

# AN T-ÓGLÁC

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## READY

At the time of going to Press the negotiations between the Government of the Irish Republic and the British Government are in a critical stage and important announcements may have been made before this issue appears. For the Army of the Irish Republic there is, as there has always been, the simple duty of being in a state of readiness and obeying orders promptly. Whatever the future has in store the officers and men of the Army of Ireland will stand by the nation with the same cheerful determination as in the past. The prospect of renewed hostilities has no terrors for them. Great progress has been made in the matters of training and organisation during the past few months and the forces of the Republic have been increased to an important extent. They may be relied on to do even greater and more effective work than in the past if they are called upon to do it.

## CARE OF TELESCOPE

(i) Telescopes require careful treatment in order to keep them servicable and fit for use. With fair treatment they will remain servicable for years, and it is the duty of everyone who uses or has charge of them to see that they are treated as delicate instruments, which must accordingly receive careful attention and treatment. (ii) Never use undue force in opening and closing the draws. (iii) Avoid closing the draws when wet; they should be rubbed occasionally with a greasy rag and afterwards wiped clean, and on no account must oil or grease be allowed on any of the lenses. Oil must not be left on the draws.

(iv) Metal caps if stiff should be lightly lubricated with a thin oil, only a trace of which should be allowed to remain.

(v) Lenses or their cells must never be removed unless they require cleaning on their inner surfaces; and when this is necessary it should only be done under the supervision of a qualified signalling instructor, and a blanket or flag should be spread to catch any part that may be dropped.

(vi) If the inner surfaces of the object glass have to be cleaned, unscrew the cell from the main tube of the telescope, and remove the holding ring that secures the lenses in the cell. In replacing these lenses the crown glass goes to the front and the flint glass to the rear. These lenses are grooved and nicked on their edges, the grooves fit over a feather in the cell, and when the nicks are coincident the proper surfaces of the lenses are together.

(vii) When it is necessary to examine them the "eye-piece cap" is unscrewed from the draw and the "eye-piece" withdrawn. The "eye-piece" is then unscrewed from the "cap" and the lens cells unscrewed, noting which end of the tube they are removed from. The inside of the tube should now be examined to see if the "diaphragm" has been displaced; this is only fitted in friction tight, and may get shifted with a jar or a knock. Any displacement of the diaphragm is indicated by the inside of the tube showing up "brassy" instead of optical black, the amount of displacement being shown by the brass exposed. If such displacement has taken place the telescope should be returned to store. The erector lenses can be dealt with in the same way. The incorrect assembling of lenses in their cells and the incorrect replacing of the cells in their tubes by incompetent people renders the telescope useless, and is likely to result in the fracture of the lenses or the destruction of the screw threads on the cells. Particular care is to be taken when dealing with all telescope tubes that are fitted with diaphragms that lenses are replaced on the right ends of their tube, and as a rule *only one lens should be removed at a time*. Eye, field, and erector lenses are usually spun into cells and not removable from them.

(viii) If there is a little dust only on the lens, remove it with a sharp puff of breath, and then dry by moving the lens briskly backwards and forwards. If necessary it may be wiped with clean soft chamois leather or silk handkerchief. Wiping even with the softest and cleanest material impairs the polish, and must only be done when absolutely necessary. A very dirty lens may be cleaned by putting two or three drops of spirit on it. The lens must never be rubbed with the bare finger. The interior of the tubes and draws are purposely blackened, and must not be interfered with.

(ix) Great care must be taken not to touch the draws

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## PASSING ON INFORMATION.

It is no good our observing things unless we can let others hear the result of that observation.

One of the meanings of the French word "reconnaissance" is:—"Finding one's way or knowing where one is." This definition is a very good one, and reconnaissance includes the passing on to another person the knowledge of how "To find his way or know where he is." To some people it is not an easy task to find their own way about, or to know where they are, but it is far more difficult to explain it so clearly in writing that the recipient can make no mistake.

It is not so important that the amount of information should be large, as that it should be to the point. It must be clear, it must be opportune, it must be relevant, and it must be accurate. It is self-evident that a written report or message is useless unless it is decipherable. Yet how often is this the case. The writing itself is too bad to read, or it is too small, or it is too faint.

The greatest abomination in the world is the indelible pencil so commonly used. Try to read a hurriedly written note on blue paper (indicted with an indelible pencil,) in a bad light, and see for yourself. It will make you swear. Use a black pencil, the blacker the better, and write big. If you have a copy tissue paper and a carbon under it you may make an indelible pencil legible, but the black lead is better.

Q. Here is the sort of message which is frequently sent in:—

"A few minutes ago I saw a large body of the enemy about a mile to my right front."

Of what possible use is such a message?

(1) No place is named from which this observation is made.

(2) No time is mentioned from which you can gather when the occurrence took place.

(3) Nothing is given by which you can locate the approximate position of the enemy.

(4) No indication is given as to the number or description of the enemy. You are left to imagine as to whether it was a squadron, a battery, a brigade, an army corps, or a fatigue party. It might be anything according to your imagination or the limit of the corporal's estimate of a "large body."

(5) This "large body" was seen, but what was it doing? There is nothing to show whether it was in movement or stationary, at work or at rest.

## DESPATCH RIDERS.

1. Duties.—The duty of a despatch rider is to convey written or verbal messages between the headquarters to which he is attached and any point within the area of operations. A despatch rider will obtain

an acknowledgment for all messages delivered by him, receiving instructions as to the nature of acknowledgment required before starting. This acknowledgment usually takes the form of the receipted envelope.

2. Before starting a despatch rider will check the numbers of messages handed to him, and will receive instructions as to the address to which he is to go, the route he is to follow, what action he is to take if he does not find the address at the place indicated, where he is to return to, the pace he is to travel at, and any information available that may be of use to him as to the whereabouts of our own or hostile troops.

3. A despatch rider should, therefore, commit his route to memory, before starting, noting from the map any particular places which he must pass. Valuable time is lost by constant halts to look at the map. It will often save time to instruct the despatch rider to make detours to avoid columns of troops or transport, or to secure a good road.

4. Both while going and returning he should make mental notes of the troops met with, the situation, or any points which it may be useful to report to his signal office. Villages, houses and places where the enemy are likely to be situated are to be avoided. Halts must be made at suitable points to look over the country to be traversed and progress made by passing from one look-out point rapidly to the next.

5. A despatch rider will not carry any written instructions, diaries, or papers such as might give information to the enemy, other than the messages he is entrusted with.

6. In the presence of civilians, whether friendly or otherwise no mention should be made of the direction from which he has come or of his destination.

7. The despatch rider must, in the event of capture, take such steps as are possible to prevent his messages falling into the enemy's hands. Messages must therefore be carried where they can be quickly got at, so as to destroy them or get rid of them where they will not be found.

8. At his destination he must obtain a receipt, give any information, take over any messages there may be to go back, and return without delay. It is frequently almost as important for the sender to know quickly that the message has been delivered as it is to have got the message through.

9. Arrived at his own station he must report arrival hand in receipts for messages he took out, and deliver any messages which he may have brought back. These latter messages will be acknowledged at the first opportunity. He should also report any facts of interest noted on the road, ascertain his next duty, and, if necessary, what time he can count on for food, care of his horse or machine, or rest as the case may be.

10. The bearer of a verbal message or repeat it to the issuer and understand its purpose.

Before delivering his message he should carefully consider what he was told to report or repeat, and then give his message without flurry. The persons to whom the order or message is delivered should commit it to writing and request the bearer to sign it, if it is of any importance.

11. The bearer of a written order of message will not usually know its purport. In the event of having to destroy it he should try to master its contents before doing so. In wet weather it may be advisable to enclose the despatch in two envelopes.

12. Despatch riders bringing messages from advanced bodies of troops should carry them unsealed. Commanders of troops, whom such despatch riders may pass on their way to the address are authorised to read the message, which they should initial. In carrying this out it is highly important that such despatch riders are not detained a moment longer than can be avoided.

## A TRAINING NOTE.

Advancing in extended order.

Faults to be avoided:—

- (a) Men bunching together.
- (b) Loss of direction.

To impress on the men the importance of these points, detach about 10 men from the party to give the following demonstration, which the remainder will watch:—

To illustrate (a):—

The 10 men in extended order will advance towards the remainder. Four men in the middle will be made to bunch together, the remaining men keeping their full extension. They will be halted, and the party watching their advance will be asked at which part of the line they would fire. They would then be told:—

“Men who bunch attract fire to themselves.”

(b) The 10 men now divided into three squads will advance as before, the outer squads leading to their front, the centre one leading quarter right. After a few paces advance, they will be halted, and the party shown that:—

“Loss of direction means bunching in some places, and gaps in others.”

(c) The 10 men will again advance in extended order, alternate men being told off to carefully watch for signals, while the others are *not* to do so. After a few yards have been covered, the signal “Halt” will be given from behind the line of advance. Some men will halt at once, others will continue forward five or six paces. The party will then be shown that:—

“Failure to watch for signals causes confusion, and prevents those who did observe the signal from using their rifles” (as they have other men in front of them.)

The whole party will now be exercised in advancing and retiring in extended order.

Rushes—The whole party now watch four or five men who make demonstration rushes.

Points to which attention must be directed are:—

- (a) The man who gets up slowly is an easy target.
- (b) The man who gets up last is usually the last to get down, and therefore draws most of the fire of the enemy.
- (c) The man who shifts about in order to be the better able to spring up thereby gives notice to the enemy that he will soon be a target.

To illustrate these points some of the men giving demonstration rushes should be caused to make the above mistakes, and the result be explained.

Moving to a flank in file, when extended crossing a gap in file. Points to be especially noted are:—

- (a) Men must be shown that moving to a flank in file must never be attempted except under cover.

Demonstrate this by making men extended to three paces cross the front in file. Point out what easy targets they form.

- (b) Men must be taught how to cross a gap when moving in this formation. When moving along a hedge the leading man halts short of the gap. Those in rear closed up, placing themselves on his flank, not remaining behind him. When all are up the word is given by the man in charge, and the whole party bolts across the gap.

To make clear this object make six men follow each other singly across the gap, and then return in a rush as described, while the remainder of the party watch.

Point out how men when crossing singly present a far more lasting and favourable target than when crossing in a bunch,

## PROTECTION FROM SURPRISE

It is legitimate to be beaten in warfare; in fact, one side or other must expect it, and, however well a man or a side may fight, the preponderance of force against them may be so great the chances are they will be beaten.

To be defeated after having put up a good fight against odds is no disgrace.

But to be surprised and defeated through surprise is usually disgraceful, for it might have been prevented. No soldier ought ever to allow himself to be taken by surprise. His training must be such that he shall at all times learn to guard himself from surprise.

In practically all cases where Volunteers were taken by surprise it was due to negligence on somebody's part: in not giving the necessary orders, or in not

those orders, or in not seeing that orders are obeyed. It was in fact due to carelessness.

Don't we see it almost every day in civil life? Factory accidents, railway accidents, mine accidents, fires, etc., etc., are in nine cases out of ten, due to carelessness, or neglect of some ordinary precaution or standing order.

So remember that, in war time, no matter where they are, or in what manner they may be employed, troops on the march or at the halt, awake or asleep, must always have somebody watching over them, whose duty it is to look for an enemy's approach and give them due warning.

Never neglect such a precaution, however small the body of troops may be,

#### CARE OF TELESCOPE (Continued from page 1)

or scratch the lenses. The telescope should never be taken to pieces, unless absolutely necessary.

(x) The telescope must always be carried or packed in such a way that the tubes cannot be dented or bruised.

(xi) The telescope when in the stand should be supported at the point of balance.

(xii) When the telescope is not in use the eye-piece covers should be correctly replaced, the instrument closed and strapped up.

### IRISH DRILL TERMS

The following are Irish names for the different parts of a rifle:—

Back-sight, An t-agin (no, an loigin.)

Joints, Altana.

Barrel, Bairille,

Point of balance, Ball cothruim an ghunna.

Lower band, Bann íochtarach.

Toe of butt, Barra na baise.

Butt, Bas.

Bayonet, Beaignit.

Muzzle, Beul.

Magazine, Boiscin.

Bolt, Bolta.

Bottom of butt, Bonn.

Nose cap, Caipín an tsoic.

Small of stock (or small of butt,) Caol an stuic (no, caol baise an ghunna)

Wrist, Caol na laimhe,

Stock fore end, Ceann an stuic.

Catch, Claibín

Stud on nose-cap, Cnaipín an tsoic.

Knob of bolt, Cnapán an bhollta.

Cut-off, Comhla.

Swivel-piling, Croch.

Butt sling swivel, Crúca an strapa.

Handle of bayonet, Dornchlann an bheaignit.

Bridge charger guide, Droichead.

Ring, Fáinne.

Fore-sight, Fáithnín (no, faebhrín)

Hand-guard, Gárda glaice.

Trigger-guard, Gárda an troigir.

Safety catch, Glas-cheap.

Hollow of foot, Gleann na troighe.

Chamber, Leaba an bháis.

Back-sight, Loigin (no, agin.)

Breech, Oscailt.

Pull-through, Réitteóir.

Fore-arm, Righe.

Point of bayonet, Rinn an bheaignit.

Knuckles, Rúitíní.

Heel of butt, Sál bhaise an gunna.

Nose of rifle, Soc.

Bolt spring, Spring an bhollta.

Stock, Stoc.

Sling, Strapa.

Standard, Suidhchàn an bheaignit.

Trigger, Troigear.

Scabbard, Truail.

### SHELTERS

Simple shelters may be formed in many ways. One method is to drive two forked sticks into the ground with a pole resting on them; branches are then laid resting on the pole, thick end uppermost at an angle of about 45°, the screen made good with smaller branches, ferns, etc., A hurdle may be supported and treated in a similar way.

A shelter tent for four may be formed with two blankets or waterproof sheets laced together at the ridge, the remaining two blankets being available for cover inside.

When no other materials than earth and brushwood are available, a comfortable bivouac for 12 men can be formed by excavating a circle with a diameter of 18 feet, or thereabouts, and building up the earth to form a wall 2 or 3 feet high. The men lie down, like the spokes of a wheel, with their feet towards the centre. Branches of trees, or brushwood stuck into the wall, improve the shelter.