

Pattern: Luger P08 Caliber: 9x19mm. Introduced: 1917. Withdrawn NZ use: after WWII

Specifications: Maker: Deutsche Waffen- und Munitionsfabriken (DWM) & others. Action: toggle-locked recoil-operated semi-automatic pistol. Barrel: 95mm Caliber: 9x19mm, Range 50m. Fixed rear sight and vee foresight. Magazine: 8 round detachable. Butt machined for shoulder stock. Muzzle velocity: 350 m/s. Weight: 871g. Holster: Brown leather or canvas with pouch for spare magazine. The Luger is well known for its use by Germans during World War I & World War II.

In 1908 the German Army adopted the Luger to replace the Reichsrevolver in front-line service. During WWI the 9x19mm Luger P08 pistol was the primary German pistol but in the atrocious conditions of the Western Front it was hard to maintain, easily contaminated with dirt and residue and complex to field strip.



New Zealand use. At Messines Ridge in June 1917 Luger P08 pistols and several other types were taken from thousands of killed and captured German soldiers. In the last action of the WWI the New Zealand Division at Le Quesnoy in November 1918 captured approximately 2,000 German soldiers, their small arms and 60 field guns. The day proved to be the Division's most successful of their whole time on the Western Front as they pushed east and advanced ten kilometers. This Luger P08 was taken by an infantry private in the New Zealand Expeditionary Division who carried it as a backup pistol for the remainder of the war. Many captured pistols were brought back to New Zealand as war prize guns with the returning troops. Many were surrendered and stored by the New Zealand Government. In 1942 Lugers were issued to RNZAF officers in the Aerodrome Defence Squadrons. Refer www.armsregister.com NZAR 377

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: NZ National Achieves Military Records. Phil Cregeen FSG. Osborne Arms Museum for images armsmuseum@xtra.co.nz http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luger_pistol For more background information visit www.battlefield-tours.co.nz/html/new-zealand-ww1.html