

CHAPTER 2

LOADING AND UNLOADING, MAGAZINE CHARGING

Introduction

1. Loading and unloading are not difficult operations. If carried out in the correct manner it will be found that, with practice, the actions become automatic, thus leaving the mind free to concentrate on the tasks of aiming and firing.

Equipment Required

2. A DP rifle, drill rounds and chargers are required.

Revision

3. Revise the safety precautions, names of parts and stripping and assembly.

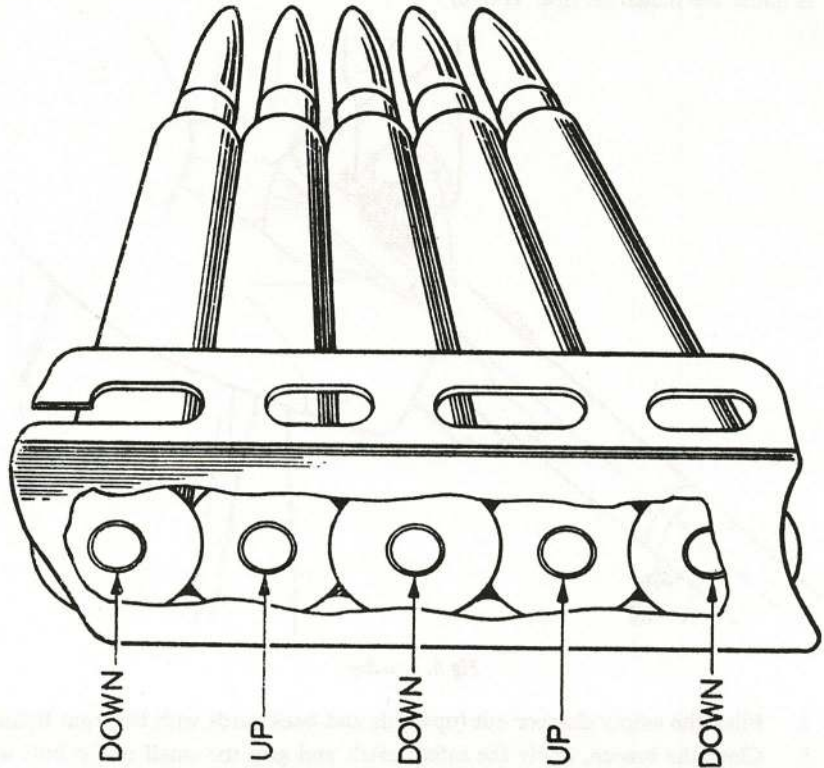


Fig 5. Correctly Filled Charger

Filling Chargers

4. Explain and demonstrate making the squad copy your actions:
a. Place the rounds in the chargers so that they are positioned alternately one "down" and one "up" ie the base of rounds 1, 3 and 5 rest against the base

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of the charger, the base of rounds 2 and 4 are in front of the rims of rounds 1, 3 and 5. (Fig 5)

b. If the charger does not hold the rounds securely, or if undue pressure is necessary to force rounds into the charger, reject it.

Loading

5. **To Load.** The order is "Load". Explain and demonstrate, making the squad copy your actions and allowing them to assume any comfortable position:

- a. Push forward the safety catch and open the breech.
- b. Place a full charger in the charger guide.
- c. Put your right thumb on the top round just in front of the charger. Hook the fingers of the right hand either under the magazine or under the woodwork near the magazine.
- d. Press the rounds into the magazine in one movement, until the top round is under the magazine lips. (Fig 6)

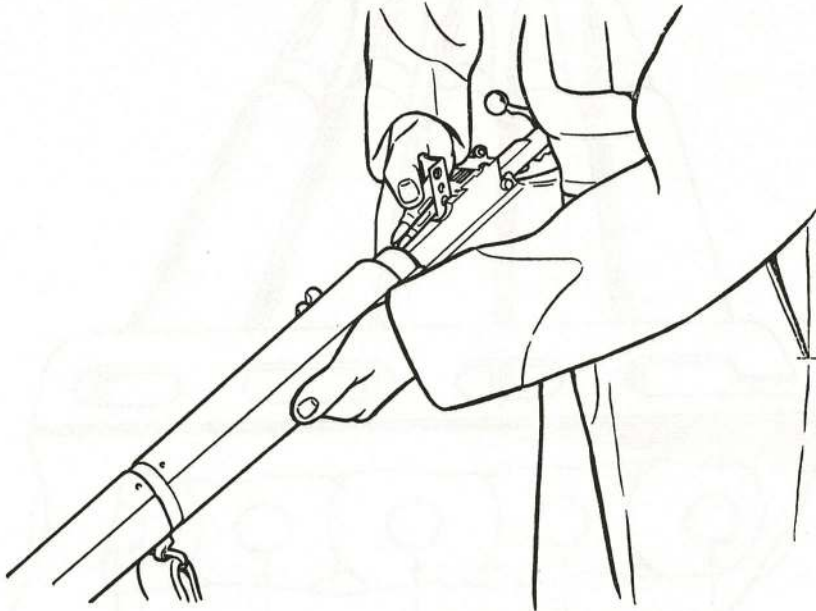


Fig 6. Loading

- e. Flick the empty charger out (upwards and backwards with the right thumb).
 - f. Close the breech, apply the safety catch and grip the small of the butt with the right hand, laying the trigger finger outside the trigger guard.
6. If a jam occurs:
- a. Open the breech.
 - b. Adjust or take out the jammed round, press the rounds down into the

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magazine and let them spring up again. It may also help to give the bottom of the magazine a sharp tap.

c. If the rounds jam in the charger, use another charger.

Unloading

7. The order given is "Unload." Explain and demonstrate making the squad copy your actions:

- a. Push the safety catch forward.
- b. Raise the bolt lever and move the bolt quickly backwards and forwards without lowering the bolt lever, until the rifle is empty.
- c. Press the trigger and apply the safety catch.

8. Practise the squad at loading and unloading.

Loading in the Lying Position

9. Explain and demonstrate making the squad copy your actions:

- a. Start from the standing "at ease" position with the rifle.
- b. Take a long pace forward with your left foot, move your rifle into the left hand and get down, breaking your fall with your right hand with your body at an angle to the direction in which you are going to aim.
- c. Keep your legs well apart and your heels on the ground if you can.
- d. Keep your left arm stretched right out, your right hand on the small of the butt and the forefinger outside the trigger guard. (Fig 7)

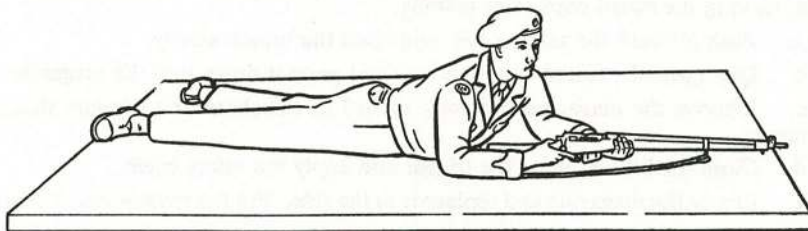


Fig 7. The Lying Position

e. Load as before. (Fig 8)

Unloading in the Lying Position

10. Explain and demonstrate making the squad copy your actions:

- a. On the command "UNLOAD", unload as before.
- b. Hold your rifle with your left hand, put your right hand on the ground, draw up one knee and stand up.

11. NEVER use the rifle as a support when rising from the lying position.

12. Emphasize to the squad that from now on, given the single command "LOAD", they will automatically assume the lying position and load. If it is required to load in any other position, the command will be prefixed with the required position.

13. Practise the squad at loading and unloading in the lying position.

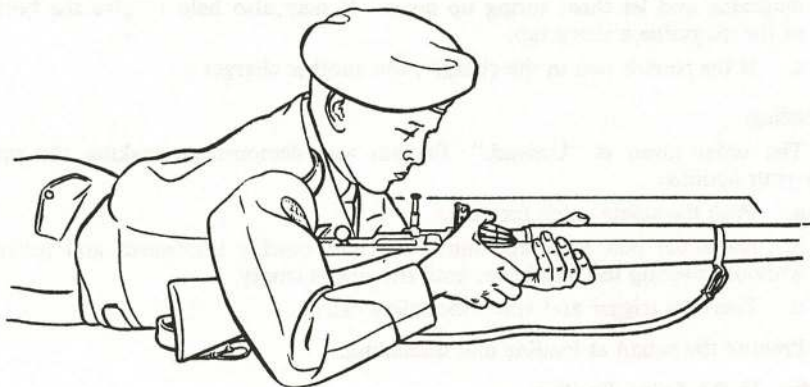


Fig 8. Loading in the Lying Position

Unloading (Alternative Method)

14. Explain that if you unload in the ordinary way, the rounds are scattered on the ground. In the dark you may lose them and if it is muddy they will get dirty. At night, or on muddy ground, unload by the alternative method. Explain and demonstrate, making the squad copy your actions:

- a. Push forward the safety catch and open the breech slowly.
- b. Disengage the round from the bolt and press it down into the magazine.
- c. Remove the magazine and look or feel in the chamber to ensure that it is empty.
- d. Close the breech, press the trigger and apply the safety catch.
- e. Empty the magazine and replace it in the rifle. Put the rounds into a charger.

15. Practise the squad at unloading by the alternative method.

Charging Magazines and Loading

16. Explain that it is very often desirable for the magazine to be loaded ready for action, but that the rifle itself is not loaded as a safety precaution—for example by sentries. This is achieved by charging magazines.

17. Explain and demonstrate making the squad copy your actions:

- a. **To Charge Magazines.**
 - (1) Load the magazine as previously taught.
 - (2) Take off the magazine.
 - (3) Close the breech, press the trigger, apply the safety catch.
 - (4) Put back the magazine.

- b. **To Load.**
 - (1) Push forward the safety catch.
 - (2) Open and close the breech.

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(3) Apply the safety catch.

c. To Charge Magazines from the Load.

- (1) Push the safety catch forward and open the breech slowly.
- (2) Disengage the round from the bolt and press it down into the magazine.
- (3) Remove the magazine and look or feel in the chamber to ensure that it is empty.
- (4) Close the breech, press the trigger and apply the safety catch.
- (5) Replace the magazine.

18. Practise the squad at charging magazines, loading when their magazines are charged and charging magazines again.

Practice

19. Give the squad practice in the whole lesson.

Conclusion

20. Questions to and from the squad.

21. Sum up. Emphasize the need for constant practice.

22. ***SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.***

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