

= Walter Walsh =

Colonel Walter Rudolph Walsh (May 4 , 1907 ? April 29 , 2014) was an FBI agent , USMC shooting instructor and Olympic shooter . Walsh joined the FBI in 1934 , serving during the Public enemy era , and was involved in several high @-@ profile FBI cases , including the capture of Arthur Barker and the killing of Al Brady . He served in the Pacific theatre during World War II with the Marine Corps and , after a brief return to the FBI , served as a shooting instructor with the Marine Corps until his retirement in the 1970s .

A high profile shooter , Walsh won numerous tournaments within the FBI and the Marine Corps , as well as nationally , and participated in the 1948 Summer Olympics . He received awards for his marksmanship until the age of 90 and served as the coach of the Olympic shooting team until 2000 . At the FBI 's 100th anniversary celebration he was recognized as the oldest living former agent and noted as being a year older than the organization itself . Aside from some hearing and memory loss , he remained physically fit at his 103rd birthday and , in March 2013 , became the longest @-@ lived Olympic competitor .

= = Early life and FBI career = =

Walsh was born in West Hoboken , New Jersey , which merged with Union Hill to become Union City in 1925 . He joined the Civilian Military Training Corps at age 16 , and the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1928 . After graduating from Rutgers Law School , Walsh joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1934 . Later that year , he discovered the body of gangster Baby Face Nelson , who died of injuries sustained in a gun battle with the police in Barrington , Illinois on November 27 , 1934 . Nelson had killed two FBI agents prior to fleeing the scene , wounded , and later died at his wife 's side . The FBI , unaware of Nelson 's death , continued a broad search for him , which included several home raids , through the night and into the following day . The search was not called off until a tip led them to Nelson 's body , which was lying in a ditch in what is now Skokie , Illinois .

Walsh was on the team that captured criminal Arthur Barker , son of gangster Ma Barker , in Chicago in 1935 and was later involved in tracking Public Enemy Number One Al Brady in 1937 . On October 12 of that year , he was with the group of FBI agents who ambushed and killed Brady in a shoot @-@ out at a Bangor , Maine sporting goods store . While waiting for Brady to arrive , he acted as a clerk in the store for several days and arrested Brady Gang member James Dalhover . As the operation leader , Walsh 's job was to alert thirteen other agents , as well as over 30 other state and local policemen , of any gang member 's arrival by pulling a cord on the window . As they were interrogating Dalhover in the store Clarence Lee Shaffer , Jr . , another gang member , entered the building and began firing at the agents . While arresting Dalhover , Walsh took bullets to his hand , shoulder and right chest , but quickly returned to work .

Walsh was employed with the FBI until 1942 when , as a Reserve Marine Lieutenant , he took a leave to serve with the United States Marine Corps during World War II . After he left , Hoover refused to allow any more active agents to be members of any military reserve . He fought in the Pacific Theater , specifically on Okinawa and in North China . In one incident , he and his comrades were pinned down by a sniper , whom Walsh was able to kill from 90 yards away with a single shot to the torso from a M1911 pistol . He earned the rank of Colonel and returned to the FBI for two years from 1946 ? 1947 . In total , during his tenure with the agency , he killed between 11 and 17 suspects .

= = Shooting and the Olympics = =

Walsh got his start with firearms shooting clothespins off of his aunt 's laundry line . In 1935 he joined the FBI pistol team . Within three years of joining the FBI , he had been presented with two marksmanship trophies from director J. Edgar Hoover . In 1939 , at Camp Ritchie , he set the world record in pistol shooting with 198 points out of a possible 200 and won the individual eastern

regional pistol championships in 1939 and 1940 and placing second in 1941 after leading for most of the tournament . He placed 12th in the Men 's Free Pistol , 50 metres competition at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London , England . At the 1952 ISSF World Shooting Championships , he won a gold medal with the United States team in the 25 m Center @-@ Fire Pistol event and a silver in the individual version of that event . After winning many tournaments within the United States Marine Corps , he became commander of their marksmanship training , a position that he held for many years , until he retired in the 1970s . In total , he was selected five times for the All @-@ American Pistol Shooting Team .

= = Later life = =

Walsh had three daughters , two sons and seventeen grandchildren . As late as 1997 , he was still receiving awards for his marksmanship , winning the Outstanding American Handgunner of the Year . Until 2000 he served as a coach for the Olympic shooting team , able to see without the aid of glasses even at the age of 92 . At the age of 100 he was present at a re @-@ enactment of the Al Brady shoot out in Bangor , Maine . At this event , he was presented with a plaque and the key to the city . At the age of 101 , he was the FBI 's oldest living former agent and was in excellent physical shape , aside from some hearing and memory loss . He credited his longevity to luck , listening to his parents and blessings from God . At the 100th anniversary celebration of the FBI , it was noted that Walsh was older than the agency itself . In March 2013 , at the age of 105 , he surpassed American gymnast Rudolf Schrader to become the longest @-@ lived Olympic competitor . He died at his home in Arlington , Virginia in April 2014 , less than a week prior to his 107th birthday .