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POLICE SCIENCE

Col. Calvin Hooker Goddard
1891-1955

As the founder and first editor of this Journal (*American Journal of Police Science*) and as a pioneer in the development of scientific methods of criminal investigation in our country, Col. Calvin H. Goddard has left an indelible stamp upon our present society.

Born in Baltimore, October 30, 1891, son of Capt. Henry P. Goddard, he graduated (with honors) from Johns Hopkins University in 1911 and was awarded his M.D. degree in 1915. He received special training in military medicine at the U. S. Army Medical School, from which he was an honors graduate in 1917. Serving in the Army Medical Corps in France, Germany, and Poland as well as in this country during World War I, he was advanced through grades to the rank of major. In 1920 he resigned his Army commission to become Assistant Director (for business administration) of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1924 he was called to the post of Administrative Director of the Cornell University Clinic in New York City.

During this interval, his interest in firearms, which had been a hobby since boyhood days, narrowed into the more specialized field of firearms identification. Working with such men as Judge C. E. Waite, Philip Gravelle, and Capt. E. C. Crossman, he developed the comparison technique for identifying characteristic markings left by rifling grooves, firing pins, or extractor claws on fired bullets and cartridge cases. An ingenious adaptation of the bronchoscope and cystoscope, long used by the medical profession for the inspection of inaccessible portions of the human anatomy, enabled him to examine defects in the interior of rifled gun barrels. The adaptation of the comparison eyepiece to permit the simultaneous microscopic examination of two bullets was also one of Goddard's additions to the techniques of firearms identification. His first paper bearing on these new methods was published in *Army Ordnance* in 1925. The hobby quickly brought him fame, and his services were in frequent demand in criminal cases involving firearms evidence.

By 1926 his work on firearms identification so encroached upon his medical duties that he resigned from the Cornell Clinic staff to form (with Judge C. E. Waite and others) the Bureau of Forensic Ballistics. One of his early *causes celebre* was the Sacco-Vanzetti case. The Governor of Massachusetts, in considering the appeal of the convicted men for clemency, requested Goddard's opinion concerning the reliability of the prosecution's identification of the fatal bullet allegedly fired from Sacco's pistol. Goddard's findings completely corroborated those of the prosecution experts.

In 1929 he was called to Chicago, which had become notorious as the Crime Capitol of the nation, to examine evidence in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. In

this particular crime seven men were mowed down by members of a rival gang armed with two "Tommy" guns and a 12 gauge automatic shotgun. Due to Goddard's work on the fired bullets and cartridge cases, the two Thompson sub-machine guns were finally located in a hoodlum hideout in St. Joseph, Michigan.

In the St. Valentine's Day case, the Cook County Coroner empanelled a so-called "Blue Ribbon" jury composed of outstanding citizens to hear the testimony and render a verdict. Among these were such industrial leaders as Bert A. Masee and Walter A. Olson. So impressed were these and other civic-minded citizens of Chicago with the efficacy of Goddard's methods, that they persuaded him to organize a Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in their city. With the support and encouragement of Dean John H. Wigmore, the laboratory was established in 1930 as a division of Northwestern University's Law School. With Col. Goddard as Director and Professor of Police Science, a staff of specialists was gathered together covering such additional techniques as chemistry, toxicology, serology, document examination, detection of deception, microscopic identification, and photography. This was the first comprehensive scientific police laboratory in the nation.

In order to have the benefit of foreign experience in this field, Col. Goddard made a tour of medicolegal institutes and police laboratories in many European countries. The purpose of the laboratory was not alone the investigation of criminal cases, but also the training of police personnel in the use of scientific techniques. As a part of the educational program, the *American Journal of Police Science* was established in 1930 with Col. Goddard as managing editor, a position which he held until his resignation in 1934.

Following his return to Washington, D. C., Col. Goddard held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and from the Oberlaender Trust to permit continuation of his studies and researches on firearm identification techniques both in this country and in European laboratories. At the outset of World War II he was recalled to active duty and served in the Ordnance section, the Army War College, and finally as Chief of the Criminal Investigation Laboratory of the Far Eastern Command at Tokyo.

In 1951 he returned to the national capitol to assist in editing historical memoirs for the Army Medical Corps. His untimely death, February 22, 1955, from a cardiac ailment, followed a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Eliza (Harrison) Goddard and two daughters, Mrs. Harry Bacas and Mrs. Henry Zon.

Throughout his entire career, Col. Goddard has been an inspiration to all those who have been interested in the application of Science to the service of Justice. He was most generous in giving of his time and energy to help younger men with their investigative problems. If George Washington may fairly be called the "Father of his Country," then surely Calvin Hooker Goddard may justly be entitled the "Father of Scientific Crime Detection" in these United States. His passing represents a real loss to Law Enforcement in our land.

C. W. Muehlberger