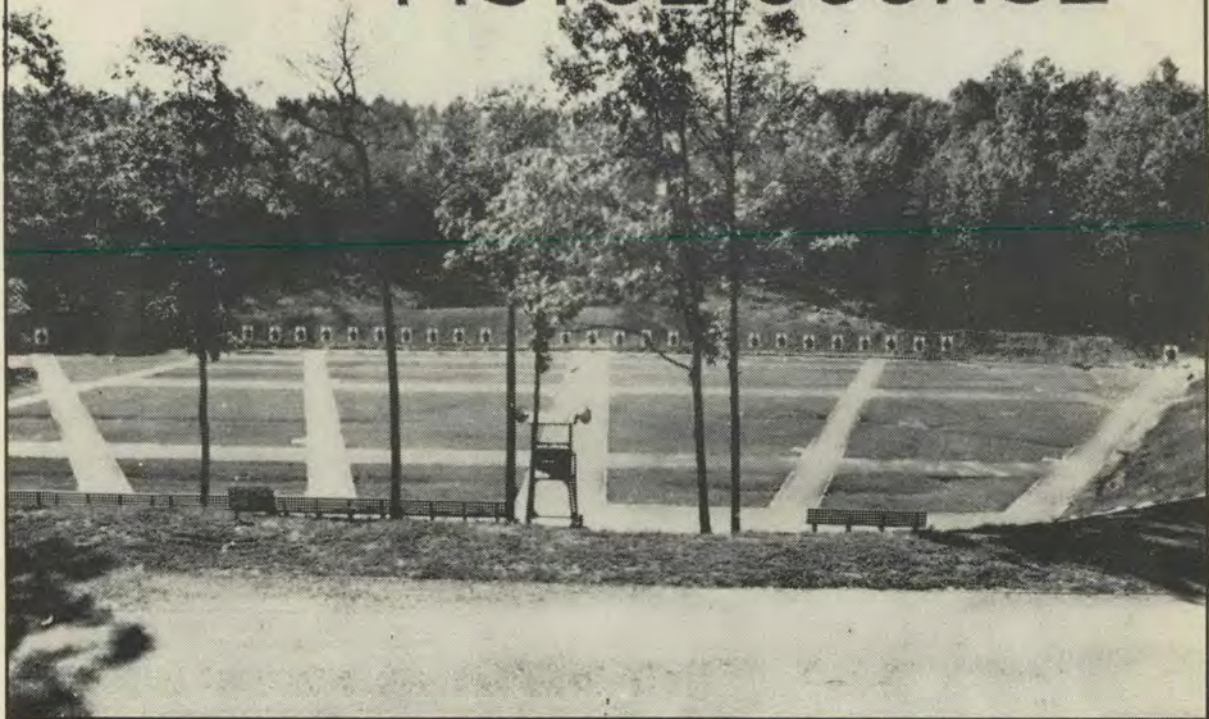


THE FBI PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE



The Practical Pistol Course is a routine range exercise. Fifty shots are scored on the Colt silhouette target in the total time of six minutes and ten seconds. This allotted time covers ten shots fired from the 7-yard line, five from the 60-yard line, twenty from the 50-yard line and fifteen from the 25-yard line. Before the course is completed, the four firing postures - prone, sitting, standing, hip shooting - have been assumed at different fire lines, some of them several times. The course includes firing at close range, at a distance, and from behind barricades.

Every FBI Agent must be able to fire the Practical Pistol Course in the allotted time. This means that he must have practiced until ease, timing and accuracy have been achieved, and until every safety measure incorporated in the firing of the course has become habitual.

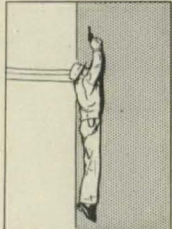
Numerous Police Departments have incorporated the FBI Academy Practical Pistol Course into their regular range practice. Reports indicate an enthusiastic reception.

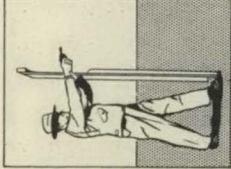
The following picture story reveals every detail of firing the Practical Pistol Course.

FBI ACADEMY PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE

The practical pistol course consists of 50 shots on the Colt silhouette target.

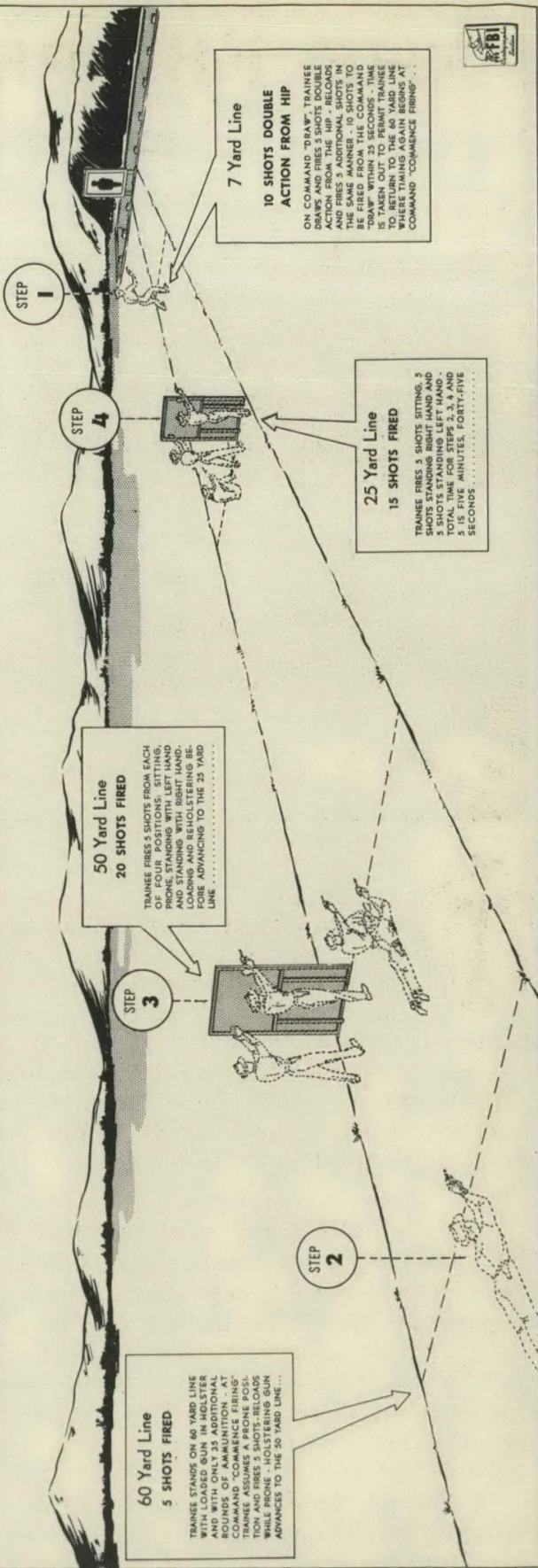
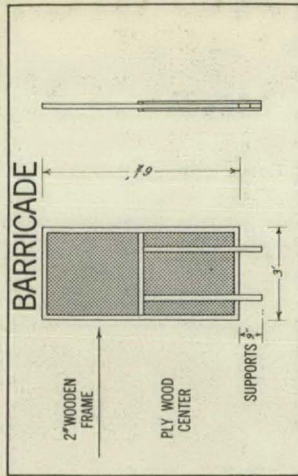
SCORING: SHOTS STRIKING SILHOUETTE SCORED ACCORDING TO THE "K" VALUE OF THAT AREA. SHOTS ONLY STRIKING "D" AREAS ARE SCORED AS MISSES. TOTAL TIME SIX MINUTES AND TEN SECONDS





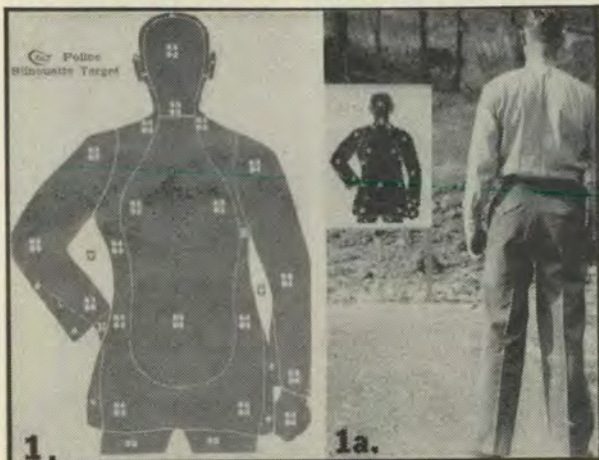

VARIOUS FIRING POSTURES

PRONE SITTING STANDING HIP SHOOTING

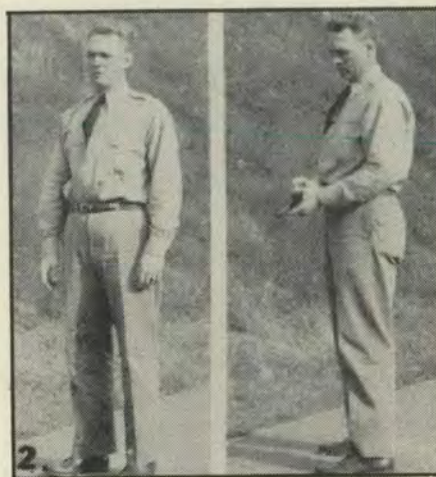


We are about to begin firing the Practical Pistol Course. Ten shots must be fired from the hip in a period of 25 seconds. Distance - seven yards.

1. THE SILHOUETTE TARGET. THIS TARGET SHOWS BOTH K AND D VALUES. K REPRESENTS THE KILL VALUE; D THE DISABLING VALUE. AS SPECIAL AGENTS SHOOT ONLY IN SELF DEFENSE, ONLY THE K VALUE IS SCORED, AS K5 - K4 - K3 - K2.



1a. SHOOTER AT SEVEN-YARD LINE.



2. ON COMMAND SHOOTER LOADS REVOLVER WITH FIVE ROUNDS.



3. AFTER LOADING SHOOTER REHOLSTERS AND AWAITS COMMAND.



"FIRE!" SHOOTER STARTS THE DRAW.

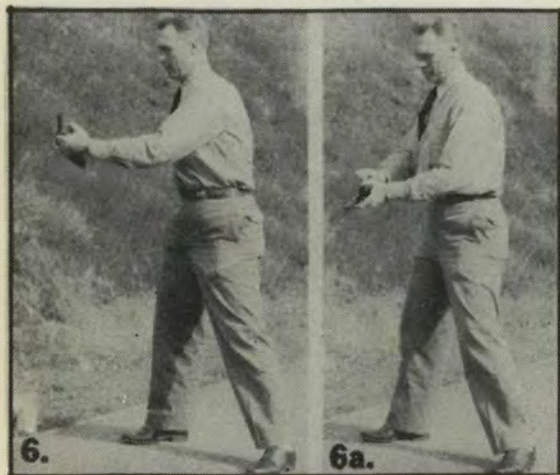


5. SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS, DOUBLE ACTION, FROM THE HIP.

Hipshooting is included in the Practical Pistol Course because it is the quick-draw type essential in close-range emergencies when time does not permit the officer to bring the gun to eye level and sight it. Practice develops great accuracy in this type of shooting.

6. SHOOTER REACHES FOR FIVE ROUNDS TO RELOAD AS HE EJECTS THE FIVE DISCHARGED CARTRIDGES. POSITION OF FEET ARE UNCHANGED TO INSURE ACCURACY ON SECOND FIVE ROUNDS.

6a. SHOOTER RELOADS.



7. SHOOTER FIRES HIS SECOND FIVE ROUNDS. UNLESS HE HAS AN ALIBI HE MUST FIRE THE ENTIRE TEN ROUNDS IN TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.



8. SHOOTER UNLOADS DISCHARGED CARTRIDGES.

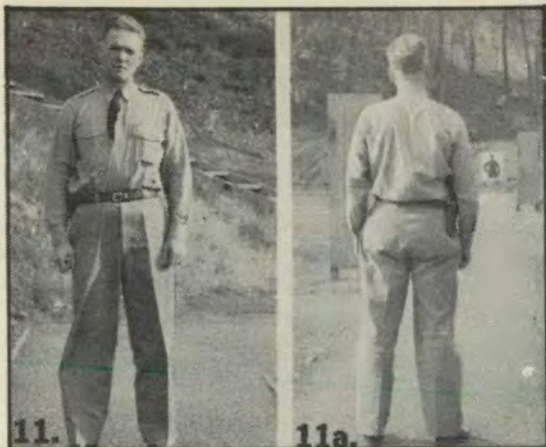


9. SHOOTER HAS REHOLSTERED; IS READY TO RETURN TO THE 60-YARD LINE.



10. SHOOTING LANE AS SEEN FROM THE TARGET. ALL FIRING POINTS SHOWN.





11. AT 60-YARD LINE. SHOOTER AWAITS COMMAND TO LOAD.

11a. SHOOTING LANE AND FIRING POINTS. SHOOTER HAS FORTY ROUNDS IN ALL - FIVE ROUNDS IN GUN, THE REST IN HIS POCKET. HE MUST FIRE THESE - FIVE IN EACH POSITION, IN FIVE MINUTES AND FORTY-FIVE SECONDS.

12. "FIRE!" SHOOTER DROPS TO KNEES AND WHILE STILL UPRIGHT DRAWS THE GUN.



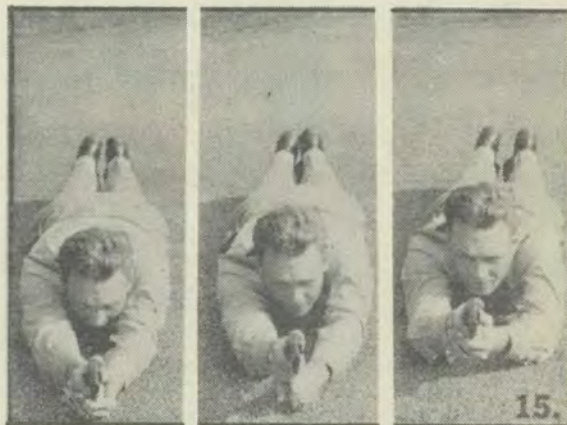
13. CORRECT POSTURE AT TIME GUN IS DRAWN.



14. INCORRECT POSITION. A COMMON ERROR. GUN SHOULD BE POINTED DOWN RANGE ALWAYS.



15. GUN DRAWN, SHOOTER DROPS TO PRONE POSITION TO FIRE FIVE ROUNDS.



There are three possible prone positions. Number one (L. to R.) is preferred. Target is reduced by having feet together, gun close to ground. Gun is steady and at greatest distance from the eye, giving best sight picture.

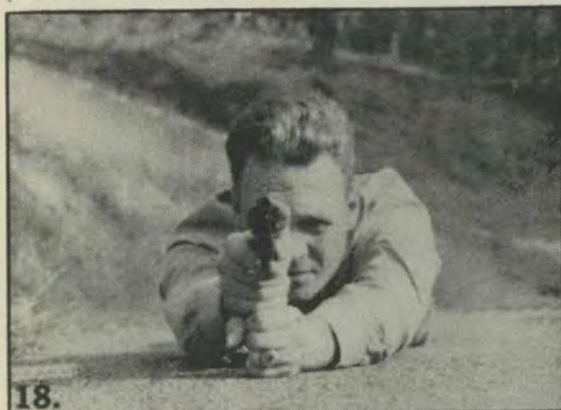
Number two position is usually used by persons who wear glasses or who have a large waist line. Gun is not as steady and is closer to the eye.

Number three position is preferred by extremely large-girthed persons. This position accentuates disadvantages of number two position.

The prone position enables the shooter to achieve accuracy at great distance. It also gives a small target for return fire if the terrain is level and without obstructions of grass, logs or boulders.



16. CLOSE-UP OF POSITION NUMBER ONE. ARMS ARE STRAIGHT, GUN CLOSE TO GROUND.



18. METHOD OF SUPPORTING GUN IN NUMBER TWO POSITION.



20. NUMBER THREE POSITION. GOOD BUT NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS POSITIONS ONE AND TWO.



17. GRIP CLOSE-UP, POSITION NUMBER ONE. THE LEFT HAND IS USED ONLY TO SUPPORT THE GUN HAND.



19. CLOSE-UP OF GRIP, NUMBER TWO POSITION. LEFT HAND FORMS FIST AS BASE TO RAISE GUN FROM GROUND.



21. CLOSE-UP OF GRIP USED IN NUMBER THREE POSITION. LEFT HAND MUST NOT CHANGE THE USUAL GRIP ON THE REVOLVER.

To be continued in next issue

THE FBI PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE

(Continued from July, 1946, issue)

22. SHOOTER DEMONSTRATES HOW TARGET MAY BE REDUCED BY KEEPING FEET TOGETHER.



23. AFTER FIRING FIVE ROUNDS IN THE PRONE POSITION, SHOOTER ROLLS TO LEFT SIDE, EJECTING CARTRIDGES WITH LEFT HAND, REACHING FOR AMMUNITION WITH RIGHT HAND. EACH TIME-SAVING DETAIL IS IMPORTANT AS SHOOTER MUST RELOAD SEVEN TIMES BEFORE HE COMPLETES THE COURSE.



25. FOR SAFETY REASONS SHOOTER REHOLSTERS LOADED GUN IN KNEELING UPRIGHT POSITION.

24. RELOADING WHILE STILL IN A PRONE POSITION TO KEEP TARGET OFFERED BY SHOOTER AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE.



26. RISING, HE PROCEEDS BRISKLY TO THE 50-YARD LINE.



27. AT 50-YARD LINE SHOOTER ASSUMES SITTING POSITION, THEN DRAWS GUN. WHILE IN THIS POSITION SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS, EJECTS EMPTY CARTRIDGES AS HE SWINGS INTO A PRONE POSITION, AND WHILE PRONE RELOADS AND FIRES THE NEXT FIVE ROUNDS.



28. SHOOTER, IN DRAWING GUN, KEEPS FINGER OFF OF THE TRIGGER. HE DRAWS GUN ALONG THE SIDE OF THE LEG.

At this point the most common safety violations are:

1. Drawing gun before sitting.
2. Drawing gun in such a manner as to cross leg with muzzle.
3. Drawing gun with a sideways motion which momentarily covers shooters on adjoining lanes.

There are three acceptable sitting positions.

29. NUMBER ONE SITTING POSITION. KNEES AND FEET ARE ABOUT SIX INCHES APART. KNEES SUPPORT GUN ARMS JUST BACK OF ELBOWS. THIS POSITION ENABLES SHOOTER TO EXTEND ARMS TO FULL LENGTH, THUS GIVING HIM THE BEST AND MOST CONSTANT SIGHT PICTURE AS WELL AS GOOD SUPPORT. SUCH POSITION WOULD BE USED UNDER ACTUAL FIRING CONDITIONS FOR DISTANCE SHOOTING WHERE OBSTRUCTIONS INTERFERED WITH USE OF PRONE POSITION.



30. NUMBER ONE SITTING POSITION FROM THE SIDE. ARMS ARE FULLY EXTENDED. GUN IS AT EYE LEVEL. IF, WHEN POSITION IS FIRST ASSUMED, GUN IS NOT DIRECTLY AT EYE LEVEL, FEET SHOULD BE DRAWN CLOSER TO BODY. THIS RAISES KNEES AND ELEVATES GUN. PROCEDURE SHOULD BE REVERSED IF GUN IS TOO HIGH.

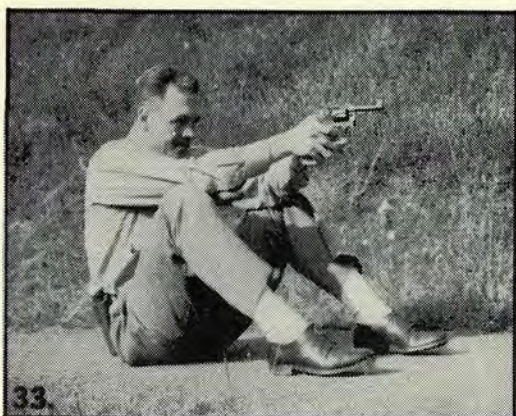


31. NUMBER TWO SITTING POSITION. KNEES SUPPORT ARMS FORWARD OF THE ELBOWS. THIS POSITION IS STEADY AND HAS ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF THE NUMBER ONE POSITION. PERSONAL CHOICE DICTATES WHICH POSITION IS TO BE USED.



32. NUMBER TWO SITTING POSITION FROM THE SIDE.

33. NUMBER THREE SITTING POSITION IS USUALLY PREFERRED BY PERSONS WEARING GLASSES OR THOSE HAVING A LARGE WAIST LINE. DISADVANTAGES: GUN IS NOT AS WELL SUPPORTED, NOT AS STEADY AND CLOSER TO EYES.

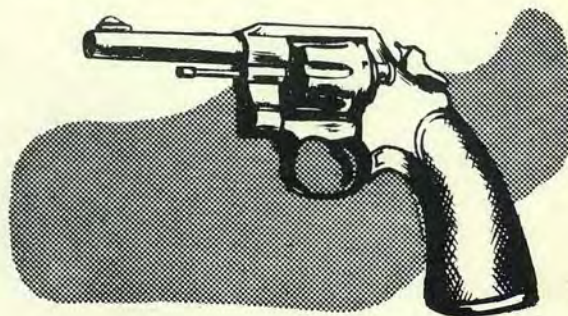


34. SHOOTER HAS FIRED FIVE SHOTS FROM SITTING POSITION. HE EJECTS SHELLS AS HE STARTS TO SWING AROUND TO PRONE POSITION. GUN IS POINTED DOWN RANGE DESPITE FACT THAT MUZZLE IS ELEVATED SLIGHTLY TO FACILITATE UNLOADING.



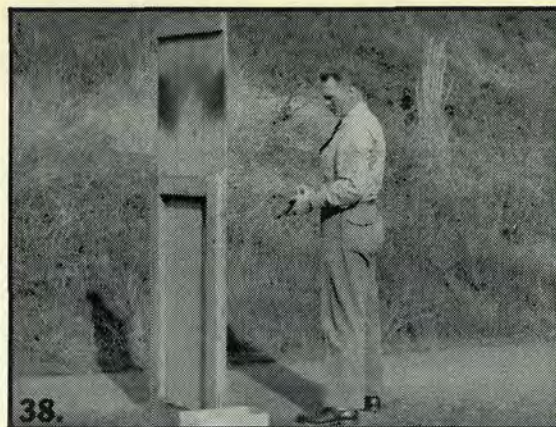
35. SHOOTER, IN PRONE POSITION TO PRESENT SMALL TARGET, RELOADS.

36. COMPLETELY PRONE POSITION ASSUMED TO FIRE NEXT FIVE ROUNDS.



37. SHELLS ARE EJECTED AS SHOOTER MOVES TO POSITION BEHIND BARRICADE. GUN MUZZLE IS POINTED DOWN RANGE.

38. SHOOTER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF COVER, RELOADS BEHIND BARRICADE WHICH SIMULATES CORNER OF BUILDING. THE NEXT TEN SHOTS ARE TO BE FIRED, FIVE WITH THE LEFT HAND FROM LEFT SIDE OF BARRICADE, AND FIVE WITH THE RIGHT HAND FROM RIGHT SIDE OF BARRICADE TO GIVE PRACTICE IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL AVAILABLE COVER.



39. FIRING FROM THE BARRICADE.



The first five shots from the barricade at fifty yards are, for safety reasons, fired with the left or weak hand (right hand if shooter is left handed). Several lanes are in use. If shooter is slower than men on other lanes he will be firing with his best and safest hand when others are ahead of his firing point.

Shooter assumes an unorthodox position by placing right foot forward in order to take advantage of cover. He places gun hand beyond barricade and brings gun to eye level. Gun is cocked after it is placed beyond barricade. Shooter supports gun hand with right hand flat against barricade. Thumb of right hand supports gun hand at break of

wrist. Shooter sights with left eye when shooting with left hand to take full advantage of cover.

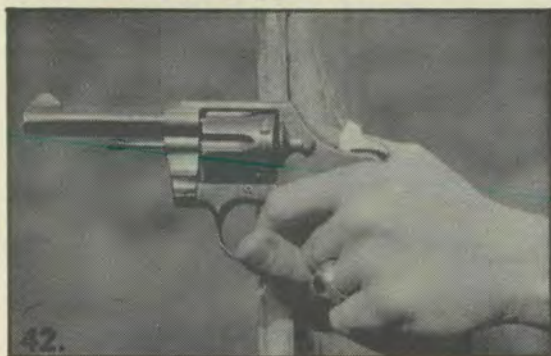


40. CLOSE-UP OF HANDS. NO PORTION OF GUN IS AGAINST BARRICADE.

41. FRONT VIEW OF BARRICADE POSITION.



42. COMMON ERROR. CYLINDER AGAINST BARRICADE. THIS DOES NOT RESULT IN MORE SUPPORT FOR GUN. RATHER IT WILL INJURE THE GUN.



43. FRONT VIEW. IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO SHOOT IN THIS MANNER IF CYLINDER IS RESTED ON INDEX FINGER AND FRONT OF CYLINDER IS AHEAD OF FINGER SO THAT NO LEAD WILL HIT FINGER AND GUN DOES NOT TOUCH BARRICADE.



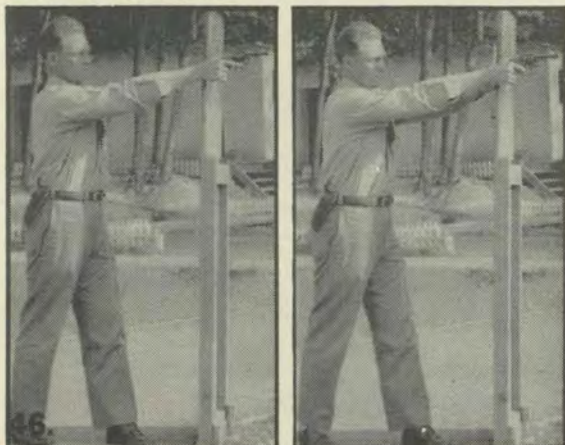
44. SHOOTER EJECTS SHELLS AFTER FIRING FIVE ROUNDS AND REACHES FOR MORE AMMUNITION.



45. TO FACILITATE RELOADING SHOOTER MUST RELAX WHILE NOT ACTUALLY FIRING. THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO BREATHE DEEPLY WHILE RELOADING.



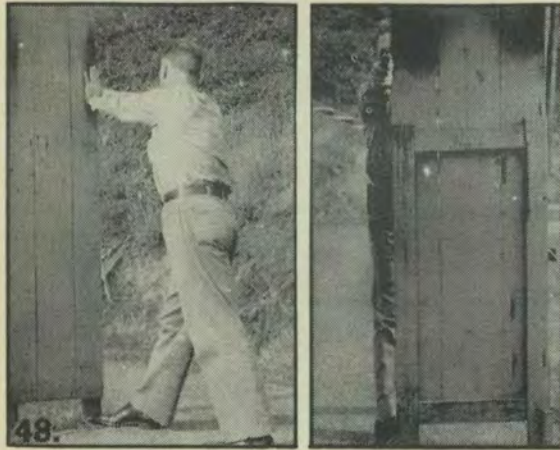
46. SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS WITH STRONG HAND. GUN IS PLACED AT BARRICADE AT EYE LEVEL. THE GUN IS NEXT COCKED AND SUPPORTING HAND IS PLACED IN POSITION. RIGHT EYE USED FOR SIGHTING.



47. BARRICADE OFFERS EXCELLENT CONCEALMENT.



48. COMMON ERRORS. RIGHT FOOT FORWARD WHILE FIRING WITH THE RIGHT HAND EXPOSES LARGE PORTION OF SHOOTER'S BODY. COMPARE WITH 47



50. FIVE ROUNDS WITH STRONG HAND COMPLETED, GUN UNLOADED. SHOOTER RELOADS BEHIND BARRICADE.



52. SHOOTER ADVANCES BRISKLY TO THE 25-YARD LINE.



49. IMPROPER STANCE. REVOLVER TOO LOW; SHOOTER TOO FAR FROM BARRICADE.



51. SHOOTER HAS FIRED TWENTY ROUNDS AT THE 50-YARD LINE, HAS RELOADED TO BE READY FOR EMERGENCY AND IS HOLSTERING.



53. SHOOTER HAS SAT DOWN; IS DRAWING REVOLVER.

To be continued in next issue

THE FBI PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE

(Continued from August, 1946, issue)

54. SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS.



55. SHOOTER EJECTS SHELLS AS HE MOVES BEHIND BARRICADE.



56. HE RELOADS GUN BEHIND BARRICADE.



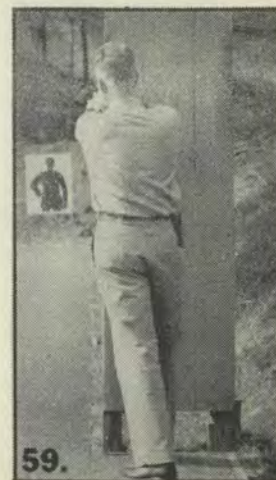
57. SHOOTER FIRES FIVE ROUNDS WITH EACH HAND FROM BEHIND BARRICADE. HERE HE UTILIZES STRONG HAND FIRST.



58. EMPTY CARTRIDGES ARE EJECTED AS SHOOTER REACHES FOR LAST FIVE ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.



59. SHOOTER HAS RELOADED AND IS FIRING LAST FIVE ROUNDS OF THE COURSE WITH HIS LEFT HAND.



60. SHOOTER HAS FINISHED FIRING THE COURSE. GUN UNLOADED AND HOLSTERED, HE IS WAITING FOR THE INSTRUCTOR TO CLEAR THE LINE.



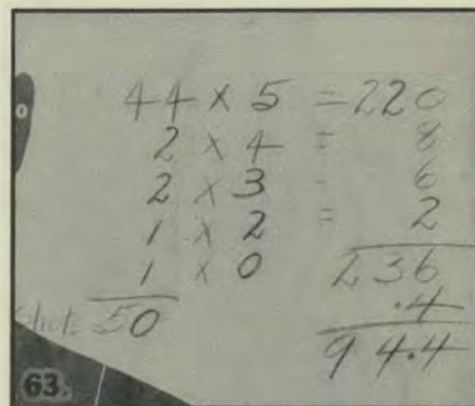
61. A POSSIBLE TARGET. FIFTY SHOTS ARE WITHIN THE K5 RING.



62. HOW TO SCORE - COUNT ALL 5'S AND TOTAL. DO THE SAME WITH 4'S, 3'S AND 2'S. ADD TOTAL AND MULTIPLY BY .4.



63. SCORE.



FBI ACADEMY, QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

THIS IS THE LAST IN A SERIES OF THREE INSTALLMENTS ON "THE FBI PRACTICAL PISTOL COURSE." REPRINTS OF THE ENTIRE ARTICLE IN PAMPHLET FORM WILL BE FURNISHED UPON REQUEST.