

# AN T-ÓGLÁC

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS.

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## READY!

At the present moment, as at every moment since the Peace Conference began, a state of uncertainty still exists with regard to the negotiations in progress between representatives of the Government of the Irish Republic and the British Government. An immediate break-down of these negotiations, involving an ultimate resumption of hostilities is not impossible. The Army of the Irish Republic must be ready for all contingencies. There is complete unanimity between the Government and Parliament of the Irish Republic, the Army and the nation. We know where we stand, we know our own minds, and while we do not seek a renewal of bloodshed, yet if we are attacked we are ready to resist. It is our duty at the present juncture to remain cool and unperturbed and go on with the work with all the energy at our disposal—with an energy neither feverish or panicky, but zealous and unflagging. The Army has not wasted its time during these three months of truce. The work of training and organisation has been carried on with vigour and efficiency and if the officers and men of the Irish Republican Army are called upon to show the results of this work in a fresh campaign we are sure they will give a highly satisfactory account of themselves. It is important that they should not allow their interests or enthusiasm in the work to be distracted by political speculations or newspaper gossip. The newspapers of Ireland in general and the daily Press in particular are doing no good service to the country by filling their columns with the misleading and misrepresenting statements and suggestions of British papers, usually inspired from British official purposes with hostile intent. Still less are the Irish dailies serving the cause of Ireland by their consciously or unconsciously misleading statements and foolish comments on the present situation. Volunteers may feel safely assured that by paying no attention whatever to what these papers say they will avoid being misled.

As far as the Army of the Irish Republic is concer-

ned the situation remains unchanged. They remain the loyal servants of the Republican Government and of the Irish nation. They will obey the orders of the authority elected by the Irish nation cheerfully and courageously. Whenever their help is required to defend the Republic and the nation they are ready.

## OGLAIGH IS BEURLA

21adh D. Foghmhair 1921.

D' Eagarthóir "An t-Oglách"

Do léigheas an píosa a bhí agat i d'phaipéar an 7adh lá de'n mhí so mar gheall ar na h-Oglaigh agus do chuir gé i gcuimhne dom rud do thuit amach nuair a bhíos sa Ghaedhealtacht an mí seo caithte ag caith-eamh mo laetheanta saoire. Bhíos ag feuchaint ar na h-Oglaigh ag deunamh cleachtadh airm la, agut ag éisteacht leo. agus cad is dóigh leat a bhí ar siùbbal acu? Béarla ar fad. Níor leor do 'n Chaptaen na horduighthe do thabhairt doibh as Béarla ach bhí se ag cainnt leo san teanga céadha.

Ait fíor-Gaedhealach dob eadh í agus bhí an Gaedhilg ibhfad níos fearr ag gach duine a bhí san complacht ná an Béarla. Blonn siad ag cainnt as Gaedhilg i gcomhnuidhe nuair a bhion siad ag obair ach nuair a théigheann siad go dtí an áit coinne tosnuigheann an Béarla.

Agus deirtear gur teanga oifigiúil an Ghaedhilg!

Mise An t-Oifigeach Faisnéise,

Cath a 5, Briogáid Bhaile Atha Cliath.

## IRISH ARMY TERMS

The following is a list of Irish names of units and titles in the Irish Republican Army. All of these except the words in italics have been officially approved. The title of higher ranks and units are reserved for a later issue as terms for these have not yet been officially approved. It is to be hoped that the publication of these terms will lead to their more general use by

Volunteers:—

Squad, Sgaoth. Section, Buidhean.

Half-Company, Leath-chomplacht.

Company, Complacht. Battalion, Cath.

Brigade, Briogáid.

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## DUTIES OF BRIGADE OFFICERS

1. The Brigade Commandant. (a) Is responsible for the efficiency, organisation, training, equipment, and conduct of his Brigade. He shall command it in peace and war, subject only to the Authority of General Headquarters.

(b) He shall arrange for regular meetings of the Brigade Council. (These must be held not less frequently than once a month in country areas. The Brigade Staff must meet weekly.)

(c) He shall arrange for the proper and systematic supervision of the Battalions in his Brigade by himself and the Officers of his staff.

(d) He shall make provision for organising and co-ordinating the working of the Battalion Special Services.

(e) He shall prepare and issue forms to each Battalion Commandant, whereon shall be reported the activities of the Battalion. He is to see to the punctual and regular returns of these Forms.

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

(g) He shall keep in close and constant touch with General Headquarters on the one hand, and with all his Battalion Commandants on the other.

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

2. The Brigade Vice-Commandant (a) shall act as second in command and shall perform such separate duties as are allotted to him by the Commandant. Under this Scheme of Organisation he is made responsible (subject, of course, to the direction of his Commandant) for communications and for the organisation and supervision of the Special Services.

(b) In establishing and operating lines of Communications in his own Brigade Area the Vice-Commandant must bear in mind how these are likely to facilitate General Headquarters' Lines.

(c) In exercising his supervision over the Battalion Communications he must have this consideration before his mind also.

(d) For purpose of establishing and operating lines of Communication, the Brigade Vice-Commandant should arrange periodical meeting with the Battalion Vice-Commandants. Through them he should secure in a general way the following:

(1) That the despatch riders of adjacent Companies are well known to each other.

(2) That the Communications' Headquarters of

adjacent Battalions are well known to each other.

(3) That a time sheet accompanies each despatch and that same is filled up and returned.

(e) In addition, he will require to have a knowledge of the Communications' Lines of his neighbouring Brigades. The details of this can be arranged through the Director of Communications at General Headquarters.

(f) He shall be responsible, subject to the Brigade Commandant for the detailed work in connection with the organisation and efficiency of the Special Services. The Special Services have already been outlined, and in addition to their establishment the Vice-Commandant is responsible for their training.

(g) In the absence of the Commandant, either through illness, enemy action, or otherwise, the Vice-Commandant shall be in charge of the Brigade and his orders shall have the same force and receive the same obedience as if issued by the Commandant.

3. The Brigade Adjutant. (a) He shall act as Adjutant to the Commandant with whom he must keep in close and constant touch.

(b) He shall attend to the receipt and distribution of all ordinary despatches by direction of the Commandant.

(c) He shall keep a record of Brigade Council Meetings, of the Orders received and issued at these meetings, and of the attendances and absences of Officers.

(d) He shall keep a Register of all the Battalion and Company Officers within the Brigade, with complete names and addresses, and through the Battalion Report he shall have in general detail the average strength of the Companies, their parades, attendances, etc.

(e) He shall have a record of the work carried on in the Brigade and shall receive such reports on this work as the Brigade Commandant requires. These data, and that necessary under paragraph (d) should be in his hands for submission to each Brigade Council Meeting.

(f) He shall instruct the Battalion Adjutants in the proper manner of furnishing reports, keeping records of the Battalion Council Meetings, Battalion Parades, etc. To perform this and the other duties efficiently, he may, subject to the approval of the Brigade Commandant, have special meetings of the Battalion Adjutants whenever necessary. He shall also make arrangements with the Battalion Adjutants for the proper training of Recruits.

(g) He shall have a complete knowledge of the Scheme of Organisation and the system of transferring Volunteers.

4. The Brigade Quartermaster. He shall be responsible for the armament, equipment, transport, quartering, and supply of the Brigade. This involves:

(a) Knowing the exact amount and destination of

- of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives, Kit, Engineering, Signalling, and First Aid Appliances in the Brigade, and securing that these are at all times in a serviceable condition.
- (b) Making arrangements for the manufacture of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives, Kit, Engineering, Signalling and First Aid Appliances.
  - (c) Knowing the location of all Arms in the Brigade Area and in the hands of the Volunteers.
  - (d) Knowing the location of all tools and materials in the Brigade Area likely to be of use for Volunteer activities.
  - (e) Knowing the extent, location and means of transport within the Brigade Area.
  - (f) Knowing the supplies of the Brigade Area.
  - (g) He shall collect the annual affiliation Fees and forward them through the Brigade Adjutant to General Headquarters.
  - (h) He shall collect and forward any other amounts due to General Headquarters or Brigade Headquarters.

## AIMING

1. Aim: where taken.—Aim should be taken at the lowest portion of the object.
  2. Because:—(a) in over estimation you may hit the enemy in the head.
    - (b) If you underestimate the distance, you may catch him with a ricochet,
    - (c) A late shot may get home at a vanishing target.
    - (d) In excitement and at night men shoot high.
    - (e) Generally the most vulnerable part.
    - (f) It helps to find the range.
- If you fire at the head of a man standing up, and the bullet just misses his head, it may not strike the ground for another 200 yards, and you will promptly come to the conclusion that you have over-estimated the distance by about 200 yards. You bring down your sights, and the next shot is short. Now you don't know at what range to fire. If in the first instance you had aimed low, about the man's stomach, you would know you missed him, but the bullet striking the ground much closer to him would show that the range was about right. The next time aiming more carefully, you would probably hit him.
- (g) The rifle is so sighted that if you aim at the bottom of a target you will hit the centre.

3. The Three Rules for Aiming are:—
  1. See that your sights are upright.
  2. That the tip of the foresight is seen in line with and in the centre of the shoulders of the notch of the back sight.
  3. Then carry your sights to "six o'clock" on the object.
4. Target Indication.—In order that any particular

part of the target can be pointed out easily and quickly imagine the target represents the face of a clock. For example take a bullseye target. The highest point of the bullseye will be twelve o'clock, the lowest point or bottom of the bullseye six o'clock. Half way on the right, between twelve and six o'clock will be three o'clock, and half way on the left nine o'clock; you can thus represent any part of the bullseye by an hour. So when told to carry your sight to six o'clock on the bullseye you know you are to carry them to the lowest part.

5. Six o'clock line.—The six o'clock line is an imaginary straight line drawn under but touching the object aimed at. For example, in firing at men who have taken cover behind a wall and are firing over it, the top of the wall would represent the six o'clock line. Firing at men crossing the sky line, the sky line would represent the six o'clock line.

6. Correcting Elevation.—When firing, if your shots tend to go high, lower your sights a little; if, on the other hand, they go low, raise them, but never vary the amount of foresight, or aim off the six o'clock line.

7. Wind.—The bullet is very much affected by currents of air. A following wind tends to make it go high: A head wind to go low. A side wind to push it to the side.

8. In aiming, it is necessary, therefore to allow for wind; and for military purposes wind is measured in feet. For example, a man is asked the strength of the wind. He replies one foot of right wind, by which he means that to hit the target he intends to aim one foot to the right of six o'clock on the target. Therefore allowance for a side wind is made by aiming off the target into the wind, but never off the six o'clock line.

Take an example: Suppose you want to allow for one foot of right wind. First take aim as if there were no wind blowing; then along the six o'clock line carry your sights one foot to the right. The greatest care must be taken in doing so not to bring your rifle above or below the six o'clock line.

If a left wind were blowing, you would do the reverse.

For a head wind raise your sights.

For a following wind, lower your sights.

9. Sight.—(a) Lights high, sights high.

(b) Lights low, sights low.

Bright light shining on the sights makes it difficult to judge when correct sighting has been taken. The foresight appears too clear and bright and the amount required is under-estimated. Shots tend to go low and sights must be raised. Therefore lights high, sights high.

10. In dull or misty weather, the foresight is more difficult to see, too much is taken. Shots tend to go high, lower sights. This also occurs in shooting in the early morning, at dusk or by night. COPYRIGHT MILITARY ARCHIVES ever there is a bad light.

11. Aiming at moving objects.—To hit an object moving across your front, aim will first be taken in the ordinary way, and then carried sideways in advance of the object as if allowing for wind. The amount depends on the rate of movement of the object

12. Roughly up to 500 yards:—

Allow 1ft. per 100 yards for a single man walking.

„ 2ft. „ „ „ „ „ „ doubling.

„ 3ft. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ horseman trotting.

„ 4ft. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ galloping.

13. In firing at an object advancing or retiring, allowance must be made for the distance constantly changing by firing higher or lower. There is no time to alter sights. If the enemy is advancing, fire at the ground just in front; if retiring, fire at his legs.

14. When firing at a column, aim should be taken at the head of the column.

## REVOLVER TRAINING

The methods used in the instruction with the revolver must be standardised. Heretofore owing to the exigencies of war instructors were often compelled to use their own initiative to bring about a fair standard of proficiency in the use of this weapon. No objection has been raised at Headquarters to the methods advocated by Tracey and Noel in their books but it is our belief that their methods are more applicable to peaceful proficiency with the revolver in the shooting gallery or on the target range. Instructors will gain much valuable information from the study of the works of these men but in instructing recruits it must be borne in mind that time is a most important factor in our work. Whether it is peace or war is for others to decide but our duty is clear—to use every effort in our power to bring the largest number of men to the highest possible standard of efficiency in the short time at our disposal.

Instructors should thoroughly master the principles contained in Training Memorandum No. 5. AN T-OGLACH, October 21, and the notes made from the lectures given in the various schools throughout the country which represent the combined efforts of the best authorities in the use of this weapon. Explain to the recruit the value of the revolver, in our work, from the point of view of concealment. Be patient but preserving in the developing of the 'quick draw' so necessary in our work.

The following method will be put into operation for training of men in the use of the revolver.

1. Slow fire—Align the men in single rank with their weapons in their holsters or inside their coats wherever they are accustomed to carrying them.

2. At the command "DRAW" the right foot will be advanced in the proper direction, the weapon immediately grasped by the right hand, the first finger inside

the trigger guard and the thumb on the hammer. 3. At the command "AIM" the weapon is drawn from the holster, cocking the hammer at the same time and as rapidly as possible brought to bear on the object and the sights properly aligned.

4. Fire—At the command "FIRE" the trigger is carefully squeezed and after the hammer has fallen the operator will continue to look through the sights. By looking through the sights after the hammer has fallen the operator will better observe any tendency to derange the barrel caused either by 'wavering', too tight a grip on the butt, 'flinching' or snapping the trigger.

If these exercises are continued for too long a period there will be a tendency to weariness and lack of interest on the part of the men. The instructor should be quick to note and correct errors of position; rests should be frequent and care taken to maintain interest in the exercises during these periods by short talks on the subject—encouraging the men to ask questions and intelligently answering them.

Rapid Fire—The same exercises will be gone through as in 'Slow fire' and it should again be impressed on the men that "in the draw" is the first essential for either slow or rapid fire. When the hammer has fallen and the first shot been fired the arm will not be lowered but kept pointed in the direction of the object. The hammer will then be again cocked by the thumb of the firing hand. It will here be found that the cocking of the hammer will swing the barrel slightly to the right but immediately the hammer is cocked and the hand again closes on the stock a small wrist action will again bring the weapon into position on the object. To develop this wrist action will require slow, careful practice in the beginning. The commands given will be the same as in slow fire with the exception of the command "FIRE" which in this case would be "Fire Three Shots" or "Fire Five Shots," as the instructor desires.

This is the only possible method by which our troops, so armed, can become familiar with and proficient in the use of the short range weapon *without the use of ammunition* and no effort should be spared to develop that spirit of confidence which is the result of "speed in the draw" and "accuracy of fire" so essential to our success.

## IRISH ARMY TERMS (Continued from page 1)

Squad Commander, Ceann Sgaoithe.

Section „ „ „ „ Buidhne.

Company „ „ „ „ Ceann Complachta.

Lieutenant, *Fo-Chainnaen*, *Captaen Ionaid*, (Ceann Leath Chomplachta.)

Captain, *Captaen*.

Battalion Commandant, Ceann Catha.

Brigadier, Ceann Briogaide. Adjutant, Congantóir.

Quartermaster, *Soláthraidhe*.