

# AN T-OGLACH

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## IRELAND AND IRISH.

Reference was made in a leading article in a recent number of "AN T-OGLACH" to the duty which lay on the officers and men of the Irish Republican Army to give every assistance in their power to the maintenance and spread of the Irish Language and to cultivate relations of cordial co-operation with those who are working for the Language Revival. We referred in the article to complaints that had reached us that the work of the Volunteers in some of the Irish-speaking districts had been instrumental in increasing the use of the English Language among the young men. Since then we have received more detailed information which has stated that in districts which are purely Irish-speaking officers have insisted on the command's being given in English and most of the instruction has been given in the official language of the enemy. A Volunteer from the Déise in an article in the official organ of the Gaelic League (part of which we reproduce) declares that in a part where every Volunteer speaks Irish and many have only a poor knowledge of English all orders, instructions, reports, accounts etc, are in English. He urges that G.H.Q. should issue an order that all training in the Irish-speaking districts should be conducted entirely in Irish. During the period of intensive guerilla warfare and Flying Columns such an order would be difficult to carry into effect and even at the present time when military training is our chief activity certain practical difficulties are liable to arise in carrying out such an order everywhere. It is our business to remove these difficulties and steps will be taken to do so. It is necessary in the first case that we supply the officers in all Irish-speaking districts with standard official equivalents of the various titles, words of command and military terms at present in use in the Army. A great many of these will be found in the Volunteer drill book "Sli na Saoirse" which has been officially

approved by G.H.Q. and of which a considerable number of copies are still available. In addition to this we propose in future issues of AN T-OGLACH to publish lists in Irish of essential terms, or brief extracts from military text-books rendered into Irish. There is no reason why the Irish titles, words of command etc. should not be generally adopted also in the semi-Irish-speaking and even in purely English-speaking districts. As a matter of fact one Brigade situated in a purely English-speaking district has been taught all the words of command in Irish and these Irish words of command have been used in action. What is possible in a non-Irish-speaking part of Ulster should be easily practicable in Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Cork, Kerry, or Waterford.

Volunteers should not allow their attentions to be distracted or their energies to be slackened by the foolish rumours of happenings in London. There is stern, hard and perilous work before the Army and before the nation and that work must be done at home in Ireland.

## OGLAIGH IS BEURLA

Seo blàire de leir-o Sheàn O Cuirc a bhí ar "Mhisneach" na seachtaine seo ghaibh tharainn:—

"Bhí gearán i "Misneach" an tseachtain seo ar dhroch-obair na n-Oglach agus ar an bhfeall a bhíodar a dheunamh ar an teanga ar fuaid na tíre. Más mar tá an sgeul againn-ne tà sé i ngach aon áit, tà an donas ar fad da dheunamh.

An méid againn-ne ta ins na h'Oglaigh nil againn ach Gaedhilg, ach an dóich leat gur i nGaedhilg a gheibhmíd na hordaithe, nó gur i nGaedhilg a lionaimíd cúntaisí, na a dheinimíd dada? Ara, á mbic ó, ní headh ar aon chor, agus chifea cuid de sna diabhaíl bhochta caitte ar an talamh agus an captaen ag radh leo luighe 'oblique' nó go lamhfadh an namhaid iad.

An méid den mBeurla dfag na Sasanaigh gan múineadh agus an méid ceanntar Gaelach a theip orra a ghallú nil aon bhaol go dteipfidh sé ar na hOglaigh mar deirim-se leat nuair bheidh siad réidh leis an tír na beidh fiú aon duine amhain aca gan Beurla, agus annsan beidh braith agus seasamh na teangan ar an dream nar chuaidh ins na hOglaigh riamh. Narbh fearra dhúinn bheith fé dhaorsmacht na nGall go brath na bheith saor i bhfochair a léithéid de dhream?"

## COVER

1.—With the increase in the range and accuracy of modern firearms it has been found that troops advancing to an attack, unless they take advantage of both natural and artificial cover, cannot hope to penetrate the enemy's lines of defence.

2. Kinds of Cover.—In speaking of cover, one distinguishes between:—

(1) Cover from view.

(2) Cover from fire.

3 Cover from view implies anything that renders you invisible to the enemy.

4. Cover from fire implies something more solid, a ditch, a wall, a trench, something that the enemy's bullets cannot penetrate. It also implies cover from view, but with the important difference that if you are behind a rock or in a trench the enemy may know you are there, but as long as you stay there he cannot get at you. Whereas, with cover from view only if he can locate your cover, a change of position will benefit your health. Notwithstanding this, cover from view possesses many advantages over cover from fire.

5. It is very easily found and very hard to locate.

Each man in a skirmishing line advancing to the attack must take what cover he can find to his front. Men cannot crowd right or left in search of it. ~~Don't go down in the grass or in a fold of the ground,~~ keep your body still, and if you are wearing clothes of a natural tint it will be hard to locate you.

Remember that it is necessary to see a man before you can shoot him. Bear this in mind and avoid all conspicuous cover such as single trees, rocks, etc. They only draw fire and probably the range is known to a nicety.

Before the battle of Mukden the Russians took all possible ranges to all prominent features and posted them up in the trenches, so that they might be known to all. The Japanese also paid great attention to cover from view, and seem to have regarded it as more essential than cover from fire. General Sir Ian Hamilton testifies to this in his book, "A Staff Officer's Scrap Book." Writing of their preparations before the battle of the Yalu, which opened the campaign in Manchuria, he says:—

"Every advantage was taken of the natural lie of the ground, and much artifice was employed to conceal the position from the Russian gunners on the North bank of the river. Trees were transplanted a short distance in front of the batteries to hide the tell-tale flash of the discharge, and were carefully chosen from those either growing *directly* in front or *directly* behind the entrenchment to be concealed. The next morning the landscape appeared unchanged from the Russian side of the river, as the fact that a tree of a particular shape had advanced or retired two hundred or three hundred yards during the night was

naturally imperceptible. Poles were struck into the sand and connected by a string on which branches were suspended. The earth dug out of the deep gun pits was most carefully and with great labour scattered broadcast so as not to disclose any irregularity of terrain. . . . numbers of covered ways leading down to the river showed the trouble that had been taken to ensure a plentiful supply of water for laying the dust which is otherwise so apt to rise with the shock of discharge and give away the position. When all had been done that could be done to ensure concealment then all was done that could be done in time to ensure safety. After all, the first essential of hitting an enemy is to see him, and a captain of one of the Japanese howitzer batteries told me that throughout the artillery action of April 30th the Russians never had a notion of his whereabouts. Not a single missile of any description came within three hundred yards of the Japanese howitzers whose shooting was carried out, therefore, as calmly as if they had been at a practice camp. It was equally good too. On one spot, fifteen yards by fourteen yards, where a Russian battery had been, I counted eight craters made by their high explosive shells."

Suit your body to the cover. If behind a wall get your feet in close. If behind a stone or the stump of a tree, don't adopt the correct firing position but lie ~~right behind it. Don't be an ant and stick your~~ self safe because your head is out of sight. Some of us have large feet, they may be seen.

6. When Effective.—It is laid down in "Infantry Training," that "Cover to be effective must fulfil the following conditions:—

- "1. Afford a good view of the ground to the front (If the Volunteer is to shoot with effect he must never lose sight of what he wants to fire at.)
- "2. Allow free use of the rifle.
- "3. Give concealment to the firer.
- "4. Provide protection against the enemy's fire."

Remember these, especially the first, which says, there should be a good field of view to the front. It is no use to sit in a ditch that you can't see over. You would lose touch with the enemy.

7. Cover for Defence.—Defensive cover when time permits will usually take the form of trenches, and it is not necessary now to explain the different kinds that may be used, but they should at all times be provided with loop holes through which a steady stream of fire may be poured by the defence at little risk to themselves. A trench well provided with loop-holes does away with that unpleasant sensation of popping up to fire, such fire being often badly delivered and therefore ineffectual. Writing of the battle of Nanshan, General Sir Ian Hamilton says:—

"I noticed an important advance on the Yalu defences. The first line of trenches which followed

the curve of the hills about twenty-five feet above their base was completed with sand-bag loop-holes. It was owing to the loop-holes and the barbed wire, that ten thousand Russians resisted the third Army of forty-two thousand men and the first Artillery Brigade until sunset, although their Artillery had been completely silenced by 9 a.m."

## THE REVOLVER.

The important points concerning the care and use of the Revolver have already been covered in Training Memo. No. 5., and commented upon in this journal.

We think, however, that enough stress was not placed upon the necessity of continual practice in drawing, cocking, aiming, and *squeezing* the trigger using a *dry* gun. Every individual soldier armed with this weapon should go through these exercises for periods of not more than five minutes at a time each day in some suitable place. They can be very easily carried out in his own room. The gun is placed in the holster, his pocket, or wherever he is accustomed to carry it, and after assuming the correct position, he should:—

- (1) Draw the gun as rapidly as possible, at the same time cocking the hammer with the thumb of the firing hand.
- (2.) Align the sights on the target as rapidly as possible.
- (3.) Carefully squeeze the trigger.
- (4.) After the hammer is released, keep looking through the sights in order to get some idea of derangement, caused possibly by flinching or snapping the trigger.

The target used should not be larger than a threepenny-piece, and the distance to stand from same (for practice) from 5 to 10 yards. Section Commanders should make it their business to know that these exercises are carried out by their men daily. A longer period than five minutes is not recommended as the arm may become tired. The soldier will then lose interest in the work and is liable to do himself more harm than good.

The advantages to be derived from this practice may be stated as follows:—

- (1.) The constant handling of the weapon will give the soldier speed in the draw, and a spirit of confidence as compared with the slow, fumbling, and dangerous methods always so noticeable in the recruit.
- (2.) The aligning of the gun on the target, at the same time looking through the sights, will if he practises faithfully, instil in the soldier a sense of direction which is invaluable, especially in light firing, where it is impossible to see the sights.
- (3.) The practice of squeezing the trigger will over-

come the tendency to pull or snap the trigger, which more than anything else may be said to be the bane of recruits in the successful use of the short range weapon.

- (4.) The looking through the sights after the hammer has fallen will, with practice, give increased confidence, lessen the possibility of flinching, and diminish the tendency to waver, or wobble around the bulls-eye.

Every soldier should keep before his mind the fact that a derangement of the barrel of his weapon of:—

$\frac{1}{8}$ inch at target	25 yds,	away will miss by approx.	8 ins.
$\frac{1}{8}$ "	" "	50 "	" " 16 "
$\frac{1}{4}$ "	" "	25 "	" " 16 "
$\frac{1}{4}$ "	" "	50 "	" " 32 "

When it is remembered that the width of the average man is estimated at 22 inches, and that if firing at him centrally there is only a leeway of 11 inches on either side, the importance of practice in the above mentioned principles becomes at once apparent.

For accurate shooting at moving objects, the soldier should be familiar with the muzzle velocity, or the initial rate of speed at which the bullet leaves the barrel of the particular weapon he is using.

The Webley Revolver, Cal. 45 approx, 640 ft. per sec.			
Smith & Wesson	" "	" "	670 " " "
Colt	" "	" "	640 " " "
Colt Automatic Pistol	" "	" "	802 " " "
"Peter the Painter"	}	38	" 1,000 " " "
Parabellum.			

From these figures it will be seen that the bullet will reach its mark (revolver range up to 75 yards) in a fraction of a second, and it is only necessary therefore to aim a couple of inches ahead of the object.

The soldier should remember never to fire while running either in the direction of, or away, from the enemy. Always come to a complete halt, aim and squeeze carefully and the results will more than justify the small distance lost or gained.

## THE INDIAN SITUATION.

It is quite manifest that the English are making no great degree of headway in the matter of "restoring order" in India. The main centre of activity still is Malabar where the Moplahs appear to be regularising and developing the guerilla type of warfare. The English have forwarded to this district Gurka and Burman battalions and mobile, light guns suitable for work in intersected country. They have now assembled very considerable forces against the Moplahs.

The Gurka and Burman soldiers are not really Indians in race at all and are raised on the borders of the country. Hence it is not very significant to find them employed. It is questionable, though, whether

the English would venture to send any other Indian troops there. Indeed, we can well imagine the O.C. of an Indian regiment in a very perturbed frame of mind at the present time.

But there is another factor that must always be considered about India—the North-West Frontier. Here the Border clansmen, with Afghanistan behind them require permanent watching by big forces. If the big forces are withdrawn to the South, in comes the Border raider. Whatever happens forces must stay on guard in the North-West while they are in India at all.

These are the two big items that catch the eye most prominently, but more significant are the little items that only are narrated in Europe once in a blue moon. For example at Bellary—200 miles North of the Moplah country—we find an English Police Officer attacked with knives and staves, and in other parts we find what is called looting of English residents' bungalows—more than likely raids for arms or the like. We have learned to disbelieve the English when they talk about peoples opposed to them, and can only draw our own conclusions.

Take this quotation concerning Lucknow—yet another distinct area—“to increase the armed police, to patrol important thoroughfares with mounted police, more vigilant police inspection, and to permit an armed policeman to accompany every private and voluntary patrolling party.” We have ourselves seen all these measures fail hopelessly. It is hard to expect them to succeed in India where the odds are so much greater.

Calm consideration of the English hold on India is a factor in our consideration of their hold here. They cannot reinforce each garrison from the other at the same time. It does not seem likely that they will take troops from India for some time to come—at least not the numbers needed for the much-talked-of reconquest of Ireland.

## NIGHT TRAINING

The following may be taken as a general guide as to the methods to be adopted in training for night operations, only the more elementary being used in the training of recruits:—

(i) *Visual training.*—One man of a section should march away and be stopped by a voice or pre-arranged signal as soon as he is out of sight. He should call out the number of paces he has taken. The same man should then advance towards the section from some distance further off, and be stopped as soon as he becomes visible, later counting his paces to the section.

It should be explained that:

- (a) Ability to see in the dark increases with practice.
- (b) Objects are more visible when the moon is behind the observer than when it is in front of him.

(c) An observer may stand up when he has a definite background and should lie down when he has not,

When the men have been practised in observing a man approaching at a walk they should be similarly practised in observing a man who is endeavouring to approach unseen.

(ii) *Training in hearing.*—Instruction will be carried out on similar lines to visual training. At first the advance of a single man should be listened for, gradually the number should be increased so that facility may be acquired in judging the strength of a party approaching. It is easier to hear sounds on soft ground when standing, on hard ground when lying flat.

Listening should be practised on various types of ground, e.g., open and enclosed country, across and in valleys, in woods, etc. The difference should be noted and explained.

(iii) *Silent advances.* At first individual instruction should be given to men without arms, later the company should be taken out in marching order and should practise advancing noiselessly on roads, and in various formations over open ground, with whispered words of command. The following rules should be observed:—

- (a) When moving in short grass or on hard ground the toe should touch the ground first and the foot be raised higher than normally.
- (b) In long grass the pace should be slow and the heel be placed on the ground before the toe.
- (c) Precautions should be taken to prevent equipment rattling.
- (d) Arms must not be allowed to clash against those of other men, and must be placed noiselessly on the shoulder and ground in sloping and ordering arms.

(iv) *Training in orientation.*—The training should be individual and conducted by means of questions. Men should be able to distinguish the Pole Star and should also be instructed in the identification by night of natural objects as guides to direction.

(v) *Reconnaissance prior to night advances and attacks.*—At first the point marking the objective for the night attack should be either some conspicuous object or should be marked by a flag. Men should not be allowed to approach nearer to the position than a point from which they might hope to avoid detection in daylight. From this point they should survey the line of approach to the objective by day. After dark, men, working in pairs, should advance on the objective from the point from which the reconnaissance was made by day. Men should be instructed in taking notes (written or mental) during the day reconnaissance and should prior to the night work be questioned on the same. As proficiency increases the same procedure should be adopted with less conspicuous objectives.

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