

8/13/68

Dear Mr. Joy,

In answer to your letter of 8/10, my fourth book is entitled PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH. It is not a book of photographs but is on the suppression of the photographic evidence. It costs \$5.00, including handling and shipping charges. If you'd like, I can mail it to you.

I am familiar with the Day picture of which you speak. I do not know the exact time it was taken, but think it was about 2 o'clock that day.

It is a common misapprehension that the police suddenly shifted to a M-C from the Mauser. They, in fact, use both identifications 11/22. For example, Seth Kantor's notebook shows the Italian identification p.m. 11/22. Markings are as you say.

I do not know the exact time they first used the Italian identification. They also persisted in the ~~It~~ Mauser identification later 11/22, as with Thayer Waldo, but this is subject to the explanation that the officials doing this were not directly involved in the investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg

5809 East Rosewood St.,
Tucson, Arizona.
Aug. 10, 1968.

Mr. Harold Weisberg,
Route 7, Frederick, Md.

Dear Mr. Weisberg: I believe you have a volume of photographs connected with the Kennedy assassination but I do not know the price. I might like to have the volume, particularly if it is not too expensive.

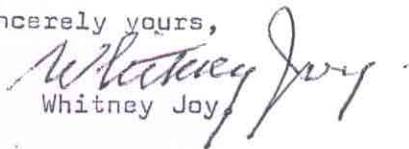
There is one photograph in which I am particularly interested, the one showing Dallas Police Lieut. J.C. Day carrying the so-called Oswald rifle by the sling. What I would like to know is: just when was this photograph taken? Apparently it was first published on November 23, 1963. Was it taken on that day or the day before? Was it first published on November 22?

I was never satisfied with the so-called "mistake" in the identification of the rifle and the fact that the Dallas authorities identified it as a Mauser for almost 24 hours when they suddenly shifted to the Mannlicher-Carcano or, more correctly, the Terni. I had some familiarity with Mausers already and have done a good bit of investigating. Apparently patent arrangements require all manufacturers using the Mauser patents and design to put the name MAUSER on the rifle and their own, of course, if they choose. Thus all MAUSERS, wherever made, look alike and have the name. Similarly, ~~xxx~~ rather I should say, dissimilarly, the Mannlicher-Carcano is not a manufacturer's name but a design name and is not necessarily stamped on the gun. Thus the 6.5 and 7.35 millimeter rifles and carbines used in WW II have the manufacturer's name, TERNI, stamped on them and not the design name. Nevertheless, anyone who could read could have identified the rifle and there is no excuse for a failure immediately to identify the rifle. Any person I have ever known who wanted to identify a gun looked for markings placed on it at the time of manufacture. The Dallas police either identified that rifle correctly or they were even more abysmally stupid than other things indicate.

In this country the manufacturer's name is stamped on military rifles and not the design. Thus I have an Enfield made by Winchester and so stamped. I also have a Springfield made by Remington and so stamped. One unfamiliar with either of these rifles could not tell what the design actually is from the gun itself.

Incidentally, the only rifle that looks almost exactly like a MAUSER, except in length and sometimes even in that, is the U.S. SPRINGFIELD. I suppose the Government had no patent complications with the MAUSER people because the original MAUSER patent was obtained in the United States in 1868. This rifle was, of course, the parent of all bolt action repeating rifles. Oddly, the Luger, most famous automatic pistol yet made, was also first patented in the United States. I happened to buy one shortly after WW II for \$10.00 or so and, as luck would have it, got a weapon in new condition or nearly so. I note they are now advertised in American Rifleman for \$96.00.

Sincerely yours,


Whitney Joy