

AN T-ÓGLÁC

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

Vol. III. No. 45.]

FEBRUARY 3 1922.

[Price Twopence

SOCIAL ORDER.

During the recent war we had occasion frequently to impress upon the Army of Ireland the vital importance to the nation of the work they were called upon to do. We pointed out that the safety of the nation depended upon the discipline and efficiency of the soldiers of Ireland. Not even during the war was the necessity of preserving that order and discipline greater or more essential to the national safety than at the present time. A period of transition like this, with enemy forces evacuating the country and stable authority in civil matters still in the making—a period of unrest when acute political controversy adds to the uncertainty and instability—is naturally one of which disorderly and criminal elements which exist in every community will strive to take advantage. Crimes of violence are unfortunately all too rife in certain parts of the country and it will require the sternest efforts of the soldiers and officers of the Irish Army to stamp out the activities of the lawless offenders.

In the great task of preserving social order and preventing crime all men of good will can co-operate. The actual work of enforcing this object in the common interest falls upon the officers and men of the Irish Army. It has been found necessary in some districts to proclaim martial law, and in others to take special measures to deal with the disturbers of the social order and the common weal. We feel sure that all Volunteers will show the same zeal and enthusiasm in the cause of preserving "the rights and liberties of all the citizens of Ireland" against lawless violence, intimidation and crime as they have shown in the past in their struggle for national freedom.

HOW TO TEST A COMPASS.

The Compass used by an Officer must be a good prismatic instrument, or its equivalent, in accuracy. The best of Compasses are, however, liable to possess errors, and it is well that these errors should be known.

The errors of any particular Compass, (i.e. the difference which the Compass reading is above or below the actual magnetic bearing of any given direction),

is not necessarily constant for all parts of the scale. For example, the actual magnetic bearings of 0° , 90° , 180° , and 270° , the Compass might read 359° , 90° , 180.5° , and 269.5° respectively. Thus the corrections to be applied to the Compass readings would be, plus 1° , 0° , -0.5° , and plus 0.5° respectively.

Compasses are tested by most good Optical Instrument firms for about 3/6d, and the Compass is returned with a slip showing the corrections to be applied at the four cardinal points.

For reference the following addresses are given:—

- Messrs. Cahill, Wellington Quay.
- " Dixon & Hempenstall, Suffolk St.,
- " Mason, Dame Street.
- " Yeates, Grafton Street.
- " Pollock, Wicklow Street.

A method of testing a Compass on the ground with the aid of a map is given below. This will give the variation on the map with reference to the grid north on the map. The procedure is as follows:—

- (1) Decide on a point on the ground, the position of which you can mark with certainty on the map.
- (2) Select an object which you can see from the above point, and which is marked on the map. This object should be as far away from the above point as possible, as errors in obtaining angles are easily made if it is too close.
- (3) On the map draw a line through the point parallel to the grid north lines. With a protractor measure the grid bearing of the object from this point.
- (4) On the ground take the Compass bearing on the object from the selected point. (It is best to take the mean of three readings to 10 minutes, if possible.)
- (5) The difference between the mean of the Compass readings and the grid bearing will be the variation of your Compass with reference to the grid lines on the particular map you have used, the locality in which you are situated, and that part of the Compass scale which you have used.

NOTES: In order to ascertain the variation of your Compass at different parts of the scale. Repeat the above procedure on different objects.

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EXPLORE YOURS IRELAND

SIGNALLING TELESCOPE.

The telescope when closed measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; it consists of an outer tube covered with leather, and three draws. The lens at the larger end of the telescope is known as the "object glass," and consists of two lenses fitted together in a cell, secured therein by a holding ring. The two lenses are respectively double-convex and plano-concave; the former being made of crown, and the latter of flint glass. These two lenses are not cemented together, but an arrow or other mark on the edges denotes the correct way to assemble them. They are prevented from revolving by a means of a feather on the inside of the cell fitting into a featherway in the edges of the lenses.

The four remaining lenses are all mounted in the smallest, or first draw, and are all plano-convex.

Starting from the end of the draw nearest the object glass these lenses are in the following order, viz. object lenses, amplifying lenses, field lenses, and eye lenses. These lenses are fitted in pairs in small tubes, the object and amplifying lenses together being called the "erector," and the field and eye lens together the "eye-piece." In the "erector" both lenses have their plane sides towards the object, and in the "eye-piece" the plane sides are towards the eye.

Between the two lenses in each tube is fitted a diaphragm, that in the "erector" tube having a smaller opening than the other.

Diaphragms are also fitted at the ends of the second and third draws nearest the object glass.

Two eye-pieces are supplied, called respectively the "low" and the "high" power eye-piece, and are so marked. When the "low" power eye-piece is used the distant object appears to be magnified 15 times; with the "high" power the magnification is increased to 30 times.

As the telescope not only magnifies the distant object but everything within its field of view as well, it will be understood that although the distant object may be highly magnified, it will, probably, be more difficult to discern owing to the corresponding high magnification of particles of dust, moisture, etc., in the air. In addition to this, the greater the magnification the darker the object appears.

The "low" power eye-piece is therefore provided for general use and the "high" power is reserved for particularly favourable weather, or for use in countries where the atmosphere is abnormally clear and bright.

The telescope is provided with a tubular-weather-shade, which should be drawn out over the object glass to protect the latter from rain or the rays of the sun.

Each eye-piece is fitted with a shutter, which should be kept closed when the telescope is not in use.

The ends of the telescope when closed are protected by leather caps. A shoulder strap passes through loops on the leather covering of the outer tube and on the caps; and also through loops on the separate case which carries the eye-piece not in use.

A strap joining the two caps together secures the telescope in the closed position.

Telescope stand.—The stand consists of three legs connected to a head, which is capable of being moved horizontally. This head has two hinged lugs, between which is connected a pair of grips. A clamping screw, with a spiral spring on it passing through the bottom of the grips holds the telescope at the point of balance. The grips may be moved so that the horizontal and vertical movements allow the telescope to be set in any direction.

When not in use a circular block of wood (which is attached to the stand by a cord) is kept in the grips to prevent the latter being injured during transit, etc. A canvas sling with leather ends, one being a loop, the other attached to a leather cup, allows the stand to be slung across the back.

To set up and focus the Telescope.—It is important—more especially when the pressure of work at a station is great—that the reader at the telescope be as comfortable as circumstances will permit and that the muscles, particularly of the face and back of the neck, should not be strained. For this reason the reader should either lie prone (preferably up hill) or sit with his back against some support, or stand against a parapet or wall. This should be borne in mind when choosing the position for the stand, which should be set up so as to bring the telescope to a convenient height with regard to the reader's eye.

Set up the stand, unbuckle the leather caps of the telescope and draw them gently off. Pull out the draws of the telescope by a twisting motion to the *full extent* and place the telescope in the grips of the stand at the point of balance (i.e. near the front end of the third draw,) and clamp the grips gently, tightening them just sufficiently to grip the telescope, care being taken that sufficient force is not used in doing so to dent the draw. Turn aside the shutter covering the end of the eye piece. Looking through the telescope, direct it on any distant object, then holding the second draw firmly with one hand, by a twisting motion push in the draw nearest the eye *only*, until the image of the distant object appears sharp and clear. Care must be taken that during this process the second and the third draws are not pushed in.

If the eye is kept long at the telescope when not focussed it soon gets tired, and therefore the focussing should be done quickly.

To align the Telescope.—Having assumed a comfortable position, direct the telescope roughly on the distant station by looking along the top of it. Place the eye to the eye-piece and move the telescope with one hand so as to bring the distant station, or object into the centre of the field of view.

To use the Telescope.—For continued observation, usually both eyes should be kept open, as that is less likely to strain them than when the disengaged eye is kept shut; but if it is desired to see an object clearly

as possible, it is generally found necessary to shut one eye, or, preferably, to cover it with the open hand or a book, etc. The hands should be used to screen out the exterior light from the eyes, or the telescope and reader's head may be screened with a coat or blanket.

The weather-shade should be pulled out if required.

SCOUTING REPORTS. I.

Information about a country is called topographical information. Maps give some of this information but a great deal of it cannot be obtained except by personal enquiry and observation on the spot itself.

The highest and most soldierly qualities are necessary in all employed in reconnoitring. The chances are, that any man who does not possess courage, intelligence, self-reliance, smartness, and discipline to a high degree, will fail as a reconnoitrer:

Reports are of three kinds, Verbal, Written, and Drawn.

A verbal report is one made by word of mouth. If the person who collects the information reports it himself, he can be questioned, and a good deal more than what he at first reports can thus be learnt about the matter, but if he sends his report verbally through others, this questioning cannot take place, and moreover, it is highly probable that in passing through other people the message will get altered, and that when it arrives at its destination, it will not be the same as when it was despatched.

When making Verbal reports:—Do not be, and do not speak in a hurry when reporting.

Before you make your report settle in your mind exactly what you are going to say.

If you have made a mistake in what you have said, or see that the person to whom you are reporting, misunderstands you say so at once.

Before you go to make your report say to yourself, "What questions should I ask a man if he brought me this report." You will not then be put out by being asked questions on matters about which you had not thought.

When you send a verbal message, the messenger who is to take it should be made repeat it aloud to you.

If you are receiving a verbal report from a man, do not hurry him; let him tell it in his own way. When asking him, questions, do so quietly, so that he may keep his head clear, and may not get confused.

In writing reports be sure and write clearly, and always write the names of places in block capitals, thus, DUBLIN. Spell all names as they are spelled on the map, and if there are two places of the one name be sure and distinguish carefully between them. Read over what you have written carefully; probably you will thus detect any mistakes you have made. Sign your name with your rank, Company and Battalion. Put down the hour, day, month, and year on

which the report is finished. If possible keep a copy of every report you send.

Never try to make a grand letter of your report. Just put down what you have to say, and nothing more. Do not leave out anything, because you have persuaded yourself that it is of no importance.

A Drawn Report is a drawing or a sketch of the country. Without such help it is often very difficult to explain the position of roads, houses, woods, or bodies of troops, in regard to each other, so on a piece of paper marks are put down representing these different objects, and placed in the same relative positions as they occupy on the ground.

In making reports of any kind, be perfectly accurate, and truthful. If you are passing a town, and you see a Motor Garage with a number of cars in it, of which you guess there are about five, but cannot count them. Do not write down that there are five motor cars at Garage, but, "I estimate the number of cars to be five."

If you are told that in a certain house in the town there are a number of hostile people, but you cannot approach it and find out for yourself. Do not report that a certain house is inhabited by hostile people, but, "I am informed that a certain house is inhabited by hostile people."

Having learnt this much about reports, the next thing a Scout must learn is what to observe.

(to be continued.)

TIMBER IN FIELD WORK.

Timber is used in the construction of bridges, huts, splinter-proofs, stockades, abatis, etc.

The felling axe in the hands of an experienced workman is the best tool for felling timber. The hand axe is only suitable for felling trees up to 15 inches in diameter.

To fell a tree it should be strained in the required direction of fall by a rope. It is then cut into as far as the centre of that side, and finished off on the opposite side by a cut about four inches higher up.

If a saw is used for felling timber, the cut must be wedged open to prevent the saw being jammed.

Any material formed into a retaining wall to support earth at a steeper slope than that at which it would naturally stand is called a revetment. Timber revetment is made by driving strong stakes into the ground, and placing planks or logs between them and the parapet. The slope will depend on the strength of the timber, a 4/1 will generally be safe. The stakes should be anchored back by hold-fasts attached to them at about 3/5 their height out of the ground.

Planks should never be used for revetments where exposed to the fire of high explosive shells unless they are secured so firmly that they will break rather than come away whole.



HOW TO TEST A COMPASS (Continued from page 1)

No steel or iron should be in the vicinity of the Compass when it is being used. In the case of rifles, or steel helmets, it is advisable to remove them to about five yards distance.

The grid north lines on a map are not necessarily parallel to the sides of the map, or to the true north line. Bearings, however, are usually given as "grid bearings," and not as true bearings, so that they may be measured directly from the grid north lines. The true north meridian is sometimes shown on the margin of the map.

DISCIPLINE.

Every Officer must be careful to apply the principles of his own training to that of his men, remembering that many of them will later on become Officers and Instructors themselves.

He should so educate them that they may realise the bearing of military movements and formations. The men should know why absolute steadiness in the ranks is a military necessity, even when off parade. He should, from the outset appreciate the connection between this form of discipline, and that thorough concentration, that attention of the mind which causes a man to subordinate his will in the hour of emergency to the exact impulse to which the emergency demands. He should be learned in the various military formations, and know the reason why these formations are necessary to the making of the military machine. When he realises this routine in its true relations to a soldier's training, it will at once become an exercise in which his intelligence plays a part.

As regards the value of teaching; method and influence will, if rightly modified, give to military instruction a meaning which is too often wanting. The wise instructor will not miss the opportunity of showing that obedience which is the first and final element of discipline, may be implicit without ceasing to be intelligent.

The first danger point of discipline is generally reached when the soldier ceases to be a recruit. He has become very familiar with his surroundings, and the eye of his Officer must be more than usually watchful, and it is well to remember at this critical stage that firmness, even severity, is more readily endured from an Officer who is known to be humane. The Officer who consults his men's comfort before his own, who takes an interest in their amusements, who shows a practical sympathy with them in their troubles and sickness, may tell them off with impunity. The Officers to whom such virtues are not natural should school themselves into them.

During this critical time the points of discipline which will require special care and watchfulness are, steadiness in the ranks, the care of arms and equip-

ment, and punctuality. Discipline is a habit; it grows subconsciously by constant exercise. It is not as if discipline were merely a lesson to be learnt. It is a habit to be formed, and only if fully formed, not half formed, will it provide the means whereby the common end may be secured, by organised bodies of men unconscious of self. Only if fully formed will it be effective when "the day" comes.

And what are the effects of discipline? The soldier who is by nature brave, will by discipline, become braver. Discipline enables him to gain such confidence in himself that he knows he cannot let himself down; such a knowledge of his comrades and superiors that he knows that they will not let him down.

Discipline is the all pervading influence which makes those virtues effective in every sudden and terrible emergency.

COVER FOR MACHINE GUNS.

The value of machine guns largely depends on their being at hand when favourable opportunities for their employment occur. In the attack such positions will be gained almost entirely by a skilful use of the ground.

In the defence, on the other hand, concealed emplacements can be prepared in anticipation. These sites should usually be selected with a view to bringing a powerful enfilade or oblique fire on the attackers after they have reached effective infantry range, to flanking supporting works, and to sweeping any gaps that may have been left in the line of obstacles.

Machine Guns can fire over a height of from 14½ to 30 inches. In selecting a site for a machine gun emplacement particular attention should be paid to concealment. Provided the probable lines of advance of the enemy can be swept with fire, it will usually be preferable to select positions for machine guns away from salients, works, villages, etc., that may be held, so that they may be free to move about.

If the machine gun is to be located in a trench a platform of earth at the requisite depth can be left as the trench is being dug, or it can be built up subsequently. The crest of such an emplacement may take the form of the arc of a circle, the length of which will depend on the extent of ground it is desired to sweep with fire. Head-cover should, if possible, be provided, but must not appear different from that constructed elsewhere in the trench, and the height and form of the openings through which the gun is to fire must be regulated by actual trial over the gun sights. The front of the emplacement may be under-cut, to take the front legs of the tripod, should the nature of the soil permit.

Splinter-proof-shelter for the detachment should be provided close to the emplacements.