

MINE SURVEYING TARGET LAMPS FROM GERMANY - AN UPDATE

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In the Winter 1992 issue of the MAC, the author described two types of German target lamps (oil and carbide) that are in his collection. This style of lamp had been described in detail by Karsten Porezag as a mine surveying lamp. The hooks are a typical mining shape and the fact that the lamps are completely non-magnetic gives credence to the association with surveying.

However, it now appears that these lamps are NOT related to mining at all. When Siegbert Zecha of Germany visited us in January of this year, he said that he believed that the lamps were of military origin--possibly artillery related. Then a few months later I received a letter from Otto Winter, also of Germany, who provided some more details. Otto stated that the lamps were "Wehrmacht Einheits Laterne" and that I would find an army eagle stamped on the back of each lamp--usually on the hook (handle). Sure enough, both examples of the carbide lamps in the author's collection have the eagle marking. Later versions of the lamps have the eagle and swastika marking (I have seen this on the brown plastic versions mentioned in the original article). Sketches of the markings on the author's lamps are shown in Figure 1 and the other markings are as follows:



D.R.P. 395351
F.F.A. Schulze. Berlin
1927

and stamped by hand is: 3.6./R.R.16.10.

Another lamp is marked:

D.R.P. 395351
F.F.A. Schulze. Berlin

and stamped by hand is: Pi.B.2.Pi.K



The hand stamped lettering could possibly be unit designation (Platoon, Company, Regiment, etc.). Do any readers out there know any German military collectors who might give us more information? Please let me know!

The oil lamp in the author's collection has no such markings. In fact the only marking is on the ceramic burner tip which reads "Barton's Trade Mark." There is no makers name and no clue as to the country of origin except that the shape of the hook, which is typically German. The lamp was found in England. I am not totally convinced that this lamp is not surveying related. Stanley of London adapted the famous policeman's bull's-eye lantern for underground surveying with a door with a slit very similar in shape to the ones on these lamps.

I believe that these lamps were used as a target of some type, but an artillery gunsight has many similarities to a surveyor's transit. Hopefully by studying more examples of these lamps, the unresolved question will be answered. There is no question in my mind that lamps with the eagle markings are military in origin and not mining.