

CHAPTER 6

REVISION AND CLEANING

Introduction

1. Cadets have now reached the stage in their training where the next step is firing practice with the .22 and, later, the .303 rifle. It is therefore essential that they are thoroughly tested in their knowledge of the previous lessons before they are allowed to use live ammunition.
2. The best revision is in the form of practical tests, theory and explanations being confined to points which appear not to have been fully grasped.
3. All practice should be carried out in the lying position, as this is the position for firing all range practices.
4. Do not keep cadets too long at the aim as this can be very tiring. When correcting a cadet, first give him the order, "Rest." Show him where he is wrong and then give a fresh order.
5. Put the whole squad through Practice 1 first, as a limbering-up exercise. Do not bother to correct small errors but address the squad at the end on any general mistakes. Then take each cadet separately and let the rest of the squad watch. Allow them to criticize when the cadet has finished his practice.
6. When giving a series of orders, allow a definite pause between each order so that it is clearly understood.

Equipment Required

7. DP rifles, drill rounds and chargers, eye discs, aiming correctors, aiming rests, targets and half-full sandbags are required.

Preliminaries

8. *SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.*
9. Set up a variety of targets, about 12 inches off the floor.
10. Fall in the squad at the standing "at ease" position with the rifle, each cadet behind a half-full sandbag and opposite a target.

Practice 1

11. Give the orders shown below, but do not give explanations:
 - a. "WITHOUT AMMUNITION—LOAD"—Cadets should assume the lying position, test their position, go through the complete motions of loading and finish with the action cocked, safety catch applied, correct hold with both hands, trigger finger laid outside the trigger guard, rifle resting lightly on the sandbag and looking at their targets. (Leaf of the backsight should not be raised.) They are now in the "ready position."
 - b. "300"—Cadets should raise the leaf of the backsight with the right hand (left hand for left handed firers), adjust the slide to 300, push forward the safety catch with the thumb of the right hand, re-grip the small of the butt with the right hand, trigger finger laid outside the trigger guard and look to their targets. (It should not be necessary to move the left hand during this operation.)

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c. "AT YOUR TARGET—5 ROUNDS—FIRE"—Cadets should aim, fire and reload as if firing 5 rounds, finishing with rifles rested, action fired, safety catch applied, correct hold with both hands, trigger finger laid outside the trigger guard and looking towards the target.

d. "UNLOAD"—Cadets should work the bolt backwards and forwards five times, finishing with the action fired, safety catch applied and backsight down. They should then assume the standing "at ease" position.

12. Take each cadet individually through the practice, allowing him to use 5 drill rounds and checking his aim with an aiming corrector. (*NOT with an eye disc.*) Where possible, do not comment until he has completed the practice, otherwise you may confuse him.

Practice 2

13. Practise the cadets in charging magazines, loading and re-charging magazines. Each cadet must have five drill rounds loaded in a charger. A number of cadets can be practised at the same time, according to the number of drill rounds available. Give the following orders, but do not give explanations:

a. "LYING POSITION—CHARGE MAGAZINES"—Cadets should assume the lying position, test their positions, load five rounds into the magazine, remove magazines, close and fire the action, apply the safety catch, replace the magazine and assume the correct ready position as outlined in para 11. (This is a good test for the alertness of cadets to assume the "ready position.")

b. "LOAD"—Cadets should open and close the breech, apply the safety catch and re-assume the ready position. If a cadet ejects a round on opening and closing the breech, stop the practice. Explain to the whole squad that by not charging his magazine properly, the cadet would have virtually fired a round. **Emphasize the need for safety precautions at all times, and start the practice again from the beginning.**

c. "RE-CHARGE MAGAZINES"—Cadets should open the breech slowly, push the round down into the magazine, remove the magazine and carry on as for charging magazines.

Practice 3

14. Practise the cadets at stripping and assembly.

Practice 4

15. Practise the cadets at filling chargers.

Combined Practices

16. For variation, combine Practices 1 and 2, using as many different targets as possible. A landscape target will give a variety of things to aim at. Practice 4 can be repeatedly worked in with Practices 1 and 2.

17. Divide the squad up into teams and let them coach and criticize each other. **Ensure that the cadets do not use eye discs and drill rounds at the same time.**

18. Use the aiming rest to coach cadets who are backward in aiming.

Safety Precautions

19. Revise the safety precautions.

Cleaning

20. Equipment. DP rifles, slings, full oil bottles, flannelette, chamber cleaning sticks, cleaning rags, pull-throughs and a small brush are required.

21. Strip the rifle.

22. Cleaning. Explain and demonstrate the following with the cadets copying your actions:

a. The Barrel.

(1) Unroll and straighten the pull-through.

(2) Insert a piece of 4 inch by 2 inch flannelette through the centre loop and wrap it round the cord.

(3) Drop the weight into the barrel through the breech.

(4) Rest the toe of the butt on the ground and pull the cord through in one movement. (Some cadets may find this difficult at first.) Do not let the cord chafe the muzzle; this will cause wear and will eventually affect the accuracy of the weapon. Continue pulling through until the barrel is quite clean; when the flannelette becomes dirty, refold and use again.

(5) Examine the bore from both ends of the barrel. Hold the muzzle end close to the eye and move the head backwards, looking into the grooves for dirt.

b. The Chamber. Take the slotted chamber cleaning stick and insert a piece of flannelette into the slot. Wrap the flannelette round the stick, insert in the chamber and twist several times.

c. Fittings and Furniture

(1) Lightly oil a piece of rag and remove all dirt from the foresight, rear sight, bands, swivels, trigger guard and magazine recess. Use a small brush for the crevices.

(2) Rub over all woodwork with a lightly oiled rag and dry off with a dry rag.

d. The Bolt. Remove all dirt, paying special attention to the face of the bolt head.

e. The Magazine.

(1) With an oily rag, clean the magazine inside and out.

(2) Clean the platform and spring.

f. Oiling.

(1) Having completed the above, lightly oil a piece of 4 × 2, insert it in the centre loop of the pull-through and pull it through the barrel with one pull.

(2) Using the same piece of 4 × 2, rub over the surfaces of the chamber.

(3) Rub over the bolt.

(4) Rub over all exposed metal surfaces. *NEVER USE ABRASIVES OF ANY KIND.*

23. Assemble the rifle. *CHECK SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:* Practise the squad in stripping, cleaning and assembly.

24. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

Special Note

25. It is the responsibility of the instructor concerned to see that cadets achieve a good standard in all practices and thoroughly understand all the safety precautions before progressing further. WHERE ANY DOUBT EXISTS AS TO A CADET'S CAPABILITIES, HE SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER TRAINING, OTHERWISE, WHEN DEALING WITH LIVE AMMUNITION, HE MAY PRESENT A VERY REAL DANGER TO HIS COMRADES, HIS INSTRUCTOR AND HIMSELF.

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