

AIMING . .
AND
. . FIRING

**The Hythe Method of Instructing
Recruits**
With a note on
Fire Discipline Training.



BY

Capt. H. WOOD HANBURY,
7th Bn. The Duke of Cambridge's Own
(Middlesex Regt.).

London:
FORSTER, GROOM & Co., 15, Charing Cross.

H. V. Pickering

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Dedicated

BY PERMISSION TO

MAJOR-GENERAL

THE RIGHT HON. LORD CHEYLESMORE,
K.C.V.O.,

*Chairman of the Middlesex Territorial Force Association
and of the
National Rifle Association.*

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FOREWORD.

PURFLBET CAMP,
October, 1915.

These *"Instructions" in Aiming and Firing have been written in the hope that they may be found useful to Musketry Instructors and Non-commissioned Officers engaged in the Training of Recruits.

In accordance with the Practice at Hythe, they should be **committed to memory**, as in **no other way** can uniformity and accuracy of teaching be ensured. The simplest language suited to recruits has been used and all unnecessary details omitted, while the "Sequence," rigidly maintained throughout, is that taught at Hythe, and found by experience to be absolutely and unquestionably the best.

H. WOOD HANBURY.

*Completely revised and re-written, August, 1916.

A WORD TO THE INSTRUCTOR.

THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE IS THE
FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATION OF THE
HYTHE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION.

EXPLANATION. (Tell the men what you are going to teach.)
ILLUSTRATION. (Show them how to do it.)
IMITATION. (Get each man to copy it.)
REPETITION. (Then to practise it.)
EXAMINATION. (And finally to answer questions upon it.)

THE INSTRUCTOR

MUST know his subject.
MUST be able to impart his knowledge to others.
MUST be patient.
MUST be able to illustrate the various positions.
MUST be able to detect and correct faults.

THE RIFLES

MUST be in good condition.
MUST be clean, especially the bolt action.
MUST fit the firer as far as possible. (Butts are issued in three lengths: one half an inch longer, and one half an inch shorter than the normal, marked respectively on the heel L. & S., the normal bears no mark.)

DUMMY CARTRIDGES

(Wooden Dummies only to be used.)

MUST always be carefully inspected.
MUST be clean and in good condition.
MUST fit the rifle and magazine.

TARGETS

MUST always be used when giving instruction in aiming or firing.

POINTS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF INSTRUCTORS.

1. Do not correct a man's faults whilst in position, but always bring him to the "order" and explain and illustrate the fault.
2. Words of command are seldom required.
3. Teach by force of example, rather than by word of mouth.
4. Insist on essential points from the beginning.
5. Do not use discouraging remarks.
6. The squad should not consist (if possible) of more than seven.
7. The formation of the squad should be roughly a semicircle.
8. The position of the Instructor should be about five paces to the right front of the squad, or, when checking an individual, of that individual.
9. Illustrate and explain to the squad collectively and then deal with each man individually.
10. The regulation positions for loading and firing may be modified, if the Instructor considers fit, but awkwardness should be no excuse.

AIMING AND FIRING.

The Hythe Method of Instructing
Recruits.

INSTRUCTION No. 1.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION IN LOADING AND UNLOADING.

INSTRUCTOR.—"To load the rifle.

1. Press forward the safety catch with the thumb of the right hand.
2. Take the knob on the bolt lever between the thumb and forefinger and draw back the bolt in one motion.
3. Insert the charger in the charger guide.
4. Place the thumb on the top of the cartridges as near the charger as possible and hook the forefinger under the woodwork.
5. With one sweep press the cartridges into the magazine.
6. Close the bolt and turn back the safety catch with the thumb.
7. Button the pouch or pocket."

INSTRUCTOR.—"To unload the rifle.

1. Press forward the safety catch with the thumb of the right hand.
2. Take the knob on the bolt lever between the thumb and forefinger and draw back the bolt.
3. Work the bolt backwards and forwards more times than there are cartridges in the magazine.
4. Close the bolt.
5. Press the trigger.
6. Turn back the safety catch.
7. Lower the sights if necessary."

INSTRUCTION No. 2.

**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION
IN ELEMENTARY AIMING.**

Appliances.—An aiming rest, tripod, sandbag, and an elementary aiming target.

The rifle is placed in the rest facing the target, which should not be more than 100 yards away: the tripod with the sandbag upon it behind the rifle. The squad stand around in a semicircle.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you how to aim. To hit an object with a stone you have to throw the stone into the air, and the further away the object is, the higher it is necessary for you to throw.

"Similarly when putting out a fire, the further away a fireman stands the higher he must hold the hosepipe. If you looked along it you would not see where the water was striking. This is the same with the rifle, the barrel being inclined upwards in order to fire long distances, and if you looked along it you would not see the target. The rifle is therefore fitted with what are called "sights," which enable the correct elevation to be given, and at the same time the target to be seen."

(Indicating the parts of the "sights.")

"This is called the foresight and consists of the foresight blade, platform and bed.

"This is the foresight protector, these being called the "wings."

"This is the backsight, and consists of the leaf, the slide, and the bed.

"These are the shoulders of the backsight.

"This is the 'U' of the backsight.

"The leaf is graduated in hundreds of yards; the even numbers only are marked."

The Instructor shows the squad how to adjust the sights and gets each man to practise until perfect.

INSTRUCTOR (*continuing*)—"Now the three rules of aiming are:—

- 1st. The backsight must be kept upright—it is obvious that you cannot shoot correctly with it tilted to one side.
- 2nd. The left or right eye, according to the shoulder from which you shoot, must be closed.
- 3rd. The blade of the foresight should be in the centre of the 'U' of the backsight and the tip in line with the shoulders and pointing at the bottom centre of the target or mark."

The Instructor shows sketches to illustrate this, and then lays an accurate aim, placing the right elbow on the sandbag with the chin resting on the hand, and the eyes directly above the heel of the butt. Each man in turn looks along the sights, resting the chin in the same manner as the Instructor.

The Instructor then moves the rifle and each man lays an aim, which the Instructor afterwards checks and criticises by telling him where his shots would go, and making him realise why.

NOTE.—The best method of checking is by the "Paper Snatching" method.

INSTRUCTOR (*continues*)—

"A Regulation Aim is therefore defined as a "full sight" at the bottom centre of the target.

The reasons for it are that:—

1. The rifle is so tested at the factory.
2. The whole of the target is kept in view.
3. It corrects the tendency of men, when excited, to shoot high.
4. There is more chance of hitting a disappearing target.
5. If the range is overestimated, there is still a chance of hitting the target.
6. It assists close grouping in collective fire.

The reasons for a "full sight" are that:—

1. The rifle is sighted at the factory for a full sight.
 2. Less likely to vary the amount of foresight (so less margin for error).
 3. It is the easiest to teach, and the only one that can be checked.
 4. It facilitates rapidity of aim."
-

INSTRUCTION No. 3.

Note.—This instruction is more often given in the barrack room, and is reserved for a wet day.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION IN TRIGGER PRESSING.

Appliances—A sandbag. The rifle is placed on the sandbag, the Recruit assuming the prone position.

INSTRUCTOR (*lying down left of Recruit*)—"I am now going to teach you how to press the trigger, the object being to release the cocking-piece without disturbing the aim.

"It does not matter how good your sight may be, how good a triangle of error you may make, or how good your firing position, you can never hope to make a good shot unless you can press the trigger correctly.

"You will notice that the rifle has a double press-off. On pressing you feel a slight check. That is the first pressure (3 to 4 pounds). Continue the pressure until the trigger is released, thus taking the second pressure (5 to 6 pounds in all).

"Now close the fingers and move the forefinger independently of the others.

(Recruit does so several times.)

"Take a firm grip of the rifle at the point of balance with the left hand, and at the small of the butt with the right, the forefinger being behind the trigger guard (*Recruit does so*). Put the forefinger of the right hand round the trigger. The first joint of the finger should be placed round the lower part of the trigger, thus:—"

(The Instructor shows the Recruit the correct position, which he practises several times.)

INSTRUCTOR (*continues*)—"The direction of the press-off is diagonally across the small of the butt. If when pressing the trigger, you endeavour to make your thumb and forefinger meet, you will find that you will get a more even pressure than you would probably otherwise do.

"Now take a firm grip of the rifle and put your forefinger round the trigger, but without pressing it.

The Instructor places the forefinger of his right hand on the Recruit's forefinger, and his thumb on the Recruit's thumb, and presses (*pausing and calling attention to the first pressure before taking the second*), thus releasing the cocking-piece through the Recruit. *Practises.*

NOTE.—If the Instructor has a much smaller hand than the Recruit, he uses his left hand.

"You realized by the pressure on your finger and thumb the pressure required to release the cocking-piece, and so now I will place my finger on the trigger and you will press the trigger through my finger as I showed you just now."

The Recruit places finger and thumb respectively over the Instructor's and presses the trigger through the Instructor. *Practises.*

NOTE.—After a few such instructions, the Recruit should be taught to restrain the breathing, in order not to disturb the aim.

INSTRUCTION No. 4.**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THE
STANDING POSITION.**

The Instructor stands five paces to the right front of the squad, inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches, extends the squad two paces, and forms a rough semicircle.

The Instructor indicates a target for himself and one for the squad.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire in the standing position. This position is used for firing from trenches, from behind breastworks, from cover such as long grass or 'standing corn,' or to take a snapshot at the enemy during an advance.

"It is also used the most for instructional purposes, as it is the basis of all the other positions.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights and firing.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (*Suits action to words.*)

"Face your target.

"Come to attention.

"Make a partial turn to the right.

"Carry off the left foot as though standing at ease. Bring up the rifle with the right hand, taking hold of it with the left hand at the point of balance, and with the right hand at the small of the butt."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Muzzle pointing upwards and towards the target.
2. Firm grip with both hands.
3. Left wrist well under the rifle.
4. Forefinger behind the trigger guard.
5. Butt in front of the hip.
6. Eyes on the target.
7. Elbows close to the body.
8. Body oblique to the line of fire.
9. Body erect, legs well apart and weight evenly balanced on both feet."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises, and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and the Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the loading position.

1. Muzzle pointing upwards—for easy manipulation of the bolt and sights and for safety.
2. Firm grip with both hands—so as to have complete control of the rifle.
3. Left wrist well under rifle to enable you to come into the aim without shifting your grip.
4. Forefinger behind the trigger guard—for safety.

5. Butt in front of the hip—so as to come easily and rapidly into the firing position.
6. Eyes on the target—so as not to lose sight of an indistinct service target.
7. Elbows close to the body—for compactness and steadiness.
8. Body oblique to the line of fire—so as to be able to get the left arm well under the rifle in the firing position.
9. Body erect, legs well apart and weight evenly balanced on both feet—for steadiness."

The Squad practises again.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already been taught how to load and unload, but I want you to note the following points in this position:—

1. Apply safety catch—for safety.
2. Button up pouch—to prevent undue waste of ammunition.
3. Keep the eyes on the mark as long as possible—so as not to lose sight of the target."

Squad practises and Instructor checks.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already learnt how to adjust your sights, but in this position it is done with the thumb of the left hand, and care must be taken to see that the slide is fixed and that as little movement as possible is made."

The Instructor watches each man load and unload and adjust sights, and checks faults.

INSTRUCTOR (*assuming the loading position*)—

"I will now teach you how to fire in the standing position (*suits action to words*)—Bring the rifle as quickly as possible into the shoulder, at the same time as the butt touches the shoulder, placing the forefinger of the right hand round the trigger and taking the first pressure.

"Drop the head straight down on to the butt.

"Align the sights on the target.

"Restrain the breathing while taking the second pressure.

"Make a slight pause.

"Declare the point of aim, and

"Come down to the loading position and immediately reload."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Sights upright.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands.
3. Head *straight* down on to the butt.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece.
5. Left arm well under the rifle.
6. Right elbow in front of and slightly lower than the right shoulder."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises, and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and the Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the firing position.

1. Sights upright—for accurate shooting.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands—for determination and confidence.
3. Head *straight* down on to the butt—so as to get a clear view of the sights.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece—for safety.
5. Left arm well under the rifle—to better support the rifle.
6. Right elbow in front of and slightly lower than the right shoulder—to form a good bed for the butt and keep the sights upright.
7. Restrain breathing—for steadiness."

The Squad practises the whole position while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

INSTRUCTION No. 5.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THE PRONE POSITION.

The Instructor stands five paces to the right front of the squad, inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches, extends the squad two paces and forms a rough semicircle.

The Instructor indicates a target for himself and one for the squad.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire in the prone position. This is the normal position used on service, presents the smallest target and is the steadiest and most comfortable for shooting.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights, firing and getting up.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (*Suits action to words*).

"Face your target.

"Come to attention.

"Turn half right.

"Bring the rifle up the same as in the standing position, but leave the right hand free.

"Sink on to the knees, turning them outwards.

"Place the right hand on the ground.

"Carry the rifle forward to the full extent of the left arm, muzzle on the ground, grasping it with the right hand at the small of the butt.

"Open the legs and press the heels down."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Rifle resting on the ground.
2. Firm grip with both hands.
3. Forefinger behind the trigger guard.
4. Butt well clear of body.
5. Eyes on the target.
6. Elbows slightly closed inwards.
7. Body oblique to the line of fire.
8. Legs well apart and heels down.

To get up:—

1. Close the feet, at the same time
2. Place the right hand on the ground and draw back the rifle under the right arm.
3. Rise up on both knees, pointing the rifle in the air and towards the target.
4. Place the left foot one walking pace in advance of the right and get up on the feet, taking hold of the rifle with the right hand at the band.
5. Bring the left foot back to the right and bring the rifle down to the order.

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and the Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the loading position.

1. Rifle resting on the ground—for support.
2. Firm grip with both hands—so as to have complete control of the rifle.
3. Forefinger behind the trigger guard—for safety.
4. Butt well clear of the body—so as to come easily and rapidly into the firing position.
5. Eyes on the target—so as not to lose sight of an indistinct service target.
6. Elbows slightly closed inwards—for compactness and steadiness.
7. Body oblique to the line of fire—so as to be able to get the left arm well under the rifle in the firing position.
8. Legs well apart and heels down—to get a good grip of the ground."

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already been taught how to load and unload, but I want you to note the following points in this position:—

1. Apply safety catch—for safety.
2. Button up pouch—to prevent undue waste of ammunition.
3. Keep the eyes on the mark as long as possible—so as not to lose sight of the target."

Squad practices and Instructor checks.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already learnt how to adjust your sights, but in this position it is done with the thumb of the left hand, and care must be taken to see that the slide is fixed and that as little movement as possible is made.

"Release the right hand from the rifle, draw it back with the left hand until the figures on the backsight can be seen distinctly, adjust with the thumb of the left hand, return the rifle to the full extent of the left arm and return the right hand to the small of the butt."

The Squad practises again; the Instructor watches each man load and unload and adjust sights and checks faults.

INSTRUCTOR (*assuming the loading position*)—

"I will now teach you how to fire in the prone position (*Suits action to words*)—Bring the rifle as quickly as possible into the shoulder at the same time as the butt touches the shoulder, placing the forefinger of the right hand round the trigger, and taking the first pressure.

"Drop the head straight down on to the butt.

"Align the sights on the target.

"Restrain the breathing while taking the second pressure.

"Make a slight pause.

"Declare the point of aim, and

"Come down to the loading position and immediately reload."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Sights upright.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands.
3. Head *straight* down on the butt.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece.
5. Left arm well under the rifle.
6. Right elbow closed inwards."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the firing position.

1. Sights upright—for accurate shooting.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands—for determination and confidence.
3. Head *straight* down on the butt—so as to get a clear view of the sights.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece—for safety.
5. Left arm well under the rifle—to better support the rifle.
6. Right elbow closed inwards—to form a good bed for the butt.
7. Restrain breathing—for steadiness."

The Squad practises the whole position while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

INSTRUCTION No. 6.**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THE
KNEELING POSITION.**

The Instructor stands five paces to the right front of the squad, inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches, extends the squad two paces and forms a rough semicircle.

The Instructor indicates a target for himself and one for the squad.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire in the kneeling position. This position is used for firing from behind low continuous cover such as a low wall, bank or hedge.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights and firing.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (*Suits action to words.*)

"Face your target.

"Come to attention.

"Advance the left foot a short distance in front of the right, bring up the rifle with the right hand, taking hold of it with the left hand at the point of balance and with the right hand at the small of the butt, sink down on to the right knee and sit on the right heel, resting the butt on the right thigh, and the left forearm on the left knee.

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Muzzle pointing upwards.
2. Firm grip with both hands.
3. Forefinger behind the trigger guard.
4. Butt resting on the right thigh.
5. Eyes on the target.
6. Right elbow close to the side.
7. Left forearm resting on the left knee.
8. Body erect and well balanced.
9. Left heel slightly behind the left knee.
10. Left toe pointing towards the target.

To get up:—

1. Rise up on the feet and bring the right hand over to the band.
2. Bring the left foot back to the right and the rifle down to the order."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy," and the Instructor continues.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the loading position.

1. Muzzle pointing upwards—for easy manipulation of the bolt and sights, and also for safety.
2. Firm grip with both hands—so as to have complete control of the rifle.

3. Forefinger behind the trigger guard—for safety.
4. Butt resting on the right thigh—for support.
5. Eyes on the target—so as not to lose sight of an indistinct service target.
6. Right elbow close into the side and left forearm resting on the left knee—for support.
7. Body erect and well balanced—for steadiness.
8. Left heel slightly behind the left knee—so as to be able to spring forward quickly."

The Squad practises again.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already been taught how to load and unload, but I want you to note the following points in this position—

1. Apply safety catch—for safety.
2. Button up pouch—to prevent undue waste of ammunition.
3. Keep the eyes on the mark as long as possible—so as not to lose sight of the target."

Squad practises and Instructor checks.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already learnt how to adjust your sights, but in this position it is done with the thumb of the left hand, and care must be taken to see that the slide is fixed and that as little movement as possible is made."

The Instructor watches each man load and unload and adjust sights, and checks faults.

INSTRUCTOR (*assuming the loading position.*)—

"I will now teach you how to fire in the kneeling position. (*Suits action to words.*)—Bring the rifle as quickly as possible into the shoulder, at the same time as the butt touches the shoulder, placing the forefinger of the right hand round the trigger and taking the first pressure.

"Drop the head straight down on to the butt.

"Align the sights on the target.

"Restrain the breathing while taking the second pressure.

"Make a slight pause.

"Declare the point of aim, and

"Come down to the loading position and immediately reload."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Sights upright.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands.
3. Head *straight* down on to the butt.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece.
5. Left elbow on or over left knee and rifle, right shoulder, left arm, left foot in one vertical plane.
6. Right elbow in front of and slightly lower than the right shoulder."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the firing position.

1. Sights upright—for accurate shooting.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands—for determination and confidence.
3. Head *straight* down on to the butt—so as to get a clear vision of the sights.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece—for safety.
5. Rifle, right shoulder, left arm, and left foot in one vertical plane—for steadiness.
6. Right elbow in front of and slightly lower than the right shoulder—to form a good bed for the butt, and to keep the sights upright."

The Squad practises the whole position while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

INSTRUCTION No. 7.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR THE SITTING POSITION.

The Instructor stands five paces to the right front of the squad, inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches, extends the squad two paces and forms a rough semicircle.

The Instructor indicates a target for himself and one for the squad.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire in the sitting position. This position is most suitable for firing across a valley, when on sloping ground.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights and firing.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (*Suits actions to words.*)

"Face your target.

"Come to attention.

"Turn half right.

"Bring the rifle up in front of the body, grasping it with the left hand at the point of balance, sit down, lowering yourself with the right hand, open the legs, dig the heels well into the ground, rest the butt of the rifle on the right thigh and the forearms on the knees."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Muzzle pointing upwards.
2. Firm grip with both hands.
3. Forefinger behind the trigger guard.
4. Butt resting on the right thigh.
5. Eyes on the target.
6. Forearms resting on the knees.
7. Body oblique to the line of fire."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy," and the Instructor continues :—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the loading position.

1. Muzzle pointing upwards—for easy manipulation of the bolt and sights and also for safety.
- 2.—Firm grip with both hands—so as to have complete control of the rifle.
- 3.—Forefinger behind the trigger guard—for safety.
- 4.—Butt resting on the right thigh—for support.
- 5.—Eyes on the target—so as not to lose sight of an indistinct service target.
- 6.—Forearms resting on the knees—for steadiness.
- 7.—Body oblique to the line of fire—so as to be able to get the left arm well under the rifle in the firing position."

The Squad practises again.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already been taught how to load and unload, but I want you to note the following points in this position.

1. Apply safety catch—for safety.
2. Button up pouch—to prevent undue waste of ammunition.
3. Keep the eyes on the mark as long as possible—so as not to lose sight of the target.

Squad practices and Instructor checks.

INSTRUCTOR.—"You have already learnt how to adjust your sights, but in this position it is done with the thumb of the left hand, and care must be taken to see that the slide is fixed and that as little movement as possible is made."

The Instructor watches each man load and unload and adjust sights, and checks faults.

INSTRUCTOR—(assuming the loading position)—

"I will now teach you how to fire in the sitting position (*Suits action to words*)—Bring the rifle as quickly as possible to the shoulder, at the same time as the butt touches the shoulder, placing the forefinger of the right hand round the trigger and taking the first pressure.

"Drop the head straight down on to the butt.

"Align the sights on the target.

"Restrain the breathing while taking the second pressure.

"Make a slight pause.

"Declare the point of aim.

"Come down to the loading position and immediately reload."

"In this position I want you to note the following essential points:—

1. Sights upright.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands.
3. Head straight down on to the butt.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece.
5. Elbows resting on or over the knees."

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and the Instructor continues:—

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now explain the essential points I asked you to note in the firing position.

1. Sights upright—for accurate shooting.
2. Firm grip retained with both hands—for determination and confidence.
3. Head straight down on to the butt—so as to get a clear vision of the sights.
4. Eye well back from the cocking-piece—for safety.
5. Elbows resting on the knees—for support, and to form a good bed for the butt."

The Squad practises the whole position while the Instructor goes round, criticises and corrects each man's faults.

INSTRUCTOR.—"In order to fire down a steep slope, this position should be slightly modified. Rest the left forearm on the knee and raise the right elbow to a position just below and in front of the right shoulder."
(Suits action to words).

The Squad practises while the Instructor goes round and criticises and corrects each man's faults.

NOTE.—*The sitting position is now frequently taught complete and the points run over briefly.*

INSTRUCTION No. 8.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR FIRING OVER COVER.

The Instructor falls in the squad in a convenient position behind the "cover" and then inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches.

The Instructor indicates a target on the other side of the cover.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire over cover. In firing over cover a complete field of view is obtained and it is possible to fire as though in the open, but some protection is naturally sacrificed, as the head forms a good target for the enemy.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights and firing.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (Suits action to words.)

"Approach the cover at the run carrying the rifle at the trail.

"Kneel down as close to it as possible, allowing free use of the rifle.

"Adapt yourself to the cover so that only your eyes and the top of your head can be seen above it.

"Hold the rifle with the left hand at the nosecap and with the right hand at the small of the butt, the butt resting on the ground with the magazine outwards.

"Keep the muzzle of the rifle slightly below the top of the cover and quite clear of it, so that should the rifle be accidentally discharged, the bullet will not strike the cover.

"Make no unnecessary movement.

"Watch your front the whole time."

The Instructor, still kneeling behind the cover, then directs the squad to go to the other side and note that only the top of the head and the eyes are seen above the cover.

The Squad practises the position in turn, and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

The Squad "stand easy" and the Instructor continues.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you how to load and adjust the sights. (*Suits action to words.*)

"Turn the rifle upright.

"Push forward the safety catch, open the bolt and load.

"Bend down right behind the cover and adjust the sights.

"Turn the rifle again on its side with the magazine outwards.

"Make as little movement throughout as possible and watch your front the whole time except when adjusting the sights."

Each man in the squad practises in turn, and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you how to fire.

"Without moving the left hand, slide the rifle through it until it reaches the point of balance, keeping the magazine outwards.

"Turn the rifle over and place it to the shoulder, resting the rifle on the top of the cover, not the left hand."

The Instructor, still kneeling behind the cover, directs the squad to go to the other side and then shows them how much more he is exposed when resting the hand on the cover than when resting the rifle.

INSTRUCTOR (*continues.*)

"Press the trigger.

"Turn the rifle on to its side again and draw it back through the left hand into the loading position and immediately reload."

Each man in the squad practises in turn and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

INSTRUCTION No. 9.**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR
FIRING ROUND COVER.**

The Instructor falls in the squad in a convenient position behind the "cover" and then inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches.

The Instructor indicates a target on the other side of the cover.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you to load and fire round cover. In firing round cover, half the field of view and fire is necessarily sacrificed, but considerable protection is afforded from the enemy's fire.

"I will now go through the complete position."

The Instructor goes through the complete positions of loading, adjusting sights and firing.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I will now teach you the loading position. (*Suits action to words.*)

"Approach the cover at the run, carrying the rifle at the trail.

"Throw yourself straight down behind the cover at such a distance that the dial sights on the rifle are on the near side and clear of the cover.

"Keep the feet close together.

"Expose only the right half of the face, right shoulder and arm.

"Watch your front the whole time."

The Instructor (still lying behind the cover) directs the squad to go to the other side of the cover, and then shows them how much more he is exposed when lying to the left of the cover instead of to the right.

Each man practises the correct position in turn, and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

INSTRUCTOR (*suits action to words*)—"The method of loading and adjustment of sights is as in the normal prone position, but must be done warily and cautiously, with the least possible movement, as isolated cover draws 'fire,' the front being watched the whole time except when adjusting the sights."

Each man practises in turn and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

INSTRUCTOR—"Bring the rifle up to the shoulder, rest it against the cover, with the dial sights quite clear of it and on its near side, align the sights, press the trigger, and reload immediately, making as little movement as possible when doing so."

Each man practises in turn and the Instructor criticises and corrects faults.

INSTRUCTION No. 10.**MUSCLE EXERCISES.**

NOTE.—These Exercises are drill in contradistinction to instruction.

The Instructor falls in the squad, inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches, extends the squad two paces and indicates a target.

FIRST PRACTICE.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you the Muscle Exercises.

"On the command Muscle Exercise, First Practice, 'Standing Load' you will come to the required position and load. (*Suits action to words.*) Not using dummies or applying the safety catch.

"On the Command 'One'—Bring the rifle to the aiming position, roughly align the sights, placing the forefinger round the trigger as the rifle is brought to the shoulder, and take the first pressure; make a pause, return to the loading position and continue until the Command 'Unload,' unload, then come to the 'Order' and 'Stand at ease.'

"The object of the First Practice is to strengthen the lifting muscles of the arms, to practise taking the first pressure as the rifle is brought into the aiming position, and to practise getting the butt into the same position in the shoulder every time."

INSTRUCTOR (*commands*)—

†Muscle Exercises—First Practice.

*Standing—LOAD. (*Squad loads.*)

One. (*Squad practises as above.*)

Unload. (*Squad performs motions of unloading, comes to the "Order" and "Stand at ease."*)

Stand easy.

SECOND PRACTICE.

The Squad "stand easy" while the

INSTRUCTOR (*continues*)—"On the Command Muscle Exercise, Second Practice, 'Standing Load' you will come to the required position and load. (*Suits action to words.*) Not using dummies or applying the safety catch.

"On the Command 'One' bring the rifle to the aiming position, but keep the head erect, placing the forefinger round the trigger as the rifle is brought to the shoulder and take the first pressure.

"On the Command 'Two' quit the rifle with the right hand about 4 ins.

"On the Command 'Three' return the right hand to the small of the butt, placing the forefinger on the trigger and taking the first pressure, and quit the rifle with the left hand. Continue until the Command 'Unload,' unload, come to the 'Order' and 'Stand at ease.'

"The object of the Second Practice is to strengthen the grip of the hands."

INSTRUCTOR (*commands*)—

Muscle Exercises—Second Practice.

*Standing—LOAD. (*Squad loads.*)

One. (*Squad practises as above.*)

Two. (*Squad practises as above.*)

Three. (*Squad practises as above.*)

Unload. (*Squad performs motions of unloading, comes to the "Order," and "Stand at ease."*)

Stand easy.

THIRD PRACTICE.

The Squad "stand easy" while the

INSTRUCTOR (*continues*)—"On the Command **Muscle Exercise, Third Practice, 'Standing Load,'** you will come to the required position and load. (*Suits action to words.*) Not using dummies or applying the safety catch.

"On the Command **'One'** bring the rifle to the aiming position, placing the forefinger round the trigger as the rifle is brought up and take the first pressure, aligning the sights now and again. Remain in the aiming position until the Command **'Unload.'**"

NOTE.—This should be given after 30 seconds in the case of Recruits, progressing to two minutes as they become more efficient.

"The object of the Third Practice is to practise holding the rifle in the aiming position for a considerable length of time without undue fatigue."

INSTRUCTOR (*commands*)—

†**Muscle Exercises—Third Practice**

***Standing—LOAD.** (*Squad loads.*)

One. (*Squad practises as above.*)

Unload. (*Squad performs motions of unloading comes to the 'Order,' and 'Stand at ease.'*)

Stand easy.

**The Practices can be carried out in all positions—standing, prone, kneeling, etc.*

†*The First and Third Practice can be carried out with bayonets fixed.*

INSTRUCTION No. 11.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION FOR "AIMING OFF" FOR WIND.

Appliances.—A rifle and rest, tripod and sandbag, an elementary target and a bull's-eye.

Each man shewn in turn while the remainder of the squad "stand easy."

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you how to overcome the effect of wind. You know that wind will deflect a bullet out of its path, and the longer the range the greater that deflection will be. Winds, of course, vary very much, and, for military purposes, are divided into 'mild,' 'fresh' and 'strong.' A 'mild' wind is best described as a pleasant summer breeze, a 'fresh' wind as one sufficiently strong to make holding on a hat a matter of some difficulty, and a 'strong' wind as half a gale.

"At a range of 300 yards, the deflection allowance for a mild right or left wind is 1 ft., for a fresh wind 2 ft., and for a strong wind 3 ft. These allowances being doubled at a range of 500 yards, viz., 2, 4 and 6 ft. respectively. If the wind is blowing obliquely, these allowances should be halved.

"Now there are two ways of overcoming the effect of the wind, the one is the wind gauge, and the other what is known as 'aiming off.' The wind gauge is never used on active service and all that it is necessary for you to know is how to adjust it to its central and normal position."

The Instructor moves wind gauge and practises each man in re-adjusting it.

INSTRUCTOR.—"The only practical service method, therefore, is 'aiming off.' The difficulties of this method are:—

1. Judging the strength of the wind.
2. Knowing what the allowance decided upon looks like at the target.
3. Keeping the correct elevation.

"With regard to the last difficulty it will no doubt assist you if you imagine the bull to be rolling along the shoulder of the backsight to the required amount of 'aiming off.'"

The Instructor attaches a movable bull's-eye, say one inch right or left of the bull's-eye on the target. After laying an aim upon it, he removes it.

INSTRUCTOR.—"Now this aim is 1 in. from the bull's-eye. I want you to notice carefully what this distance looks like on the target, and then aim off (say) 3 ins."

The Instructor moves the rifle and each man lays an aim (say), three inches to the right, The movable bull's-eye is then placed in the correct position and each man notices the amount of his error.

Each man in the squad practises in turn.

As a further and final practice, each man may be asked to judge the prevailing wind and aim off "in inches" instead of feet assuming the target to be 300 or 500 yards away.

INSTRUCTION No. 12.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION IN "AIMING OFF" FOR MOVEMENT.

Appliances.—Rifle, aim corrector, and a fatigue-man to walk up and down about 100 yards from the Recruit.

The Instructor falls the squad in and examines Arms, Dummies and Pouches.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you how to aim at a moving target. It is obvious to you that to hit a man on the move, you must aim in front of him and the further away he is, the further in front of him it is necessary to aim. This is called 'aiming off.'

Aim should be taken—

About 1 ft. in front per 100 yards at a man walking.

About 2 ft. in front per 100 yards at a man doubling.

About 3 ft. in front per 100 yards at a horse-man trotting.

About 4 ft. in front per 100 yards at a horse-man galloping.

"For either moving in an oblique position, these allowances can be halved."

The Instructor assumes the prone position, loads and "aims off" while the fatigue-man walks up and down and the recruit notes the position of the fatigue-man and the aim through the aim corrector.

INSTRUCTOR (*continues*)—

"The difficulties, however, after estimating the required allowance, are to estimate its appearance at the target, and to swing the rifle in front of the object, pressing the trigger while doing so, and finally to keep the correct elevation."

The Recruit then takes the Instructor's place and the latter notes his aim through the aim corrector and checks and criticises.

INSTRUCTOR (*in conclusion*)—

"It is not considered advisable for a single man to aim at a solitary moving man at a distance of over 300 yards, and at horseman over 500 yards.

"As a guide to judging the allowance to be made it is useful to remember that a man is roughly 1 ft. wide and a horse 8 ft. from nose to tail."

INSTRUCTION No. 13.

**SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION IN
"SNAP SHOOTING" OR RAPID AIMING.**

Appliances.—A rifle, charger of dummy cartridges and an aiming disc.

The Instructor inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches.

INSTRUCTOR.—"I am now going to teach you 'snap shooting' or rapid aiming, or how to fire an accurately aimed shot in the shortest possible time."

The Instructor assumes the prone position, loads and aims at an aiming disc stuck in the ground or held by an assistant, presses the trigger and declares the point of aim, comes down to the loading position and reloads.

INSTRUCTOR (*commands*)—"LOAD."

The Recruit assumes prone position and loads. The Instructor takes up a prone position about a yard in front of the Recruit's rifle, and holds eye disc to his eye.

INSTRUCTOR (*continuing*)—"Now I want you to take an accurately aimed shot in your own time and declare the aim, while my assistant will time you. On the command 'Fire,' you will come to the firing position, take aim, press the trigger, declare the point of aim and immediately come down to the loading position and reload, taking care that you get off an accurate shot."

Recruit practises taking accurate aims in his own time.

INSTRUCTOR (continuing)—

"Now I want to see if you can take an accurate aim and press the trigger in 8 seconds.

"The particular points you must note are, watch your front the whole time, come as quickly as possible to the aiming position and after firing, reload at once."

The Recruit practises and if satisfactory, practises again at 6 seconds, 5 seconds, 4 seconds, and finally at 3 seconds.

INSTRUCTOR (concluding)—

"The standard test for 'snap shooting' is 'four aims in four seconds each,' with an interval between the aims. Three aims have to be correct."

NOTE ON FIRE DISCIPLINE TRAINING.

FIRE DISCIPLINE TRAINING is the practical application of all elementary musketry training, and its object is:—

1. To give Fire Unit Commanders practice in Fire Direction and Control, and in checking and detecting faults.
2. To train the men in obeying Fire Orders rapidly, intelligently and accurately.
3. And to train the men in carrying on the 'fire fight' to the best and most tactical advantage when deprived of their Fire Unit Commander."

FIRE DISCIPLINE TRAINING may be divided into three stages of Instruction.

INSTRUCTION 1. At the Halt.

1. The Fire Unit Commander or Instructor inspects Arms, Dummies and Pouches.
2. Gives the order "standing (lying, etc.) load."
3. Checks positions assumed, clean manipulation of the bolt and use of charger, buttoning the pouch and use of safety catch.
4. Extends squad two paces.
5. Indicates a "front."
6. Gives a "range."
7. Checks the adjustment of sights.
8. Completes a "fire order," using an easy target.
9. Checks "aiming" position and recognition of target.

The Commander should see that the men put their safety catches forward on the words "5 rounds" in fire order, that they use the correct rate of fire (deliberate or rapid), and that on the command "cease fire" they recharge magazines and await orders.

At a later stage, orders may be passed down the line and checked. The way in which the Squad act on them should be noted, and fresh orders sent to practise them in rapidly obeying new orders.

INSTRUCTION 2. Introduces Movement.

1. The men commence the Instruction with loaded rifles and are responsible for keeping them loaded *without* orders.
2. The Fire Unit Commander or Instructor orders or signals "Advance" in extended order.
3. Gives the command or signal to "Halt," when the men immediately assume the prone position (unless otherwise ordered), and make use of ground and cover.
4. Assumes same position as the men but afterwards gets up and checks faults.
5. Passes fire orders down in a whisper, the men acknowledging receipt by signal.
6. Checks all faults and proceeds generally as in Instruction 1, and also makes sure that men never advance with safety catch forward.

§ INSTRUCTION 3. This stage is intended to bring out a man's initiative and judgment.

1. The Fire Unit Commander or Instructor orders or signals "Advance" in extended order.

2. Gives the command or signals "Halt" when the men double to the nearest "cover" and assume prone position.

Fatigue-men may be called up by signal from different points, and the men use their discretion in firing on hearing the command "At the Fatigue-man Fire," or a vague or incomplete fire order may be given, and the men act upon it as they think best, judging distance, making allowances for wind or movement, deciding on kind of fire (rapid or deliberate), etc., etc.

3. Checks, questions, and criticises the men.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD. Explain a situation to the men. For example:—

"We are going to advance on the enemy in short rushes, firing five rounds rapid at each halt."

During the first rush pass the word along that the 'Commander is out of action,' and note if the men carry out his intentions as already explained, recharge magazines and reload before advancing, adjust sights and decrease wind allowance after each rush, or when necessary, combine together.

COMMON FAULTS.

1. Lack of grip of the rifle.
2. Getting the eye too near the cocking-piece.
3. Not drawing the bolt sufficiently far back (resulting in a jamb).
4. Not fitting the butt into the same place in the shoulder.
5. Excessive movement when adjusting the sights in the prone position.
6. Not getting up properly and quickly.

7. Not running forward after getting up from the prone and kneeling positions.

The importance of **FIRE DISCIPLINE TRAINING** cannot be sufficiently emphasised, as not only can every detail of elementary training be brought out and practised till perfect, but it gives the men an interest in fighting and in the ways of war not otherwise obtained.

FINIS.