

AN T-ÓGLÁC

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READY.

Every member of the Irish Republican Army should at the present moment hold himself ready for the immediate resumption of hostilities. At all times since the truce started it was the duty of every Volunteer to consider himself liable to be called back on active service at a moment's notice, but at no time was this more obviously the case than at present. The period of suspended hostilities which we have passed through has not been a period of inaction. The work of training and organisation is being carried on with all the vigour at our disposal and should the necessity arise immediately for a fresh campaign the benefit of this improved training should be made manifest in action.

It is not our duty as soldiers to discuss the statements and dealings of our Government with regard to negotiations with the enemy, but we may be permitted to congratulate ourselves on the facts that the issue is so clear and straightforward that the simplest soldier or citizen of the Irish Republic can grasp it easily, and that our Government, our Parliament, our Army, and the Irish people generally are all so whole-heartedly and enthusiastically at one on that issue. We have made war to end the military occupation of our country by a foreign nation, and until that nation evacuates our country the war cannot be regarded as ended. The atmosphere of "truce" is an unreal atmosphere calculated to obscure the naked realities of the situation. The presence of enemy forces in our midst is at all times and under any conditions an outrage on our national rights, and so long as their presence continues no member of the Irish Republican Army can regard himself as justified in indulging in a mood of slackness or easy-going methods. It should be recognised that if hostilities are resumed it will be necessary for us to throw every ounce of energy at our disposal into a

grim and relentless fight against mighty odds, to be prepared to make even greater sacrifices than any that have yet been made. The Army which has fought so gallantly and faced death and suffering so cheerfully in the past and by its courage and efficiency has placed the nation in its present strong position will not flinch from the fresh challenge. We are satisfied that every officer and man of the Army will go back to the firing line with the same cheerful confidence with which in the past they faced an indefinite prospect of prolonged and bloody warfare, and made our Army, under enormous difficulties, the potent and effective military instrument that it is to-day.

INDIAN MILITARY SITUATION.

There appears to be ground for supposing that at least a semi-concentrated insurgent movement is beginning in India. The Moplahs in the South-West of the peninsula are in open insurrection, there has been fighting in Madras in the South-East, and there are rumours from the Punjab in the extreme North. Also in Waziristan on the Afghan border there is chronic skirmishing. It would be easy to exaggerate the significance of all this, for we must remember that India is as big as all Europe if Russia is left out, and as populous, with many races and languages. Unity is not easy in such a case, but there would certainly seem to be fire as well as smoke in the present case.

The factors making for concerted action are (1) The Non-Co-operation Movement which, though peaceful in itself, is almost certain to lead to fighting, (2) The Islamic discontent caused by the English opposition to Turkey, (3) The huge number of disbanded soldiers, amounting to at least half a million, scattered all over the country. In these three factors there is certainly material for big events.

The Moplah Insurrection is an advantageous opening move from the Indian standpoint. The district is remote in the military sense, tactically strong, and but weakly occupied in peace time. On the land side the only important approach is the railway from Madras and Bangalore, the main English garrison in Southern India, the latter is 160 miles away even as the crow flies. The terrain is a coastal shelf about 20 miles wide backed all the length by the Western Ghats

(Continued on page 4)

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NOTE ON FLAG SIGNALLING

MORSE.

Efficient flag signalling must be exact in every detail. The Morse Code is based on time, accordingly it may be adapted to all types or signalling. Sending with Morse is correct, whatever the rate of signalling, so long as each dash is three times as long as the dot, and the motions or signs are being correctly performed.

Flag signalling can be comprehended in two positions and two motions as follows:—

The Group position or (prepare to Signal.)

The signaller takes up a strong "stand at ease" position, feet well apart, body erect. The right hand grasps the staff of the flag about two fists from the butt: This grip is maintained all through the manipulation of the flag without any change of shifting. The right arm hangs full length at the side. The point of the staff points across the left shoulder, the left hand gathering in the flag opposite the left breast. Grouping is done by sliding the left hand up the staff and great care must be taken that at the group position the flag does not show outside the body.

The Ready Position.

The flag flies in the E position Semaphore. The butt of the staff is in the palm of the left hand which is held high in front of the chin. The right hand maintains the position two fists up the staff. The hands are about six inches from the face, arms bent upright from the elbows.

To get from the Group to the Ready.

The right hand rises the flag smartly to the correct position, placing the butt of the staff in the palm of the left hand, which is held in front of the chin.

To get from the Ready to the Group.

The right hand snaps the flag down to the group position as the left gathers in the flag by sliding towards the point of the staff.

The Dot.

The dot consists of moving the flag smartly from the ready to the corresponding position on the other side (C position Semaphore) and, without a pause, back to the ready again. To prevent the flag tangling the point of the staff traces out a narrow "figure of eight" as the motion is being performed.

The Dash.

The dash consists of moving the flag smartly from the ready to a position slightly below the Horizontal (or slightly below B position Semaphore) and after a slight pause, back to the ready again. Care is taken as before to prevent the flag tangling by waving the flag in "eight" movement.

The dot is made by a mutual movement of both wrists: The hands being kept well up and in front of the face.

In making the dash the staff pivots in the right hand which is kept up as at the ready. The movement is

performed principally by raising the left elbow to its full extent. Both hands must be kept up.

When making a letter there is no pause at the ready. The only pauses are those in the middle of each dash.

Flag signalling must always be done smartly, with a snap. The flag is always fully grouped except while actually making a letter: i.e. the flag is not to be held waving on any account.

The following points should be particularly noted:—

(1) The signaller must stand exactly facing, or with his back to the distant station; according to the direction of the wind: but whatever the latter, he must stand square, so that he can wave the flag at right angles to the sight of the distant station.

(2) The staff must be kept upright and not allowed to droop to the front or rear, so that the flag is waved in a vertical plane and not swept round to the front or overhead.

(3) The left hand must grasp the extremity of the butt.

(4) All motions of the flags must be sharp.

(5) The flag must be kept fully exposed when sending: It must at other times be completely hidden from the view of the distant station.

(6) The dots and dashes must be uniform in length, and bear the correct proportion to one another.

(7) The flag must always be brought back to the ready, care being taken that it is checked so as not to pass the point,

TELESCOPE SPYING.

The squad having been taught how to handle the telescope must now be taught to use it, and spy. This is quite an art, and only to be acquired by much practice.

However good a man may be at reading signal messages, it does not follow he can spy.

I now try and explain what I mean by the word "spy", and give a few necessary qualifications.

By "Spying" I mean closely hunting and examining all the ground carefully with the glass, not merely using it to verify what the eye shows.

The good man should be able to throw up and align his telescope on any object with almost the same speed and accuracy as he would use the sights of a rifle.

He must train his eye to know the size given objects appear at various distances (I have referred to this latter under "Scouting.")

He must pick up at first aim, and having found his object must be able by instinct to pick up the same spot again. This is most necessary, as he may have to point it out to some one else without waste of time.

Every object however small, should be carefully scrutinised. Many a stag has been found and killed through a few inches of one of his horns sticking up through the heather, and being picked up by

The annoyance that can be caused by a few snipers and the difficulty of locating them were well known to the English in the South African War. A rifle barrel is an easier object to pick up with a telescope than a stag's tyne, and the careful spying of their position by a few good men should lead to it being located.

Every man should use his own glass on which the focus is marked.

If untrained men are to be supplied with glasses, it is far better to give them a monocle of the Zeiss type than a telescope.

OUR ARMY ORGANISATION

General Organisation.

1. The tactical unit of the Irish Volunteers shall be called a Company. Its composition shall be as follows:—

- (a) Three Officers—The Captain, the Right Half Company Commander (First Lieutenant), the Left Half Company Commander (Second Lieutenant.)
- (b) An Adjutant ranking as Section Commander.
- (c) A Quarter-master ranking as Section Commander.
- (d) Four sections numbered 1 to 4 each composed of 15 or more (but not exceeding 20 men.) Each Section shall include 2 Squad Leaders and one Section Commander. Sections 1 and 2 shall be the Right Half Company, Sections 3 and 4 the Left Half Company.

2. In each Company men shall be detailed for Special Services as follows:—

- Engineering—12 men.
- Scouting and Despatch Riding—8 men.
- Signalling—8 men.
- Transport and Supply—5 men.
- First Aid—8 men.

Men selected for special services are not exempt from taking part in the general training of the Company. It is desirable, in fact, that every man in the Company should specialise in some one of these services.

The men forming these special services shall be selected from the men in the Company best suited for the services, and shall under the supervision of a non-commissioned officer. Each special service shall work within the company, but shall meet as a Battalion Company for instructions once a month. (See Battalion Special Services.)

3. In addition to the services provided for, a number of men shall be instructed in horse riding, and in all cases it shall be ensured that each company shall contain at least a few men proficient in the science of horse riding and management.

4. As all Volunteers are to be trained as Cyclists, no special cyclist section is necessary. Men who are

specially suitable for cycling should get specialized training, and at the discretion of the Brigade Commander special cyclist companies may be formed in a Battalion.

5. A member of the Company shall be trained to act as Armourer.

6. When a Company is below full strength, the Company Commander shall, subject to the approval of General Headquarters, use his discretion in determining the strength of each section and special service. He must, however, see that in no circumstances does the number of men in the Engineering Section fall below the specified strength, and also that each other special service is represented in his Company.

7. In certain districts, Sections shall be recognised by General Headquarters as Units, and the organisation of these shall, as far as possible, be modelled on the organisation of the Company. The officer in charge shall rank as a Second Lieutenant and shall be summoned to meetings of the Battalion Council and shall receive all orders issued to Company Commanders.

8. In districts where neither a Company nor a Section can be organised an outpost may be formed consisting of any number of men up to but not exceeding 15. The Outpost should be placed under the charge of a suitable man who shall rank as Section Commander, and who shall be responsible for Organising his Outpost area, for obtaining and reporting to the Officer appointed for this purpose by the Battalion Commandant any information regarding enemy activity likely to be of use to the Organisation and for carrying out any other duties within his area entrusted to him by the Battalion Commandant. When the Outpost develops up to 15 men it should be formed into a Section.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

The Commandant of the first Southern Division forwards to G.H.Q. a report received from the O.C. of the 6th Battalion Cork No. 2 of the conspicuous bravery in action of Volunteers ——— of Mitchelstown Co., 6th Battalion, Cork No. 2. "A military patrol of eight men armed with rifles guarding a watercart with an unarmed driver and two mules was attacked by our men (says the report.) Owing to some confusion in regard to the pre-arranged signal the attack was begun before the scheduled time by the main body of the attacking party and this Volunteer found himself within ten yards on a straight front of five of the enemy forces, who had taken up a position and were pouring rapid fire in the direction of the main body of our attacking party. Armed with one Webley revolver he immediately charged into them, putting them to rout, and captured two of their five rifles, thereby saving the main body from severe casualties."

(Continued from page 1)

which reach 8,000 feet in places. Numerous streams flow into the Arabian Sea from this great range, so that roads and railways pass over culverts every mile or so. The country is well wooded also, which greatly assists road-blocking operations. Off the roads are soft rice-fields making heavy motor traffic impossible. As a result the insurgents dominate an area about as large as County Mayo; for their tactical measures—road-cutting, overwhelming small posts etc. have been those best suited to the situation.

The English have massed a strong force from Bangalore at Erode 100 miles south of Banaglore. Erode is a strategic point of great importance at the main crossing of the Cauvery River, where the Eastern and Western halves of Southern India divide. Now if the trouble in Madras becomes serious it will tend to immobilise the forces at Erode, thus making it a difficult task to control Southern India effectively. On the other hand if the Moplah Insurrection is left isolated it will be a question of reducing their country piecemeal—a slow job by reason of its natural strength and the warlike character of the insurgents.

The English forces in India number about 70,000 Europeans, 180,000 Indians, and 150,000 Indian Police. As regards the Indian soldiers and police their allegiance must be considered doubtful. The Gurkas—20,000 or so in number—would be the most dependable; or rather would remain dependable for the longest time. But probably if an Insurrectionary movement met with really important success as a whole, the bulk of the Indians would go over to the side of their countrymen.

LECTURE TO ADJUTANT.

The chief qualifications of a successful Adjutant are;—INTELLIGENCE, EDUCATION, THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF DUTIES;—Combined with the knack of grasping important details of work.

Keen interest in work. The Adjutant who shirks his work is worse than useless. What the Adjutant is the Unit will be. His abilities and training should fit the Adjutant to take command of his Unit when his senior officers are absent. Neatness and correct method and scrupulous care should be the chief factors in his working system. The Adjutant is a sort of a clerical manager of military affairs. He is the right hand man of the O.C. of his Unit. He should study the science of Organisation, Administration and Training, fully understand the important place they each hold in military matters. Organisation is the science of combining the units of a body or bodies and of controlling that body or bodies along disciplined, well regulated lines.

Administration details with the working of the

detailed duties of the Units comprising the Organisation. In short it is the science of controlling the smooth working of the machinery which the Organisation uses to accomplish its purpose. Training is the method or system by which the various units of the organisation are prepared and fitted to accomplish the purpose of that organisation. Training is therefore the main spring of the machinery. Drill and discipline are two important factors in training. Discipline is loyalty to duly constituted authority. It is not so-called Prussianism. It is a mutual understanding arrived at through mutual respect and esteem. The relations of the Adjutant to organisation, Administration and Training are as follows:—

(a) ORGANISATION: The management of the entire organisation of his unit are in the hands of the Adjutant. All the details which secure the smooth and proper working of the unit are his concern. His business is to make it perfectly easy for the officers of his Unit to control that Unit. He must see that everything is regulated in such a manner as to cause no hitch.

(b) ADMINISTRATION: He must see that all the individuals of the unit understand the nature of their duties and are responsible for the manner in which they carry these duties out to his O.C.

(c) TRAINING: He is responsible for the training of all the individuals under his control in the Unit and must secure full facilities for the proper instruction of all these various individuals in their different duties. He is not only responsible for the training of the men of his unit but is also held accountable for the training of all subordinate officers under his control.

(d) GENERAL DUTIES: He will carry on all the correspondence of his Unit to his O.C. and will act generally as a link between his O.C. and senior command on one hand and as a link between his O.C. and his men on the other. He must have the business of his Unit at his finger ends and should be able to give at once any information required of him by his O.C. concerning the affairs of his Unit. He should be in close touch with the subordinate Officers of his Unit so as to obtain any necessary orders regarding the men these Officers control. He should know the equipment, arms ammunition, etc. of each man and also the amount and nature of all equipment, funds, etc. in the hands of the Unit Quartermaster. He is responsible for keeping a record of the attendance of junior officers and men at Unit parades and is responsible for attendance of special service men at classes. He should see that all N.C.Os., Musketry, Intelligence, Armouring, First Aid, Engineering, bombing and other S.S. men of the Unit are given an opportunity to fully fit themselves for their duties.