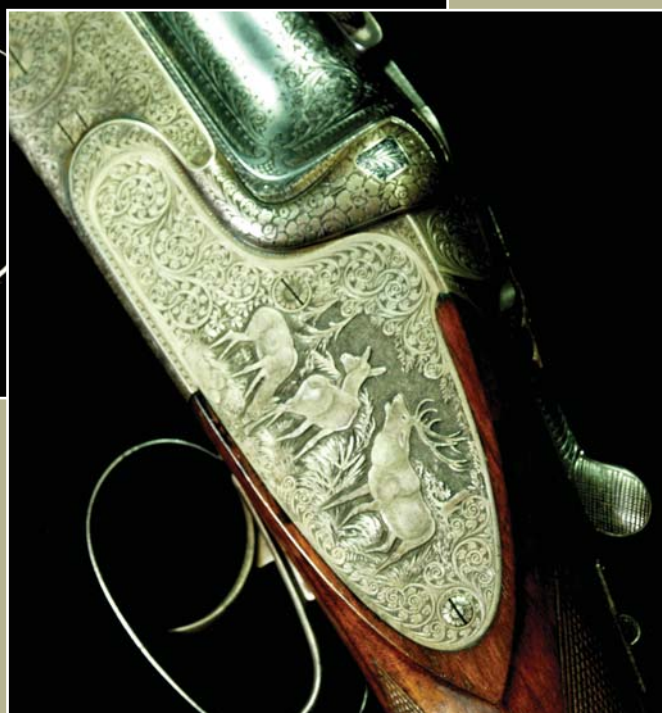
## A gift for the boss

*Presented to Walter Rempt in 1940*



*"For our Company Manager  
for his  
60. Birthday  
75th Year  
Business Anniversary  
Presented  
from the  
Company Employees  
of Remo  
1940"*





It does not happen very often that employees give a valuable present to their boss, but it happened at the REMO company in Suhl in 1940, the second year of World War II. This anniversary present was an over-and-under combination gun (*Bock-Büchsfinte*) with three sets of barrels: a 16 Ga, over and under shotgun barrel, a combination barrel in 16 - 8x57 IR and a double rifle barrel in 8x57 IR. The action has a *Kersten Verschluss*, a Greener cross bolt that engages two barrel extensions.

The cross bolt is quite unusual in shape. It is not round or square as found on most guns like this. In the last photo you can see that the lower surface of the bolt is angled and not only holds the barrel down but also back against the face of the action. Small features like this take

much more time to produce, but show that many gun makers used their own ideas to improve the design of a gun.

There is no doubt that Remo at that time was working on war production only. Walter Rempt was in charge of the company, but Hans Rempt, who was destined to take over the company, was off to the war from which he never returned.

Wilhelm Rempt worked as a blacksmith in the 18th century and died in 1792. The Rempt Brothers' gun factory, with the trademark REMO, was founded in 1865 at 41 Rimbach Street in Suhl; in 1935 the Rempts had their residence at 9



Schleusinger Strasse. At that time they employed 45 people producing hunting and sporting guns. (See Journal #41 for a write-up of their bolt-action rifle. )

In 1937-38 Rempts bought additional ground from the neighboring Krieghoff Company, enlarged their shops and were heavily involved in war production. In 1948 the company was taken over by the Communist government and directed to make measuring tools. Since 2005 the building has been unoccupied.

Thanks to our member Thomas Devers I could photograph the gun at the last Beinfeld International Arms Show in Las Vegas. The oak-and-leather fitted case he had made shows how highly he values this fine gun.



## Presents to Heads of States made in Suhl

These guns were made by the gun makers of Suhl during the years when Germany was divided and Suhl was located behind the Iron Curtain. Details of who the craftsmen and engravers were could not be found, but it was suggested that they were both in the bigger factories that were taken over by the Communist Government, and by small makers that worked in their own shops and were combined in the BÜHAG, the government organization that handled all sales. You can find more about this in our Journal Nr.36, Spring 2008.



*A present for Prime Minister Khrushchev of the USSR.*



*A present for President Nasser of Egypt*

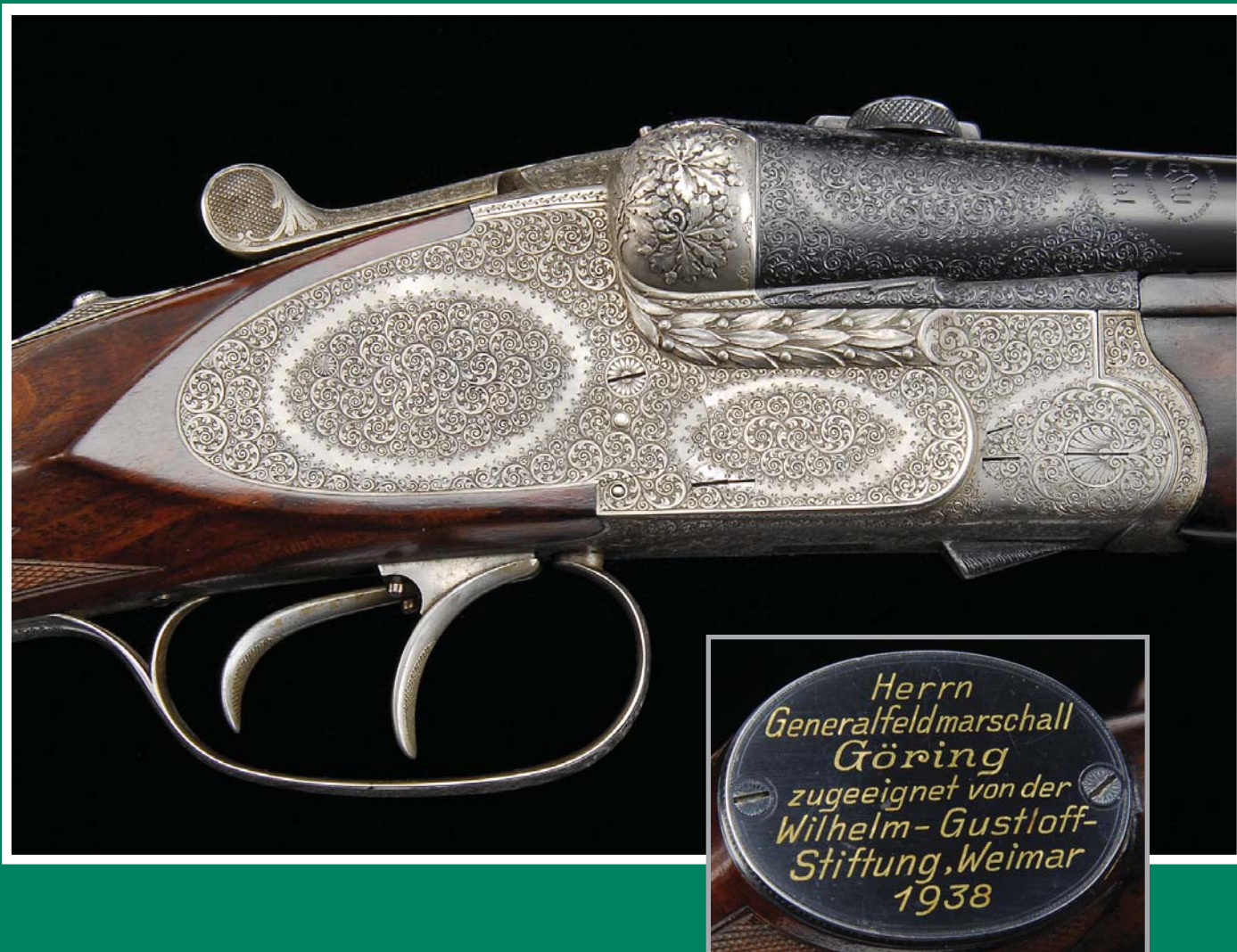


*A present for Prime Minister Mao Tse Tung of China*



*A present for Prime Minister Tito of Yugoslavia*

To learn more, turn to page 16.



#### *Our Vision—Our Mission*

*Our Association was founded in 1998 with the vision to preserve the history of German hunting and sporting guns and their makers for future generations and for us, and*

*To share this history with like-minded people in the United States, in Germany and the entire world.*

*To achieve this, we established a permanent non-profit organization guided by democratic principles which welcomes members from all over the world, and*

*To collect and share information on German guns, from earliest breech-loading to modern hunting and sporting guns, as well as information about the rich heritage of the German hunting tradition.*

*The German Gun Collectors Association is incorporated in the State of New Hampshire and is recognized as a 501c 3 educational non-profit association.*

*Our Association depends on the support of our members and generous donors.*

*We invite you to join us and to take advantage of our various activities and services.*

