

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 11, 1934

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| MR. NATHAN.... |
| MR. TOLSON.... |
| MR. CLEGG. .. |
| MR. COWLEY.... |
| MR. EDWARDS.. |
| MR. EGAN..... |
| MR. QUINN..... |
| MR. LESTER.... |
| CHIEF CLERK... |
| MR. ROBER..... |

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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In compliance with instructions, I attended the meeting of the Virginia State Police at the Virginia State Military Reservation, some 20 miles from Norfolk, Virginia, at which Mr. Henry FitzGerald of the Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company lectured and instructed in the use of firearms by law enforcement officials.

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| TOLSON |
| BAUGHMAN |
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Mr. FitzGerald has been engaged in instruction in the handling of firearms for many years and for some fifteen years has been an inspector - instructor for the New York State Police in firearms matters. He is also a member of the Portland, Oregon Police Department, of the New York State Chiefs of Police Association, of the National Identification Association and of the National Rifle Association.

Mr. FitzGerald gives an interesting course of instruction in what he terms police and defensive shooting. He devotes his instruction to shooting at a silhouette target, the outline of which is the shape of a man rather than at a bull's-eye target. I believe the instruction given by him is very practical and would be of material benefit and value to employees of the Division of Investigation.

Some of the subjects covered by Mr. FitzGerald in his instruction to police organizations would not be applicable to this Division. However, I discussed with him the matter of his training employees of this Division at the different field offices and he indicated his belief that the Colt Company would be willing to have him go to the different field offices to instruct Special Agents in the handling of firearms. As suggested by Mr. Tolson, I will direct a letter to Mr. FitzGerald requesting that, on his way back to Connecticut from Virginia, he stop by the Division for a conference concerning this matter.

Among the points covered in Mr. FitzGerald's instruction is right and left hand shooting. He stresses the necessity for a law enforcement officer knowing how to handle firearms with his left hand in addition to his right as there are occasions when the right hand may be injured or, when firing around the corner of a building, the left hand should be used in order to avoid exposing the major portion of the officer's or agent's body. Instruction is given in the quick drawing of firearms and the rapid firing at a man sized target in different ranges. He trains in firing alternately at two different targets within a very brief space of time. He pointed out that in most law enforcement shooting, the range is very short, the distances varying from 10 feet to 25 yards. Training is given in firing at a half exposed target as at a man firing from behind a tree or

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around the corner of a building. He pointed out that when firing at night, the officer should, if standing after firing a shot, immediately move aside or, if prone on the ground, immediately roll over and get away from behind the flash of the gun. He instructs in the proper methods of firing from the running board of a moving automobile or when sitting in the seat of an automobile. He gives instruction in the proper methods of searching a criminal and in firing simultaneously with two guns at two persons; also instruction in the proper method of approaching a car which has been stopped for the purpose of questioning or examining the occupants. He also gives instruction in the method of disarming an armed criminal.

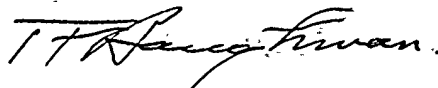
Mr. Tolson has suggested that, at training classes of newly appointed Special Agents, I lecture for an hour concerning the use and handling of firearms. If it is your desire that this be done, I will communicate with Mr. Keith concerning it.

Mr. FitzGerald has written a book concerning revolvers and pistols and their use, a copy of which I have secured and will review for the purpose of determining whether it would be worth while to secure a copy for each field office.

In compliance with Mr. Tolson's suggestion that some inquiries be made concerning Mr. FitzGerald's background and standing, I communicated with the National Rifle Association and am directing a wire to the President of the National Identification Association.

The National Rifle Association advised me that Mr. FitzGerald is well known throughout the country as an instructor and coach for law enforcement agencies and bank personnel in the handling of firearms and that he is well thought of and respected. He is also well known as an expert witness in court trials on the subject of ballistics evidence.

Respectfully,



T. F. Baughman.