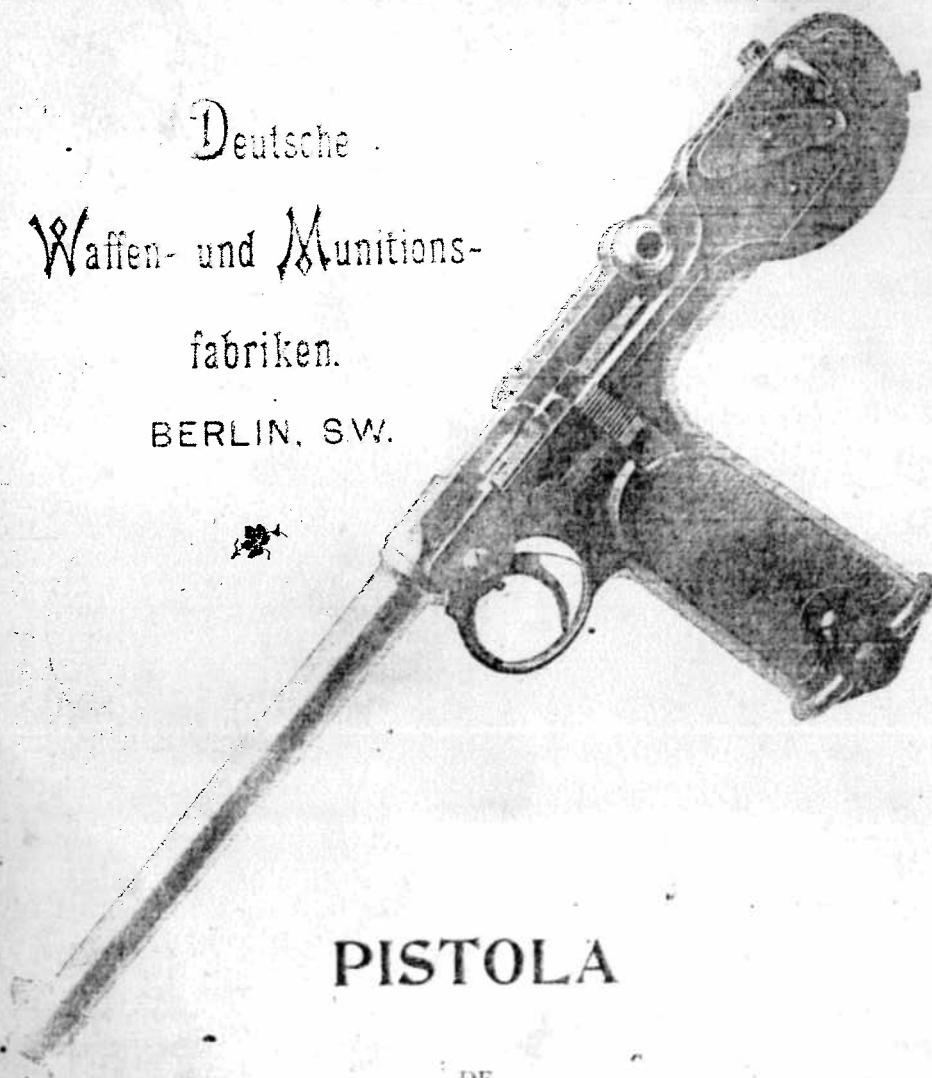


Deutsche  
Waffen- und Munitions-  
fabriken.

BERLIN, S.W.



**PISTOLA**  
DE  
**REPETICION AUTÓMATICA**

DEL SISTEMA BORCHARDT.

PRIVILEJIO EN TODOS LOS PAISES.

**Dates referring to****The Repeating Pistol (System Borchardt).**

Weight of the pistol with a barrel 154 millimeter long . . . . .	1250	gramm
Weight of the pistol with a barrel 190 millimeter long . . . . .	1275	"
Weight of the magazine . . . . .	55	"
Weight of the loaded cartridge . . . . .	10.55	"
Weight of the cartridge shell . . . . .	4.60	"
Weight of the steel covered projectile . . . . .	5.50	"
Weight of the powder . . . . .	0.45	"
Length of the cartridge . . . . .	35	millimeter
Caliber of the barrel . . . . .	7.65	"
Spiral of the rifling to one turn . . . . .	350	"
Initial velocity of the projectile . . . . .	400	meter.

Pistols can be fitted up with an attachable buttstock and cover for military use, also with an attachable shoulderpiece for sporting purposes.

Special ammunition is prepared for the latter.

**The Borchardt C93 Pistol**

Unlike its successor, the Parabellum (Luger) pistol, the Borchardt pistol was never sold on a large scale, only around 3,000 examples being made, and no significant military contracts were forthcoming, so the plethora of variations that make the Luger pistol so interesting to collectors does not exist for the C93. It is a testimony to Loewe's production quality, which is of the highest, that the pistols from beginning to end show so little variation, and also to Borchardt's certainty that his

design was so right initially that no real changes occurred during its production life. Three main variants, with small sub-variations, can be distinguished. There are the pre-production prototypes, the Loewe marked guns and the final DWM marked guns produced after 1896.

**The Pre-Production Production**

A small batch of 25 pre-production prototypes of Borchardt's C93 (Konstruktion 1893) pistol were made around September 1893, almost certainly at Loewe's Hollmannstr works; in all probability they were the pilot model guns referred to by Kosegarten, a director of Loewe, quoted by Hess in 'A merican Machinist' of April 1899 as

stating that the production model was "in every respect like the first pilot model," which is borne out by these pre-production pistols: Two of these are illustrated in Figures 6 to 11. The earlier, serial no. 3, is marked 'Waffenfabrik Budapest' over the chamber and has no other standard markings; in particular the toggle lock does not have the German Patent No. mark, but the trigger cover plate is engraved "Patent ang" (Patent angemeldet - Patent applied for) dating this gun to before the 9 September 1893 grant of this patent. The chamber mark is also hand engraved. The

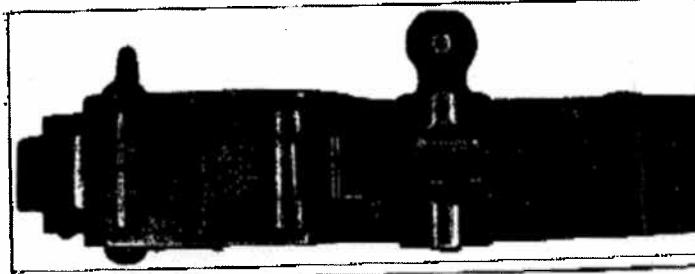


Figure 14. Variant rear-sight mounting and toggle marking of pre-production pistol serial no. 4



Figure 15. Serial no. marking of pre-production stock no. 4, identical in style and placement to all later production Loewe stocks.

Dates referring to the Borchardt-Repeating Pistol.	
Weight of Pistol . . . . .	1275 gramm
" of buttstock leather bag and strap . . . . .	425 "
" of magazine . . . . .	55 "
" of loaded cartridge . . . . .	10.55 "
" of cartridge case . . . . .	4.60 "
" of steelcovered bullet . . . . .	5.50 "
" of powder . . . . .	0.45 "
Length of cartridge . . . . .	35 Millimeter
" of barrel . . . . .	190 "
Caliber of barrel . . . . .	7.65 "
Twist of rifling (4 grooves) . . . . .	250 "
Distance between sights . . . . .	315 "
Initial velocity of bullet . . . . .	400 Meters.

At the official test the finished mechanism is proved with a charge of 8.6 gramm black powder and a soft-lead slug weighing 16.1 gramm.

The barrel and parts of the lock bear the official stamp.

Figure 13. Pistol specifications from the original Loewe (left) and DWM (right) manuals, the Loewe version showing the prototype 154 mm barrel pistol weight.

German terminology "Waffenfabrik Budapest" rather than the Hungarian "Fegyveres Gépgyár," the hand engraving and the apparent necessity to claim patent protection (if only applied for) make it certain that this pistol was not made at FeG, but by Loewe, and sent to FeG either for market appraisal, or possibly with a view to assessing the design for production at FeG.

The second is serial no. 17, mechanically identical to sn. 3 apart from the main spring (which may be a later production version replacement) with the roll die stamped chamber mark "Ludwig Loewe & Co Berlin 1893" and with the patent mark "D.R.P No. 75837" stamped on the centre toggle link, as all later Loewe made guns. The only mechanical difference between these prototypes and later Loewe production guns, apart from very minor machining differences, such as the grooving of the safety slide on sn. 3, is the sear bar and its control spring, which is a characteristic leaf retained by a screw and eye in the pre-production guns, but the familiar tongue and groove retained leaf spring on production guns. The sear bar housing on the receiver also lacks the later protective "ears" top and bottom, which help prevent accidental discharge if the sear bar front end is inadvertently pressed by external forces. Additionally, the main spring and its box differ slightly from later production pistols, in having the spring retaining pin set much closer to the main fulcrum pin as Figure 11 shows, and consequently there is a plain, rather than stepped upper end to the spring (see Figure 17); sn. 17 may, as can be seen, have what is probably a replacement production type main spring. A third subvariant of these pre-production pistols is shown on the cover of the original Loewe manual, (Figure 12) and detailed in the specification thereto as having an optional 154mm barrel rather than the standard 190mm (Figure 13). This optional barrel length specification was

Magazine.	
No. 61	1 left side plate
" 62	1 right side plate
" 63	1 front rib
" 64	1 rear rib
" 65	1 bottompiece (wood)
" 66	1 long bottompiece pin
" 67	1 short bottompiece pin
" 68	1 spring top plate
" 69	8 spring leaves
" 70	1 bottom spring leaf
" 71	9 spring rivets
Implements.	
1	Cleaning rod.
1	double-ended screwdriver.
1	special screwdriver.
1	wooden handle for the above.
1	wooden bar.
1	larger drift.
1	smaller drift.
Magazine box (one piece).	
Magazine spring (one piece).	
Magazine.	
23	Magazine box.
24	Magazine cover.
25	Magazine springs with caps.
26	Magazine bottompiece with pin.
Implements.	
33	Barring block with jointed cleaning rod and oilbox.
34	Lengthening piece for cleaning rod.
35	Screwdriver handle.
36	Screwdriver blades.
37	Drifts.
38	Leather cover for pistol laced to buttstock (see Plate I Fig. G).
39	Strap with carbine hook and button (see Plate I Fig. F & G).

dropped from later DWM manuals, and was probably not offered in production. A single example is known, with no markings or serial number.

All known pre-production prototypes are un-proofed, showing them to be for internal use, not for public sale. Pre-production pistols sns. 4, 7, and 25 are also known and are identical mechanically and in their markings (Loewe) to sn. 17, except for the rear sight of sn. 4 (Figure 14) which has variant mounting lugs for the close spaced sight blade screws and the hand stamped number 69850 on the otherwise blank toggle link. This is not a Borchardt

Patent number and its significance is unknown. Serial no. 4 is the only pre-production gun known with a stock, which is numbered to the pistol in the usual position adjacent the sling loop (Figure 15) and is identical to production stocks in every way.

These pre-production guns all resemble the patent drawings of German Patent 75837 closely, except in three details. Where the drawing shows a sling eye at the rear of the main spring box, as do the manual illustrations, all known guns have the stock lug, which accessory seems not to have been envisaged by the patent. The patent

Figure 16. Accessories for the Borchardt pistol, as listed in the Loewe (left) and DWM (right) manuals; note also the magazine parts list from the Loewe manual (cf. Fig 17, which undoubtedly shows this short-barrelled pistol and prototype leaf spring magazine).

also shows a curious riveted multi-leaf spring for the magazine, feeding the cartridges without a separate follower. This magazine is also shown as a drawing and as its individual components in the parts list of the original Loewe manual (Figure 16) which was evidently based on the patent drawings. Only one illustration of an actual example of this magazine spring construction is known, having appeared in firstly the description of the pistol published in the "American Machinist" of Feb 14, 1895, which was based on (probably factory supplied) photographs, later copied in the *Scientific American* of Aug 3, 1895 (Figure 17) and subsequently re-copied as "The Gun Report" Monograph No. 16 of February 1941. This also illustrates an otherwise unknown wooden base with concentrically ringed thumb-pieces, exactly like the P'04 Naval Parabellum magazines as initially issued to the Kriegsmarine. All known magazines, from sn. 4 to the end of DWM production are identical, with dual coil springs and a conventional follower, as shown in Borchardt's later DRP 83141 (Figure 36). The original patent also shows symmetrical finger grips, as the later Parabellum pistol, to the toggle, rather than the awkward left protruding knob of all known Borchardt pistols.

The patent, and the eccentric design of the main spring shows the considerable problem Borchardt evidently had with spring design. Whether this is in any way attributable to the state of spring manufacturing technology is possible, but doubtful, as perfectly adequate rifle bolt coiled wire main springs for Mauser and other rifles were in common use in Germany and, of course, at Loewe at the time and in a wide range of other engineering goods. They were applied to pistols, such as the Dormus, Clair and Bergmann as main springs, and to the Schoenberger, and most manual repeaters as firing pin springs for some time before Borchardt's design. It may be simple conservatism that made him

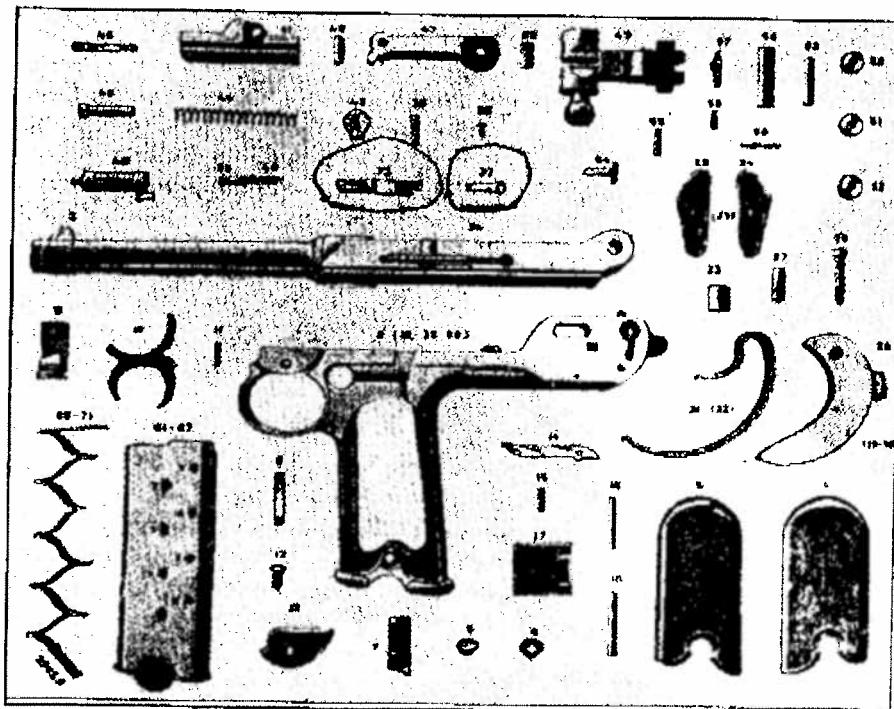
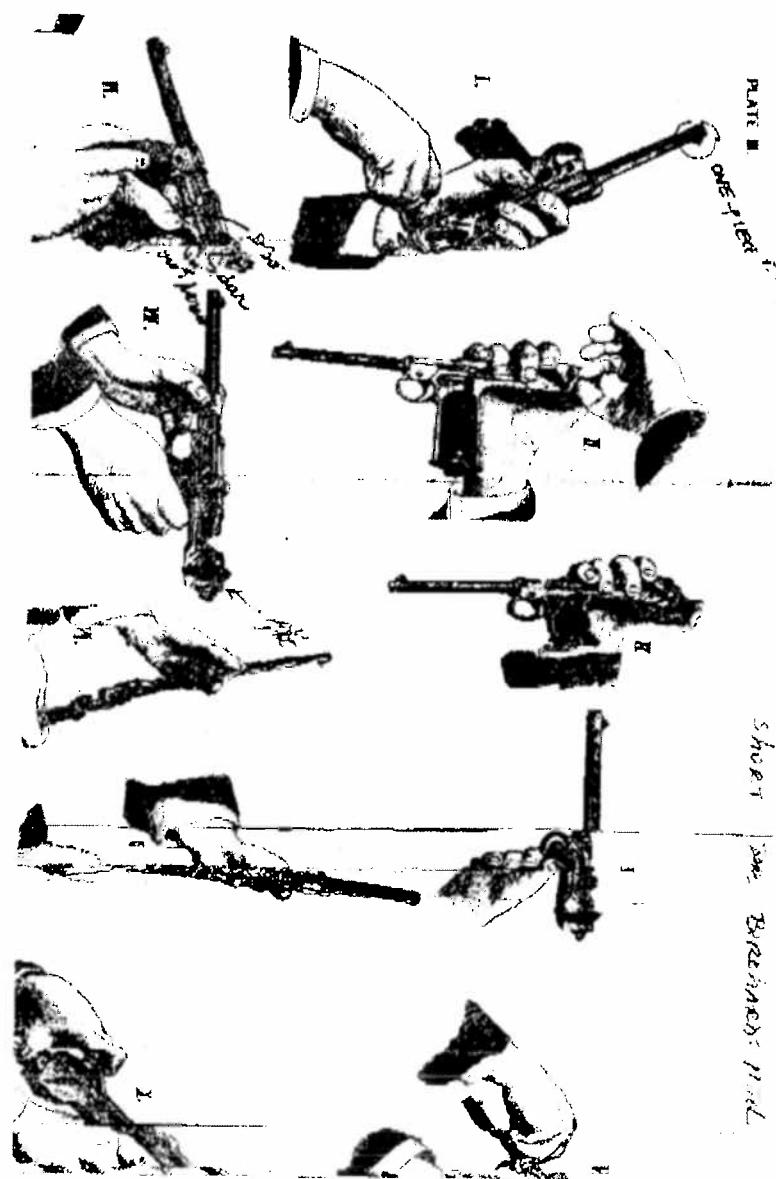
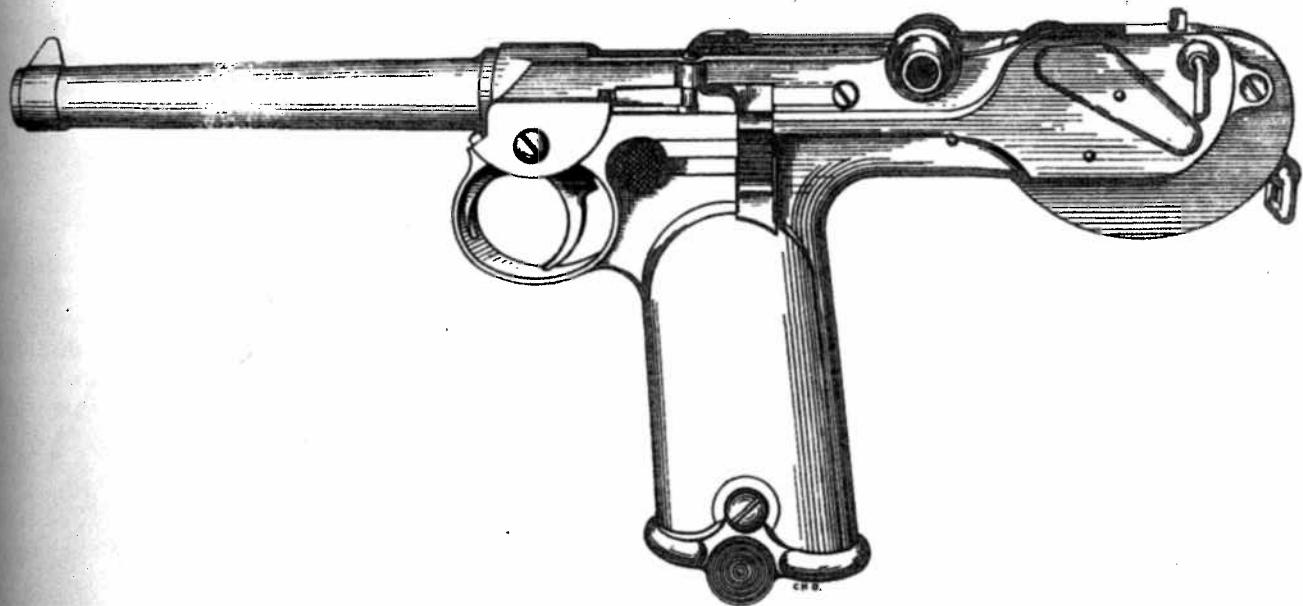
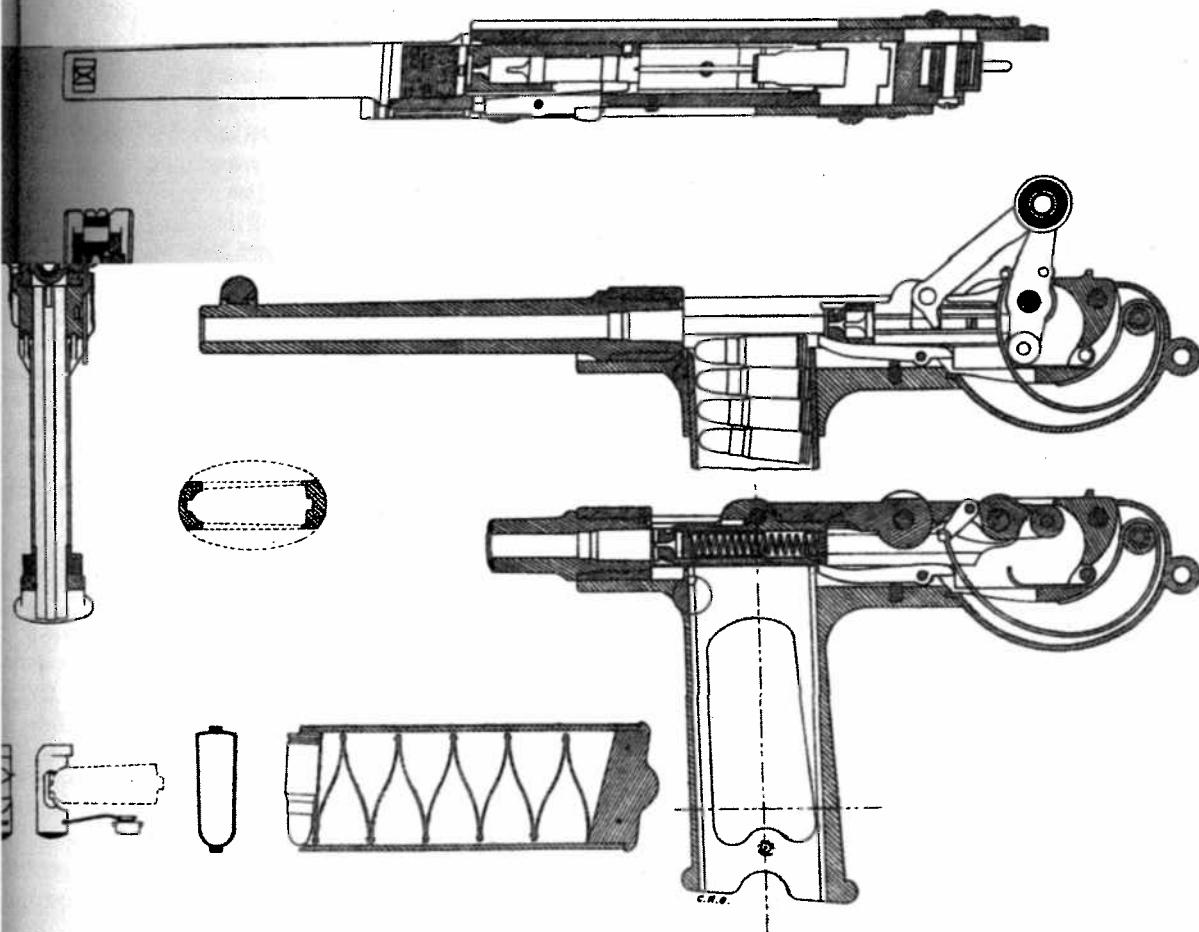


Figure 17. The 1895 illustration from 'American Machinist' & 'Scientific American' showing the riveted-leaf magazine spring and concentric ring magazine thumb grips of a short barreled pre-production pistol (cf. Fig 18). Note also the pre-production flat topped main-spring.





Borchardt Automatic Repeating Pistol.

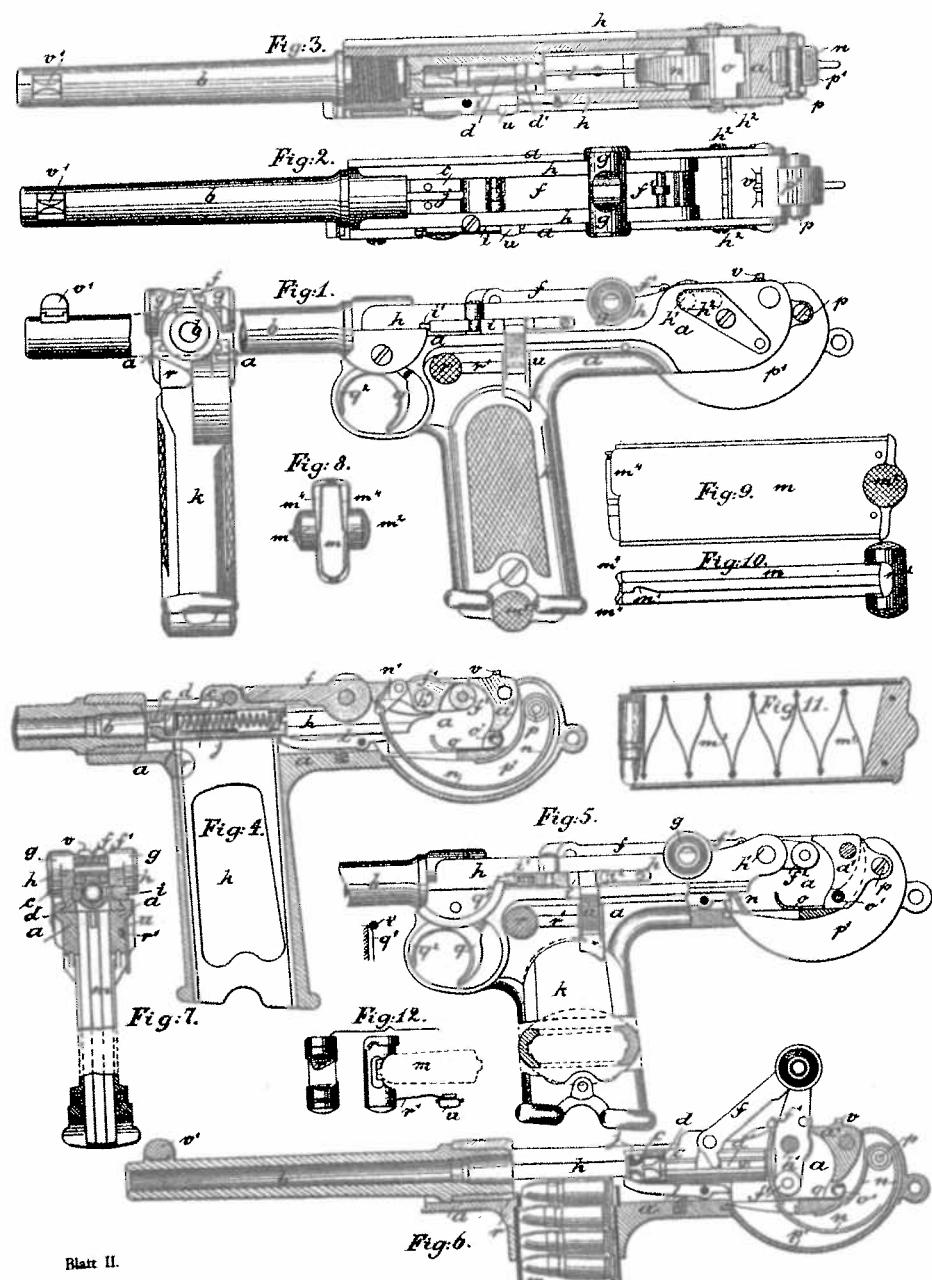


Borchardt Automatic Repeating Pistol.

E 3-38. The Borchardt 1893 pistol as illustrated in an 1894 U.S. Army Military Information Division intelligence report. (U.S.

## HUGO BORCHARDT IN BERLIN. Selbsttägige, besonders als Repetirpistole verwendbare Feuerwaffe.

Blatt 1.



Zu der Patentschrift  
Nr. 75837.



Maneuvres en Prusse Orientale 1912.  
(Dessin de Erich R. Döbrich-Steglitz).

Marquage de chambre du Borchardt N° 17 : "Ludwig Loewe Berlin 1893".

Au dessous, le numéro de série est reporté sur le tenon de crosse.

Sur ce modèle de pré-série, le ressort de gâchette est encore maintenu par une vis et la gâchette est dépourvue de carénage de protection, tout comme sur le brevet initial "D.R.P. N°75837". Le numéro de l'arme (17) est frappé à la partie supérieure de la queue de détente n'est visible qu'après démontage de la palme de recouvrement. (Photos Jocelyn de la Taille).

## Prototypes et modèles de présérie

Les dessins figurant sur les brevets initiaux d'Hugo Borchardt font apparaître des dispositions de détail dont on ne sait si elles ont jamais dépassé le stade de projet :

- élévateur de chargeur actionné par un ressort à lame (composé d'un assemblage de dix lamelles rivetées),
- rappel de la queue de détente par un ressort cylindrique,
- boutons de genouillère cylindriques sans extension du côté gauche,
- anneau de dragonne à l'arrière du carter du ressort récupérateur (le tenon de crosse prendra place à cet endroit sur les modèles de présérie et de série, alors que l'anneau destiné à la fixation de la bretelle sera placé du côté gauche de la carcasse).

Les premiers exemplaires fabriqués entre fin octobre 1893 et janvier 1894 ont déjà perdu certaines des caractéristiques figurant sur les brevets initiaux mais présentent encore quelques particularités qui dis-

paraîtront sur les modèles de série. Ces armes peuvent être considérées comme des modèles de présérie.

Une description exhaustive de l'évolution des modèles de présérie est impossible du fait que l'on a aujourd'hui perdu la trace de certains de ces vingt premiers Borchardt. Il est très possible que subsistent de par le monde quelques variantes non encore répertoriées.

L'évolution du pistolet au cours de cette période préliminaire à la fabrication en série peut cependant être approximativement retracée à partir de la description des exemplaires connus :

- le spécimen de Borchardt le plus ancien actuellement répertorié paraît être le n° 3 qui



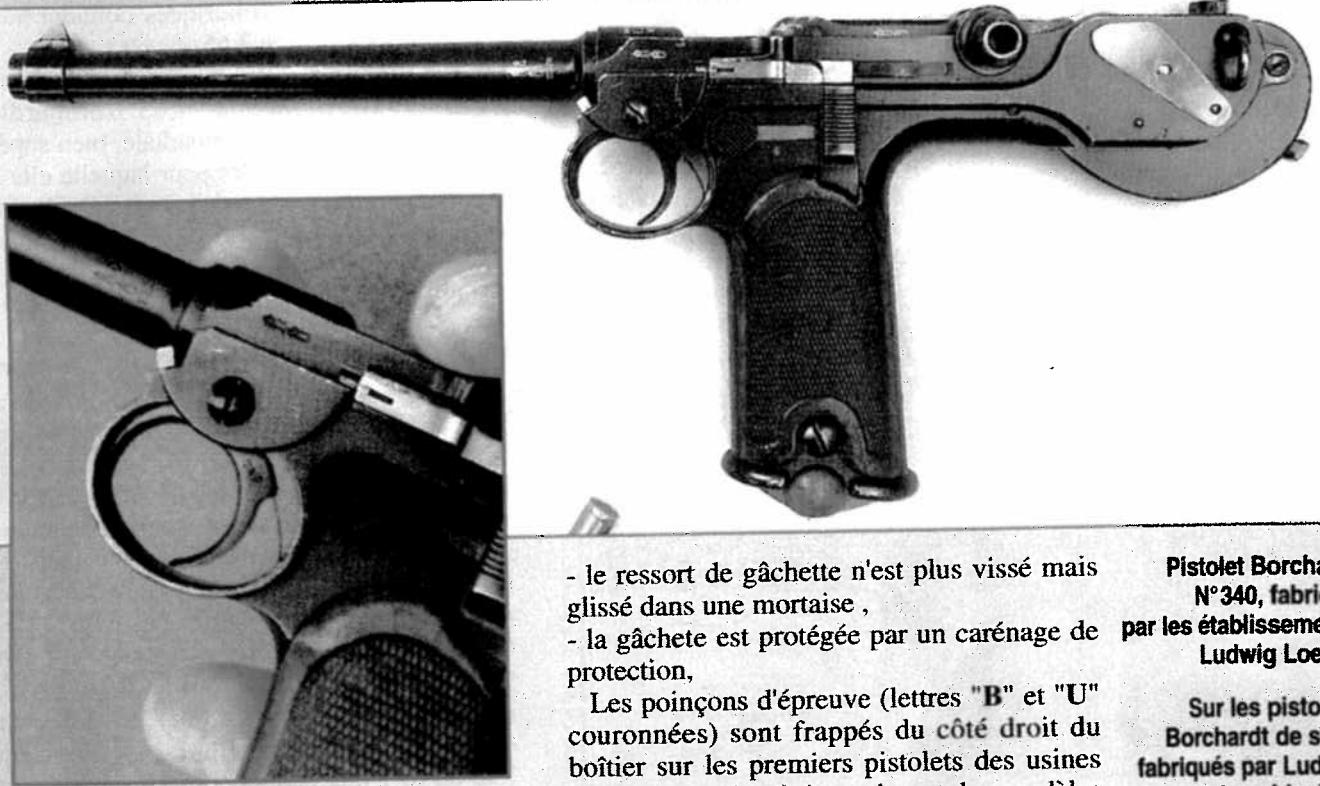
est marqué sur la chambre : "Waffenfabrik Budapest" et porte pour autre marquage la mention "Patent Ang." sur la plaque de recouvrement. Cette mention qui signifie approximativement Brevet demandé (Patent angemeldet) semble indiquer une arme fabriquée au moment du dépôt du brevet.

- Le Borchardt n° 17, dont quelques photos sont présentées ci-contre, porte un marquage de chambre différent : "Ludwig Loewe Berlin 1893". Les recherches menées par son propriétaire semblent établir que cette arme a été fabriquée en novembre 1893.

La genouillère est déjà marquée de la référence du brevet initial qui restera mentionnée sur les fabrications de série (D.R.P. N°75837). En dehors de cette mention et de son marquage de chambre, cet exemplaire ne présente aucun autre poinçon ou marquage.

Il se distingue des modèles de série par plusieurs particularités :

- fixation du ressort de gâchette par une vis,
- absence de carénage de protection de la



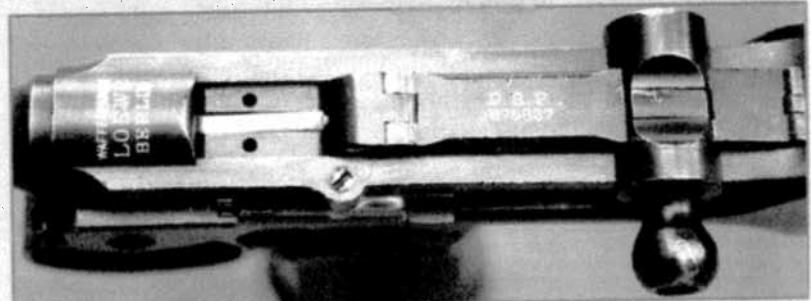
- le ressort de gâchette n'est plus vissé mais glissé dans une mortaise ,  
 - la gâchette est protégée par un carénage de protection,

Les poinçons d'épreuve (lettres "B" et "U" couronnées) sont frappés du côté droit du boîtier sur les premiers pistolets des usines Loewe, puis du côté gauche sur les modèles postérieurs.

On retrouve les caractéristiques de la production de série dès le Borchardt N°27, détenu aux U.S.A. par le "John M. Browning Museum". Cette arme est cependant particulière car il s'agit d'un exemplaire "en blanc" confié par les usines Loewe à la *Fabrique Nationale* d'armes de guerre de Herstal comme modèle de démonstration. Rappelons que la firme Loewe détenait une impor-

**Pistolet Borchardt N°340, fabriqué par les établissements Ludwig Loewe.**

**Sur les pistolets Borchardt de série fabriqués par Ludwig Loewe, le guide de la base du piston de gâchette apparaît dans une petite échancrure à l'avant de cette pièce. La base du piston est recouverte par la tête de gâchette sur les fabrications D.W.M., comme sur les modèles de présérie.**



tante participation dans le capital de la F.N.

Le pistolet Borchardt peut être muni d'une planchette de crosse amovible sur laquelle est fixée un étui de cuir. Le montage de la crosse transforme l'arme en petite carabine semi-automatique.

Quelques variantes de l'arme est de ses accessoires, aujourd'hui disparues, sont également évoquées dans les différentes documentations d'époque :

- *La Revue de l'armée Belge* évoque dans son tome III (novembre-décembre 1894) un chargeur dont les parois sont percées de trous numérotés de un à huit afin de pouvoir contrôler aisément le nombre de cartouches restantes.

**Par contre, la gâchette est protégée en haut et en bas par un carénage destiné à éviter tout déclenchement accidenté de la percussion. Le numéro de série (340) est ici frappée à l'arrière de la queue de détente de façon à être visible sans démontage de la plaque de recouvrement.**

**Marquages typiques d'un Borchardt Loewe.**

**SYSTEM BORCHARDT. PATENT.**