

# Operation Cowboy

## General Patton and the Lipizzaner Mission

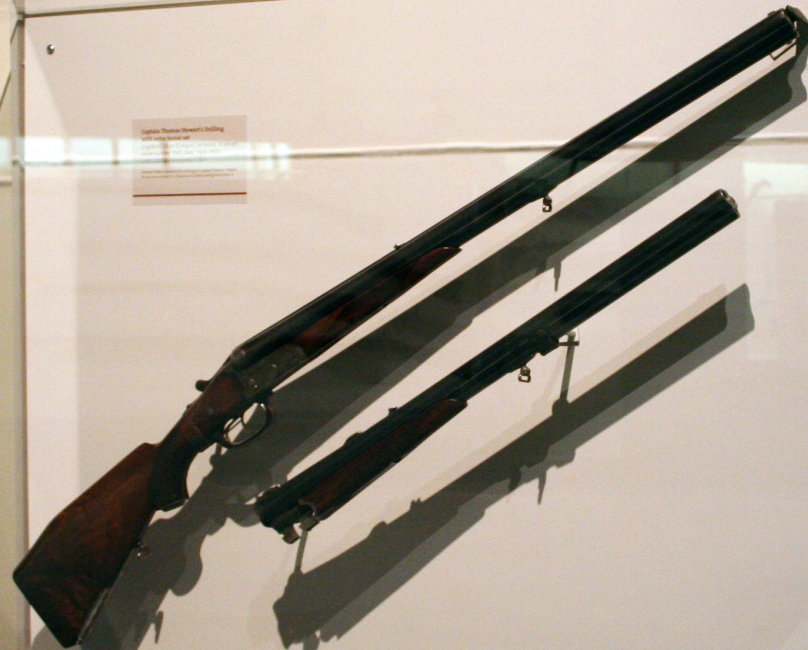


*The Art of Horsemanship*



The Lipizzaner horses were bred as early as 1580 in Spain. They are known for their performance in the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria, since 1713. Both sides and horses go through years of training to perform maneuvers that require both strength and grace. One of the most important parts of training is the "airs above the ground," which includes a movement called the courbette, a series of jumps in the air while moving forward, the horse's legs in the air.

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*General Thomas Stewart's Drilling Shotgun*



*The Liberation of the Lipizzaners*

At the closing of World War II, German commanders held captive this notable breed in the German Remount Depot in Hostau, Czechoslovakia. In 1945, General George S. Patton's Second Cavalry set out to rescue stolen Lipizzaner horses and hundreds of Allied POWs. This mission was called Operation Cowboy.

Intelligence Officer Thomas Stewart, a Tennessean, was instrumental in persuading German troops to allow the return of the horses to Austria and to coordinate the release of POWs. In return, General Patton awarded a Drilling shotgun to Stewart for his heroic efforts in entering Nazi territory to save Allied soldiers and a prized breed.



*"Get them. Make it fast."*  
—GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

Go to [icout.bhow.org](http://icout.bhow.org) and enter Code 225 to learn more about this historic firearm.

**"Calvary" should be  
"Cavalry"**