

353.14(GS) Small Arms Firing.

/gt.

HEADQUARTERS 81st DIVISION,  
Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C.

May 31, 1918.

TRAINING MEMORANDUM:  
No. 74.

1. The range practice for 1918 will begin about July 1st. All officers and men of infantry and engineers who are required to fire including men of new draft about to be assigned, will fire the prescribed course. In the intervening time the best possible instruction will be given in sighting drills and position and aiming exercises. Preliminary tests will be applied rigidly as prescribed in changes No. 20, S.A.F.M. For the new draft, instruction will begin as soon as the men receive their arms.

2. To provide a short course suited to the brief time available for range practice the following firing tables are authorized and will be fired.

Table 1

INSTRUCTION PRACTICE - SLOW FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position	Sight
100 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 kneeling in open	A - 4	From lying trench From position in open	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.
200 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 sitting in open	A - 4	From standing trench From position in open	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.
300 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 lying in open.	A - 4	From standing trench. From position in open.	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.

All firing from typical trench will be with bayonet fixed, rifle resting on parapet. Men making less than 120 points in Table 1, will repeat. Those making less than 100 points on repetition will not be advanced to Table 2. These will be dropped out of the range practice class and formed into a special class for further instruction in position and aiming drills and gallery practice

Table 2

INSTRUCTION PRACTICE - SLOW FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position	Sight
100 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 kneeling in open.	Prone figure	From lying trench From position in open.	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.
200 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 sitting in open	Prone figure	From standing trench From position in open.	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.
300 Yds.	No limit	5 with rest 5 sitting in open	Prone figure	From standing trench From position in open.	5 shots with leaf sight; 5 with battle.

Men making less than 20 points will repeat Table 2. Those making less than 16 points on repetition will not be advanced to Table 3, but will be dropped from range practice class and sent to join the deficientes for special drill in the elements. In repeating Table 2. Target A - 4, will be used for sighting shots.

Table 3

INSTRUCTION PRACTICE - RAPID FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position	Sight
100 Yds.	45 Sec.	10	A - 4	Kneeling in open	Battle
200 Yds.	45 Sec.	10	A - 4	Sitting in open	Battle
300 Yds.	1 Min.	10	A - 4	Lying in open	Battle

At 100 yards soldier will be in standing position piece at the "ready". When target appears he will kneel and fire. At other ranges soldier will be in position, piece at "ready" but not at shoulder.

Men making less than 108 points in firing Table 3, will repeat. Those making less than 96 on repetition will be dropped and sent to join the class of deficientes for more preliminary work.

Table 4

INSTRUCTION PRACTICE - RAPID FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position (in trench)	Sight
100 Yds.	45 Sec.	10	A - 4	Prone	Leaf
200 Yds.	45 Sec.	10	A - 4	Standing	Leaf
300 Yds.	1 Min.	10	A - 4	Standing	Leaf

Men making less than 108 points will repeat. Those making less than 96 points on repetition will be dropped and sent to join class of deficient for further preliminary work.

Table 5

INSTRUCTION PRACTICE - RAPID FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position (in trench)	Sight
100 Yds.	1 Min.	15	Prone fig.	Lying	Leaf
200 Yds.	1 Min.	15	Prone fig.	Standing	Leaf
300 Yds.	1 Min.	10	Prone fig.	Standing	Leaf

Soldier must fire 10 rounds at each range. To be penalized 1 point for each unfired round less than 10.

Man making less than 16 points in firing Table 5, will be given such additional practice as ammunition allowance will admit.

Those making less than 16 on repetition will not be advanced to Table 6. They will be sent to join deficient class.

Table 6

RECORD PRACTICE - RAPID FIRE.

Range	Time	Shots	Target	Position (in trench)	Sight
100 Yds.	1 Min.	15	Prone fig.	Lying	Leaf
200 Yds.	1 Min.	15	Prone fig.	Standing	Leaf
300 Yds.	1 Min.	10	Prone fig.	Standing	Leaf

Soldier must fire ten rounds at each range. To be penalized 1 point for each unfired round less than 10. Scores made in Table 6, will determine qualifications as follows:

28 Points - 1st Class shot.

22 Points - 2nd Class shot.

16 Points - 3rd Class shot.

Those making less than 16 points in record course will be rated as "unqualified".

3. To provide a ready means of comparison, the following rule for determining figure of merit in range practice for a company will be observed. "Multiply number of 1st class shots by 100, number of 2nd class shots by 75, number of 3rd class shots by 50, number of unqualified men by zero. Divide the sum of the products by the total number of men in the 4 classes. The quotient will be the figure of merit for the company. The figure of merit for a regiment will be the average of the figures of merit of all the companies, less the Machine Gun Company".

4. As an aid in the development of special skill with the rifle, at the conclusion of the regular course of firing a rifle match between companies will be arranged in each regiment including the engineers each company to be represented by a team of 12 enlisted men. The competition course will be as prescribed in Table 6. Upon the conclusion of the regimental matches there will be a divisional match, each infantry regiment and the engineers to be represented by a team of fifteen (15) enlisted men. The course will be as prescribed for the regimental matches. Suitable trophies will be provided for the winners.

5. Men who were dropped out at different stages as being deficient will re-fire the course as soon as practicable after completion of the regular course. As a rule they should begin with the table in which they failed, a few sighting shots being allowed as a preliminary when desirable. These men should be advanced or dropped out as prescribed under the different tables, but special effort should be made to bring as many men as possible to the point of firing the record course.

6. The best four (4) enlisted shots in each company will fire the prescribed mid-range course.

7. Program of field firing exercises to follow range practice. Exercises are stated in the order of their sequence and each one is designed to illustrate one or more features of collective musketry or principles of fire tactics:

1st: Firing exercises for rifle platoon, one objective and one firing point. Objective to consist of line of silhouette figures, kneeling or prone, equal in number to the number of men

firing and to be placed in line at a range between 500 and 700 yards from firing point. The latter to be the crest of a ridge, the edge of a wood or some other natural cover, which would be properly chosen by the platoon leader as a firing position. Ten (10) rounds of ammunition per man to be issued. This exercise illustrates direction of fire of rifle platoon at an objective, the range to which must be estimated. Targets may be placed so as to be only partially visible or more or less concealed requiring good target designation on the part of the leader and good understanding on the part of the men. This problem also calls for personal reconnaissance, the use of the field glass and the selection and occupation of firing position. When the leader takes appropriate measures and the individual shooting is good, the standard in hits, distribution and time of execution will be closely approximated. The firing should be made to come as the culmination of a simple tactical scheme, a statement of which should be made in advance to the leader by the umpire.

2nd: Directing fire of a platoon at target which appears to change position, representing the advance of an enemy: There are three (3) groups of targets all of which are in invisible position when the exercise begins. The groups are made to appear and disappear in turn the most distant target appearing first. Fire to be opened promptly when target appears and to cease when the target disappears. This is an exercise in fire discipline and fire control. Good fire discipline and good control will produce standard results. These are worked out on the condition that time when targets are visible is fully utilized. Ammunition, 20 rounds per man. The time the targets are visible, will about correspond to the time necessary to fire 20 shots, at a good rate of fire.

3rd: Platoon on the defensive against two objectives, both invisible at the start: The most distant objective composed of prone figures is made to appear and fire is opened. After brief exposure the second group composed of kneeling figures placed at short range is caused to appear, making two groups in sight at the same time. The platoon is thus confronted with two groups of enemies and a decision must be made as to how the fire of the platoon shall be employed under such circumstances. The correct solution is based on principle that the nearest target is usually the most dangerous as well as the most vulnerable. The standard results are computed on assumption that full utilization is made of the time element. In addition to providing a question of choice of target for the platoon leader, this exercise involves a prompt cessation of the fire on an objective, the designation of a new objective and a prompt opening of fire thereon. (See Par. 253 I.D.R.) Ammunition, 15 rounds per man.

4th: Exercise illustrating rifle platoon on the offensive, calling for an advance by rushes from one firing position to another. The enemy will be represented by a group of an equal number of silhouette figures placed on a revolving beam and at a distance of from two to four hundred yards from the first firing position. At the beginning of the exercise the targets are in the lowered position and out of sight. The platoon being in the position from which the advance is to be made, the platoon leader is given the sector in which the target lies but is not told its exact location or the range. The platoon being in position to fire and everything in readiness, the platoon

commander is informed that when the targets appear that fire is to be opened and that when they disappear he is to cease firing and advance at the double time until the target reappears, when another halt will be made and the fire resumed. Provision may be made for one, two or three halts as desired or as the lay of the ground may suggest.

5th: Exercise for detachment composed of two or more rifle platoons up to four: Detachment to be commanded preferably by a captain and each platoon by a lieutenant. Targets may be stationary as in Exercise No. 1, with distinct groups for each platoon or else the line of targets may be continuous. Otherwise targets may be arranged and manipulated as described in Exercise No. 2, each platoon having targets of its own. In either case the captain must allot sectors of the front to his platoon commander and the latter must in turn issue instructions which will make it certain that the fire of each platoon will be delivered in the sector assigned to it. When targets can be arranged to appear and disappear as described in Exercise No. 2, the duties of the platoon leader in controlling the fire each having a task of his own distinct from that of the captain are well brought out. Ammunition should be issued at the rate of ten rounds per man for each group of targets to be fired at.

In all the firing exercises, targets will be composed of lines of prone or kneeling silhouette figures one yard apart from center to center. Appearing and disappearing effects will be caused by placing silhouette figures on revolving beams. In every case the regimental commander or a field officer designated by him will deliver the critique. The number of hits and the number of figures hit will be compared with the standards in these respects, and the latter which are dependent on the special conditions of the exercise will be furnished the regimental commander in advance of the firing.

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IN CHARGE OF SMALL ARMS PRACTICE.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL BAILEY:

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