

## **CHAPTER II.**

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF TRAINING.**

#### *7. General instructions for training.*

1. The object of training is to prepare leaders, men and horses for war. All training must be founded on principles of the employment of mounted riflemen in war which are described in "Field Service Regulations, Part I," and in Part II of this manual.

2. General instructions for training are given in "Training and Manoeuvre Regulations," with which the instructions for training in this manual are in accordance.

3. The varying conditions under which soldiers are trained in the different parts of the Empire make strict adherence to any one method of training impossible. The principles underlying the methods, however, are constant, and the system described in the following sections is to be taken as a general guide so far as the circumstances of each case permit.

In the interests of uniformity of training, it is suggested that the mounted rifles of the Overseas Dominions should follow this system so far as it may be found to meet their requirements.

As regards mounted infantry minor modifications may be found necessary owing to the knowledge of infantry duties which the soldier possess before he commences to train as a mounted rifleman.

4. Training is divided into:

i. Individual training.

ii. Collective training.

5. The time which should be apportioned to each item of collective training must vary with circumstances but as much time as possible should be devoted to squadron training, which is the foundation of efficiency.

6. During the training of larger formations, commanders of the smaller ones must take advantage of all opportunities to continue the instruction of their commands.

#### *8. Responsibility for training.*

1. The commanders of all units are responsible for the training and efficiency of their commands.

2. The commander of a regiment is responsible that the instruction of his officers is conducted in such a manner as to fit them for their duties in war and peace. He will see that the numbers and efficiency of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men required for special duties, described in Sec. 7, Sub-sec. 6, "Regulations of the Territorial Force," are maintained.

#### *9. Methods of instruction.*

1. Great care should be taken to arouse and maintain the interest of the soldier in his work. To this end practical instruction should be accompanied by short lectures and explanations.

2. For purposes of instruction it is necessary to divide the training into various parts. The instructor should make the soldier understand at all periods of his training how the

various parts fit him for his duties in war and that, while it is necessary for him to be efficient in each part, it is a combination of the knowledge so acquired which produces a well-trained soldier.

*10. The soldierly spirit.*

1. To be certain of success in war troops should possess the proper soldierly spirit, that is to say they should have discipline, boldness, determination, endurance, unselfishness, and self control, and all the other high moral qualities required in a soldier.

2. The soldierly spirit should therefore be encouraged through-out the training. All ranks should be taught that orders must be unhesitatingly obeyed, that complaining and dissatisfaction are fatal to success, and that cheerfulness when in danger or when suffering is a necessary quality in a soldier.

*11. The individual training of recruits.*

1. The programmes of work should be arranged with as great variety as possible, and must be suited to the aptitude of the individual recruit; monotony, with its consequent loss of interest, must be avoided. Clearness and simplicity in the instruction are of great importance.

2. The training (prescribed in Appendix 6 of "Regulations for the Territorial Force") will comprise:

Instruction in interior economy and routine duties.

Chapters III and IV of this manual.

Instruction in the use of ground for cover and observation.

Elementary instruction in night operations (Sec. 119).

Musketry instruction and firing of the recruits' course ("Musketry Regulations, Part I").

Map reading ("Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching").

3. It is important that the training of recruits should be completed as early in the year as possible in order that the annual period of training in camp may be devoted to collective training.

*12. The individual training of officers, non-commissioned officers and trained soldiers.*

This will consist of:

i. The training of every officer, non-commissioned officer, and man in the handling of his weapons as laid down in this manual.

ii. The training of officers in professional duties as laid down in "Regulations for the Territorial Force," and in "Training and Manoeuvre Regulations."

iii. The training of non-commissioned officers, and privates likely to become non-commissioned officers, in the solution of small tactical problems with and without troops ("Training and Manoeuvre Regulations" and Sec. 113 of this Manual.).

iv. Equitation (Chapter I) and horsemastership ("Animal Management").

- v. Practice in judging distance and in aiming under varied conditions.
- vi. Map reading ("Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching").
- vii. Signalling ("Training Manual- Signalling").
- viii. Training of selected men as scouts (Chapter VI).
- ix. Preliminary training of machine gun section (Sec. 14)
- x. Training of the sanitary detachment and stretcher bearers ("Manual of Elementary Military Hygiene" and "Royal Army Medical Corps Training").

### *13. Collective training.*

Collective training consists of the training of the section, troop, squadron, regiment and brigade. It is important that this training should as far as possible be progressive, beginning with that of the smallest unit, and that in each case the training should be carried out under the commander of the section, troop, squadron, &C., as the case may be. Confidence in leaders in war is best assured when the leaders are the instructors in peace. As a general rule the peace training of yeomanry cannot be carried further than squadron training with advantage.

### *14. The training of machine gun sections.*

1. The number of non-commissioned officers and privates required for a machine gun section in war will be trained as the regimental machine gun section. A reserve section will be trained as opportunities occur.

2. An officer will be selected in each regiment to command and train the machine gun section, under the orders of the regimental commander.

Officers, non-commissioned officers and men selected for the machine guns should remain with it as long as possible in order that they may require a high standard of skill.

Men of the regimental machine gun section will fire the practices prescribed in "Musketry Regulations, Part I," with one of the squadrons of the regiments, but at other times will be at the squadrons of the regiment, but at other times will be at the disposal of the machine gun officer for instruction. The classification of detachments will be determined by the regimental commander after the annual machine gun course.

3. The training of the machine gun section will be divided into three periods as under. A programme should be drawn up by the machine gun officer in order to ensure that the instruction is systematic and that no detail is overlooked.

#### *i. First period. Elementary training.*

Training will consist of instruction in the mechanism of the gun (see handbook of the gun); in the drill and methods of laying, ranging, and firing; in the general characteristics of the gun.

#### *ii. Second period.*

As soon as the men of a section are thoroughly conversant with the mechanism of the gun they will be exercised in firing the gun ("Musketry Reg. Part I") - and will carry out further training in open country. During this training the sections should be practised in bringing the gun into action; in fire discipline; in fire control; in laying and

ranging in every variety of country; in utilising natural cover when advancing into action; and in constructing cover from both view and fire. The men should also be trained in range finding, judging distance, and in the use of field glasses.

iii. Third period. The tactics of machine guns.

When the section is proficient in the above the regimental commander will arrange for its tactical training with one or more squadrons which have reached the more advanced stage of squadron training. It may thus obtain practice in co-operating with other troops, and in dealing with such situations as would confront it in war.

*15. Inspections.*

*(See also "Regulations for the Territorial Force.")*

1. Formal inspections on fixed dates should be avoided.
2. Squadron leaders should occasionally attend the inspection by the regimental commander of other squadrons of their regiment, in order that they may study co-operation between squadrons, and gather information which may be of use when training their own commands. Similarly troop leaders should occasionally attend the inspection by the squadron commander of the other troops in their squadron.