

AN t-ÓZLÁC

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BLOW FOR BLOW.

The issue is now clearly knit between the people of Ireland and the British Army of Occupation. Since the Irish Volunteers established the Irish Republic in Easter Week, 1916, they have always recognised that an open state of war exists between them and the Army of England, and all their activities have been based on an acceptance of that principle. The policy of those whom the Volunteers have placed at the head of the organisation has been based upon a recognition of this fact. Irish Volunteers have considered themselves and acted as the soldiers of the Irish Republic engaged in open warfare with the forces of the foreign usurpation. The whole Irish people have now formally and officially endorsed this attitude. They have declared by vote their acceptance of the Irish Republic as the authority claiming their allegiance; they have constituted that authority in tangible form by their election of an Irish Republican Parliament. A constitution has been adopted, an Executive Government appointed; and the Government and Parliament of the Irish Republic have formally recognised the existence of a state of war between the Irish Republic and the English invader. That being so, the Irish Volunteers, the Army of Ireland, becomes for the time being the most important and essential national service of the moment and must remain so until the British Army of Occupation is withdrawn or expelled from our country.

One result of the present state of affairs is that the English enemy has been forced to discard the pretences with which he sought to deceive the world and also to recognise the state of war which exists in Ireland. The farcical pretence at a semblance of "government" on the part of the enemy has had to be abandoned, and all his actions in Ireland are openly those of an invading enemy. In tearing the mask of hypocrisy from the face of England, the Irish Volunteers have done good service to Ireland. Thanks to their

clear, courageous, unflinching devotion to the Irish Republic established with their blood in 1916, the web of sophistries, pretences and political machinations with which England strove to delude Ireland and the rest of the world has been broken through. The political weapons which England once employed with such effect against Ireland have been broken in her hands; she has now only her military weapons to fall back upon; and Ireland too has military weapons. The issue is clearly knit and the Irish Volunteers wait the result with cheerfulness and confidence but with inflexible and deadly determination to hold out till the final victory.

The statements of British Ministers to the British Parliament in regard to Ireland frankly admit the collapse of their political machinery in that country, the futility of their political manoeuvres, and their reliance solely on military force. This was the note sounded by Mr. Macpherson in what we presume may be taken as an official pronouncement of the enemy Government. The threats which this man uttered to Ireland leave us as unmoved as his abuse. One thing, however we will say, that while as has been often shown, we are able to restrain ourselves and wait patiently for our opportunity, while all efforts of the enemy to goad us into hasty and ill-considered action will fail; yet we have no intention of suffering in silence or slothfulness any fresh outrages of the enemy against Ireland. In answer to Macpherson's threats we say that we are prepared to give blow for blow.

For every outrage on the liberties and lives of the subjects of the Irish Republic those responsible will in due time be made to pay. One piece of military wisdom which Irish Volunteers have learnt and always practised is to choose their own time and place for striking, and not to let the enemy choose them for us. We are still, so to speak, "in the trenches," but our "trench raids" and active operations against the enemy are growing more and more frequent and are usually attended with brilliant



judge from the motion of trees, grass, or other natural objects, so that they may get to active service conditions as quickly as possible.

Constant practice is necessary, and now that the evenings are lengthening men should get into the country and do as much as they possibly can, discussing their experience among themselves, for this is the only road to efficiency.

In the case of damp weather or ascending heights, the barometer falls and less elevation is necessary, due to reduced resistance to the flight of the bullet, consequently certain reductions are made to meet the changed conditions, the rule being, for every inch the barometer falls below 30 inches, $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards per 100 yards of range is taken off, therefore if the range is 1000 yards and the barometer 29 inches the sight would be set at 980 yards.

Formula—100 yds, range, 1000; rate, $1\frac{1}{2}$; 10, 15.

As the barometer falls about 1 inch for every 1000 feet we rise above sea level the necessary reduction per 100 yards of range at 3000 feet altitude would be the difference between 30 in. the condition for which the rifle is built and 27 in., the actual condition. Multiplied by $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds. = $4\frac{1}{2}$ yds. per 100 yds. of range—

100	1000	42
		—
		45

range 100 yds., sight fixed 955.

When the barometer rises add as the denser atmosphere gives greater resistance to the bullet.

When the thermometer rises a reduction is necessary owing to the warmer atmosphere offering less resistance. For every degree the thermometer rises above 60 degrees 1-10 yards per 100 yards is deducted; when the thermometer stands at 70 degrees and the range is 1000 yards the sight would be set at 999 yards.

100	1000	1-10 yds.
		10

difference between 50 and 80 deg.

1-10

10

Thermometer, 40 degs.; barometer, 31 ; range, 2000.

2000
2000
40 yds. added for fall of temperature.

2040
30

2070 yds. added for rise in barometer.

When the barometer rises add.

When the barometer falls subtract

When the thermometer rises subtract.

When the thermometer falls add.

ENGINEERING NOTES.—The railway and telegraph line having been cut, attention should next be directed to the destruction of minor parts and of locomotives and rolling stock.

1. Points and crossovers should be removed.

2. Water-tanks should be destroyed, and, if it can be located, the water main should be cut.

3. Signals, signal-cabins, running sheds, and repair shops should be destroyed.

4. Rolling-stock, passenger coaches, and freight vans may be burned, and, if opportunity affords, two trains may be run against each other at full speed.

5. Regarding Locomotives.—(a) The injector may be removed; if this can be done an engine is left useless. The injector cannot easily be described in these notes without the aid of a diagram. Officers must instruct themselves in this matter locally.

(b) The safety valve may be removed.

(c) Stone or other hard substances introduced into the cylinders through the blast-pipe, which is directly under the funnel. The door of the smoke-box should first be opened. This is a circular door in front of the engine which can be seen by anyone facing the engine. In the centre of this door is a wheel and handle. The wheel should first be slacked and the handle then turned to a horizontal position. Round the edge of this door will be seen a few clips, these are to be loosened, and the door can then be opened, exposing the blast pipe, a vertical pipe connected to both cylinders, and about 3 inches internal diameter.

Half a dozen handfuls of stones, nuts, etc., should be thrown down this pipe and the door replaced.

6. Various small fittings may be removed, such as the pressure gauge, safety valve, etc., and the gauge glasses may be broken. The brasses at big end may be removed and disposed of, and emery may be introduced into the oil cup of cylinder at big end. This is to be done by taking out the wick of oil cup, and the tube through which it passes should be cleaned of oil by passing through it a pencil covered with a piece of cloth. The emery can then pass freely through.