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# Small Arms Training

Volume I, Pamphlet No. 18

Supplement No. 1

## Individual Battle Practices

**1943**

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*By Command of the Army Council*

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*J. D. D. D.*

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# SMALL ARMS TRAINING

## Volume I, Pamphlet No. 18, 1942

### SUPPLEMENT No. 1, 1943

#### INDIVIDUAL BATTLE PRACTICES

##### 1. General instructions

An additional stage in the training of the soldier between the time he finishes his range practices on the classification range and the time he takes part in a collective field firing exercise is required. In order that time and ammunition are not wasted it is essential that each individual should have reached a certain standard of proficiency with his weapon, i.e. 2nd Class Shot.

2. It is therefore necessary to have "individual battle practice" where individuals can be trained in this intermediate stage.

3. The principle throughout must be the training of the individual in accuracy of fire under conditions as near to battle as possible. It is clear that it must be left to Commanding Officers to frame their own practices according to the facilities, time, etc., available. These practices should be carried out on a field firing area if possible and only as a last resort should they be fired on a classification range, and then firing points and practices at fixed ranges should be rigidly excluded. Care, ingenuity, and time spent in preparation will all be well repaid.

4. The accuracy of fire and fire effect will be the primary consideration, but the use of ground, cover, the handling and care of arms, and all points of weapon training must be taken into consideration.

5. It may be difficult to organize scoring, but men should always be told, and if possible see for themselves, the number of hits they have obtained, and also be criticized for their use of ground, cover, and the observation of all points of weapon training. The practices should therefore be to train the individual rather than to act as a test.

6. While remaining simple, the more realistic the practices are, the greater the results will be obtained.

7. Each man in a battalion will be allowed 25 rounds with the rifle and 30 rounds with the Bren every six months.

The following practices are given as a guide :—

### **Practice 1.—Firing and observing**

*No. of rounds.*—5.

*Targets.*—Collapsible; iron falling plates are the ideal target, tiles or bricks, 5 for each firer, placed at irregular distances and intervals.

*Range.*—Between 200 and 300 yards.

*Lessons.*—

Mutual assistance.

Observation of fire.

All points of weapon training.

*Method of conducting.*—Men work in pairs, under battle conditions, as firer and observer, changing round.

*Points of criticism.*—Points of elementary training. Observation of fire. Observation must be exact.

*General notes.*—It is an advantage if the plates can be concealed by bushes, etc. These may be pulled away by strings as required. This device will give exercise in quick observation.

### **Practice 2.—Endurance and quick firing**

*No. of rounds.*—5.

*Targets.*—Any suitable figure target, preferably Fig. 4A, exposed over or round a piece of cover.

*Range.*—About 200 yards.

*Lessons.*—

Concentration.

Quick accurate shooting.

*Method of conducting.*—The targets will be exposed five times over a period of five minutes. Each exposure of five seconds. The last exposure to be in the last half minute. Two exposures to be in quick succession, i.e. three seconds interval. A small pit or suitable piece of cover for the marker is required.

*General notes.*—The firer should be given a small area of ground to keep under observation and the targets exposed at different places.

### **Practice 3.—Attack**

*No. of rounds.*—10.

*Targets.*—Two figures 2 and two figures 4A (or other suitable figures) per firer.

**Range.**—From 400 to 200 yards.

**Lessons.**—

Accuracy of fire after movement.

Judging distance.

Sight setting and all points of weapon training.

**Method of conducting.**—Four figures will be exposed and the firer will engage them from wherever he likes.

**Time limit.**—Three minutes to fire the 10 rounds. Targets will drop when hit.

**General notes.**—

(a) This practice must be on an individual basis as it will not be possible to fire as a detail.

(b) A small pit or suitable piece of cover is necessary for the markers. If this is not possible the targets must be fixed and a limit placed on the number of rounds to be fired at each target.

#### **Practice 4.—The stalker**

**No. of rounds.**—5.

**Targets.**—Any suitable figure—figure 4A preferably, placed in battle positions, firing round cover, from tree, etc.

**Range.**—Not exceeding 250 yards.

**Lessons.**—

Use of ground.

Accurate shooting after an advance under arduous conditions.

**Method of conducting.**—If markers' pit is available, the figure target will be exposed for a suitable period and lowered when hit. The stalker will have the enemy pointed out to him from a position in rear, which necessitates his stalking forward about 100 yards in order to be certain of a shot to kill.

**Points for criticism.**—

Fieldcraft.

Fire positions selected.

Care of arms when advancing.

Fire effect.

All points of weapon training.

**General notes.**—

(a) The time limit will be dependent on the length and difficulty of the advance.

- (b) If a pit or other suitable cover exists at the target position the stalker may be kept under observation throughout by means of a periscope. A round of ball or blank should be fired whenever he is seen.

### Practice 5.—L.M.G.

*No. of rounds.*—15 per man.

*Targets.*—Three figures 4A or other suitable service targets to be as far apart as possible consistent with safety.

*Range.*—About 300 yards.

*Lessons.*—

Selection of alternative position.

Self reliance and commonsense.

Speed of obtaining fire effect with economy of ammunition.

*Method of conducting.*—Nos. 1 and 2 of the Bren are in a fire position.

One figure 4A is exposed representing an enemy L.M.G. and remains exposed until hit. When target is hit the umpire tells the crew that enemy L.M.G. is firing from alternative position (second figure 4A) and orders them to engage. As soon as No. 1 has fired one burst (or three single rounds) at second figure 4A, the umpire will "kill" No. 1 and the gun will be taken over by No. 2, who will engage the target from an alternative position until it drops on being hit.

*Points for criticism.*—

Alternative position selected for gun.

Selection of cover.

Speed of bringing fire to bear.

Judging distance and observation of fire.

*General notes.*—

(a) Gun crews should carry out this practice twice, the numbers changing round. Each man will then fire about 30 rounds.

(b) The targets may be placed in the ground before the beginning of the practice, if pits for the markers are not available.

The gaining of fire effect must then be explained by the umpire to the firer.