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Small Arms Training

Volume I, Pamphlet No. 18, 1939

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

Pistol Course

(For all Units at Home)

1940

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By Command of the Army Council,

THE WAR OFFICE,
14th December, 1940.

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DISTRIBUTION

All units, other than R.A.C., Coast Defence and O.C.T.U. units, on the same scale as for Pamphlet No. 18.

Royal Armoured Corps :—

H.Q. armoured division	..	..	..	..	6
H.Q. armoured brigade	..	..	..	..	12
Armoured regiments	..	..	..	..	80
H.Q. army tank brigades	..	..	..	..	12
Army tank battalions	..	..	..	..	80
Armoured car regiments	..	..	..	..	80
Training regiments	..	..	..	..	500

Royal Artillery (C.D. units) :—

H.Q. R.A. fixed defences	..	..	..	..	10
H.Q. fire commands	..	..	..	..	30
Coast artillery school	..	..	..	..	50
Coast artillery training centre	..	..	..	..	70
Coast artillery training regiments	..	..	..	..	30
Coast artillery training batteries	..	..	..	..	20

Officer Cadet Training Units .. 200

THE PISTOL COURSE

General

1. The course is designed to practise individuals in delivering fire instantly by sense of direction. The speed at which one or more effective shots can be fired is more important than the close grouping of the shots.

2. To obtain full value from this course, a period of about one week should be devoted to preliminary practice in holding and snapping with an empty pistol before firing with live ammunition.

Range Discipline and Safety Precautions

3. See Pamphlet No. 1, Sec. 3, and Pamphlet No. 11, Lesson 1.

Grouping Practice

4. Before men are allowed to shoot by sense of direction only, their individual ability in trigger pressing and holding must be ascertain. For this reason, sights will be used in firing the grouping practice.

Misfires and Jams

5. See Pamphlet No. 1, Sec. 3, para. 27.

PISTOL COURSE

Part I.—PRELIMINARY (using sights)

No.	Practice	Detail	No. of rounds	Range, yards	Target	H.P.S.	Remarks
1.	Grouping	Single action. Using sights. Firer to return to "Ready" position after each shot.	4 either hand	10	4-ft. with two 2-in. aiming marks.	H.P.S. 20. Faults to be carefully noted.	<p>i. Target is shown in Vol. V, 1931, Plate 109, page 216.</p> <p>ii. Scoring: 4 shots within 8 × 4-in. rectangle = 20 points. 4 shots within 12 × 8-in. rectangle = 16 points. 4 shots within 16 × 12-in. rectangle = 12 points.</p>
		Total Part I	4 rds.				

Note.—The pistol grouping rectangle (Vol. V, 1931, Plate 116) will be applied, the centre to the bottom of the aiming mark.

Part II.—INSTRUCTIONAL (without using sights)

2.	Application.	Single action, without use of sights. Firer to return to "Ready" position after each shot. Time 1 sec. for each shot. No standard interval between shots.	3 either hand	10	1 Fig-2	15	<p>i. Fig. targets 2 and 3 will be marked with a rectangle as shown in Vol. V, Plates 111 and 112A.</p> <p>ii. <i>Practice</i> 5: Two Fig. 2 targets on sledge (Vol. V, Plate 110) capable of movement. Two Fig. 3 targets. On the command "Fire", one</p>
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Part II.—INSTRUCTIONAL (without using sights)—*continued*

No.	Practice	Detail	No. of rounds	Range, yards	Target	H.P.S.	Remarks	
3.	Applica- tion	Double action. 3 secs. for 3 shots. Single or double action. 1 shot at each target. Time, 6 secs. for practice.	3 either hand 4 either hand	10 10	1 Fig. 2 4 Figs. 2	15 20	of the two Fig. 2 targets (as indicated by the conducting officer) will charge. The firer will first fire at the charging target, then advance 5 yds. and fire at the remaining three. Where several firers are firing in one detail, the conducting officer will ensure, as far as possible, that all firers advance together. iii. Scoring.—Practices 2 to 7: Each shot within 16 × 12-in. rectangle = 5 points. Each shot on remainder of target = 3 points.	
4.	Attack	Single or double action. Firer advancing 5 yds. Time, 6 secs.	4 either hand	20 to 15	2 Figs. 2 (one charging) 2 Figs. 3	20		
5.	Defence	Single or double action. Drawing loaded pistol from case. Time, 4 secs.	2 either hand	15 to 5	2 Figs. 2, both charging	10		
6.	Surprise and dis- appear- ing (gas)	Single and double action. For each exposure 2 rounds to be fired, the first by single action. Time for each exposure, 2 secs. Respirators will be worn.	4 either hand	10	Fig. 2 to be exposed and moved with- in a front- age of 3 yds. 2 shots to be fired during each run of the target.	20		
			20 rds.					
			Total Part II					