

J.T. CALLAHAN  
ARMS HISTORIAN

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W



SAVAGE  
STEVENS  
A.H. FOX

October 24, 2003

Thank you for your letter requesting information about your A.H. Fox double barrel shotgun.

This week I was able to search The Fox factory records for the date of manufacture and for other information on your Shotgun with S/N 28304. The record card for your double shows that it was originally manufactured as follows:

Grade- HE Grade  
Gauge- 12 Gauge  
Barrels- 32", choked Full and Full  
Stock- 14-1/8 length of pull, "about 2-5/8" (specified)  
drop at heel, straight grip  
Weight- 9 lb., 4 oz.  
Notes- chamber for 2-3/4 Super-X shell

The shotgun was shipped from the Fox, Philadelphia factory on February 27, 1924. The gun was originally ordered by the Elliott Hardware Co., and that name was crossed out and E.C. Crossman was entered as the original consignee. There are no entries indicating that Becker had performed any work on this Fox double.

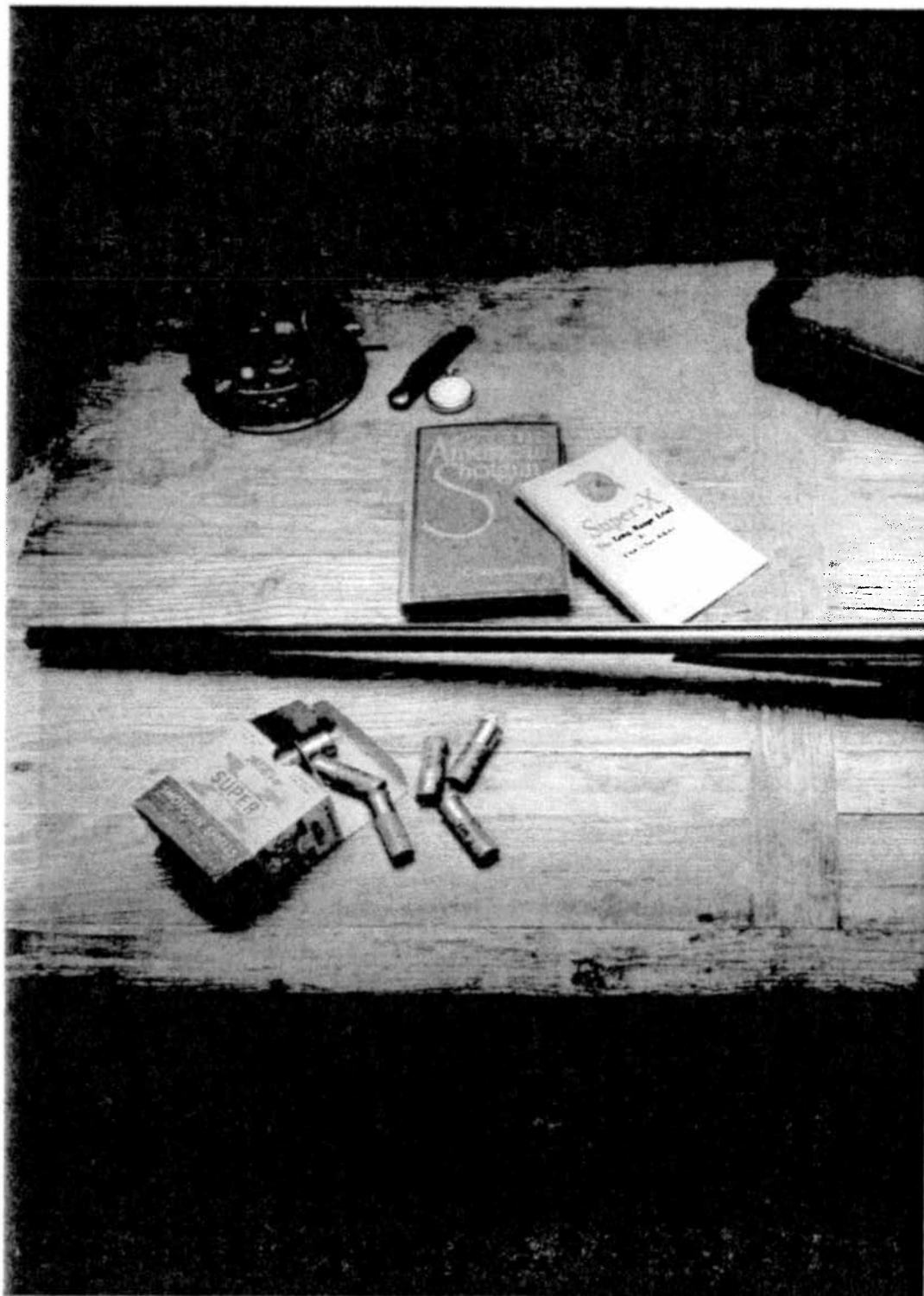
The Super Fox "H" and "HE" Grade was a long distance shotgun built especially for close patterns at extra long range. Literature showed that they were bored and chambered to shoot any 2-3/4 shell and could be chambered for 3" cases to order. All stock guns were bored full choke with a guaranteed pattern of from 80 to 85 percent, with shells recommended for this gun. This grade used a frame size that was dimensionally larger than other standard Fox frames. The engraving pattern was simple fine line work around the frame and guard. Any style of walnut stock with straight, half or full pistol grip could be specified.

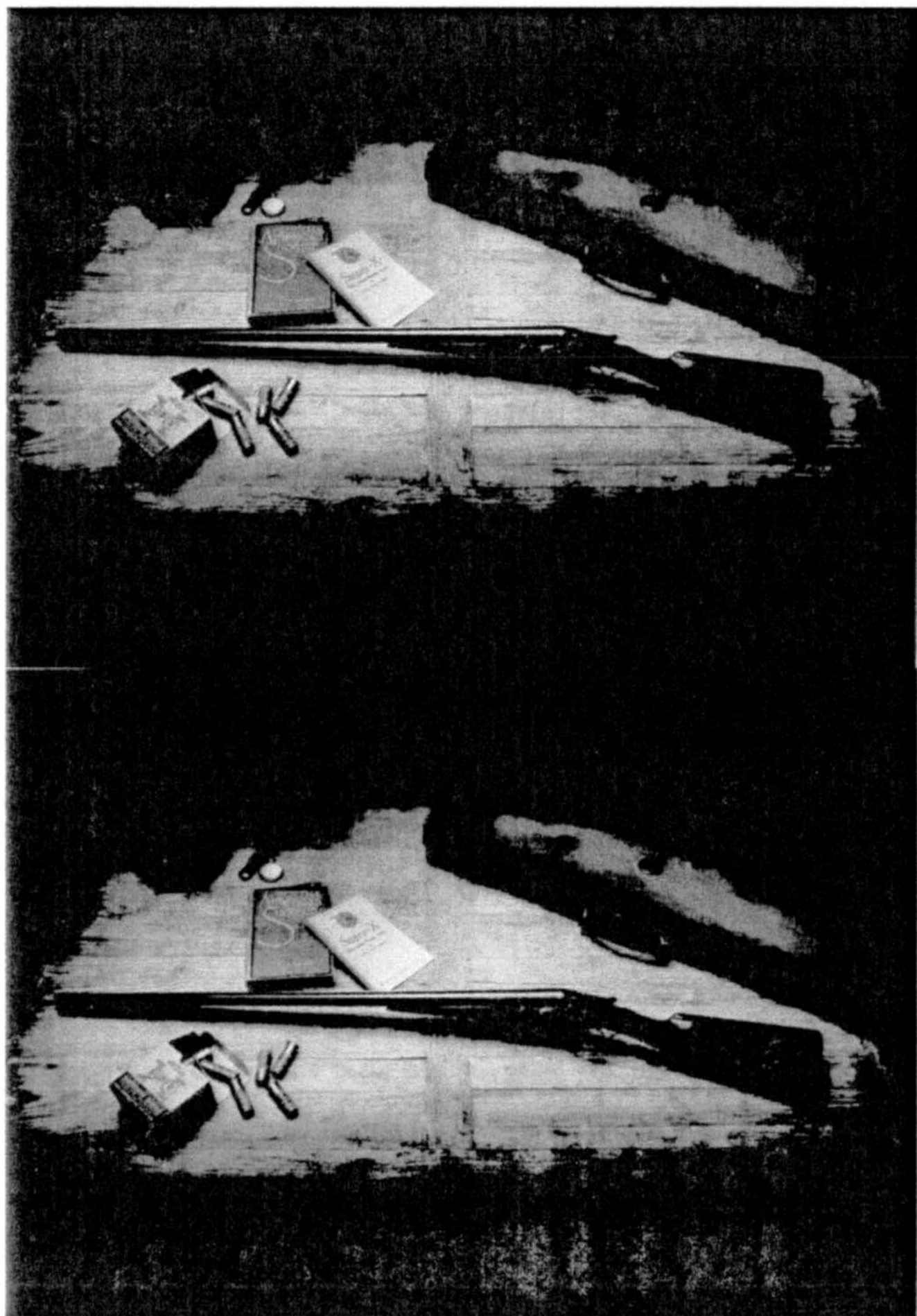
I hope you find this information interesting and helpful. You have a unique grade and a fine example of classic American gunmaking.

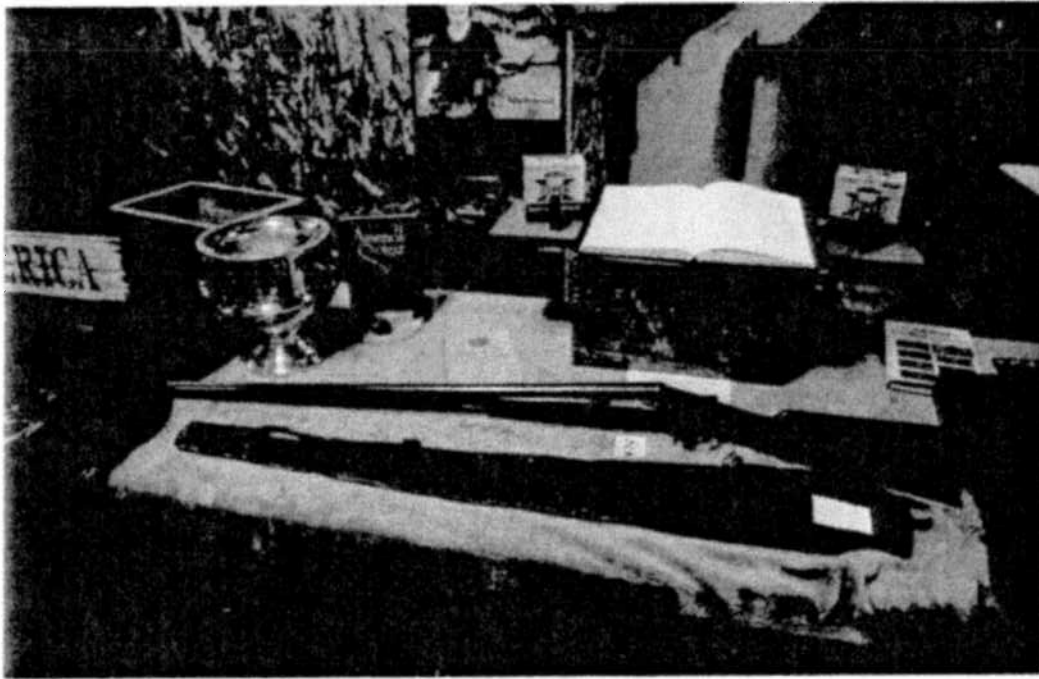
Sincerely,

John T. Callahan

3884/jtc







PHILADELPHIA,  
PA., U.S.A.



A. H. FOX GUN CO.

FOX GUN					
"THE FINEST GUN IN THE WORLD"					
Serial Number	28304		Gauge	12	
Grade	HE	Bbls	32	Comb	Heel
Stock	141B	Wt.	94	Right	Left
Grp.	Straight grip -				
Chamber for 2 3/4 Super X Head					
Date of Mfg.	E. L. Crossman 2/27/04				
By	E. L. Crossman				Order


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 Civilian Marksmanship Program

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### Edward Bishop Crossman

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Distinguished Marksman 1956 as Edward Bishop Crossman USA, of Los Angeles, CA

The following biography was written by Richard Blankenship, Meg Crossman, and Ken Meise

After spending the cool productive morning hours writing, the solidly built man with the black brush moustache emerged from the Spanish Colonial style house at 907 Whitehead Street in Key West, Florida to wander about town. He was on the prowl, looking to make new friends, meet old ones, and to listen to their tales while carefully filing away the details for use later.

As the afternoon slowly dissolved into evening he often found himself tableside at Josie Russell's saloon "Sloppy Joe's" with old cronies Captain Eddie "Bra" Saunderson, who ran a charter boat, local lawyer George Brooks, or hardware store owner Charles Thompson. Together they would knock back more than a little Teachers Scotch Whisky and soda and it was here, among his drinking and fishing friends, that he picked up the nickname "Papa."

Ernest Hemingway had come to Key West in 1928, at the urging of fellow writer John Dos Passos, living there, off and on, until 1961. He said it was, "the best place I've ever been anytime." About the time he completed *For Whom The Bells Toll* in 1940 the literary man who would become both a Pulitzer and the Noble laureate, took some time to inventory the Key West house's bookshelves.

Sandwiched alphabetically between a privately printed collection of poems by Caresse Crosby and one by e.e. Cummings were three volumes by the same author, *The Book of the Springfield*, *Military Sporting Rifles*, and *Smallbore Rifle Shooting*. It comes as no surprise that these books might appear there for, as a youngster, Hemingway had spent many of his summers hunting and fishing Northern Michigan's Walloon Lake. Even as Hemingway strutted about the literary stage, one of the 20th Century's greatest stars, he recalled his younger days and felt it necessary for his library to contain works of an equally influential writer of a different nature and discipline.

Edward Cathcart Crossman, better known as "Ned" to his extensive and admiring reading public, was the most influential shooting sports writer of the early 20th century in the United States. He certainly was the first to sustain himself solely on the strength of his pen, setting the stage for the likes of both Charles Askins senior and junior, Horace Kephart, Julian Hatcher and the trinity that closed out the century he had begun: Townsend Whelen, Jack O'Connor, and Elmer Keith.

Crossman was born in Iowa in 1889, son of Leander C. Crossman whose was born in 1853, soon after his parents John Alexander Crossman and wife Mary Cathcart emigrated from Pennsylvania to Iowa in about 1850. John was a member of the short lived abolitionist Free Soil Party and whose home was a station on the Underground Railroad. Leander was raised on the western frontier and, like most boys of this era and his age, learned to use firearms early in life to gather food, provide protection, and on occasion, recreation. By the time he had grown to adulthood he had become a well known rifleman of his day, making his name as a member of the Muscatine Guards-Company C of the 9th Regiment of the Iowa National Guard. The elder Crossman ranged wide in his pursuit of shooting glory. He usually placed well in major rifle matches with the service rifle of the day, the Springfield Model 1873, the single shot rifle more commonly known as the "Trapdoor Springfield." Chambered for the black powder, 45-70-500 cartridge the rifle had an effective range of 1,000 yards.

Leander used it well. With issue open sights he managed to hold his own against teams from Massachusetts Springfield Armory, birthplace of the rifle, and riflemen based at the Creedmoor Range on Long Island who often used the more sophisticated Remington-Heppburn or Sharps-Borchardt long range match rifles. The apogee of his shooting career came when, in 1887, commanding general of the United States Army Lieutenant General Phillip Sheridan, pinned a silver medal on the breast of his uniform tunic and presented him with \$75 in prize money.

When not traveling and shooting with the National Guard, Crossman earned his keep by teaching Latin and serving as a school principal. He married Nellie Bishop and they had a son who skill with language and firearms would far outshine his father's.

Edward Cathcart Crossman followed in his father's footsteps as a rifleman and must have paid close attention in school for his writings are well constructed, erudite, and entertaining. Life as a young boy on the banks of the Mississippi River, at the end of the 19th century, was probably little different than when Muscatine was founded a half century earlier. The spirit of the frontier and Manifest Destiny was rich in the culture of the rural Iowa countryside of Ned's youth. Even living in a small town he had plenty of opportunity to explore, hunt, fish, and indulge a youth's imagination in the fields and rich river bottom land. These experiences would help form the boy into the man he would become, much like Mark Twain, who had worked for his brother Orion on the Muscatine Journal in the 1850s. Twain wrote of Muscatine that "I remember Muscatine--still more pleasantly--for its summer sunsets. I have never seen any, on either side of the ocean that equaled them.... The sunrises are also said to be exceedingly fine. I do not know."





At some point in time the family moved the California where Ned first came to public notice, at the relatively young age of 23, when his first contribution to Arms and the Man, the predecessor of the National Rifle Association's flagship publication, The American Rifleman was published in 1904. He was a prolific writer, with a fund of information and interests that was both broad and deep, allowing him to write for a wide variety of magazines from outdoor publications to Scientific American. Once he had tasted the life of a free lance outdoor writer he never looked back and never really had any other main means of employment to support his family.

Perhaps working for himself, as it were, was a good thing. Ned Crossman did not suffer fools and was opinionated to the point of being abrasively obstinate. He was held in high regard by a large and loyal following which readily purchased and digested all he wrote as fast as he could churn out articles. What drew his readership was that he clearly knew his subject well, was sharply honest, could explain complex technical matters in a readily understandable manner, and wrote in an entertaining style. In short he was authoritative, honest, and entertaining. This was a good thing as his no nonsense manner tended to aggravate his editors. However, they were smart enough to ignore the rough side of the uncompromising young author because they knew a cash cow when they saw one.

Crossman was widely experienced in the shooting sports and this first hand knowledge was his strength, which set him apart from his contemporaries. His skill with a shotgun, developed during his life long love of hunting, easily transferred over to the more organized sports of skeet and trap where he excelled. He was no slouch with a hand gun either but, oddly enough, he would make his biggest splash in the shooting sports in the rifle disciplines. He was very active in the establishment of the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club and served for many years as its secretary.

Ned continued to write, hunt, fish, and shoot for the next 14 years. Being paid for what he enjoyed and did best, while all the while his fame grew, must have been immensely satisfying. His efforts were not solely confined to the field sports as he met and married Blanche Brown. Their only child Edward Bishop Crossman, called Jim for reasons unknown, was born on July 8, 1909. The family's domestic life was a bit out of the ordinary as the trio often left their base in Los Angeles to roam the wild back country of the west ranging from New Mexico to Oregon in pursuit of game, adventure, and material for Ned's columns.

Blanche Crossman was a woman far ahead of her day. Comfortable in the world of outdoor sport among men, she lost none of her femininity and fit just as easily fit into the accepted role for women of her day, that of home maker. Her talent as a modern day Diana was neatly balanced by a vocal gift. Her musical skill was such that she was a welcomed soloist in choir lofts about the city and was regularly heard over the air on several of Los Angeles' radio stations.

When the National Defense Act of 1916 was passed Ned may have taken a passing interest in it, as would any conscientious citizen, but he could have had no idea the impact the sweeping military law would have upon his future and that of competitive rifle shooting in the United States. Nine days after Congress declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917 General Peyton March, Chief of Staff of the Army, signed orders creating "The Small Arms Firing School of Instruction of Officers and Enlisted Men in Rifle and Pistol Shooting" with Lieutenant Colonel Morton Mumma as commandant. Here was a rare case of the Army fitting a round peg into a round hole, for Mumma was an experienced shooter, Distinguished Rifleman, a member of two Palma Teams, and an excellent rifle coach. Mumma appointed the capable Captain Smith Wildman Brookhart who, like Mumma, was on the Executive Committee of the National Rifle Association and a member of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, as Chief Instructor.

Mumma and Brookhart went about personally selecting the best marksman of the day for the staff. The Small Arms Firing School was not designed to train instructors, not marksman; much the same as today's modern Army spends much of its instructional resources on "Training the Trainer." In recognition of his skill and knowledge as a marksman Crossman was ordered to active duty as a captain where he would join the great smallbore rifleman T.K. "Tackhole" Lee, long range specialists the likes of William Leusher and James Keogh and a host of others at Camp Perry, Ohio. Among those commissioned to be instructors of musketry was a young Harvard student by the name of Bernard DeVoto who had interrupted his studies to join the Army. After the war both he and Crossman would make their living and fame writing. DeVoto became one of America's great men of letters, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his Across the Wide Missouri, and serendipitously enough the custodian of the papers of Mark Twain author of Life on the Missouri where he penned his keen observation of Muscatine, Iowa sunsets. The Small Arms Firing School was so successful that it has continued on as an institution at almost every succeeding National Match, where its attendance was often mandatory.

After the Armistice on November 11, 1918 the Army quickly demobilized and the staff assembled so carefully by Mumma and Brookhart was scattered to return to civilian pursuits. Crossman stayed in the Army while still penning articles for the popular outdoor press. He was recognized for his technical knowledge and writing skill and so, in 1919, detailed to Daytona Beach, Florida to serve under Lieutenant Colonel Glenn P. Wilhelm in checking the range tables of the 30 caliber M1 cartridge and determining its actual maximum range.

Crossman had taken away many lessons from his experience at the Small Arms Firing School, one of which was that the 22 caliber rifle was an excellent training tool for preparing men to use the service rifle. It was accurate, able to be used at short ranges and indoors, inexpensive, and was much less punishing a rifle than the Springfield 1903 which made it easier for the soldier to learn basic marksmanship skills. When the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice

resumed the National Matches at the newly constructed Navy range complex at Caldwell, New Jersey in 1919 it was all 30 caliber rifle and 45 caliber pistol.

Crossman, then stationed at the Infantry School of Arms at Camp Benning, Georgia, had been campaigning to establish a smallbore shooting program as a feeder for the service rifle competitions. While raising the consciousness of the shooting community to the smallbore game he took to the pages of *Arms and the Man*, in his position as an NRA Director, to solicit ideas from the smallbore community about the form a national smallbore match might take. As it is often said, one should be careful for what one wishes as it may be granted. On June 7, 1919 the National Rifle Association announced that Crossman had been selected to conduct a smallbore rifle tournament to coincide with the 1919 National Matches at Caldwell, just a matter the of a month and a half away. Faced with the daunting task of creating a national tournament out of nothing Crossman immediately enlisted the aid of a fellow Los Angeles Rifle Club member Captain Grosvenor L. Wotkyns, who was quickly detached from his post in California and sent east. He swiftly added several well known smallbore shooters to his staff but Crossman's ace in the hole was Captain E.J.D. Newitt, a British citizen who was an officer of that nation's Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. Nesbitt had extensive experience in mounting the British smallbore championships at Bisley and would lend his expertise to the fledgling efforts in the United States.

There was added impetus for Crossman to create a smooth and successful national tournament. On May 27, 1919 the Executive Committee of Great Britain's Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs posted a letter challenging the National Rifle Association of America to once again compete for the Sir Thomas Dewar Challenger Cup. Competition for the Dewar Cup had been suspended during The Great War and, with the end of hostilities, the British were anxious to reestablish the match. The two shooting associations negotiated a set of rules requiring teams of 20 competitors to fire 20 record shots each at 50 and 100 yards with metallic sights in a time limit of one minute per shot, rules that have remained virtually unchanged to this day.

Crossman was able to publish the program and conditions for the first smallbore national matches in the June 28, 1919 Arms and The Man. He announced that the course of fire would be divided between prone events at 50 and 100 yards, in the British style, some long range shooting at 200 yards to simulate the 30 caliber matches, some matches open only to boys or the ladies, and some novelty matches requiring the breaking of frangible discs at various distances. Crossman made a conscious attempt to create a match program that would have wide appeal so as to attract as many shooters as possible for he wanted to build up the pool from which he might draw for Dewar team members.

Starting on August 4th, the smallbore shooters potted away and the events proved popular enough to remind high power coaches of the New Testament parable of the shepherd and the ninety and nine sheep. It was not uncommon for coaches to have to stop by the smallbore range to gather up a missing team member or two for the center fire shooting.

With one eye on the Dewar, Crossman was carefully watching all of the major players in the tournament. He selected the top 40 finishers in the Small Bore Individual Match, naturally a Dewar course, to participate in an elimination match over the same course of fire. When the scores from the two matches were totaled it was found that there was a tie for 20th place between Navy Commander H.D. Denny and the Dewar Team Captain and Match Director's wife, Blanche Crossman. The patience she displayed in putting up with her irascible husband was also on display on the firing line for she was a skilled shot with both center and rimfire rifle, as well as the shotgun, in a time when women of her social class might only occasionally engage in a little 22 caliber plinking at a picnic.

A shoot-off was scheduled to see who would occupy the final place, Commander Denny or Mrs. Crossman. The showdown was called off when it was realized that D.W. Price, a shooter of no mean skill who had finished higher up in the standings, had but one arm and used a forked prosthesis when shooting. The device was considered artificial support and barred under the rules requiring Price to withdraw and forestalling the shoot off. Thus Mrs. Crossman entered into the shooting history books as the first woman to shoot on a United States international postal team.

The team assembled on the firing line, on Sunday morning, the 24th of August, and in three relays shot under almost ideal conditions. An hour after noon the match was over and when the scores were totaled and announced the United States had posted a 7,617 to Great Britain's 7,523. Newett, as the official representative of the British, was most effusive in his congratulatory comments.

With his mission seen to a successful conclusion Crossman could take great pleasure in both the team results and those of his wife. More importantly this international win would serve to fan the spark of the smoldering smallbore movement. Within days the National Rifle Association named a blue ribbon committee to standardize smallbore. What was just Crossman's dream in the early spring was now a growing reality in the late summer. Over the next years Crossman would be instrumental in developing smallbore rifle shooting as he served as match Director and Dewar Team Captain again in 1920 and 21, as the matches moved back to Camp Perry.

Crossman had been mustered out of the Army soon after his tour at Daytona when it was discovered that he had developed stomach ulcers, but his attachment to his days in the service were so strong that he would often use the honorific of 'captain' in the ensuing years. He returned to California where he would continue exhorting the shooting community to expand smallbore rifle competition. His first book, a trim paperback volume of just 100 pages, covering pistol, rifle, and shotgun shooting entitled Gun and Rifle Facts was published by Outers Book Company in 1923. His efforts to increase competitive marksmanship were again recognized, as they had been in



1919, when he was called upon by the NRA to serve as a rifle coach as the 1924 Pan American Matches at Lima, Peru. The matches were a US triumph where Crossman played no small part.

Returning home he found that his extraordinary skills would soon be applied to police instruction. Two successive Los Angeles Chiefs of Police, James E. Davis and R. Lee Heath, were appalled at the poor quality of the force's pistol marksmanship and engaged Crossman to work on developing a program of instruction that would raise officer's skill to acceptable levels. He went to work with his typical intensity and within a year the Los Angeles department had a Crossman designed modern shooting range for training to service the new marksmanship course of instruction he had developed. As an ancillary benefit marksmanship became so fashionable within the department that the range was not only filled with trainees and officers qualifying but also a very popular 20 team police pistol league. The LAPD went so far as to emulate the military in offering pay increases to those officers who qualified as expert with the service revolver.

His vast store of technical knowledge, practical experience, and close proximity to the Los Angeles Police Department soon saw him branch off into a relatively new field of firearms forensics. He soon became associated with the Bureau of Forensic Ballistics, eventually dealing with over 200 cases. When his son Jim graduated from California Institute of Technology in 1931 he joined his father in his practice. Soon after father and son joined forces Ned was again called upon to be part of an international shooting effort as the NRA representative and team leader for the US Rifle team at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The Crossman family prospered and grew to be prominent and respected members of the Los Angeles community. Ned continued with his forensic work and was called as an expert witness on ballistics and explosives in several major criminal trials. His prolific writing filled columns in a wide array of outdoor magazines and he continued his affiliation with old friend, Thomas Samworth.

Crossman had become acquainted with Samworth when he was the editor of the American Rifleman. When Samworth struck out on his own in 1926 to open The Small Arms Technical Publishing Company, specializing in the arcane field of firearms technical reference Crossman was a natural choice to add to his stable of writers. Crossman joined such noted authors as Charles Askins, Sr., Roy Dunlap, C.S. Landis, Elmer Keith, Townsend Whelen, and Julian Hatcher. Crossman's inaugural effort for Samworth was Small Bore Rifle Shooting, published in 1927, the first major work of its type it was a natural extension of the work he had been doing promoting the sport. Sales were brisk and both parties profited. Samworth was very pleased with the work and commissioned Crossman to write a similar volume on centerfire rifle shooting, tentatively titled Target and Sport Rifle Shooting, which was so large that it could not be contained in one volume. It came out came out in two volumes as The Book of the Springfield in 1932, considered to be the final word on the subject of the classic US military bolt action rifle and Military and Sporting Rifle Shooting which was released in 1932. Each of these works has gone through successive printings and have stood the test of time.

Jim had established himself and married Edith May Anderson in December of 1935, expanding the tight knit Crossman family with another lover of the outdoor life. Eventually they would have two children, Sylvia May and Alan Edward. The whole family often shared the quiet moments together before dawn as they settled into a duck blind anticipating a full bag.

The Crossmans were living a very satisfying life until the 18th of October in 1938. Ned and Blanche had driven the 100 or so miles east from their home in Brentwood Heights to the Palm Springs area for a little dove hunting. No mean hand with a rifle she was also an excellent shotgunner. The previous year she took second place in the 1937 woman's skeet championship slipping behind in the shoot-off after tying for the championship. On the return trip Ned, at the wheel, was driving home through a blinding dust storm. In the limited visibility their auto was broadsided by a truck near Indio and Ned, unhurt, was horrified to see that Blanche had suffered a broken neck. Having survived the initial accident her prognosis was guarded. While it was hoped that her excellent physical condition, strong will to live, and expert medical attention would see her through, it was not to be and three days later she passed away.

Ned was disconsolate and, blaming himself for his wife's untimely death, slipped into depression. His friends noticed and gathered about him to try to draw him back into his everyday routine but the dark cloud which hung over him would not blow away. Three months after the accident Ned closed the doors of the garage at his 142 South Rockingham Road home, slid behind the wheel of his car, shifted into neutral, set the brake, turned on the ignition, and calmly sat back awaiting the inevitable. His servants eventually heard the car running and drawn by curiosity found him slumped behind the wheel, passed out. They quickly shut off the engine and summoned medical help for the unconscious master of the house. Rushed to Santa Monica Hospital, he hovered in a coma near death for nearly a day before finally succumbing.

A diligent man, who wished to leave no loose ends, Crossman left a note addressed to Frank Nance, the Los Angeles coroner. They often had teamed up to settle matters at inquests and his note to his old colleague was to the point.

Dear Frank Nance: This is, of course, a suicide. No inquest is necessary, and for the sake of my family will you keep the matter as quiet as possible. Reason for suicide-the death of my beloved wife-Oct. 21, from the motor car accident which was my own fault. Best regards, Edward C. Crossman.

Townsend Whelen said of Crossman that, "...he has done truly remarkable work in the interest of the promotion of rifle practice. I know of no other shooters who was so well versed in the technique of the grooved barrel, or so familiar with the allied sciences."

Time had dimmed the memory of the man who can rightfully don the mantle of "Father of United States Smallbore Shooting." However his name and fame has been brought back to the attention of a new generation of competitors by the efforts of two smallbore rifleman and shooting historians, Paul Nordquist and Hap Rocketto when, in 2005, they petitioned the NRA Smallbore Committee to name the plaque given annually to the high scoring member of the US Dewar Cup Team in Crossman's honor. Eighty six years after the first smallbore rounds went downrange in an organized United States national championship competition Olympian, World Champion, and former US National Prone Champion US Army Sergeant First Class Thomas Tamas walked across the stage in Hough Auditorium to accept the first Edward C. Crossman Memorial Plaque.

While was Jim recovering from the shock of losing both parents in so short a period of time he continued his career in forensics which would lead him to eventually be involved in investigating more than 600 cases. As a member of the California National Guard he was called to active duty when his unit was mobilized in 1941.

After the cessation of hostilities Crossman continued on in the Army and took part in competitive shooting as a member of various Army rifle and pistol teams, earning the Distinguished Marksman Badge in 1956. He was a regular presence at Camp Perry where, other than being a competitor, he served in various administrative capacities at the National Matches. Beginning as the Ordnance Officer he steadily progressed to Deputy Executive Officer and finally Executive Officer. During his military career he attended both Infantry and Ordnance schools as well as the Command and General Staff College. When he retired, in 1964, after 23 years of service, he was a colonel and Chief of the Weapons Branch of the Army Material Command.

Upon his return to civilian life he resumed his successful career as a firearms consultant. Four years after the murder of President John Kennedy Jim was called upon by independent investigators to try to replicate the shots fired by the assassin. After a week of practice in January of 1967 Crossman, with a duplicate rifle and scope, made six attempts at recreating the events of November 22, 1963. While he was not able to complete the shooting in the estimated time he did make two out of three hits on the target in half of his attempts. His opinion was that the rifle was not very accurate and that an element of luck played into the successful attempt on the president. The NRA called upon him in 1980 as an expert witness in its successful case against the Federal government to recover seven firearms confiscated from the NRA museum by the BATF.

Like his father before him, he gained a national following as well as reputation as one of the countries leading firearms consultants and an authority on product liability matters concerning firearms and ammunition. The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners recognized his expertise in ballistic forensics when it selected him as a member of the first class of "Distinguished Members" of that organization in 1973.

A member of the NRA since 1935 Crossman was elected to the Board of Directors in 1966, serving on the Executive Council, and remained a director until 1990. His vast competitive and administrative shooting experience lead him to be selected by the NRA, then the governing body for international shooting in the United States, as the team leader for the 1967 World Moving Target Championships in Bologna, Italy. That gave him additional experience in the international arena to allow him to assume the role of assistant team leader to the larger US contingent to the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. He was also the director of the 40th World Shooting Championships held in Phoenix, Arizona in 1970.

The long time firearms editor of Sports Afield magazine authored many articles and opinions for other publications. While he wrote two well accepted books for the NRA in 1978, Olympic Shooting and the NRA Deer Hunters Guide he took particular pride in revising the Boy Scouts of America's Marksmanship merit badge book in 1967. In doing so he built upon the efforts of two NRA greats, Executive Secretary C.B. Lister who wrote the original Marksmanship merit badge book 1936 and Executive Director Merritt Edson who revised it in 1953. Crossman's major contribution was to expand the scope of the merit badge program to include an optional shotgun course, perhaps in memory of his mother. The new volume was titled Rifle and Shotgun Shooting and featured new shooting requirements, up to date information, pictures and references.

Crossman remained quite active until slowed by a stroke. While recuperating and rehabilitating himself he fell and, eerily like his mother, broke his neck. This misfortune led to hospitalization at Mt. Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia where pneumonia developed and Jim Crossman passed away on February 26, 1994. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

The two Crossman men lead similar lives circumscribed by firearms, writing, the Army, and the outdoor life. Ned set a high standard, not only for Jim, but for generations of outdoor writers to follow in accuracy.

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information on Capt. E.C Crossman

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SportingShot from SS



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The Double Gun Shop's  
SHOOTING  
- June 1st 4 -  
During the night  
the country was  
sharply on the front

**Who's Online**  
14 registered (dukxdog, Chuck H, AmarilloMike, rultandfuller, big al, faeroc), 41 Guests and 4 Spiders online.  
Key: Admin, Global Mod, Mod


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8 Forums  
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218371 Posts

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☐ Information on Capt. E.C Crossman #85776 - 03/01/08 08:35 PM


Walter C. Snyder  Does anyone have a reference to an Obit. or a bio on the great Capt. Crossman? I have searched Google and Ancestry.com with no success.

Sidelock 

Registered: 12/31/01  
Posts: 1584  
Loc: North Carolina  
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☐ Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman [Re: Walter C. Snyder] #85779 - 03/01/08 08:45 PM

Michael Petrov 

Sidelock 

Registered: 12/31/01  
Posts: 5029  
Loc: Alaska

Can you remind me when he died and I'll see what I have.



**Captain E. C. Crossman 1920**

MP



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1. Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman [Re: Michael Petrov]

485809 03/02/08 06:56 AM

paul.buchanan He committed suicide. I'm sure it was written up in the Rifleman.



Sidelock

Registered:  
03/03/02  
Posts: 221  
Loc: wichita, Kansas

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Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman (Re: Walter C. Snyder)

#85816 - 03/02/08 08:03 AM

Stallones  
Sidelock

Here is an interesting ad and picture of E.C. Crossman

[img] x [/img]

Registered:  
03/03/02  
Posts: 871  
Loc: Austin, Texas

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Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman (Re: Stallones)

#85823 - 03/02/08 09:02 AM

PeteM  
Sidelock

Walt,

Is this your boy or do I have the wrong Crossman?

Registered:  
11/29/05  
Posts: 3703  
Loc: IL

Name: Edward Crossman  
SSN: 017-03-6238  
Last Residence: 02780 Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts, United States of America  
Born: 2 Sep 1881  
Died: Dec 1966  
State (Year) SSN Issued: Massachusetts (Before 1951 )

1930 United States Federal Census  
Name: Edward C Crossman  
Home in 1930: Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California  
Age: 48  
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1882  
Birthplace: Iowa  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Spouse's Name: Blanche  
Race: White  
Household Members: Name Age  
Edward C Crossman 48  
Blanche Crossman 45  
Edward B Crossman 20

There are a few hits in the New York Times Archives for him as well. I didn't try any other papers...

Pete

[DarnascusBarrels.com](http://DarnascusBarrels.com)

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Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman (Re: Stallones)

#85826 - 03/02/08 09:10 AM

Lawrence  
Kotchek  
Sidelock

Its nice to be able to return a favor. This is from Jim Casada's intro to "The Book Of The Springfield". Captain Edward C. Crossman (1889 - 1939) was a very prolific gun writer and the only writer of his era to make a living of writing for magazines. He was the dean of gun writers for the period from WW1 to his death, which is impressive as the era included Whelan, Hatcher & Klephart. His first magazine contribution was in 1904 and he was a regular in "Arms and the Man" and its successor "American Rifleman" from that point. There is a lot more but I need to run out the door. If you would like I can try to type the whole into later, about 3 pages. This is from the NRA Firearms Classics Edition.

Registered:  
01/01/02  
Posts: 109  
Loc: MD USA

Edited by Lawrence Kotchek (03/02/08 09:10 AM)

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[Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman](#) [Re: Walter C. Snyder]

#85829 - 03/02/08 09:29 AM

RMC

Sidelock

☆☆☆☆

Registered:

02/20/03

Posts: 983

Loc: Northern

Michigan

Walt, Sorry to intrude on your posting. As usual, I am not able to contact you through the PM function. I have an Ithaca question for you regarding difference between Flues 20b, 1 and 1 1/2 grade. Appreciate a contact. Randy (raven@freeway.net)

RMC

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[Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman](#) [Re: RMC]

#85840 - 03/02/08 11:08 AM

Michael Petrov

Sidelock

☆☆☆☆

Registered:

12/31/01

Posts: 5029

Loc: Alaska

Walt, Send me your email and I will send you a full size copy. Not sure what more you need, I have a large Crossman file so let me know.

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video has been  
moved or deleted**

 photobucket

MP



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[Re: Information on Capt. E.C Crossman](#) [Re: Michael Petrov]

#85909 - 03/02/08 06:54 PM

Walter C.

Snyder

Sidelock

☆☆☆☆

Registered:

12/31/01

Posts: 1584

Loc: North Carolina

Thank you to all who have responded! Your help is very much appreciated!!

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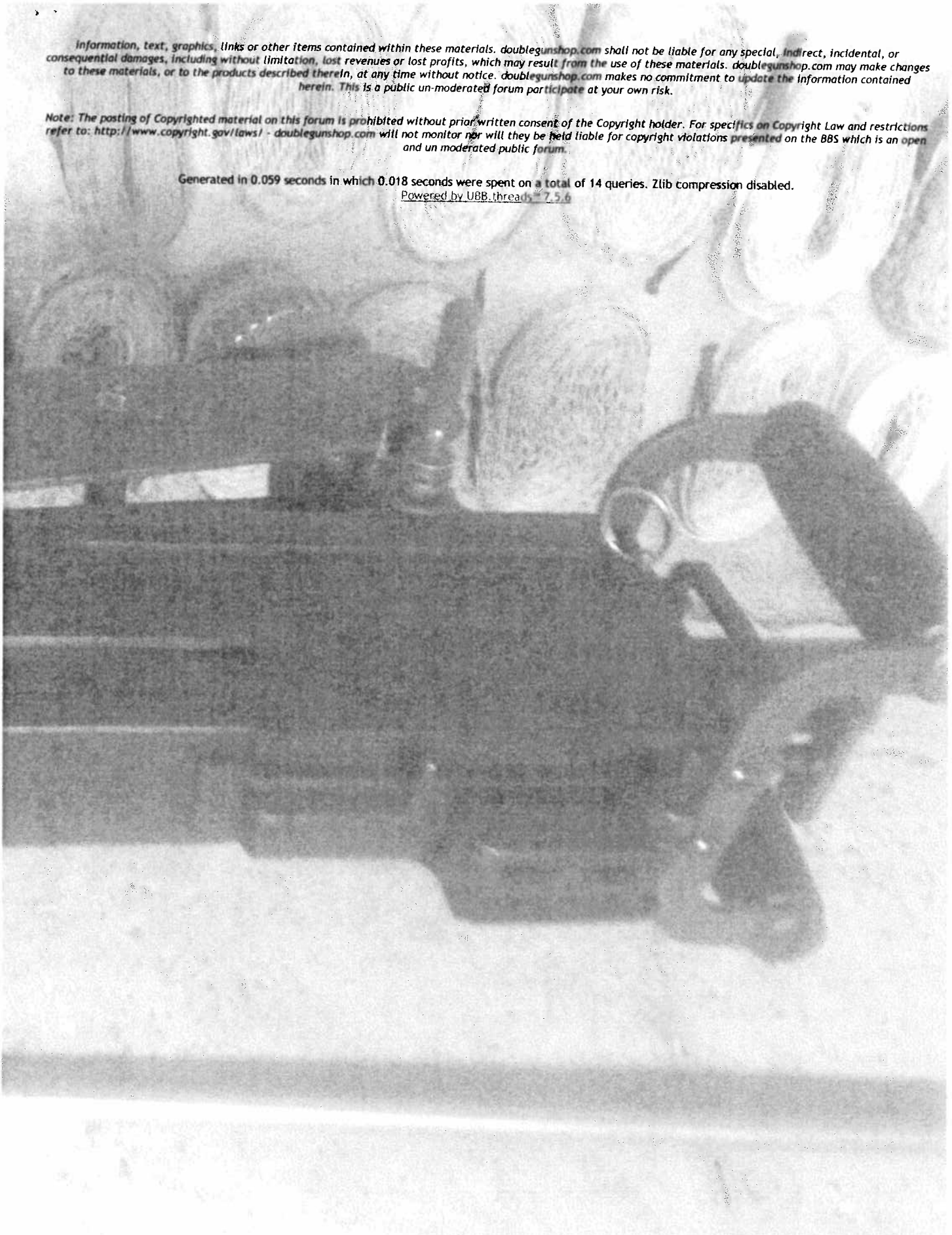
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# The Rifleman's Journal

Including The Shooter's Journal - founded 1999

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## History: The First Smallbore National Championship

### Caldwell, New Jersey 1919: The First Smallbore National Championship

By: Hap Rocketto

The National Outdoor Smallbore Rifle Championship had its antecedents in 1845 when noted French gun maker Nicolas Flobert developed the 22-caliber rimfire cartridge. Flobert experimented with percussion caps to create a quiet, low-powered short-range cartridge. The Gallic inventor formed the soft copper caps to give them a rim and placed a lead ball in the recess as a projectile. The priming mixture in the cap was sufficient enough propellant to allow Parisians to shoot at targets indoors during soirées in the more fashionable upper class salons. The cartridges used in the predecessor of our modern day gallery shooting came to be known as Bulleted Breech Caps, or BB caps.

The next step in the development of the classic rimfire was combining four grains of black powder, in a longer case, with a 29-grain conical bullet. This, the 22-caliber short, created in 1857, has remained virtually the same to this day, only the type of powder has changed. The short has been in continuous commercial production for a century and a half, making it the oldest self-contained cartridge in existence.

By 1871 a larger cartridge, the 22-caliber Long, came into existence. This was followed in 1887 by the 22-caliber Long Rifle, the end of the evolutionary line of the most popular caliber cartridge in history. Flobert's rimfire cartridge has come a long way since its development and, likewise, smallbore, or miniature rifle shooting, as it was more commonly known, took a long time to develop a following in the competitive ranks. Through almost the first two decades of the Twentieth Century it was the poor cousin to military

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rifle competition. However, World War I would play a major role in promoting the rimfire sport.

Interest in marksmanship grew in direct proportion to the United States' involvement in world affairs, particularly in the great buildup of the military that surrounded the entry of the United States in World War. The National Matches, which had been conducted in concert by the Federal Government and the National Rifle Association since 1903, had been cancelled while the boys were "over there" in 1917. With the fighting in Europe ended the National Matches resumed in 1918 at Camp Perry, Ohio with renewed interest and support.

As the armed forces expanded so did their need for training facilities. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Grant of the US Army Ordnance Corps scouted out range locations on the east coast and brought the possibilities of a rather swampy area in northern New Jersey near Caldwell, just 20 miles of so west of New York City to the attention of Colonel William "Bo" Harlee, USMC. Harlee, the Director of Naval Marksmanship, had directed the development of the first Marine Corps rifle range at Stump Neck near Quantico in 1910, and was one of the most experienced range constructors available. When the Navy was given the task of conducting the 1919 National Matches Harlee was in the thick of it. Under the direction of Captain William D. Leahy, USN, the Director of Gunnery Exercises, and the first of only four men to ever reach the rank of Fleet Admiral in the United States Navy, the Navy elected to use the new Caldwell Range at Great Piece Meadows and began to expand the drained swamp area to meet the anticipated need. Soldiers from Governor's Island New York, sailors off of the USS New Mexico, and 200 marines all toiled away side by side.

The job seemed well in hand when it began to rain, a deluge that continued for seven straight days. The continuous rainstorm, just thirty-three days short of biblical proportions, refilled Great Piece Meadow. When the sky cleared the soldier, sailors, and Marines again drained the swamp, restored the butts, and began construction of firing points and walkways of sufficient height to clear another flood. As the troops beavered away the water from the storm ran off, filling a large nearby lake. The earthen dam that formed the lake was unable to contain the rush of additional water and it soon burst under the increased pressure. Water again swept through the range area, washing away anything within its reach not anchored. In the little time remaining after the second flood, the range crew was able to restore some semblance of order, just in time for the next series of rains storms that bedeviled the matches. Along with the

### History: The Winchester Palma Rifles

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**GERMÁN A.  
SALAZAR  
PHOENIX,  
ARIZONA**

Welcome to the  
Rifleman's

Journal. Here you will find articles about accurate rifles, the history of NRA competitive rifle shooting, reloading, and more. If you have any questions or comments, please write to me, I enjoy hearing from others who share my interest in accurate rifles and ammunition. Please remember as you read the articles that this is something I do for my own entertainment. I don't claim that my results are absolute or that my methods the only valid ones; there are many ways to reach our goals. My interest is simply to pass along what I've learned and to explore new ideas. I'm an attorney in my professional life and the time I have for this is limited although I give it



constant damp the range staff and competitors had to put up with swarms of particularly hungry mosquitoes that bred in the uncounted pools of standing water that dotted the besotted camp.

The weather nearly ruined the matches and the matches nearly ruined Harlee. His supervisors certainly understood that he had struggled manfully against the elements and he did all he could to prepare the range, and for this he was praised. What was to be his darkest moment, and the brightest for the 1,000 or so competitors, was when the civilian riflemen learned that there were over 1,000,000 rounds of National Match ammunition stored, unguarded, at the range.

When the word got out, the ammunition stock nearly disappeared over night and the man that had signed for it, Lieutenant Colonel William Curry Harlee, now had to answer for its fate. The lucky lieutenant colonel narrowly escaped a court martial. While Harlee was putting the range together the National Rifle Association appointed United States Army Captain Edward Cathcart Crossman the Chief Range Officer and Assistant Executive Officer of the 1919 matches. He did not come to this position by chance. He was both an outstanding rifleman and arguably the most popular and widely read shooting sports writer of the time. Through the efforts of Colonel Smith W. Brookhart, the president of the National Rifle Association, Crossman was commissioned a captain in 1918 and sent directly to Camp Perry where he helped organize a small arms firing school to teach a cadre of small arms instructors the art and science of shooting so that they might go forth into the various Army camps to improve the shooting skills of the newly minted soldiers.

As a director of the National Rifle Association he had been campaigning to establish a smallbore shooting program as a feeder for the, as he saw it, more important service rifle competitions. As the probability of a smallbore match to coincide with the "big shoot" at Caldwell became more of a reality Crossman, now stationed at the Infantry School of Arms at Camp Benning, Georgia, took to the pages of Arms and the Man in March to both solicit ideas from the smallbore community about the form of a national smallbore match and raise the consciousness of the shooting community to the smallbore game. As it is often said, one should be careful of what one wishes for as it may be granted. On June 7, 1919 the National Rifle Association announced that Crossman had been selected to conduct a smallbore rifle tournament to coincide with the 1919 National Matches at Caldwell, just a matter the of a short month and a half away.

my best effort. I hope you find it useful and entertaining.

[View my complete profile](#)

Faced with the daunting task of creating a tournament out of nothing Crossman immediately enlisted the aid of a fellow member of the Los Angeles Rifle Club, Captain Grosvenor L. Wotkyns who was detached from his post in California and sent east. He quickly added Captain W.H. "Cap" Richard of Winchester and Fred Kahrs of Remington. Both were well known smallbore shooters with Kahrs quite often contributing to various shooting publications under the nom de plume of Al Blanco. Crossman's ace in the hole was Captain E.J.D. Nesbitt, a British citizen and an officer of that nation's Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. Nesbitt had extensive experience in mounting the British smallbore championships at Bisley and would lend his expertise to the fledgling efforts in the United States.

There was added impetus for Crossman to create a smooth and successful national tournament. On May 27, 1919 A.E. Codrington, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs posted a letter challenging the National Rifle Association of America to once again compete for the Sir Thomas Dewar Challenger Cup, last contested in 1914. Competition for the Dewar Cup was suspended during World War I and, with the end of hostilities, the British were anxious to reestablish the match. Although various courses of fire had been used indoors in the pre-war years the two shooting associations negotiated a set of rules acceptable to both. Teams of 20 competitors would fire 20 record shots at 50 and 100 yards with metallic sights with a time limit of one minute per shot, rules that have remained virtually unchanged to this day.

Working with great speed Crossman was able to publish the program and conditions for the first smallbore championship in the June 28, 1919 Arms and The Man. He announced that the course of fire would be divided between prone events at 50 and 100 yards, in the British style, some long range shooting at 200 yards to simulate the 30 caliber matches, some matches open only to boys or the ladies, and some novelty matches requiring the breaking of frangible discs at various distances. Some of the matches would be re-entry while other would be squadded. Crossman was making a conscious attempt to create a match that would have wide appeal to draw as many shooters as possible as he wanted to build up the pool from which he might draw for Dewar team members.

While Crossman and his minions were toiling away in New Jersey the prospect of a renaissance in smallbore prone shooting through the introduction of smallbore National Matches sparked a flurry of correspondence to and from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in New Haven, Connecticut. The War Department had cancelled contracts

for the 22-caliber old Winchester Model 1885 Musket and was not entertaining further purchases of this type of firearm. Future purchases, if any, would probably center about a bolt-action rifle to better simulate the service rifles of the time, the Springfield 1903 and the Enfield 1917. Sensing the sea change Henry Brewer, a Winchester vice president, directed product engineer Thomas Crosley Johnson and Frank F. Burton to move independently forward on the development of Experimental Design Number 111.

By the end of April an experimental rifle had been shown to Lieutenant Colonel Townsend Whelen, US Army General Staff, Director of Civilian Marksmanship Major Richard D. La Garde, General Fred Phillips, NRA President, and Arms and the Man Editor Kendrick Schofield, receiving rave reviews. Under the direction of Edwin Pugsley, Winchester then rushed ahead and prepared six rifles for use at Caldwell. Five rifles were built in 22 caliber long rifle and one in 22 caliber short and designated G22R.

Winchester's chief representative at Caldwell, Albert F. Laudensack, wielded the new rifle with such success that he was named to the Dewar Team while "Cap" Richards won the 50 yard sweeps with a re-entry match with a perfect score. A.M. Morgan and Donald Price teamed up and used the new rifles to take both the Field and Stream and Smallbore Marine Corps Cup Matches. During the matches the Winchester rifle far surpassed the new Savage bolt action Model 19 NRA Match Rifle. On September 11, 1919 the G22R was officially designated the Model 52 and the rest, as they say, is history.

The rain was a bother but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors, even though the 200-yard matches were cancelled because the smallbore long-range butts were washed away. With 20 firing points at both 50 and 100 yards there was plenty of room to accommodate those wishing to fire some smallbore shooting in between high power relays. All a competitor had to do was show up, purchase a gummed squadding ticket, saunter out to the line, have the range officer assign a firing point, and pick up a complimentary loading block marked with an advertisement from the benefactor. While waiting for the previous relay to end, usually no more than a few minutes, the competitor would fill the block with the correct number of record shots-there were no sighters allowed, lick the gummed squadding tickets and affix to the target, set up when the firing point cleared, and then shoot the match upon command. The first match was a far cry from the more formal and tightly choreographed national matches of later years.

Starting on August 4th, the smallbore shooters potted away

and the events proved popular enough to remind high power coaches of the New Testament parable of the shepherd and the ninety and nine sheep. It was not uncommon for coaches to have to stop by the smallbore range to gather up a missing team member or two for the center fire shooting. The prize schedule was pretty rich considering the short time in which Crossman had to arrange things. While 50% of the entry fees would be returned to the winners in cash and the other half in medals and pennants from the NRA there were also merchandise prizes such as a BSA Number 12 Martini Rifle, a gold watch valued at \$50.00, and various cups and trophies donated by vendors and munitions companies. The first National Smallbore Rifle Champion, contested over a single Dewar course of fire, turned out to be none other than Grosvenor L. Wotkyns who out shot "Cap" Richards 392 to 390. Wotkyns' haul was a \$50.00 gold watch, a gold medal, and \$6.30 in cash. Richards pocketed a whopping \$4.70 and a bronze medal.

With his eye on the Dewar Crossman was carefully watching all of the major players in the tournament. He selected the top 40 finishers in the Small Bore Individual Match, a Dewar, to participate in an elimination match over the same course of fire. When the scores from the two matches were totaled "Cap" Richard was on top by two with Wotkyns in second place, an exact reversal of their finish in the National Championship. Rounding out the first United States Dewar Trophy team of the modern era was A.E. Hart, A.F. Laudensack, W.C. Andrews, E.B. Rice, J.A. Wade, Commander W.W. Stewart, Lieutenant Colonel J.K. Bowles, J.E. Miller, Captain D.A. Preussner, J.L. Renew, Captain P.A. Raymond, Commander Willis Lee, Captain G.W. Chesley, J.G. Schnerring, Walter Stokes, D.W. Price, A.M. Morgan, and tied for 20th place Commander H.D. Denny and the Match Director's wife, Mrs. Blanche Crossman.

A shoot-off was scheduled to see if Commander Denny or Mrs. Crossman would occupy the final place, but it was called of when it was realized that Price, a shooter of no mean skill, had but one arm and used a forked prosthesis when shooting. This was officially determined to be artificial support, barred under the rules, and Price withdrew, forestalling the showdown between the tied competitors. Thus Mrs. Crossman entered into the shooting history books as the first woman to shoot on a United States international team.

On Sunday morning, the 24th of August, the team assembled on the firing line and in three relays started shooting under almost ideal conditions that would stay with them all day. At their disposal were selected lots of ammunition from the various manufacturers and the new

rifles from Winchester. The 20 shooters used the new Winchester rifles, one Savage bolt action Model 19 NRA Match Rifle, a Winchester 1885 Musket, two Stevens Model 414s, and a pair of rifles built on old Ballard actions mounting Andrews barrels. An hour after noon the match was over and the scores were announced the United States had posted a 7,617 to Great Britain's 7,523. Newett, as the official representative of the British, was most effusive in his congratulatory comments.

With his mission seen to a successful conclusion Crossman could take great pleasure in both the team results and those of his wife. More importantly this international win would serve to fan the spark of the smoldering smallbore movement. Within days the National Rifle Association, at its annual meeting held a Caldwell at the end of the matches, named a blue ribbon committee of Whelen, Crossman, Wotkyns, La Garde, Captain Thomas Samworth, Marine Major J.J. Dooley, and K.K.V. Casey to standardize smallbore. What was just a dream in the early spring was now a growing reality in the late summer. Although the growing season for most agriculture crops was coming to an end it was just beginning for smallbore rifle shooting.

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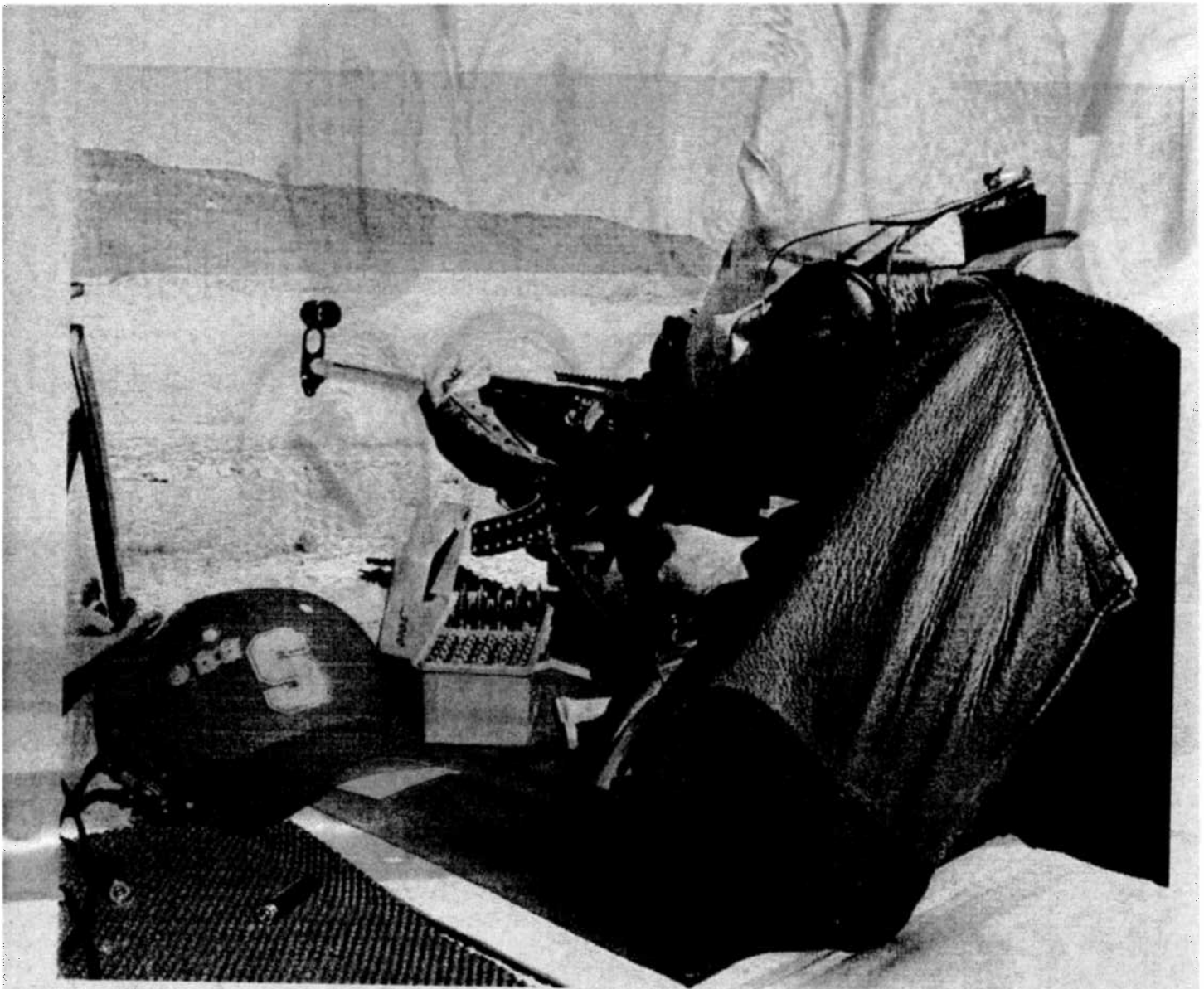
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