

TD:ACC

August 18, 1934.

Mr. J. M. Keith,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
3951 Navy Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I have been considerably concerned over the situation that has been developing in the training of new Agents in the use of firearms. I note from the Division records that there were some eight Special Agents from the last Training School who were unable to qualify in the use of firearms, who, nevertheless were sent to field offices for detail.

I have issued orders that this practice must cease at once and I wish that you would take the necessary action so as to arrange a definite schedule in order that all trainees will receive one week's training at the Training School in Washington in connection with the routine instructions in the use of firearms and that the second week of the Training School be devoted to training in firearms at one of the Army camps.

Effective immediately, any new appointee who fails to qualify in the use of firearms at the termination of the period of the Training School will be dropped from the rolls. In cases where the Inspector in charge of the Training School believes that a trainee has vast possibilities for development in the service, the trainee may be advised that if he desires, he can arrange to attend the course of training at the next Training School; if he is able to qualify in that training, he can then resume his position in the next Training School and take the remainder of the course and be reinstated in the service.

I do not think, however, that we should send to the field or continue in the Training School any person who has been unable to qualify in the use of firearms.

I wish that you would give this your immediate and personal attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

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Handwritten initials and a checkmark.

Vertical list of names on the left margin, partially obscured.