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# MACHINE GUN COMMANDERS' MEMORY CARD

*for*

**Platoon Commanders,  
Platoon Serjeants,  
Section Commanders  
and Section Corporals**

**11th EDITION**  
*REVISED TO DATE*

*by*

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8th Fusiliers

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**6<sup>d</sup>.**

## DUTIES OF A PLATOON COM

### DIRECT FIRE.

#### Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Give information as to role of Pl., and the best way for its advance.
2. Tell Pl. Sjt. of his own movements as far as possible.

#### Either—

3. Moves ahead of Pl. in Pl. Cmdr's Truck (accompanied by M.C. orderly), keeping closest possible touch with infantry he is supporting with a view to engaging targets, detailing line of advance for Pl. through successive probable fire positions, and ensuring that it does not get involved in minor opposition.

#### Or—

4. Goes ahead to reconnoitre given area, giving a covered line of advance and a rendezvous to Pl. Sjt.

#### On Decision to occupy Position.

5. Finds out position of O.T., nature and extent of target.
6. Decides kind of fire. (Direct if possible.)
7. Decides No. of guns and amount of S.A.A.
8. Recces. in Pl. area for positions with no immediate overhead safety problems.
9. Decides—
  - (a) Areas and positions in readiness for each section, and where trucks will go back to, after unloading stores.
  - (b) Arrangements for local protection.
  - (c) Arcs of fire (if required) and position of Pl. H.Q. and Pl. O.P.
10. If possible moves by way of Pl. R.V. and takes Sec. Cmdrs. forward with him in his truck, on his recce. If not possible to move via Pl. R.V., moves to area and sends back truck for Sec. Cmdrs., and—
  - (a) Gives situation briefly.
  - (b) Gives orders to Sec. Cmdrs. regarding Sec. areas, positions of readiness (Secs.), Pl. H.Q., position of trucks, local protection and site of A/T rifle.
  - (c) Goes back himself to inform Sec. Cpls. of their positions of readiness and number of belts per gun, and the Pl. Sjt. of the position of Pl. H.Q., or gives these orders to Sec. Orderlies, who go back and hand them on to Sec. Cpls.
11. Passes on full information to Pl. Sjt. as soon as he reports to Pl. O.P., and reports to Coy. H.Q. by M/C Orderly when in action.

#### In Action.

12. Is responsible for—
  - (a) Watching progress of battle.
  - (b) Sending necessary F.D.Os.
  - (c) Forward reconnaissance.
  - (d) Replacement of S.A.A.
  - (e) Reporting as necessary.

## COMMANDER IN THE ATTACK.

### INDIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Same as for direct fire.
2. Same.
3. Same.
4. Same.

### On Decision to occupy Position.

5. Same.
6. Decides indirect fire is necessary.
7. Reconnoitres and decides—
  - (a) Gun line, frontage, O.P.
  - (b) Arrangements for local protection.
  - (c) Method and if necessary pivot gun.
  - (d) Position of Pl. H.Q. (Near O.P.)
  - (e) Position in readiness for Pl. and amount of S.A.A.
8. If possible moves by way of Pl. R.V. and takes Sec. Cmdrs. forward with him in his truck, on his recon. If not possible to move via Pl. R.V., moves to area and sends back truck for Sec. Cmdrs.
9. Gives following orders to R.T. :—
  - (a) First target.
  - (b) Other points to range on.
10. Gives following verbal orders to Sec. Cmdrs. :—
  - (a) Situation briefly.
  - (b) Method of indirect fire.
  - (c) Position of pivot gun.
  - (d) Gun line and frontage.
  - (e) O.P.
  - (f) Amount of S.A.A.
  - (g) Pl. H.Q.
11. Passes on full information to the Pl. Sjt. as soon as he reports at the Pl. O.P.

### In Action.

12. Is responsible for—
  - (a) Controlling fire of his Pl.
  - (b) Watching progress of battle.
  - (c) Sending necessary F.D.Os.
  - (d) Forward reconnaissance.
  - (e) Replacement of S.A.A.
  - (f) Reporting as necessary.
  - (g) Solving safety problems.

## DUTIES OF A PLATOON SERGEANT

### DIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Moves Pl. along line of advance as detailed by Pl. C. either
  - (a) by bounds from fire position to fire position, or
  - (b) direct to rendezvous.
2. During move and at rendezvous is responsible for—
  - (a) Knowing movements of Pl. Cndr.
  - (b) Local protection and siting A/T rifle.
  - (c) Use of ground.
  - (d) Formation of Pl. H.Q.
  - (e) Movement and position of trucks.
  - (f) Action in case of surprise.
3. Meets Pl. Cndr. at Pl. O.P. and receives in detail—
  - (a) Information, intention and method.
  - (b) Any special duties he is to carry out.

### In Action.

4. Acts as 2nd-in-Command and may be required to perform any of the following duties :—
  - (a) Watching progress of battle.
  - (b) Sending necessary F.D.Os.
  - (c) Forward reconnaissance.
  - (d) Replacement of S.A.A.
  - (e) Reporting as necessary.

## SERJEANT IN THE ATTACK.

### INDIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Same as direct fire.
2. Same.
3. Establishes Pl. H.Q., arranges local protection as ordered.  
Reports to Pl. O.P. for full information.

### In Action.

4. Acts as 2nd i/c and is prepared to take over duties of Fire Controller.

## DUTIES OF A SECTION CO

### DIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Commands Section if not moving ahead in Pl. Cmdr.'s truck.
2. After receiving full orders from his Pl. Cmdr., moves to his allotted area with R/T and orderly, if still present.

### Occupation.

3. On arrival there, he gives following orders to R.T. :—
  - (a) Arc of fire.
  - (b) 1st target.
  - (c) Points to which he requires ranges and time allowed.
  - (d) Controlling position.
4. He then selects—
  - (a) Section position in his area.
  - (b) A gun position for each gun.
  - (c) His control position.
  - (d) Reference points.
5. Three alternative methods of bringing guns into action are :—
  - (a) Signalling guns up in turn, pointing out to each No. 1 as he arrives the gun position, 1st target, arc of fire and R.Ps.
  - (b) Using Sec. orderly to mark out and marking other himself.
  - (c) Going back and bringing forward Nos. 1 with tripod as far as cover allows and pointing out gun positions, etc., as in (a) above.
6. Sends orderly to Pl. H.Q.
7. When guns are ready, gives fire order, and opens fire according to Pl. C's orders.  
*Note.*—Sec. Cpl. will be "put in the picture" as soon as possible.

### In Action.

8. Is responsible for—
  - (a) Control of fire.
  - (b) Carrying out F.D.Os.
  - (c) Locating and engaging targets within arc.
  - (d) Solving safety problems as they arise.
  - (e) Making arrangements to continue firing in case observation is at any time interrupted.

## COMMANDER IN THE ATTACK

### INDIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Same as direct fire.
2. Receives full orders from his Pl. Cmdr:

#### Occupation.

Duties performed by Junior Sec. Cmdr. :—

3. Go back to the Pl. and move it to the position of readiness, if it is not already there.
4. Gives brief situation to Sec. Cpls. and informs Pl. Sjt. as to where Pl. H.Q. is to be established.
5. Orders " For indirect fire.....belts, prepare for action."  
If necessary, details loads to higher numbers.
6. Moves Pl. forward and gains touch with the Senior Sec. Cmdr. on the gun line.

Duties performed by the Senior Sec. Cmdr. :—

7. Remains on gun line and solves crest clearance problems.
8. On the arrival of the guns he gets them mounted as in Pl. drill indirect.

#### In Action.

9. Is responsible for—
  - (a) Seeing that all orders are acknowledged and carried out by the gun numbers.
  - (b) Various instruments and dials being correctly adjusted.
  - (c) The maintenance of both guns and S.A.A. state.
10. Must be prepared to carry out any of the Pl. Sjt's. duties.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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M.G.	...	...	...	Machine Gun.
Pl. Cmdr.	...	...	...	Platoon Commander.
Pl.	...	...	...	Platoon.
Pl. Sjt.	...	...	...	Platoon Serjeant.
Sec. Cmdr.	...	...	...	Section Commander.
Sec. Cpl.	...	...	...	Section Corporal.
R.T.	...	...	...	Range Taker.
F.D.O.	...	...	...	Fire Direction Order.
O.P.	...	...	...	Observation Post.
O.T.	...	...	...	Own Troops.
R.P.	...	...	...	Reference Point.
S.A.A.	...	...	...	Small Arms Ammunition.
Sec.	...	...	...	Section.
Coy.	...	...	...	Company.
M.C.	...	...	...	Motor Cycle.

## DUTIES OF A SECTION CORPORAL IN THE ATTACK.

### DIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Acts as 2nd-in-Command to his section.
2. On receipt of Pl. Cmdr.'s orders, will lead his section to its position of readiness.

### Occupation.

3. Moves his section to the position in readiness.
4. On arrival there, orders ". . . belts, prepare for action."
5. Details Nos. to carry S.A.A. above normal.
6. Gives driver a definite point to return to, when signalled for, and sends to covered position.
7. Keeps touch with Sec. Cmdr. and on receiving indication of the Sec. position from movements of S.C., orders guns and equipment forward as ground permits.
8. Reports to Sec. Cmdr. for full information.

### In Action.

9. Is responsible for—
  - (a) Supply from trucks to guns.
  - (b) Maintaining touch between them.

### INDIRECT FIRE.

Prior to and during the Move Forward.

1. Same as direct fire.
2. Receives orders from Pl. Cmdr. or Junior Sec. Cmdr.

### Occupation.

3. Assists the Sec. Cmdr. at "For Indirect Fire—Prepare for Action."
- \*4. Moves trucks to covered position.
- \*5. Organizes chain of supply in rear, making use of junior S. Cpl. as necessary.

### In Action.

6. Is responsible for supply from trucks to guns.  
\*N.B.—The Senior S. Cpl. carries out these duties, but the Junior S. Cpl. sometimes assists him.

## DUTIES OF A PLATOON COMMANDER FOR OCCUPATION BY NIGHT WHEN PRELIMINARY RECONNAISSANCE CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY DAYLIGHT.

### Prior to Occupation.

1. He will take with him two Sec. Cmdrs. with directors, zero posts and pegs, two Rangefinders and two Orderlies.  
(*Note.*—The Pl. Sjt., if available, may accompany this recon. in place of one of the orderlies. It may be necessary sometimes to reduce recon. party to the minimum of Pl. Cmdr., one Rangefinder and one Orderly.)
2. Chooses exact position for Pl.
3. Instructs R.T. to take necessary ranges, puts in gun peg, direction peg, and zero post for each gun, aligned on to a target or fixed line.
4. When more than one target occurs, pegs will be aligned on zero line.
5. Measures angles of sight and switches.
6. Notes magnetic bearing of zero line.
7. Selects positions in readiness for sections, and points them out to S.Cs.
8. Gives all available information to Pl. Sjt. and Sec. Cmdrs. and posts sentries—double if possible.
9. Prepare Fire Control Charts.

### Occupation.

1. Pl. Cmdr. leads the Pl. to the R.V. If Sec. Cmdrs. were present during the recon., they can independently move to their positions in readiness. If they were not present, the Pl. Cmdr. will take each Sec. in turn to its position in readiness, and show the Sec. Cmdr. his pegs.
2. On arrival at the position, Pl. Cmdr. will make any final alterations to his Fire Control Charts.

## DUTIES OF A PLATOON COMMANDER WHEN NO DAYLIGHT RECONNAISSANCE IS POSSIBLE.

*N.B.*—It is possible to arrange for fixed lines fairly accurately at close ranges provided a light can be shown in the place where the fire is to fall.

1. Choose positions for sections either off map or by personal reconnaissance.
2. Proceeds with torch to place where fire is needed, and exposes light towards guns.  
(Rangefinders take range to light. Nos. 1 lay for direction, using tangent sight, alidade set at the correct range. Set range on range drum of dial sight and level bubble by means of the angle of sight drum. Set up night-aiming lamp and align collimator on it.)
3. Half load and press thumbpiece as soon as individual showing light has cleared line of fire.

## DUTIES OF A PLATOON COMMANDER WHEN FACED WITH AN IMMEDIATE OVERHEAD PROBLEM.

1. Makes rough reconnaissance for probable positions, including direct or indirect, and decides on most favourable for safety as regards O.T.
2. Gives orders as follows :—  
To R.T. : Obtain range to target and O.T.
3. When the R.T. has obtained the necessary ranges, the Pl. Cmr. will solve the overhead problem from the part of the probable position which is least favourable.
4. When firing direct, instructs the R.T. to rejoin his section.
5. If it is safe to fire, he will carry out the necessary detailed reconnaissance for the occupation of the position, and issue orders for its occupation in the normal manner.

## DUTIES SPECIAL TO REAR GUARD ACTION.

### In Action.

- Pl. Cmr.** 1. Orders Pl. Sjt. to recon. route from Pl. R.V. to Coy. R.V.
2. Issues verbal orders to Sec. Cmdrs. and Pl. Sjt. re withdrawal :—
- (a) Details of any recon. party to go back to a new position.
  - (b) With reference to each Sec. :—
    - (i) When it will thin out.
    - (ii) No. of belts to be left at the position.
    - (iii) Who will give it the final order to go.
  - (c) When Pl. H.Q. will withdraw.
  - (d) Where the Pl. R.V. and Coy. R.V. are.
  - (e) Where he himself will move.
- Sec. Cmr.** 1. Will ensure that Sec. Cpl. recon. route back to Pl. R.V.
2. Passes on orders re withdrawal to Sec. Cpl.
  3. Informs gun numbers how he intends to get out of the position. (One gun at a time or both at once, etc.)
- Sec. Cpl.** Informs higher numbers what they will do when told to thin out.

### The Withdrawal.

- Sec. Cmr.** When told finally to go, orders guns out of action as previously arranged.
- Sec. Cpl.** 1. On thinning out being ordered brings trucks up and faces them in the right direction of the withdrawal.
2. Supervises the higher numbers in the work of getting all spare stores away from the gun positions.

## DUTIES SPECIAL TO DEFENCE.

### On Decision to occupy Position.

- Pl. Cmdr.** 1. Gives orders first to Sec. with least distance to move.
2. Orders must include—
- (a) Position of O.T., near Section areas and arcs of fire.
  - (b) Gives approximate areas in which fixed lines are to fall.
  - (c) S.O.S. signal, where it will be put up, and rates of fire on fixed lines.
  - (d) Orders for local protection, concealment, digging, A/T rifle.
  - (e) Alternative positions.
  - (f) Where trucks are to be sent.
  - (g) Communications.
3. Normally gives arcs only first and fixed lines later.
4. Will get in touch with rifle units, to arrange for protection, liaison and safety problems.
- S.C.** 1. Orders R.T. to make full range card, so that he can be dispensed with.

### Occupation.

- Pl. Cmdr.** 1. Arranges with rifle units for fixed lines ensuring that all troops are safe for flanking or overhead fire.
2. Gives order in detail as to fixed lines.
3. Reports when finished Coy. H.Q. by M.C. orderly.
- S. Cmdr.** 1. Gets guns on to fixed line as soon as possible and half loads.
2. Posts sentries and lock-outs.
3. Arranges for local protection, concealment, and digging parties.
4. Gives particulars about S.O.S. signal, and to Sec. Cpl. about trucks.
5. Points out to N.C.Os. and men arcs of fire, R.Ps., position of O.T. and near ranges.
6. Sends orderly to Pl. H.Q. to report Sec. in position and to remain there.
7. Chooses alarm post, informs all of its position, signal for occupation, and action to be taken.
8. Gives all ranks all information, and makes out duty roster for day and night.
9. Gains touch with Rifle Coys. near by and finds out about patrols.
- Sec. Cpl.** 1. Orders gun chests, all S.A.A., spare parts box, spare oil, indirect fire and night-firing stores, signal pistol and tools, to be unloaded from trucks and placed in position near guns.
2. Sends truck to rear position.
3. Reconnoitres for spare water for guns and informs Sec. Cmdr. where it is.

# Combined Sight Rule

Ranges	R.T. or nap.	Key Range
up to 800	1	1
850 - 1400	1	3
1450 - 2000	3	5
2000 - 2500	5 ?	7 ?

## Tap Rule

Range	Taps
up to 800	0
850 - 1400	1 R.T.
1450 - 2000	2 R.T.
2000 & up	3 R.T. ?

If target indistinct add 1 Tap  
in each case.