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APPENDIX 1)

AMENDMENTS TO S.A.T., VOL. 1, PAMPHLET No. 9, 1939

1. Page 64, Lesson 49. Delete para. 3 and substitute the following:—

" Fire may be by single bombs fired at irregular intervals or it may be in groups of rapid. When firing by single bombs the words 'One round' will be included in the order, e.g. 'Eleven fifty one round.' "

2. Page 71, Lesson 52, para. 8, iii. Delete whole sub-para. and substitute the following:—

" iii. Alterations to line and range, which may be found necessary during the production of the screen, will be made by the employment of rapid corrections as taught in Lesson 25."

3. Lesson 52, para. 8, iv. Delete the whole sub-para. and substitute the following:—

" iv. The order 'Check turns, rapid corrections' will always be given after the order 'Smoke.' "

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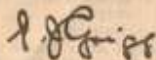
WEAPON TRAINING MEMORANDUM

WAR

No. 2

This Memorandum reviews weapon training and indicates amendments to Small Arms Training Vol. 1, necessitated by changes in organization, equipment and training.

By Command of the Army Council,



THE WAR OFFICE,
4th September, 1940.

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WEAPON TRAINING MEMORANDUM

No. 2

I.—INTRODUCTORY

The object of Weapon Training Memoranda which will be published from time to time is to provide, in compact form, information on such changes and additions to the Small Arms Training Pamphlets as may be rendered necessary by changes in organization, equipment or tactics.

Certain of the more important amendments are printed in the form of appendices to this Memorandum and may be removed and pasted into the pamphlet concerned. The distribution of this Training Memorandum will be on a scale sufficient to allow this to be done.

II.—DETAIL OF CHANGES

1. Zeroing

i. For all details concerning zeroing, S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 1, Appendix I, should be consulted. Pamphlet 18, General Instructions, para. 3 (zeroing) has certain inaccuracies and omissions.

ii. When a new barrel is fitted to the Bren L.M.G. it is particularly desirable to zero the weapon if at all possible, and opportunity of so doing should be taken when circumstances permit.

iii. There are five sizes of foresight for the Bren L.M.G. and not three as stated in S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 1, App. I, para. 3, ii.

2. Range cards

The unit of the person making out a range card should not be shown.

(S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 2, 1939—Figs. 6 and 8 on pp. 19 and 21 respectively. *Delete* reference to unit in each case under heading "Made out by.")

3. Rifle training

i. The lesson, "Elementary Aiming off for Wing" (Lesson 9 in S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 3) is at present shown as "Not to be taught to post-mobilization recruits." As the relevant parts of this lesson are an essential preliminary to the firing of the War Course, this note at the head of the lesson should be deleted.

ii. As certain units are armed with the No. 3 Mk. I (P.14) rifle, which differs in certain fundamental respects from the SMLE, variations to be noted in the teaching of this rifle are given in Appendix A to this Memorandum.

4. Anti-tank rifle

i. S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 5, 1937 (reprinted 1939), Lesson I, after paragraph 3 add the following :-

On no account will any attempt be made to strip the bolt or interfere with its mechanism, as misfires will result from incorrect assembly. The bolt will only be stripped by a qualified armourer.

Should stripping of the bolt on active service, or when no armourer is available, become essential, care must be taken when reassembling that the cocking piece is screwed fully home into the bolt, so as to ensure that the striker protrudes through the face of the bolt. This action requires strength as the spring is a very strong one.

ii. Reduced scale shooting with the anti-tank rifle

In view of the shortage of range accommodation and lack of facilities, 1/4th scale shooting with the anti-tank rifle is abolished. The reference to it in S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet 5, General, para. 5, and all references to it in S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 18 (Supplement), should, therefore, be deleted.

It is considered that 1/4th scale shooting will meet all requirements. Full details of this are to be found in S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet 18 (Supplement), pages 9 and 15 to 18.

5. Anti-aircraft training

i. Army Training Memorandum No. 34, Part II, para. 15, draws attention to the necessity for dispersion against air attack, with the result that it will no longer be possible for the platoon to be the fire unit. Whenever possible, the section organization should be maintained in order to produce the maximum hitting power, but when dispersion into smaller groups than sections is necessary, fire must be controlled by the senior officer, N.C.O. or soldier present.

ii. Many occasions will arise when it is required to engage hostile aircraft with the L.M.G. and the tripod is not instantly available. Very efficient shooting is possible with the L.M.G. at aircraft without the use of the tripod in the sitting, kneeling or standing positions.

- (a) With the butt of the gun in the shoulder, left hand on the carrying handle.
- (b) With the butt of the gun on the hip, or under the arm-pit, left hand on the carrying handle.

These methods should be practised in training in addition to the normal method given in Lesson 10 of Pamphlet No. 6. Amendments to S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 6, are shown in Appendix B.

6. 2-in. Mortar

The correct aim with the 2-in. mortar is on the centre of the target, as with other weapons.

In S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 8, 1939, Lesson 3, para. 3, fig. 3, the apex of the triangle in the middle diagram should be on the centre of the gate.

7. Hip firing

Weapon Training Memorandum No. 1, Appendix D, page 14, mentions tracer ammunition in connection with firing from the hip. Tracer S.A.A. will not be used, and the reference to it will be cancelled.

8. .303-in. Lewis machine gun

S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 20, 1939, Lesson 9, para. 2, line 11. After "balance" add :-

The weight required on the return spring varies from about 15 lb. to about 18 lb. The exact amount of weight required by any particular gun can only be found by experience, but accurate balancing of the return spring is of the utmost importance.

9. Thompson sub-machine gun

S.A.T., Vol. I, Pamphlet No. 21, 1940 :-
A suggested course for the Thompson gun is shown at Appendix C. This course will be fired when ammunition for training becomes available.

10. Medium machine gun

i. Combined sights

Units are inclined to get an untrue picture of the proper use of combined sights because :-

- (a) Having learned the rules they feel bound to apply them.
- (b) At home, they have very little ammunition with which to practise.
- (c) On training, they have no opportunity of seeing the enemy reaction.

Fire controllers should be taught to adopt the following mentality with regard to combined sights :-

I have fired a good many bursts at the range-taker's range, I have seen no strikes and there has been no enemy reaction of any kind, therefore I will now use combined sights.

When harassing at night, or shooting from a map, the ammunition allotted for the shoot should, as a general guide, be evenly distributed between the elevations to be used.

ii. Tapping

When engaging point targets, fire controllers should be taught to adopt the same mentality with regard to tapping as to combined sights.

iii. Indication and recognition

(a) It cannot be too strongly stressed that the best method of getting guns on to a target is for the section commander to lay them himself. When, for some reason, this method is impracticable, a more complicated method will have to be employed.

(b) Dial and handwheel method

Units equipped with dial sights should never employ this method of indication since it is much easier to lay off from an easily recognisable point by means of the dial sight.

11. 3-in. mortar

i. Methods of obtaining direction

Page 57, Lesson 45, S.A.T., Vol. 1, Pamphlet No. 9, 1930 :-

The various methods of obtaining direction given in para. 2 are by no means given in order of priority. In fact, "rough laying" will be the most normal method used and, owing to the necessity for avoiding exposed movement, the auxiliary aiming mark will be used in preference.

ii. Fire for effect

When firing for effect with single bombs the words "One round" will be included in the order, e.g. "1180 one round."

iii. The necessary amendments to S.A.T., Vol. 1, Pamphlet No. 9, are given at Appendix D.

J. G. Dill

Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

THE WAR OFFICE.

24th August, 1940.

VARIATIONS TO NOTE IN TEACHING THE NO. 3, MK. I (P.14) RIFLE

Pamphlet 3

Lesson 1

- i. Removal and replacement of bolt different.
- ii. No half-cock. Trigger cannot be pressed if bolt lever is not fully down.

Lesson 3

- i. The magazine holds five rounds only.
- ii. Some rifles have no cut-off.
- iii. The bolt will not go forward when the magazine is empty.
- iv. Alternative method of unloading not practicable.

Lesson 4

- i. Removal of magazine platform is different.

Lesson 5

- i. Examination of rifle has to be modified, e.g. examine ejector—examination of backsight.

Lesson 8

- i. Adjustment of sights—include battle sight (up to 400 yards). When sights adjusted, leaf up.
- ii. Third rule of aiming as for I.M.G.

Lesson 9

- i. Explaining necessity for maintenance of elevation when aiming off. Diagram not practical.

Lesson 12

- i. When demonstrating the continuous swing from the aiming rest, the aim corrector must be put well back on the butt.

Lessons 13, 14

- i. No need to draw back rifle to adjust sights.

Lesson 15, 16

- i. Lower muzzle to see to adjust sights.

Lesson 21, 22

- i. Position of readiness. Sight is liable to be damaged when bringing the rifle quickly on top of cover (e.g. snipebooting) unless great care is taken, or battle sight is used. (For training purposes use battle sight.)

V.O.E.T. No. 7 (Rapid firing)

- i. No dummies will be used, aiming disc used instead of aim corrector.