

From Bill Johnson, son of Lt Col Grove C. Johnson, to my father's friends of the 377th Security Police Squadron.

I thought you might find this interesting. When my father returned home from Tan Son Nhut, he brought back a very unusual rifle. I used to practice drilling with it when I was on home on leave from the Naval Academy. I never really understood the background, just that it had come somehow from outside of Vietnam.

When we took all my father's things out of the home in February, I volunteered to take the rifle. As I was showing it to my son, I mentioned that the bolt even worked and popped it open. To my surprise, the authorization form for the weapons release to my father, along with a short note describing how he came to possess the rifle was folded into the cartridge magazine.

Truly an amazing story, another amazing story that came from a group of amazing people who served our country!

**Bill Johnson
2nd son of Lt. Col. Grove C. Johnson**

8 May 2005

This is the story behind the German Mauser that I was given before returning from Viet Nam in 1967.

I was the Base Deputy for Security and Law Enforcement of Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon Viet Nam.

I had a good friend in the Viet Nam Air Force. Before I left he gave me this WW I German rifle. He had received it when his forces over ran a North Vietnam base.

This is the story he related to me regarding the weapon:
It was used by the Germans to fight the Allies in WW I.
It was then taken up by the Germans to fight in WW II in the Eastern Front.
It was captured by the Russians.
It was given to the North Vietnamese during their fight against the South.
It was captured by the South Vietnamese about the middle of 1967.

I know that it is in poor shape today, for I stored it in my attic in Satellite Beach for thirty eight years.


Grove C Johnson
Lt Col USAF Retired

WAR TROPHY REGISTRATION/AUTHORIZATION		
INSTRUCTIONS: This form will be prepared for all types of war trophies. Original to owner; 1 copy with trophy; 1 copy retained by issuing command. If war trophy is a firearm, DD Form 603 will also be prepared.		
Theater and inclusive period of service in overseas command		
S. VIETNAM	ARRIVED: 18 AUG 66	DEPCS: 5 AUG 67
Name of Owner (Last, First, MI) JOHNSON, GROVE C.	Service Number FR 8727	Grade/Rank LT COL.
Organization 377th SECURITY POLICE SQ. 96307	Permanent Home Address 80 BUCKNELL AVE. JOHNSTOWN, PENNA	
DESCRIPTION OF WAR TROPHY		
Describe Item (if firearm, indicate make, type - rifle/pistol) GERMAN RIFLE (MAUSER) KAR 98 7.92		
Serial Number or Identifying Mark (if firearm, include country of manufacture) 37210 GERMANY		
Date 18 JUL 1967	Typed Name, Grade, Org of Authenticating Officer RICHARD M. STOCKSTILL, MAJ., USAF, 7AF INTELL	
Station TAN SON NHUT AB, RVN	Signature <i>Richard M. Stockstill</i>	

DD Form 603-1, 1 Jul 65





