



TUCSON, ARIZONA 85702 • PHONE (602) 792-3432

May 15, 1974

DR. B. P. CARDON / Chairman of the Board

Patton Pistol M 1911 A1 - U.S. Army Serial No. 850750

I came into possession of this pistol through Lt. Col. Alexander C. Stiller, who was a first sergeant during World War I, serving under Col. George S. Patton, Jr., who commanded the original Tank Brigade organized by the U.S. Army. Al served as Patton's field aide during World War II. Al was captured late in World War II, during April 1945. He escaped during late April and was sent back to the U.S. He always regretted that he did not stay in Germany because Patton was killed while he was in the States. He felt that this could have been prevented if he had stayed with Patton.

General Patton was a very flamboyant character, a great psychologist and leader. He designed many "bizarre" uniforms, and on ceremonial occasions usually wore two pearl-handled revolvers as side arms. However, he maintained the regulation 45 automatic, Serial No. 850750, for official ceremonial occasions, primarily when the 3rd Army was visited by General Marshall. This pistol was kept, and maintained, for his use by Al Stiller. In addition to the 45, Al and General Patton also used a rifle, a custom-built version of the 30.06 government rifle, with a 2.5 Noske scope with hunter reticle. This was carried in Al's vehicle and was available for either his or the General's use as needed.


After World War II, I accepted the job of organizing USAR units in the Tucson area. I originally set up a composite group consisting of all reserve officers. I later took over command of a tank battalion, and still later, organized and commanded a USAR area school until my retirement from active reserve duty in 1963. I finally retired from the USAR on October 1, 1973, after having completed approximately 35 years of service.

Lt. Col. Al Stiller, an old friend, was the army reserve instructor assigned to the Tucson area just after World War II. It was largely because of, and with him, that I agreed to participate in reserve activities. After about three years, he was retired for health reasons but continued to live in Tucson. Up until the time of his death on November 5, 1962, he managed a ranch in Sasabe and later

in Oracle, Arizona. I had known Al prior to World War II and was very close to him during all these years. During the last years of his life, he suffered a great deal of physical pain as a result of various nerve disorders caused by injuries received during service. I often stopped by his home to visit with him during the late evenings. He requested, through his wife, that I deliver the eulogy at his funeral. This was one of the most difficult tasks that I had ever performed.

Approximately five years after his death, I was called by Sophia Stiller, his widow. She asked me to come by, since her house was being torn down to make space for the new University of Arizona Hospital. Chris, my daughter, went with me that evening to her home. When we arrived, Mrs. Stiller told me that she was extremely upset because she had neglected to carry out one of Al's requests, which was to give me the pistol and rifle referred to above, which had been used by General Patton. He had also requested, through her, that if I did not feel that I wanted to keep the weapons for myself, or for my son, that I find a suitable recipient.

I met Thomas L. Sezak during June of 1972 while he was in Tucson at the time of the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Nancy Ingram. I was impressed with his knowledge and interest in General Patton and felt he should have the pistol. During late November 1972, while J. B. "Buck" Markley and I were on a business trip to New York, I turned the pistol over to him.


B. P. Cardon



ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the fidelity and abilities of
 Corporal Tom L. Jyus, R 2300780 I do hereby appoint him
 † Sergeant Co. B. 344 In. Tank C, of the † Regular Army (Tank C)
 of the United States, to rank as such from the Thirteenth day of April
 one thousand nine hundred and Seventy. He is therefore carefully and diligently
 to discharge the duty of * Sergeant by doing and performing all manner of
 things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all noncommissioned Officers
 and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Sergeant.
 And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time, as he shall receive
 from his Superior Officers and noncommissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and
 discipline of War.

Given under my hand at Camp Meade, Maryland
 this Thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine
 hundred and Seventy.

G. S. Patton Jr.
 Colonel, Tank Corps, Commanding.







