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HOME GUARD

INSTRUCTION No. 14—1940

WINTER TRAINING

1. The objects of winter training will be:—

- (a) The training of Leaders and Instructors.
- (b) To bring units up to the maximum efficiency, within the limits of the operational standard required of them, by the Spring of 1941.
- (c) To keep alive the enthusiasm and corporate spirit of the Home Guard throughout the winter months when opportunities for collective training are few.

2. The functions of the Home Guard, as laid down in Training Instruction No. 10, are as follows:—

- i. Observation and the prompt and accurate reporting of information.
- ii. Delaying and obstructing the enemy by any means in their power.
- iii. Protection of specific points such as factories, railways, post office systems, etc.
- iv. Keeping a watch on subversive activities.
- v. Co-operation with the Civil Defence Services.

In addition, they may be required to act as guides to the Field Army.

3. It is of the greatest importance that every Home Guard unit and sub-unit should have no doubts about the role allotted to it. The standard of training should aim at preparing the unit to carry out that role. This is the responsibility of the Military Commander of the area in which the Home Guard unit is located.

Time must not be wasted in attempting to train for roles for which the Home Guard is neither organized nor intended; this, however, should not debar elementary training in guerrilla warfare which, indeed, may be an important part of the tactics of the defence of a locality. No attempts should, however, be made to train in large-scale offensive operations which must be the task of the Field Army.

4. The main task in winter training will be for Home Guards to reach an adequate standard in weapon training. This must come first. Each Home Guard must know the weapon or weapons he may have to use.

The second task will be training in the other duties required by the individual in the role allotted to his unit.

5. In general, instruction will take the form of:—

- (a) Films exhibited at local cinema theatres or shown under special arrangements on privately-owned projectors operated by War Office operators.
- (b) War Office Training Instructions.
- (c) Courses for selected personnel at War Office or Command or Area Schools.

- (d) Lectures by War Office or Command lecturers.
- (e) Demonstration "circuses" under Command or Area arrangements.
- (f) Individual instruction by Warrant Officers and N.C.O. Instructors from Command Pools.
- (g) Individual instruction by Field Army personnel provided by an affiliated unit.
- (h) Organised instruction within the unit.

6. The scheme for winter training is intended to ensure that properly co-ordinated instruction is extended to commands, units, and to individuals in the form which is most suitable in regard to local conditions.

Thus it is hoped that the use of the film industry will largely solve the difficulty of bringing instructions within the reach of individuals and units in outlying districts where both accommodation and the regular service of trained instructors are difficult to obtain.

7. Unit training programmes will be made out by battalion commanders on general lines laid down by their area commander, who will whenever possible detail an officer of an affiliated unit to assist the battalion commander in this task.

Where there is no military unit conveniently situated for affiliation, Area Commanders will make special arrangements for official assistance to be made available for H.G. units.

The syllabus of instruction will be based on War Office training instructions.

8. The following subjects may be studied:—

- Weapon training (as applied to the particular weapon or weapons with which the unit is equipped).
- Observation and the reporting of information.
- Elementary field fortification.
- Fieldcraft.
- Map reading.
- Patrolling and sentry duties.
- Bombs and hand grenades.
- Elementary drill.
- Anti-gas training and first aid.
- Enemy tactics.
- Recognition of enemy aircraft and enemy troops.
- Leadership and discipline.
- Army organization.

It is not intended that all these subjects shall necessarily be covered. Certain individuals or groups of individuals may be trained in specialised duties such as guiding and the use of particular automatic weapons. These "specialist" courses will be arranged, within the limitations laid down in para. 1 by the battalion commander concerned.

9. While military instruction will be the primary object of winter training, much importance is attached to the necessity for maintaining the corporate spirit in both the units and the Force as a whole.

The Home Guard may not be able to keep up, during the winter months, the same standard of vigilance that is possible in summer. It is, however, essential that their keenness and enthusiasm should be maintained in order to meet the calls which may well be made upon them next year. Their interest must be kept alive by well thought-out training. It is the duty of the Regular Army formations and units, from commands downwards, to assist in every possible way.

10. At Appendix A are the standards of training to be aimed at.

STANDARDS OF TRAINING

1. Drill

Proficiency is required in the following simple drill movements:—

Positions

Attention (with and without rifle).
 Stand at ease { ditto }.
 Stand easy { ditto }.
 Falling in (in threes).
 Dressing.
 Dismissing.

Movement

Turning right (at the halt and on the move).
 Turning left { ditto }.
 Turning about { ditto }.
 Moving to a flank in threes.
 Wheeling in threes.
 Halt.

All movements to be carried out in quick time, slow and double time are not required.

Rifle exercises

Trail from order and vice versa.
 Fixing and unfixing bayonets.
 Port arms for inspection.
 Examine arms.
 Ground arms.
 Pile arms.
 Shing arms.
 High port.

2. Weapons

i. Rifle

(a) T.O.E.T.

The standard laid down in Appendix A of Training Instruction No. 5, viz:—

Tests of training

N.B.—Before any practice or test the individual must ensure that his rifle is unloaded.

(i) *Aiming*

Aim is laid on representative targets at 25 yards distance from any secure rest.

Target representative for 200 yards (two aims).

Silhouette target representing a man at 200 yards (two aims).

Three out of four aims should be correct.

N.B.—If no aiming test is available aims can be tested by means of an "aiming" disc ("eye" disc).

(ii) *Trigger pressing*

Aim is taken at an "aiming disc" in the prone position and four trigger pressures taken. Three times out of four the trigger should be released without disturbing the correct aim.

(iii) *Snaphooting*

The man is required to bring the rifle from the loading position to the shoulder, to align the sights on an "aiming disc" held to the eye, to press the trigger and instantly reload in the shoulder. The time allowed from the order "Fire" until the trigger is pressed will be four seconds. For timing, a stop-watch or ordinary watch with a seconds-hand can be used. Position—lying.

Three out of four aims to be correct.

(iv) *Rapid firing*

The man on the command "Rapid" comes into the aim, lying position, at a representative target. On the word "Fire" he will fire five shots in one minute, without removing his rifle from the shoulder. Four shots should be correct, the aims being checked with an aim corrector.

N.B.—If no aim corrector is available this test can be carried out by aiming at an "aiming disc."

(b) *Standard on miniature range*

1-inch group at 25 yards.

i.e. the inner edge of five consecutive shot holes should be covered by a halfpenny.

(c) *Standard on open range*

Grouping rather than application to be practised. 8-inch group at 100 yards.

ii. *Lewis gun.* (At least four men per weapon to be taught.)

(a) *T.O.E.T.*

In each of the following tests the man will be allowed three attempts and, to pass, two must be done correctly within the time limit.

Name of test and stores required	Conditions before the test	Time allowed	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No. 1. <i>Loading</i> — Gun and one filled magazine.	No. 1 in the correct position for loading—No. 2 in position holding the magazine.	3 seconds from command "Load" until right hand is replaced on pistol grip.	—
No. 2. <i>Sight setting</i> — <i>Aiming and firing</i> — Gun and aiming disc.	Fire lying behind gun — butt on the ground — gun cocked, but no magazine on.	Instructor orders RANGE . . . "FIRE," 6 sec. from the order "FIRE" until the trigger is pressed.	Maximum alteration of sights 400 yards. Height of aiming disc to be varied for each aim.
No. 3. <i>Immediate action</i> — Gun — magazines — landscape target.	Instructor will give RANGE and TARGET "FIRE" followed by "Gun firing all right" — "Gun stops" — first or second — "Gun firing all right." No. 2 will be in position.	6 sec. from the command "Gun stops" until the fire has applied I.A. aimed and fired.	—
No. 4. <i>Anti-aircraft</i> — Gun — magazines — <i>Initial and anti-aircraft</i> mounting.	Both Nos. in the kneeling position. No. 1 behind the gun. No. 2 behind the magazine and A.A. mounting which is folded.	15 sec. from the order "For Aircraft Mount Gun" until the gun has been loaded and the sights adjusted to 300 yards.	—

(b) *Standard on the 30 yard or open range*

A score of 40 points in practices 2 and 3 of L.M.G. course in para. 4 of Training Instruction II.

iii. *The Browning automatic rifle* (at least four men per weapon to be taught).

(a) *T.O.E.T.* No tests are laid down. Rifle tests (i) and (ii) will apply, and in addition a man should know—

- (i) How to fill and empty magazines.
- (ii) How to fire in all positions.
- (iii) How to strip and assemble correctly.
- (iv) How to carry out immediate action.
- (v) The mechanism generally.

(b) *Range practices* (See page 8)

(c) Standard on the 30-yard or open range.

A score of 30 points in practices 2 and 3 in (b) above.

iv. *Vickers machine gun*

Instructions in this weapon will be given for direct firing only. Indirect fire and night firing will not be taught until proficiency is reached in direct fire and until the necessary instruments are available. Units armed with the M.G. should form M.G. sections.

(i) Instruction will be given on the following subjects in S.A.T. Vol. I, Pamphlet 7.

Part I (Mechanical Subjects)

Sections 1 to 7 inclusive. Section 9, lessons 29, 36 and 38 only.

Part II (Training)

Sections 11 (less Lesson 56), 12 (part only), 13, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 44.

Part III (Fire Control) for officers and non-commissioned officers only.

Sections 23 and 24.

(ii) *T.O.E.T.*

The following as laid down in S.A.T. Vol. I, Pamphlet 7, Part II.

Section 12, paras. 1, 2, 3 (second sub-para. only) and 5.
Tests 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7a and 9.

(iii) *Range practices* (See page 9)

v. *The Bayonet* (for units armed with the bayonet).

The object is to develop the offensive spirit, and to give the man familiarity with the soldier's best method of offence and defence when he cannot shoot and when he wishes to kill without noise. Individuality is to be encouraged and enthusiasm, the fighting spirit and lust for the offensive inculcated.

A sequence of bayonet instruction is given below:—

SEQUENCE OF BAYONET TRAINING INSTRUCTION

LESSON 1—The Assault

Stores required: Ground and standing dummies

Stage I.—*Introductory*

Explain object—to close with enemy after last fire position has been occupied.

Demonstrate target on the man.

Show methods of carrying rifle in "high port" and "on guard."

Extend class and, beginning from a fire position, pass through one another once or twice.

Essentials: Control before, dash during, and control after each movement.

Stage II.—“ *Points* ”

Instructor demonstrates a “ point ” Class practise (one standing dummy only).

Stage III.—Instructor demonstrates two “ points ” (one on ground, one at standing dummy, going straight in).
Class practise (one lying and one standing dummy).

Stage IV.—Instructor demonstrates three “ points ” (one on ground, one standing, and one jab dummy).
Class practise.
NOTE.—Illustrate methods of withdrawal and “ points.”
Stress individuality.
Insist on savage determination.

Stage V.—*Charging*

Explain gradual stepping up of opposition as a man increases in proficiency.

Always have tactical reality, i.e., from fire position to fire position. Where possible, use tactically suitable ground and paint a realistic picture. The unit is a section under its own leader.

Class carry out assault, beginning with two lines of ground and standing dummies, separated by two lines of ground dummies in shell-holes. Final obstacle is a ramp with ground dummy at the base. (Dummies should be made to represent Germans.)

There must be starting and firing trenches. The exercise will begin and conclude with a fire order. Blank ammunition and fatiguesmen with a pole-target are necessary.

LESSON 2—Quickening exercises

Briefly explain and demonstrate use of the training stick.

Demonstrate a “ point.”

Class practise.

Repeat as men become proficient with the stick, showing two “ points,” then “ points ” including kicks at high and low angles.

LESSON 3—Offensive defence

Short talk introducing kicks, parries, and disarms.

Stage I.—Demonstrate right parry and kill.

Class practise on the training stick.

Stage II.—Demonstrate left parry, butt stroke, and kill.

Class practise on the training stick.

Stage III.—Unarmed assault.

i. Left-hand point guarded, opponent disarmed, disabled, and killed.

Practise in pairs.

ii. Right-hand point guarded, opponent disarmed, disabled by kicks, and killed.

Practise in pairs.

iii. Practise both disarms in pairs.

NOTE.—Details of instruction are to be found in S.A.T., Vol. 1, Pamphlet 12.

3. Fieldworks

Home Guards should be able —

i. To construct a simple fire trench with a bullet-proof parapet and an elbow rest.

- ii. To fill and lay sandbags.
- iii. To construct a simple skin revetment.
- iv. To construct a simple knife rest obstacle.
- v. To camouflage a fire position and a loophole.
- vi. To block windows and doors and make loopholes.
- vii. To construct a double apron fence and erect a Dannert wire obstacle.

4. Map reading

Home Guards should aim at being able :—

- i. To understand what is meant by the scale of a map, and to use a simple scale for estimating distances from the map.
- ii. To interpret conventional signs on maps of all scales.
- iii. To orient a map.
- iv. To understand contours and other methods of representing the relief.
- v. To understand the difference between true north and magnetic north, and, where applicable, grid north. To define a point :—
 - (a) its bearing and distance from another given point ; and
 - (b) the reference on the military grid.

The object of this training will be to enable him to find his way about the country ; to identify points on the ground ; describe them ; and to select routes from one place to another.

5. Anti-gas

Home Guards should understand :—

- i. Adjustment, fitting and care of the service and civilian respirators.
- ii. Personal decontamination.
- iii. Characteristics of gases and first aid.

6. General knowledge

The knowledge which the Home Guard should have of his district will vary with the neighbourhood and the circumstances, but the following are suggested as likely items :—

- i. Position of post and telegraph offices, railway stations, police stations, petrol filling stations, etc., near his beat.
- ii. The distances and routes to neighbouring villages and towns.
- iii. The various telephone systems which exist in his area and the position of available instruments.
- iv. The name of his section, platoon, company and battalion commanders.
- v. The military unit (if any) to which his own unit is affiliated.
- vi. The organization and responsibilities of other defence services in his area.
- vii. The military units stationed in his area and the position of their headquarters.

*Prepared under the direction of
The Chief of the Imperial General Staff.*

THE WAR OFFICE,
18th September, 1940.

BROWNING AUTOMATIC RIFLE

Range Practice. Not more than 4 men per rifle to be practised

No.	Practice	Target	Distance in yards	Rounds	Detail	H.P.S.	Remarks
1	Single rounds	Representative or small	50 100 200	5	If fired at 200 yds. the 5 shots will be counted in the second column only as 50. The best accuracy of aim combined with trigger pressing.	No scoring	(a) Scoring: Bulk and Inners, 2 points each; Bulks and Outers, 1 point; (b) Practices 2 and 3 should be fired by each man consecutively.
2	Application at normal rate (9)	Representative or small	50 100 200	10	Single shots. Last 5 rounds in a burst to be signalled.	20 (a)	<i>General Condition</i> For all practices gun will be loaded with 10 rounds and the target should be placed so that the target appears on the order to fire is given.
3	Rapid (6)	Representative or small	50 100 200	15	15 rounds in 2 magazines (10 and 5). Shots 1-10 in 1st magazine. The second magazine beside the first. The appearance of the target to be the signal to fire. The target will be exposed for 40 seconds. Last 5 rounds in a burst.	30 (a)	<i>Notes</i> — M.P.I. = Mean Point of Impact. The centre of the marking disc should be placed over the shot hole or the centre of the group on the target.

H.P.S. 90

90

Rounds
C.O.'s post

30—to be used at discretion of C.O. for "zeroing," practising stoppages, practice shots, etc., or for firing in accordance with the rule F.V.
See Appendix 300.

Total rounds

90

VICKERS MACHINE GUN

Range Practice.—Not more than four men per weapon to be practised.

Practice No.	Practice	Target	Distance in yards	Rounds	Detail	Remarks
1	Registration ..	Proposed which on stop butts	500 or 30	15	<p><i>Object</i>.—To register the correct range and wind allowance before applying fire.</p> <p>i. Rounds will be spaced in groups of 5. On the order being given for the practice to commence the firer will engage the target at the range and wind allowance necessary to hit the centre of it.</p>	The position of the M.P.I. of each burst with reference to the centre of the target will be signalled from the line on a life line and recorded for this purpose.
2	Single shot traverse	Horizontal and oblique lines on a white screen	30	20	<p><i>Object</i>.—To practise the firer in the regulation trip for traversing a horizontal and an oblique target.</p> <p>i. Rounds will be spaced in four groups of 5 rounds.</p> <p>ii. The firer is ordered to traverse from one end of the line, the order "Stop" being given after 5 rounds have been fired. He is then ordered to traverse from the other end.</p> <p>iii. The procedure is carried out first on the horizontal and then on the oblique lines.</p>	1. The firer will test his aim before the practice commences. 2. The firer's feet shall be spaced apart laterally.
3	Service Application	Large Conventional Landscape (6-ft.)	500 or 20	15	<p><i>Object</i>.—To test the engagement of a target from the normal service position.</p> <p>i. Rounds will be spaced in groups of 5.</p> <p>ii. The firer is ordered to engage the target about 3 paces in rear of the spot on which the gun will be mounted. Tripped on left and legs set for the sitting position. Sights at zero. Ammunition box and container can in a convenient position on the firing line.</p> <p>iii. The position at which the firer's target will appear will be indicated to him.</p> <p>iv. The exposure will be timed from the butts.</p> <p>v. On the appearance of the target, the firer and his No. 2 will bring the gun into action and engage the target.</p> <p>vi. Time allowed, 60 secs.</p>	

Total rounds

80

