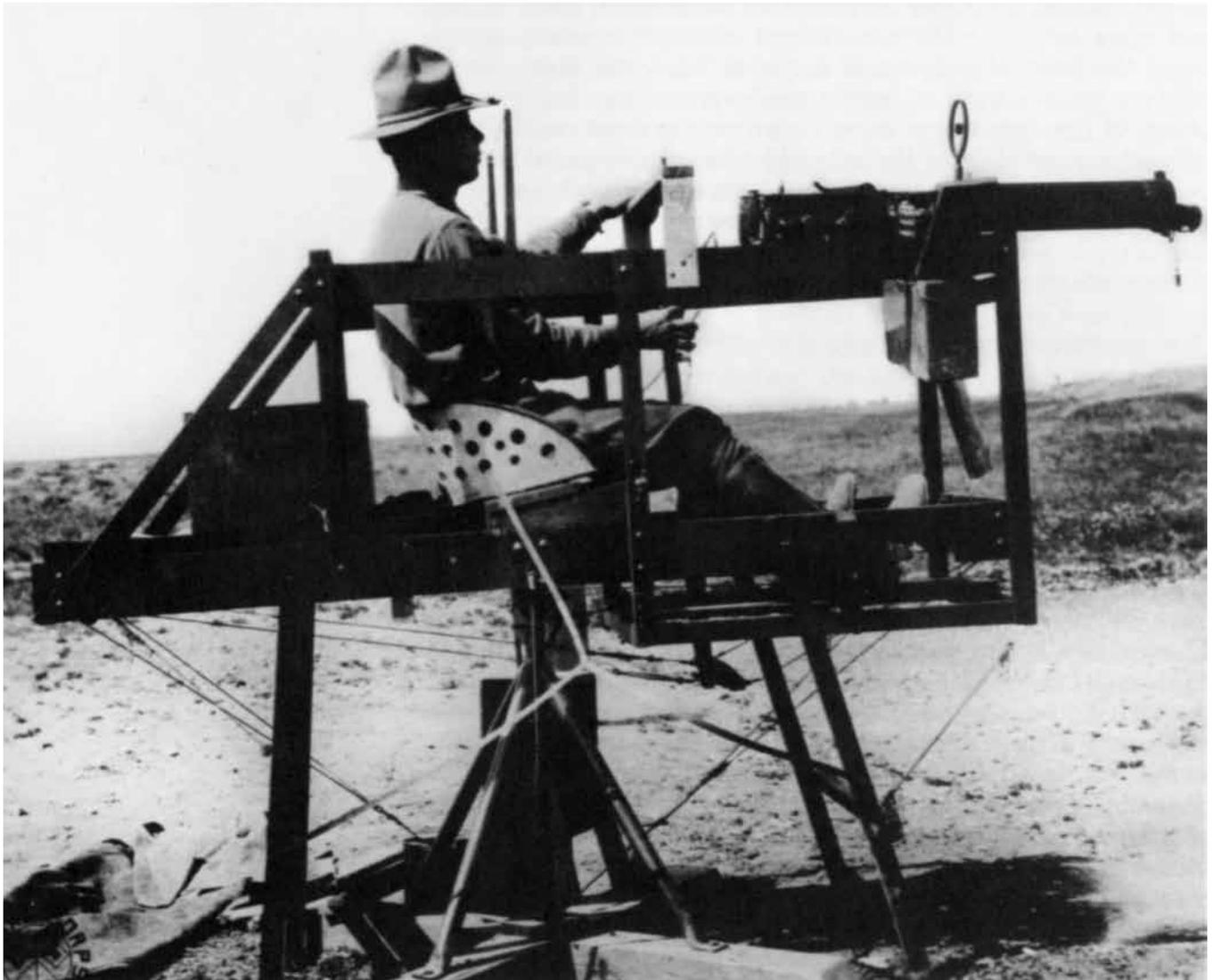


Flashback

World War I “Simulator”



A rocking device (such as that pictured here) was used to train aerial gunners during World War I. Flying real airplanes to teach the fine points of aiming and firing a machine gun while traveling through the air was too expensive and too dangerous—for both aircraft and airmen. In another creative “simulation,” a shotgun was mounted on a turret, and gunner trainees fired at clay pigeons. Ground training for aerial gunners focused on quickly assembling, mounting, firing, clearing the inevitable jams, and disassembling the guns.