



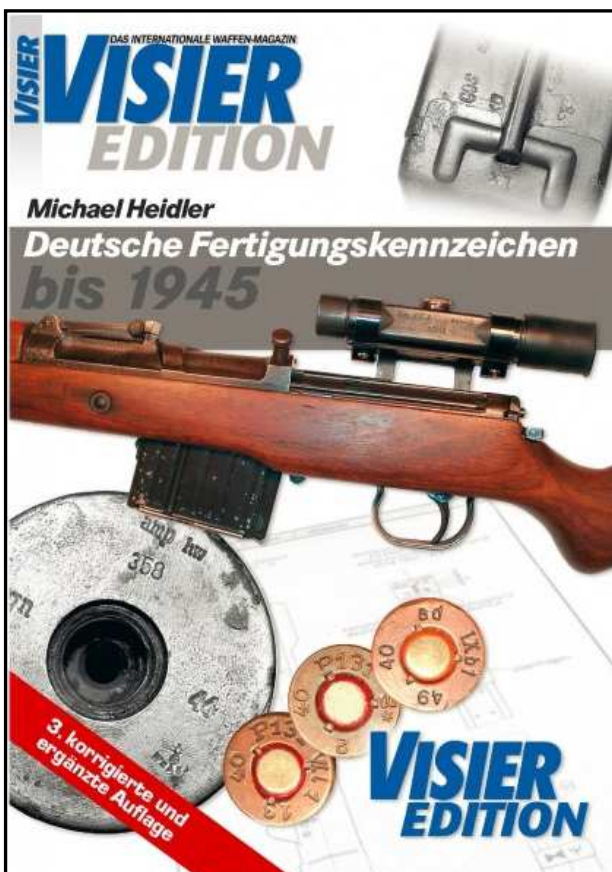
Right after World War I, Germany started covert rearmament operations. The numerical and alphabetical secret manufacturers codes on German ordnance items have always been a topic of interest to collectors. The book explains the development of the code systems from the early system of abbreviations until the well known letter-codes of World War II step by step by reference to many original documents.

- The book is sorted in two ways (after codes and after company-names) and contains all code systems:

Abbreviations, number-codes, letter-codes, LDO-numbers for medals & insignias and the RZM-numbers for NSDAP- & SS-equipment.

The official lists with letter codes end with "ozz", but the book contains additional pages of detected later wartime codes.

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► Tabelle 6

Alle Firmen, die nicht zu den Pulver- und Sprengstofflieferanten gehörten, verwendeten weiterhin die ihnen zugeleiteten Kennziffern. In der einschlägigen Facilitator ist zu lesen, dass diese Nummern nicht völlig willkürlich vergeben worden sein sollen. Die Zahlen 1 bis 593 seien angeblich für Unternehmen in Deutschland vorgesehen gewesen, und österreichische Betriebe sollen nach dem Ausbruch am 12. März 1995 die Zahlen 600 bis 699 erhalten haben. Eine Überprüfung der Nummern konnte diese Theorie jedoch nicht bestätigen.

Schon in der Gullform eingearbeitet wurde der Kornsokkel der MP 44. Der Code "clc" steht für die Stahlwaren- und Werkzeugfabrik Richard Herder, Solingen. Erhabene Codes auf Metallteilen wie dieser sind selten und sonst meist nur auf Kunststoff-Teilen zu finden.

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checking original items lead to a match with these number blocks, a check of the numerical codes listed herein shows this not to be consistent. If, for example, one follows the numbers of the Mannesmann code, it can be seen that all end with the appendix "D". The same goes for the DEMAG company, where all numbers end with "C". Although the allocation system is still unknown, it seems highly likely that the code-numbers 1 - 99 were assigned first, then "1A" to "1Z", then "1P" to "1Q", and so on. The first issued number recorded from this alphanumeric block was "68E" (Roto & Debevo Werke AG, Königsstuhl), before the transition was made to three digit numbers. More alphanumeric codes were issued, but are not backed up by records or documents (e.g. the well known "98E" code used on MP3040 magazines, which is presumed to be for 40g, Graz, allocated post Austrian Anschluss).

Encoded years of production

In 1925 not only code numbers were introduced, but the year of production was also encoded with single capital letters. On page 24, the letter illustrated of the Army Feldzeugmeisterei (AZ. 74 a/u geh. HF.Zm 3 II/

Nr. 1136/36g) dating from 30th January 1936 contains a listing of the year letter codes. Originally, the years "S" (1936), "J" (1937) and "H" (1938) were intended to be coded also, but only Krieghoff (on P08s for the Luftwaffe) appears to have continued this system into 1936 with "S" date coded pistols.

The transition at the ERMA company during 1935 - 1936 from "G" to "1936" can be seen on the illustrated K 98k at page 25.

Although the encoding of the year of production was halted before the war began, a few companies commenced this during 1943 by substituting the digits with two letters on some products. Especially on MG 42 machine guns the year of production was encoded by all manufacturers from 1943 onwards. The Steyr company (Austria) used the letters A through Z from 1943 until 1944 solely for their machine guns, but rather suddenly in 1945 all the MP 44 assault rifles were stamped with the code "XE" (= 1945). All the other assault rifle manufacturers did not use year codes on their weapons. Unfortunately no documents have been found in which this could be found meaning that the reason for this remains unexplained.

Year code	Year	Company	Letter code
FJ	1943	Mayer-Werke AG, Werk Berlin-Borsigwiede	brz
GZ	1943	Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Werk Steyr	bns
GH	1943	"Mogot" Maschinen- u. Gerüstbau GmbH, Berlin-Tegel	lra
FG	1943	Wilhelm Gustloff-Werke, Werk Stulz	dtb
DF	1944	Mauzer-Werke AG, Werk Berlin-Borsigwiede	lra
FJ	1944	Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Werk Steyr	bns
FJ	1944	Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG, Werk Steyr	bnz
KG	1944	"Mogot" Maschinen- u. Gerüstbau GmbH, Berlin-Tegel	lra
MEJ	1944	Wilhelm Gustloff-Werke, Werk Stulz	dtb

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