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THE PREPARATION TERRAIN EXERCISES

PART I.

by Major T. Fox,
Infantry Corps.

The art of the soldier unlike that of the painter, the sculptor, the musician etc., cannot be practised fully at all times. The latter work in the medium of paints, stone, metal and harmonies under conditions and at times of their own choosing, whilst the soldier can only find place and opportunity for the full expression of his art in war, where his medium is flesh and blood and the human emotions.

It is the impossibility of reproducing the conditions of the battlefield in peace time exercises and manoeuvres that makes them appear so unreal and unsatisfying. What a person sees with his eyes and personally experiences is more easily understood and remembered than what he sees with his mind's eye, or reads or hears of the experiences of others. Yet without this training, these exercises and this study of history no army could be prepared for war.

There are no greater students of the lessons of history than the Germans. It has been the foundation-stone of all their military education. It was not without reason nor without profit that Ludendorff described the 8th August 1918, as "the black day of the German Army." On this day the Allied tanks and aircraft swept the German Army before them in defeat. The lessons of the day were not lost on the Germans; black days are easily recalled. It is not so long ago that we read of and saw in the newspapers pictures of dummy tanks being used by the Germans in their exercises. Then came the Spanish War and with it an opportunity to apply the lessons learned and the training obtained in exercises to actual conditions of war, then May and June 1940 and the profit of Ludendorff's bitter words.

Not all armies can have such perfect conditions for preparing for war as did the Germans. Even

AND CONDUCT OF

they were only able to give experience of war as we know it to-day to a comparatively small number of leaders and technicians—the remainder continued with their studies and their terrain exercises.

Terrain exercises are exercises carried out on the ground with or without troops. They can be single sided or two sided. "The individual stalk" is as much a terrain exercise as a battalion in attack exercise carried out on the ground. The preparation of a plan for the occupation of a position to cover a road block can be made a terrain exercise by the Group Leader for the Section Leaders, as can the actual occupation and orders for its defence be made one for the men by the Squad Leader.

The purposes of terrain exercises are:

- To train leaders in the various methods of fighting.
- To apply these methods to various and varying terrain.
- To bring the employment of weapons and ground into proper relationship.
- To demonstrate the employment of weapons of similar and dissimilar characteristics separately and in combination.
- To teach and develop appreciation of ground values in relation to tactics in leaders and men.
- To give practise to Commanders in the leading of their men in conditions as closely allied to reality as peace-time training will allow.
- To practise the men in the use of their weapons and in the tactics appropriate to themselves and their unit in varying conditions of terrain and situation.

These headings are not given in order of importance nor should terrain exercise set out to teach subjects in this sequence. If I were asked to place them I would place a, f, and g in that order.

The first and indispensable condition in the person preparing a terrain exercise is imagination. Imagination is not self deception. It is not idle speculation. It is the ability to think ahead, to envisage the shape of things to come. It is the divine spark which gives life, meaning and purposeful action to military plans. It was the imagination of General Von Francois, Commander of the German Ist Corps which made possible Ludendorff's victory at Tannenberg, and the present events in Libya show that the British Commander is possessed of like qualities.

Fire unless checked spreads easily. It should be the purpose of the person preparing or conducting a terrain exercise to fire the imagination of his class or his unit to assist them to work themselves thoroughly into the situation so that they may derive the greatest benefit from it. Unless he possesses the spark he can make no fire.

The first step in the preparation of a terrain exercise is to determine the subject to be taught or practiced. This might be for example "platoon in attack" but the terrain exercise need not necessarily include all of this subject. The exercise might be designed to deal with one or two phases only. In fact it would be wrong to attempt to teach more than can be done well in a lesson. The following are some of the subjects that can be taught in terrain exercises:

(1) Reconnaissance:

- (a) For siting of road block.
- (b) For siting of fire position to cover it.
- (c) To determine the best way of placing a party defending road blocks.
- (d) To determine best locations for O.Ps.
- (e) To select ambush positions.
- (f) To select fire positions etc. for ambush party.
- (g) To determine the placing of sections by a Platoon Commander in a combat post allotted to him by his Company Commander.
- (h) To make up a plan for the employment of a platoon in attack.
- (i) To get information of the strength and location of an enemy force by use of cyclist units or scouts.

(2) Orders:

- (a) To a party defending a road block.
- (b) To a party attacking defenders of a road block.
- (c) To a platoon in defence.
- (d) To a patrol.
- (e) To a platoon in attack.
- (f) To an ambush party.

TO NEW CONTRIBUTORS.

In addition to the numerous articles by Army Officers, many excellent articles written by members of the L.D.F. have already appeared in *An Cosantóir*. Despite the fact that this journal depends on voluntary, unpaid contributors, we are sure that there are very many more available than have come forward yet. Apart from potential L.D.F. contributors there must be a number of Army Officers, N.C.Os., and men who have interesting ideas or have had useful experiences. Anything bearing on the training equipment, conditions of life or any matters affecting the interests of the individual soldier or L.D.F. Volunteer will be suitable.

If you have got a useful idea but feel that you are not a good writer, do not hesitate to send in your contribution. The Editor will see to the rest. If you cannot get the article typed, write in ink and write clearly. If an illustration is necessary, send in a rough diagram, giving dimensions where necessary. Again the Editor will see to the rest. Do not be impatient if your effort does not appear immediately. The Journal has to be planned far in advance of the publication date.—The Editor.

- (g) To a party defending a house.
- (h) For the defence of a post.

(3) Co-Operation:

- (a) Of the sections of a platoon during an attack.
- (b) Of supporting weapons, machine guns and mortars, with infantry in defence or attack.
- (c) In counter-attack.
- (d) In delaying action and withdrawal.
- (4) Passing of messages during an attack.
- (5) Supply of ammunition.
- (6) Methods of attacking a tank.
- (7) Methods of attacking a house.
- (8) Defending a bridge.
- (9) Street fighting.

In fact practically every phase of military operations can be taught and practised by terrain exercises.

(To be continued).

IRISHMEN OF ACTION

LALLY OF THE BRIGADE.

(Reprinted from *An t-Oglach*).

Among that brilliant galaxy who contributed so much to the fame of Ireland's fighting-men on the war-scarred plains of Europe, the name of Thomas Arthur Lally stands pre-eminent. The son of Sir Gerald Lally, of Tullinadaly, who had fought at Aughrim, Limerick and the Boyne, he was destined to rise to great eminence in the service of the country which had given sanctuary to his countrymen when Patrick Sarsfield and the Wild Geese sailed from their native shores.

Thomas Patrick Lally was born in the year 1702, and from his earliest years was destined for the possession of arms. When he was just eight years old he accompanied his father at the siege of Gironne, and two years afterwards he took his place in the trenches at Barcelona. Indeed, he displayed so much talent for leadership while yet under the age of twenty, that he was frequently commended by his superiors for his bravery and knowledge of military matters. In 1732 he was present at the reduction of Kehl, and in the following year he distinguished himself at Ettingen, where he, at great personal risk, saved the life of his distinguished father.

The Scottish Jacobites about this time advised the exiled James Stuart that a rising in Scotland would be attended with success, and among others who were sent to Scotland to ascertain the strength of the Jacobites was Major Lally. He traversed a large portion of the Highlands, and then crossed to Ireland, where he made many friends, and obtained many recruits for the famous Brigade. On his return to France he was ordered to proceed to the Russian Court, and when there he was instructed to break the alliance between that country and England, and to form one between Russia and France. He is said to have carried out his portion of the work with consummate tact and delicacy, but the ultimate failure of the mission was due to the indecision of the authorities in Paris.

At Dettingen, in 1743, Lally rode at the head of his regiment, and the Duke de Noailles, in a general order of the day, spoke in glowing terms of praise concerning the conduct of the Irish leader. "At Dettingen," wrote de Noailles, "he rallied the army several times in its disorder, and saved it in its retreat, through the advice which he laid before the Army Council a few hours after the battle."

The early spring of 1744 saw the formation of the magnificent regiment which bore the name of its founder, Colonel Lally. At Fontenoy, in May, 1745, this regiment and its gallant leader rendered particularly distinguished service. "This regiment," says a French eyewitness of the battle, "decided the conflict by dispersing with the cold steel that terrible English force which had overcome the artillery of Richelieu and the King's Household Cavalry." Lally was raised to the rank of Brigadier by Louis XV. on the field of battle.

In 1745 we find Lally again active on behalf of the Stuarts. In that year he succeeded in raising a force of about 10,000 Scotch and Irish troops for the service of Charles Edward. This force, however, was not used, and the story of how France played the Stuarts false on that occasion is an enthralling chapter in the history of high politics during the earlier portion of the eighteenth century. Lally embarked on board a smuggling vessel and managed to land somewhere on the coast of Sussex. From thence he made his way to Scotland, and was appointed aide-de-camp to Charles Edward when the latter raised his standard at Glenfinnan on August 19th, 1745. At Falkirk, in January, 1746, Lally acted as chief military adviser to Charles Edward, and is said to have contributed in no small degree to the victory obtained over the forces of the "wee German laddie" on that day.

By a strange mischance Lally was now despatched to London on the business of the Prince, and from thence he crossed over to Ireland, thus being absent from the scene on the fatal day at Culloden Moor. From Ireland Lally once more journeyed to London, where, shortly after his arrival, a proclamation was issued offering a large reward for his body, dead or alive. For several weeks Lally remained in the English capital successfully eluding the authorities, and eventually he obtained a passage on a boat bound for Dunkirk.

A period of comparative peace now ensued in Europe, and it is not until 1755 we find Lally again coming into prominence. In this year the English began an aggressive policy towards the French in Newfoundland. Louis XV. sent for Lally, and asked for advice as to the best course to be pursued by France. Lally's answer was characteristic of the man—immediate action. First by a descent on England in aid of the Stuarts. Secondly, to overthrow the power of England in India, and, thirdly, to launch a determined attack upon the English colonies in America. The

ministers of Louis, after mature consideration, turned down those proposals, and attempted to settle their differences by negotiations with the English Government. During the discussions on an amicable settlement the English Navy continued its campaign against the French, and in the short space of ten months had taken or sunk no fewer than two hundred and fifteen French vessels.

When all hope of a peaceful solution had vanished, Lally was again summoned by the king, and requested to prepare a plan for an attack upon the English possessions in India.

It might be mentioned here that an East India Company was formed in the days of Louis XIV, but, towards the close of his reign, this Company was destroyed. It was revived during the early days of Louis XV., but it was unable to make any headway against the advance of the British East India Company. The failure of the French Company was said to be chiefly due to the mismanagement and flagrant dishonesty of its chief officials.

An expedition was fitted out and Lally was invested with the supreme command, but, curiously enough, we find the French Minister, D'Argenson, raising his voice against this appointment. "I am," says D'Argenson, in a memorandum to the King, "I am better acquainted than you are with the work of M. de Lally, and, moreover, he is my friend; but he should be left with us in Europe. He is on fire with activity. He makes no compromise with respect to discipline, has a profound horror of anything that is not straightforward, is impatient with delay, is silent upon nothing that he knows, and expresses himself in no uncertain terms. All those qualities are excellent amongst us, but what is the prospect of it for you among your factories in Asia? At the first sign of negligent conduct that is likely to clash with the interests of his royal master, M. de Lally will thunder forth, if he does not resort to rougher measures. This will cause his operations to fail in order to be avenged upon him. Pondicherry will have civil war within its gates and a foreign foe outside its walls. I am fully convinced of the excellence of the plans submitted by my friend, but I believe that some other person should be charged with their execution."

Notwithstanding this grave warning, Lally was ordered to India, but trouble soon arose. First, a third of the money allocated for the expedition was stopped, and then more than a third of the troops were withdrawn. This proceeding was warmly resented by the impetuous Irishman, and he was about to resign his command when a solemn assurance was given by the French authorities that the remainder of the money and troops would be

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sent when he arrived in India.

Lally arrived in India in the month of April, 1758, and at once set about restoring order in the French Colony. His first act was to lay siege to the Fort of St. David, which he captured in less than one month. Then he returned to Pondicherry, where bitter disappointment awaited him. Here he found the finances so low that it was plainly evident that no forces could be maintained for any length of time. For months Lally conducted a campaign against the forces of mismanagement and corruption, but found himself hampered on every side. At last he determined on one last throw of the dice. He mustered his entire force and marched against Madras in the hope of inflicting a crushing blow to English rule in the East. A determined stand was made by the latter at Fort St. George, which, curiously enough, was under the command of an Irish officer in the English service, named Laurence. Here the arrival of the English Fleet caused Lally to raise the siege and retire to Pondicherry, which was invested shortly afterwards by the English under Coote.

The story of the siege of Pondicherry is one of the grandest episodes in the history of India. The French force under Lally were reduced to a state of starvation, but with indomitable courage they refused to surrender. At last, after a period of close on nine months, the heroic defence came to an end, and Lally was taken prisoner. Being released on parole, Lally hurried to Paris in order to defend himself against the stories that had been circulated by his enemies. He was soon enmeshed in a web of intrigue and finally was arrested and confined to the Bastille. After spending more than three years in that prison, he was brought to trial before the French Parliament, and was sentenced to death. The execution was duly carried out, and, says Voltaire: "A murder was committed with the Sword of Justice." In the year 1778, Louis XVI by public proclamation, cancelled the decree of attainder pronounced by his predecessor against the family of the great soldier, and Lally's son was enabled to enter upon the patrimony of his illustrious father.

X.

THE RED CROSS

by DISTRICT ADJUTANT W. O'DONNELL.

In the tumult and the chaos of present international events the unpretentious title of "Red Cross" has attained world-wide significance. The symbol emphasises that the universality of the proposed charity is essentially a Christian ideal which does not concern itself with party or section, political consideration, state or position, passion or controversy, creed or colour, friend or foe. The inspiration seems to have come from the lines of Scripture: "All men are your neighbours; love your neighbour as yourself."

In peace time the name betokens less importance than in wartime, but the work carried out by the Society does not diminish, and the need for its existence is well proved by the number of public accidents which occur. The Society is never dormant. It is always ready to stretch a helping hand to the sick or infirm. And when the harsh and sudden bugle of war sounds the work of the Red Cross is appreciated by all who have reason to shelter beneath its wing from the tempests and blinding blasts of death. The organization could then be likened to a mother ever ready to comfort and succour her sons who are engaged in wars of destruction. Many a soldier far from home and uncared for by others when wounded, has reason to be thankful to the Red Cross for having his wounds attended to and his sufferings alleviated.

The Red Cross was founded in 1863. Yet long before that time, the wounded and helpers in battle were granted concessions, and were hardly ever brutally slaughtered. Pity and mercy for the wounded is as old as history itself, and has seldom been denied, even when enmity and hate were masters of the belligerents.

We learn that Henry Dunant of Geneva was father and founder of the Red Cross, and that it was he who first conceived the idea of establishing it on a permanent basis. The glorious and sublime life of Florence Nightingale, the *Lady of the Lamp* who devoted her life towards the caring of the wounded and helpless, and who with a gallant band of voluntary nurses saved thousands of lives during the Crimean War, also started a wave of pity that was to gather strength as it rolled along and had far reaching effects. Books by famous authors portraying to the world the sufferings of its inhabitants, such as Mrs. Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* achieved victories in this direction by impressing pity on the public mind.

Henry Dunant, no doubt infused with pity for the

misfortunes of the suffering took a hand in man's inhumanity to man and resolutely determined to start a movement that would embrace all classes and creeds, and which would be extended throughout the world to combat pain and disease.

At Solferino in 1859 he first brought his idea into operation, and in this great battle he started the great humanitarian work which was afterwards to develop into the Red Cross as we know it to-day. Dunant who was travelling in the area where the battle was being fought saw approaching him thousands of wounded, many of them dying with hunger and neglect. They were losers in that dreadful day and had nowhere to go, except to seek sanctuary in churches and monasteries. A cosmopolitan lot, they staggered on to find some spot to rest their weary bones and die. Mud-covered and blood-covered they continued their seeking to die in peace.

Dunant stood awhile in reverie gazing at the misfortunates approaching him. The latent strain of pity in him was revealed, and straightaway he began to attend to them, supplying them with victuals and drinks. People who stood by became interested, and before long gave a helping hand. Given the impetus Dunant started in earnest and proceeded from house to house begging to feed the hungry. He passed amongst the soldiers, attending to wounds and comforting all who were in pain until finally he had restored new life into the wounded.

After the battle of Solferino he carried on his praiseworthy work and everywhere it met with success. By his influence Napoleon III ordered the release of the Austrian doctors to go and administer to the enemy wounded in battle. The wave of pity he had started gradually became strong and not long afterwards it was to make the foundation of the Red Cross.

The memory of Henry Dunant should never be forgotten by the Red Cross. He was the initiator, and were it not for his idea and organising ability the movement would never have been established on the rock foundation upon which it rests to-day. He spoke of its advantages, of its Christian work, and of its opportunities to humanity. Finally he impressed a small audience and they listened to his appeal. The start of the movement was small and consisted of five citizens of Geneva forming themselves into a committee which afterwards increased and became an international committee in the early days of the Red Cross.

The indomitable spirit of the five helped to increase membership. They travelled individually throughout different countries, and by their con-

tinual efforts they impressed Governments to listen to their appeal and give support to the movement which Dunant had founded and fostered.

From the time of its foundation in 1863, the Red Cross has never looked back, but has continued its efforts with surprising pluck and determination. Step by step it fought for universal recognition, until gradually the world began to assess its value and see its importance to society. Its membership increased greatly, so broadminded were its views, and so Christ-like were its objects.

The world beheld how useful was the Society when the international conflict of 1914 burst forth. By its impartiality and homogenous composition, it nearly always succeeded in its interventions on behalf of prisoners, etc. Members of the Society visited internment camps attending to the needs of the prisoners; and often gaining for them an amelioration of their treatment. Doctors and nurses were always to be seen travelling to the temporary hospitals administering to the wounded. In wartime when the fight is raging fiercely, and where to step is dangerous, its members are always to be found at their post never shrinking their grim and difficult

L.D.F. COMPETITION— GLIN, CO. LIMERICK.

The purpose of the competition, for the beautiful silver cup presented by Mr. McNally of Glin, was to decide which of the three Groups in the district (Foynes, Glin, Shanagolden) were most efficient at Foot-Drill, Arms-Drill and Field Formations.

Officers from the Foynes Garrison were adjudicators. The competition took place in the playground of St. Joseph's Reformatory, equal in size to the average Barrack Square.

Promptly at 3 p.m. the Glin Group Leader called "Markers." Four markers marched on with perfectly sloped arms, halted and opened out. The Glin Group then "fell-in" on their respective markers. The Group Leader handed over the Group to a senior Squad Leader who put the Group through most of the drill movements in T.R.2. Subsequently they performed field movements. They then performed most of the arms drill movements on the march, and in conclusion formed up in two ranks facing the stand where the adjudicators and District Staff were assembled, presented arms and were dismissed.

Next came the Foynes Group who performed most of the movements of the preceding Group, except that they did not do any field signals. Their Group Leader was in charge all the time and gave

duty.

Homeless ones, children and aged persons are well protected in war-time, and when a city or town has been devastated, the Society is always at hand to give assistance to all.

After the Great War it was decided to carry on the activities in peace time, thus giving a further boon to humanity. Victims of epidemics, accidents, etc., are all cared for, and the magnificent work is never slackened by good active branches.

With the outbreak of hostilities in September, 1939, the forces of the Red Cross are again mustered and the work it has performed—and will perform—will some day be made known to the world. Already the Society has been extended, and since the start of the war numerous branches have organized, and the main committee is being strengthened.

The work started by Dunant 78 years ago is still continued, and the Red Cross has never declined or become inert. Its strict impartiality and neutrality, its non-sectarian nature, and the zeal of its members has insured against failure, and to-day it is established on a basis that has gained the admiration of all classes.

all the necessary orders.

Last but not least came Shanagolden, and they, like Glin had a Section Leader as instructor. The only difference in this Group was that they performed "Right and Left Form" which the other Groups did not.

All through the proceedings the men on parade displayed fine soldierly bearing and discipline. Their slight mistakes were more often than not the result of over enthusiasm, and their demeanour throughout was a credit to themselves, their instructors and their country.

It seemed scarcely credible that civilians such as those men could find so much time from their everyday occupations to attain such a high standard of military efficiency. They acted and looked like men who had at least six months continuous army service. Although Glin was adjudged the winners, Foynes and Shanagolden need have no inferiority complex about that as there was very little difference between the three Groups.

Competitions such as the above are invaluable in fostering a high state of morale and *esprit de corps* in Groups, as would have been evident to anyone in Glin that day. District Staffs would be well advised to hold competitions such as this, as it gives men something immediate and tangible to train for, and keeps at bay that dangerous attitude of mind which says "Nothing will ever happen here" and gives each man a pride in himself and in his Unit.

The Principles of War

PART II. THE OBJECTIVE.

by Colonel M. J. Costello.

The ultimate objective in War is a better peace and this can be attained by overcoming the enemy's will. There will be a large number of subsidiary objectives each leading up to the ultimate objective. There should be one principal objective at a time. If there is a subsidiary one, it should be such as to help directly in securing the main end. The choice of the objective from time to time is one of the most important functions of the leader of the force engaged. It should be an objective which is suitable to our military power and other things being equal most damaging to the enemy. Every military plan and each aspect of a plan should be tested by its bearing upon the attainment of the objective. We should ask ourselves what is the object, what is the most effective way of attaining it, and of every plan ask does it lead us to our objective? While continuous activity is essential in War, it is equally necessary that this activity should not be aimless.

It will be noticed how the Germans have during the present war concentrated all their efforts upon the attainment of one object at a time. In the story of Crossbarry can be seen how the Commander's plan was based upon a clear-cut objective and when this was attained he carefully avoided further conflict for the day. In even the smallest fight we must be clear as to our aim and if the objective is not indicated to us we must choose it with care and stick to it.

In order that we may be in a position to choose the best objective, we must have the fullest possible information about the enemy. There must be a continuous effort by all ranks to help in building up the stock of information which when pieced together enables us to picture the enemy's situation and choose the most profitable object of attack.

In everyday life this principle is well understood. It is enshrined in the saying "The world turns aside to let pass the man who knows where he is going."

Napoleon's brilliant successes in war were to a great extent due to the fact that his mind was fixed upon his final objective—the destruction of the enemy, while his early enemies and indeed all military leaders of the generation before his wasted

their power upon meaningless manoeuvres or upon objectives which were not decisive or were not worth the cost of attaining them. Napoleon's only violation of this principle cost him dear. He took an expeditionary force to Egypt with the object of embarking upon a great scheme of conquest in the east. While his land forces were superb his means did not justify the adoption of this objective since England controlling the seas could and did cut him off from France and made it impossible for him to maintain his Army.

In the early stages of his invasion of Russia Napoleon kept after his true objective, the Russian Armies, but he later became obsessed with the idea of taking Moscow and it, rather than the enemy, became his objective. It was only when he had taken Moscow that he realised that he had followed a will o' the wisp and that the capture and destruction of its capital would not break the will of a determined nation.

During the last Great War the British sent an expedition to the Dardanelles which ended in complete failure. One of the principal reasons for the failure was the fact that the object was not clearly defined at the outset and the means employed were not properly related to the task. In fact, Britain drifted into the campaign and paid for her drifting.

In the Battle of Cambrai is also seen how the violation of these principles of war is punished. The confusion about the objective of the battle and the failure to relate the means to the object ultimately sought made the British failure almost inevitable. What could have been an outstandingly successful raid became, in fact, a muddle.

The greatest German victory of the last war in France—that of March, 1918—was not a decisive victory because no objective vital to the Allies was taken and the defeat of the British Fifth Army did not lead to any further advantage.

(To be continued).

FAITHFULNESS.

... faithfulness in little things must certainly not confine itself merely to the parade portion of military life; but the many apparently insignificant details necessary to the making of the man as a soldier are also entitled to special notice. Constant exhortation to cleanliness, to love of order, to punctuality, to painstaking, to love of truth, and to absolute fidelity is the most powerful factor in the formation of discipline.—Von Der Goltz.

SLÁINTEACAS AGUS SANÓAIO 'SAN ARM

Colonel Tomár Mac Cionaotha, M.A., M.B.

Sláinteacais? Cad é sin? Eólaí ar cionnúr is fearr an t-pláinte do éagslaí agus san teigint do'n galair bheir ar an uine. Agus Sanóio? Is ionann é agus bliagte an t-Sláinteacais 'sá scuip i bpeiróm. (Cuirtear an Sláinteacais i gcomparáio leis an eólaí a bfuil a n-intinn an éaspaíde—an t-Sanóio le obair a lámh). Mar is é an t-Arim atá i gceirte agaim, oo-bheirtear an t-aimm 'Sanóio miltéara' ar an bpeirómnaí ro. Tá ré foileir ar an méio sin fuar sup fíor-leatán a péim ro agus go bfuil olúit-baint aici, ní amháin le glaine agus le glan-tusaí—an fuo a éreídear an gnáit-uine—áit le peirómnaí gá don bliagte a baineat le pláinte an t-paríoiúpa.

Tairbeánann an Stáir sup móir an out-ar-agaí atá an t-pláinteacais agus 'an t-Sanóio leis na bliadantaí beaga anuas, agus go mbíonn pláinte na n-ógláir as bpaí go n-íomlán ar an t-ranóio. Tamailín ó foim níor éirí iongantais na bliagte 'sa gcois 'sá laíosaí as na galair atá anoir ro-cóirte a. an galair bheir, an galair uib, an pláir, an galair buir, an buinneat beir, malapla. Da mma oo cuirtear galair atá ro-cóirte anoir beirtear le cair-péim—ag bheir buada ar an t-plaí as oo ius buaí ceana péim ar a námaí, agus 'sá fágaí 'na éoraí eapair ar an mboíar buada. Bíor comparáio ior an méio paríoiúpa oo cuirtear ar éirtear mar gail ar an ngalair 'an gcois móir (1914-18), agus an méio i n-gá cair-péim foimé pin mar beirtear ar an out-cum-cinn atá ann anoir. I n-gá cair-péim fáda foimé pin oo bíor an luí galairte i bpaí níor iomaíamla 'na an t-aor éneat—agus ní toir go raib na bliagte imearí bair ar a déile níor beir-meamla as an luí tpoa; áit na fiabair uatbáir oo beirtear na bliagte fao ó 'sá gcoisbaí pá rmaí as an t-Sanóio.

San t-pean-aimpí ba beag an t-eólaí oo bí as an uine ar Sláinteacais miltéara. Dair leis an t-paríoiúpa péim—Tair Dé a bí m' na galair oo tigeat aip, nó, ar a laigeat, o'fanaí pé go cpoa le n-a raib i noán oo gan lámh nó cor oo éirtear cum é péim oo éoraí aip. Bíonn paríoiúpa an lae moir ar an nór cuma-liom éaspaí i deaíob Sanóio—agus naí móir le pái áit rmaíneam ar an méio a beirtear eap? Da éarí eólaí oo beir as gá don paríoiúpa ar pláinteacais. Annpin beir a fíor aige a méio sup

péirí leis péim corc poim pé oo éirí le galair, agus a éaríde a fíolpáirtear galair i meap a Compaíde muna noéantais beir oo péir panóio.

Bíonn pé mar píom-buairte ar gá Oirgeat aipe oo éaríte ar pláinte a cuio fear. Cum é ro oo éeanaí mar ba éoraí cairte pé maíla Sanóio o'fógaíte ooíob agus péacaint éirte go scuipcear na maíla ro i bpeiróm o'air nó o'értean. Is ooíob é ro muna mbíonn a cuio fear as comóirpnaí leis—agus ní beir pái as cum-oirpnaí go uatbáirte gan eólaí áit an Sanóio miltéara agus ar a maítear áit na maíla agus na n-óirte; oo bpaí pin tá eólaí cuim beirte ar an fuo tabaíte ro le tabaíte ooíob. Bíonn an corc-uine ann, amháit, a tigeat naí ceap oo na maíla pláinte oo bpeirte agus beir 'sá mbuairte gan rtaí, gan rtaí naí áit a fíor a beir aige go bfuil pionór i noán oo. Da maíte an maíre oo'n éeanaíde out go mma ar tupaí eirtear agus oíoltear cuirtear o'agaíte ar an uine éionntat. Com-liopair an paríoiúpa tpeanáit ar a fíor péim i n-am cois na maíla pláinteacais a bíor 'sá gcois aige i n-am píotéana. Is amháit a cuirtear corc poim pé leis an ngalair agus naí oirtear ceao a cor oo. Naí tigeat paillíte ann ro a. go mbíonn an fear beirtear ní amháit miltéaraí mar paríoiúpa; uatbáir 'sa bpeir anuas aip pin a bíor ann.

Ní leor oo'n Oirgeat a beir as tpeanáit a fear 'an mbeirtear mar a mbíonn an Ríoltear áiteamla as cuirtear leis cum pláinte na n-ógláir oo éoraíte. Da éaríte oo a beir i n-mma gléar acuinneat panóio oo éirtear agus oo éirí as obair i gcampa nó ar an maíre píu pan gcoisnaíte is iatpáit, i oirte go mbéat éoraí glan-uirte aige agus go loirtear an bpaíar agus na excreta go léir, &c. Tá gá le fuimín lán-oirte a beir i mbun na n-oirte ro.

Ní 'an Oirgeat Sanóio (laí 'an Arim go agaim-ne) áit comáirtear oo'n éeanaíde. Bíonn pé aip pin comáirte a leapa oo éaríte oo'n Oirgeat i gceanaí, áit bíonn an t-oirgeat ro ppeáirte ar pláinte na n-ógláir agus ar Sanóio a beirtear nó a campa. Is gairí go scuipcear i n-íol oo'n éeanaíde a gléar go spoo agus go lán-taitéanaí le comáirte a leaga go bfuil gá don fuo a baineat le pláinte na bpaí as out ar ágaí mar ba éoraí.

(M Cúic)

The Battle of Cambrai

by Captain J. Cogan, Cavalry Corps.

PART II.

The Hindenburg system of entrenchments was unfinished in parts but was nearing completion. Each line was protected by three to five belts of barbed wire and, along the greater part of the front, a number of intermediary systems existed between the first and second lines. The construction of the dug-outs was such as to provide the utmost security, comfort and protection for the morale of troops holding the line. Field fortification reached its zenith in this "wonderful Hindenburg system", to quote Captain Dugdale. This Officer notes amongst the contents of a captured dug-out, feather beds, chairs and tables and even lager beer. (7).

Such a system, requiring a minimum of men with a sufficiency of machine guns for its defence, was calculated to achieve the greatest economy of force. Well might the Germans consider themselves, if not impregnable, at least surprise proof. A bare two divisions held the line, the 20th Landwehr and the 54th Division tired from long service on the Western Front and soon due for relief by fresh divisions from the east.

THE BRITISH PLAN.

To Fuller this must have appeared a heaven-created opportunity for surprise tank operations. His plan, (8), briefly, was for a tank raid of 8-12 hours duration, on a front of about 8,000 yards. This should be supported by one or two infantry divisions and some cavalry. Its object would be, not the capture of ground, but to destroy enemy personnel and material, to demoralise and disorganise him. The retirement might commence three hours after zero.

As Haig saw it, "the object of the operation was to gain a local success at an unexpected point." (9). He selected as his objective Bourlon, with a view to later exploitation northward towards the Sense River. Cambrai itself was subsidiary to the main attack, the move in that direction being intended to mislead the enemy as to his real aims. In his estimate of the situation Haig considered the following factors:—

I. Enemy were momentarily weak in this

sector but were strengthening the defence behind Cambrai.

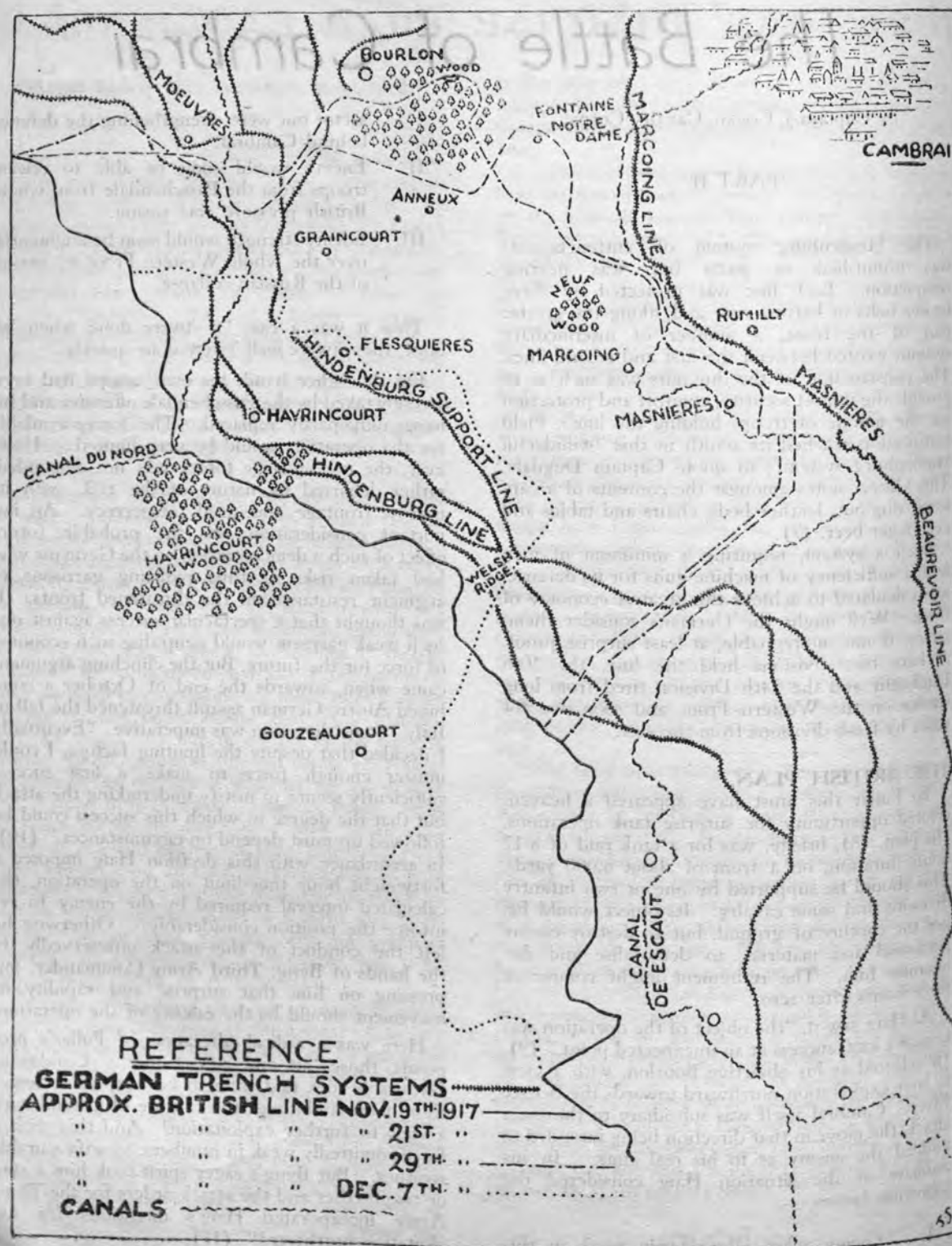
II. Enemy would soon be able to release troops from the Passchendaele front where British pressure was easing.

III. Enemy strength would soon be augmented over the whole Western Front by reason of the Russian collapse.

Thus it was a case "if 'twere done when 'tis done, then 'twere well 'twere done quickly."

On the other hand, his own troops had been severely taxed by the Passchendaele offensive and his losses only partly replaced. The forces available for the operation would be very limited. However, the use of large forces was not demanded, rather debarred by nature of the task, with its narrow frontage and need for secrecy. An important consideration was the probable future effect of such a demonstration on the Germans who had taken risks in thus reducing garrisons to augment resistance on the threatened fronts. It was thought that a spectacular success against one such weak garrison would neutralise such economy of force for the future. But the clinching argument came when, towards the end of October a combined Austro-German assault threatened the fall of Italy. Some diversion was imperative. "Eventually I decided that despite the limiting factors, I could muster enough force to make a first success sufficiently secure to justify undertaking the attack but that the degree to which this success could be followed up must depend on circumstances." (10). In accordance with this decision Haig imposed a forty-eight hour time-limit on the operation, the calculated interval required by the enemy to reinforce the position considerably. Otherwise he left the conduct of the attack unreservedly in the hands of Byng, Third Army Commander, impressing on him that surprise and rapidity of movement should be the essence of the operation.

Here was a radical alteration of Fuller's proposals, those 'hit and run' tactics. Conditions favourable to a raid were to be adapted to something more ambitious; the capture of ground with a view to further exploitation! And this with a force admittedly weak in numbers, in unfavourable weather. But Byng's eager spirit took him a step or two further and the attack orders for the Third Army incorporated Haig's intentions for exploitation northward!" (11).



PREPARATIONS. (12).

Early in November preparations began in earnest and were carried out with the greatest skill and secrecy. The great Havrincourt Wood in particular and the terrain generally behind the British lines, offered admirable facilities for amassing guns and material secretly. All the work was carried out at night. Camouflage netting was used extensively to supplement the natural cover. Fortune too was greatly on the side of the British, for a prolonged period of misty weather blinded the enemy's aerial observation. The one cause of anxiety all during this period was the unavoidable noise of traffic and general activity by night. This it was, probably, that brought on a number of raids which occurred shortly before the attack. These, again luckily for the British, did not provide the Germans with much information. They expected a small attack near HAVRINCOURT and were prepared there with storm troops. (13). The final difficulty of concealing masses of troops close up to the front line, was over-come in some cases by elaborate camouflage. Large ground depressions were covered over with the camouflage netting and troops hidden beneath; at one part a complete brigade was hidden thus. To ensure the utmost secrecy, and guard against the peril of raids, troops in the front line were not informed of the projected attack, nor were they relieved. The reinforcement of the line was deferred until the night before the attack and even then the old outpost was not changed. The field guns were held back similarly until the last moment.

During all this preparatory period the infantry were despatched in reliefs to the rear to rehearse the attack. Here the tanks and infantry rehearsed the formations which had been designed to ensure co-operation. Each battalion was to be preceded by 18 tanks. The tanks worked in groups of three, forming an equilateral triangle of 100 yards side with its apex to the front. The infantry came in rear of the tanks, also at 100 yards.

By the night of November 19 everything was done and the stage set for the drama of the morrow. Though the Germans may have suspected much, and their raids and barrages during the few days previous indicated some uneasiness, the surprise was complete when it came. Even for a small attack four or five hours artillery preparation was anticipated.

"20th NOVEMBER. THE FIRST DAY'S FIGHTING." (14).

At about 6 a.m. on the 20th the tanks started up with a shattering roar. Twenty minutes later their noise was drowned by the crash of over 1,000 British guns (of these 311 were "Heavies") firing

by survey and meteorology data, without previous registration. Now the tanks move forward in their triangle formation, guided over the prepared avenues in the British trenches screened by the still favouring mist and by a smoke barrage and closely followed by the infantry. Gaps are crushed in the wire and soon the tanks are into the Hindenburg Line, crossing the wider trenches by means of their fascines (huge bundles of brushwood carried on top of the tanks which could be slipped over the nose into a trench) smashing machine guns and driving the German infantry to ground with a hail of fire. The Infantry quickly find the gaps in the wire and clear the trenches. A short halt now for reorganisation and forward again to the Hindenburg Reserve. (Some of the tanks remain behind, trundling up and down the line of wire, widening the gaps into great lanes by means of grapnels trailed in rear. This was to allow the advance of cavalry). Now the German Artillery position is reached and the infantry repay their debt to the tanks, stalking the gunners and picking them off. By nightfall the impetus of the attack has moved on and is pressing against the final line.

The main attack was made on a front extending from a point east of Gonnellieu, on the Canal de l'Escaut, to a point on the Canal du Nord opposite Hermines. The Third Army had 5 divisions in line from right to left viz: 12th, 20th and 6th Divisions of III Corps, the 51st and 62nd Divisions, of IV Corps. They were assisted by a total of 360 fighting tanks and 63 supply and wireless tanks. The 29th Division was in local reserve near the right flank, while the Cavalry Corps (2 Divisions) was held in readiness to exploit success when the defences should be broken. The intention then was to push them through to inflict the maximum damage in rear. The 36th Division attacked simultaneously west of the Canal du Nord, protecting the flank of the main attack. Subsidiary attacks, creating diversion and fog-of-war were made further north and south of the main zone with dummy tanks, and an artillery demonstration with smoke and gas along practically the whole British front south of the Sensee.

The 12th Division attacked along the Bonavis Ridge and captured its first two objectives with little difficulty. It was held up then by fierce resistance at Dateau Wood but eventually captured this position also. The 20th Division having taken the strong point at La Vacquarie, stormed Welsh Ridge and by 7.30 a.m. had attained its second objective at Good Old Man Farm. The 6th Division captured Ribecourt after some resistance in that village and at this stage the 29th Division was pushed between the 20th and 6th to attack the final objectives. Masnieres, Marcoing and Neuf

Wood fell to the 29th and its 12 tanks. At Marcoing the crossing of the Canal was secured intact but, putting up a show of resistance at Masnieres, the enemy were able to partly demolish the bridge. A tank completed the demolition by trying to cross and fell into the canal. Towards evening the village was cleared by infantry but, lacking the tanks, now held up by the broken bridge, they were unable to make any progress beyond. Meantime the Germans fell back and fortified themselves near Rumilly.

On the extreme left the 62nd Division quickly captured Havrincourt; by 1.30 p.m. had taken Graincourt and were pushing on to enter Anneux by nightfall. Both flanks of the 51st Division facing Flesquieres Ridge, were thus secured by the 6th and 62nd Divisions. The 51st were up to time with their first objective, but advancing up the slope of the Ridge, were soon held up. The Hindenburg Reserve Line here was just on or behind the crest. Advancing slowly against the slope, to crush the wire on the crest, the tanks came on the skyline and under direct fire from German field guns at short range. The infantry, held up by the uncut wire, were unable to play their part in helping the tanks and were mowed down by machine-gun fire from the village and stout wall of the Chateau grounds. It is said that "the infantry were allowed to lose touch with the tanks, in disregard of the prearranged drill, and that this was the cause of the disasters to both." (15). However that may be—the peculiarity of the ground, the stout brick wall of the Chateau or neglect of the tank-infantry plan—one or all of these causes broke up the co-operation of tanks and infantry at Flesquieres. As a result, practically all of the tanks were disabled and the attack was completely checked. One Company of infantry got round the position and claimed to have neutralised the anti-tank menace; but by that time no tanks were available to take advantage. Later an attempt to out-flank the position with seven fresh tanks failed because now the infantry were unable to keep up with the tanks. The tanks entered Flesquieres and quelled the German fire temporarily but the infantry were only entering the village as the tanks passed out at the other end. The Germans lay low in the houses until the tanks had passed and then resumed their positions and compelled the infantry to withdraw. Flesquieres was still in enemy hands when darkness fell at about 5.30 p.m.

Results of the First Day: Thus, by nightfall on the 20th, the Third Army had reached a line extending along the northern end of Bonavis Ridge, through Masnieres and Marcoing inclusive, south of Cantaing and on to Anneux, with Flesquieres

isolated in rear, holding up the 51st Division. This was an advance of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Over 5,000 prisoners had been taken together with a great number of guns. In contrast the British losses were slight. III Corps had a total casualty of 119 killed and 1,065 wounded and IV Corps losses were on a similar scale. But by this time the men were exhausted and no fresh troops were available to push on the attack. The tanks of the 62nd Division had advanced to the edge of Bourlon Wood, but, unaccompanied, were unable to effect anything permanent. The use of the 29th Division on the right appears to have been somewhat premature. Comprising the total Army Reserve, it might more profitably have been retained for the main objective, the Bourlon-Fontaine Notre-Dame Ridge. Besides, the 20th and 6th Divisions were doing all right alone and might well have gone as far unaided as did the 62nd on the left. Want of fresh troops to maintain the pressure lost Bourlon to the British on this first day and the check at Flesquieres was to withhold it in the ensuing days.

The cavalry (16) "had failed to carry out their role of exploitation. They did not arrive till about 2.30 p.m. They were held up by the broken bridge at Masnieres and appear to have missed the intact crossing at Marcoing. At about 4.30 p.m. the bulk of them returned having accomplished little or nothing." "The action of one squadron of the Fort Garry Horse throws the inactivity of the remainder into sorry relief. This squadron crossed the Canal by means of a temporary bridge constructed in the course of the afternoon, penetrated the Masnieres-Beaurevoir line, captured a German battery and dispersed some 300 infantry. The remnants of the squadron held out till nightfall behind the enemy line and then withdrew with several prisoners." (17). Had a like spirit animated the cavalry generally there would hardly have been so much trouble for the infantry in the following days. If even they had been dismounted, as eventually they were, they might have been just sufficient to complete the task in this first day.

(To be continued).

(7) Dugdale p. 109; (8) Hart p. 438; (9) Despatches, p. 151 et seq; (10) Despatches p. 152; (11) Hart, p. 440; (12) Dugdale, p. 101 et seq; (13) Dugdale, p. 107; (14) De Pree, Part I, Despatches p. 154 et seq; (15) Hart p. 15; (16) Dugdale p. 108; (17) Despatches, p. 156.

For the Bibliography see last week's *An Cosantóir*.

WE RESPECTFULLY ASK OUR READERS
TO SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

THE SQUAD LEADER

By Corporal James Foley,
Eastern Command Headquarters L.D.F.

The Squad Leader in the L.D.F. to-day forms as important a part of the machinery in the Defence Forces, as does his half section in the Army (the Corporal).

When selecting Squad Leaders the Group Leaders and other superior Officers, should be as particular in selecting their Squad Leaders to fill the vacancies in the Sections and Groups, as is required in the Army, for if the Squad Leaders are not enthusiastic about training the men under their charge, and looking after the welfare of their men, and showing the men by good example, alertness, smartness, obedience and respect at all times to their superiors, the men will be lackadaisical in their training and will have always a hatred against the authorities that are placed over them.

The good Squad Leader should make it a point at all times to give good example to those under his care, whether it be on a tram, a bus, in a restaurant, a hotel, or a publichouse, because when a man takes a few drinks too much or over his drinking capacity, he is subject to do things that he would not do when he is sober. Therefore the Squad Leader should always think about his rank, and the trust placed on him and the responsibilities he has to shoulder in every sphere of his job.

Squad Leaders should be selected according to their military ability, behaviour in their unit, attendance at their Group meetings, with a fair measure of education, and plenty of common sense. Preferably young men are the best for Squad Leaders.

The Squad Leader should always endeavour to improve his method of teaching the recruit. He should always show a good appearance in front of his class, never get excited no matter what happens, always tell the class the name of the lesson he is about to teach, the object of the lesson, then give a good clear demonstration without detail, after that give a demonstration with a very short detail making his words as simple as possible. Owing to the short time that is allotted for training it is very much wrong for an Instructor to stand in front of his class for a long time talking. When the time is up, his class has performed none of the movements, and what he has said is quickly forgotten. But if the men have done the actual work once it will be very easy to improve them ever afterwards.

The Instructor should get the class there to perform the movements with him calling out the time, in cases where it is necessary, keep the class working as much as possible and endeavour to always make one man as good as the other. Checking faults at first should be the chief thing adhered to by an Instructor, and when checking faults, the Instructor should always do it in a way that will never cause a man to take a dislike to him.

As the class improves the Instructor should get his class to work on his word of command. Where it is necessary the Instructor should question his class, and always satisfy himself that the class has learned something and that he hasn't wasted their time or his own.

The Instructor should make it always his No. 1 point to teach the different lessons in the simplest way, make the lessons interesting for the class, and always tell a few good yarns or crack a few jokes, always making sure his class pays attention to the lesson being taught.

I know from experience that an N.C.O. will get far more and better work done by taking his class humanly, playing the game with them, and giving them a certain amount of liberty than an N.C.O. who tries to have everybody afraid of him, and who carries out his duties like a martinet.

His method should be to make life worth living for everybody, and try and make military matters for his men as easy as possible, always bringing them along by kind words and good example.

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ANOTHER GROUP LOOKS BACK

by Assistant Group Adjutant Finbarr O'Leary,
Inchigeela Group.

In answer to An Taoiseach's appeal to the manhood of Ireland to bear arms and band themselves together for the defence of Ireland the Inchigeela Group was founded. It was from the beginning a Group of determined men able and willing to shoulder the responsibilities thrust on this generation. From the first week onwards its members were regularly on the "Square" and in the space of a few short weeks were masters of foot drill. Field exercises were then undertaken and again the progress made in a few weeks was remarkable.

Probably the first Group to undertake a cycling patrol, 60 of its members covered a large tract of country and roads and positions were noted for possible future contingencies. The Group is 100 strong. First Aid and other classes have been organised. In the early stages before the issue of rifles, shotguns and hurleys were used for the teaching of arms drill. Now with rifles the bearing

of the men while under arms leaves nothing to be desired.

In the matter of shooting practice the men have made valuable progress and full use has been made of ammunition supplied by Group Headquarters. Some members on their own initiative have been improving themselves at target practice. Special services are organised and generally the Group is in a perfect state of readiness.

In the social sphere dances and other entertainments have been organised and have been highly successful. A Church Parade was held on Christmas Day and the fine bearing and general behaviour were subjects of public comments.

Thanks are due for this satisfactory position especially to the Group Leader and other Officers, to the co-operation of the men and to the Army N.C.O. who has given of his best to mould the men into defenders of Ireland. This Group covers relatively an area as large as any in Ireland. It has a large number of blocks and plenty of work but despite all this there is a complete absence of grousing—and we mean to keep on like this.

QUESTION TIME

CORK.

Under the guidance (and gong-stick) of Sergeant-Major Carolan, a weekly Question-Time has been running in the Sergeants Mess, Collins Barracks, since the New Year, and has proven itself an admirable antidote for Tuesday-night depression.

Among those who satisfied the inquisitor as to their wide general knowledge were: Sergeant McGovern, No. 2 Band; Sergeant Campbell, H.Q. Company; C/S. Hennessy, 19th Battalion; C/S. Molloy, C.T., M. Depot; Sergeant John Conaghey, Depot, and Sergeant Foley.

It may interest and console some of our hard-working recruits to know that their senior N.C.O.s while displaying amazing erudition on such subjects as platonic friendship, the Battle of Marathon, and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, were gonged for the simple question: "What is the weight of a pull-through?" They insisted on answering in ounces, and not one of them thought of the simple (and correct) reply that it was a piece of metal attached to the cord!

Even Homer nods!

TRALEE.

The usual weekly Question Time again attracted large numbers of the Garrison and L.D.F. to the Gymnasium at Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee. An excellent supporting concert was contributed by members of the 15th Rifle Battalion, and the whole programme was carried out smoothly and efficiently. Questions dealing with all phrases of military training, were answered with commendable rapidity and confidence by twelve competitors.

Private E. J. Byron, Intelligence Section, Headquarters Company, secured first place with thirty marks while Private Downing, No. 1 Company, was runner-up.

At the conclusion Commandant C. M. Haugh, Officer Commanding, 15th Rifle Battalion, who was accompanied by the Executive Officer, Captain S. Brett, expressed his appreciation of the arrangements and his satisfaction with both questions and answers.

Second-Lieutenant J. J. O'Carroll was a very able compere while Sergeant F. Keyes recorded the score.

RANGE PRACTICE AND INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

NOTES FOR COMPANY COMMANDERS.

by MAJOR J. O'HANRAHAN

Infantry Corps.

The Annual Range Practices for serving soldiers are now about to commence, and the following notes are written for the guidance of Company Commanders and other Officers concerned.

Battalion Commanders have already issued instructions indicating the periods when Companies will be relieved of duty for their annual brush-up before proceeding to the Ranges and the Company Commander having received this information should proceed to make his plans as follows:—

(a) Examine the training records of all men in his Company including the results of classification tests during the previous years' exercises and from these together with his personal knowledge of each individual divide his company into separate classes in accordance with their standards of training and intelligence. Three classes will usually be sufficient.

1. A Class for potential N.C.O.s
2. A Class for advanced men including those who have already qualified on the Ranges.
3. A Class for backward men and recruits.

A separate programme or syllabus must of course be prepared for each class.

(b) Having formed his classes, the Company Commander must now select and detail instructors for the various classes and, if at all possible, these should be given a short run over the programme before the course commences.

(c) The next step is the collection and preparation of training kit including D.P. guns with spare parts, dummy and sectional grenades, skeleton rifles, dummy cartridges, targets, tripods, aiming rests, aim correctors, eye discs, etc., etc.

The training should commence with a lecture by the Company Commander outlining the scope and

object of the course, the standards which it is proposed to reach, etc., etc. Platoon Commanders should supervise the training of their Units and occasionally take a hand in the instruction themselves. After duty each evening, they should take their instructors over the work for the following day and ensure that the various lessons are understood by all.

T.O.E.T.

The tests of Elementary Training should be carried out and recorded as each subject is completed.

Range Practices.

On completion of Refresher Course, the Company will fire its annual Range Practices and before proceeding to the Ranges, the Company Commander must ensure:

(a) That the Ranges are in good condition, fully equipped and that the necessary targets, flags, marking discs, etc., are on the spot.

(b) That all guns and rifles are zeroed.

(c) That sufficient trained coaches are available for duty on the firing point.

(d) That scoring books are issued to all N.C.O.s and men, with instruction on how to fill them in.

(e) That the various practices are explained in detail to all N.C.O.s and men of the Company.

(f) That suitable arrangements are made for the issue of ammunition, collection of cases, rounds not fired, etc.

(g) That Butt Registers and firing point rolls are prepared.

(h) That N.C.O.s and men are trained for Butt duty.

Competitions.

In order to stimulate interest in the exercises, Company Commanders should arrange inter-section and inter-platoon competitions. Prizes for this purpose may be had on application to Command Headquarters.

THINKING.

"Man if he think not is man no more."—Archbishop Purcell.

TRAINING.

"Early and systematic training is the basis of all practical success in life."—Charles Gavan Duffy.

HEROISM.

"The thought that the cause of all the motherland was depending upon his firmness might help the poorest creature to stand his ground. It is when death means no clear seen good that it is difficult to die. There is then that fine adjustment between the good and the risk which calls for heroism."—John George Cox.

DO YOUR BEST

(Reprinted from *An t-Oglach*).

It is quite a good thing to have "a good conceit of ourselves" so long as it does not interfere with our ambition for improvement.

It is good that we should be proud of our Army, but not good that we should, in our pride, spurn all criticism, reject all advice, sneer at all suggestions of "how to do things better."

Our ideal is discipline and efficiency and—An Irish Army—an Army that embodies all that is best, bravest, most intelligent and effective in the young manhood of Ireland.

An Army is a wonderful machine, built up of many units, created for the service of the nation. In that machine each man is an essential part.

Every man in the Army fills his little nook in the scheme of things.

Each man has his duty to do and each man's duty is essential.

Let no man think his job unimportant—for it is the efficiency of the human units that creates the smooth working of the machine.

The soldier's duty may seem to him a small and humble one, but it is just as important that he should do that duty well as it is that a General should do his duty well.

Whatever part a soldier has to play, let him carry it out to the best of his power.

By doing the best in our power we can all be great in the part allotted to us, whether it be a lofty or a small part.

The best soldier is the one who does his duty loyally and efficiently to the best of his ability.

A soldier should not worry too much if his best efforts do not seem to meet with the appreciation they deserve. He can rely on this, that good work always tells in the long run.

Anyway, whatever happens, there is always a

reward for the good soldier—the satisfaction of having done his job well.

We are not working for ourselves, for rewards or for personal loyalties. We are all working for the good of Ireland.

The best energies of the nation have to be thrown into Military Service at the present time—that the nation may have that peace, freedom and security which it needs.

So the best energies of Ireland are thrown into the Army.

We are creating an Army that is truly Irish, racy of the soil; we are determined that that Army shall be a credit to Ireland.

Our Army must show the best Ireland can do in every department of its activities, and we know there is no lack of brains or energy in Ireland.

Every Soldier, every Officer who does his best, who tries to be a worthy Soldier of Ireland, is helping to save the nation.

Every slacker or shirker is letting down the nation.

Whether in work or in play, the soldier should do his best. Whether fighting or playing football, whether patrolling or cleaning a floor, he should do the job thoroughly.

We cannot all play brilliant parts before the world in this drama of Ireland's history, but we can all "do our bit" in a manner worthy of our country.

The world is watching us. Nothing we do, nothing we neglect to do, is unimportant.

Let us keep up the credit of our Unit and our Army that Ireland has possessed for centuries.

If we do our best—we can make our Army the finest Army in the world—an Army that typifies all that is best and strongest in the manhood of the nation.

SONGS OF THE NATION.

"Like severed locks that keep their light
When all the stately frame is dust,
A nation's songs preserve from blight
A nation's name, their sacred trust."

—Aubrey de Vere.

LOYALTY.

"Loyalty is the highest, noblest, and most generous of human virtues."—Brownson.

DETERMINATION.

"The most useful man to society is he who neither curses bad, nor idly prays for good fortune, but who proceeds with a resolute heart and a determined will to make his way to success."—Cornelius Donovan, M.A.

PITY.

"Yet Pity's lenient current ever flows
From that brave heart where genuine valour glows."

L.D.F. TRAINING NOTE

PREPARATION OF L.D.F. TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

by Lieutenant Sean Feehan.
Infantry Corps.

In order to ensure any progressive instruction, it is essential that every Group, Section and Squad work according to a carefully and intelligently planned programme of training. Otherwise there can be no training of any value carried out, and the Group or Section that tries to work without a programme will end up by being badly trained and consequently useless as a Military Unit.

In preparing a programme of training the following considerations should be taken into account.

Firstly, you must consider the class for whom the programme is to be prepared. If it is for recruits, you must start with them from rock-bottom. If it is for partially trained men, you must know exactly how much of each subject they have done, in order not to bore them with useless repetition on the one hand, or on the other, to avoid taking them out of their depth with a programme that is too advanced. Again you will want to classify your men according to the tasks allotted to them in action, e.g. Communications, Intelligence, Engineers and the other Specialists. Obviously the same programme will not suit any two. Specialists are attached to a Group or District for specific tasks, and consequently programmes of training must be prepared for them with those tasks in view.

Secondly you must ensure that only the most urgent subjects will have a place in your programme. Your big job at the moment is to train your men **To Shoot Accurately, To Take Cover Properly, and To Strengthen Their Powers of Physical endurance.** Consequently Rifle marksmanship, Musketry, Minor tactics and Route Marches should be given first place in your programme of training. In the case of Specialists the subjects primarily required for the carrying out of the Group's tasks should come first. Every minute counts and everyone available should be utilized for the purpose of improving the combat efficiency of your Unit.

Your third consideration is a very important one. What instructors have you and what is their standard of training? Every Section or Squad Leader should instruct his own Unit. No matter how unfamiliar these Leaders may be with the sub-

ject in hands or with instructional work, they must understand that the only way in which they can make themselves proficient instructors is by actual experience.

With this end in view you should arrange to get Section and Squad Leaders together for a period each week in order to discuss the following week's programme with them. Discuss every lesson to be taught with them and arrange the manner in which it will be taught and the sequence in teaching it.

If your instructors are not capable of imparting instruction to the men, then obviously you will have to get them trained to do so. **Sunday and Weekly Courses are being run presently at practically all the Military Posts in the Command.** Get them to attend some of these courses. See your immediate Superior or the Area Officer about this. In the meantime you can plan your programme to take in the subjects not requiring much technical knowledge or which can be learned direct from the Manuals now issued. For example, Writing Messages, Individual and Section Stalks, Field Signals for Infantry Drill, Construction of trenches, Improvement of Cover, Route Marches, etc. But before you put any subject on the programme, be absolutely certain that your instructors are capable of teaching it. In this connection the articles on "Methods of Instruction" published recently in *An Cosantóir* should be studied.

Fourthly comes the question of time. City and town Groups can afford to meet more often than rural Groups whose members may have to travel miles to a parade. You will have to fix a definite number of hours per week before constructing your programme. For example a rural Group could devote 3 hours a week-night and 4 hours on a Sunday. A town Group might devote three hours on a night for two or three nights each week and four hours on a Sunday.

Fifthly, in planning your programme, you will want to consider what equipment and accommodation you have at your disposal. If you have not sufficient equipment then what can you do to improvise some? Do not hold up your training unduly on account of lack of equipment. Practically all the equipment necessary to train the L.D.F. with the exception of the Rifle itself or Mines, can be improvised. An article on this subject will appear in a future issue in *An Cosantóir*, but do not hold up your programme until this article is published: get right on to the job now.

Again in the matter of accommodation you can

do an amount of training in the Drill Halls at night, but in planning your programme all subjects (particularly Musketry) which should be done outdoors, can be put on the programme for Sundays. This will not apply of course when the evenings get brighter. A study of the manuals will tell you what subjects should be done outdoors.

Finally you must take into consideration the tactical tasks allotted to your Area. It may be the job of one Unit to defend a number of road-blocks, another to man a defensive line, another to defend portion of a river line, another to keep an eye on the coast, another to protect some vital point, and yet another to concentrate on offensive tactics, ambushing, etc. What particular task will your Unit have to do? When you have studied this question and answered it, then ask yourself in what particular subjects will your men require to be highly trained, in order to perform their tasks efficiently and well. When you have that decided, give these subjects predominance in your programme. In fact your tactical training should consist of rehearsals of the tasks allotted to you.

Now that we have studied the general considerations in planning a programme, we will get down to the actual planning or building of the programme itself. How exactly are you to go about it.

First of all, make a list of the subjects to be taught, to your particular branch or branches. You will find those subjects in the Syllabus of Training, which has been running weekly in *An Cosantóir* Vol. 1. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 under the titles "L.S.F. Training Note." Next sub-divide these subjects into lessons. You must arrange the lessons in each subject in logical sequence, one to lead naturally to the other. Take for example Rifle-marksmanship. You can start off with Mechanism and then do Care and Cleaning. Why start Mechanism, and why not teach the man to care and clean his rifle first? Because in teaching Mechanism you teach the man to take out the bolt. Now in order to clean his rifle, he must of necessity have the bolt removed. Therefore Mechanism must come first. As a general rule in this sub-division of subjects you should follow the sequence of the lessons as laid down in the manuals.

Now the next job is to allot a period of time to each lesson. You must be very careful about this. We are all inclined to allot too much time to a subject. Now, if ever, time counts—so plan your programme with this in view. As a general rule minor lessons can be done in ten to twenty minutes, while the more important ones take from half an hour to three-quarters of an hour. In important lessons such as Holding and Trigger Squeezing and Aiming, do not hesitate to allot periods of revision

NOTICE.

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as necessary.

When you come to the actual compiling of the programme itself the key-word is "Variety". Have all the variety possible. This maintains interest and dispels monotony. Arrange your lessons so that difficult periods alternate. You could start off five or ten minutes vigorous marching, then turn over to a lesson such as Characteristics and Mechanism of the Grenade. After that you might do "Loading, Aiming and Firing in the Prone Position", then a short lecture and practice on "Writing Messages", switch back again to the rifle and do the Standing and Kneeling Positions, from that to a few words on "March Discipline" and conclude with five or ten minutes hard marching again. That type of variety would suit the long evenings in drill halls. Variety is also necessary so that while one class has the use of the mines or rifle training equipment another is employed elsewhere. Another type of variety would be required for Sunday training. Below I give an example of an actual programme for a complete Sunday's training held at the Bandon Military Post. Notice in this programme how carefully the time is divided up—half hours for lectures and three quarter hours for important lessons. Notice how one outdoor subject leads naturally to the other; from Map Reading to Movement by Day and Night, Judging Distance and so on up to Advancing to the Attack. There is no unnecessary moving from one place of parade to another. Each follows the other naturally.

This programme is not put forward as a set standard. It is just an example of a well-built programme intended merely as a guide and should not be copied slavishly.

Now the final point. Notice the lay-out of the programme—Time, Location, Subject, Instructor and Text. This lay-out should serve as an example to you. Further Example Programmes will be published each week with a view to assisting you in the preparation of your programmes. You should study all these examples carefully and if you have any difficulties in the matter bring them to the notice of the Area Officer and he will only be too glad to help you.

PROGRAMME OF TRAINING: LOCAL DEFENCE FORCE.

Crookstown and Upton Groups (Group, Section and Squad Leaders)

TO BE CARRIED OUT AT MILITARY POST, BANDON, ON SUNDAY, 23/2/41

TIME	LOCATION	SUBJECT	INSTRUCTOR	TEXT
09.45	Parade Ground	Parade for Inspection	Capt. Donegan	T.R.6 Page 36 to 42.
10.00	Hall	Opening Lecture—Leadership	Capt. Donegan	—
10.30	Road	Close Order Foot & Arms Drill	Sgt. Perry	T.R.1. & T.R.2.
11.00	Field	Aiming and Trigger Squeezing	C. S. Dooley	T.R.3 Pages 35 to 39 and 81 to 87
11.45	Hall	Map Reading—Essentials.	Capt. Donegan	—
12.30	Hall	DINNER	Capt. Donegan	—
14.00	Hall	Lecture—Movement by day and night.	Lt. Kennedy	T.R. 13 Pages 27 to 32
14.30	Open	Lecture and Practice—Searching Ground	Capt. Donegan	T.R.4, Part II, Pages 12 and 13.
15.00	Open	Judging distance, all methods.	Capt. Donegan	T.R.4, Part II, Pages 25/35
15.45	Open	Indication and Recognition of Targets	Sgt. Perry	T.R.4, Part II, Pages 16/23.
16.30	Open	Section Stalk	Capt. Donegan	T.R. 13, Page 91 & 92
17.15	Open	Field Signals	N.C.O.s	T.R.13, Pages 24 to 26
17.30	Open	Advancing to the attack in suitable formation giving a Fire Order at each ditch by the different leaders.	Capt. Donegan	T.R. 13, Pages 97 to 100
18.00	Hall	TEA		
18.45	Hall	The Observation Mine	Capt. Donegan	Notes on Land Mines, Pages 16 to 22.
19.30	Parade Ground	Compliments & Dismiss	Officers	T.R.6, Pages 68 to 71

PRACTICAL BRIDGE DEMOLITION

by Lieutenant T. I. Cooney,
Corps of Engineers.

POSITION OF BRIDGE.

It was the permission kindly granted by Mr. Fogarty, Acting County Surveyor, which made possible the demolition of a bridge on the obsolete railway line between Cork and Crosshaven. The bridge was situated about two miles from Crosshaven spanning the main Crosshaven-Carrigaline-Cork road, at a point where the road running along the bank of the Owenboy river developed a dangerous "S" bend. The actual double bend on the road over which the bridge passed had been by-passed as shown on sketch No. 1.



The demolition of the bridge had been included as a practical demonstration in a special engineering course for County Surveyors and selected L.D.F. members. It also served the purpose of a "work out" for the 3rd Field Company Engineers.

DESCRIPTION OF BRIDGE.

The Bridge was a single span, a skew-shaped one of built-up girders with the usual surface and ballast carrying troughing. In all it weighed about 50 tons and rested on two masonry abutments 30 feet long by 5 feet thick. The bridge carried single rail traffic. As already stated the railway had fallen into disuse and during the construction of the road "by pass" the embankment on the Cork city side of the bridge had been removed, thus baring the abutment on that side and converting it into a pier.

PREPARATION AND CALCULATION OF CHARGES.

With the view of demonstrating the different types of charges, it was decided to prepare the abutment for demolition by mined charges and the pier by borehole charges; both operations to be carried out simultaneously.

(a) Borehole Charges. For the destruction of

the pier it was decided to use the most shattering explosive available—gelignite. The amount of explosive and position and number of boreholes were calculated from the formula.

$$C = 5/4L^3 \text{ ozs.}$$

Abutment dimensions = 30 feet long x 5 feet thick.

Weight of Explosive in each borehole = $5/4L^3$ oz. (Where L = half thickness of Pier i.e. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft.)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{5 \times 5^3}{4 \times 2^3} \times \frac{1}{16} \text{ lb.} \\ &= 1\frac{1}{4} \text{ lb.} \end{aligned}$$

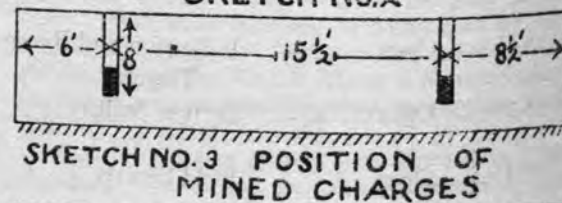
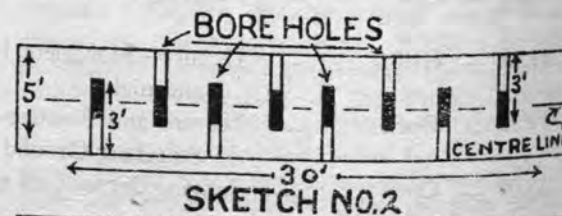
Now, spacing the borehole $4/3L$ feet apart, that is $(4/3 \times 2\frac{1}{2})$ feet the number of boreholes is given by

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{30}{3\frac{1}{3}} \times 3 \times 2 \\ &= 5 \times 4 \\ &= 20 \end{aligned}$$

Total Amount of
Gelignite

$$\begin{aligned} &= 20 \times 1\frac{1}{4} \text{ lb.} \\ &= 25 \text{ lb.} \end{aligned}$$

As both sides of the abutment were accessible, the holes were bored as shown in the following sectional plan:—



SKETCH NO. 4 ELECTRICAL AND CORDTEX CIRCUITS

Now, to find the length of the borehole, knowing the maximum size of rock drill available

is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and that a hole of this diameter will hold $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of gelignite per foot run, the simple division $1\frac{1}{4}$ gives the length of borehole occupied by $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of Gelignite, i.e. 1 foot. As the centre of each charge must coincide with the centre line of the abutment the length of each borehole must be half the thickness of the abutment plus half the length of borehole occupied by each charge. This gives 2 feet 6 inches plus 6 inches, i.e. 3 feet.

A power drill worked by an air compressor was used for boring the pier. The usual difficulty experienced in boring masonry piers and abutments was very evident. This was the sticking of the drill bits in the boreholes. This was however considerably minimised by using the compressed air blast for blowing and dislodging the loose stone particles after every three inches of entry. This retarded the boring operation but it definitely obviated time lost in removing bits which would otherwise have become seized.

(b) Mined Charges. The abutment on left hand side was scheduled for demolition by mine charges filled with Ammonal—an explosive of great lifting properties.

Abutment dimensions = 30 feet x 5 feet.

D^3

The 50 formula was used where D is the diameter of the crater formed behind the abutment, in the creation of which the abutment is destroyed. Having in mind a single crater of diameter equal to the abutment length it was seen that an exorbitant amount of explosive was required as shown:—

$$\begin{aligned} D^3 &= 30^3 = 540 \text{ lb.} \\ \frac{50}{50} & \end{aligned}$$

Accordingly it was decided to place two mined charges behind the abutment, each charge to form a crater of 17 feet diameter, ensuing an overlap of 2 feet with the craters formed.

Weight of Explosive in lb. for each charge

$$\begin{aligned} D^3 &= 17^3 = 4913 \text{ lb.} \\ \frac{50}{50} & \end{aligned}$$

say 100 lbs.

Total weight of Ammonal required = $2 \times 70 = 140$ lb. This charge must be placed at a depth of D feet and a distance of D feet from the face of

the abutment.

Thus depth of charges is $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet. A slight modification had to be made with the

D formula as this only gave a position $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet

4

from the abutment face and the thickness of the abutment was 5 feet. Because of this D had to

4

be increased to 5 feet and to counteract this the charge in each shaft was increased by 10 lb.

Accordingly shafts one foot square were sunk to a depth of $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet and this was accomplished by digging a trench 12 feet long and 9 feet deep behind the abutment and standing two galvanised casing 1 foot square by $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet in the trench and then filling in the excavation leaving two shafts the requisite size. Along with economy of explosives the decision to use two shafts was governed by the anxiety to place the charges eccentrically in order to counteract the reinforcing effect of a larger retaining wall on the river side of the abutment. Thus the charge instead of being placed $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the end of the abutment was actually positioned 6 feet away as shown in sketch.

The eccentricity of spacing was found to have given an unique result when the bridge had been demolished.

PLACING AND WIRING OF CHARGES.

Each borehole was charged with the requisite number of Gelignite cartridges using a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter wooden rammer. The two final cartridges for each borehole were primed with two electric Detonators in series and a 3 foot length of Cordtex and placed in position. This was followed by the delicate operation of tamping. Fine dry clay was first pushed home behind each charge ever so gently, and as the amount of earth put in was increased so the vigour of the tamping was increased proportionately. With the tamping of each charge completed, the electric detonators were connected in series and the Cordtex branches were hitched to the main Cordtex which was draped around the abutment. The Cordtex was used in order to make available an alternative means of demolition in case of an electric failure or misfire.

The charging of the mine shafts was an easier operation. Four twenty-five pound boxes were slid down each shaft with a priming charge consisting of a sandbag containing 10 lb. of Ammonal primed with two Gelignite sticks. Again the detonators used were electrical. The two charges were tamped and connected in series. The electrical connections were then completed at the bridge end of the circuit by wiring the charges in the two abutments in series. The bridge was now ready for demolition.

PRECAUTIONS.

Half an hour before the wiring was completed, sentries with red flags had been dispatched to indicate the danger area. The only dwelling within this area had ample protection when the windows were shuttered up against the effects of concussion and flying debris. The owner of the house, an elderly lady had, it was learned, left for Cork.

With the exploder locked at the firing point, which was situated about 300 yards from the bridge, the electric cable was run out and connected to the charges at points X X as shown on sketch. All the spectators and members of the working party were sent back to a safe point for observation and a quick check made by the Officer in charge to ensure that all connections were correct and that no tools were left in the vicinity. A quick visual examination was now made of the cable in search of stripped insulation and any bared parts were insulated with tape. Following on this came the "continuity test" and with the Galvanometer needle flicking from the touch of the standard cell, the electrical circuit was known to be complete. After a quick glance around, the exploder was now opened, the handle raised, and, the final connections of the cable to the exploder completed. Then, with three sharp notes from the whistle to give warning, down went the exploder handle. The usual time lag followed—the difference between 186,000 miles per second and 1120 feet per second—and then the muffled roar, a joyful diapason to the firer's ears.

THE RESULT.

The result was eminently satisfactory. In fact it could be described as the perfect road block. It accomplished the interruption of communication by rail, road and telephone. The abutment was demolished completely. The pier, though not totally destroyed was rendered effectively unserviceable and the bridge had been lifted and placed right across the junction of the two roads. This may seem a strange resting place for the bridge but there is an explanation. The Gelignite charge in the pier was a shattering one and when this charge was detonated it had no lifting effect but rather a tendency to let the end of the bridge at that side drop to the ground. Now it may be remembered that the two mined charges behind the left hand abutment were not spaced as per formula, with the result that the charge near the retaining wall on the road had two free faces, and blew out in two directions, horizontally and upwards: but its lifting effect was not as great as the second mined charge which had only one free

face and, consequently, the upward force at this point was much greater. The three effects compounded gave the bridge the motion of pivoting on the shattered pier with the other end thrown across the road. The peculiar skew shape of the bridge also aggravated the motion.

CLEARANCE.

Destruction is always easier than construction and this was no exception. The roads had now to be cleared. All around could be heard discussions on the length of time the clearance would take. Prophecies and predictions of "five days," "a week" and "ten days" were floating about and one arch pessimist murmured "a month". As it was imperative to make a single traffic route through the bridge, it was decided to tackle the old road first as the barrier composed of large boulders, debris and a corner of the metal bridge was the less formidable of the two. Boulders, stones and rubble could be removed by hand but the bridge was a most unusual barrier. Its weight was prohibitive from the point of view of dragging it aside. There was nothing left but to use the oxy-acetylene plant and sectionalize the bridge. Accordingly work began at 17.00 hours and by 00.30 hours, only 7½ hours later, the road was open to single traffic. The section into which the bridge was cut weighed about 2 tons and by the use of rollers cut from the rails on top of the bridge the sections were towed along the road by the engineer break-down truck and parked to one side to await their ultimate auction to Scrap Dealers.

The second and more difficult half of the clearing operation was started at 11.00 hours on the next day and after exactly 18 hours, i.e. 05.00 hours on the day following, the task was completed.

DEDUCTIONS:

The two main points deduced were:—

(1) The extended bore hole charges in the pier were not too successful. Again it was seen that the effect of this type of charge is too local and the tendency to cut and just drop the pier a foot or so is always evident. The failure to completely demolish the pier can be attributed to the shape of the charge, i.e. an extended one. It has been found that if such charges be concentrated by enlarging the diameter of the boreholes to six or eight inches, the required destruction would be attained.

(2) Demolition by mined charges is total and complete. Ammonal mined charges (when properly positioned) never do their work in half measures. However, the amount of explosive necessary for this type of charge is often prohibitive.

THE STRAGGLER

by Commandant T. Gray,
Infantry Corps.

It is probable that in certain situations the L.D.F. may be required to take over the duties normally performed by the Military Police in regard to the collection and disposal of stragglers.

The object of this article is to outline the procedure generally followed by the Military Police in discharging this aspect of their functions, and to suggest how this procedure might be modified or adapted by the L.D.F. in the eventuality just referred to.

It is conceivable also that the L.D.F. may from time to time have an internal problem of their own to solve in this connection. The methods adopted to deal with this problem in the case of larger bodies of Regular Troops will in the nature of things hardly be applicable to the L.D.F., but a knowledge of these methods may enable District and Group Commanders to formulate plans suitable to their own particular circumstances.

The term "Straggler" is given to those individuals who in the course of any single military operation become separated from the Unit to which they belong and are found wandering, usually about the rear area or moving to the rear or along the line of march. It does not of course apply to the wounded, but it is applicable to those who by design separate themselves from their comrades and units with the object of evading further danger, or seeking some safer area, as well as to those who by reason of fatigue, through enemy action, or because of the accidents of the terrain, have temporarily lost contact with their unit, and are thus precluded from taking further part in its activities until they again come under the orders of their Commander.

ON THE MARCH.

Very little difficulty presents itself when dealing with the problem of the straggler during the march.

Orders for the march usually provide for a party of Military Police to bring up the rear of the column. This party collects, takes along with it, and hands over to the Unit at the next "halt," or other suitable time those who fell out during the march.

March casualties as distinct from stragglers are handled by a Medical Detachment, which also is detailed to move in rear of the column.

When the movement is by mechanical transport,

the problem of the straggler hardly arises. In any event the rear party of police again collects any stragglers who may be found en route, say after halts, and hands them over to their Unit at the first suitable opportunity.

IN DEFENCE.

In defence situations the straggler problem is dealt with on the following lines.

In rear of the unit, or units, occupying the defensive position a "straggler line" and "collecting points" on that straggler line are designated. The straggler line usually follows some well-defined terrain feature, such as a lateral road, a stream parallel to the position, a series of prominent hedges, the forward edge of a belt of timber, etc. Its distance in rear of the defensive position will depend upon a number of factors, for example the location of the most suitable terrain features by which it can be defined, the size of the force engaged, etc. Generally it should be well in the rear of the local supporting troops, but forward of the zone occupied by the artillery, if there is artillery in support of the defence, and of reserve units. Its distance in rear of the foremost defended locality may accordingly vary from 1,000 to 2,000 yards.

Laterally the straggler line should extend sufficiently far in each direction to cover both flanks of the defensive position.

The collection points are merely points along the straggler line where stragglers are assembled by the Military Police before they are taken to a central assembly point, from which they are returned to their units as soon as the situation permits.

In selecting these points, reference is made to the most likely avenues leading to the rear from the defensive position, such as streams, or narrow belts of timber. The drift from front to rear will seldom take place across the brow of hills, or through exposed areas. Cross roads, road junctions or some such well-defined features on or in the vicinity of the probable line of drift are accordingly designated. At most two collecting points should be sufficient to cater for a battalion.

Military, or unit police will patrol the straggler line between the collecting points, round up stragglers as they approach the line, and assemble them as already stated at the collecting points.

The location of the straggler line, and of the collecting points is usually designated in the Orders issued by the higher formation.

If allotted the tasks carried out by the Military Police in connection with the collection of stragglers on the march, and the operation of the straggler line, the functions of the L.D.F. in the matter will be:—

- To set up collecting points along the route of march of the Regular Unit.
- To collect stragglers along the route, and assemble them at the collecting points.
- To arrange for the transfer of the stragglers to the Military Police at an assembly point to be designated.
- To patrol the straggler line when one is set up by a regular unit during an operation, and to man the collecting points.
- To collect stragglers along the straggler line, assemble them at the collecting points, and arrange for their subsequent transfer to the Military Police from a central assembly point.

With regard to (a) the District Staff will be notified of the route by the Officer Commanding the troops to be moved.

With regard to (b) and (c) the details will be arranged mutually between the District Staffs and the O.C., Military Police Field Coy. It may be sufficient in this connection to designate the Traffic control points which will be set up by the L.D.F. to control the march as collecting points, and to augment the personnel engaged on traffic control.

In situations where a straggler line is being operated the local group or groups should arrange to make the necessary personnel available to operate it. Again, the location of the straggler line, and of the collecting points will be notified

PROGRESS.

"The condition of progress is that as we advance, the still greater effort must we make to go farther."
—Rt. Rev. J. L. Spalding, D.D.

THE VALUE OF SUFFERING.

"Who can govern that has never suffered? Who can avoid error but by experience of its evil?"—Fenelon.

HAPPINESS.

"Who lives merrily lives mightily;
Without gladness avails no treasure."
—William Dunbar.

to the District Staff concerned, and arrangement for the transfer of stragglers will be made through the O.C., Military Police Field Company.

District Staffs should make provision for the carrying out of these tasks. Instruction should be given to L.D.F. personnel as to the procedure which will be followed in dealing with the straggler. In this instruction emphasis should be placed on some important points, which may be summarised as follows:

- Distinction must be made between stragglers and personnel clearly engaged on duty, that is to say, despatch riders, messengers, runners and others should not be held up in the performance of their duty and taken to collecting points as stragglers, or for identification.

Again stragglers, or deserters should not be allowed to bluff their way rearward by representing that they are engaged on some duty which takes them in that direction.

In some cases it may be difficult for those without intimate knowledge of the personnel of the unit, or of the situation, to differentiate, but the important point is that those engaged on duty should not be delayed.

- It is possible that the device of masquerading in our own uniform may be employed by enemy agents or troops. Much useful information is to be gleaned in rear areas by an agent, much damage can be done there by a handful of enemy troops so disguised. L.D.F. personnel on straggler duty must always be on the alert for such "bogus" troops.

SACRIFICE.

"Death comes honourably to one who exchanges a life of voluntary sacrifice for a crown of glory."
—Charles Warren Stoddard.

WIT.

"Don't put too fine a point to your wit for fear it should get blunted."—Cervantes.

RELIGION.

"What would become of the world without religion? The greatest service that I ever rendered to France was in re-establishing the Catholic religion."
—Napoleon Bonaparte.

PENETRABILITY OF BULLETS

Issued by Command Headquarters.

(1) RIFLE FIRE. Modern military rifles are sighted to about 2,800 yards. Their maximum range may be taken as about 3,700 yards. The slope of fall of the bullet varies from about 1/120 at 600 yards and 1/30 at 1,100 yards, to 1/4 at 2,200 yards.

The following table gives the maximum penetration of a single, pointed rifle-bullet into various materials. It does not allow for a number of bullets hitting on or near the same spot. To be bullet-proof under service conditions, the thickness of all material must be about 50 per cent. greater than that given in the table:—

MATERIAL	Maximum Penetration. Inches.	REMARKS.
Steel plate, ordinary mild or wrought iron	3	
Shingle	6	Not larger than 1 inch ring gauge.
Coal, hard	9	Between 1-inch boards.
Coal, small kitchen	15	Between 1-inch boards.
Brickwork, cement mortar	9	
do. Lime Mortar	14	
Sand, confined between boards or in sand bags	18	With dry sand this may be reduced by 12 inches.
Sand, loose	30	
Earth, free from stones (unrammed)	40	Ramming earth reduces its resisting power.
Sawn timber—		
Hardwood, e.g., oak	38	In timber the penetration is much less in round logs than in scantlings, owing to the deflection of the bullet, but care must be taken to fill the interstices.
Softwood, e.g., fir	56	
Green timber:—		
Logs, 12 inches diameter and over	24	
Poles 4½ to 6 inches in diameter	36	
Clay	60	Varies greatly. This is maximum for greasy clay.
Dry turf or peat	80	
Snow		Varies greatly, 3 feet of rammed frozen snow, well consolidated with water, will stop a bullet, but the power of resistance will decrease as the temperature rises. Soft snow unrammed has little power of resistance.

(2) MACHINE GUN FIRE.—At ranges beyond 300 yards the penetration of machine-gun fire may be taken to be equal to that of concentrated rifle fire. At distances under 300 yards, owing to the

cumulative and shattering effect produced by a number of shots striking rapidly in succession over a small area, penetration is effected more rapidly and with a fewer number of rounds than by rifle fire.

NATIONS AND CRISIS.

"It is in difficult times that great nations, like great men, develop all the energy of their characters."—Napoleon Bonaparte.

AMBITION.

"Ambition mocks itself and grasps the wind."—Habington.

PREJUDICE.

"Prejudice cannot be taken by assault."—Charles Gavan Duffy.

IDEALS.

"It remains for us, each in his own circle, to maintain a lofty ideal, and to spread it abroad."—Count Stolberg.

LOYALTY.

"There is something greater and more enduring than courage: it is devotedness."—Mgr. Dupanloup.

PATRIOTISM.

"The love of country is a part of charity."—Cardinal Manning.

STREET FIGHTING

by Commandant C. Trodden,
Artillery Corps.

Fighting at close-quarters and hand-to-hand combat are types of warfare in which the junior Officer and N.C.O. have a splendid opportunity to display leadership, initiative and individual gallantry. This type of combat will take place in street fighting, that is, fighting from house to house and from street to street, in a City or a fairly large town, where higher control will be almost impossible, owing to the difficulty of inter-communication, and success will rest mainly on the personal example of subordinates.

RECONNAISSANCE.

Before plans for an attack against any position can be made, the Commander requires information as to the whereabouts of the enemy. He seeks to gain this information by means of "armed reconnaissance," that is, small reconnaissance patrols that will endeavour to draw the fire of the defence and thus betray the location of their positions. It is obvious that the reconnaissance of a defended town is rendered extremely difficult by the limited field of view imposed by the length of a street and a horizon of brick walls. This difficulty of reconnaissance makes it all the easier for the defender to take full advantage of the element of surprise. To deny information to the enemy, the defence will normally have snipers and sentries posted outside their main position, to deal with small reconnaissance parties; so that, the leader of a patrol, engaged on this important duty, should attempt to keep all side streets etc. which lead off from the line of advance, under observation to prevent his being attacked in flank or in rear.

The object of reconnaissance in street fighting is to find out exactly what houses or buildings are garrisoned by the enemy. To accomplish this, small parties may be pushed forward, advancing close under the eaves of the houses on either side of the road to try and draw fire. In rear of these patrols there may be others or alternately men posted in high houses, commanding a good view of the street, in order to ascertain from what houses fire is delivered. To deny definite information to these patrols and observers, the main defence should withhold their fire as long as possible and leave snipers and sentries to deal with them. If a patrol becomes unwary, an opportunity may be given to the defence to isolate it and deliver a counter-attack with serious results.

INTER-COMMUNICATION.

In street-fighting, a subordinate Commander in the attack will have his field of view limited by the street in which he finds himself. He can see only what is happening in his immediate vicinity. He cannot see what is happening in the next street even though it may be only twenty-five yards away from him. To counteract this difficulty full use of runners and "connecting files" should be made. The defence, therefore, should do all in its power to pick off Officers and runners, to prevent the flow of information, disorganise the action and slow up the attack.

DEPLOYMENT.

Deployment is one of the most essential features in an attack in open country, but owing to the confined spaces in towns it is practically impossible in street fighting. The minimum number of troops, operating in small bodies will have to be employed. Troops not actually engaged would be kept under cover until the last possible moment.

This impossibility of deployment renders the task of the defence less difficult. Provided that intercommunication is good and that routes from house to house and from street to street have been established by breaching the walls, the defence should have little difficulty in dealing with small isolated patrols.

THE ATTACK.

Having obtained information as to the location and disposition of the enemy, the Commander will decide as to how the attack will be made. As deployment is impossible, definite areas and definite objectives should be assigned to each unit taking part. The task of a platoon might be to clear a certain street or a number of streets, the section being allotted a definite building or a row of houses. The extent of the area would depend upon the size of the unit. Commanders should arrange to make use of all side streets etc. to establish and maintain contact with units on the flanks, by means of runners and pickets. Since the higher Commander will not be able to watch the progress of the action as easily as in ordinary warfare, all subordinate Commanders should bear in mind that one of their most important duties in street fighting is to send back, at the earliest possible moment, every scrap of information which will assist the Commander to make an accurate appreciation of the situation.

THE ASSAULT.

A section detailed for an assault upon a house should not be called upon to provide its own covering fire. Other troops should be given this duty, preferably those armed with machine guns. These should be posted, if possible, at the same altitude as the enemy, as fire directed from the ground against an enemy located among chimneys or at high windows will not, as a rule, be very effective. Particularly, is this the case where the enemy is firing from a position well back in the inside of a room. In this position, he is invisible from either above or below and effective fire can be delivered against him only from a position of more or less the same altitude. As the machine-guns open fire the assault section should move forward in single file at the double. The men should keep close under the eaves of the houses to force the enemy riflemen to lean forward in order to fire, thus exposing themselves to the fire of the machine-guns and rifles covering the assault. As delay in gaining admission to the house would be fatal, explosives, fused and ready for immediate use, sledge hammers or axes should be carried by the assault section to clear away any barricade which may be used to strengthen the door.

To combat this type of assault, defended posts should be mutually supporting. One post should be capable of delivering covering fire to assist another which is being attacked. All doors on

the ground floor should be strengthened with barricades. A strongly built barricade thrown across the road will form a powerful obstacle to the attacker. The defence should garrison the houses adjoining the barricade so as to force the enemy to pass through cross fire from both sides, should he attempt a frontal attack upon it. It should not be placed in a position where there is a long straight stretch of street leading up to it, as the enemy could possibly manhandle a field piece into position from which he could destroy it, firing point-blank over open sight.

ARMS.

Troops taking part in street-fighting should be armed with the rifle and bayonet. Care should be taken however that snipers do not fix bayonets, nor do troops who are providing covering fire from a concealed position or from a position from which the glint of the bayonet would attract attention and disclose the whereabouts of the firers.

Hand-grenades may be carried and if properly used will be of great assistance. On the other hand, if used carelessly, they may become a source of great danger. The indiscriminate throwing of grenades at or through windows should not be permitted. Thrown in this manner they are liable to meet with screens or other obstructions and rebound into the street with disastrous results to the throwers. They may be used with great effect to dislodge the enemy from cellars and basements after entrance to a building has been gained.

IRISH SOLDIERS IN FRANCE.

"From the arrival of the Irish troops in 1691 to 1745, the year of the battle of Fontenoy, more than four hundred and fifty thousand Irishmen died in the service of France.—Abbé MacGeoghehan.

PROMOTION.

"When an unusual and singular gift of intelligence is discovered in any subordinate position, the common good demands that to such an intelligence a larger trust be consigned."—Rev. P. Gallwey, S.J.

LOYALTY.

"O cruel mockery, to call that love
Which the world's frown can wither."
—Aubrey de Vere.

NATIONALITY.

"Nationality, like the air of heaven, penetrates into the places most jealously guarded against it."—Charles Gavan Duffy.

IRISH CULTURE.

"When the rest of Europe was wasted by barbarous hordes and overspread with darkness and ignorance, Ireland was the sure refuge of literature and scholarship."—Pius IX.

FRIENDSHIP.

"The time you give to friendship is not lost, and it will even count as regards heaven."—Eugénie de Guérin.

WORK.

"The destinies of the world are in the hands of those who know how to work."—Mgr. Dupanloup.

CHIVALRY.

"In the days of chivalry, women, who were the judges of valour, constantly kept alive the love of glory and an enthusiasm for virtue in the hearts of the warriors."—Michaud.

INTER-GROUP SHOOTING COMPETITION

PALLAS DISTRICT, L.D.F.

Two members representing each of the eight L.D.F. Groups comprising the Pallas District, Limerick, competed at the above competition.

The weather conditions prevailing, rendered accurate shooting very difficult, but competing members made a very good show notwithstanding. The winning Groups, with their representatives, and marks scored, are as follows, viz.:

Doon Group: Volunteer Denis Ryan, 70 marks, Volunteer Jerry Moore, 55 marks. Total 122 marks.

Cappamore Group: Volunteer Thomas Deere, 65 marks; Section Leader Edward Keating, 56 marks. Total 121 marks.

Oola Group: Section Leader Thomas Wixted, 64 marks; Section Leader Michael Grace 56 marks. Total 120 marks.

The two best individual shots were: Section Leader Richard Liston, Caherconlish Group, 76 marks; Volunteer Denis Ryan, Doon Group, 70 marks.

Captain Liam Fraher, Limerick Area Officer, L.D.F. Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick, and his assistant, Lieutenant Ned Creegan, attended. Also in attendance were the following members of the District Staff: District Leader, William McCarthy; Assistant District Leader, Charles Godfrey; District Adjutant, Morgan Portley; District Quartermaster, Timothy Crowe; District Engineer Officer, Sean Stapleton; District Communications Officer, Sean Hynes. The following Group Leaders were also in attendance: Michael Madden, John Lynch, Cornelius Kirby, Brian Berkery, James Frahill, Thomas Ryan and Assistant Group Leader Michael O'Brien.

The matter contained in "An Cosantóir" is supplied from Headquarters of the Southern Command. The views expressed are those of the individual contributors unless the contrary is clearly stated.

Contributions are invited from members of the Army and the L.D.F.

Manuscripts must be legibly written on one side only of the paper and must bear the name and address of the sender. Typewritten articles are preferred.

The most suitable subjects are—

- Current local defence problems and exercises.
- Instructional Articles on Training.
- Military History.

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