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Griffin & Howe

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Finest in Firearms Since 1923



NOTES ON

Griffin & Howe Custom Mauser Sporting Rifle Serial No. 1434

Although there are no original Griffin & Howe build records regarding the manufacture of this rifle, it is believed from the known G&H serial numbers that No. 1434 was built about 1936. The rifle was consigned to Abercrombie & Fitch by Griffin & Howe on February 2. Griffin & Howe was at the time a wholly owned subsidiary of Abercrombie & Fitch and each store had a Manhattan location with its own showroom, inventory and staff. The rifles that were received at A&F from Griffin & Howe were entered as "Consigned" guns, meaning that payment for a particular gun was made to G&H only after the gun was sold.

G&H 1434 was entered on page 57 of A&F Inventory Book No. 7, section 4, the twelfth entry from the bottom of the page as seen on the enclosed photograph. The date of acquisition at A&F appears in the leftmost column on the page and is followed by the serial number, caliber, barrel length, weight, model, and sight.

The rifle was unsold for several years and was entered in each year's inventory when a new inventory was created on February 1st. The 1942 inventory page is of interest because, although number 1434 was unsold during that year, G&H 1691, which appears three lines below, was sold to "E. Hemingway". Number 1434 appears as the seventh entry from the top of the page.

On page 187 which lists the G&H rifles for sale at A&F in 1944, number 1434 is the second entry on the page. There are only five G&H rifles listed in 1944, however, at that time G&H was heavily involved in war production work for the War Department.

The cost and the retail price of the rifle are given in code. This code is based upon the word H-Y-D-R-O-P-L-A-N-E, where H=1, Y=2, D=3, etc. The number '0' is indicated by the letter 'E', however, the letter 'X' is alternately used to indicate an additional '0'. Using this code it can be seen that the retail price of 1434 as listed on page 187 was 'YNA.OE' which would be the equivalent of \$298.50. The cost of the rifle appears as 'HOO.LH', or \$155.71.

Robert C. Beach

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The rifle has most recently been part of the collection of Joseph E. Prather, former President and CEO of Griffin & Howe, Inc.

Griffin & Howe confirms that this information was extracted from the original Abercrombie & Fitch Inventory Records: Book No. 7, Section 4, page 57; Book No. 8, pages 71, 359 & 667; Book 9, pages 187 & 371; and current Griffin & Howe records on January 11, 2013.

Robert C. Beach

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Griffin & Howe, Inc.

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