

# AN T-OZLAC

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## THE VOLUNTEER OUTLOOK

The end of the War is not yet; nor is it in sight. The League of Nations which is talked about promises to be a sham or worse. In the future as in the past nations will win and maintain their freedom by the sword and the threat of the sword, by war and by readiness for war. It is needful that we should fully realise this fact; for Ireland's future must be ruled by the universal law. No people can be free that is not willing to fight for freedom. The nation that strikes for its rights will sooner or later have friends and assistance. The nation for which no shots ring out and for which no steel is reddened will lie like a bone in a kennel. International complications will bring in no profit. Its enemies may rend each other, but until its own children have risen in arms it can never experience aught but a change of masters.

The Peace Conference now sitting may or may not do something for Ireland. If it does anything, then most assuredly its action will be due primarily and mainly not to the sound historical basis of our claims, nor to any logical or eloquent statement of it, nor even to international exigencies, but rather to the military demand of Easter Week and to the promise and threat implied in the Republican electoral victories of last December. In this connection it cannot be too much emphasised that if the Sinn Fein triumph in the constituencies had indicated only a raised and clarified political ideal, it would have been all sound and fury signifying nothing. It did, in fact, indicate much more. It showed that the people of Ireland, generally, endorse not only the aims but the methods of the men who raised the standard of freedom in 1916. For this reason it was an event of international import. It demonstrated that here was another people resolved that there should be no lasting peace in Europe until justice was done. The Volunteers must take care that the military promise and

threat of Ireland's declaration for Republicanism does not become a dead letter. Let it be understood that the past is done with. The present and the future count for everything. It matters not how many thousands have died for Ireland if there are no more to die. The sacrifice of Pearse and Connolly and their blood serves Ireland only so long as it is an earnest of blood that may be shed to-morrow; and if we say to ourselves that there shall be no other rising and no more bloodshed for another generation, then we are doing what we can to nullify the work of those heroic men.

The business of the Volunteers is to levy war against England on any occasion which the home or foreign situation renders opportune. If they are to do their work efficiently they must take care in all ranks to preserve and cultivate the military outlook. They must always endeavour to see the situation with a soldier's eye. They must face adverse facts candidly and sanely; but they must be true to their trust and eager to perform their military function. There are plenty of other people to concentrate on discovering how to serve Ireland by peaceful means. The Volunteers must balance them by thinking always of how they shall serve the nation under arms. They should be concerned not to find honourable ways of avoiding war, but to find favourable opportunities for fighting. An army which is not pervaded by this aggressive spirit is destined to defeat. It will be surprised and outmanœuvred. It will lose its chances. It will demonstrate in force when it ought to deliver a sudden home-thrust. Its enemy will have the initiative and he will be able to suit his convenience as to action and inaction. The spirit of the Volunteers should be that of a hound straining at the leash. So will they carry on and complete the work of the men of Easter Week. If it is patent that the rank and file wait only the wind of the word to fall to, and that those in command will be prompt to give the



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word if they see an opening or if England attempts any insufferably vile act of oppression such as the imposition of Conscription would have been, then the Volunteers will not only be in the best posture to strike swiftly if an opportunity arises, but they will be at all times a thorn in the side of England, a cause of concern to the statesmen of Europe and America, and a shield for many peaceful national activities which would otherwise be made impossible by unrestrained English repression. The Volunteers are all to Ireland that an army ever was to any country. If they cannot do everything that is necessary for the nation's future they can yet do most vital things which cannot be done by others, and their every thought be a preparation for the coming day.

### NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS

ORGANISATION NOTES.—The Brigade—  
I.—The Brigade Commandant is responsible for:—

- (1). All matters affecting the organisation, training, discipline, equipment and general efficiency of the Brigade.
- (2). Arranging regular meetings of the Brigade Council. In country Brigades these meetings should be held not less frequently than once a month while the Commandant should meet his Brigade Staff at least once a fortnight.
- (3). Arranging proper and regular supervision of each Battalion in his Brigade—including the systematic and punctual receipt of reports from the Battalion Commandant.
- (4). Keeping in close and definite touch with G.H.Q., and with the adjoining Brigade Commandants.
- (5). Transmitting through his Adjutant the various orders and instructions received from G.H.Q. It is to be secured that these are issued by the Brigade Commandant in *precisely* the form they are received by him.
- (6). Studying the Irish Volunteer Scheme of Organisation—understanding it thoroughly and putting it into operation in his own area.

In addition the Brigade Commandant must have a complete knowledge of the military possibilities and geography of his area—and the disposition of *all* enemy forces—the facilities for transport, communications in his area and from his area to the adjoining areas.

The Brigade Commandant must always bear in

mind that, while he is the ultimate head responsible for all matters affecting the Brigade, he must not strain himself too much with detail but will see that he has his officers trained to bear their share of the burdens.

It is of the utmost importance, in view of the changing circumstances in Ireland, that the Brigade Commandant should impart all available knowledge about the working of the Brigade to his Vice-Commandant, and should be at all times in close touch with that officer as well as the Adjutant and Quartermaster of the Brigade.

ENGINEERING NOTES.—Owing to a misunderstanding, an article on Engineering appeared in No. 10, February issue of "An Tógláí," which was not official—officers, please note. The Engineering Notes have been held up for some time owing to the delay in forming the Engineering Companies. Commandants are requested to take up vigorously the formation—in the large centres—of these Companies as explained by the Director of Engineering at the meeting of the Brigade Commandants held last year in Dublin.

In previous notes I have dealt with Cutting of Railways of various classes. *This is the first step to be taken.* The second is the cutting of telegraph line.

The quickest method is to climb a pole, cut the wires, and when lying on the ground to cut a few yards of wire out, and twist up the ends remaining.

All the Insulators on the pole should be completely smashed. The most effective method of cutting line involves pulling down one or more poles. A rope should be tied to the top of a pole—and a saw—or axe—cut made in the pole about six inches above the ground. The pole can readily be pulled down, the wires cut and insulators destroyed.

If the point selected for cutting the railway is on a curve, the telegraph poles will also be on a curve, and the rope should be pulled towards the centre of the curve. It will be found in this case that the pole is held up by a guy rope of wire. This, of course, should be cut.

The pole having been pulled down, the wires are to be cut as described, care being taken to see that the length of wire cut out is not left lying about.

The pole should be cut up and burned.

Tools required:—One axe, hatchet, or saw, one wire scissors, one rope, one light hammer.

I would call the attention of Engineers to the following from Engineering Notes in No. 5 issue:—

"Officers should thoroughly instruct their Companies and should inspect the railway with a view to visualising the rail-fastenings, etc., which these notes have endeavoured to describe. Sketch should be made on the spot, and the sketch used in the lectures to the Engineering Companies.

**NOTES ON TRAINING.**—The flight of a bullet, like a stone thrown, takes a curved course which is called the trajectory and is influenced by the force of the explosion of the charge, the greater the driving force, the flatter the trajectory, and consequently the greater the danger space.

The danger space is the distance between where the bullet in its flight would strike the head of the object aimed at (called the first catch), till it strikes the ground (called the first graze), the longer the flight of the bullet the sharper its fall, and the shorter its danger space. Owing to the force of gravity (the attraction the earth has for all unsupported bodies) less elevation is required when firing up or down hills and no elevation when firing straight up into the air as at aeroplanes directly above you.

Elevation is the raising of the back sight, so that the bullet in its flight is directed sufficiently above the object aimed at, as it strikes it in its fall.

Dead ground is the space between where the bullet raises above the danger zone after leaving the muzzle till it comes to the first catch and is used to advance over; under cover of fire ground ceases to be dead when it can be swept by fire, either the enemies or your own.

Ricochets occur when the bullet rises again after striking the ground and continues its flight, so that if in doubt about the range under-estimate as you may catch your target on the rebound, and as a deterrent to advancing troops.

The three forces acting on the flight of the bullet are, the explosion of the charge which drives it forward, the resistance of the air which checks its flight, and gravity, the attraction the earth has for all unsupported bodies, the combined effect which causes the bullet to take a curved course which increases as the driving force decreases, and gravity gains the mastery. The highest point of the trajectory is called the culmination point.

Visual training should be practised with distance judging, a squad of men being taken out to some piece of ground possessing fairly definite features of landscape, and instructed to memorise the most remarkable objects and their dis-

tances, then turning about. Describe (in writing if possible) what they have seen, turning about again, correct their fault. If the result is fairly accurate, they should be instructed to take note of minor details, describing their position and distance from the more prominent features, using the fingers or the clock face method for indication, the results compared, discussed, and errors pointed out. The lesson repeated from a different point, fatigue men sent out, their movements noted, the men describing where they appeared, disappeared, and where they are likely to appear again.

The instructor will then describe range cards, getting the men to make one of each, pointing out the faults. On the road home the men should be taught to observe by-roads, houses and fields, whether ploughed or pasture, how bounded, and if occupied by cows, sheep, what vehicles are available and their uses from a military point of view.

The following table gives the distance for aiming off of moving objects:—

1 foot	per	100 yds.	in front of	a man walking.
2 feet	"	"	"	doubling.
3 feet	"	"	"	horseman trotting.
4 feet	"	"	"	galloping.
1 foot	corresponding	to the width	of a man's	body.

For a man advancing, take a fine sight.

For a man retreating, take a full sight.

Remember, the only road to efficiency is constant practice.

When we work, we work for Ireland,  
Answering always Ireland's call.

## GENERAL NOTES

Since our last issue three very notable Volunteer achievements have taken place. Commandant R. C. Barton was rescued from Mountjoy Jail where the enemy had thrown him. The event is remarkable not only for its being the first escape from that prison, but it was an escape at a time when the British authorities were more vigilant than ever before. Numerous warders, police and soldiers had to be outwitted—all this was done and not one hitch occurred with arrangements.

The raid on the British aerodrome at Collins-town must for ever be a tribute to Volunteer daring and Volunteer efficiency. The place was strongly held by armed soldiery, all of whom were easily overcome and none of whom showed any of the "British pluck" which we have heard

so much of. The collection and transport of the rifles seized was carried through without the slightest difficulty owing to the ability of the officers and men and the way they left no detail unattended to. The Volunteer movement has reason to be proud of all ranks who participated in this very praiseworthy feat. So perfectly was the whole matter arranged and executed that the enemy has not got the slightest clue either as to the people or the methods employed on the work.

The escape of twenty Volunteer prisoners from the hands of the enemy in broad daylight at Mountjoy Prison was another exploit of which those responsible may well be proud. The organisation of the affair, down to the smallest details, both by the prisoners themselves and by those who assisted their escape was so perfect that everything contemplated was carried out successfully without the slightest hitch. In all only twenty-seven prisoners were exercising at the time, and of these twenty escaped—the greatest number that could possibly have been hoped for, as the others were occupied in keeping the warders and enemy soldiers at bay. The arrangements made for getting this large number of escaped prisoners safely and instantaneously away were so perfect and so well carried out that all the resources of the enemy were baffled and none of the escaped prisoners could be recaptured. The value of rapid action in demoralising the enemy and disconcerting him from the employment in time of the machinery at his disposal—a useful military lesson—was powerfully illustrated on this occasion.

The following letter has been sent by President de Valera to the Sinn Fein Executive. It has been rigidly suppressed by the British Censor, and we give it publication in the "Oglach" as it is a matter of interest to Volunteers:—

A Chairde,—As I anticipated when I learned of the public reception, the alien military forces in occupation of the country proclaimed it. I am sure you also expected it. It is obvious that our English Government could not allow foreign correspondents and others to get such a clear insight into the real position in Ireland as your proposed demonstration would give. The contrast between how the people would receive government by their own and government by the foreigner would be too sharp. It would never do that the peoples of other countries should be forced to ask themselves how it was that men whom the *de facto* government of Ireland branded as criminals and put away as dangerous should be received by the people with such evident

marks of their approbation. The reply would be most disconcerting for the champions of democratic rights and for the defenders of small nations. Think of what a shock it would give to those who believed English ministers when they echoed America's cry, "Government with the consent of the governed," and "an end to military despotism everywhere"! Besides, the present moment would never suit at all. Think of Egypt and India and even British Labour itself. No oligarchs could stand it. "British Justice," too, and the *very* great *Magna Charta*—why, to use the famous word, it would be "unthinkable." Hence the usual proof—General Shaw's "five million arguments each armed with a bayonet."

I would not of course waste a messenger in sending you the above. I write to request that you will not now persist in your idea. We are as the Belgians when Belgium was occupied by German troops, and my advice to the people of Ireland would be precisely that of Cardinal Mercier to the Belgians.

I know that English agents will put their complexion on your drawing back—do not let that trouble you too much. It will be but as an extra drop in the ocean of lies they have given forth already. There are many other ways in which the people of Ireland can demonstrate their will—if there should be any necessity for it at all seeing the result of the general election—and I think you must all agree with me that the present occasion is scarcely one in which we would be justified in risking the lives of the citizens. I am certain it would not.

Honest men everywhere will understand the position, and England's proclamation with its accompanying military preparations will teach as much to those who are willing to be taught as would your demonstration. Men who are not honest and those who do not wish to understand will help our cause very little. So we need not consider *them*.

I am sure you will all feel as I do. We who have waited know how to wait. Many a heavy fish is caught even with a fine line if the angler is patient.

Is mor meas orraibh,  
EAMONN DE VALERA.

P.S.—I am sending another note to the Lord Mayor. But please inform him independently.