

# RIGHT VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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## NOTES

There is an Irish-American journal that supports Mr. Redmond's compulsory policy, the "Chicago Citizen." For months past no newspaper from America was allowed to reach me by post. But the "Chicago Citizen" of March 25 reached me on April 14. It contains an article beginning as follows: "Is German money being used to foment an armed insurrection in Ireland? Is the German-Irish alliance preparing to set Erin ablaze for the purpose of creating a diversion in favour of Germany? Is there a plot afoot to deluge the Green Isle in blood in order to discredit Mr. Redmond and his colleagues? Information in possession of the writer warrants affirmative answers to these three questions. From sources in which he places entire reliance the writer has learned that the beginning of the coming summer has been fixed upon as the time for an insurrection in Ireland."

The writer of the article goes on to show that his information or his inferences are based entirely on his interpretation of statements made in America. If I answer him, I can hardly hope that my answer will be allowed to reach the public in America. He shows, in the course of his article, that the insurrection in the beginning of the coming summer is to be the work of the Irish Volunteers. My answers to his three questions will be plain enough. The Irish Volunteers have never received and never sought German money. The purpose of the Irish Volunteers remains unchanged since it was first announced in November, 1913. It did not then, and does not now, include "creating a diversion in favour of Germany." The Irish Volunteers will not make the interests of Ireland subsidiary to those of any other country. I do not know what is meant by "deluging the Green Isle with blood in order to discredit Mr. Redmond and his colleagues," but I do know that I did my utmost while I could to maintain Mr. Redmond and his colleagues in a position of independence of English party dictation; that, owing to the "adroit management" of Mr. Asquith, they treated the Irish Volunteers as an enemy to be kept in subjection; that their present position of impotent dependence on the good-will of English politicians is mainly the result of factions hostile to the Irish Volunteers; and that to discredit them is the policy of their own allies and not the policy of the Irish Volunteers, even though Mr. Redmond acquiesces in the Dublin Castle programme of exasperation.

In the course of the article in the "Chicago Citizen," the writer seems to be under the impression that the Irish Volunteers are under the control of Irishmen in America. No Irishman and no number of Irishmen in America have ever advanced the slightest claim to control or dictate the action of the Irish Volunteers. We have received from the Irish in America funds which have been publicly acknowledged. Not one cent of money has ever been sent to us from America with any condition or stipulation attached to it as to our plans, policy, or action.

The writer of the article in the "Chicago Citizen" seems to me to be sincere and well-meaning. He is Mr. Bernard McGilgan and, if I mistake not, he has been for many years a supporter of the Gaelic League. The voice of faction, which alone has free passage from Ireland to America, has led him to fear that the Irish Volunteers may allow their national duty and purpose to be subordinated to the advantage of another country or to the petty aim of discrediting Mr. Redmond. Apart from this I observe that he does not use the language of insult towards fellow-Irishmen which is the distinguishing mark of the new Imperial patriotism. To judge, however, from an editorial in the same issue of the "Chicago Citizen," those who from this side of the Atlantic inspire that organ of theirs with the gospel of the new Imperial patriotism lack even a baser view of their fragment of a following in America than they take of their bewildered and hoping-for-the-best supporters here in Ireland. The "German gold" lie, it will be remembered, was first communicated by "responsible members of the Irish Party" to that great friend of Irish liberty, Lord Northcliffe's "Daily Mail." The statement was promptly and publicly repudiated by two members of the National Volunteer execu-

tive, Mr. Sherlock, then Lord Mayor of Dublin, and Colonel Maurice Moore. Since then the repetition of it has been confined to safe places and to such pillars of Law to Order as District Inspector Hicks, whose valour completed the Imperial victory won at Cahirciveen over an Arklow fisherman. But the lie that was shamed down in Ireland is thought good enough still for Mr. Redmond's Chicago editor.

He begins his editorial with a confession of uneasiness. "Advices from Ireland," he writes, "tell us of a growing disaffection among certain factions in that severely-trying country." You can judge faction from his own language. Mr. Dillon is a guest at Mr. Asquith's Coalition banquet. There he is surrounded by Friendly Irish Nationalists who do not take their orders from Mr. Asquith are proclaimed to be the enemy. "The old enemy," says the Chicago mouthpiece, "so long stimulated by funds from across the Channel, now receives nutriment from another source." However, we do not think the Teutonic gale much by the vast expenditure of money among men and women of the Irish race. The hirelings that have been secured here and in Ireland can bring neither help nor credit to anyone. We trust when the war is over, as we think it will be before many months, the traitors of the Irish race will have the decency to be ashamed of their blood-money. All calculated, no doubt, to earn the respect of Englishmen and increase the debt of gratitude.

Just above this editorial pronouncement I see four mottoes. They are part of the standing heading of the editorial page. If they were removed, readers might miss them and ask awkward questions. The first motto is quoted from John F. Finerty: "Europe, not England, is the mother country of America." The second motto is this: "We must tolerate one another or else tolerate the common enemy." The third is from Henry Grattan: "What Great Britain tramples on in Ireland will rise to sting her in America." The fourth is from Thomas Davis:

It is not strength and 'tis not steel  
Alone that make the English real.  
But wisdom working day by day.  
Till comes the time for passion's sway.  
The patient dint and powder shock  
Can blast an Empire like a rock.

Fye! Mr. Redmond. Under such colours it is to be feared that your editor's sincerity, if not your own, may become suspect. Men are sent to jail in Ireland with your acquiescence for expressing sentiments that are mild in comparison with the standing mottoes of your Chicago organ.

A fool's bolt is soon shot. The grand attempt to stifle free discussion of the prospective ruin of Ireland by Imperial taxation has been made. Its failure is assured. The confidence men who at one meeting declared against the ruinous taxation and at the next meeting swallowed their own declaration, not because it was not true but because the Irish Party did not like it, have justified the famous opinion expressed by Dr. McWalter some years ago in regard to another public question: they have "returned like dogs to the vomit." Do the leaders of the Irish Party see any real gain in this game of making public fools of their own supporters? Do they imagine that their present allies, from Lord Lansdowne round to the cynical Chief Secretary, will be impressed or led by the sort of strength exhibited in such performances?

I am glad to note that, as I surmised last week, the Right Honourable Sir Walter Boyd, the Liberal Queen's Advocate who had charge of the Crossmaglen Conspiracy, has retired from the Bench of which he was so long an ornament for no reason of impaired health or increased incapacity. Since his retirement he has turned up as vigorous as ever, and wearing the new distinction of his eminent merits, at a meeting of the Zoological Society. As a result of this rather singular phenomenon in the annals of the Irish Bench, Mr. James Campbell, pending his becoming Lord Chancellor in the Provisional Government of Ulster, will have charge of the legal department of the war in Ireland. We shall see whether the new Attorney-General will supplement the motto of his political chief, Sir Edward Carson, "there are illegalities which are not crimes," by showing that there are crimes which are not illegalities.

The baronetcy conferred on Judge Boyd has roused the spirit of Judge Kenny, whose record as a Catholic Unionist endears his words to all Irish people. Judge Kenny thinks the Empire and the Union will be benefited by a more rigorous persecution of Nationalists who don't take their orders from the Government. Among the signs of woe that have met his eye in Dublin is a poster of the Irish Volunteers displaying the words "Pretence of the Realm Act." Will the honourable and learned and impartial judge deign to answer a question? When the Defence of the Realm Act provides that an accused person shall be tried where he is found, can he persuade any honest man that the words of the Act empower the Government to bring the accused person wherever they choose and then to find him where they put him? And if so, will he explain why the words are in the statute, seeing that their omission from it would make no difference? The Government's administration of its own statute, and the acquiescence of its incorruptible and upright tribunals, either justify or do not justify my words—the Pretence of the Realm Act. It is a remarkable fact that, while a whole crop of prosecutions and punishments are taking place under that Act, throughout all Ireland and especially in those parts most lamented for their disaffection, there is an unprecedented dearth of punishments under the ordinary law. When the chief disturbing element in Ireland, Dublin Castle, is abolished, Ireland will be the most peaceful and orderly country in the world. Is that what Judge Kenny does not want to see?

Colonel Sharman-Crawford, M.P. for East Belfast has been telling his constituents what other members have not been telling theirs. After the war, he says, there is to be an Imperial Parliament of the whole British Empire, and Ireland is to have an extension of local government. Is that the private arrangement, and if so, when will the voters of constituencies be taken into confidence? Will there be another tour by motor in Ulster, and assurances that it is all for the best? The whole British Empire outside of Britain and Ireland contains only a few million inhabitants of European race, and the other races will not have much to say in the future Imperial Parliament. The total European population of the self-governing colonies of the Empire is smaller than the population which Ireland would now have only for the ravages of Imperial peace or less revenue than war. These self-governing colonies, whose loyalty and united front is held up for our admiration, be invited, like Ireland, to take on their "fair share" of the Imperial Debt and the Imperial taxes? I shall regret if this question cannot be asked without giving the Irish Party cold feet.

If Mr. Asquith believes Mr. Redmond's assurances that the Irish people will not mention the Irish in America as at Mr. Redmond's lack, keeping it from being stabbed by a constituency minority, why should Mr. Asquith be reported to have "drawn the Pope's attention to the rôle which the Catholic Bishops of Ireland could fulfil in an opportune manner, by intervening with the people to bring about a union, so desirable at present, with the other parts of the British Empire?" It is Mr. Chesterton who wrote that Gladstone "stood disgraced" by his request to Cardinal Newman, which Cardinal Newman indignantly rejected, to induce the Pope to influence the Irish Bishops against the Land Act. Mr. Asquith is said to have recommended his plan with an assurance that "after the war the Home Rule question would be settled in an equitable manner." Mr. Pitt secured the Irish Bishops that after the Union the Catholic Emancipation question would be settled in an equitable manner, and Mr. Pitt was then the most powerful Minister that England ever had. But Daniel O'Connell testified that the Union delayed Catholic Emancipation for a quarter of a century, and even then the concession was only made to fear of insurrection and was accompanied by a measure of disfranchisement that caused wholesale evictions. We want no more promises and postponements. Atread close!

The "Bloodmoney traitor hiring" inspiration of Mr. Redmond's Chicago organ is supplemented by a poster and more general style in a weekly paper called "Irish Mail," published in New York. Owing to the attitude of the Irish Press in America, this new organ was launched at the beginning of the present year, and is devoted especially to supporting the Irish Parliamentary



Party" in doing what we are told in its pages has already been accomplished, "in restoring and preserving self-government in Ireland." I have before me the number of this paper dated All Fools' Day. It publishes two "messages" from Mr. Redmond, which have passed the British Censorship without difficulty. Here is how Mr. Redmond describes the for-ay-sake Votes of Confidence that express the desperate resolve of the Old and Tired once to hold on to the devil by the tail: "There is not an elected public body of any sort or kind in any portion of the country—North, South, East or West—which has not expressed complete approval of the attitude taken by the Irish Party with reference to the war. A few men, it is true, are found here and there who dissent; but they are individuals representing nobody but themselves and carrying no weight whatever with any body or any party or class or creed." The second "message" improves on the first. In it Mr. Redmond declares that "every elected public body in the island, without exception, is down to the Parish Councils has formally declared in favour of the stand which I am advocating." Since Mr. Redmond is quite incapable of trying to humbug people in America, even on the First of April, we must suppose that he really imagines there are Parish Councils in Ireland.

What all Ireland thinks about the "Tullamore Affair" needs no statement here. Mr. Redmond's New York organ stands alone in the nakedness of faction without shame. It condemns the Men of Tullamore and justifies Dublin Castle. By their fruits ye shall know them. Such are the fruits of the New Imperialism at a safe distance from Ireland.

The same organ publishes garbled extracts from the Lenten Pastorals of the Irish Bishops, and endeavours to make it appear that, when a Bishop asks for prayers for the souls of Irishmen who have been killed in the war, he may therefore be paraded as a supporter of Mr. Redmond's claim to impose on the Irish people whatever the British Government can impose upon him.

EOIN MAC NEILL.

## FOR NEW COMPANIES.

### LETTER V. THE TRAINING OF SECTION COMMANDERS.

A CHAIR,

A Company is never free from the danger of falling to pieces until it is properly divided into Sections led by proper Section Commanders. These are the backbone of a Company, and from the very beginning the Instructor, or whatever officer is in charge of the Company, should keep his eyes open to select suitable men—smart, neat, reliable, and willing to work. This last is essential, as the job of Section Commander is no easy one. In peace time it means looking after the training, equipment, discipline and mobilisation of the Section. In the matter of training, the proper kind of Section Commander will relieve the Company Commander of the greater part of the routine work and leave him free for more important things. As to equipment, he should see that all his men are provided with the regulation equipment as ordered by Headquarters, and insist that it is kept in proper condition. He must introduce rigid discipline within the Section and report all breaches to the Company Commander. But the mobilisation of the Section at a moment's notice is his most important duty. The other matters can be attended to by Company officers, but the Section Commander is the one man on whom the success of a mobilisation depends. Therefore the conscientious Section Commander will know where every man under his charge is to be found, at whatever time of day he is needed.

The duties of Section Commanders in action have been dealt with fully already in the columns of THE IRISH VOLUNTEER during the past year, and the wise Company officer who has kept a file of the paper will have no difficulty in turning up the articles on that subject. Those who have not had sufficient foresight to keep their copies every week can get back numbers from Headquarters. I shall do no more now than give you a summary of the

#### Duties of Section Commanders in Action.

1. Tell men the direction of fire.
2. Give the men the range.
3. Insist on their taking cover.
4. Make them open and cease fire when ordered.
5. Change position of Section when ordered by Company Commander.
6. Choose ground of advance.
7. See to the supply of ammunition, collect the ammunition of casualties, etc.
8. Keep in communication with Company or Half-Company Commander.

You will understand how important a matter it is to have good Section Commanders, and if you have not already done so, pick out a few of what my friend of the "Military Causeur" calls "nifty hard-chaws," and get busy training them right away.

P. H. PEARSE'S "Spiritual Nation" and "Sovereign People" have both been published this week, completing the series of four pamphlets which he has contributed to the "Tracts for the Times." One penny each; wholesale from Whelan.

## HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

Tionól do bí 25 Comaíle Shóta Féinne  
Fáil ina nÓdúport tráchnóna D. Céasoin,  
an 12aó Dá be'n ní po, 25ur an Ceann  
Cata éamonn Ceannit ina dásoimleáorfa.  
Do molaó a lán neite do bain le  
hÓrúgáó, le háimáit, le háirgeáó, 7c.  
Ódúport na Féinne,  
Át Cluac, 12 áib, 1916.

AN COMAÍLE COITCEANN.  
Tionólán Comaíle Coitceann Féinne  
Fáil ina nÓdúport D. Domnaí 30aó Lá  
be'n ní po um meáon Láe.

## NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

### THE EASTER MANŒUVRES.

Arrangements are now nearing completion in all the more important Brigade areas for the holding of a very interesting series of manœuvres at Easter. In some instances the arrangements contemplate a one-day or two-day bivouac; in others there will just be a short field operation extending over an afternoon and evening. The general idea is to test mobilisation and equipment—to bring out all the men and all their equipment—and this is to be regarded as more important than the carrying out of an ambitious piece of field work. Having satisfied ourselves on the important points of mobilisation and equipment, we can work hard at our field training during the next few weeks, so as to be able to bring off a more elaborate series of manœuvres at Whitsuntide. As for Easter, the Dublin programme may well stand as a model for other areas (apart from those in which bivouacs have been arranged): mobilisation, inspection, and a simple field operation. It is not necessary at this stage to tire the men with anything which will make too large a demand on their strength and patience. Besides, they will require some of the Easter Holidays for themselves. We do not believe in making our Volunteer training a

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 12th inst., Commandant Éamonn Ceannit in the chair.

Various arrangements with regard to Organisation, Equipment and Finance were approved of.

Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street,  
Dublin, 12th Apr., 1916.

### THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The General Council of the Irish Volunteers will meet at Headquarters, 2 Dawson Street, Dublin, on Sunday, 30th April, at 12 noon.

sort of hughbear to our men—a thing to overshadow the pleasure of a holiday. A short and educational exercise which will interest and benefit the men and then leave them free for enjoyment: this is what is to be aimed at.

### ISOLATED UNITS.

Companies and smaller units which are not yet linked up with Battalions and Brigades should carry out their own Easter mobilisation tests and exercises under the directions of their local Commanders. Last week's Order as to sending reports on the Easter exercises to the Director of Organisation, to reach him by 1st May, should not be lost sight of.

### FULL EQUIPMENT.

The term "full equipment," which sometimes occurs in Volunteer orders, should be properly understood. It means full arms and ammunition and full marching kit (see Leaflet on Equipment, A. 1). In the opinion of Headquarters "full equipment" should be ordered for all Battalion and Brigade parades, so as to accustom the men to marching with impedimenta.

### ORGANISATION.

During May the Director of Organisation proposes to visit North and South Ulster. With Comdt. D. McCullough, of Belfast, he will address a meeting in Dundalk early in the month, and later he will visit Co. Donegal where, with Mr. A. Newman, he will address a meeting at Creeslough on May 28th.

## A MILITARY CAUSERIE

### POET AND HARD-CHAW.

I first set eyes on Malachy Mullarkey in time of peace at an ordinary parade. The dismissal had just been given and he had immediately seized upon some delinquent in his section and was dealing him out a serious lecture. It appeared that the officer had, on being reprimanded by his squad leader, called that officer a fool. The youth was a humourist, and in spite of the stern look in Mullarkey's eye, would make no defence beyond saying, "But he is a fool, isn't he?" Mullarkey at this almost permitted himself a grin, but, remembering his position and his business, told the youth that that was a totally inadequate reason for saying so. "Don't I always salute the Second Lieutenant?" he added. "And don't I always obey his orders?" The other grinned in his turn, showing that he understood the implication.

Mullarkey, it will be seen, was before all things a disciplinarian. His section was drilled like the Prussian Guard, and if it didn't top the shooting list it, at any rate, wasn't completely at sea on a certain memorable field day. Much to Mullarkey's disgust the end of that day saw it put out of action owing to a too faithful obedience to an order issued by the Second Lieutenant. I have given so far only the merest indication as to this latter gentleman's character. I rather shrink from the task, for I have formed very little of an opinion of him beyond the obvious deduction that he was not a hard-chaw. I have, however, collected numerous other peoples' opinions about him, and give them for what they are worth, classing them in various groups. His friends called him an Idealist, a Poet; his enemies a Dreamer, a Versifier. This puts it rather broadly, but there were sub-groups under each heading. His bosom friends called him a great man; his worst enemies asserted that he was an Ass. And yet again there were certain cynical people who merely said he was a good one as a Lieutenant. This was strange, for I firmly believe that it was his poetry that got him his lieutenantcy, and all the world knows that his lieutenantcy inspired him to more poetry. However, judge for yourselves.

Mullarkey was a man with strong theories of government. I have said that his section was well disciplined, but I have something rather strange to add to that. Throughout the early stages of the Great War it experienced some hard fighting, yet never seemed to decrease very much in strength. Was this due to Mullarkey's magnetic personality, or did he conduct an unscrupulous personal conscription? I don't know. He was a hard-chaw. He handled that section skilfully, but owing to a failure on the enemy's part to kill his captain he never got any promotion. This did not depress him, for he had a philosophy; a philosophy of epigrams. He would say, "It takes a good man to lead a battalion to the charge, but it takes a better to stop a

tion running away," or "It's heroic to die at the head of your regiment, but it takes ability to push your section over a mile of hedges and bogs."

The general trend of the campaign is fairly well known to the public. The operations, extending over three months and culminating in the Battle of Ballyblunk (in which it will be remembered my friend Cornelius Cannon fell), were followed by months of continuous retreating which was very galling to our men, but which finally retrieved the blunder which had necessitated that costly, if partly victorious, action. A respite of about a month followed, and then a fresh advance by the enemy brought about another running fight. Let me conduct you, metaphorically, to a portion of the field.

Two hours of fighting have proved indecisive, but a wooded knoll has been seized by a small body of the enemy and threatens a part of our line of hedges. It is to be recaptured, and a reserve company is coming forward to do it. As it advances to the assault it is met by a withering fire. The Captain, the First Lieutenant, and twenty men go under. The rest fall flat for cover. But they were sent out for a task, and it must be done. The Second Lieutenant shouts "Forward." No response. He pleads. He talks of glory, and Ireland free. But the men, good patriots all, want to live to see Ireland free. The Second Lieutenant does not realise this. He is an idealist. So, sword above his head, he tries to rush them on, till a bullet finds him also. It was Malachy Mullarkey who finally launched the charge. I don't know how he did it. He waved no sword, and he thought not of glory. He was a hard-chaw. The Company took the hill and Mullarkey died at their head, dramatically, in spite of himself.

### THE DUBLIN BRIGADE.

Orders for Week ending April 23rd, 1916.

1. First Aid and Signalling as usual.
2. No lectures for Officers this week.
3. Week's Orders to be given out on Tuesday of next week (Easter Tuesday).
4. Easter Manœuvres on Sunday. Companies will receive orders.

In connection with Easter Manœuvres, special grants for equipment will be made to Companies and Sections, old campaigners and recruits.

M. W. O'REILLY, Deputy Adjt.

## Lucania Cycles

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## Training Notes for Beginners.

## II.—HOLDING A CROSS-ROADS.

You have a half-company, not very well armed—say forty men, with five rifles, twenty shot guns, fifteen pikes, and as many revolvers or automatics. Your job is to hold off an enemy coming on one of the three or four roads. How are you to dispose of your force? What are you to make of natural ground features? What improvements of same? How are you to build up a position? We may take it that the country is close. Shot-guns, loaded with the proper stuff, are far from being farcical from a military point of view. The Turks in Gallipoli made them tragical enough. The enemy may advance cautiously or confidently, with or without advanced guard and flankers. For information you send out scouts. The scouts are not to shoot or take prisoners. They are to use their eyes and ears, and come back. They are to tell you seven main things about the enemy—1. Numbers—as exact as possible, not things like "a big force." 2. Composition—infantry, cavalry, machine-guns, heavy guns, etc. 3. Distance away or place where seen. 4. Occupation—whether marching, halted, feeding, or otherwise. 5. Direction of their march. 6. Protection—whether with advanced guard, flankers, etc. 7. Disposition—whether in close order or deployed. Insist on these points. Do not take bearings. Take either the cool written report of a man who has seen what is reported. I take it that you know the district well and so need not reconnoitre for positions or the like. I take it, too, that the people other than your own force are friendly, or at least not hostile, if they have not cleared out.

Keep a reserve to throw into the fight at any good opportunity. If your men are not too much scattered in your disposition, or if they are mobile, using eyes and ears, the reserve need not be half your force. For the rest, armament will give you long divisions. Those with long-ranging weapons may be posted farthest back, with yourself. Be sure to put your revolvers into the firing-line, too, and secure a good distribution of ammunition. Six men with ten rounds each are better for themselves and you than one man with sixty rounds. For the matter of cover you need only ask yourself the questions put above to get the answer. Get dry footing in dykes by filling in stones or wood. Walls need more flank protection than hedges, and are not as good. Stones chip and fly. Yet stone walls are splendid. Make some, if you use a wall, and anticipate a bayonet charge to give your men the advantage of position. Choose a high part of the wall. Build up a footing and put sand bags on top with poles between and under. Or choose a part of the wall which is lower on your side than on the other. Know your left-hand shots and where to place them. For yourself, if you use a revolver or pistol with lance or bayonet, practise shooting with your left hand.

There is, of course, a house at the cross-roads, and it is not easily reached by fire at a long distance. Occupy it. Knock all the glass out of the windows. Throw out things that catch fire easily. Barricade the door towards the enemy. If you have time make loop-holes in the walls in good positions—some in each room. If not, fill the windows with solid stuff that has good resisting power against bullets, and loop-hole same. (See appended table). Put some of your riflemen in the house under an officer, who will take control of the firing—no wild shooting. Fill every vessel with water and retreat. Throw up barricades with trees, carts, stones, etc., on the road in front, always on the right side of a bend, so as not to be visible to an enemy till he comes right up to it. Do not put men down behind it. Put them, the shot-gunners and pikemen, behind the hedges on the side of the road. If you have some left-hand shots put them on their own side, but in such a position that they will not shoot or be shot by their own. If the enemy is marching without protection you ought to be able to ambush him. If he has flankers you must line the hedges or walls branching off the road. If the column comes down the road, hold your fire till it is well under fire. While it is thrown into confusion by fire, let your pikemen charge through it and back, then another volley. If the enemy pushes on, starting to clear the hedges, enemy shot-gunners and pikemen will fall back on the cross-roads and prepare for the next act. (Of course you had prepared barricades on all the roads through which the enemy has to pass.) Your riflemen will not fire into the ruck on the road while your pikemen are charging. It is even risky to let them fire up the road while your shot-gun men are in the hedges. It will demoralise those men to know that they may be shot by their own.

Use woods and even single trees for scouting and shooting. When a man climbs a tree, he must use it for cover, keeping on the off side from the enemy like a squirrel.

You are probably expected only to delay the advance of the enemy. Do not be ashamed to fall back in good order. Each man should know his line of retreat, and you should know and have ready the next position to take up. Do not haggle with the enemy. Put up a stiff fight and you will gain honour. If not days, for your side. You will also capture the imagination of your people with their enthusiasm and support, and the assistance of forces behind you. Go to-day and

write out a cross-roads problem. Every bit of preparation counts.

## Penetration of Rifle Bullet at 300 Yards.

(Keep this Table for reference.)

Steel plate, 4-inch.
Brickwork, cement and mortar, 9 inches.
Brickwork, lime and mortar, 14 inches.
Hard wood (oak, etc.), 38 inches.
Soft wood (fir, etc.), 58 inches.
Dry turf, 80 inches.
Shingle, 6 inches.
Sand bags, 24 inches.
Sand, loose, 30 inches.
Unrammed earth, 40 to 60 inches.
Clay, 60 inches.

## EQUIPMENT WEEK.

At Easter there will be manoeuvres in every part of Ireland. Officers must insist on full equipment being carried. Prizes should be given to men who rise to the occasion, and men who cannot get things for themselves should be helped. The Dublin Brigade Commandant is having a cheap sale this week. He offers to every man who provides himself with a shilling's worth of equipment another shilling's worth. This holds for all multiples of a shilling. The man who gets £5 worth will have £10 worth next week.

The promise made at the recruiting meetings to arm every man will be kept. The great tests of merit now are two: to turn out without fail for Easter inspection and manoeuvres, and to provide yourself with equipment. But the man who cannot fulfil the second condition should not fail to fulfil the first. There is an extra store for those who cannot get themselves equipment. Last Easter the National Volunteers made a fine parade in Dublin. We hope a good number of these men are still armed and training. This Easter is for the Irish Volunteers. We should make it imperative. And it is not only Easter: in the anniversary of Clontarf, on 23rd. In 1914 this day was Good Friday: this year it is the First of the Resurrection.

TH. MACD.

## GUERRILLA WARFARE IN FRANCE.

In the latter part of August and the early part of September, 1914, there took place an incident in the fighting which is now practically forgotten, but which furnishes an excellent example of the system of tactics best suited to the Irish Volunteers.

When the French armies closely followed up by the Germans—fell back from the Belgian frontier to the Marne, two companies of Chasseurs, numbering about 400 men, were cut off from the main French forces and became isolated behind the German lines in the Ardennes. The Ardennes is a very lively, wooded and broken district around the Belgian border facing a direction North-West of Verdun; and it is a tract of country of considerable size. The French Chasseurs—light infantry—belonged to a battalion recruited in the region and which had been stationed there in peace time. By great good fortune they managed to secure a million cartridges which had been left behind in the general retreat.

No one would have very much blamed these few hundred isolated soldiers for surrendering if they had done so. But as a matter of fact, they did not. Instead they split up into small parties of twenty or thirty and spread themselves out wide over the entire area. In this way they kept up a guerrilla campaign for some weeks right on the communications of the German Army of Duke Albert of Württemberg; and at the end many of them succeeded in stealing back to France.

The kind of operations pursued by the French parties consisted of attacks on convoys, cutting off small detached posts on the line of communications, destruction of any mechanical transport they could lay their hands on, obstruction of roads, and other similar small enterprises. The amount of trouble they caused the Germans may be judged by the length of time they kept going.

The following points concerning this little campaign are worth noting: The French troops were familiar with the country, having had plenty of previous experience of it; they were light infantry and consequently suitably trained for the skirmishing work necessary; they did not keep together in a body which could be located and wiped out, but split up into small parties; the detachments they used their knowledge of the country to keep themselves supplied and to distribute and utilise their stock of ammunition. One of the most remarkable features of all was that the Chasseurs, although first-rate regular troops, deliberately adopted the guerrilla method of fighting because it was the one that promised the best results.

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## NIGHT OPERATIONS.

**ORDERS.** In addition to the orders issued in an ordinary daylight assault the following may be required:—

- (1) Time of assembly at, and of departure from the place of assembly, which should be described.
- (2) Order of march, and formations on leaving place of assembly. Distance and intervals. Maintenance of communications.
- (3) The bearings of the route.
- (4) Time and duration of halts.
- (5) Position and distance of place of deployment.
- (6) Formation on deployment.
- (7) Special instructions and signal for assault.
- (8) Description of ground to be crossed.
- (9) Description of position to be assaulted.
- (10) Action in case the enemy opens fire.
- (11) Action to resist counter-attack if successful.
- (12) Action of reserves against possibility of outflanking fire.
- (13) Distinctive marks and watchword.
- (14) Position of C.O.

Orders will be issued beforehand to those officers who will be required to take action. The troops need not know more than is absolutely necessary until the place of assembly is reached.

## VI.—DEFENCE.

Defence will probably be the main business of Volunteers at night. The general principles are practically the same as by day. Local counter-attacks, where they are required, should be conducted warily, and should not be pushed too far. The same applies to the general counter-attack.

Whenever action by night is anticipated, orders should be issued defining the particular course of action of each unit in any eventuality. These orders should be passed on to the men. A distinctive watchword is also essential.

In the absence of watchlights, some sort of substitutes should be utilised, however rough. Easily inflammable bonfires should be prepared on convenient heights, and men detailed to serve them. Acetylene bicycle and motor-lamps would also run in useful, and should be got ready in advance. The same remarks apply here as to artillery. The nature of the Irish terrain makes short distance illumination almost sufficient for most purposes.

[END OF SERIES.]

## HINTS ON BILLETING.

The raw Quartermasters of the Volunteers would probably be a bit at a loss at first if they were required to tackle any problem of the arrangement of camps, billets, etc. Of course, as time goes on an ever-increasing number of the men will have grown accustomed to these kind of problems in camps and on all-day field days. Still, a few hints on the most important points to bear in mind, and where the necessary information can be obtained, will not be superfluous.

First and foremost, the object of billeting is to secure rest for the troops. A well-known saying that "the worst billet is better than the best bivouac." The men should be dry in the billets—whether we can afford to keep them warm or not depends on circumstances. And if warm, how warm—because they mustn't be made too comfortable. Hay, if you can get it—and you usually can in Ireland—is better bedding than straw for a night: it is warmer, even if it is dusty.

Then when selecting your billets, see that your men are kept as well concentrated as possible. It is much better to house them in one big room than in three or four small ones. Company officers should sleep with their men—to keep order and be on the spot to command them in case of necessity. A few necessary entries should be posted to rouse the men in case of alarm—in addition to the entrenching.

It is also the Quartermaster's business to see that he has some place where he can cook for a large number of men without waste of time. This will mean plenty of active work about fuel and stores, and is a great trial for the raw officers.

Where the force is of large size—as a battalion or a brigade—it will be also necessary to select a place for the quarters of the C.O. and his staff. The great point about this is that it should be easily found by the troops. Despatch-Riders, etc. For this purpose a house near the road is the best. A gate-lodge is better than a mansion with a long avenue—which at first sight you might think more worthy of the C.O.'s august presence.

In 1860, before the Battle of Solferino, a two-roomed cottage held the President General, and the King slept in one room. Helldorf and the staff officers in the other. A sentry should be posted over the headquarters.

At night the location can be shown by a lamp on the road. If the lamp is placed there it can't be seen by the enemy at any distance; and it can't be missed by a messenger, no matter how fast he is travelling. But far and away the best book on the subject of Camps, Billets and Bivouacs is that in the Imperial Army Series for a shilling, which may be purchased at any bookseller. The Volunteer Quartermaster should confer himself to the parts of the volume which concern himself—he need not worry himself about how to billet two infantry divisions and a cavalry brigade.



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