

Military Excellence-in-Competition Matches

Regulations Extracted From the Small Arms Firing Manual of 1913

– corrected to April 1917 –

By Dick Culver

Unlike the 1909 regulations, only two competitions are listed in the 1913/1917 Manual, again to be held every “alternate” year or when directed by the Secretary of War:

1. The Department rifle competitions.
2. The Department pistol competitions.

No mention is made of the “Army” competition, but the competitions were to be held at such places and times as designated by the respective department commanders. One new change in the “corrected” 1913 Manual called for a department rifle competition for the Philippine Scouts beginning in 1916.

Regulations for the Rifle Leg Matches (1913/1917)

Course of Fire for the Department Rifle Competition					
Range in Yards	Target	Type of Fire	# of Rounds	Position	Time Limit
200	D	Rapid	10 with reload from stripper clip	Kneeling or Sitting <u>from</u> Standing	1 minute
300	A	Slow	10	Sitting <u>or</u> Kneeling	No time limit specified
300	D	Rapid	10 with reload from stripper clip	Prone <u>from</u> Standing	70 seconds
500	B	Slow	10	Prone	No time limit specified
500	D	Rapid	10 with reload from stripper clip	Prone assumed <u>before</u> string of fire	80 seconds
600	B	Slow	2 sighting shots plus 10 rounds	Prone w/sandbag rest	No time limit specified
1000	C	Slow	2 sighting shots plus 10 rounds	Prone w/sandbag rest	No time limit specified

This course of fire was to be fired twice, on two separate days for the total aggregate score to determine the medal (leg) winners. The entire course (both days) took a total of 140 shots.

Unlike former competitions, ***the peep sight was legal for use in rapid fire***, although either the peep or battle sight could be used at the option of the competitor.

When using the sandbag rest, either the rifle or the back of the hand had to touch the sandbag.

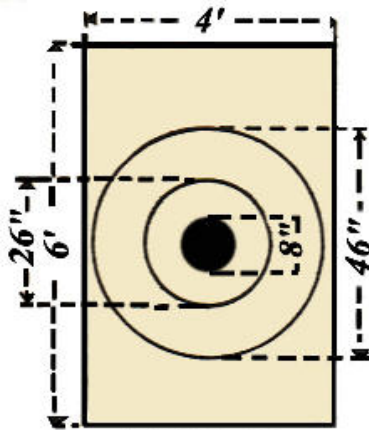
The competitors winning (leg) medals were said to have *made* the “Department Team”, and as in the 1909 matches the medals were awarded on the basis of 20% of the non-Distinguished enlisted shooters, with fractions not included. When carefully worked out, it amounts to the currently familiar top 1/6th of the medal winners receiving gold medals, the next 1/3rd receiving silver medals and the final 1/2 of the medal winners garnering bronze medals. The chart included in the 1913/17 Manual is reproduced below:

Total Number of Enlisted Competitors	Team (this <u>actually</u> means the number of medal winners).	Number of Gold Medals Awarded	Number of Silver Medals Awarded	Number of Bronze Medals Awarded
30 or more	6	1	2	3
35	7	1	2	4
40	8	1	2	5
45	9	1	3	5
50	10	2	3	5
55	11	2	3	6
60	12	2	4	6
65	13	2	4	7
70	14	2	4	8
75	15	2	5	8
80	16	2	5	9
85	17	2	5	10
90	18	2	6	10
95	19	3	6	10
100	20	3	6	11
105	21	3	7	11
110	22	3	7	12
115	23	3	7	13
120	24	3	8	13
125	25	3	8	14
130	26	3	8	15
135	27	3	9	15
140	28	4	9	15
145	29	4	9	16
150	30	4	10	16
155	31	4	10	17
160	32	4	10	18
165	33	4	11	18
170	34	4	11	19
175	35	4	11	20
180	36	4	12	20

Additional competitors were figured at the same ratio as the above chart.

Non-Distinguished officer competitors did not compete directly with the enlisted shooters, but had to make a score equal to the “like medal” awarded to the enlisted men making the team. It was no longer necessary for the officers to make a score equal to the enlisted score plus an additional 5%.

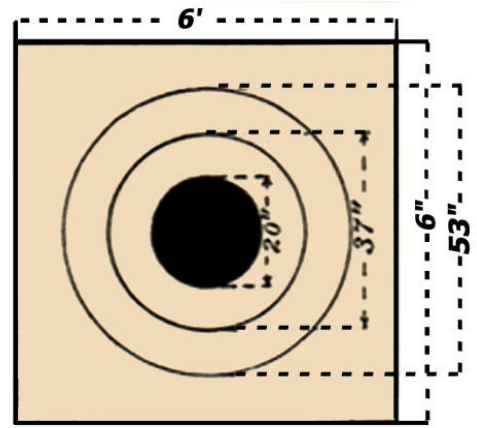
Targets Utilized in 1917



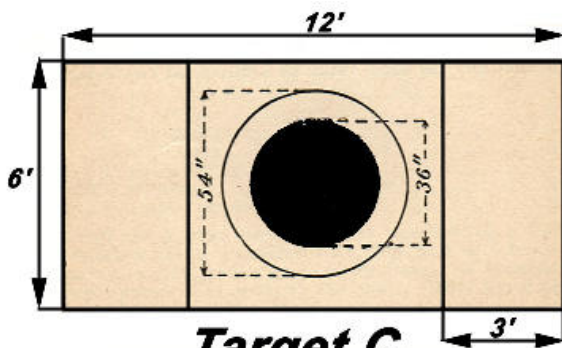
TARGET A

The 1917 version of the “A” Target remained unchanged from its original format. The course of fire specified for both the Requalification Course and the Excellence-in-Competition Course used the “A” Target for the 300-yard slow fire stage specifying sitting or kneeling at the competitor’s option. No standing (offhand) firing was included in the course.

The familiar “B” Target was utilized for 500 and 600-yard slow fire. The 600-yard stage specified 2 sighting shots and the remaining 20 rounds fired utilizing a sandbag rest. With the exception of the addition of the 12” “V-Ring” in 1922, this target remained unchanged until the adoption of the Decimal Target in the late 1960s.



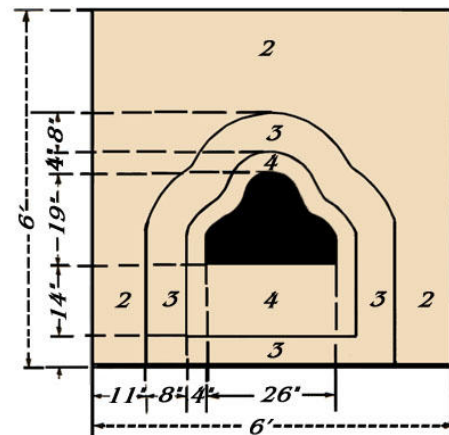
TARGET B



Target C.

The “C” Target was utilized for the 1000-yard stage of the Requalification Course and the Excellence-in-Competition Courses. Two sighting shots were allowed at the 1000-yard line prior to the 20 shots for record. A sandbag rest was permitted, specifying that either the back of the hand or the rifle had to rest on the sandbag.

The “D” Target was used for rapid fire at the 200, 300 and 500-yard stages of fire. For the first time (according to the 1917 update of the Small Arms Firing Regulations) it was no longer necessary to utilize the “battle-sight” during the rapid fire stages (although the battle-sight was allowed at the option of the shooter).



Target D