

being sanctioned by the IMKK, since the inspectors finally commenced their work in the German plants in February 1920.

P.08s exist with 1918 dated receivers in the high *-l* suffix and low *-m* suffix serial number ranges (to ca. sn 5xxx *m*) which, although otherwise perfectly standard late war-time guns in terms of finish, have either only partial military inspection and/or proofing marks (in the high *-l* suffix block) or no inspection or proofing marks at all (the first half of the *-m* suffix block). They do, however, have all the usual internal factory inspection marks, including the post 1917 (N) final inspection marking in the frame well and on the stop lug. This indicates that they were the final run-out of war-time military production, made or assembled in the period after the Armistice of 11 November up to the factory closure on 20 December 1918, assembled and internally inspected by the remaining workforce, which continued to work at “full capacity”, according to the company history, though in the absence of any independent proofing facility, military or civil.

That conditions were non-optimal is indicated by the production of only some 5 – 6,000 pistols in this period of some 40 days, when DWM's peak production rate during the war months of 1918 had been something approaching 700 pistols per day. The absence of military inspection and proof marks shows that the inspectors from Spandau had evidently either withdrawn their services at or before the Armistice with the cancellation of military contracts, or had been excluded from the factories by worker action during this period of breakdown of social discipline: the activities of the Socialist and Communist workers leaders would have been to encourage continued arms production for their own ends in expectation of the Revolution they planned to take over the German state at the end of the war, as had already happened in Russia. The lack of need for the civilian proof facility, probably from late 1916/early 1917 when the last commercial proofing seems to have been done, had probably already resulted in it being disbanded for the duration of the war.

### **Post WWI DWM proofing**

When production recommenced properly during the latter part of 1919 with the 40,000 pistol contract for the Police and Army, serial numbering continued from the mid *-m* suffix military block where it had stopped in December 1918, with overlap back into the range of *-m* suffix guns with no military inspection or commercial proof marks, and ran into the mid *-n* suffix block using receivers dated 1918 and 1920 (approximately sns 6xxx*m* to 6xxx*n* 1920 dated, but with overlap back to lower *-m* suffix sns. with 1918 dated receivers). Initially Police P.08s among these in the mid *-m* to low *-n* (ca. sn. 2000*n*) range were crown/N proofed, the proof mark on the left receiver now being applied vertically. These pistols have been confused with later P.08s from DWM's late 1920s production with *-m* and *-n* suffixed serial numbers and identical crown/N proof marks, their 1920 manufacturing date being confused with the 1920 *Reichswehr* property mark.

Apart from the placing and appearance of the 1920 chamber mark, the manufacturing date mark being closer to the breech-block and machine impressed rather than the usually irregularly hand applied *Reichswehr* mark, there is a fairly obvious change in the machining of the front toggle link on most later guns, the visible upper edges being considerably more rounded (1.5 – 1.75 mm edge radius) than the 1920 and earlier made guns ( 0.5 – 0.75 mm edge radius) which will assist in clarifying the true production date of these pistols, rather than erroneously ascribing the eagle/ArA4 marks some of them carry to having being applied anachronistically in the late 1920s. The eagle/ArA4 mark disappeared from use, as did the early eagle/WaA4 mark, after July 1921 when the Versailles sanctions were finally enforced in DWM, and they were not re-used in this form later. An inspector assigned the number WaA4 was operational at BSW/Gustloffwerke during and after its sequestration from Simson ownership, from 1937 – 1940, but this mark was never applied to P.08s, only to rifles and machine guns etc. From the low *-n* suffix range (around sn. 2xxx*n*) the eagle/Ara4 marking of the *Ausrüstungsamt* was applied three times (twice as an inspection, once as