

No. 5002/919-7

June 3, 1931.

Commissioner-General of Immigration,  
Washington, D. C.

Reference being had to Bureau letter of May 1, 1931, No. 55751/676, there are transmitted herewith two sets of records covering the results of pistol and rifle shooting recently engaged in by patrol officers of this district and consisting of the following:

Individual average results of two pistol matches on May 31, 1931;  
Individual scores of the two matches at 50 yards slow fire, 25 yards time fire, and 25 yards rapid fire;  
Individual average results of two rifle matches held on May 30 and June 1, 1931;  
Individual scores in the two rifle matches, the one on May 30th being 200 yards offhand, 300 yards rapid and 600 yards prone, the one on June 1, 1931, being 200 yards offhand, 200 yards rapid fire, 300 yards rapid fire and 600 yards slow fire;  
Average results of the pistol team of the El Paso Subdistrict for five days' practice preceding the competition shooting on May 31, 1931;  
Individual results of rifle practice shooting by officers of the El Paso Subdistrict preceding the competition match on May 31, 1931;  
Copies of reports concerning the record of George W. Parker and Charles Askins, Jr., the leading rifle shots of the district, and as to Chester C. Courtney, pistol shot, and Nick D. Collaer, rifle shot.

The following is a list of the officers who participated in the competitive pistol and rifle matches at El Paso, Texas, on May 31, and June 1:

Charles Askins, Jr.  
Ammon M. Tenney  
Chester C. Courtney  
Orin A. Toole  
Wilmer E. Beckstrom  
David L. Scoles  
George W. Parker, Jr.  
James W. Metcalfe  
Michael T. Box  
Alvin N. Ogden  
Earl Nolen

Patrol Inspector  
Senior Patrol Inspector  
Chief Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector  
Senior Patrol Inspector  
Senior Patrol Inspector  
Senior Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector

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William D. Hunt  
Arthur G. Brooks  
Kermit A. Kyle  
Floyd A. Davis  
Edward C. Dennis

Motor Mechanic  
Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector  
Senior Patrol Inspector  
Patrol Inspector

The writer believes that the most remarkable result in the rifle competition was made by Assistant Superintendent Nick D. Collaer, who for the past two months has been working night and day in Arizona and appeared on the range without having had opportunity to fire a single practice shot. In the first day's competition he was in seventh place. On the second day's match he was tied with three others for fifth place with a very creditable score, - one that would rate him as better than "expert rifleman". There is no doubt that with a few weeks' practice he would rate among the best four rifle shots of the district.

The pistol competition covered the identical features involved in the competition matches at Camp Perry last year. In the rifle matches we were compelled to forego the 1000 yard slow fire, a feature of the Camp Perry competitions, because there was no provision for it on the range on which the officers were shooting; however, most of the officers have received practice on the 1000 yard Army range and will continue to do so, and some of them have made very creditable scores at that distance.

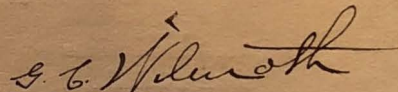
As indicating the first-class quality of the shooting done by our officers, it will be noted that for the two competitive pistol matches, the scores of the five officers--a pistol team-- who were highest totaled 1,255. In the International Police Team match at Camp Perry last year, the total score of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was 1,246 (Page 33, the American Rifleman for October 1930). In the National Pistol Team match of twenty-seven entries, our team on its recent high scores would have finished between teams Nos. 2 and 3 in the National Match, team No. 2 having a total score of 1,271 and team No. 3 a total score of 1,248, (Page 34, the American Rifleman for October 1930).

In the National Rifle Team Match at Camp Perry last year there were 108 entries. The only way we can make a comparison on the basis of the recent rifle shooting at El Paso is to consider the 200 and 600 yards slow fire and the 300 yards rapid fire, since as explained we did not have access to a 1,000 yard range and the 200 yards rapid fire course was shot over but once in the recent competition. The scores of the ten officers having the highest marks for the 200 and 600 yards slow fire and the 300 yards rapid fire in the two days' competition total 1,304. In the National Rifle Team Match at Camp Perry last year this would have placed the El Paso team slightly ahead of the 36th team, the Louisiana National Guard team, in the entry of 108 teams, the Louisiana National Guard team having a total of 1,299 for those three events, (Page 39, the American Rifleman for October 1930).

As a matter of fact, the rifle range recently used is a very poor one with a poor background for the targets and on the first day of the competition a strong wind was blowing. The writer has no doubt that the ten men with the highest scores for the two days on a good rifle range would make a much better showing and would place considerably higher in the national event even without any additional practice.



Every patrol inspector should know how to handle a pistol and rifle; and it follows that the more expert they are as marksmen and the more publicity that is given to their prowess as marksmen, the less they will be called upon to demonstrate their marksmanship. Every patrol inspector really should be expected to qualify as better than an expert marksman. They will do this only with sufficient practice and proper instruction. It is understood that at Camp Perry each year there is a school of instructions lasting from about the 20th of August until about the middle of September, and the writer believes it would be a wonderful thing if the Bureau and Department could see their way clear to detail a number of officers from each district to proceed to Camp Perry to take the full course of instructions and to participate in the competitive matches. Each student of that school is graduated therefrom qualified to instruct and within a comparatively short time, we would have an organization of such expert marksmen that whenever they called upon smugglers to halt, they would do so without attempting to engage in a battle with those possessing so much greater superiority to themselves in the matter of handling firearms. It is sincerely trusted that such a detail to attend the school of instructions will be found possible. Personally, the writer can foresee such beneficial results from the training that he is perfectly willing to suffer the inconvenience that would result from the absence of the officers from the district during the required training period.



G. C. WILMOTH,  
District Director of Immigration,  
El Paso District.

Incl. 233482.