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A CERTAINTY.

At the time of going to press the situation from the point of view of the Army remains uncertain. Whether our troops will be suddenly recalled to active service or not at a very early date is still matter of doubt. This fact should only help to emphasise the necessity of Volunteers of all ranks holding themselves in a state of constant preparedness for an immediate resumption of hostilities. The safety of the Irish Nation, the security of the strong position we have attained depend upon the constant vigilance, strict discipline and zealous work of officers and men of the Irish Republican Army. The work of training and organisation must be pushed on with all possible energy and all necessary provision should be made to be ready for any sudden emergency. If and when the Irish Army are called on to take the field, they must be able to give as good an account of themselves as formerly and overcome obstacles, perhaps more formidable than those previously surmounted. That they will not fail when they are wanted and that the nation will accord them its whole-hearted support is the one certainty in the situation.

SANITATION OF CAMPS AND BIVOUACS.

1. The importance of prevention of disease on field service cannot be over estimated. Neglect of sanitary measures inevitably results in great loss of life, and disease may assume such proportions as to paralyse the efficiency of a force. It is the duty of both officers and men to comply strictly with orders relating to the preservation of health. To keep himself healthy and fit is a duty that every Volunteer owes to his country, his comrades and himself.

2 In all camps the utmost care must be taken to prevent fouling of ground by excreta and refuse. Therefore urinals and latrines should be made

immediately on arrival at a camp or bivouac, and should be filled in at the last possible moment.

3. Great attention must be paid to camp kitchens, Kitchen slop water should be disposed of in pits covered with brushwood, straw or any other material that will retain the grease. The brushwood, etc., should then be used as fuel in the kitchen fires. The habit of throwing kitchen water about to allay dust increases instead of diminishing comfort in camp.

4. Food must be protected from dust and flies. To keep camps free from flies, horse dung, stable litter and other refuse, which form natural breeding places for those insects must be carefully disposed of.

Refuse of all descriptions should be burnt daily, and what cannot be burnt should be buried. The carcasses of dead animals should be removed from any ground likely to be wanted for camping, disembowelled and the viscera buried deeply. In standing camps the carcasses should be burnt or buried.

5. To keep tents dry they should be trenched; flies of tents should be rolled up daily, and blankets and kits aired.

6. Cleanliness both of person and clothing is of great importance. The feet should be washed or wiped at least once daily. The nails, mouth and hair require attention as well as the skin. Underclothing should be washed at least once a week.

7. Latrines, urinals, refuse pits, horse and cattle lines, and slaughtering places must be placed as far as possible from the kitchens, from any source of water supply, and to leeward if possible. They must never be placed in any gullies which when it rains, may discharge into the water supply. A sanitary policeman should be placed in charge of each latrine, his duty being to see that every man covers up his excreta with earth. Failure to do so should be punished.

Slaughtering places should not be near horse lines.

8. In camps, short trench latrines should be dug. Each trench should be 3 feet long, 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep, the interspace between each trench being 2½ feet; men should use these trenches straddlewise, and at once cover up their deposit with earth. Five trenches will suffice for 100 men for one day; they should then be filled in with earth and the turf replaced.

(Continued on page 4)

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IRISH VOLUNTEERS

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The conduct of the battalion depends greatly upon the efficiency and manner in which the non-commissioned officers perform their duties.

It is essential that a non-commissioned Officer should be at all times soldierly, active and energetic in his duties. He must be smart in "turn out," thoroughly acquainted with his drill, and be able to impart his knowledge to others, exemplary in conduct, firm in giving orders without being overbearing, and seeing that they are executed; and he must never countenance a disrespectful reply or questioning of such orders.

He must remember that his promotion gives him a responsible leadership, and his authority, when properly exercised, will always be supported by the Officers.

Non-commissioned officers must always have this responsibility in mind, and must check any unsoldier-like conduct. It need hardly be said that he should be impartial and should never connive at or overlook any disorder or irregularity.

The training Manuals of their particular arm should be in their possession, and it should be the besetting aim of every non-commissioned Officer to qualify himself for higher rank by diligent study and application. Promotion, it must be remembered, does not depend upon seniority. His whole bearing, his knowledge of his duties, his keenness in and correct performance of those duties, and his ability to instruct and command respect, alone can give him any claim to an advance in rank.

THE CONDUCT OF THE PRIVATE.

The good Volunteer is punctual in his habits, temperate careful in his arms, clothing, appointments, etc., cleanly both in person and dress, alert in all his duties, respectful and obedient to all those who are put in authority over him. It should be his aim to so order his general bearing and demeanour as to live on good terms and fellowship with all his comrades, and he should always be animated with a love and zeal for his unit, and strive earnestly to maintain the esprit de corps.

Upon the obedience and respect shown by soldiers the whole foundation of discipline depends.

Orders given by superiors of whatever rank must be instantly obeyed without question as to the propriety or reason for such order. Should a Volunteer feel aggrieved by the receipt of any order and has any complaint to make, he is at liberty to appeal afterwards to his commander for redress. But remember, the order must first be obeyed; disobedience immediately puts him in the wrong, however justified his complaint may eventually be found to be.

Volunteers must bear in mind that reputation of the unit is in their distinct keeping, and they should strive never to discredit it. Attention to dress, correct

turn-out, soldierly bearing self control, restraint from bad language and conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, and on earnest endeavour to prevent them selves and others from disgracing their uniform should be their motto always. This not only applies within the unit, but must be acted up to at all times and in all places.

The private Volunteer must not call any non-commissioned officers by name without prefixing his rank, and he must not speak in the ranks unless questioned by either an officer or non-commissioned officer. Should he wish to speak to an officer he must invariably be accompanied by a non-commissioned officer.

When speaking to the Adj. or Q.M. all soldiers will stand to "Attention" and address him as "Sir."

Salutes and compliments must be punctiliously observed to all officers, both of their own unit and other Corps. They are as follows:—

When soldier passes an officer he will salute on the third pace before reaching him and lower the hand on the third pace after passing him. The salute is made with the hand furthest away from the Officer. If the soldier is carrying a cane he will place it smartly under the disengaged arm, cutting away the hand smartly before saluting.

When sitting should an officer approach, the soldier will stand to attention facing the officer and salute with the right hand. When there are two or three men present in either case the senior non-commissioned officer or oldest Volunteer will alone salute.

When an Officer enters a room in which a large number of men are congregated, the first non-commissioned officer or man who sees him will call the room to "Attention."

On an approach of an officer at Mess the senior present calls the Mess to "Attention," when knives and forks will be laid down and the men sit at "Attention."

When addressing an officer the soldier will halt two paces from him and salute with the right hand, saluting again before withdrawing. When approaching before an officer in a room he will salute without removing his cap.

A soldier without his cap or when carrying anything other than his arms, will, if standing, still come to "Attention" as an officer passes. If walking he will smartly turn his head towards the Officer when passing him.

When riding a cycle a Volunteer will turn his head smartly towards an officer on passing, but will not remove his hands from the handlebars.

In passing an Officer whilst driving the whip will be brought to a perpendicular position, the right hand resting on the thigh, and the head smartly turned towards him.

Volunteers passing other Volunteers carrying Republican colours will salute.

THE SECTION COMMANDER

The aim of the Section Commander is to be able to lead his section in all times and places and under any conditions. The section is the unit in peace for training, and has been found to be more so than ever in the present war, where trench warfare tends to split up companies and platoons even.

Every endeavour should be made to ensure as far as possible the permanency of the non-commissioned Officers and men forming a section. They should be together in Barracks, under canvas, in billets, in fact everywhere. The Section Commander should thus be able to thoroughly know the characters and abilities of his men individually, to train and control them, and be answerable for them to the Platoon Commander under any circumstances.

The Section Commander is primarily responsible that the arms, equipment, clothing, etc., of his section are complete and in good order, also that his men are turned out and behave in a soldierly manner.

He will see that they get up promptly at Reveille and properly arrange kits etc. He must possess a section roll book, kept posted accurately and up-to-date.

In action his duty is to explain clearly the objective and the methods proposed to attain same. He must see that the general direction is maintained.

In advances he selects the successive halting places and fire positions for his sections, and indicates the way from one position to the next.

He must see that men utilise all possible cover, having regard to the effective use of their rifles, and he must regulate the number of men occupying particular positions. He controls and directs the fire of his section, pointing out targets and seeing that the men correctly adjust their sights.

Adjacent sections must be co-operated with, all signals promptly acted upon, and no opportunity lost of communicating intelligence respecting the enemy or the action to his Platoon Commander.

MENTIONED IN DESPACHES

In the report of the ambush of a Curfew patrol at Castleisland in Kerry No. 2 Brigade area the following occurs:—

"I gave the "Retreat" as the enemy were dropping rifle grenades into our position. Three men of left section came under machine gun fire before they had time to get under proper cover. Those three Volunteers deserve special mention, especially Dick

Shanahan No. 1 Battalion Adjutant who was only 19 years of age and who was never before under fire. Those three, when they found themselves under direct fire, replied vigourously. Shanahan, though wounded emptied his revolver and shot dead a military sergeant. No doubt their stand saved our section in the retreat, as we had to get across very open ground. When they were lying on the ground wounded the enemy riddled them with machine-gun fire to make sure they were dead before they would come near them. Prendiville was alive when picked up and was kicked and dragged along the street by the enemy. They were buried with full military honours.

Their names were:—Richard Shanahan, Adjutant No. 1 Battalion; John Flynn, Ballymacelligot Company, No. 2 Battalion; and John Prenderville, Cordal Company, No. 1 Battalion. I want those three "Mentioned in Despatches."

GENERAL NOTES

An attack on military carried out at Mitchelstown Fountain on July 10th by members of the Cork No 2 Brigade had good results, 2 rifles and 10 rounds of ammunition being captured. An account of the gallantry of one Volunteer is given under the heading "Mentioned in Despatches." The report concludes: "The police and military got the wind up badly, believing there was a big attack on, so they were in no hurry to come out. They came out when all was over with reinforcements from Kilworth Camp and began searching operations. During their searching operations they fired indiscriminately at everybody they met. A labourer named Murphy was fired upon at sight and seriously wounded. Murphy is the father of a large family living at Mitchelstown. A youth named Fitzgerald was also fired upon at sight and so seriously wounded in the knee that the leg had to be amputated. The enemy forces who were slow in coming out of their barracks when they knew our armed forces were about, behaved like devils when they knew our forces were gone and they had nobody to deal with but the civil population. All our men got clear away."

(Continued from page 1)

Trenches required for the second day of occupation will be dug in the spaces between the first row of trenches.

The position of all old latrines should be marked with the letter L made with stones, etc.

9. *Disinfectants*.—For general use, cresol solution and chloride of lime are the most efficacious. To use cresol, mix 1½ ounces of cresol solution with one gallon of water.

Clothing may be disinfected by being plunged into boiling water, or by being baked in an oven heated from 210° to 250° Fahr.

BATTALION OFFICERS.

1 The Battalion Commandant.

(a) is responsible for the efficiency, organization, discipline, training, equipment and conduct of his Battalion. He shall command it in peace or war subject only to the authority of his Superior Officers.

(b) He shall arrange for regular meetings of the Battalion Council.

(c) He shall arrange for the proper supervision of his Companies in his Battalion by both himself and the Battalion Staff. (See General Note on Battalion Organization.)

(d) He shall arrange and issue forms to each Company Commander on which will be reported the activities of the Companies and he shall see that these are returned regularly. (See General Note on Battalion Organization.)

(e) He shall make provision for establishing the Special Services enumerated in this Scheme.

(f) He shall prepare and issue Battalion Orders and arrange for the receipt and distribution of Brigade and General Headquarters Orders.

(g) He shall keep in close touch with the Brigade Headquarters on the one hand and with his Company Officers on the other, all of whom he must know personally and understand thoroughly.

(h) As has been pointed out in the case of the Company Commander, the Battalion Commandant will under this scheme, assign certain duties to his Junior Officers, but at all times it must be remembered that the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of his Battalion is his, and it will be in his charge to see that all tasks allotted are efficiently performed.

2. The Battalion Vice Commandant

(a) He shall act as second in Command to the Commandant and shall perform such separate duties and tasks as are allotted to him by the latter. It is of the greatest importance that the Vice-Commandant always keep in touch with his Commandant.

(b) In this Scheme the Vice-Commandant is especially made responsible for:-

(i) The Organization of Communication lines.

(ii) General Supervision of Special Services, when these are established for, it is the duty of the Vice-Commandant to inspect them and report upon their working and development to the Commandant.

(c) in the absence of the Commandant either through illness, enemy action or whatever cause, the Vice-Commandant shall be in charge of the Battalion and his Orders shall have the same obedience as if issued by the Commandant.

3. The Battalion Adjutant.

(a) He shall act as Adjutant to the Commander, which entails:

(i) Attending to the receipt and distribution of all ordinary despatches by direction of the Commandant.

(ii) Keeping a register of the Battalion Council Meetings, of orders received and orders issued at these Meetings and of attendance of Officers.

(iii) Keeping a register of the Officers, strength, Parades and attendances thereof of all Companies in the Battalion, with a record of any other particulars that may be required for Battalion purposes or that may be ordered by the Commandant.

(b) He shall instruct Company Commanders in the proper manner of record-attendances of Volunteers at drills and parades, subscriptions received and other information as may be required by the Battalion Commandant.

(c) He shall supervise the instruction of recruits and make such arrangements with each Company Commander as will ensure that recruits receive some special training before being allotted to existing Sections.

4. The Battalion Quarter-master.

(a) He shall be responsible for the armament, transport quartering and supply of the Battalion.

(b) He shall collect affiliation fees and forward them to G.H.Q. through Brigade H.Q.

5. Special Services.

The Lieutenant in charge of each of these shall make such arrangements and fulfil such functions as may be required and ordered by the Directors of the various activities at General Headquarters or Brigade Headquarters. Each Lieutenant shall see that his own particular service is established in each Company as outlined in this Scheme and shall be in direct charge of the service at its monthly meeting when it comes together for work as a Battalion Company.