

Early FBI Firearms Training & Qualifications

by Larry Wack (1968-2003)

Bureau files recently obtained through the Freedom Of Information Act reveal extensive and interesting documents regarding the Bureau's first acquisition of firearms and the coordinated training involved.

Among 1933 committee members advising Director J. Edgar Hoover on firearms, Special Agent Thomas (Frank) Baughman (1919-1949) played a significant role as adviser and later firearms instructor. Baughman was extremely close to the Director, who served as best man at Baughman's first marriage.

This document is believed to have been created by Baughman in 1935, and was provided to Headquarters and to the field offices. It is one of the earliest known documents used for firearms qualification nationwide. Baughman was a member of the Society from about 1955 to 1969.

(Larry Wack maintains a Web site dedicated to the early FBI and the G-Men of the 1930s. More firearms documents of the era can be found there at: <http://historicalgmen.squarespace.com/>

Note: This form used by this office in reporting firearms training for Supervisors and trainees.

Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

MONTHLY REPORT
Re: Special Agent

1. Pistol

Has employee qualified as a Marksman or better during the past 30 days? Yes () No () Grade ()

Has he during the past 30 days fired 10 shots slow fire at 15 yards? Yes () No ()

Has he during the past 30 days fired 10 shots slow fire at 25 yards? Yes () No ()

Has he during the past 30 days fired 10 shots rapid fire at 15 yards? Yes () No ()

(In rapid fire each string of 5 shots is to be fired in 12 seconds.)

Is he thoroughly familiar with the mechanism of the gun issued to him? Yes () No ()

Is the gun issued to him in perfect condition? Yes () No ()

2. 12 Gauge Automatic Shotgun

Has employee fired at least 5 shots from this gun at 25 yards during the past 30 days? Yes () No ()

3. Thompson Sub-machine Gun

Has employee during the past 30 days fired 10 shots slow fire at 25 yards? Yes () No ()

Has he during the past 30 days fired 10 shots in bursts at 25 yards? Yes () No ()

4. Gas Guns

Has employee at any time fired a projectile from the gas gun? Yes () No ()

Has employee at any time thrown a loaded hand grenade? Yes () No ()

Has employee during the last 30 days received practice in the use of the gas mask? Yes () No ()

Has he witnessed the actual firing of a gas projectile during the past 30 days? Yes () No ()

5. 30.06 Bolt Action Rifle

Has employee during the past 30 days fired 10 shots at 200 yards from this gun? Yes () No ()

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6. Monitor Automatic Rifle

Has employee during the past 30 days fired 10 shots, single shot action, at 100 yards? Yes () No ()

Has employee during the past 30 days fired 10 shots, in short bursts at 100 yards? Yes () No ()

Has this employee received training during the past month under your supervision in connection with the proper assembling and installing of the Vactophone or listening device? Yes () No ()

Has this employee received instruction during the past month under your supervision in connection with the proper method of installing a dial number recording machine? Yes () No ()

Has this employee during the last 30 days received instructions in the development of latent fingerprints? Yes () No ()

Has this employee during the last 30 days received instructions in the lifting of latent fingerprints? Yes () No ()

Has this employee during the last 30 days received instructions in the photographing of latent fingerprints? Yes () No ()

Special Agent in Charge.

Note: In the event any of the foregoing questions are answered in the negative an appropriate detailed explanation must be submitted to the Division with this report.