

IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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NOTES

Whatever controversies may be forced on us, we should never allow them to make us lose sight of the main purpose. It sometimes happens, when people take different sides, that those on one side are inclined to find fault with everything that is done on the other side. That is factionism, no matter whether those who are guilty of it claim to speak in the name of a majority or a minority. Faction loses sight of the right aim and purpose, and sets up persons and parties instead of policy and principle. The main object of the Irish Volunteer movement from the beginning has been to put the Irish Nation in such a position that its just rights and liberties will not be at the mercy of those who command and threaten organised violence. The means proposed for this end is the training and organising of Irishmen in the military defence of their own country.

It is desirable that this work should be carried out on a national scale, and in a permanent manner. We have to work up gradually but without delay to a state of things when Irishmen will have all the apparatus required, and will know how to make the best use of it, for the defence of the country and the nation, and will know besides all the resources and advantages that the country affords for its defence, and over and above this that they will have always in operation a plan of joint action that will enable them to put the country in a state of defence at any time.

We need a widespread dissemination of military knowledge and aptitude, with special adaptation to our own circumstances. We need to make all this knowledge and aptitude a household matter as far as possible. In ancient times every man and every youth was a potential soldier and such knowledge as was needed for the welfare of the time was in a large measure common property and a part of general tradition as much as the

knowledge of agriculture and fishing and spinning and dairywork. That knowledge is as necessary for us now as ever, if not more necessary than ever. Things have happened of late that have shown us in what way those who have taken on themselves the responsibility of defence interpret that responsibility for themselves, and the Irish nation has learned again, what it never should have forgotten, that it can only trust itself for its own defence, and that if it entrusts the power of defending it to others, that power will be used against it. Along with the necessary knowledge, we must have the means of putting it to its proper use, and that includes in our time effective modern arms and ammunition, as well as organisation, training, and instruction. The Irish Volunteer programme is to organise, train, instruct, arm, and equip for national defence the able-bodied manhood of the Irish nation.

Bearing this purpose steadily in view, while we try to do our own part, we should be glad to see anything done in the same direction by others, whatever line they may take in regard of questions of a passing character. It should be a source of real satisfaction to us to see a meeting held last week in Dublin to raise funds for the specific purpose of arming Volunteers, and to see prominent citizens coming forward and subscribing freely for that purpose. The Volunteer movement has now become a fixed part of the National policy, and while we cannot see eye to eye with the promoters of this meeting on all questions, we must gladly commend them in this particular undertaking and trust that it will be carried into full effect. We congratulate the Dublin citizens, mostly leading professional men, whose pounds and guineas have given testimony to their earnestness. May we interpret the proceedings at the meeting as a corroboration of Mr. John Dillon's recent pronouncement, when he pledged himself and his colleagues to maintain the right of the Irish people to bear arms for the defence of the nation? There is just one further point that needs to be insisted on. The

right to bear arms is an empty form, without the right to provide arms.

At the same time, it is daily becoming clearer out of the confusion, and most people are realising that the Irish Parliamentary Party, in the fulfilment of its special mandate from the electorate, has still a task to perform which will require all its attention. Statements have been made and are still being made, in the form of special pleading in favour of a particular line of action, the line of the "sharp curve," to the effect that the mandate has practically been fulfilled. Such statements carry no weight with the public, and they are absolutely discounted and set aside by another set of statements, arising out of the King's County election. We are told on the other hand that the main question is still in a critical condition—and this is the true view of the case—and that, for that reason alone, the past method of arranging for parliamentary elections must still remain in force. For my own part, I am satisfied that on this point Mr. Redmond is in the right. If there has been any reason to quarrel with the conduct of elections, that reason was as strong before the signing of a certain document as after it. The present position of the Home Rule measure makes no difference in that respect, except perhaps to make it more imperative than ever for the Irish Parliamentary Party to concentrate all their energies on their own special duty and commission.

In the early months of this year, it became clear to everybody on all sides that the Irish Volunteers had brought a decisive accession of strength to the Home Rule cause, and leading opponents of Home Rule publicly admitted that this "fresh complication," as they called it in their discomfort, had put a new face on the whole political situation. Then most unfortunately the Irish Party leaders were persuaded that they ought to "control and dominate" the Volunteer movement and reduce it to the condition of a wheel in the political machine. The Volunteer organisation had saved the

situation for Home Rule. It was repaid by distrust. How that distrust was inspired is not of much concern at present. Enough to say that the "Home Rule" Government made **their** dislike of the Irish Volunteers plain enough.

Two men walking side by side may be a source of strength and support to each other. Set one of them on the other's shoulders, and not only does their joint strength become weakened but even both of them together are more powerless than either of them singly were before. This is what has happened to the Irish Parliamentary Party and the Volunteers, so far as the Party has succeeded in getting upon the shoulders of the Volunteers. It has been claimed that a majority of the Volunteers have accepted the Party's control. Very well, what is the result? Are these Volunteers in a stronger position? They know well, and the whole country knows, that they are not. **Is the Party in a stronger position?** Not even the "Freeman's Journal," which goes on saying things that convince nobody, would dare to pretend that the control of the "National Volunteers" has strengthened the Parliamentary Party, or improved the prospects of Home Rule. At this moment, Ireland's best security for Home Rule is the Irish Volunteers who have not accepted Party control.

So plain is all this to the public mind, that another special plea has to be hinted at, but cannot be plainly stated. It was necessary, we see the hint in circulation and evidently suggested in very influential quarters, that the Irish Volunteers should be "in safe hands." This is more of the policy of distrust. Trust the British Ministry which has publicly violated its treaty, embodied in the terms of the Home Rule Bill and kept before the eyes of the Irish people for two years, the treaty on the strength of which the Irish electorate have been induced to keep the Government in office and to assist them in passing their own party measures—trust the British Ministry, but don't trust your fellow Irishmen. They might do something rash and dangerous. They might take advantage of the hospital controversy and seize Dublin Castle. They might establish a Provisional Government. They have announced a definite programme, and so far they have steadfastly adhered to it in spite of every difficulty and every provocation. But who knows when they will take it into their heads to convert the straight line they have followed hitherto into a sharp curve? The Government has done it. Mr. T. P. O'Connor has gloried in it. These are "safe hands."

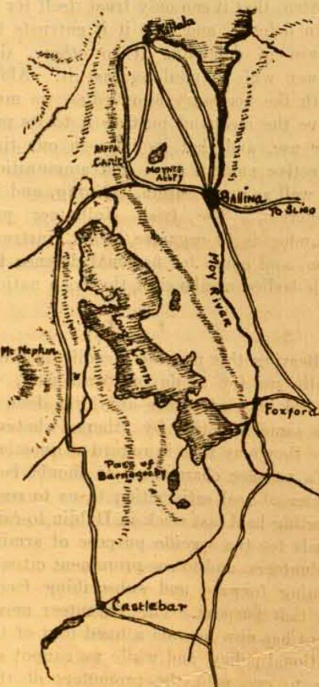
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IRISH BATTLES.

I.—THE BATTLE OF CASTLEBAR.

The little French army of General Humbert landed in Killala Bay on the evening of August 22nd, 1798. It comprised three companies of Grenadiers (159 men), two slim battalions of infantry, a couple of small guns, about a score of cavalymen without horses, and some extra officers of Irish birth. The total force amounted to 82 officers and 1,017 N.C.O.'s and men. The expedition was intended as the first instalment of a French invasion, but as it arrived a full month after the native insurrection had been suppressed and at a time when the English had well over 100,000 men in arms in the country, the chance of its success were very small from the start. Even so, Humbert's short campaign is a lasting example of what is possible for really good troops when resolutely led.



The town of Killala was rushed the evening the French landed, and the following day was occupied with landing stores, commandeering horses and supplies, pushing out strong reconnoitring parties, and enlisting recruits. On the morning of the 24th, Ballina was taken and measures prepared for an advance into the interior of the country. The same day Dublin got news of the landing.

General Hutchinson, commanding the English forces in Connacht, ordered the following troops to Castlebar: from Galway, Kerry Militia; from Tuam, Fraser Fencibles; from Loughrea, Kilkenny

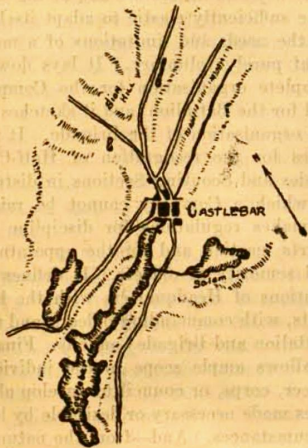
Militia; from Gort, Longford Militia; from Athenry, Lord Roden's Dragoons, four 6-pr. guns and a mortar. A little later 100 men of the 6th Regiment followed from Galway. The Limerick Militia was sent from Athlone to Carrick-on-Shannon and units from Enniskillen and other points were ordered to Sligo to intercept the French on that side. The great bulk of the English forces were united at Castlebar on the 25th, under Hutchinson in person. That General was resolved to engage the French at once, hoping by a victory to forestall any attempt at insurrection. On the main road from Castlebar to Ballina—along the River Moy—was a detachment at Foxford, consisting of the force driven from Ballina with considerable reinforcements from Sligo and other points. Humbert, on his side, learned on the afternoon of the 26th, "that General Lake, with an army of 5,000 men, was advancing on Castlebar," and at once prepared to attack him.

The French General had heard from Father Conroy, Parish Priest of Addergoole, of another much inferior road to Castlebar along the slopes of Nephin and through the Pass of Barnageehy on the western shore of Lough Conn. He at once decided to use this road. At nightfall—leaving 200 French and some Irish to guard his stores in Killala—on the 26th his little army—750 French and as many raw Irish recruits with two guns—set out towards Foxford; then after dark counter-marching round the northern shore of the lake, they set out on their adventurous journey. The mud was appalling, and the guns had to be man-handled by the Irish auxiliaries. Eventually one was left behind. At six o'clock on the morning of the 27th, Humbert reached Castlebar and found the heights north of the town held in great force. His force had marched 25 miles and the men had been **on their feet three nights in succession**. Without hesitation he ordered them to attack.

Meantime General Lake—who outranked Hutchinson—had arrived at Castlebar with heavy reinforcements, mainly cavalry, and had assumed command. He had reinforced the detachment at Foxford under Taylor, but had ignored the mountain road and **only heard of Humbert's approach from a fugitive** in time to send out a patrol to verify the matter. He hurriedly took up a strong position, covering the town and his communications with Taylor at Foxford. The English were formed on the slopes in three lines: in the first, the Artillery (Captain Shortall) astride the road, the Kilkenny Militia, 6th Foot, and Prince of Wales' Fencibles; in second line,

Fraser Fencibles and Galway Volunteers; in the third line, and to the right, Longford Militia. The cavalry, fully 600 strong, was in rear of the centre. The force totalled about 5,000 men with 16 cannon.

The Grenadier companies and the solitary gun, under Sarrazin, Humbert's second in command, advanced along the road against the English centre, one battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Ardouin, obliqued to the right to turn the English left, in the centre marched the Irish auxiliaries under Dufour. These last, coming under a storm of grape-shot at point-blank range, broke at once, leaving



a great gap in the line, but Humbert, who had in the early wars of the Revolution repeatedly seen the raw French levies break in precisely the same way was not put about. On his two flanks Sarrazin and Ardouin—the latter facing a difficult rocky hill—held firm, the former behind a ditch, the latter behind a wall of loose stones, and kept up a sharp fusillade on the motionless English at close range. The English made no counter-attack, and such was the position after thirty minutes.

Humbert had still another infantry battalion of 400 men and his few horsemen. Bringing up the former into the gap in his centre he ordered a general advance along the whole front, and his troops sprang forward yelling "Vive la Republique." The English artillery stood its ground well but the infantry wavered, then became panic-struck, then fled. As far as can be gathered Humbert's frontal attack was powerfully aided by a small force which entered the town by a lane called Gallows Road and took the English in reverse. These appeared to have been a handful of the more daring insurgents whom their leaders had succeeded in rallying and using in this way.

The overthrow of the English was complete, and their flight became a stampede, known to this day as the "Races of

Castlebar." Only isolated knots of men put up any resistance, and the losses were very heavy—14 guns, baggage, standards, muskets and over 500 prisoners, besides nearly as many killed and wounded. The French lost nearly 200—of whom Sarrazin's Grenadiers lost 63—a very big percentage of their little force. The Irish did not suffer heavily after the first murderous salvo from the guns.

This astonishing victory has many lessons: the amazing boldness of the French General was not rashness; it was the result of a clear view of the circumstances which called for do or die measures, and of a just calculation of the tactical superiority of his troops. The execution of his design was as resolute as the plan itself was daring. To quote the French General Staff account: "We cannot estimate too highly the striking value of this combat. The rapid, secret march forcing the enemy to change his dispositions at the moment of battle; the deployment of the advance-guard and the holding attack all along the front with its accompaniments—overthrow of the Irish and terrible losses of the Grenadiers who bore the brunt of it; finally the crowning act brought about by the entry into line of the reserve battalion and consequent general attack; everything, down to the vigorous pursuit, bears the stamp of the most simple tactics and at the same time the strongest and highest. It is, so to speak, a 'classic battle.' The old seller of rabbit-skins and horse-dealer who won it, with one soldier against seven, in a foreign country, without line of retreat or possible reinforcement, astounds us by his daring and his true military eye."

Noteworthy minor points are the excellent use of Irish features of ground, i.e., stone walls and ditches, behind which the French held on while awaiting supports, which holds just as good now as in flint-lock days: also the great effect of a small force unexpectedly taking in flank or rear an enemy hotly engaged in front. A word of tribute is also due to those wonderful marchers—raw Irish and seasoned French—whose splendid endurance made the victory possible.

For Lake one can have nothing but blame. It is true his troops were not to be compared with Humbert's veterans, but he handled them very badly. To have left the Pass of Barnageehy unoccupied was unpardonable, even though he expected Humbert to come by the other road. As it was he utterly lost touch with Taylor at Foxford, for—beaten in the battle—he was driven off his only line of connection with the latter and his luckless subordinate had to beat a hasty and isolated retreat to Boyle. In the actual battle he should have instantly pushed home a vigorous counter-stroke the moment Humbert's centre was laid bare.

CYCLIST TRAINING

INTRODUCTORY.

The Company is the unit both for tactical and administrative purposes. The strength of Companies may vary according to circumstances. All officers and men are required to be familiar with the training and duties of infantry.

The cyclist should be proficient in cycle drill, in attaching and detaching the rifle, in following a leader mounted, in keeping the regulation distance at all paces, and in the care and repair of his machine.

The cyclist should further be expert in judging distance, map reading, reconnaissance, scouting, despatch riding, and writing reports and messages. These duties require self-reliance and quickness of decision.

The machine should be of a roadster type, and in view of the fact that cyclists will have to carry heavy weights on service and to cycle in all weathers and over bad roads, a low gear is recommended. Uniformity of type is desirable; the most suitable gears are from 68 to 75, with a crank length of from 6½ to 7¼ inches.

TRAINING.

The training of Cyclist Companies includes:—

Musketry.—The cyclist is of little value unless he is a good shot. Every encouragement should be given to musketry, and instruction in musketry and distance judging should be combined with tactical exercise.

Marching by day and night, particularly the control of a column of cyclists on a road. Marches may be combined advantageously with range practice.

Maintaining connection between small bodies marching on different roads.

Patrolling, scouting, and despatch riding. Advanced, rear and flank guards, outposts and look-out station work.

Attack and defence, particularly forming up rapidly for attack from column of route, and regaining cycles and resuming column of route.

Defence of posts, ambushes, camps, and bivouacs.

Field engineering duties such as tend to delay an enemy's advance. These comprise construction of simple defence work, entrenching, loop-holing, blocking of roads by obstacles, demolition of railways, bridges, canals, telegraph and telephone lines.

When possible several Companies should be concentrated for a week-end exercise and camp to teach handling of large bodies, mobilisation arrangements, etc. The men could carry food for 24 hours and billeting arrangements could be made.

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All communications re Advertisements
to be addressed to the

IRISH PRESS BUREAU,
30 Lr. Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

The Irish Volunteer.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 16th inst., Mr. Eamonn Ceannt presiding.

The Scheme of Military Organisation was adopted and ordered to be published.

Progress was reported in the preparation of the Scheme of Training.

It was reported that No. 1 of the Executive series of booklets for Volunteers was ready for publication, being a short handbook on the Rifle.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,
Dublin, 16th Dec., 1914.

NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.**THE MILITARY ORGANISATION SCHEME.**

The Scheme of Military Organisation for the Irish Volunteers which has been promulgated this week is the first fruits of the activity of the new Headquarters Staff. The scheme does not pretend to finality or to completeness. It is rather an attempt to weld into something like an efficient military force the material actually at the disposal of the Volunteer movement at the moment, or likely to be at its disposal in the near future. It is hoped that the scheme is sufficiently definite to secure a real degree of military efficiency and discipline, and at the same time sufficiently elastic to adapt itself to all the needs and limitations of a movement purely voluntary. It lays down a complete organisation for the Company and for the Battalion, and it sketches out the organisation of the Brigade. It provides for the recognition of Half-Companies and Scouting Sections in districts in which a Company cannot be raised. It makes regulations for discipline and courts martial, and for the appointment and seniority of officers. It defines the relations of Headquarters with the local units, with commanding officers, and with Battalion and Brigade Councils. Finally, it allows ample scope to the individual officer, corps, or council to develop along lines made necessary or desirable by local circumstances. And—from the nature of the case—it provides that Headquarters may temporarily or locally delegate portion of its duties to officers and councils duly recognised by the Constitution: such bodies, for instance, as County Boards.

CO-OPERATION.

It is comparatively easy to draw up a Scheme of Organisation. The real test is the putting it in force. And this is greatly a matter of loyal and sympathetic co-operation between Headquarters and the local offices and corps. It will be the business of Headquarters to try to get at the point of view of the local commander and to see his difficulties; and it will be the business of the local commander to try to get at the point of view of Headquarters and to see its aims. Officers and Boards will do well to study the scheme closely in the first instance. They will soon see that what is aimed at is the securing of a series of mobile and self-contained units called Companies; the grouping of these Companies into larger units called Battalions; and, where feasible and desirable, the grouping of these Battalions into still larger entities called Brigades.

The Company is to consist essentially of a body of riflemen-scouts, up to 100 in number. It is to have its own Transport and Supply Service, its own Ambulance service, its own Pioneers, Signallers, and Cyclists. And while the members of these special services are to specialise in

SUPPLEMENT TO THE IRISH VOLUNTEER.

THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS

SCHEME OF MILITARY ORGANISATION.

I.—General Scope of the Scheme.

1. Subject to the provisions hereinafter made for the recognition, in certain cases, of groups smaller than the Company, the Irish Volunteers shall consist of tactical units called Companies.

2. The members of a Company shall be drawn from an area called the Company District.

3. Companies in neighbouring Company Districts shall be grouped into Battalions. The area from which the Companies constituting a Battalion are drawn shall be called the Battalion District.

4. Battalions in neighbouring Battalion Districts may be grouped into Brigades. The area from which the Battalions constituting a Brigade are drawn shall be called the Brigade District.

5. The Company, Battalion, and Brigade Districts shall be marked out by Headquarters in accordance with the natural and artificial lines of communication of the country rather than in accordance with its political divisions.

6. Closely-grouped Battalions in suitable areas may be recognised as constituting a Regiment with a territorial name, but the Regiment shall not be regarded as a military unit.

II.—Arms of the Service.

1. The Irish Volunteers shall comprise the following arms of the service: (1) Infantry; (2) Mounted Infantry, including Cyclists; (3) Artillery and Machine Guns; (4) Engineer Corps; (5) Transport, Supply, and Communications; (6) Army Medical Service.

2. The organisation shall be based upon the idea that each unit is to be as far as possible self-contained, and thus capable of acting with the greatest advantage either independently or in conjunction with other units. Every arm of the service shall therefore be represented as far as possible in each Company, and hence in each Battalion and Brigade.

III.—The Company.

(a.) General Organisation.

1. The Company shall consist when at full strength of three Company Officers and 100 men.

2. The Company Officers shall be the

Company Commander (Captain), the Right Half-Company Commander (First Lieutenant), and the Left Half-Company Commander (Second Lieutenant).

3. The 100 men of the Company shall normally comprise the following:—

A. Four Sections, numbered 1 to 4, each consisting of a Section Commander, 2 Squad Commanders, a Pioneer, a Signaller, and 12 men.

Sections 1 and 2 to constitute the Right Half-Company under the command of the Right Half-Company Commander; and Sections 3 and 4 to constitute the Left Half-Company under the Left Half-Company Commander.

Each Section to be divided into Right and Left Squads, each consisting of a Squad Commander and 7 men (including Pioneer or Signaller).

The Squads of the Company to be numbered 1 to 8.

B. A Section of Cycle Scouts, consisting of a Scout Commander and 16 men, including 2 Despatch Riders.

C. A Transport and Supply Section of 4 men, one of whom shall be in command of the Section, with one waggon or two pack animals.

D. An Ambulance Section of 8 men, one of whom shall be in command of the Section.

E. A Company Adjutant (Colour-Sergeant).

F. A Company Signaller.

G. A Bugler, Piper, or Drummer.

4. The following shall therefore be the normal details of a Company:—

COMPANY OFFICERS:

Company Commander	...	1
Half-Company Commanders	...	2

3

SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND MEN:

Company Adjutant	...	1
Section Commanders	...	4
Scout Commander	...	1
4 Sections of 16	...	64
Section of Cycle Scouts	...	16
Transport and Supply	...	4
Ambulance	...	8
Company Signaller	...	1
Bugler, Piper, or Drummer	...	1

100

Total of all ranks—103.

5. And the following shall be the normal details of a Section:—

Section Commander	...	1
Squad Commanders	...	2
Pioneer	...	1
Signaller	...	1
Men	...	12
		16

Total of all ranks—17.

(b.) Special Regulations.

1. While the members of the Special Sections (i.e. Cycle Scouts, Transport and Supply, and Ambulance) are to be specially trained for their special services, all members of the Company shall be trained as riflemen and as scouts.

2. In addition to the Cycle Scouts, as many men as possible shall be mounted on cycles, and men so mounted shall be placed in sections together. It shall be within the discretion of a Company Commander to mount some of his men on horses.

3. A member of the Company shall be trained as Instructor in Musketry, and one as Armourer.

4. When a Company is below full strength, the Company Commander shall, subject to the approval of Headquarters, use his discretion in determining the strength of the Special Sections and, generally, in applying the foregoing regulations, but he shall always endeavour to have each of the prescribed arms of the service represented in the Company.* Local circumstances shall always be taken into account, the object being to secure the practical efficiency of the Company rather than its conformation to an ideal type.

(c.) Duties of Company and Subordinate Officers.

1. The Company Commander shall be responsible for the organisation, training, equipment, discipline, and general efficiency of his Company. He shall command the Company in peace and war, subject only to the authority of superior officers duly appointed by the proper authorities of the Irish Volunteers.

2. The Half-Company Commanders shall be responsible to the Company Commander for the efficiency of their respective Half-Companies.

*This clause empowers the Company Commander to reduce the strength of the Special Sections when such is found to be necessary, and also, when necessary, to combine double duties in one individual or to distribute the duties of one position between two or more individuals.

3. The Section and Squad Commanders shall be responsible to their superior officers for the efficiency of the respective units under their command.

4. The Scout Commander shall be responsible to the Company Commander for the efficiency of the Section of Cycle Scouts and of the general scouting of the Company.

5. The Commanders of the Transport and Ambulance Sections shall be responsible to the Company Commander for the efficiency of their respective sections.

6. The Company Adjutant (Colour-Sergeant) shall act as adjutant to the Company Commander, and shall be specially responsible for drill instruction and the training of recruits.

(d.) Appointment of Company and Subordinate Officers.

1. The Company and Half-Company Commanders shall be elected by the Company at a general meeting summoned for that purpose, such election not to take effect unless and until ratified by Headquarters. Every Company Officer, upon ratification of his election, shall be given a Commission by Headquarters, such Commission to be his authority to act as a Company Officer of the Irish Volunteers.

2. It shall be within the power of Headquarters to deprive a Company Officer of his Commission either of its own motion or on the requisition of the Company.

3. All Section and Squad Commanders and other subordinate officers of the Company shall be appointed by the Company Commander; who shall also have power to dismiss them.

(e.) The Company Committee.

1. The civil business of the Company shall be managed by a Company Committee consisting of the three Company Officers, together with a Secretary and a Treasurer elected by the Company. Such Committee shall have power to co-opt two other members of the Company to serve upon it.

2. The Company Committee shall not have any jurisdiction in matters appertaining to military discipline, efficiency, or command, for which the Company Commander shall be solely responsible.

IV.—The Battalion.

(a.) General Organisation.

1. The Battalion shall normally comprise 4 or more (but not exceeding 8) Companies, together with a Battalion Engineer Corps, a Battalion Transport, Supply, and Communication Corps, and a Battalion Hospital Corps.

2. The Battalion Engineer Corps shall consist of 8 men, under a Captain and a Lieutenant of Engineers.

3. The Battalion Transport, Supply, and Communication Corps shall consist of 8 men, with two waggons or four pack animals, under a Quartermaster and an Assistant Quartermaster.

4. The Battalion Hospital Corps shall

consist of 4 men, under a Surgeon Captain and a Surgeon Lieutenant.

5. The Battalion Officers shall be the Commandant, the Vice-Commandant, the Battalion Adjutant, the Quartermaster, the Assistant Quartermaster, the Battalion Engineer Commander with his second in command, and the Battalion Surgeon with his second in command.

6. The details of a Battalion shall therefore be:—

BATTALION OFFICERS:

Commandant ...	1
Vice-Commandant ...	1
Battalion Adjutant ...	1
Quartermaster and Assistant	2
Bn. Engineer Commander	
and second in command..	2
Bn. Surgeon and second in	
command ...	2
	9

SPECIAL BATTALION SERVICES:

Engineer Corps ...	8
Transport, Supply, and	
Communication Corps ...	8
Hospital Corps ...	4
	20

Together with—

4 to 8 Companies of 3 Com-	
pany Officers ...	12 to 24
and 100 men ...	400 to 800

Total of all ranks	441 to 853
--------------------	------------

(b.) Special Regulations.

1. It shall be within the discretion of the Commandant to group together the Special Services (i.e., Cycle Scouts, Transport, Supply, and Communication, Ambulance, Pioneers, etc.) of the Companies of his Battalion, or portions of them, for Battalion purposes, or to leave them, or portions of them, attached to their respective Companies; and it shall be his duty to see that such Sections are trained to act both in the Company and in the Battalion.

(c.) Duties of Battalion Officers.

1. The Commandant shall be responsible for the organisation, training, equipment, discipline, and general efficiency of his Battalion. He shall command the Battalion in peace and war, subject only to the authority of superior officers duly appointed by the proper authorities of the Irish Volunteers.

2. The Vice-Commandant shall act as second in command to the Commandant, and shall exercise such separate command as may be delegated to him by the Commandant.

3. The Battalion Adjutant shall act as adjutant to the Commandant, and shall be specially responsible for the drill instruction of the Battalion and the training of the Battalion recruits.

4. The Quartermaster shall be responsible for the Transport, Supply, Quartering, and Communications of the Battalion,

and, in case of grouping, shall command the grouped Transport and Supply Sections. The Assistant Quartermaster shall be his second in command.

5. The Battalion Engineer Commander (ranking as Captain) shall be responsible for the Engineering work of the Battalion and, in case of grouping, shall command the grouped Pioneers of the Battalion. The Lieutenant of Engineers shall be his second in Command.

6. The Battalion Surgeon (ranking as Captain) shall be responsible for the Hospital work of the Battalion, and, in case of grouping, shall command the grouped Ambulance Sections. The Surgeon Lieutenant shall be his second in command.

(d.) Appointment of Battalion Officers.

1. All Battalion Officers shall be appointed by Headquarters. Prior to any such appointment, Headquarters shall invite recommendations from the Battalion Council, but it shall not be obligatory on Headquarters to adopt such recommendations.

2. It shall be within the power of Headquarters to deprive any Battalion Officer of his command either of its own motion or on the requisition of the Battalion Commandant or of the Battalion Council.

(e.) The Battalion Council.

1. The Company Commanders and Battalion Officers of a Battalion shall constitute the Battalion Council, under the presidency of the Battalion Commandant.

2. The duties of the Battalion Council shall be:—

(1) To manage the civil business of the Battalion.

(2) To consider matters submitted to it for its recommendations by the Battalion Commandant or by Headquarters, and to advise with regard to such matters.

(3) To discharge the functions hereinafter assigned to it in connection with Courts-Martial and with appeals from the summary jurisdiction of Company and Battalion Commanders.

3. The Battalion Council shall not have any jurisdiction in matters appertaining to military discipline (except as above laid down), efficiency, or command, for which the Battalion Commandant shall be solely responsible.

V.—The Brigade.

(a.) General Organisation.

1. The Brigade shall normally comprise 3 or more (but not exceeding 5) Battalions, together with a Brigade Engineer Corps, a Brigade Transport and Supply Corps, a Brigade Motor and Communication Service, and a Brigade Hospital Corps.

2. The strength of the various Brigade Services shall be determined by Headquarters in accordance with the circumstances of each case.

3. The Brigade Officers shall be the Brigadier-General, the Vice-Brigadier-General, the Brigade Adjutant, and Brigade Chiefs of Engineers, Transport and Supply, Communications, and Hospital Corps.

(b.) Duties of Brigade Officers.

1. The Brigadier-General shall be responsible for the efficiency of the Brigade. The Vice-Brigadier-General shall be his second in command and shall exercise such separate command as may be delegated to him by the Brigadier-General. The Chiefs of the various Brigade Services shall be responsible to the Brigadier-General for the efficiency of their respective services.

(c.) Appointment of Brigade Officers.

1. The Brigade Officers shall be appointed and dismissed by Headquarters.

(d.) The Brigade Council.

1. The Battalion Commandants and Brigade Officers of a Brigade shall form the Brigade Council, under the presidency of the Brigadier-General.

2. The Brigade Council shall exercise such jurisdiction as shall be delegated to it by Headquarters.

VI.—Units Smaller than the Company.

(a.) Half-Companies.

1. In a district in which a Company cannot be raised, Headquarters shall have power to recognise as a Half-Company a body of Volunteers of approximately half the strength of a Company.

2. The Commander of such a Half-Company shall rank as Lieutenant.

3. The internal organisation of such a Half-Company shall conform to the internal organisation of an ordinary Half-Company.

4. Such a Half-Company shall comprise the Special Services necessary for Companies, the strength of the Special Sections to be approximately half that laid down for the Special Sections of Companies.

5. The regulations made for the governance and training of Companies shall, as far as applicable, apply also to specially recognised Half-Companies.

(b.) Special Scouting Sections.

1. In districts in which neither Companies nor Half-Companies can be raised, Headquarters shall have power to recognise small groups of Volunteers as Special Scouting Sections.

2. The ordinary regulations as to the discipline and training of Volunteers shall, as far as applicable, apply to such Special Scouting Sections.

(c.) General.

1. Headquarters shall have power to group specially-recognised Half-Companies and Scouting Sections with Companies in neighbouring districts, or to assign them positions in the Battalion or Brigade.

VII.—Discipline; Courts-Martial.

(a.) Summary Jurisdiction of Commanding Officer.

1. In case of insubordination or other gross misconduct on the part of a Volunteer other than a Company or superior officer while a Company (or Battalion) is actually under military orders, the Commanding Officer shall have power summarily to suspend or dismiss the offending Volunteer. An appeal from such suspension or dismissal will lie to the Battalion Council.

(b.) The Company Court-Martial.

1. In case of a Volunteer other than a Company or superior officer being charged with insubordination, neglect of duty, or other misconduct, the Company Commander shall have power to suspend the accused pending trial, and shall as soon as possible have him brought to trial by Company Court-Martial.

2. The Company Court-Martial shall consist of the three Company Officers. The Company Commander shall nominate a Volunteer to act as prosecutor, and the accused shall have the right to nominate a Volunteer to act as his advocate.

3. The Court-Martial, having given the accused a fair trial, shall have power to pass judgment, and, if the accused be found guilty, to sentence him to suspension or dismissal.

4. An appeal from the sentence of the Company Court-Martial shall lie to the Battalion Council.

(c.) The Battalion (or Brigade) Court-Martial.

1. In case of a Company or superior officer being charged with insubordination, neglect of duty, or other misconduct, his Commanding Officer for the time being shall have power to suspend him pending trial, and shall without delay bring the charge to the notice of the Battalion (or, in the case of an officer of Brigade rank, the Brigade) Commander, who shall as soon as possible have the accused brought to trial by Battalion (or Brigade) Court-Martial.

2. The Battalion Court-Martial shall consist of three officers, of at least equal rank with the accused, chosen by the Battalion Council; and the Brigade Court-Martial of three officers, of at least equal rank with the accused, chosen by the Brigade Council. The accused shall have power to object to not more than three names chosen by the Battalion (or Brigade) Council, which shall substitute others for those so objected to. The Battalion (or Brigade) Commander shall nominate an officer to act as prosecutor, and the accused shall have the right to nominate an officer to act as his advocate.

3. The Court-Martial, having given the accused a fair trial, shall have power to pass judgment, and, if the accused be found guilty, to sentence him to suspension or dismissal.

4. An appeal from the sentence of the

Battalion (or Brigade) Court-Martial shall lie to Headquarters.

(d.) Headquarters Court-Martial.

1. Officers of General rank shall be tried by a Court-Martial appointed by Headquarters. The accused shall have the usual rights of objection and choice of advocate.

VIII.—Rank and Seniority of Superior and Subordinate Officers.

1. The following shall be the order of rank of Volunteer officers:—(1) Members of the Headquarters General Staff; (2) Brigadier-Generals; (3) Vice-Brigadier-Generals; (4) Commandants; (5) Vice-Commandants; (6) Company Commanders (Captains); Right-Half Company Commanders (1st Lieutenants); Left-Half Company Commanders (2nd Lieutenants); Section Commanders; Squad Commanders. Brigade Adjutants shall rank as Commandants, Battalion Adjutants as Captains, and Company Adjutants as Section Commanders.

2. The seniority of officers of equal rank shall be decided by Headquarters in accordance with their qualifications as determined by the tests which Headquarters shall prescribe.

3. In case of the death, incapacitation, or absence of an officer, his place shall be provisionally taken by the officer next in rank, or, where several are of equal rank, by the senior of that rank.

IX.—Headquarters.

1. By "Headquarters" in this Scheme shall be understood the General Council of the Irish Volunteers, or the Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers exercising the powers assigned to it by the General Council, or the Headquarters General Staff exercising executive powers assigned to it by the General Council or by the Central Executive.

2. The Headquarters General Staff shall be appointed by the General Council, and shall exercise executive powers assigned to it by the General Council or by the Central Executive.

3. Headquarters shall have power to delegate locally or temporarily any portion of its duties to any Commanding Officer or Council recognised by this Scheme or by the Constitution of the Irish Volunteers.

The foregoing Scheme of Military Organisation has been duly adopted by Headquarters and comes into force as from this date.

P. H. PEARSE,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters,

41 Kildare Street,

Dublin, 16th Dec., 1914.

FREEDOM'S HILL.

A NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Written by Thomas McDonagh for the Music of O'Brien Butler.

The musical score for 'Freedom's Hill' is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a 'Cresc.' (crescendo) marking and the lyrics 'Ireland arise thy vigil is ended, Sa-lute the sun of victory! A-'. The second system continues with 'rise in ancient glory. Splendid, To youth again & li-berty! O'. The third system has the lyrics 'dear, O true, O con--stant land! Thy soul thou hast not bar-tered still! And'. The fourth system concludes with 'Blessed for e-ver is the hand that plants thy flag on Free-dom's Hill.' The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings like 'Cresc.', 'rit.', and 'Cresc. poco'.

1.

Ireland, arise, thy vigil is ended!
Salute the Sun of Victory!
Arise, in ancient glory splendid,
To youth again and liberty!

O dear, O true, O constant land!
Thy soul hast not bartered still,
And blessed for ever is the hand
That plants thy flag on Freedom's Hill.

2.

We hold to-day the ancient token,
The Cause bequeathed from age to age,—
The trust to keep thy faith unbroken,
To guard thy children's heritage.

Our fate is thine, immortal land,
To serve the Right through good and ill!
One boon we ask—to see thee stand
Transfigured here on Freedom's Hill!

3.

Let no tear fall, no word of sorrow
Be spoken now for Ireland's dead:
They gave their day to make this morrow,
When Right went down and Justice fled.

And they with thee shall glorious stand;
Their deed shall be remembered still
While burns the sacred fire they fanned
To blaze again on Freedom's Hill!

4.

The fire shall die not, our arms shall rust not,
Our country shall lose not her right regained:
In alien faith and force we trust not,
But in our own, by God sustained.

Inspire the heart, direct the hand,
O Lord, and make us worthy still
To guard the honour of our land
Upon the heights of Freedom's Hill!

HINTS ON BAYONET COMBAT.

There are very few countries in the world in which bayonet fighting would play so large a part in warfare as in Ireland, and consequently instruction in the use of the bayonet should be a prominent aspect of the training of the Irish Volunteers. This will naturally include instruction in the actual bayonet exercises and in bayonet fencing, which must be taught by an instructor; but there are also a great number of useful hints to be picked up without actual practical demonstration.

Thus it is easy to explain the easiest way to carry the rifle with the bayonet fixed when running forward in a charge. It should be held with both hands in front of the body—left just inside the sling, right at the small of the stock—in the position of Port Arms. The weight feels least in this position, and from it one can easily assume the attack. If you try running with the rifle in this position you will at once see how easily it comes.

When arriving opposite the hostile line choose your opponent and attack him vigorously in whatever way seems to give the best opening. If you miss your attack and he is not in a position to counter-attack close and grapple with him if you are a bigger man; if not, resume the attack with your bayonet at the first chance.

As a rule thrust low at the body: the face is a smaller mark and the chest is protected by the bones. If you disable your own antagonist look round to see if you cannot help one of your comrades. They should also come to your aid if you are hard pressed.

If fighting a mounted man keep on his left or near side. He must then use his sword across his bridle arm, where his reach is much shorter and his parries much weaker. If he tries to ride you down thrust at his horse and then attack him if the horse gets out of hand, as will probably be the case.

When awaiting an enemy at night the best way is to kneel with your weapon in readiness. Then when the opponent's figure is outlined against the background and he is near enough spring up and lunge hard at the middle of the body.

Always disentangle your bayonet at once—you will probably be attacked by a second man after you have disabled the first. Set your **left** foot on the body and pull: then you are ready to get on guard at once.

Always attack whenever possible and attack fiercely. Bayonet fighting is not a game: it is a brutal business, to be finished as soon as possible. But see to it that it finishes with your side on top.

their respective departments, they are all to be riflemen and scouts; and furthermore every member of the Company is to be capable of making himself useful, if called upon to do so, as Pioneer, as Ambulance man, as Cyclist, above all as Scout. The rules as to the strength of these special sections are not hard and fast, but the onus is placed on every Company Commander to see that his Company is provided in adequate strength with the necessary services.

CO-ORDINATION.

When the Companies are grouped into a Battalion the organisation provides for the automatic representation of all the services in the Battalion and their utilisation to the fullest advantage either separately or in conjunction. Among the Battalion Officers are chiefs of Engineering, Transport and Communication, and Ambulance, who will be responsible for the efficiency of these services throughout the Battalion. It is left open to the Battalion Commandant to leave his Special Services, or portion of them, attached to the various Companies, or to group them into Battalion Corps; in which case he has officers ready to command them. Thus, there is a large autonomy for the Company within its own sphere, but at the same time provision for proper co-ordination and unity when the Companies act together as a Battalion. All this differs essentially from the organisation of regular armies, and it is necessary that it should differ: our problems are different, and our resources are different.

KEEP IN TOUCH.

Company or Battalion Commanders who find any point in the Scheme a stumbling block should communicate with Headquarters, fully setting forth the local conditions. The chances are that they will find that the Scheme really provides even for difficulties which, on a first reading, it may appear to have overlooked. But, once again, it is to be understood that the scheme is not like a law of the Medes and Persians, incapable of amendment or development. It is capable of both, and both will be forthcoming if and when they are shown to be necessary.

Our Headquarters Notes will return to this subject again and again.

BOOKLETS.

The first of our series of Volunteer Booklets is now ready and will be on sale immediately. It deals with the all-important subject of Rifles. The price is twopence. Order from Headquarters or through your newsagent.

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THE WAR

Operations on the Allied left have gone favourably for them during the past week. At various points between Lille and the sea German outposts and trenches have been captured. These successes have, however, been very slight and have only been achieved with heavy losses; and it is probable that such will continue to be the case. All this Flanders country is a network of canals and progress can only be made foot by foot, so to speak: the Germans, after the fall of Antwerp, encountered similar difficulties. The most remarkable thing about this Allied offensive is that it takes place at the same time as the Austro-German victories in the East. The natural assumption is that they are anxious to come to the relief of the Russians and that their advance is made possible by the withdrawal of large German forces for service in Poland. There are indications that the Germans are now forwarding some troops to Belgium and they unquestionably are strengthening the sea-front, with the probable result of bringing the advance to a standstill.

In other theatres one of the remarkable minor developments is the great recovery of the Servians. It is evident that the Austrians have withdrawn great bodies of troops—some estimates put it at 100,000—to attack the Russians. Of course, if these troops, as seems possible now, have been instrumental in gaining a decisive success over the Russians the defeat in Serbia will be of little moment. At the time of writing there seems to be no doubt but that the Russians have suffered a serious reverse. By piecing together the Russian, German, and Austrian accounts, we find the position to be as follows:—

In the Mława region to the north of Warsaw comparatively small German and Russian forces are holding each other. Further south-south-east of Łódź—the main German army is steadily forcing back the Russians, and the Germans are now only 30 miles from Warsaw. Still further south the Russians are also falling back and the Austro-Germans, following in pursuit, have now retaken Petrikau and Przemyśl, an advance of fully 30 miles. In the Cracow region the Austrians now occupy Bochnia on the railway, 15 miles east of Cracow. Moreover, the Austro-Hungarian corps from Serbia are once more in possession of all the mountain passes in the Carpathians and are pressing the rearguards of the Russian forces which had advanced into Hungary. They are once more in sight of the heroic stronghold of Przemyśl, the garrison of which is making sorties to detain the Russian investing force.

In short, the Austro-Germans, with numbers considerably inferior to the total Russian forces, have held the main Russian attack, outflanked the Russian armies on both flanks, forced back the entire Russian line for a very considerable distance, and are pressing their advantages. This much they have definitely done: they have averted all immediate danger to Cracow and the important districts it covers. But if all continues to go well with them they are likely to again relieve Przemyśl, to force the Russians behind the Vistula, and even, perhaps, to secure Warsaw. The daring and skilful strategy of Von Hindenburg is responsible for this.

But to realise the full importance of this campaign it is necessary to bear in mind that the Allies as a whole were trusting to it to break down the resistance of the Austro-Germans. That prospect is at least as remote as ever, and the resultless fighting is sure to tell on the Russian army. Another important point is that the Turks in the Caucasus seem to be more than holding their own, although the severe winter weather affects their operations adversely. It is more than ever clear that the Russians will be unable to withdraw any troops from this region for use in Poland. And having failed up to the present in Poland it is difficult to see what new factor can come in likely to ensure their success.

The German raid on the Durham and Yorkshire coasts was the only notable naval operation of the last week. When carefully examined it is seen to be a daring and skilful enterprise, and a natural sequel to the raid on Yarmouth early last month. It is a warlike success to injure the enemy's prestige and confidence even if it is not possible to materially cripple his resources. The fact that England trusts so much to the Navy and has been safe from attack for so long makes such an attempt much more important in her case than in that of, say, France or Russia. The fact that on two occasions a German squadron has come out, shelled the English coast, and got back unharmed, is bound to encourage the German navy—especially as on this last occasion the ships remained off the coast for over an hour and inflicted very considerable damage and loss of life.

The Germans employed a very formidable squadron, apparently the battle-cruisers "Derfflinger," "Seydlitz," "Moltke," and "Van der Tann," and the semi-battle-cruiser "Blücher," all powerful ships capable of steaming together at 25 knots. Even so, the 400 miles must have taken 16 hours steaming—just the entire period of darkness. The only British ships mentioned are the small cruiser "Patrol" and two destroyer flotillas. The Germans claim to have sunk two destroyers. Apparently the raiding squadron covered its retreat by

strewing mines as formerly at Yarmouth.

As a result of the raid very stringent precautions are being enforced in the English coast towns, it being now evident that the fleet alone is not a sufficient protection. It is possible by good seamanship and vigilance to evade the blockade.

The fact that foggy weather helped the Germans is probably no accident. They have established a meteorological station at Zeebrugge capable of predicting weather conditions 48 hours beforehand; and it is very likely the German Admiral had this knowledge and acted on it.

THE CAELIC LEAGUE.

St. Kevin's Branch Ceilidh.

A Ceilidh, under the auspices of the Kevin Branch Gaelic League, will be held at the Branch Rooms, 6 Harcourt Street, on St. Stephen's Night. The Committee have been working industriously for the past fortnight making arrangements; and an enjoyable night may be expected. The catering is in the hands of Mr. Liam O'Brian, the Secretary, and the patrons may rest assured that this department will be all that it should be.

The Ceilidh commences at 9 o'clock, and will continue throughout the night.

Tickets are: 2s. 6d. double, and 1s. 6d. single. "Doubles" are doubly welcome.

THE PESSIMIST: A CONFESSION.

By A. NEWMAN.

The nature of this work may be judged by a sentence from the author's apology: "Had John (The Pessimist) been an Englishman he would have talked, and done nothing very terrible; but as he was an Irishman he talked a great deal about things in general, and did the most terrible thing that could possibly be done. In one respect he may be considered typical of the Irishman who possesses the alien culture of Oxford or Cambridge, but whose nature prevents his conforming to the type."

"The Month," in the course of a review, says: "It is a book which is the product of profound thinking, and itself demands and challenges thought. . . . The whole idea—the gradual recognition of a highly intellectual and deeply sensitive man of the divine purpose underlying the apparent chaotic scheme of things—is developed by conversations, many of them brilliant, wherein current convictions are questioned and analysed with a boldness that makes one pause to reconsider their foundations, and by a skilful use of the 'dramatis persone' the author manages to ventilate every side. It is a book which many people will want to read twice."

(1914 Edition, price 6/-.)

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FELON-SETTING.

Mr. A. Newman is the latest victim of the felon-setters. His connection with the Irish Volunteers and his recent articles on "National Degeneration" in the IRISH VOLUNTEER were brought before the notice of the Directors of the Company in whose Belfast office he was a senior official, by a leading nationalist; and on 4th inst. he was asked to hand in his resignation. "A Newman" covers the identity of an active labourer in Ireland's cause, whose work is widely known. As the victim enjoyed a comfortable income and is a married man with a family, the blow is all the more severe.

When the split in the Volunteers occurred, "A. Newman," up to then a consistent supporter of Mr. Redmond's policy, lent his assistance in the reorganising of the Belfast Battalion, and as the shooting ranges were held by the Redmondite section, he provided a range and supplied the rifles. This range, up to the present, has been the only one in use by the Belfast Battalion but by means of it more than sixty per cent. of the men are now crack shots. The loss of his situation is the thanks Mr. Newman receives after his services in lecturing, without fee or reward, for the Redmondites. He has by remaining Nationalist, while others became Imperialist, incurred the deep disfavour of his former friends. Unable to meet him in open controversy they preferred to stab him in the back.

"C" Company, 1st Battalion.

At a meeting of above Company, held at 41 Parnell Square on 20th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Company suspend Capt. M. J. Judge in consequence of the publication of his letter in yesterday's Press, and we call upon the County Board to dismiss him."

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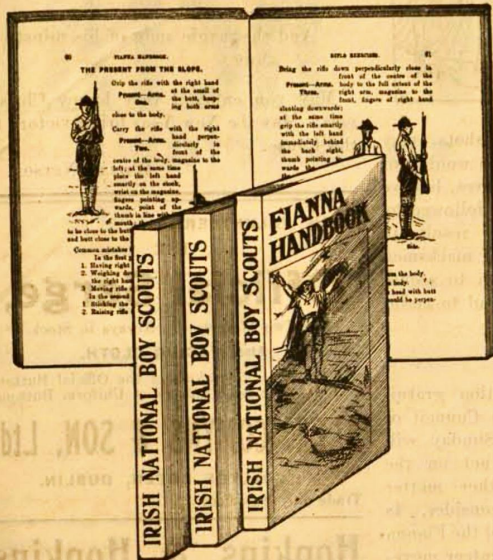
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The age of censorship has arrived. Like the gods of old the modern censors possess great powers. They dominate the minds of the peoples of the world, and whether you enjoy the rule of King or Kaiser, Sultan or Czar, it is the same. Truth is no longer a thing to be sought after; but an evil to be suppressed. Under their magic pens the rout of an army becomes a "strategical retirement;" a naval disaster an act of God. They control the ideas and words of our newspapers and we accept their tyranny from the Press Bureau to the "Freeman's Journal." At their bidding we regard our brother Nationalist as a factionist; and the idealist, as a traitor.

Now, what has this to do with the Fianna? We care naught for the Sultan or Czar, Press Bureau, or "Freeman's Journal." But the point is that the Censor has stepped into the Volunteer office and has suppressed some of the "stuff" I intended for this column. A long appreciative article on "Nodlaig na bhFiann," and incidentally my opinion of the writer of last week's critique has been cut out. I am at a loss to know what to do. I feel I have a grievance, but fortified with a righteous indignation I salute and pass.

All through the middle ages in England there was a law which ordered every farmer, under penalty, to attend the public butts after Church on Sunday and take twelve shots with the bow and arrow. As a result of this wise law the English yeomen were superior in battle, and they held this superiority for several centuries. The Fianna are all anxious to become marksmen. Unless they are they will be very little use as a fighting force. Regular practice at the range every Sunday will, in due course, make them good shots. I think it would be a good thing if the Fianna had a law which compelled

every boy to fire off twelve shots every Sunday after Mass. Then we would not only become marksmen ourselves, but we would set an example that, if followed by adult organisations, would result in having in Ireland a nation of marksmen that would be strong enough to secure for this country her rights and to maintain them against the world.

I throw out this suggestion gratuitously in the hope that the Council of Officers which meets next Sunday will consider, and, if possible, act on the suggestion. There is another matter which I would like them to consider. Is it advisable that the officers of the Fianna should hold office in the Volunteer movement simultaneously? At the beginning the officers of the Fianna threw themselves whole-heartedly into the training of the Irish Volunteers. It was just their normal duty at that time. They were most useful and did excellent work. The usefulness of the Fianna officers in the Volunteers is now not very considerable, whilst the division of their energy is a serious loss to the boys' organisation. This matter ought to be considered seriously by the Officer's Council.

Although I am but an humble Corporal I have been honoured with a Christmas card and greetings from a fully-fledged Captain of the Dublin Battalion. In the same words I greet every member of the Fianna and every Irish boy within the four seas of Erin:

"These are the things that were dear to Fionn—

The din of battle, the banquet's glee,
The bay of his hounds through the rough glen ringing,
And the blackbird singing in Letter See.

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13/6 To Measure Specially designed for marching, and manufactured in my own factory by Irish Trade Union Labour. Post Orders promptly attended to.

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The shingle grinding along the shore
When they dragged his war-boats
down to sea,
The dawn-wind whistling his spears
among,
And the magic song of his minstrels
three.

May you enjoy a very happy Christmas. May the New Year bring victory to the Cause."

WILLIE NELSON.

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