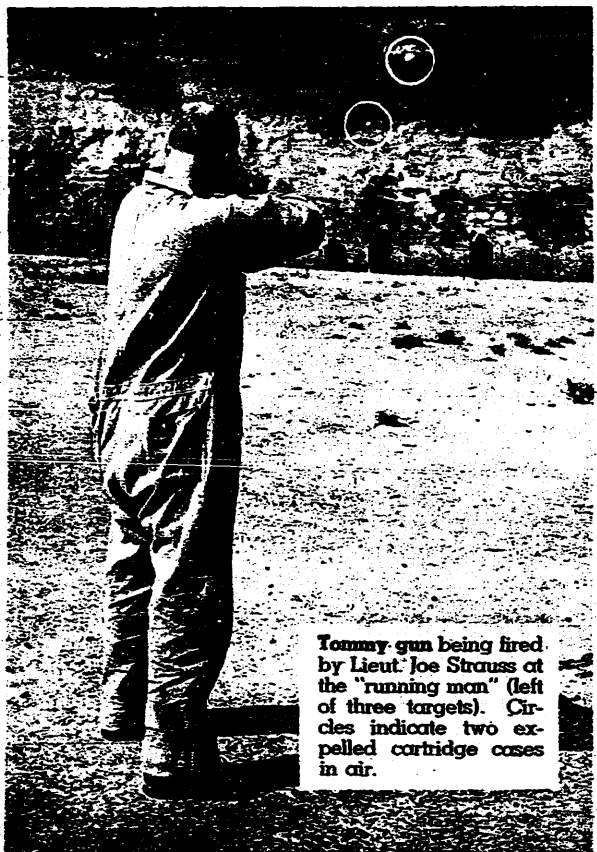


What makes the "running man" run. The third rail powers an electric truck carrying a man-like target (thin edge toward camera). Standing targets flanking track represent "taxpayers" through which the "running man" seems to dodge. Herman Mahnke and Lewis Stickney prepare carrier.



Tommy gun being fired by Lieut. Joe Strauss at the "running man" (left of three targets). Circles indicate two expelled cartridge cases in air.

Why Cleveland's Police Are "Dead Shots"

By ROGER MARSH

THE Cleveland Police Department has one of the best arms training and re-training courses in the United States today.

Cleveland's training program teaches the officer to handle, shoot and hit with the service pistol, the submachine gun, the riot shotgun and high-power rifle, firing at still and moving targets.

On the outdoor ranges, down in the "Baby's Boot" bend of Big Creek, the officer fires his revolver at the combat plate, at a ringing target, at conventional targets, at "the running man" and at flying targets on the "Super Skeeet Circle." An indoor range provides targets that shoot back in the dark and moving picture targets.

Assignments to fire on the outdoor range are given as a regular police car call, the car—complete with personnel—being directed to proceed to the range. On arrival, the officers sign in, check their weapons and, in turn, go on the line.

If the officer's schedule takes him to the ringing target, he finds himself faced by a square of heavy steel standing on heavy supporting posts and painted a dull black. In its center there is a bull's-eye size hole behind which is mounted an armored mechanism containing a bell and ringer. Bullets passing through the bull's-eye announce the fact quite clearly. Near (and not so near) misses leave lead smears on the black-painted face plate, which is repainted at intervals during the shooting, while a complete miss throws a dirt puff out of the far wall of Big Creek's canyon. The running man, normally shot as "the



Capt. Richard Wagner, head of police academy.

running man and taxpayers" is an electric motor-driven carriage moving on steel rails behind a low embankment of earth which protects the rail and power unit while leaving the targets, mounted well above the carriage, visible. A gasoline engine-driven portable generator supplies enough power through the third-rail system to drive the carriage at about 12 feet

per second, fast enough to make a definite "lead" necessary.

Lieut. Strauss and Patrolmen Herman Mahnke (the Unit of Arms' acting gunsmith) and Lewis Stickney mount a steel target on the running man carriage and then place other steel targets—the taxpayers—in fixed mounts in front of and behind the running man's rails, so that the "feeling criminal" appears to weave in and out among "innocent bystanders."

The .38 loads used in police revolvers, the .45 A. C. P. ammunition in the Tommy and the buck loads in the shotguns do little more than leave a bullet smear on the steel running man or—heaven forbid!—on the taxpayers. This, as with the ringing target, is easily painted over.

But when the Remington .300 auto-rifle is to be fired, it's a different story. Those .300 Savage bronze-points will pop through any ordinary steel target as though it were Camembert cheese . . . so the taxpayers are taken down and stowed, and the steel running man is replaced by a paper "silhouette" target. Shots are scored according to the "vital" areas they strike on the target.

The running man might seem to be an easy target as he stops at each end of his travel before starting the new run, but a combination of an ingenious reversing switch and heavily spring-loaded stop bumpers makes the running man's stop very short indeed.

THE Police Academy's Capt. Richard Wagner, responsible for much of the present arms training schedule, has no ambition to be a cowboy, but he has introduced a man-against-man combat match in which the quick draw (even without the "Trampas Walk") plays a part.

Every competent pistolman knows that a good man can get his gun out of leather, aim, fire and hit while another man is trying to get off a good shot with an already drawn gun. The combination of practice and "intent" makes for speed.

The average individual—and the average officer, all too often—feels that if he has his revolver out and covering his opponent, he has everything under control. This is a good way to get dead.

The combat plate offers the proof. This delicately balanced steel target tips away from the man whose bullet first strikes it. Capt. Wagner, Lieut. Strauss and other shooters who keep in practice can permit the average officer to draw his gun and stand ready to fire while they keep their weapons holstered—and still beat him.

Since skeet seemed too easy and since the Cleveland outdoor police range had some spare space, the police department set up a super skeet field. This provides advanced training with the shotgun on aerial and fast-moving targets.

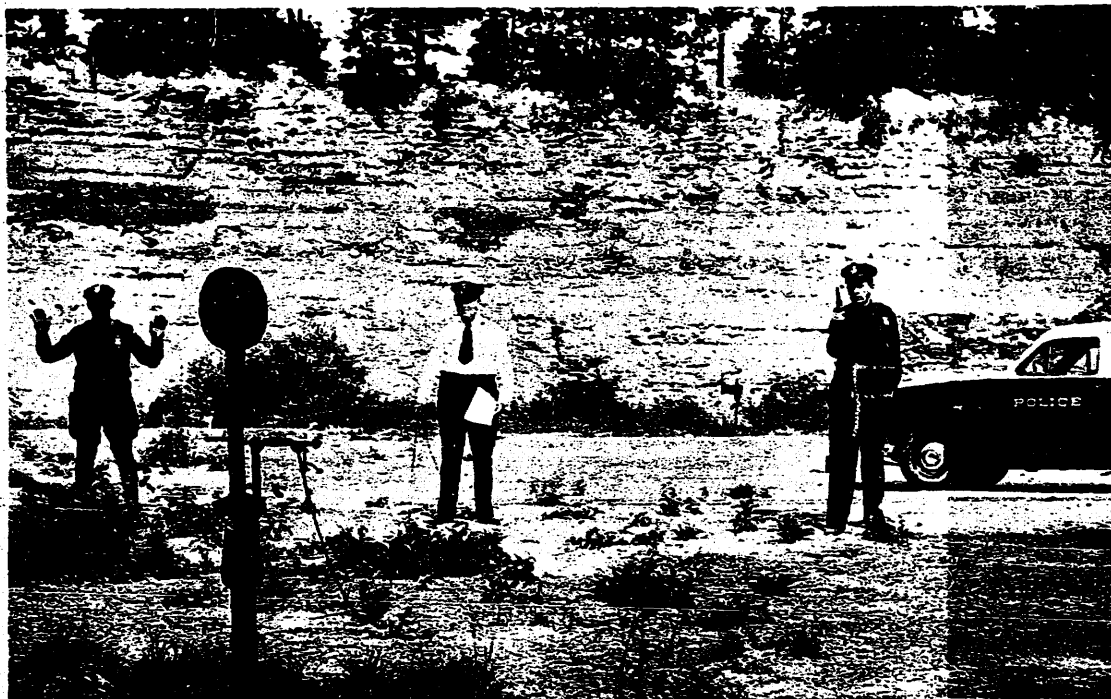
Unlike the skeet range with its semi-circular arrangement of firing points and its two houses, the police range has its firing points around a full circle—with one point in the middle—and has only one house. Only doubles are thrown, and the shooter gets an assortment of shots including outgoers, crossers and incomers.

The police department regards its hunters and sportsmen as a definite asset, and the Police Academy—and Unit of Arms make the ranges, especially the aerial range, available to these men before hunting season.

They supply their own ammunition, targets are available at cost and the coaching is free . . . and men who know how to shoot, other things being equal, make better policemen.



One hundred yards from the "running man" target, Patrolman Francis Muhlham fires the Remington Model 81, caliber .300 Savage, autoloading rifle. Mounted Patrolman Robert Paisley is coach. Standing on firing pit in right rear is Capt. Wagner.



The combat plate. Sergt. Joseph McManamon (center) will give the word and Patrolman Paisley (with hands raised) will draw and shoot in an attempt to beat Patrolman George Cooper, who stands with drawn pistol at the ready. Photo inset at right—Target tilted toward Cooper proves that "Pappy" Paisley scored first hit. Police are also trained to shoot with either hand.



The ringing target. Patrolman Elmer Casper loads and Patrolman Stephen Widlak fires. The armor-plate target holder has a bull's-eye size hole in center backed by a bell and ringer mechanism which gives audible evidence of center hits.