

ARMS AND
THE MAN

CHEATING THE DISTANCE

By E. C. Crossman

THIRTY YEARS AGO ON THE FIRING LINE

No. 4

LITTLE TALKS ABOUT TEAMWORK

Positions, Holding and Aiming

EDITORIALS

and

THE LATEST NEWS OF RIFLE, REVOLVER AND

SHOTGUN, THE ARMY, THE NAVY AND

THE NATIONAL GUARD

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APRIL 21, 1917

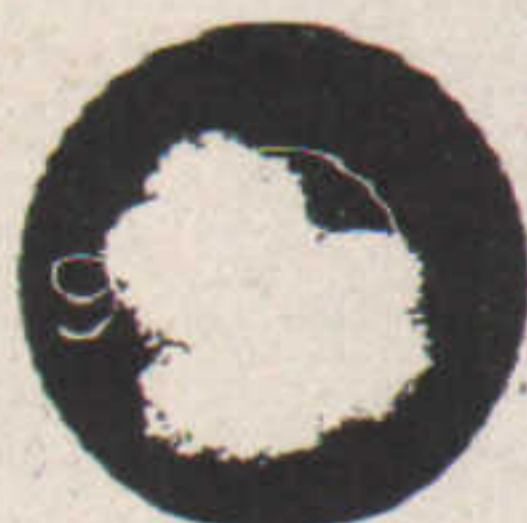
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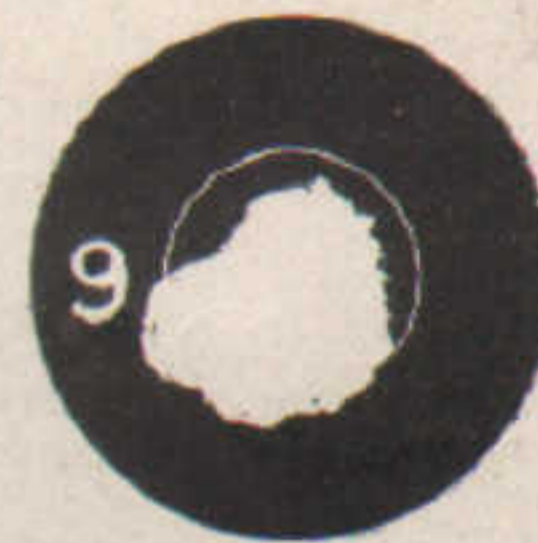
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4th Match



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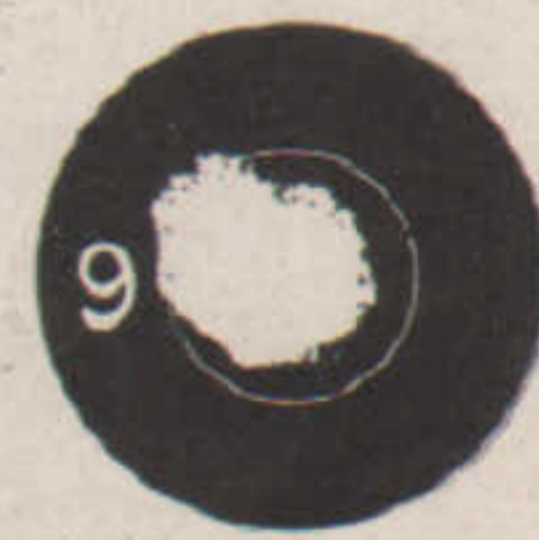
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The Official Organ of the National Rifle Association of America

Volume LXII, No. 4

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 21, 1917

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Cheating the Distance

By EDWARD C. CROSSMAN

A TOUCHING sight there was on the line of the thousand-yard range at Jacksonville last fall. A nicely rounded, bubbling mirage was cavorting across the face of the far-off papers, while anon it quit running across and boiled straight up. Also, when it got tired running across in a direction from one side to the other, or straight up, it drove away dull monotony by running across from the other to one side, and so kept a fair average.

A member of the strange and horrifying tribe, yclept by a polite militiaman "lousy civilians," was happily engaged in perfecting himself in the gentle art of long-range wind doping. His tools and appliances to that end were as follows:

One rifle.

One bandoleer of cartridges.

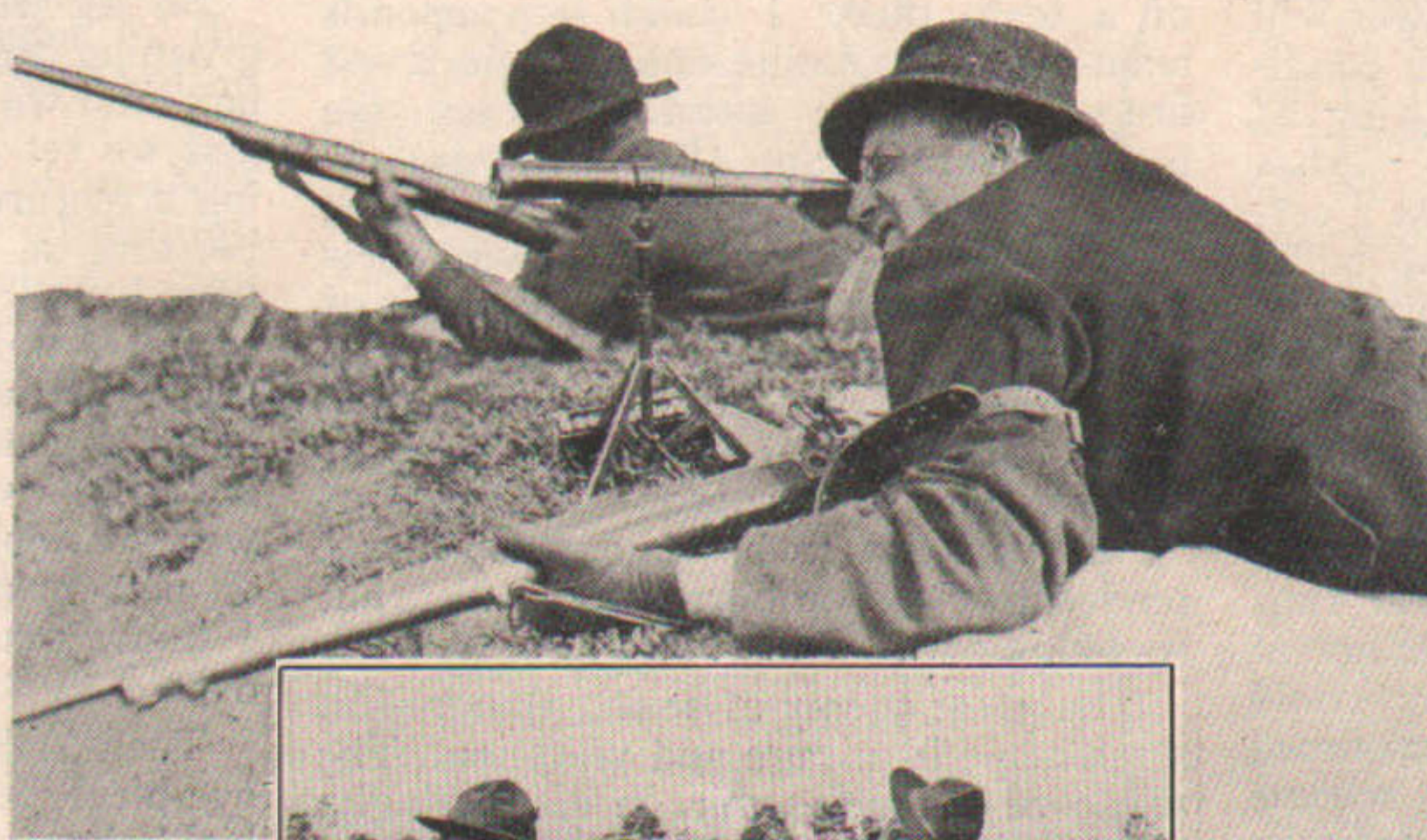
One opera glass with mother-of-pearl mountings.

A bullet would go hissing down the range, the distant whitey-yellow, tiny, black-dotted bit of paper would sink into the depths; then presently it would appear, bearing on its jaundiced face a beauty spot located about three feet due west of the bull.

Whereupon the said member of the before-mentioned sort of civilian tribe would drop the rifle and pick up the opera glasses, and most earnestly and assiduously and perseveringly inspect that fickle mirage. After satisfying himself that it was still there he would lay down the glasses, insert a cartridge, crawl still farther into the sling, close the bolt, aim long and painfully, then loose off.

After which the target would disappear and reappear, with the beauty spot four feet due east of the bull. The performance was varied only when the target cruelly appeared minus any spot at all, and a flag of hue annoyingly brilliant and conspicuous flaunted itself to and fro athwart the target.

I'll admit that the sight wasn't half so funny as if he'd shown up at a show in which damsels of much pulchritude and few clothes formed the *piece de resistance*, with a Bardou



The 'scope at the top is more or less of a pest



This type of 'scope gives complete satisfaction

telescope three feet long; so the opera glass may be fairly considered to be more of an all-round instrument than the telescope. Yet in this, as in shaving and cutting the family kindling, it is hard to find one instrument suited to all uses.

One of the finest long-range shots at Jacksonville, one of the professional boys who shoot like a whole team and cross dog under the wagon, was observed using only a prismatic field glass mounted on a stick-'em-quick sort of steel rod, with a pointed end to drive into the Black Point earth; but you can bet your last tuppence that it was more than a three-power opera glass inside the works.

There's a lot of fun packed up inside the possession of a really good telescope, or a good field glass, while as many a poor civilian found at Jacksonville, the befooler of distance is essential on the rifle range, both to pick up the spotters, to pick up the mirage, and to give you the comforting

assurance that the target's still there.

For example, I know of one low-lived prier into the affairs of others who was found one day glued to the south end of a fifty-power telescope, made by Ross of London, and looking out over a snow-covered expanse of country bounded by a hill. To questions and to hints for "jist one peek," he paid the same attention—which was nothing. Finally an investigating "kumity," removing the gent by force of arms, found the following situation to exist: On the snow-covered hill before mentioned, 900 yards away, there was a slide for sleds, which wound up in a snowdrift below, and upon this slide there disported a score of damsels from an exclusive girls' school nearby; and the slide, being a half mile from human habitation and being manless by virtue of a fence, it was considered a safe place on which to cut up capers and didoes. Also, as I was informed by members of the said kumity, the

fashion seemed to decree that each sled, arriving at the bottom of the slide, should there spill its freight into the snowdrift without regard to the order of going.

As I started to say when interrupted, the telescope and field glass may be considered either in the light of a rifle-shooting necessity, or as a means for enjoyment.

For rifle shooting, the field glass will work nicely so long as the task set for it consists of nothing more than picking up spotters, or doping out a plain and only too easy to read mirage. But there be times when the said glass lies down and sticks up all four feet and quits cold. Such a time is when the day is a bit cold, the breeze a bit strong, and the mirage accordingly faint. Only high power will grasp running mirage under such conditions, and this I should set as being 25 or better, surely not under 20. Also, there is the secondary feature that a certain power is essential to pick up bullet holes at 200 or 300 yards, and that with such a course as 200 times fire on the A target, picking up the bullet holes is the only way one will ever get the true zero of that goat of a rifle, the flash of a marking paddle being about as accurate as the old plots of skirmish runs with which they used to favor us at Camp Perry. Of course, they could show the true group in this 200-timed fire by adopting the Los Angeles scheme of inch spotters, one for each bullet hole, and running up the so adorned target so the rifleman can grasp the "lay" of the group with any old sort of glass at the end of the ten shots—but this would be too much trouble, and also too sensible. Times were when in timed fire I used to insist on the unfortunates associated with me in the interclub and other shoots walking out and personally interviewing their targets, to get the actual location of the ten shots. Then we found that usually the bullet holes could be picked up with the 'scope, and finally we evolved the scheme of turning out a couple of dozen little inch spotters, made of black and red pasteboard, with hairpins for the wires. After each ten shots the marker merely stuck a spotter in each hole and ran up the target again. Modesty forbids the mention of the name of the originator of this scheme, but I will hold up to the limelight the maker of the spotters, one Doc Felsenthal, who also furnished the hairpins.

The matter of seeing bullet holes with a 'scope needs a bit of cruel attention. Far be it from me to go poking around at golden fiction with the harpoon of cold fact, but in this case I've got to run right contrary to the published statements of makers of glasses as to what you can see with a given power. I've tried this stunt in cold weather and in warm, with mirage and without, just after dawn, at mid-day and in the twilight, and I've found out this:

First, that you've got to have conditions just right—preferably with a strong light back of the paper—to see bullet holes in the black at 300 yards, nor can you see them even in the white unless the target is perfectly clean and no mirage is running.

Second, you can't see them at 200 yards with much mirage running, or with enough wind to shake the 'scope support, or with the target full of pasters. Yes, I know all about the paper side of it—that 50 times, say, a third of an inch, representing the hole in the paper, is roughly 15 inches, and that any eye can see a 15-inch spot at 200. The fact remains that you cannot with conditions not right.

For instance, at Jacksonville, as coach of a team there, I could pick up for team-mates the bullet holes in the timed fire only in the morning, when the targets were clean. But after a few hours, when the papers looked like the seat of the small boy's pants, with their patch upon patch and patch by patch of the square Government pasters, no man could pick up more than a few of the holes. Maybe the rather damp mass of pasters, with the generous allowance of "goo" that has to be slapped on them, tended to close up behind the bullet, but something was wrong.

The great enemy of seeing things with a telescope is mirage and vibration. The telescope magnifies mirage distressingly, a good feature when we want to use it as a wind indicator, but a bad one when we went to see through it, not the mirage itself. I have seen repeatedly at Jax the mirage so heavy that with the best of 'scopes the rifleman would have difficulty in picking up the spotting disc; the effect was precisely that of gazing down through a considerable depth of bubbling spring water.

Also, the telescope magnifies its own vibration. The gentle little tremor, not noticeable with the naked eye, becomes transformed into the most intoxicated sort of a cross between a Dervish dance and a fit of fever an' ague. No tripod will hold a telescope motionless with any breeze going, and I don't care if it has legs like a piano-mover and no more lost motion than the Washington Monument. Were I going to sit around one of these hotel or summer-resort piazzas and watch the little yachties sail to and fro, and the fall-guys paddling 200-pound maidens up and down the drink and wishing they weren't, and the fishing liars out getting the material for their nightly tales, I'd hog-tie the 'scope to something solid—really solid—like a newspaper man's dome, or a veranda post. None of these trifling little hoochyma-cooch tripods for me when a change of base is not imminent.

Getting back to seeing bullet holes, Billy Ruess, the president of this misfit aggregation in Los Angeles and a person of German descent, and just pig-

headed enough to make a good experimenter, because you can't tell him anything, got into his noodle the idea that all you needed to see anything anywhere was a telescope big enough. Wherefore he came by for me one day, in a sea-going motor car, the tonneau of which was entirely occupied by a wooden case that apparently contained a piano.

This, he explained, was a telescope—just one telescope, but a real, go-getter instrument with which he could ascertain the sex of a flea on a tourist clear across the county. He was going to pick up the bullet holes at 500 yards, and he intended to find out whether the marking boy was sneaking Nick Carter or Old Cap Collier out in the pit when he failed to pull the target for a minute at a time.

So we went out to the range in the groaning automobile, and we opened the box, and we derricked out that telescope, and we set up the formidable engineering structure that looked like shears for hoisting a safe and was merely the tripod, and we finally got the telescope mounted up. It was made of uncovered brass, and was the general shape and the exact size of the stovepipe that sticks out of the switchman's shanty. With it were various eye pieces that gave from 25 powers up to 110, as I remember it; I know that the high one was 100 or over.

Then William inserted eye-piece after eye-piece, and after each one he gave a bit hollower groan. He had laid the thing on the 500-yard targets. There was a little mirage, not much.

Finally he quit, and I got a peep through the hundred-odd-power eye-piece. In it there was a large and very dirty-faced B target, with some large pasters on it, and all in between there rippled and waved a very intoxicated river through which we gazed. Nary a bullet hole could we see—and swear to—even in the white. Every time William sneezed the scene got up and did the razzle-dazzle waltz, and when he changed his position and set his tootsies down in a new place, I found myself grabbing for the life-line to keep from falling off the agitated landscape. A step anywhere near the 'scope, on the solid ground, would make the field within shake and quiver. When a hundred power is going to be used, then I'm strong for the concrete-pier mounting; no tripod in that case.

Anyhow, we couldn't see anything at 500 with that 100-power 'scope, and we finally decided that we could see more with the 50 power. So we packed it up and the disgusted William took it down again to the hopeful dealer, who was already making out a bill to William for an amount that would buy a small automobile.

It may be that on a cool, still day that high-power, huge objective glass would do wonders; in theory it should, because

(Continued on page 66)

Thirty Years Ago On the Firing Line

Being short sketches of men who a generation back burned black powder; hand-loaded their own shells; seated bullets apart from the cartridge which contained the charge; made high offhand scores on the Creedmoor target, and kept alive for posterity, the art of marksmanship.

No. 4—W. MILTON FARROW

MORE than a score of riflemen crowded into the shelter house on the Walnut Hill Range, outside of Boston on the coldest day of January, 1880. In rotation each stepped outside to the firing point, shooting his score in a re-entry match.

Among the contestants were seven or eight men from the Empire Rifle Club of New York City headed by the president of Empire Club, W. Milton Farrow.

Farrow shot two strings of 10 shots each, making scores which while high were not entirely to his liking and again entering essayed a third try at the targets. With a .38 calibre Ballard, he scored a bull's-eye on his first shot, and repeated his performance until a perfect string of 10 stood to his credit, the first of its kind, it is believed, that was ever registered in this country. But Farrow kept on shooting, adding five more bull's-eyes to his score before he put one outside of the inner circle.

When W. Milton Farrow made his perfect score record on the Walnut Hill Range, he was at the height of a shooting career which, in many ways, was a remarkable one, and which from time to time brought to his credit victories not only in the premier marksmanship competitions of the United States, but those of Wimbledon, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, Versailles, Caen, and Dollymount, where among the many valuable trophies which rewarded his skill were the British Wimbledon Cup, an annual trophy, the American Wimbledon, victory in the second stage of the historic Albert Match and many others.

W. Milton Farrow, whose name is still heard frequently when old timers congregate on the open range, was born in Belfast, Maine, in 1848. A boyhood of small game hunting had brought to him a thorough acquaintance with firearms when, in 1876, while at Newport, R. I., his attention was attracted by the shooting of the international Match at Creedmoor, and in the fall of that year he entered the match shooting game.

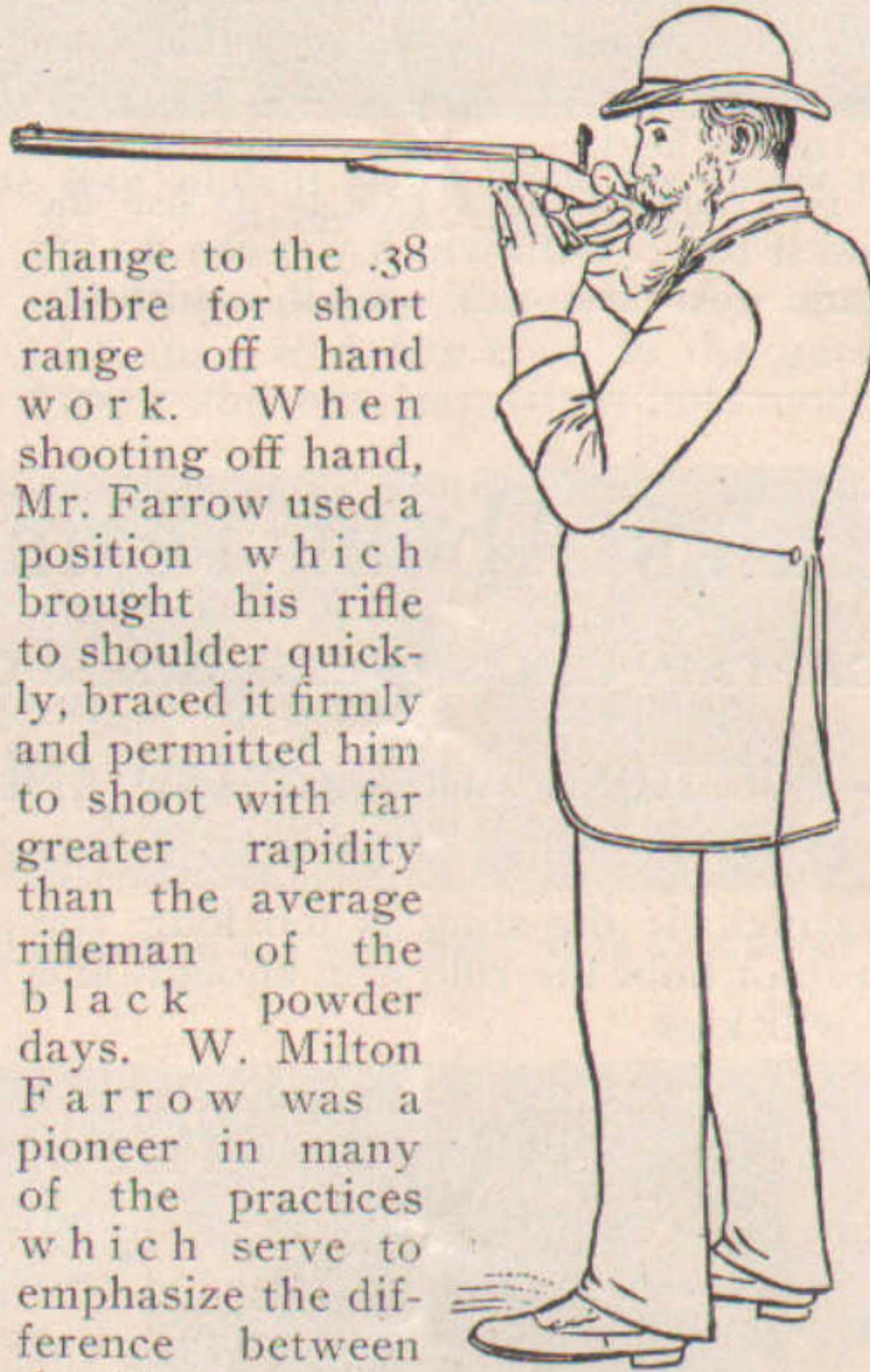
While almost all of the other riflemen of that time were using either the .50 calibre rifle or the .45 calibre weapon, and a reduction of match calibres was just beginning to take shape, he advocated the almost radical

change to the .38 calibre for short range off hand work. When shooting off hand, Mr. Farrow used a position which brought his rifle to shoulder quickly, braced it firmly and permitted him to shoot with far greater rapidity than the average rifleman of the black powder days. W. Milton Farrow was a pioneer in many of the practices which serve to emphasize the difference between the black powder match shooting of a generation ago and the high power rifle shooting of today. He was among the first to adopt the practice of placing the bullet in a short range rifle and seating it with a plug. He also, invariably, in those days, used a pin-head sight.

Some of Farrow's earlier victories included the Competition of the Amateur Rifle Clubs, an N. R. A. event at 800, 900 and 1000 yards in 1877, and the San Francisco Turnverein Society medal, 60 shots, 200 yards, in 1878.

In 1878, Farrow went to Europe. After winning a number of valuable prizes at Wimbledon he went to Dusseldorf where he won a number of medals and a silver cup, proceeding to Stuttgart, where he participated in other matches. He returned to the United States in time to enter the National Rifle Association Matches at Creedmoor and win the championship competition.

In June, 1879, having won the Turf, Field and Farm challenge Match Badge for the third time, Farrow went again to England. At Wimbledon he entered the Albert Match. The first stage of this match called for shooting at 200, 600 and 900 yards. Any con-



W. Milton Farrow
From an old cut

testant finishing in the first hundred in this stage, was permitted to shoot the second stage, which is 15 shots at 1000 yards. There was but one prize in this competition and Farrow made first place, being the first American to ever win the Albert match.

Following the Albert Match, Farrow made a clean score of 35 out of 35 in the St. Ledger Match and 34 out of 35 in the Graphic Match.

Leaving England he went to Caen in Normandy, won prizes there and proceeded to Versailles where he won the first prizes for shooting at 150, 200 and 300 metres.

It was upon his return from this trip that he visited the Walnut Hill Range and made the first clean 10-shot score to be registered.

In the Spring of 1880 he won a position on the team which shot against the Irish at Dollymount, entered for the Spencer Cup and won it and then paid a third visit to Wimbledon.

After the original Wimbledon Cup had been won and brought to the United States, another Wimbledon cup had been put in annual competition in Great Britain, separate cups being awarded each year. This trophy was also won by Farrow who received it from the hands of the Princess of Wales.

Farrow returned to the United States in time to enter the competition staged at Creedmoor by the N. R. A. for the original Wimbledon Cup.

The course then called for 30 shots at 1,000 yards, and with a field of 27 against him, under unfavorable weather conditions, Farrow recorded a score of 145 out of 150, won the cup and established what perhaps stands today as the black powder record for the distance.

LETS DESTROYER CONTRACTS

CONTRACTS for 24 new torpedo-boat destroyers have been let by the Secretary of the Navy.

The new destroyers are to be of the new 35-knot type, and are to be constructed on the "cost-plus-ten-percent" profit plan. Each will be 310 feet long, with a 31-foot beam, and each will carry four 4-inch guns, and two 1-pounder automatic anti-aircraft guns in addition to her four torpedo tubes.

CHEATING THE DISTANCE

(Continued from page 64)

the large objective furnished the necessary light for so high a power, and surely a thirty-inch spot should be visible to the naked eye at 500, which was the theoretical equivalent of magnifying 100 times a .30-calibre hole.

Some years ago Mr. Warner, of Warner & Swasey, makers of the finest engineering tools and astronomical and general optical instruments in this country, wrote me that as a rule one could deduct about 15 per cent of the theoretical range at which one could see a given object. For instance, if one can see an object an inch across at 100 yards, which

is theoretically the limit of vision of the normal eye, then he could not see the same object eight times farther away with an eight-power glass, but instead eight times farther away, minus 15 per cent for atmospheric troubles, or in this case 6.8 times farther away with an eight-power glass than with the naked eye. Quite evidently this does not take into consideration mirage, because mirage can make the finest and most powerful glass absolutely useless, and it does start with the assumption that the glass is rigidly held.

The old optician's rule is to use the lowest power with which you can do the work. At first this sounds manifestly

true, and so foolish to repeat, but in practice the tendency is to use a power much higher than is necessary, and in so doing to increase vibration and mirage effect, and to cut down light and field.

In gunning for the right glass it is well to keep in mind the primary principles governing the instrument for magnifying the view.

They are:

1. The higher the power the poorer the illumination.
2. The higher the power the narrower the field of view.

(Continued on page 70)

Little Talks About Teamwork

By CAPTAIN G. K. SHULER, U. S. M. C.

No. 4—POSITIONS HOLDING AND AIMING

THERE is no royal road by which one can learn to hold the rifle. To do it properly you have to fight the things that hurt. For instance, a tight sling cuts into the arm and one has to grin and bear it instead of letting the sling out a few notches until the arm gets used to it. Keeping the left hand in the proper position, all the way out to the lower band swivel, makes the back of the hand mighty sore at first; but don't pull it back, fight it out. The elbows will get raw from contact with the ground, a drawback which partially may be overcome by the use of padding, yet even with pads a certain amount of soreness will have to be worked out. Luckily, however, the shooter soon gets used to these little things and then the sailing is easy.

There is only one way to hold the rifle and that is the correct way. Impress on your squad the importance of the general principles to be observed in all the positions, always tell them why a thing should be done in just such a way. When you tell a man to keep his head forward, explain that the nearer he gets his eye to the peep hole in the rear sight, the better he can see through the peep; after he sees the difference he will want to get his eye right up there where it belongs. The position in the big matches this year are: prone for slow fire, and kneeling from standing in the timed fire.

Use the sling in all positions; there are no restrictions as to its use. Have the end of the loop even with the comb of the stock; this is the proper length for the average man. If your arm is short and fat you may let the loop out

a trifle. If the sling is too long you can not hold the rifle firm enough and it will kick.



"Give the sling a half turn to the left and slip the arm through"

To adjust the sling give the loop a half turn to the left and slip the arm through, get the loop well up into the arm pit, hold it there by sliding the keepers close up to the arm; slip the left hand well under the rifle and all the way out to the lower band swivel; the rifle rests hard in the flat of the hand and not on the fingers; the left hand and the fingers of the left hand do no work at all.

In the prone position the points to observe are: lie flat at an angle of about 45 degrees to the firing line, spread the legs wide apart, heels turned inboard, settle down close to the ground; get the left elbow to the front and well to the right (it should be directly under the gun), lean over a little to the left, place the palm of the right hand on the butt plate, slide the butt in the shoulder and flatten out again, spread the right elbow out, draw the body back and get the chest and whole body as close to the ground as possible. To raise the muzzle of the rifle, move the right elbow to the right; to lower it, draw the elbow in toward the body, have the cheek hard against the stock, *place the right thumb along and not across the stock*, and the rifle cannot kick as the recoil will be taken up by the whole body.

In the kneeling position the right knee points directly to the right. The left elbow should be over the knee and not on top of it. Get the flat place just above the joint of the elbow resting, on the flat place above the knee cap and you will have a solid rest. Lean the body pretty well forward. To shoot kneeling is by no means an easy proposition at first. After practice, however, the muscles become accustomed to it and it soon ceases to be uncomfortable. Either turn the foot and sit on the inside of it, or rest the toe on the ground and sit on the heel (use the position that suits you the better). In rapid fire keep the butt in the shoulder. To load, lower the muzzle to the right and work the bolt hard, being sure to draw it all the way back to eject the empty shell.

In training your squad to hold, get them out in the open, or indoors if the weather is bad—line them up about a yard apart, get out in front, show them all the points and have each man individually go through the various steps. Make them do it right. Don't let any member of your team, no matter how much he thinks he knows about shooting, neglect the slightest detail. Don't let a man fire a shot until all have learned to use the correct shooting form. Adopt this as your platform at the beginning, live up to it and you won't have any trouble about the boys



In other than straight match work, the sitting position is steady and comfortable

and they take it. When we run afoul of a man who has been in the game before and has learned to hold under

trying to shoot full of holes; why not aim at it? The method is to get the bull's eye in the center of the peep, then bring the tip of the front sight up to the center of the bull and let fly, no thin or thick line of white to worry about, you don't have to think about centering the bull in the peep, its a law of optics that you do this unconsciously—changes of light do not affect you, the center of the bull looks the same no matter how much mirage there is and if you get your shot off with any of the bull's eye showing over the front sight (provided of course that your sight is



"Place the palm of the right hand on the butt plate, slide the butt in the shoulder and flatten out"

not wanting to learn. The fast ones will help the slow ones and it will give you an opportunity to size up your material early in the game.

If there were two shooters left in the world they would naturally disagree. This is as it should be. It is this state of mind that has developed the guns and the ammunition and brought the game up to its present high standard. If what I have to offer about aiming up in the center of the bull's eye pleases you let your team give it a good trial. If any other plan suits you better, adopt that plan. I had heard about all sorts of points of aim, every place from the upper right hand corner of the target to a thin line of white under the bull. I suppose riflemen had, at various times, thought of aiming at the point they wished to hit—the center of the bull's eye—but the first documentary evidence I ran across was in the log of the 1913 Marine Corps rifle team. Captain McDougal, the team captain, gave the scheme a thorough try-out and adopted it. The first day they used it the average for the entire squad went up a few points over the best day's work previous to that time. In our Navy School for Coaches we have gotten over the explaining stage, and tell our people the point of aim we want them to take



When loading, prone, do not take the rifle from the shoulder

the bull's eye we tell him to try our way and see how he likes it. I have watched carefully and it is seldom that



"In the kneeling position, the right knee points directly to the right"

a man is not converted. It seems so sensible that to me it is a waste of time to try and argue the matter. The center of the bull is the place you are

set correctly) your hit will be in the black. I have heard people say that the front sight was the same color as the bull's-eye and that it would be impossible to tell when they were aiming at the center. There is only one answer to this, put up a target, get a gun and try it out. I had thought of dashing off a few ideas on wind and mirage dope but have decided not to. I figure this way, no matter how much instruction a man has had or how much he knows about this part of the game, he has got to learn to dope 'em properly laying there firing at the target. When you are firing at a thousand yards it's a long way from the gun to the bull's eye and lots of things can happen to the bullet during its journey. Each range has its own peculiarities and these have to be learned and the only school is the old school of experience. When you figure that your squad has advanced to the stage where they ought to begin shooting, get them together and go over the rules and the official program for the matches. Most of the mistakes and arguments that come up on the firing line are due to the fact that the rules and penalties are not understood. Have your team know them and understand them thoroughly. The rules this year are simple and sensible and there is a reason for each.

ARMS AND THE MAN

1110 WOODWARD BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

EVERY SATURDAY

Editor

BRIG. GEN. FRED H. PHILLIPS, Jr., Secretary N. R. A.

Associate Editor

KENDRICK SCOFIELD

Entered as second-class matter, April 1, 1908, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

That the man shall serve his country in time of war is noble, brave and patriotic; but that a man shall properly prepare himself in time of peace to serve in war is all of these things and more. It is noble with a nobility which is real, not ideal. It is brave with a bravery which assumes in time of unemotional peace many burdens, among them that of bearing the lack of appreciation of those who do not consider military preparation or training necessary.

THE CIVILIAN RIFLEMAN'S PART

NOW that a state of war actually exists between the United States and Germany, the rifle clubs of the United States, an organized body of more than 100,000 marksmen, are beginning to wonder what part they will play in the coming hostilities.

There are many organizations whose members are willing to volunteer as a unit. There are others anxious to place at the disposal of the Government well-equipped rifle ranges. In addition to these, there are thousands of individual members who stand ready to do anything, from actually taking the field with a fighting force to rendering the scarcely less important and valuable, though somewhat more routine, duty of helping to instruct the recruit in handling the rifle.

The ranks of the civilian rifle clubs are ready for whatever task the Government may assign them in the national crisis. The Government, however, is not ready at the moment to tell in just what capacity the services of the civilian riflemen will be of the greatest value. If the gates are thrown open to volunteers, without regard to too close a restriction upon age and dependents, there is little doubt but what the answer from rifle-club members will be hearty and immediate.

If the ranks in the national army are to be filled by selective conscription, a certain percentage of the younger members of the rifle clubs may, of course, be drafted, should they chance to fall under the category called for, and this without reference to their rifle-club membership, which carries with it no military obligation.

And so it is very hard to predict just what part the civilian rifleman can best take, or what the possibilities are of his being called either as recruit or instructor. Not until the final draft of the Army Bill is submitted to Congress and Congress enacts it into law will the citizens of the United States definitely know the plan for the organization of the Army. When this has been accomplished, the time will have arrived when the citizen rifleman will have a right to expect the Government to avail itself of the services which have been so fully and freely tendered, and to determine the capacity in which he is best equipped to be of national service.

At present, when War Department policies await the sanction of Congress; when the likelihood of the promulgation of selective conscription, a volunteer system, or both, are possible; when practically everything pertaining to the participation of this country in the European struggle has yet to take concrete form, and nothing is certain save that a declaration of war has been signed, there are just two things for rifle-club members to do.

The first and the one of paramount importance is, *keep shooting.*

There never has been a soldier who was worth his salt in the ranks of riflemen who could not shoot. There has been considerable talk of the rifle being replaced by the machine gun. To a certain extent this may be true, but the United States will have a place for all her riflemen, as such, if the struggle with Germany develops into a protracted war, for the machine gun, although a quick firer, is not a quick aimer. And, while waiting for the Government to determine what service it desires of the civilian rifleman, nothing can add to the value of the rifleman so much as constant practice. Remember, *when the United States needs her marksmen, she will call for them.*

The second avenue open to rifle-club members lies in lending a helping hand in affairs where a knowledge of weapons counts, such as the service being performed by the Home Club Association in guarding the Patent Office in Washington, and in doing all possible to solidify sentiment toward supporting the Government in the present crisis.

In this latter category falls the recent activities of the Lamar, Colo., Rifle Club. The example set by this club is worthy of mention.

When the proclamation of war was signed, the members of the Lamar Club asked themselves the same question that the members of every other rifle club asked themselves at the same time, the difference being that the Lamar Club, and several other organizations, did not wait for the Government to assign to it a task. There was work at home which could be done and the Lamar Club has undertaken it.

At the start, the members of the Lamar Club undertook a patriotic rally, with the help of the city officials. The rally began with a parade and ended with a mass meeting at which the purposes of the Army and the Navy and the duty of the citizen to his country were dealt with. Following the meeting the members undertook a military census of the town, listing not only those willing to volunteer at once, together with a record of previous military service, but also those willing to volunteer at such times as their services are vitally needed.

There was yet more to be done, however, and the Lamar boys are also undertaking that task—the instruction of civilians who will go into active service when the time comes.

For this purpose, after a conference with the County Sheriff and Commissioners, as well as the city officials, the club members obtained the use of the State Armory, both for rifle practice and drill, and at present are giving nightly military instruction to all who apply.

The plan adopted by the Lamar Club would seem to commend itself as a sane and valuable service pending the decision of the Government as to the part the citizen trained in the art of marksmanship and desirous of "doing his bit" will be permitted to take in the Great Emergency.

New Cruisers Named For Old

THE names of the five most famous ships in American naval history will be conferred on the new battle cruisers now under construction. They will be called "The Constitution," "The Constellation," "The Saratoga," "The Lexington," and "The Ranger." Because two of the famous wooden fighting ships are still in existence, the original "Constitution," now at Boston, will be known as "The Old Constitution," and "The Constellation," now at Newport as a training ship, will be given a similar distinctive title. The present "Saratoga," formerly the cruiser "New York" and a namesake of another of the old ships, will be called "The Rochester." "The Ranger" now on the Navy list, and not the original, is a survey vessel loaned to the State of Massachusetts. Her name will be changed.

"We have selected these names," said Secretary Daniels, "for the largest ships ever constructed with the electric drive, because they have a national significance and their names recall the glory of the Navy.

"From the beginning of our Navy it has been the custom to preserve the names of great battles on sea and land in which our country has been victorious, and in the early part of the Nineteenth Century the list of the Navy vessels was very largely a list of our country's victories. The general rule of naming the largest and heaviest dreadnaughts for States of the Union is still followed by the Department. These five names have been given to these specially important battle cruisers with the assurance that they will stimulate their officers and men to deeds of courage and valor like those who have gone before on the 'Constitution,' 'Constellation,' 'Saratoga,' 'Lexington,' and 'Ranger.'"

These battle cruisers will be built as follows: One in the Navy Yard at Philadelphia; two by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., at Newport News, Va.; one by the New York Shipbuilding Company, at Camden, N. J., and one by the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, at Philadelphia, Pa.

The U. S. S. "Lexington" was the ship of John Barry that sailed from Delaware Capes March 31, captured the British sloop "Edward" and returned to Philadelphia, bringing the first prize to the Marine Committee of the Congress. In this capture, Richard Dale was taken by Barry, made a midshipman, and became a commodore. There were other "Lexingtons." In the Civil War the ironclad "Lexington" rendered conspicuous and valuable service in many battles: Belmont, Forts Donelson and Henry, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Yazoo River. The name "Lexington" commemorates the first bat-

tle of the Revolutionary War, at Lexington, Mass., April 19, 1775.

The U. S. S. "Saratoga" was the flagship of Commodore Macdonough at the battle of Lake Champlain, September 14, 1814, probably the only fleet action where an inferior beat a superior force. The name "Saratoga" has recently been given to the old cruiser "New York," to enable the State name to be applied to the battleship "New York." There have been other "Saratogas," but none rendering so important a service as the flagship of Macdonough on Lake Champlain. The name commemorates the complete defeat of the British General Burgoyne in one of the "decisive battles of the world" at Saratoga, N. Y., and the surrender October 17, 1777.

The U. S. S. "Ranger," under John Paul Jones, sailed from Portsmouth, N. H., November 1, 1777; arrived December 2, 1777, at Nantes; and, on February 14, 1778, received from the French navy in Quiberon Bay, France, the first salute to the Stars and Stripes from a foreign government. The "Ranger" captured H. B. M. S. "Drake," April 24, 1778, the first capture of a British man-of-war in the Revolution. The "Ranger" also in this cruise landed her forces at Whitehaven and at the castle of the Earl of Selkirk.

The U. S. S. "Constellation" was launched September 7, 1797. Cruised in the West Indies in War with France, 1798-1800. February 9, 1799, commanded by Captain Thomas Truxtun, captured the French frigate "L'Insurgente," which was taken into the U. S. Navy. Later the same month captured two other vessels. February 2, 1800, after a severe engagement with the French frigate, "La Vengeance" captured her. She escaped in the darkness. Attached to the Mediterranean squadron 1802-1804, took part in operations against Tripoli. July 22, 1802, engaged 9 Tripolitan boats; killed a general and destroyed two of the boats. September 10, 1804, took a Tripolitan zebec. June 20 to June 23, 1813, while blockaded off Craney Island, captured with her boats, under command of Lieutenant Tarbell, 3 boats, secured 43 prisoners, killed and wounded 90 men belonging to the British squadron of 13 sails under Admirals Cockburn and Beckwith. During the Civil War cruised in European waters watching Confederate cruisers. The "Constellation," because of her success, was called one of the "lucky" ships of the Navy.

The U. S. S. "Constitution" was launched October 21, 1797; made first cruise under command of Captain Samuel Nicholson. Cruised in the West Indies during the War with France, 1798-1800; made several prizes. Flagship of Commodore Edward Preble in operations against Tripoli, 1801-1804. July, 1812, commanded by Captain Isaac Hull, sailed from Annapolis. July 17, fell in with a British squadron; escaped

after more than two days' chase from it, when off the New Jersey coast. August 19, 1812, after an engagement of a half hour, received the surrender of H. B. M. S. "Guerriere," which had been so badly shot to pieces that she had to be sunk, the "Constitution" receiving so little damage that the crew gave her the name of "Old Ironsides." December 29, 1812, commanded by Captain William Bainbridge, captured British frigate "Java" after two hours' fight. February 15, 1814, commanded by Captain Charles Stewart, captured the British schooner "Pictou." February 20, 1815, engaged at the same time H. B. M. ships "Cyane" and "Levant." After a severe fight captured both vessels.

DEATH-TRAPS IN BATTLE

YOU have often seen soldiers on the march carrying their rifles upside down. It seems a sensible thing to do, because the weight of the rifle is thereby better distributed. Nevertheless, under certain conditions this apparently innocent habit might well prove the destruction of the whole company.

On the face of this it sounds absurd, but the butt plates of the older rifles are smooth, and with use become bright enough to reflect the sun's rays at a distance at which men themselves, on account of their khaki, would be invisible. The new checkered butt plates may wear bright enough to have the same effect. An unexpected shell would point the moral.

Under these conditions an old campaigner would probably smear his butt plate with mud.

In war there are a number of little death-traps like this which have only been discovered by tragic experience. Often it is fatal to act naturally. For example, suppose that a soldier, in the course of storming a position by rushes, comes to a stop in front of a mound.

He will, of course, take cover behind that mound, and for the time will be fairly safe. If, when the signal comes for the next rush, he does the natural thing and bounds over the mound he will probably be killed. For that is just what the enemy have been counting on his doing. During the "rest" a dozen of them will have taken careful aim at the top of the mound. So if the soldier is wise, and the mound is not too long, he will run around it. —*Marines Magazine.*

THE CONSIDERATE "JUNIOR"

Captain—"Have you changed the guard yet?"

The Newchum Junior—"No, sir; the old guard was doing the job so well, sir, I thought I'd let 'em stay on, sir." —*Sydney Bulletin.*



Specialists in Ammunition

For nearly half a century we have been making ammunition. We have devoted our entire thought and energy to that one thing.

This concentration on one definite line has enabled us to perfect a cartridge that has won more official tests than all other makes combined.

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The Marine Corps Score Book

A Rifleman's Instructor

For use in Army, Navy, Marine Corps, National Guard, Naval Militia, Schools and Civilian Clubs.

For beginners, advanced riflemen and rifle teams. For self-instruction and for use in instructing others.

It is the boil-down of the shooting game. Its contents are the digest of range practice and experience. Everything in it is practical, easy to learn and easy to teach. It is the last word in accuracy of the art of shooting, instructing and range service.

Supply it to your Company, Club or Team. It will save you labor. Your men will then instruct themselves. Your subordinates can teach it. It will produce results for you with the minimum of work.

Adopted by the War Department and issued by the Ordnance Department to organizations of the Army, and to the Organized Militia (under Sec. 1661 R. S.), and for sale to educational institutions (Bulletin No. 12, 1916, and G. O. No. 1, 1916.)

Remittance should accompany order. Stamps accepted for orders less than \$1.00.

Price, 20 Cents, Post Paid

ARMS AND THE MAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHEATING THE DISTANCE

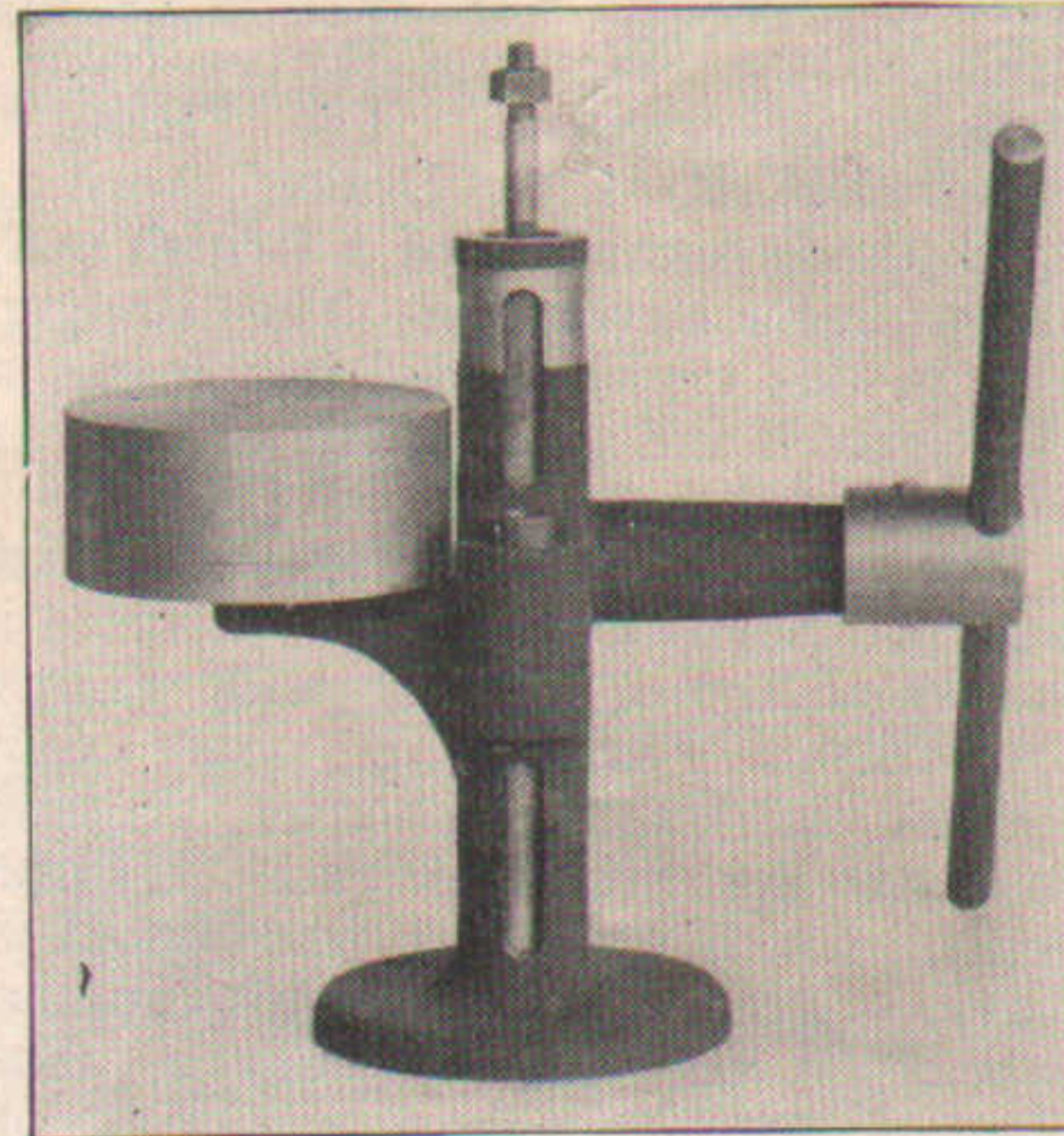
(Continued on page 66)

3. The higher the power the greater the apparent shake of the glass, and at times absolute ineffectiveness compared to the lower power.

4. The higher the power the greater the mirage interference.

In the next conclusion I admit that I am treading on thin ice, not being an optician, but I am guided by considerable comparison of the two sorts of telescopes. This is that the prismatic type of telescope, powers being equal, picks up more mirage than the plain terrestrial type. I own two fine telescopes; one is an excellent American prismatic type with three eye-pieces—a 25, a 35 and a 50. The other is a Bardou of 33 powers. Repeated comparison shows that the prismatic picks up as much mirage with the 25 as the Bardou does with the 33, and far more with the 35 than does the Bardou, while the 50 is almost a special-purpose power on the ordinary Jacksonville warm day. This feature is a good one when one is after mirage to aid in doping wind; it is not a good one when one is using the 'scope to see things beyond the mirage. Why it is so I do not know, but there seems little doubt as to the facts being as I have stated them.

For range use I know of nothing finer than the Bardou 33 power, nor are there many finer telescopes made. The field is brilliant—almost sparkling, if one can apply such a term; it is flat to the edges, and there is no color fringe. The cheap, poor 'scope has a color fringe, and it is fuzzy off around the edges. My own was picked up second-hand, but it seems as brilliant as a brand new one, and I have examined many others in the vain endeavor to find any difference in this make. The Lordbury, of British origin, used to be issued to the Marines and Navy rifle shooters. It is a fine glass, usually coming with convertible powers from 25 to 35, but with a smaller objective than the Bardou, and hence not quite so much illumination.



Fraser's Sizer and Reloader

Will size and decap 20 Springfield shells per minute. Loads three times faster than any machine made. Will size any shell. Makes reloading a pleasure.

W. D. FRASER,
11004 Ashbury Avenue
CLEVELAND, OHIO

There is nothing to this convertible-power stunt. I used to own a glass of British make with powers from 25 to 40, obtained by pulling out the eye-piece to the lines marked on it. I found myself day after day settling on a power about 30, and found the 40 as useless most of the time as the 25. Also, the glass was not as good as the Bardou with any of the magnifications.

The only complete outfit, and the most popular one at Jax, is the Warner & Swasey prismatic telescope, a magnificent instrument in every way. It is prismatic, and comes with two oculars,

giving 25 and 50 powers. The glass comes packed in a strong and neat case containing a heavy, well-made tripod, with head containing elevating and traversing movement, and a stiffening triangle for the legs. The focussing of the glass is done with a worm arrangement ahead of the ocular, obviating the pushing and pulling of the last tube, which insists on moving just beyond the right spot.

The tube is made of aluminum, and is non-telescopic, making a longer instrument in packing, but a shorter one in actual use, but 21 inches long, as compared with the distance from Dan to Beersheba reached by the ordinary telescope.

This is the glass for rifle teams, coaches, observers of army or other field work, and for all work where the highest excellence and a complete outfit are desired. It is *the* glass when the price does not matter.

I find two minor objections to it. One is that neither of the powers, 25 or 50, is satisfactory on the range, compared with the compromise power of 33, used in the Bardou.

The special 35 they made for me is better than either of the two furnished, and I could lose the 50 without many tears. The 25 might come in handy where a wider field was required without much magnification, but the 50 gives so little practical advantage over the 35, because of the lessened light, increased shake, and greater mirage magnification, that I rarely use it. In theory, of course, the 50 ought to show up light mirage that even the 35 does not show, such as on a cold day. Much use of the 'scope demonstrates the fact that the 50 needs a clear, bright day, without mirage, and without the blue haze of the fall that makes so much trouble with a high-powered 'scope. Also, the tripod wants to be solid, and it wants to be on the untroubled ground without a multitude trampling around it.

(To be concluded)

AT THE TARGETS!



Linder Drops Only 1 Out of 35 at "Deliberate Fire"

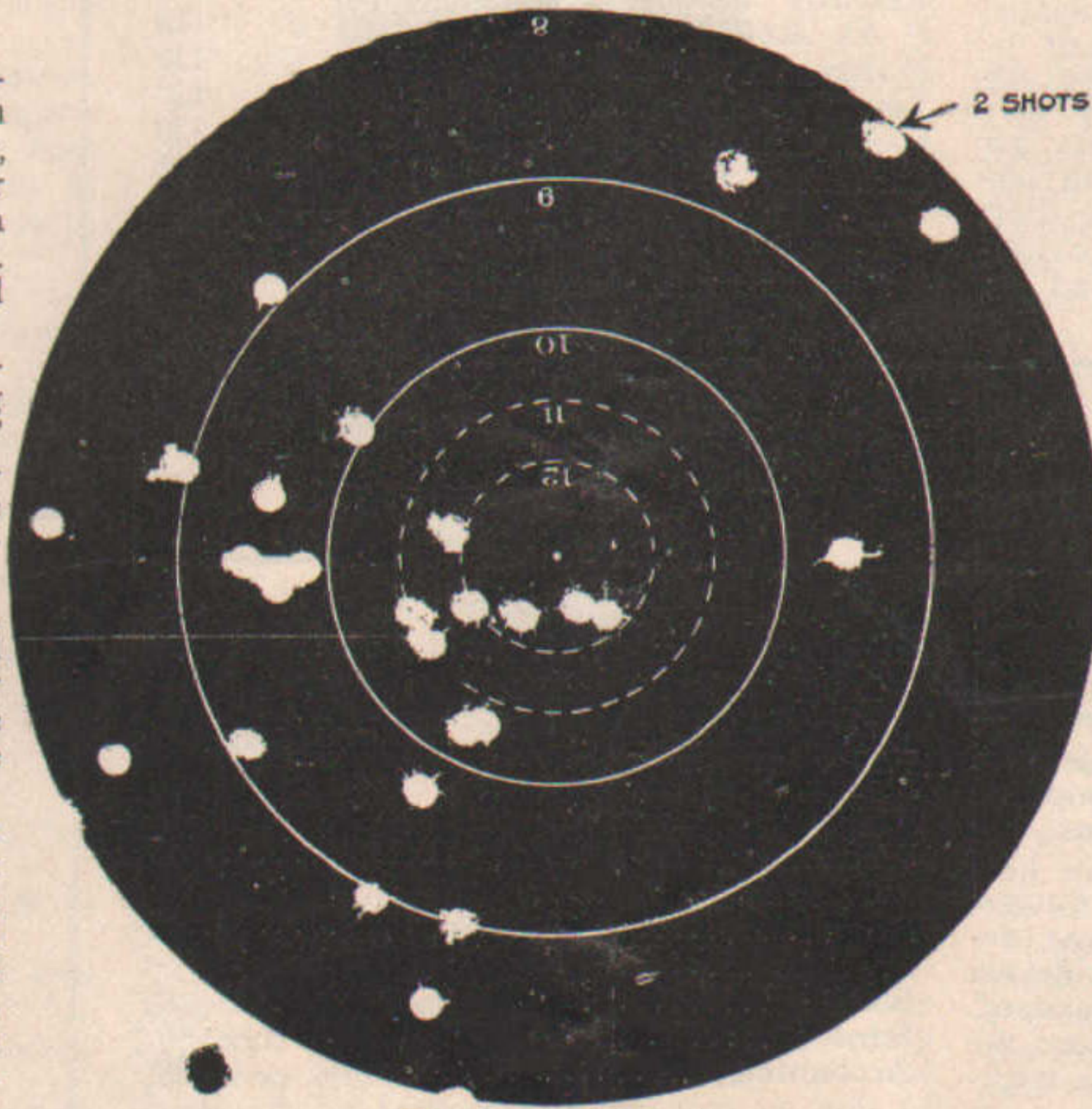
WHAT can be accomplished by "deliberate fire," shooting only when conditions are approximately perfect, and the performance repeated day after day for a long period, is evidenced in a target made last autumn by C. W. Linder, of the Olympic Rifle and Pistol Club of San Francisco.

Linder used a 50-yard standard American pistol target with an 8-inch sighting bull, which corresponds to the "A" target, and at 300 yards. With the service rifle he put 34 out of 35 shots in the black, the 35th being what would correspond to a close "four" at 7 o'clock.

In the inch-and-three-eighths circle, which when the target is used for pistol work is the highest counting bull Linder put five of his shots, with 15 more within a radius of three inches of the center.

In sending in the target, Linder says: "I am enclosing a target which I shot while on a vacation recently. No claim is made for anything, but it is suggested that several Los Angeles gunmen take notice and govern their conduct accordingly. This target contains 35 shots, with a regulation Springfield rifle, with regulation F. A. ammunition at 300 yards under the following conditions:

"The small target was nailed in the center of a four-foot by four-foot piece of paper on the sawed-off end of a redwood log, which



Gloomy's Target

was located on the edge of a woods several hundred yards from the ranch house and facing due north from the firing point. Five

shots were shot from the prone position each day at 11:30 A. M., the same rifle being used without changing the sights after the first five shots. After Dad had filled his system with good old ranch grub, junior and I would hike out to "Dad's" target and stick straws in the five fresh holes which served in the capacity of pasters.

"In shooting this target I had hardly any other object in view than busying myself some way to take my mind off the powerful craving for that home-grown corn-beef-and, which was served at 12 o'clock. A special effort was made to pick days when the temperature, light, wind and every other condition which, in the dreams of a rifle crank, are perfect. I could have kept on shooting five shots per day under the above conditions for the rest of my life, because (and even the Los Angeles gun guys will agree) of the California perfect climate.

"California is not Black Point when it comes to ideal climate and big gun stories. This target was shot before friend Crossman said that the group on the "A" target was larger than the Bull, he refers to time fire. It took two weeks to scatter the shots all over this target, which is more inclined to be on the line of deliberate fire. The worst crank in this time certainly would have had time to fix up his "double entry books" and adjust his "mike"."

Riflemen Defeat Scattergun Experts

THE long-time moot question as to whether practice with the scattergun is a fit preparation for handling the service rifle was made the excuse for a unique marksmanship competition in Los Angeles recently. As a result quite a number of gentlemen who afore-time burned powder in perfectly safe and comfortable postures are appointing sundry sore spots with various curatives, yet at the same time, obtaining no small amount of satisfaction from the knowledge that they did remarkably well when they tackled the service rifle game. All this, in spite of the fact that taking the aggregate scores of both shot-gun and rifle events, run off at the traps of the Los Angeles Gun Club and the range of the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club, the riflemen won by 212 points.

An account of the unique competition, published in the Los Angeles Times, says:

A team of eight men from the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club started in to demonstrate to the clay bird shooters of the Los Angeles Gun Club that they of the rifle club were better all-around gun men than the blue rock men, and the programme for said show-me party consisted by agreement of fifty birds on the grounds of the gun club, and then

twenty shots with the military rifle at the range of the rifle club in the afternoon. As the rifle course totaled 100 points, each clay bird of the fifty was allowed two points on the score sheet to even up matters.

The statistician reports that the rifle club team of eight all-around gun pointers hung up the grand total of 1330 points, and the gun club men 1,118, or a win for the rifle club of 212 points.

The rifle club men in the morning, over on the gun club grounds, ranged from 49, for high man, also high for both teams, down to 31 for Tommy Thomson, who'd just bucked the game for the first time, with a new gun into the bargain. They averaged 41 ex 50, which was not bad for rifle-club shots. The clay bird men, including such sharks as Mohler, Mellon, Mellus, Tuckett, et als., shot from handicap positions some of them well back which doesn't give quite a fair line-up on scores, but averaged, anyhow, about 43 apiece, or 342 actual birds to 325 for the rifle club, which totals were doubled under the agreement, giving the gun club a lead of 34 points for the morning.

The afternoon over at the rifle club

grounds was an afternoon of trial and tribulation and sweat and profanity as the blue rock men were introduced for the first time to the agonies of the sling and the prone position, and the tiny hole in the rear sight and the target which never stands still—and never steps in the right spot by any chance.

The blue rock gents appeared in store togs and white collars in their innocence, contrasted to the dirty duds and the khaki togs of the dirt-loving rifle clan. Any person in the clothes cleaning line can obtain a nice little piece of business by telephoning the gents whose names appear on the appended score sheets for the Los Angeles Gun Club. Needless to say, the same eight men fired for each club, each eight firing at the clays in the morning, and with the military rifles in the afternoon.

The menu with the rifles consisted of two sighters and ten for record on the B target at 500, and ten for record on the A target at 200, which appeared and disappeared alternately every five seconds, the rifleman having five seconds in which to fire, and five seconds in which to reload and get ready again, this being a modified changing posi-

tion fire with the changing positions left out, any position being allowed.

While her work was a long way from being astonishing, and not up to form at all, the lady member of the rifle club team, low "man" for the team, beat for the grand total, five out of the eight men of the gun club aggregation.

Despite the groans and grunts and tears and beads of perspiration on the part of the remorseful blue rock men, they developed some valuable potential material. "Lasky" George Melford snuggled into the sling as if he knew what a good friend to a rifleman a gun sling is, and knocked out forty at the timed fire game, without losing a shot. Kennedy was another man who "cottoned to" the rifle, landing thirty-three at 200, and forty at 500.

TEAM SHOOT

Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club vs. the Los Angeles Gun Club.

Fifty clay birds, counting two points per bird. Possible 100 points ten shots with service Springfield at 200 timed fire, ten shots 500 slow fire—100 points. Total possible score 100 with shotgun, 100 with rifle, total 200.

L. A. RIFLE CLUB TEAM				
	200	500	Ttl.	16 yds. Grand 50 birds. total.
E. C. Crossman...	48	45	93	49
I. O. Gardiner....	44	41	85	45
D. R. Dickey.....	45	46	91	41
Dr. L. Felsenthal	44	45	89	41
B. L. Graves	41	38	79	45
E. D. Neff	41	37	78	37
A. L. Thomson...	41	47	88	31
Mrs. E. C. Crossman	38	39	77	36
			325	1,330

L. A. GUN CLUB TEAM				
	200	500	Ttl.	16 yds. Grand 50 birds. total.
A. Pachmayer....	46	39	85	46
George Melford..	40	24	64	47
Kennedy	33	40	73	42
F. H. Mellus.....	37	17	54	47
Mohler	28	34	62	37
Tiny Tuckett	27	23	50	45
F. H. Mellon.....	21	21	42	39
Carnahan	4	10	14	39
			342	1,118

Rifle Club team won by 212 points.

HANGFIRES AND RICOCHETS

THE Androscoggin riflemen, of Lewiston, Me., wound up their indoor season recently with a handicap shoot. The winter has been a successful one and the members have improved consistently. Several matches have been shot with out-of-the-city clubs and the reputation of the Lewiston club has not suffered.

Announcement of the showing with Bangor was made and, although Lewiston was defeated by 11 points, the Androscoggin riflemen feel that they weren't considerably outclassed. The range was several degrees under zero the night that the club shot Bangor and the members were obliged to shoot with their overcoats on. This was awkward for a majority of the club and threw off their scores.

In the Bangor match the five high men qualified and the competition was 20 shots offhand at 50 feet. The score was 865 to 854, in favor of Bangor, and the individual scores were as follows:

A handicap match, at both offhand and prone, brought the season to a close. The winners were Woodhouse, Gilpatrick and Delano, and they will receive, respectively, gold, silver and bronze watch fobs, suitably engraved.

The Glastonbury (Conn.) Rifle Club held its first out-of-door shoot of the season at the range, in South Glastonbury, recently. Eighteen members were present. The shooting was at 200 yards. The three best scores out of a possible 50 were Bancroft, 38; Burnham, 38, and Charles Anderson, 37.

It was voted to enter a team in the individual indoor match of the National Rifle Association, which takes place May 5 to May 20. There is considerable enthusiasm shown. Six new members have been taken in, making the membership now thirty-nine. Two more target pits will be put in soon.

The rifle team representing the Traffic Department of the Pennsylvania Railroad General Office won the Championship of the General Office in competition at Philadelphia with teams representing the several vice-presidents' offices. The Traffic Department team upon this showing was selected to represent the Pennsylvania Railroad General Offices in the rifle matches between teams representing the various grand divisions of the system, to be held during the Pennsylvania Railroad championship shot at Baltimore, April 14th. Follow-

ing are the scores made in the recent elimination match in the General Office:

Traffic—	
Angle, Passenger	479
Strong, Freight..	462
Kingsbury, Pass'r	458
Wernecke, Pass'r	458
Total	2305
Operating—	
Hoguet	460
Frambes	450
Steidle	454
Snyder	451
Accounting	2231
Beck	450
Total	2274
Purchasing	2201

These scores were made April 6 by members of the Willow Tree Rifle and Gun Club of Chicago, on the one-half and one-quarter-inch bull's-eye record targets:

A. J. Huebner	244	244—488	71
F. Dulleck	244	244—488	71
G. Schweizer	241	246—487	69
W. Wolff	242	241—483	72
Hy. Schurz	241	240—481	72
S. M. Tyrrell	240	237—477	65

An interesting match for the small-bore championship of the Bureau of Crop Estimates Rifle Club, Department of Agriculture, was held at the Poli Theatre range during the week ending March 24.

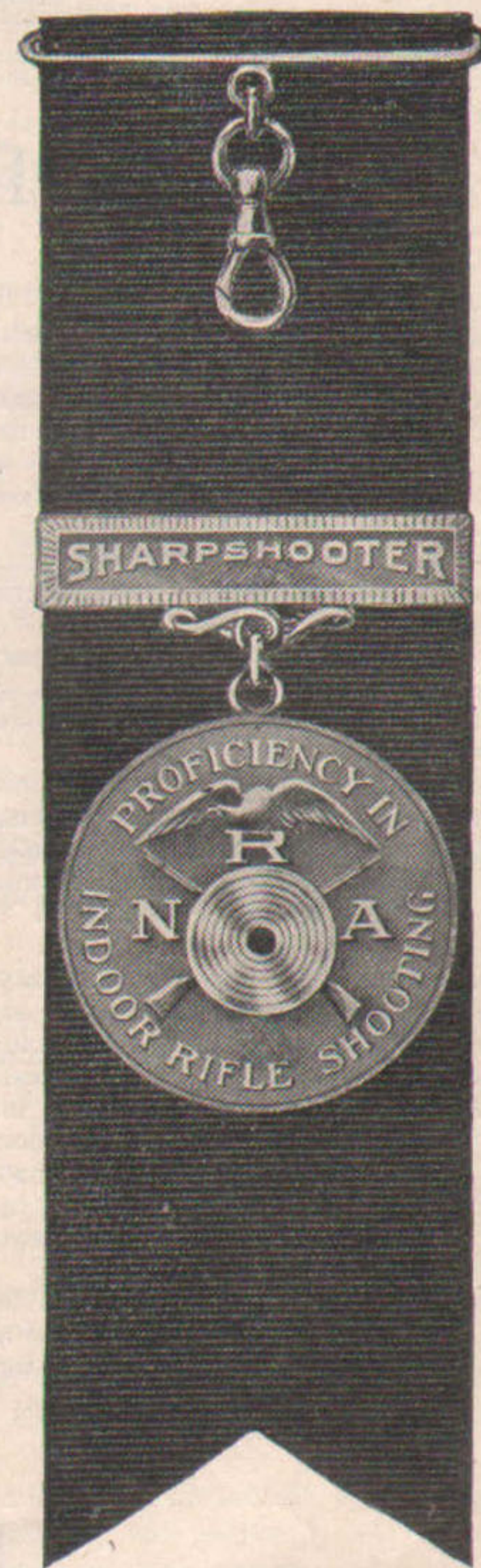
After a grueling contest, the Division of Crop Records team was returned the winner with a total score of 729 out of a possible 800.

Much of the success of the match was due to the encouragement and assistance rendered by Sergeants Andrews and Schriver, of the United States Marine Corps.

The following are the scores:

Division of	Score	Rest of the Bureau	Score
Crop Records	100	Gage	94
Ruddiman	100	McGraft	94
Eldridge	100	Sanborn	92
Erwin	98	Washington	91
Reynolds	95	Shoemaker	91
Frick	95	Wimer	89
Knapp, Miss ...	83	Foster	89
Andrews	80	Sherline	81
Elliott	78		
Total	729	Total	721

Qualifying Scores Win Watch Fobs



BRONZE and silver-plated watch fob medals are offered by the N. R. A. for proficiency in indoor, small-bore shooting.

A score of 85 standing and 90 prone entitles the rifleman to the marksman's bronze decoration.

A score of 90 standing and 95 prone wins the sharpshooter's silver-plated decoration.

Ten shots are fired from each position, with a rifle weighing not more than 10 pounds and equipped with any sight which does not contain glass. The distances are 50 feet or 75 feet as desired.

The shooting must be done on registered targets which can be obtained at a cost of 20 cents for each target.

Address

The Secretary of the
**National Rifle Association
of America**

1108 Woodward Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Off Hand From the Clubs

Entries Extended

For N. R. A. Matches

BECAUSE of inability to obtain target supplies in time, both the entry date and the shooting time for the Astor Cup and the Individual Gallery Rifle Shooting Championship matches of the National Rifle Association have been extended.

Originally, the Astor Cup match entries were to have closed April 15, and the competition was to have been shot between that date and April 30. The Individual Match was to have closed on April 20, and the match was to have been shot by May 5.

Under the new arrangements, entries for both matches will be received until May 5, and will be shot before May 20.

The Individual Gallery Match, the winning of which carries with it the title of Gallery Champion of the United States, is open to life and annual members of the N. R. A. and members of affiliated rifle clubs.

Official scores will be shot under the supervision of N. R. A. representatives on local ranges. The N. R. A. reserves the right to reject entries if satisfactory arrangements cannot be made for proper supervision. The conditions provide:

Number of shots—Fifty.

Rifle—Any .22 caliber rifle weighing not over ten pounds. Use of sling allowed.

Sight—Any. Rear sight may be placed on any part of the rifle.

Position—Prone; no part of extended arm to touch the ground except at the elbow. No artificial support to any part of the rifle except sling.

Target—The N. R. A. competition gallery target having five bull's-eyes. Each competitor will be furnished with ten officially numbered targets by the N. R. A. Five shots only will be fired on each target, one at each bull's-eye.

Time—One hour will be allowed for firing fifty shots, time being taken from the first shot. No allowance for changing targets.

All scores must be shot under the supervision of a judge appointed by the N. R. A. and two witnesses, all of whom will sign the official targets.

Official scores can be shot any day between April 23 and May 5, 1917.

Ammunition—Any.

Distance—Seventy-five feet.

Trigger pull—Not less than three pounds.

Entrance fee—Two dollars for each competitor.

Entries close April 20, 1917.

Prizes—First, a Gold Championship Medal and a Life Membership in the N. R. A.; second, a Bronze Medal and a five-year membership in the N. R. A.; third, a Bronze Medal and three-year membership in the N. R. A.; fourth to tenth, Bronze Medals.

New "Paster" Devised

G. C. Brown, Secretary of the Eastern Detroit Gun Club, writes of what is apparently a useful improvement in pasting targets. He says:

"During the shooting season of 1916 we devised a means of pasting targets which was such a great improvement over the method in vogue at the range that we thought other clubs might be interested. For the benefit of any who wish to use our scheme the following description will be sufficient to enable anyone to try it out.



The Championship Medal

"In our case a sample malted milk bottle was used. Any bottle having a screw cap will be suitable. Around the bottle close to the top two layers of electricians friction tape was wound, and over this a strip of cloth was sewed. To this strip a safety pin was attached. The pin enabled the bottle to be fastened to the coat or belt of the target tender, whichever was found to be the most convenient. Into the bottle a sponge was placed which extended to the bottom of the bottle. The water used had a few drops of carbolic acid added to prevent the water becoming stagnant.

"Pasters, gummed, made by the Dennison Company in strips placed in cardboard boxes were found to be the most convenient and cleanly to handle.

"To close a shot hole a paster was torn off wiped across the saturated sponge and applied. The operation was done in about one-fourth the time it took to do it by the old paste-pot method. The black pasters were kept in one pocket and the white in the opposite. After a little practice the service at the targets was improved at least 50 per cent.

"We feel that we can recommend this method, and urge a trial. Any improvements will be welcomed."

Indoor Range for Baltimore

Ten targets, on trolleys in a lower tier, and a like number operated from an upper deck, have been installed in the gymnasium hall of the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore. The new indoor gallery, located within a short distance of the center of the city is designed for the convenience of all members of rifle clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association.

Twenty Winchester .22 calibre muskets have been purchased as well as a large stock of ammunition of the same calibre. It is proposed to sell the ammunition at cost and charge nothing for the use of rifles.

The work of installing targets and fitting up the range has been done by non-com-

missioned officers of the U. S. Marine Corps, two of whom will be stationed in Baltimore to conduct the shooting, also acting as instructors, and the range will be open every week day from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

It is confidently expected that the number of civilian rifle teams in the city will increase from now on. Twenty-four such teams are now taking part in a series of matches to decide the team championship of the city clubs. The Consolidated Gas Co., the Chesapeake Telephone Co., the Old Guard of the Fourth Maryland Infantry and the Veteran Corps of the Fifth Infantry are making arrangements to organize rifle clubs, and every large corporation in the city is being canvassed to the same end.

One of the first matches to be shot in the new range will be to decide the individual small-bore rifle championship of the city.

Sighting Shots

Lieut. W. A. Lee, Jr., U. S. N., at present on duty as an inspector with a Chicago factory, has volunteered his assistance in instructing the rifle clubs of Chicago in the use of the service arm.

Lieutenant Lee is an accomplished and enthusiastic rifleman, who for several years was a member of the Navy team participating in the National matches. Lieutenant Lee has himself won the National Individual match.

The use of all ranges and equipment controlled by the Michigan State Rifle Association, together with the services of many expert riflemen, has been offered the President by this organization. The vote was taken at a meeting held April 7 and the proffer of the association transmitted to the President by Dr. S. E. Sanderson, of Detroit.

Although the members of the Highland Park Rifle Club, of Detroit, Mich., are married men with dependents, each has volunteered for guard or patrol duty, or, in case of necessity, for foreign service according to a resolution adopted by that organization recently, in which all members pledged themselves as approving the action of the Government in the crisis with Germany.

T. K. Lee, of the Birmingham (Ala.) Rifle Club, holder of many world's records for rifle shooting, is among the first of the civilian riflemen to volunteer as an instructor.

The Beloit (Wis.) Rifle Club is preparing to offer military training to its members, who include many expert riflemen.

Charles Drechsel, secretary of the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Rifle Club, is one of the strongest advocates for civilian participation in the present emergency. He says:

"At a time in a national crisis like the present, and when many individuals and organizations are offering their services to the Government, why has not more been heard from or about a most valuable asset—the civilian rifleman? With approximately 1,500 civilian rifle clubs affiliated with the N. R. A., 30,000 expert rifle and pistol shots could be mobilized almost at a moment's notice, allow-

ing only an average of twenty members to a club.

"To go further, let us say that each club has only ten members who own and shoot the Springfield rifle, and who are willing to serve, would not 15,000 trained men be an important asset?"

H. G. Franse, secretary of the Ajo (Ariz.) Rifle Club, rejected for active duty on account of physical disability, is willing to volunteer as an instructor in the use of the military rifle. A tender of services has been made by the entire membership of the club.

The Marion (Ohio) Rifle Club, at a meeting held April 10, volunteered its services in the present crisis "to be used in any way the President sees fit."

INQUIRIES OF GENERAL INTEREST

In this column will appear excerpts from requests for information and for official interpretations, made to the National Rifle Association, the replies to which may be of a generally informative nature.

Q. If a majority of club members use the Springfield rifle in their qualification shooting, would it be permissible for these men to draw their allowance of Krag ammunition and sell it to fellow-members using the Krag rifle, and apply the proceeds to the purchase of Springfield cartridges?

A. The ammunition drawn under the free issue cannot be sold under any circumstances.

Q. Is a mask allowed when shooting on the watch-fob qualification target?

A. There is no objection to the masking of targets on the watch-fob qualification shooting.

Q. What is the present price of the Krag carbine to members of rifle clubs?

A. These arms are hard to obtain, the supply being practically exhausted. The carbine is listed at present at \$12.50 for the new weapon and \$6.50 for one which has been cleaned and repaired.

Q. If the owner of a Springfield should have the knob of the bolt handle knurled, would the rifle be disqualified for use in official matches?

A. The arm would be disqualified if the match conditions called for the service rifle as issued.

Q. How should the 1902 rear sight on a Krag be set for rapid fire under the rule requiring battle sight, and how should a similar adjustment be made on the 1901 rear sight?

A. When battle sight is desired on the 1902 sight, the leaf should be laid flat, with the slide bar at zero. On the 1901 sight, the slide bar is set at the letter "B."

Q. Is the front-sight base of the Springfield '03 model made integral with the barrel, or is it brazed on?

A. The sight base is brazed on.

Clubs Admitted to N. R. A. Membership During the Past Week Include:

CIVILIAN

Arkansas.

Fordyce Rifle Club—C. D. Kenesson, secretary; J. H. Meek, president; W. H. Simmons, vice-president; E. C. Benton, treasurer; T. C. Hagins, executive officer. Membership, 46.

California.

Victorville Rifle Club—G. H. Matthews, secretary; Reginald Frost, president; L. D. Gilbert, vice-president; Ray D. Sperry, treasurer; J. M. Klassen, executive officer. Membership, 35.

Colorado.

Salida Rifle Club—George Judelovitz, secretary; C. Y. Waggner, president; W. E. Wilson, vice-president; R. M. Hanks, treasurer; W. H. French, executive officer. Membership, 10.

Connecticut.

Bankers Rifle Club (Waterbury)—W. S. Brakenridge, secretary; C. L. Holmes, president; John Franchini, vice-president; Wm. J. Tetro, treasurer; A. F. Magraw, executive officer. Membership, 53.

Maryland.

Sparrows Point Rifle Club—L. E. Gilmore, secretary; M. J. Scammell, president; L. B. Robertson, vice-president; W. S. Watson, treasurer; R. B. Gerhardt, executive officer. Membership, 30.

Montana.

Powder River Rifle Club (Moorhead)—N. L. Anderson, secretary; H. F. Boyer, president; W. A. Helm, vice-president; B. W. Peterson, treasurer; R. E. Powers, executive officer. Membership, 12.

New Jersey.

Bloomfield Rifle Club—Charles M. David, secretary; Clifford Towner, president; C. R. Martin, vice-president; R. S. Boardman, treasurer; George Hendrickson, executive officer. Membership, 98.

Nutley Rifle Club—W. Chapin Condit, secretary; Edward E. Carroll, president; Eugene V. N. Fuller, vice-president; Edgar Bellows, treasurer; Wm. F. Herbert, executive officer. Membership, 20.

New York.

Bayside Revolver and Rifle Club (Bayside, L. I.)—Ralph H. Roberts, secretary; Otto E. Kraft, president; Howard B. Boden, vice-president; V. P. Fogh, treasurer; T. H. Dunkerton, executive officer. Membership, 37.

Copenhagen Rifle Club—S. W. Parsons, secretary; George C. Parsons, president; William H. Cramer, vice-president; S. W. Parsons, treasurer; Chas. H. Carpenter, executive officer. Membership, 25.

Corbett Rifle Club—Merritt C. Stuart, secretary; J. Leonard Stuart, jr., president; Gideon Gregory, vice-president; Channing Garrison, treasurer; Henry E. Rowe, executive officer. Membership, 35.

Forest Hills Rifle Club—Clarence A. Perry, secretary; Thomas H. Todd, president; John J. Sheahan, vice-president; Wm. H. Wood, treasurer; L. W. Renfrew, executive officer. Membership, 105.

Greene Rifle Club—Nathan E. Davis, secretary; Russell T. Goff, president; Chas. W. Gray, vice-president; Chas. J. Gray, treasurer; Thomas W. Milstead, executive officer. Membership, 35.

Home Defense Rifle Club (New Rochelle)—C. A. Snider, secretary; W. J. Battey, president; John List, vice-president; R. G. Vaughan, treasurer; L. J. Joscelyn, executive officer. Membership, 43.

Huntington Rifle Club—Allison E. Lundes, secretary; Frank P. Willets, president; Roy W. Lindsay, vice-president; Emmett B. Hawkins, treasurer. Membership, 35.

Mercantile Marine Rifle Club (New York City)—R. Jenkins, secretary; T. R. Thorne, president; G. V. H. Blauvelt, vice-president;

L. E. Archer, treasurer; J. S. Mahooe, executive officer. Membership, 57.

Oxford Rifle Club—George L. Stafford, secretary; W. G. Frisbie, president; W. A. Mueller, vice-president; Jesse Jacobs, treasurer; Wayne Benedict, executive officer. Membership, 75.

Twenty-first Maccabee Rifle Club (Auburn)—S. H. Whitmee, secretary; J. A. Walsh, president; R. R. Westover, vice-president; F. E. Mott, treasurer; Eugene D. Price, executive officer. Membership, 34.

Westbury Rifle Club—G. Lester Eastman, secretary; John R. Hill, president; John G. Milburn, jr., vice-president; George S. Silliman, treasurer; Frank J. Tappen, executive officer. Member, 82.

North Carolina.

Davidson Rifle Club—Chas. M. Stiles, secretary; James M. Blue, president; Z. K. Justice, vice-president; Edwin Johnston, treasurer; John W. MacConnell, executive officer. Membership, 51.

Oregon.

Canyon City Rifle Club—A. D. Leedy, secretary; John A. Muldrick, president; J. M. Blank, vice-president; P. W. McRoberts, treasurer; R. W. Cozad, executive officer. Membership, 38.

Myrtle Point Revolver and Rifle Club—Don W. Snyder, secretary; F. G. Bunch, president; Clarke W. Fensler, vice-president; R. A. Annin, treasurer; J. F. Vernon, executive officer. Membership, 16.

Pennsylvania.

Harrison Valley Rifle Club—George Michelfelder, secretary; C. M. LeCount, president; G. E. Stone, vice-president; H. S. Bartoo, treasurer; J. D. Seagers, executive officer. Membership, 40.

Wilkesburg Rifle Club—E. E. Young, secretary; M. W. Palmer, president; W. A. Klingensmith, vice-president; J. M. Snyder, treasurer; Joseph M. Brown, executive officer. Membership, 32.

Porto Rico.

Guanica Rifle Club (Ensenada)—J. T. Maylott, secretary; F. T. Maxwell, president; J. J. Magill, vice-president; E. J. Lieder, treasurer; J. O. Treanor, executive officer. Membership, 13.

Washington.

Pomeroy Rifle Club—W. F. Taylor, secretary; H. L. Chard, president; F. M. Robinson, vice-president; E. E. Powell, treasurer; W. O. Long, executive officer. Membership, 60.

Wisconsin.

Green Bay Rifle Club—R. W. Spring, secretary; C. W. Byrnes, president; F. A. Simpson, vice-president; H. C. Nicholson, treasurer; Royal Ralph, executive officer. Membership, 12.

COLLEGE CLUB

Kansas.

Fairmount College Rifle Club (Wichita) Fred Dyche, secretary; W. G. Binnewies, president; Fred Dyche, treasurer; Ralph Morgan, captain. Membership, 54.

LIFE MEMBERS

Paul V. Bacon, Boston, Mass.
George W. Drucker, New York City.
George Korb, New York City.
Roswell F. Taylor, Watertown, N. Y.
Sydney Thayer, Jr., Haverford, Pa.



REVOLVER AND PISTOL

Finals Announced In U.S.R.A. Matches

THE Portland, Oregon, Revolver Club has been officially announced as the high-score aggregation in the recent U. S. R. A. Indoor League contest, being credited with a clean sweep of twenty matches won and none lost. At the same time, the line-up of all the clubs

in the contest has been announced. The official report shows:

Class	Club	Won	Lost
Class A	Portland Revolver Club.....	20	0
	Olympic Club	18	2
	Boston Rifle & Revolver Club.....	18	2
	Springfield Revolver Club.....	17	3
Class B	Spokane Rifle & Revolver Club....	17	3
	Seattle Rifle & Revolver Assn.....	15	5
	Manhattan Rifle & Revolver Assn..	12	8
	Rifle & Revolver Club of New York	12	8
Class C	Cincinnati Revolver Federation...	12	8
	St. Louis-Colonial Revolver Club..	11	9
	Providence Revolver Club.....	9	11
	Chicago Revolver Club.....	9	11
Class D	Columbus Revolver Club.....	8	12
	Youngstown Rifle & Revolver Club	7	13
	Dallas Rifle & Revolver Club.....	6	14
	Manito Pistol & Rifle Club.....	6	14
Class E	Aspinwall Revolver Club.....	6	14
	Quinnipiac Rifle & Revolver Club..	3	17
	Citizens Revolver Club.....	2	18
	Toledo Rifle & Pistol Club.....	2	18

At the close of the regular schedule these clubs were tied for place:

Olympic and Boston; Springfield and Spokane; Manhattan, R. R. N. Y. and Cincinnati; Providence and Chicago; Dallas, Manito and Aspinwall; Citizens and Toledo. These ties were "shot off," with the scores as below:

Olympic, 684; Boston, 664.
Springfield, 685; Spokane, 642.
Manhattan, 664; R. R. N. Y., 659.
Providence, 630; Chicago, 625.
Citizens, 627; Toledo, 606.
Dallas, 628; Manito, 622.

None of the individuals made five-shot possibles in the shoot off, but the following have 49 x 50 to their credit:

Dolfen, of Springfield, 3; Van Matre, of Cincinnati; Armstrong, of Olympic; Fennell and Nash, of Boston.

The returns from the Annual Indoor Championship Contest are not complete yet, but the following shooting centers took part:

Ancon, Canal Zone; Baltimore, Md.; Big Rapids, Mich.; Boston, Mass.; Brattleboro, Vt.; Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati, O.; Columbus, O.; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colo.; Durango, Colo.; Havana, Cuba; Milton, Wis.; Montpelier, Vt.; Montreal, Canada; New Haven, Conn.; New York, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Portland, Ore.; St. Louis, Mo.; San Francisco, Cal.; Springfield, Mass.; Toledo, Ohio; Toronto, Canada; Van Alstyne, Texas; Worcester, Mass.; Youngstown, Ohio, and Zolfo, Florida.

It promises to beat all best previous records in matter of number of entries.

The Automatic In Mounted Action

By "HAIR TRIGGER"

FROM time to time many pistol enthusiasts have heard reports that the .45 automatic was not adapted for mounted action in spite of its straight shooting qualities when used by infantrymen.

Not very long ago the question was asked of ARMS AND THE MAN as to whether the troopers on the Villa punitive expedition experienced difficulty with jams, and whether the automatic small arm had not otherwise proved impractical. At the time, there was no evidence that such was the case.

On the contrary, Capt. H. J. McKenny, of the Twelfth Cavalry, U. S. A., has expressed the opinion that in at least one actual engagement, the Army automatic proved entirely satisfactory when used from horseback. What Captain McKenny had to say in discussing this question for the *United States Cavalry Journal* will doubtless be of interest to most pistol enthusiasts. In summing up his opinion, the captain said:

"Relative to the merits and demerits of the new Colt's Automatic, calibre .45, in mounted action, the question of its practicability and danger was brought up, during a recent conversation with Maj. Robert L. Howze, Eleventh Cavalry, at General Pershing's headquarters in Mexico.

"The advocates of the new pistol and its use in mounted action will receive these statements with satisfaction and complacency, while those who have decried its practicability and have denounced it as being more dangerous to the trooper who uses it, and his comrades, than to his enemy, should receive them

with an open mind and endeavor to orient their ideas. We have the pistol and we may have to use it mounted.

"That it can be used, mounted, has been proven, because it was used recently in one short, sharp, decisive mounted action 'somewhere in Mexico.' Two troopers of Major Howze's 'Picked Squadron' passed through a gate into an adobe corral; took a hurdle from two and a half to three feet high in passing; deployed; drew pistol and charged, with the enemy firing from time they entered the gate.

"The ability to do this was the result of training. During this training, in the field and in action, the following items were noted:

"1. The new Colt's Automatic, calibre .45, must be kept constantly clean and oiled—cleaned daily, no matter how adverse the circumstances may be.

"2. The horse must be so trained that he becomes accustomed to the sight and sound of it.

"3. The trooper must know his pistol, and, through training, must be able to handle it, almost unconsciously, when mounted, at a run; his actions being automatically sure in the manipulation of all parts of its firing and reloading mechanism.

"The two greatest difficulties in its use, mounted, seem to be the changing of magazines and reloading the chamber, when galloping or at a run. These can be overcome only by training and practice.

"There will be no argument, probably, as to whether or not the pistol shoots straight, dis-

mounted. That it can be used mounted we have seen. It has been issued to us for both mount and dismounted use, and there may come a moment in the service of every troop when its use, mounted, may become history of permanent fame, and the failure to use it, mounted, may become history of another sort."

Harrington Is High.

First of the April pistol matches to be each Tuesday night at the range of the Worcester, Mass., pistol and rifle club, Lowell building, was won by E. C. Harrington with 196. With his handicap Harrington scored 100 at his first target and 96 at his second target. D. J. Cullity was second with 191, getting 95 at his first target and 96 at his second target with his handicap. R. A. Ewing was third with 187.

The prone and rapid fire shoot will be tomorrow night. Scores:—

	1st Target	2d Target	Total
E. C. Harrington....	100	96	196
P. J. Cullity.....	95	96	191
R. A. Ewing.....	92	95	187
W. L. Shipman	96	90	186
D. R. Nichols	94	89	183
H. A. Allen.....	95	83	178
P. J. Griffin	85	87	172
F. H. Harrington...	92	80	172
G. M. Rittenhouse..	82	89	171
H. C. Dyke.....	85	85	170
R. P. Taylor	64	90	154
J. Wetherbee	66	79	145
E. W. Brooks	93	70	143

Montreal Wins Series.

Of the six matches in the Toronto-Montreal mail shoot between the revolver clubs of the respective cities, the Montrealers won four and Toronto two. The latter captured the sixth and last match by the margin of one point only, the score being 1,004 to 1,003. The individual scores in the final shoot are as follows:

Montreal R. C.—

F. Dumfries	87	85	172
H. Desbarats	89	80	169
K. D. Young	88	80	168
J. Boa	84	83	167
F. B. Allen	82	82	164
G. M. Le Hain	78	85	163
Total			1,003

Toronto R. C.—

D. S. Williams	85	92	177
A. Rutherford	85	86	171
R. Clarke	83	85	168
W. J. Medforth	80	84	164
J. P. White	82	82	164
T. G. Margetts	77	83	160
Total			1,004

The six matches of the series resulted as follows:

	<i>Won</i>		<i>Lost</i>
Montreal	963	Toronto	951
Montreal	986	Toronto	983
Montreal	1,003	Toronto	974

Montreal	1,005	Toronto	989
Toronto	974	Montreal	969
Toronto	1,004	Montreal	1,003

The Value of Pistol Shooting

Everyone knows that marksmanship is not the only essential to make a proficient soldier and one that would be of use in the event of war, but I have often thought that other necessary rudiments could be more quickly and easily taught than marksmanship. Any able-bodied man would in the course of a few months become so hardened in the field as to be able to stand most hardships and the manual of arms and sufficient drilling ability could likely be taught in the same time; but it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to make a marksman out of one of fair ability in this length of time. And especially when you consider the knowledge and experience necessary for judging wind, distance or other conditions which must be taken into consideration in modern warfare, which is constantly requiring more accuracy at longer ranges. Further, history shows that when any nation is involved, time and excitement forbids the necessary training required to become efficient.

I have observed one noticeable fact which has few exceptions and that is: the majority of men who are to any extent proficient with a revolver are good marksmen with the rifle, but the opposite is by no means true. Many have no doubt noticed that the majority of our good rifle shots would make a very poor show-

ing with a revolver without some practice. This proves, in my mind, that the revolver is the hardest arm to shoot, due no doubt to distance between sights, more inclination to flinch and the more difficult to hold with the same degree of steadiness, owing to the unsupported position of the hand; the rifle, of course, not only having more weight, but permitting the use of both hands, and being backed against the shoulder, does eliminate to a great extent the item of steadiness, which is the main trouble in revolver shooting.

Of course, any revolver shot must learn proper sighting and release the trigger properly to become proficient, but his main trouble is holding the gun steady, and most of rifle shooting now being from the prone position, the revolver shot has the art of rifle shooting mastered when he begins.

It is my opinion that if six expert rifle shooters were matched with an equal number of revolver marksmen and an equal number of shots fired by each team with revolver and rifle under average conditions, that the revolver team would make the highest score.

The U. S. R. A. was, I understand, organized not only, as told us by Captain Sayre, to raise a match team, but also to create some standard of scores. It would seem that the association has certainly accomplished both results, for when we compare the standard of other sports, it clearly shows that the distance, targets and records make it easily possible to ascertain the standing of contestants. —C. M. McCutchen, in the *U. S. R. A. Bulletin*.

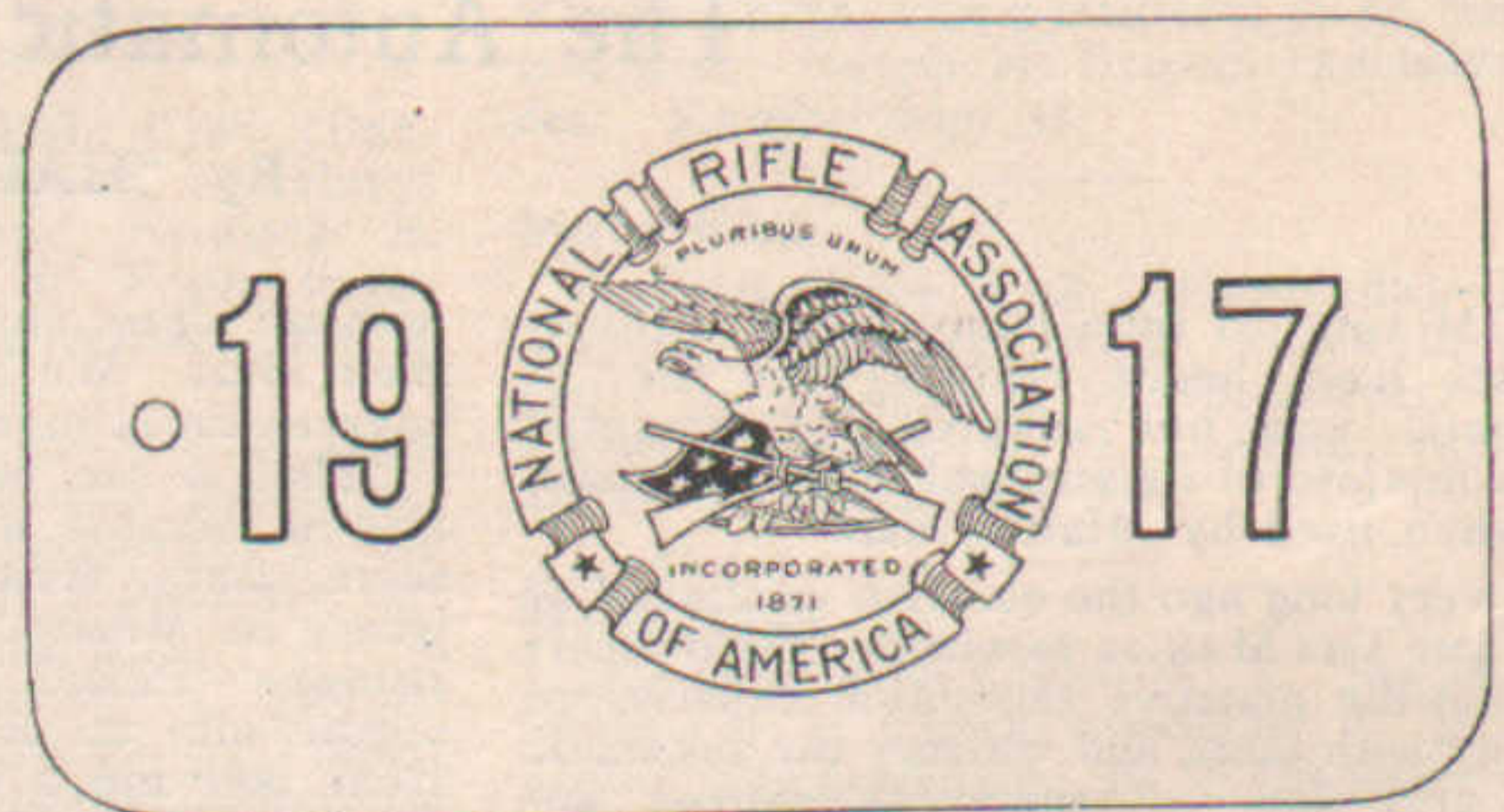
Are You Reloading



Send Us the Name and Caliber of Your Rifle

RIFLE SMOKELESS DIVISION
E. I. DUPONT DENEMOURS & COMPANY
 WILMINGTON, DEL.

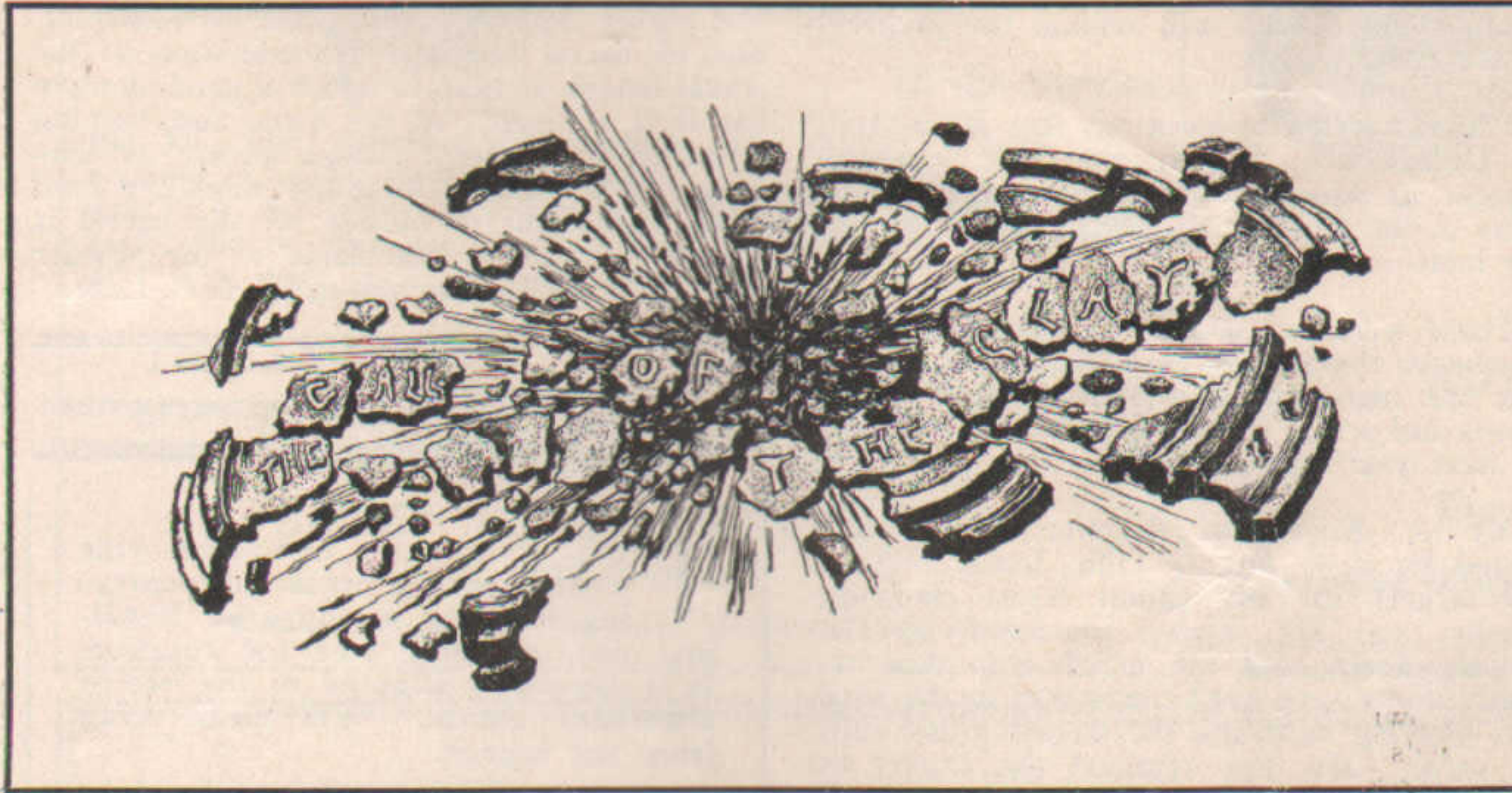
Rifle Club Membership Cards



THIS size and cut of membership card, seal and year tinted in rifle green, makes an attractive and valuable credential for club members when black print is used over the tint. Many rifle clubs used cards of this pattern in 1916. More should take advantage of their possibilities in 1917.

The cards are sold to rifle clubs at the low cost of \$1.00 the hundred.

ARMS AND THE MAN
 WASHINGTON, D. C.



Beware of the Amateur Instructor

By P. J. HOLOHAN

THE IDEAS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE BY MR. HOLOHAN, A 95 PER CENT TRAPSHOT, ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE EXPRESSED BY OTHER EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS, BUT COMING FROM A MAN OF MR. HOLOHAN'S STANDING AND ABILITY, THEY ARE WORTH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THE ambitious beginner in the trapshooting sport has many artificial difficulties to contend against, besides the natural difficulty of building up gun muscles and organizing co-operation between eye, nerve and trigger finger.

In my opinion, the road from the first shot to a 95 per cent average is blocked with two formidable artificial obstacles, namely: The thoughtless advice of enthusiastic friends, and the exaggerated importance of gun fit, loads and other mechanical considerations.

Success in trapshooting, as in every other game of skill, is 98 per cent personal application. If we expect to excel, we must pay the price of unusual effort. No one can teach us to shoot: we must learn by experience, observation and hard work.

When a new shooter comes to a club and states that he knows nothing about shooting, all the good fellows, regardless of ability, knowledge or experience, are anxious to give him what they intend to be helpful instruction. The friend who does not know where the shot from his own gun is going, even with the weapon at his shoulder and lined up before his eyes, thinks he can, with his back turned, tell the beginner where the latter is shooting.

I will venture to say that no man can stand behind a shooter and tell within 18 inches of where the gun is pointing at a standing object 35 yards away, let alone giving exact information about holding on a flying streak that is only in range for a second. To judge even approximately where the shot goes, one must pull the trigger himself.

This idea is well illustrated by the remarks of a bright young lady when she appeared at the traps for the first time, never having fired a shot previously. After having broken two targets, by grace of the referee, and making one actual break out of fifty shots, she informed the writer that her case was hopeless so far as becoming a trapshooter was concerned. She said:

"I had four different instructors. The first assured me that my shots were too high; the second declared I was shooting too low; the third insisted that I shot to the right, while

the fourth was sure all my shots were going to the left. If any fault was shooting too low, the remedy would be to shoot higher, and if shooting to the right I could aim more to the left, but since I was guilty of all those errors every time I shot, I can see no remedy. I don't understand. I guess it's my clumsy way of shooting the bullets out."

An experienced instructor will show the beginner how to hold the gun; see that he holds it the same while pulling the trigger; give instructions as to elevation and lead, then carefully note the targets missed and be sure he is right before making any suggestions. If, after watching the beginner shoot at different traps, with corresponding different angles and elevations, he finds that the pupil misses the high targets and hits a fair number of low targets, he has the best of evidence that the shooter is holding low and can safely advise him to shoot higher. The same method of observation will indicate as to cross-firing, by noticing that the shooter hits targets thrown at certain angles and misses those that go in the opposite direction.

If one would be an instructor, he must watch, note and study his pupil. There is no rule of thumb or royal road to success as a teacher any more than there is a marksman. Personal effort, demanding work and study, is the only avenue to proficiency. Hundreds of times the writer has been interrupted while keeping note on a new shooter for the purpose of detecting his faults, by a friend who happened along and decided the case offhand, telling the shooter what to do.

While the new shooter is confused by the bewildering effect of clashing opinions by equally incompetent advisers, along comes the gun-fit crank with a "knockout." The beginner is normal in build, let us suppose; has a normal gun as to drop, pitch, length and shape of stock, and is shooting as well or better than he should expect, considering his experience at the trap, when a well-meaning, enthusiastic friend of the freshman class takes a gun out of the shooter's hands, throws it to his shoulder, squints along the barrel,

then turns to the beginner with surprise and alarm in his voice and says:

"Why, man, you can't shoot that gun; it has too much drop; it's too long in the stock and too full in the cheek rest for you. (Picking up his own gun.) Now there's the kind of a gun for you."

The beginner, especially if he has plenty of money, feels relieved. He imagined there was something wrong and is glad to know that his low scores were not due to inexperience—not his fault in any way; merely a mechanical trouble to be remedied by getting the right kind of a gun.

The damage is done. The beginner turns away from the steep and rocky path of personal effort that leads upwards and takes the paved boulevard of mechanical advantage that forever circles on the same level. He joins the long train of mediocres in their never-ending pilgrimage in quest of the 96 per cent gun.

Strange as it may seem, I am firmly of the opinion that the possession of wealth is a detriment to proficiency in trapshooting. The man with limited means, who cannot indulge in gun experiments, buckles down to shooting, without thought of new guns he cannot afford, and learns to break targets. The man with lots of money, in many cases, is constantly endeavoring to beat the game—trying to out-gun the other fellow and find a short cut to proficiency. In many cases the art of shooting is superseded by the pleasure of experiment. Changing guns finally becomes a habit.

I find, by talking to new shooters, that the majority of them do not understand the principle governing the object of a straight stock. They know that a straight stock (one with high comb and heel) makes them shoot high, but they do not seem to understand why. The object in making a gun stock straight is to keep the shooter from dropping his eye to the sighting plane of the breech. It is intended to have the same effect on the shotgun as the elevation of the rear sight has on a rifle. I have met many new shooters, and a few experienced ones, who do not seem to understand this principle. They make their gun stocks abnormally straight and then crane their necks and squeeze their cheeks down on the comb to get their eye on a level with the breech, making every effort possible to overcome the object for which the stock was made straight.

CONCENTRATION VITAL TO GOOD SHOTGUN SCORES

PERHAPS you may recall the old adage, "Tend to Your Knitting." It's one of those old trite, but true, sayings that have been handed down through generations and—most applicable and appropriate when it comes to the matter of trapshooting.

Trapshooting demands concentration—earnest concentration. To be a good trapshooter you must think of only one thing. You must devote all your mind and all your energy on the one task at hand—i. e., the smashing of the target, not only with one target but with every consecutive target at which you shoot.

Above everything always remember to pay absolutely no attention to what your fellow-shooters are doing. Oftentimes a single miss has led to several and has spoiled what might have been a perfectly good squad score just because some member of the squad temporarily forgot and directed his attention to something other than the work at hand.

Don't get frustrated—keep cool; is another sound piece of advice for the trapshooting novice. And don't try too hard. Quite frequently an unseasoned beginner will start out with a record of breaking a half dozen or more targets straight—and then he will "go all to pieces"—and simply be unable to hit a target for the balance of the trial.

The cause for this may be generally attributed to the elation of success and the firm

resolve that he is not going to miss a single target. The result is that he gets keyed up to such an unnatural pitch in his effort to make sure of getting his target, he tries too hard, and his power to aim accurately gets slower and slower until the deed is done and he misses.

Then it's practically all off, and unless the shooter collects his wits—"pulls himself together"—and shoots more quickly the chances are certain that the final score credited to him will be far lower than it might have been considering the good start he had made.

Watch keenly for your target every time, and when it comes into sight go after it and get it as quickly as you can. Also here are a few important hints relative to the handling of a gun that may not be amiss here even if they are somewhat ancient.

Never point a gun at anybody whether you know the gun is empty or not. It may not be; and remember the didn't-know-it-was-loaded excuse is by no means satisfactory. Some time some friend may ask you to put his gun to your shoulder and see how well it fits, etc. If this happens, open the gun and make sure that it is harmless. Even if your friend has told you that it is not loaded, he will approve and appreciate your extra care.

Never put a shell into your gun except when you are at the score and ready to shoot. If by any chance the trap breaks down and there is a delay in the shooting open your gun and take out the shell.

Never on club grounds or where there are other people about place a loaded gun on your shoulder or let it rest in the hollow of your arm, even if the hammer is at "half cock" or "the safety up." You may think the gun "safe," but aside from the probable danger incurred, consider the feelings of the people near you. It is decidedly uncomfortable for either spectators or shooters to have the gun muzzle pointing in their direction.

Scattering Shot

Three-fourths of the trapshooters in the mid-winter tournament at Pinehurst were credited with better than 90 per cent. in the averages.

"Chief" Bender is said to be ready to retire from baseball and accept a position as salesman for an ammunition concern. As an Indian trapshooter the "Chief" should be a good attraction at least.

Charley Newcomb, the former national amateur champion, has been seriously ill for some time. He was at Pinehurst—but not at the traps.

Farmers' Gun Clubs are becoming all the rage. In nearly every part of the country the men who till the soil are forming clubs so that they can shoot all the year round, instead of the few months of the hunting season.

Trapshooting has become very popular with the women who spend the winter season at Lakewood. So popular has the sport become that the Laurel House Gun Club has secured the services of Mrs. B. G. Earle, of New York, to give instruction to the Fair Dianas, who desire to know the whys and wherefore of the "sport alluring."

The New York Athletic Club will stage a George L. Lyon Memorial Shoot on Washington's birthday each year. It will be a 200-target event. The winner will be given a duplicate trophy, and will have his name, address and score engraved on the original

Lyon trophy, which will remain the property of the club.

Trapshooters who know say that Mark Arie, of Thomasboro, Ill., is the best handicap shooter in America—and one of the greatest shots in the world. That's praise enough for any man.

There were five women trapshooters in the Pinehurst tournament, and they did so well that the management announces that special events and prizes for the women will be placed on next year's program.

Mr. A. Koyen, of Fremont, Neb., challenged Mr. J. G. Fye, of Ollie, Iowa, to shoot 100 targets for the Elliott Arms challenge trophy, and Mr. Koyen journeyed to Des Moines, Iowa, and the match was shot recently under very hard conditions, as the wind was blowing hard and the targets going fully 65 yards. Mr. Fye retained the trophy by breaking 82 out of his quota to Mr. Koyen's 81. The match was very close all the way through and was decided only after the last target was shot. Both shooters chose the reliable nitro club shells, Mr. Koyen was also high gun in the regular program shooting nitro clubs.

SPORTSMEN'S SHOOTING IRONS—DO THEY WEAR OUT?

A QUESTION that comes to me very frequently is: "How long will my shotgun last?" or "How many shots can I fire from my rifle or revolver before it wears out?"

The shotgun, rifle or revolver that is actually worn out from shooting is a very rare specimen. In fact, I don't remember ever having seen one that outlived its usefulness simply because of the number of shots that have been fired through it.

There are two factors, either or both of which are to blame, when a firearm begins to show signs of premature old age, and, figuratively speaking, shoots with a bad limp.

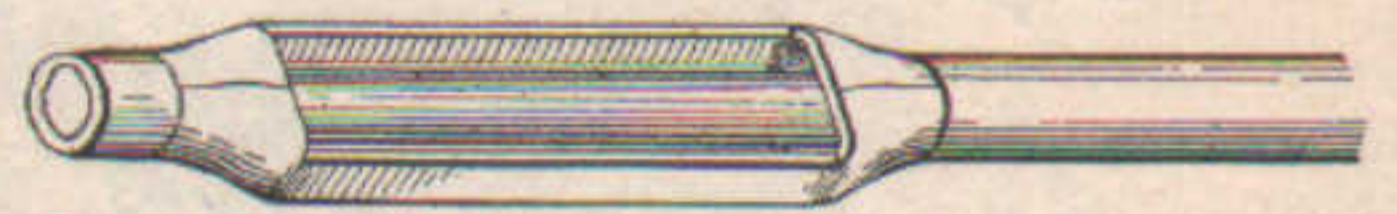
Some people say it is possible to wear a barrel out by cleaning it too much, and it is probably true under certain conditions. If you clean consistently from the muzzle with a rusty and dirty cleaning rod and you are not careful to keep your outfit free from grit, undoubtedly damage will sooner or later be done to the barrel.

It is impossible for anyone to say just how long a firearm will last, because it is impossible to tell beforehand what kind of care it is going to get, and the care it receives makes all the difference between inaccuracy after a few hundred shots and a lifetime of faithful service.

A hunter once told me that in his section of the country they did not use a high-power rifle for more than five hundred shots because, he said, you couldn't hit anything with one after that number of shots. I would be willing to bet that that hunter and his friends did not know even the first principle of barrel cleaning, for a high-power rifle is accurate enough for hunting purposes for several thousand shots if it is given proper care.

It is interesting to compare the length of life of the various types of firearms, assuming, of course, that they are cleaned carefully and consistently. A good shotgun will show practically no falling off in pattern or penetration for probably well over a hundred thousand shots. A .22 calibre rifle and a revolver are both good for thirty or forty thousand shots. A high-power rifle is good for about 3,000 to 5,000 shots; usually the higher the velocity the shorter the life of the barrel. Judging from the above facts, it would appear that the higher the pressure developed by the explosion, the more wear on the barrel, for the shotgun develops the least pressure and the high-power rifle the most.

A rather interesting side light on this question of barrel life is a determination of the actual length of time to which a good shotgun barrel is subjected to the force and burning effect of the powder charge during its lifetime. If a hundred thousand shots are fired from a shotgun the inside of the barrel is actually exposed to the flame of the powder charge for about four minutes.—A. P. Lane.



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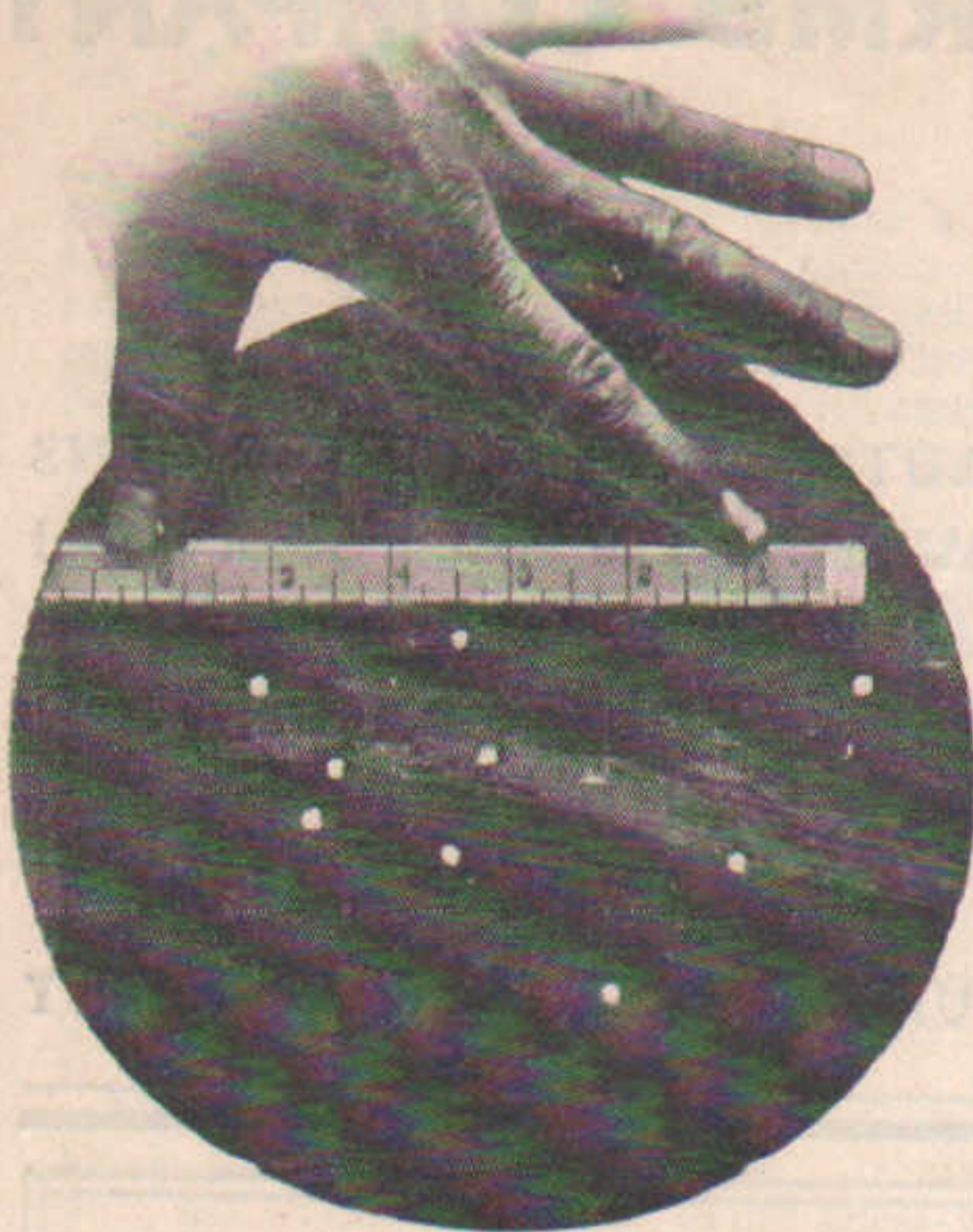
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