

AN T-OGLACH

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TRUCE CONDITIONS

The conditions produced by a prolonged period of truce in Ireland undoubtedly involve serious disadvantages from the military point of view in the case of such an Army as ours. The bracing tonic effects of the fight are absent; men who have been on active service are again leading civilian lives; they are subjected on all sides to influences and temptations which are detrimental to that high morale and discipline which our Army has reason to pride itself upon. The hero-worship of friends is sometimes liable to give men "swelled head" and cause them to assume overbearing and consequential airs towards the civilian population. Again efforts are made by friends to draw them into interference with local disputes—interference carried out in an irregular manner. The high-handed methods of dealing with people necessitated by war conditions are liable to be unjustifiably resorted to under present conditions. The greatest danger of all arises from excessive drinking. A drunken Volunteer is a worthless Volunteer; he injures and degrades himself and he lowers the prestige of the Army in the eyes of the civilian population. A drunken Volunteer carrying arms is a public danger.

We do not say that the evils we referred to have arisen to any serious extent in our Army during truce times. Considering everything the discipline and orderly conduct of our men during this period of suspended hostilities has been truly wonderful and the number of "unpleasant incidents" reported has been far less than would be expected; but it is necessary to warn all Volunteers of the dangers of present conditions. Officers everywhere should keep an iron hand on their men. Drunkenness should be put down relentlessly. A Volunteer who cannot keep sober is of no use but only a disadvantage to us and is better out of the Army. It is the duty of officers to give their men a good example in this respect. Officers who frequent public-houses for the purpose of drinking are not likely to hold the respect of their men. A recent Army regulation provides for the reduction to the ranks of officers found guilty of continued indulgence in drink after warning from their superior officers and dismissal from the Army of any Volunteer found guilty of the

same offence after warning by his superior officer. This regulation should be strictly enforced everywhere. Furthermore officers should see to it that men are not allowed to go about with weapons in their pockets unnecessarily a practice at the best childish and foolish, and, at the worst, highly dangerous.

Some Volunteers seem to imagine that because they have done brave deeds during the War of Independence they are privileged people and entitled to behave in a way that would not be tolerated on the part of an ordinary civilian. They must be made to realise that this is not the case. Discipline must be rigidly enforced without respect to persons. It is only by this means that we can keep our Army up to that high standard of morale and efficiency which we are all so proud of and be prepared for a renewal of hostilities if and when such a necessity arises.

GENERAL NOTES

In the first paragraph of the article on the "Duties of Brigade Officers" in AN T-OGLACH of October 28th occurs the sentence: "He shall command it (the Brigade) in peace and war, subject only to the authority of G.H.Q." This extract from the old scheme of organisation is, of course, no longer accurate *where Divisions have been formed*. In that case the Brigades are directly under the Divisional Commander.

IRISH DRILL ORDERS

The following is a list of orders for squad section and company drill taken from "Sli na Saoirse," a Volunteer handbook in Irish which has been officially approved by G.H.Q. In giving these orders the accent should wherever possible be placed on the last syllable, as is done in the English orders. It is impossible, if these terms are to be used properly, to place the accent on the first syllable as is done in Connacht and Ulster Irish. This, and no provincial reason, is responsible for the employment of Munster usage. Queries and suggestions in regard to the use of Irish in our Army work will be welcomed if sent through the proper military channels.

Attention, Dirig.

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CARE OF ARMS

Cleaning.—Great care must be taken of the rifle. It must be cleaned daily, all parts being wiped over with an oily rag, and the bore cleaned out with a piece of oily flannelette.

Special attention should be paid to keeping the bolt head free from rust, the striker away from becoming clogged, the aperture sight free from dirt.

The magazine must be always cleaned with a dry rag, as, if oiled, grit would collect and clog the action of the spring.

The Bore.—Having oiled the gauze of the pull-through, drop the weight through the breach; never through the muzzle, for this would draw the dirt into the body; pull it straight through three or four times. If the gauze becomes loose, pack the sides with narrow pieces of paper or flannelette. When the dirt softens, place a piece of flannelette in the loop next the gauze, and keep drawing it through and changing the flannelette until the latter comes out quite clean. Then pass a clean piece of oiled flannelette through the bore, which should be left thoroughly oiled, but not so that oil will trickle down into the body.

Make sure the pull-through is free from grit, and in drawing it through the barrel, don't let the cord touch the sides, or the friction of the cord may wear a groove in the barrel. This can easily be avoided if two men clean a rifle together, one holding it and the other pulling the cord straight through.

Cleaning after firing.—After firing, the rifle must be immediately cleaned, or if this is impossible an oily rag should be passed through the bore. The rifle must be constantly cleaned as long as any cordite shows in the barrel. Only the regulation flannelette and mineral jelly should be used for cleaning the bore of the rifle.

The size of the flannelette is never to exceed four inches by two inches, but can often be reduced with advantage when using an oily rag. Oil should be well shaken before it is used.

Cartridges must not be left in the magazine except when actually necessary. It weakens the spring.

When you have finished cleaning your rifle, see that the trigger is pressed and the safety catch is back at safety.

OBSERVATION AND MEMORY

Training in observation and memory is an important part of the scouts instruction as well as that of all cadets.

Method of Training.—(i) Landscape Targets.—The following suggestions are made as to methods of training in observation and memory. Training is best carried out in the field. In towns or in the absence of adequate facilities in the shape of ground, training

can be carried out indoors and in the evening with Solano targets and landscape targets. When this is done training may conveniently be combined with the course of instruction in visual training, military vocabulary, etc. Instruction should commence if possible during recruit training, and should be combined with instruction in marching. Training in observation and memory lends itself readily to attractive competitions, which should be organised periodically.

(iii) Training at home.—Volunteers may also train their powers of observation and memory at home in a variety of ways. For instance, a friend may place a number of different objects on a table and cover them with a cloth. The cloth will be withdrawn for half a minute and then replaced. The Volunteers will then write down the names of the objects on the table. Afterwards the cloth will again be withdrawn and the answers checked.

(iii) Another example of such practices at home consists of allowing them to enter a room for half a minute and note the nature and number of all the articles in it of a given colour, after which they will leave the room and write down a list of such articles together with their position. The list can afterwards be checked in the room.

(iv) Training in the Field.—Training in the field may be carried out in the following manner. Volunteers will be drawn up in line facing a track of country. Part of the country lying between two clearly defined points marking its limits will be indicated. Volunteers will be allowed a minute for observing and remembering its principal natural and other features. They will then be turned with their backs to the country and describe these features in short verbal or written reports as far as possible in military vocabulary. For example—*"The ground slopes gently down for about 600 yards to a brook with willow trees along its banks, and then rises steeply. These is a farm with red roofs about 900 yards half left. About 800 yards straight to the front are three large grass fields. In the one to the right is a flock of sheep, and in the centre field are five horses,"* etc., etc. These exercises may also be carried out with landscape targets.

(v) Training may also be carried out when marching as follows:—Volunteers may be instructed to observe and remember everything along the route of military value such as the names of villages through which they pass, the number and position of post and telegraph offices, smithies, inns, and bakeries, the number of cross roads and the places to which they lead. The results of their observation should be written down and checked by the instructor from his own notes.

(vi) Progression of Training.—The difficulty of the tests should be increased very gradually. When Volunteers are sufficiently progressed the time allowed for observation should be gradually reduced. As their

power of memory increases the time which elapses between the observation and the report upon its results should also gradually be increased. No fixed rules can be laid down regarding the above points, and instructors must use their discretion with regard to the rate of progression. The best results will be obtained from training if the interests of Volunteers is maintained and competitive and recreative elements are introduced into it.

TESTS FOR SCOUTS

The following examples of tests for scouts are suggested for the guidance of instructors. They will serve either for the examination of men recommended for appointment as scouts or to test the proficiency of scouts. They will also serve as the conditions of competitions in the various duties of scouts. Tests may be carried out both by day and night.

Test 1.—Map Reading.—Scouts should be taken to some selected position, preferably in country with which they are not familiar, whence a good view is obtainable. Prominent objects marked on the map, such as church spires, bridges, prominent buildings, woods, railway cuttings, etc., which are visible from the selected position, should be chosen.

The objects chosen should be pointed out on the ground and the scouts then asked to ascertain the range to them in yards by use of the map.

This test requires the scout to be able to identify his position on the map, to recognise objects marked on the map, on the ground, to identify these objects by setting his map and to be able to use his scale. It is, therefore a comprehensive test of map reading.

Test 2.—Finding the Way across Country.—Scouts should be taken to some selected position from which some prominent point on the map such as the top of a hill, a wood or a group of buildings about a mile distant is clearly visible. This point should be indicated by reference to the map and not to the ground. Each scout should be directed to proceed to it independently.

This test may be carried out both by day and by night. In the latter case scouts must be allowed to study the ground by day. A scout should be able to find his way across country in daylight at the rate of three miles an hour and by night he should be able to follow a route he has previously traversed by day at two miles an hour. It is advisable to have two instructors for this test, one at the starting point who should note the times of arrival. A time limit may be fixed for the completion of the journey at the discretion of the instructor.

These tests may be carried out by the scouts with or without the use of compass and map to help them during the journey. In the latter case they must depend alone upon landmarks and natural or other

features of the ground as guides to direction, together with stars at night.

Test 3.—Moving across Country Unseen.—A few Volunteers should be placed in a selected defensive position to represent a skeleton force holding it. Scouts should be directed to work towards it, across a tract of country lying within definite limits on either flank of the position.

The starting point may conveniently be about 1,200 yards from the position. Over ordinary close country the whole body of scouts should be required to get up to 600 yards of the position in daylight without exposing themselves to say three aimed shots at any of their number during the entire advance. The above conditions may be varied according to the nature of the country and other considerations at the discretion of instructors.

Test 4.—Reports on Ground and Country.—(i) A stretch of river in which a ford, footbridge or ferry is known to exist may be selected and scouts ordered to find a point of passage across it and report on it accurately.

(ii) A thick wood may be chosen and scouts ordered to find and describe a way through it.

(iii) Scouts may be ordered to discover and describe a footpath across enclosed country.

(iv) Scouts may be sent to a village to ascertain some definite information regarding it, such as the places with which it is in telegraphic or telephonic communication, the number and exact position of the provision shops, forges, doctors' houses, etc.

Test 5.—Reports regarding the Enemy.—A few Volunteers may be posted representing a piquet which has thrown out a couple of sentry posts. Scouts will be despatched towards them from a distance of about a mile, with orders to try to locate the piquet without being observed. The distance to which scouts are allowed to move to the right and left off the direct line must be definitely limited. Otherwise they could make a wide detour and get round and behind the piquet without risk of being seen, which would not be possible in war owing to the presence of other piquets.

The sentries and any patrols sent from the piquet should be instructed to endeavour to capture or in the day-time to fire at close range at the scouts, and any scout who is captured or exposes himself to fire should be disqualified.

Note.—Reports may be made either verbally or in writing. It is usually best to have separate tests in verbal and written reports. Written reports may be accompanied by rough sketches which may be made by roughly enlarging a small scale map, any additional information required being added to the enlargement. The sketch or enlargement should contain sufficient information to enable the locality it represents to be identified on the ordnance survey or other map in

use. Irrelevant information should be discouraged. No attempt should be made to draw these sketches to scale but important distances should be noted on the sketch.

IRISH DRILL ORDERS (Continued from page 1)

Stand at Ease, Bogaidh.
Stand Easy, Sguiridh.
Company Attention, A Chomplacht Dirig.
Right Turn, Deas-iompuig.
Left " , Clé-iompuig.
About " , Casaidh Timpal.
Right: Incline, Deas-chlaonaidh.
Left " , Clé-chlaonaidh.
Quick March, Gluaisig.
Step Out, Céim fhada.
Step Short, Céim Ghearr.
Double March, Rithidh Róibh.
Mark Time, Greadaidh Fúibh.
Forward, Ar Aghaidh
Change Step, Atharui Céim.
Halt, Stadaidh.
Fall in, Bailig.
By the Right, Do Réir Deise.
By the Left, Do Réir Clé.
Dress, Ceartuig.
Squad Number, A Scaoth Comhairg.
Right Wheel, Deiseal-iompuig.
Left Wheel, Tuathal-iompuig.
Cover, Ar Chúla a Chéile.
Form Fours, Ceithre Ranga.
" Two Deep, Dhá Rang.
Squad Right Form, A Scaoth Deas-Aistrig.
" Left Form, " , Clé-Aistrig.
On the Right Form Squad, Chun Deise 'nbhur Sgaoth Aistrig.
On the Left Form Squad, Chun Clé 'nbhur Sgaoth Aistrig.
Right Close, Deas-dhlúthuig.
Left " , Clé-dhlúthuig.
Open Ranks, Sgaoidh Ranga.

VERBAL MESSAGES

This subject is one of the most difficult we have to contend with. It is strange, but it is almost impossible to pass on a message correctly from man to man through any number of men. On the way it gets distorted and altered out of all recognition. The distortion is sometimes laughable. Here is a case mentioned in an English Military book:—

The original message as it was given to one end of a line of men was to the following effect.—

"A hostile force, estimated at a battalion and a few horsemen, has just now crossed the ridge one

mile north of Caesar's Camp and is advancing on Beacon Hill."

The proper address, date and place was duly given. On receipt at the other end it could not be ascertained from whom it was intended nor from whom it emanated, nor was time, date, or place mentioned, but the message ran as under:—

"The ostler stated a big lion and some horses and men crossed the bridge a mile off at Caesar's Camp. They are dancing on Beacon Hill."

This of course was ridiculous; the only thing the men all knew was the names of the places near, each of them did not understand part of the message as it reached him.

There was some word each of them did not understand the meaning of, or did not hear correctly, so each one substituted a word of his own, and tried to make a meaning out of it, with this absurd result.

What you have to do is to get into your head, in the first place, whom the message is intended for. Then you must get hold of the meaning of the message, if you cannot commit it to memory. Be quite sure you know the meaning of the whole of it, and that you can pass it on and explain it if need be. If you don't understand, ask the officer to explain to you. Finally, repeat to him the message as you mean to deliver it, and be sure you know whom it came from and the place and time.

If you can remember these important points the message won't be very far wrong. You won't have turned the enemy into an "ostler" nor the battalion into a "lion."

But this subject is no laughing matter. It is of the greatest importance that we constantly keep each other informed as to what is going on, and during a battle or at night it is not always possible to write a message, or even to read one. So we are dependent on the memories of the messengers, and you must all try and accustom your memories to retain short messages or orders.

There are also some things which you must remember not to do.

Men often insert little bits of their own, and are very prone to exaggerate. A quite small incident may be magnified enormously, or so much may be added that it is hard to distinguish what the original story was. A story seldom loses length by repetition.

But from a Military point of view there is the greatest danger in putting in anything additional or altering the wording.

Then there are some messages which it is important that others besides the person to whom they are addressed should know. And these messages, or the gist of them, should be given to troops as the messenger goes along, e.g., messages as to the proximity of the enemy which the troops are obviously unaware of.