

CHAPTER 5

HOLDING AND FIRING—LYING POSITION

Equipment Required

1. DP rifles, drill rounds, targets, aiming discs, aiming correctors and half-full sandbags are required.

Aiming Discs—Improvisation

2. Aiming discs are made as follows:
 - a. Take a 6 inch range target and make a small hole in the centre of the bull, just large enough to see through when held close to the eye.
 - b. Cut the bull from the target, but leave a strip about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, from the bull to the bottom of the target. Fix this strip to a piece of wood 9 inches long, so that the distance from the centre of the bull to the end of the wood is about 12 inches.

Aiming Discs—Use

3. Aiming discs are used as follows:
 - a. The person using the disc lies down, straight in front of the firer, about 3 feet away from the muzzle of the rifle and presents the disc as a target to be aimed at. By resting the end of the stick on the floor, the disc is steadied and set at a reasonable height.
 - b. By looking through the hole and judging the relationship of the foresight and backsight, it is possible to see roughly whether the firer is taking a correct aim and whether his aim is steady.

Checking the Aim

4. Use an eye disc to check steadiness and rough alignment when the squad is practising aiming and firing. *DO NOT HAVE EYE DISCS AND DRILL ROUNDS IN USE TOGETHER.*
5. Give half the squad eye discs and get them to criticize the firers.
6. Give the squad half-full sandbags to steady them. Place these so that they support the lower part of the forearm only, not the wrist, hand or rifle. (Fig 10).

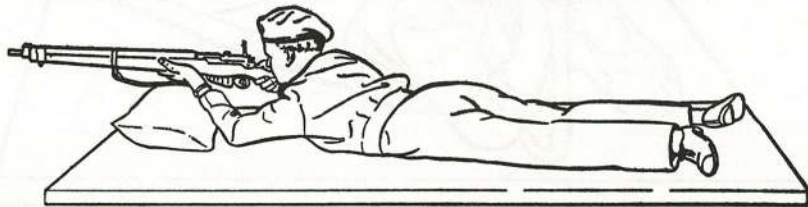


Fig 10. The Aim with Rest

7. When the squad is well advanced in this lesson, test each cadet's aim using an aiming corrector.

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Fitting the Corrector

8. Fit the corrector by holding it above the raised backsight, with "TOP" uppermost, the clamping screw undone and the arrow pointing towards the muzzle. Lower it down the backsight on to the slide until the reflector is opposite the aperture and tighten the clamping screw. Put the coloured glass in the slot that runs from front to rear.

Using the Corrector

9. Lie down to the left of the firer and at right angles to him. Then, by looking into the reflector, the exact aim picture of the firer can be seen.

Preliminaries

10. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

11. Test trigger pressures and explain. The pressure should be smooth. If it feels rough it needs adjusting by qualified armament personnel.

12. Briefly revise the lying position.

Basic Firing Position

13. The basic firing position is lying down, the important points being:

- a. To get into a comfortable, firm position.
- b. To hold the rifle firmly with both hands.
- c. To fire without disturbing the aim.

The Hold

14. Demonstrate the firing position, letting the cadets test the firmness of your hold. (Figs 11, 12, and 13).

15. Give the order, "Without drill rounds—LOAD". The squad should assume the lying position and go through the motions of loading, finishing up with rifles cocked and safety catches applied.



Fig 11. The Firing Position—Front View

16. Explain and demonstrate, making the squad copy your actions:
- a. Raise the leaf of the backsight.

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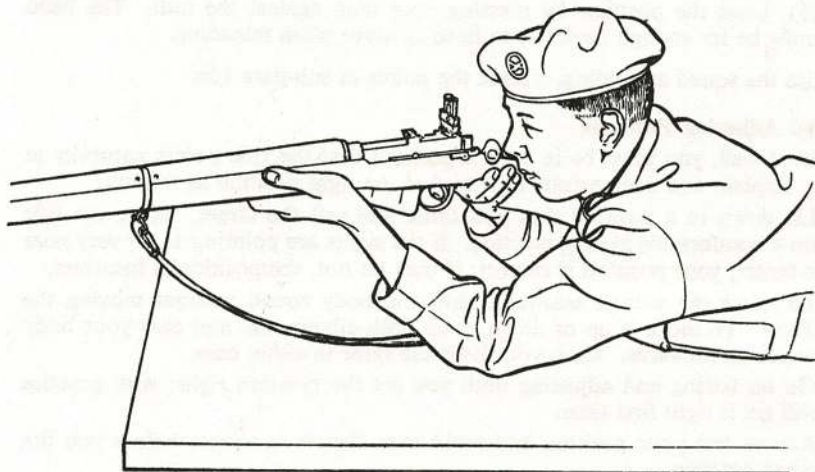


Fig 12. The Firing Position—Left View

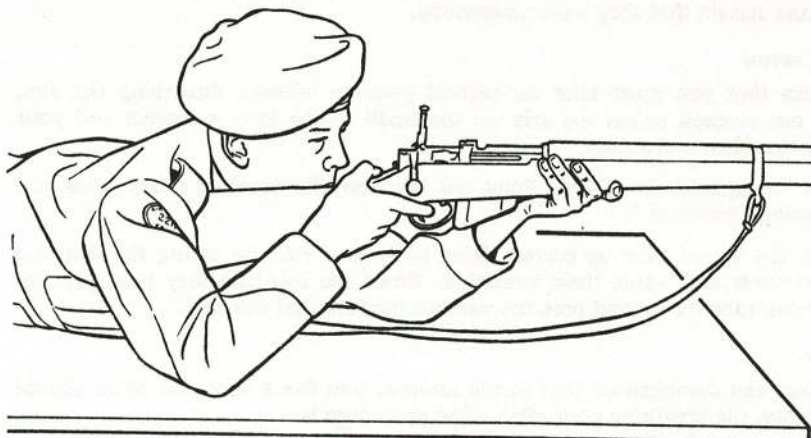


Fig 13. The Firing Position—Right View

- b. Look at the target, push forward the safety catch, bring the rifle up to the shoulder, keep both elbows on the ground, take the first pressure, lower the cheek on to the butt, and aim.
- c. The points to remember about the hold are:
- (1) Keep your body well round to the left, legs well apart and heels on the ground.
 - (2) Make your elbows and the base of your chest into a tripod to support the rifle.
 - (3) With your right hand, grip the small of the butt firmly and pull the rifle back into the shoulder.
 - (4) With your left hand, grip the rifle as far forward as you comfortably can.

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(5) Lock the position by pressing your chin against the butt. The head must be far enough back not to have to move when reloading.

17. Practise the squad at holding. Check the points in sub-para 16c.

Testing and Adjusting Positions

18. To shoot well, you must be in such a position that the rifle points naturally at the target. Explain and demonstrate how to find the right position as follows:

- a. Lie down in a position that you think will suit the target. Bring the rifle up into a comfortable aiming position. If the sights are pointing at, or very near to the target, your position is correct; if they do not, the position is incorrect.
- b. To move the muzzle sideways, shift the body round without moving the left elbow. To move it up or down, keep both elbows still and ease your body backwards or forwards. Keep your hold the same in either case.
- c. Go on testing and adjusting until you get the position right; with practice you will get it right first time.
- d. Always test your position and make sure that it is correct before you fire any range practice.

19. Get the squad to practise testing and adjusting their positions, using an eye disc to make certain that they have understood.

Trigger Control

20. Explain that you must take the second pressure without disturbing the aim. You will not succeed unless the grip on the small of the butt is correct and your whole position firm and steady.

21. Show the squad how to fire. Point out that the rifle does not move when you take the second pressure.

22. Make the squad take up correct firing positions. Practise taking the first and second pressures and watch their foresights. Stress the fact that they must practise until they can take the second pressure without the foresight moving.

Breathing

23. Explain and demonstrate that at the moment you fire a shot, the lungs should be half empty, the breathing controlled. The procedure is:

- a. Aim, breathe in and let the muzzle drop a little.
- b. Breathe out and bring the muzzle up. As the foresight reaches the aiming mark, fire the shot if you are satisfied that the aim is good.
- c. If you do not get a good aim in four or five seconds, breathe in and start again.

24. Practise the squad at controlled breathing.

Firing

25. You must be determined to shoot well. Concentrate on aiming accurately and taking the second pressure smoothly. Make the squad copy you in the following sequence:

- a. Assume the lying position, test the position and load.
- b. When a range is ordered, set the sights and push forward the safety catch.

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- c. On the command "FIRE":
 - (1) Aim and take the first pressure. Control your breathing and take the second pressure when the aim is correct. Go on aiming for a moment.
 - (2) Remember any error you have made and correct it on the next shot.
 - (3) Keep the head still and firm on the butt and reload at once. Aim again, fire and reload. Count the rounds you fire and go on firing until you are given the order "Cease Fire". Apply the safety catch.

26. Make the squad practise firing with drill rounds. Coach each of them in turn and check the points listed in para 25.

Rapid Reloading

- 27. Explain and demonstrate with drill rounds:
 - a. Grip firmly with the left hand to keep control.
 - b. Grip the knob of the bolt firmly and move it backwards and forwards again so fast that the two movements look like one.
 - c. Keep the head still and the cheek pressed hard against the butt. Tilt the rifle a little to the right and try to keep the right elbow down.
 - d. Get a firm grip of the small of the butt again quickly and take the first pressure.
- 28. Make the squad practise with drill rounds. Coach each cadet in turn.

Practice

- 29. Practise the squad in the whole of the lesson. Let them coach each other in pairs.

Conclusion

- 30. Questions to and from the squad.
- 31. Sum up. Remind the cadets, "Always think about aiming and firing. None of the other firing actions should require any conscious thought but must become automatic."
- 32. *SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.*

On the 1st of January 1944, the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was reformed as the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was reformed as the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. The 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was reformed as the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division.

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1944-1945

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1946-1947

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