

COMPANY "A"
526th ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
APO 757 US ARMY

13 October 1945

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I certify that T/Sgt James F. Buier, 39695864, of this organization is authorized to retain in his possession one (1) German Mannlicher Pistol, Cal..32, No. 231, upon his return to the United States as a souvenir.

James P. Bishop
JAMES P. BISHOP
1st Lt., Inf.,
Commanding

CERTIFICATE OF IMPORTATION & CUSTOMS DECLARATION
(SERIAL ONE PORTIONS UNAVAILABLE)

1. I certify and declare the following items of personal property were purchased by me and are my personal property:

none

James H. Buie 1st Lt. Inf.
(NAME) (RANK) (BRANCH)

2. As per commanding officer, I certify that the above named *James H. Buie* has by authority of the War Relocation Authority been authorized to retain the following items of personal property: enemy material and has evidenced to me his right to possess the same of British, Russian, Canadian Government, enemy material, captured enemy material, Allied Government material:

manticker Cal 92 pistol No 231

Robert A. Barlow
Maj. GSC
(SIGNATURE) (RANK)

10 Nov. 45
(DATE)

3. The following customs declaration will be accomplished in all cases, in addition, the customs declaration tag will be attached and affixed to the container.

CUSTOMS DECLARATION

I declare that all items listed herein consist of personal and household effects either taken abroad by me or acquired abroad for my personal use, except the following:

(Here list items or write "No Exceptions" as appropriate)

no exceptions

9 Nov 45 James H. Buie 1st Lt. Inf. 89698869
(DATE) (SIGNATURE) (RANK) (ID NUMBER)

Duffle bag.
(TYPE OF CONTAINER) (NO OF CONTAINERS)

(One copy in container, one retained by inspection)

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Publishers of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN



1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W. • Washington 6, D. C.

District 7-3412

May 8th-'57.

Mr. James F. Buie,
767 N. 8th Avenue,
Upland, Calif.

Dear Mr. Buie:

The Model 1903 Mannlicher pistol isn't exactly common but neither is it as scarce as the article you read would make it appear. Mannlicher designed a number of pistols before making this locked breech model. Yours uses the powerful 7.63m/m Mauser pistol cartridge. The gun was never adopted for military use; and since it wasn't nearly as certain in its operation as other pistols, such as the Mauser, made for the same cartridge, it never gained any wide spread popularity. However, the type you have was carried by a number of officers, as privately owned weapons, in both the German and Austrian armies during World War I. → No!

Those markings you transcribed from gun and case give some information but they tell nothing of the history of this particular weapon. They merely name the make and model, and give the name and address of the manufacturers of both the gun and the fancy case. If it could be authenticated that this particular weapon actually was owned by Wilhelm II, then you would have a valuable collector's item. Any records that could prove it tho would be in Germany, and they well may have been destroyed.

Yours truly,

HE MacFarland

HAROLD E. MacFARLAND
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
NRA TECHNICAL SERVICE



This service is one of the benefits of NRA membership. It is one more reason why every gun owner should belong to the NRA. Have you signed up a new member recently?

April 10, 1957

We have in our possession a gun that my husband got papers on and brought home during the close of the war years in 1945. I would very much like to trace down the actual facts of this gun, and thus I am writing to you and three other gun dealers.

The gun was obtained at a munitions factory from a captured high up military personnel who claimed to be the nephew of Kaiser Wilhelm and that the gun had belonged to the Kaiser.

I tried in the local libraries to get information, and all I could find out for sure that there very few of these guns made and had all belonged to high ranking military personnel.

The gun itself is in a beautiful hand carved case with the German Crest of Arms centered on the lid. The gun also had the crest of arms on either side of the handle. The writing is as follows on the handle of the gun.

Rheinische Metallwaren U.
Maschinen-Fabrik, Abteilung Sommerda
Ehrhardt Werke

A 32 Cal. pistol #231

On the inside of the case reads in gold letters on the blue material (The outside is also very colorful)

the words:

Ehardt Werke
Abteilung Sommerda Gewehrfabrik
System Mannlicher 1903

Laying in their place inside the case with the gun are an oil can, and blank bullets because it was laying in a glass case where show guns were kept, - also two different tools that are used on the gun with hand carved handles.

Underneath on the bottom of the outside of the case is written in very small letters

H. & C. Schultze
Dusseldorf

Can you give me any other information about this gun and if it has any value. I would appreciate it very much. Enclosed you will find a self Addressed stamped envelope.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. James F. Buie

Enc.

Mrs. James F. Buie

April 20, 1957

Julian S. Hatcher
Technical Staff
N.R.A.
1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have a gun in my possession that I acquired in Germany and got the papers on it on Nov. 10, 1945. A mannlichercal 32 pistol No. 231. I would very much like to have the actual facts of this gun verified, and traced down. I am hoping that you can help me in this matter.

The gun was obtained at a munitions factory from a captured high up military personnel who claimed to be the nephew of Kaiser Wilhelm and that the gun had belonged to the Kaiser. The gun itself is in a beautiful hand carved case with the German Crest of Arms centered on the lid. The gun also has the crest of arms on either side of the handle. The writing is as follows on the handle of the gun.

Rheinische Metallwaaren U.
Maschinen-Fabrik, Abteilung Sommerda
Ehrhardt Werke (Werke)

On the inside of the case reads in gold letters on the blue material (The outside is also very colorful)

Ehardt Werke
Abteilung Sommerda Gewehrfabrik
System Mannlicher 1903

Laying in their places inside the case with the gun are an oil can, and blank bullets because it was laying in a glass case where show guns were kept., also two different tools that are used on the gun with hand carved handles.

Underneath on the bottom of the outside of the case is written in very small letters

H. & C. Schultze
Dusseldorf

I found out from the local library that there were few of this type gun made and had all belonged to high ranking military personnel.

Can you give me any help in this matter? I would appreciate it very much.

Enclosed is a self Addressed envelope.

Yours very truly,

Enc.

James F. Buie

James F. Buie
Ry Lucille E. Buie, wife

22 Apr 1964

Dear Mr. Braverman,

In 1957, my mother, the late Mrs. Lucille E. Buie, was doing some research on a German Mannlicher pistol, Serial No 231, which my father liberated during World War II. She received a call from New York from you after a Mr. Bernard Snyder wrote you about the pistol. You stated that you wished to take it to Germany with you to do further research. As I was very young, I don't know exactly what was said in your conversation, but I know we never heard from you again.

Both my parents are deceased and I have been doing some research of my own concerning the pistol. My father told me it was supposed to have belonged to Kaiser II and I have written several letters to Germany and Austria trying desperately to authenticate it. So far, I have been getting no where. It is very hard to trace because the Mannlicher Corporation has burned down several times during and since the war.

It has been in a Show here in Southern California and was rated in Mint condition. The engraving, they said, was the very finest they had ever seen. It was also in a show in Atlanta, Georgia, last year, but as the interest there was mostly in Civil War weapons, I did not hear too much. I did, however, received an offer from a Swedish man who wanted to trace it himself.

I have had several offers for the pistol just as it is, but I still think there might be a possibility that the gun did belong to Kaiser Wilhelm II, and so I want to hold on to it as long as I can.

After reading all of the information I have given you and you think you might be interested in the pistol or helping me try to trace it, you may write to me at the following address and I will send to you some large photographs of the gun:

Mrs. Lorna E. Mills
527 Ave G, Apt L
Redondo Beach, California

I hope you are interested in helping me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorna E. Mills