MACHINE-GUN SQUADRON DRILL.

35-8.2042

(Issued as an Addendum to "Machine Gun Training.")

To be read in conjunction with "Cavalry Training, 1912 (1915)."

ISSUED BY THE GENERAL STAFF.

February, 1918.

LONDON:

Printed by Authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office

Sons, 45-47, St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 2.

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THE GENERAL SERVICE SCHOOLS

FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

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CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.—Organization and Definitions.

SEC. PAGE.
1. Organization ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 3
2. Definitions ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 3
3. Terms of formation ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 4
4. Intervals and distances ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 5

CHAPTER II.—Allocation of Duties.

5. Allocation of Duties ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 6

CHAPTER III.—Mounted Drill for a Machine-Gun Squadron.

6. General instructions ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 8
7. Post of officers, N.C.Os., &c. ... ... ... ... ... ... 8
8. Detachment drill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 9
9. Sub-section drill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 11
10. Section drill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 16
11. Squadron drill ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 20
12. Going into action ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 22
13. Action ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 24
14. Advancing and retiring after action ... ... ... ... ... 24

PLATES.

I. Symbols ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 26
II. Column of Sub-sections ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 27
III. Section drill. (Column of detachments) ... ... ... ... 23
IV. Section drill. (Line of detachment column) ... ... ... ... 29
V. Section drill. (Sub-section in "Column of route" or "Advance by Files") ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 30
VI. Section drill. (Sub-section in "Detachment column") ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 31
VII. Squadron drill. ("Line of detachment column") ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 32
VIII. Squadron drill. (Column of Detachments. Column of Sub-sections) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 33
IX. Machine-Gun Squadron. (Drawn up for Inspection) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 34
X. Squadron drill. (Mass) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 35
XI. A Sub-section of a Machine-Gun Squadron in action ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 36

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CHAPTER I.

ORGANIZATION AND DEFINITIONS.

1.—Organisation.

1. A Machine-Gun Squadron consists of Headquarters and 3 sections each of 4 guns. A Section consists of 2 sub-sections. A sub-section consists of 2 detachments.

2. A detachment consists of the gun numbers and pack leaders detailed for the service of one gun under the immediate control of a N.C.O. called the detachment leader.

3. The machine guns of a section are carried on pack animals. Each sub-section has one limbered G.S. wagon for ammunition.

4. Further details as to personnel, horses and vehicles are given in War Establishments.

2.—Definitions.

The following definitions are added to those given in "Cavalry Training."

File.—Two men riding abreast followed by a pack leader and pack horse.

Half File.—Two men riding abreast, or a pack leader and pack horse.
Detachment.—Gun teams, packs, shoeing smith, &c., formed up in three ranks.

Front rank ... ... ... Nos. 1 to 7.

Rear rank ... ... ... Packs (one gun and 2 ammunition).

Serrefile rank.—Spare pack, shoeing smith, signaller, servant and corporal.

3.—Terms of Formation.

1. Column.

Column of Route.—A column of files.

Column of Sections.—Sections in line one behind the other at wheeling distance, plus 5 yards.

Column of Sub-Sections.—Sub-sections in line one behind the other, at wheeling distance, plus 5 yards, the sub-section leaders riding 16 feet in rear of serrefile rank of preceding sub-section.

Column of Detachments.—Detachments in line one behind the other, at wheeling distance, detachment leaders riding 4 feet in rear of serrefile rank of preceding detachment.

Section Column.—A section in column of detachments.

2. Line.

Line of Detachment Columns.—Detachments in column of route parallel to one another at 10 yards interval. This interval can always be increased.

Line of Section Columns.—Sections in column of detachments parallel to each other at 33 yards interval.


Mass.—Sections in column of detachments parallel to each other at 5 yards interval. (See plate IX.)
4.—Intervals and Distances.

1. Intervals.

Intervals are measured from wagon to wagon, and from knee to knee between files.

20 yards from wagon to wagon is full interval.
10 " " " " " " half " "
4 " " " " " " close " "

In Line.—Between sub-sections ... ... 5 yards.
Between sections ... ... 5 yards.

In line of detachments column.—Between detachments 10 yards.

In Mass.—Between sections ... ... 5 yards.

In Line of Section Columns.—Between sections 33 yards.

Note.—To form line of detachment columns from line of Section columns this interval must be increased to 60 yards.

2. Distances.

Distances are measured between animals from tail to head, between wagons from rear end of wagons to head of the following team.

In Line.—Sub-section leaders to front rank, front to rear rank, rear rank to serrefile rank ... 1 horse length.

In Column.—Front to rear rank, rear rank to serrefile rank ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1/2 horse length.

In Column of Sections.—Sub-section leaders to front rank 1/2 horse length.

In Column of Sub-sections Sub-section leaders to front rank

In Column of Detachments rank 1/2 horse length.

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CHAPTER II.

5.—Allocation of Duties.

1. The duties of the section commander are to command the section in accordance with his orders and the tactical situation, to select gun positions, to observe and to control fire generally, and to regulate the ammunition supply.

2. The duties of the sub-section officer are to assist the section commander and to act as second in command of the section. He should be ready to replace the section commander should the latter become a casualty. Normally, he will command one sub-section in action and supervise the transport of his section in quarters and on the line of march.

3. The duties of the detachment leaders (1 Serjeant and 1 Corporal) are to supervise guns coming into action as the section officer may direct, and to observe and control the fire of his own gun. The serjeant must be prepared to take command of the section in the event of both the officers becoming casualties. They are responsible for replacing casualties among the gun numbers when they occur. One serjeant will be in charge of the led horses.

4. One corporal is responsible generally for the packing of gun equipment and contents of the ammunition limber. In the absence of the section officer or serjeant, he will take command. In action he will have the spare parts box handy, supervise the ammunition supply and filling the belts, direct the ammunition limber as required, superintend the filling of sandbags and watch for signals from the section officer. He will be prepared to take the place of the serjeant should he become a casualty.
5. The following are the duties of the various numbers:

No. 1 is the firer. He will personally clean and look after his gun, and ensure that the mechanism is working smoothly. On going into action he will carry the Mark IV tripod and place it in a suitable position and assist No. 4 in mounting the gun. He repeats all orders received, observes his own fire when possible, and makes the necessary alterations of elevation and direction.

No. 4 assists No. 1 at the gun, carries the gun into action when No. 1 is carrying the tripod, and mounts it with the assistance of No. 1.

On going into action he will secure the tube of the condenser to the gun, and take the spare parts case. In action he will attend to the feeding of the gun, watch for signals from the section or company officer, and generally assist No. 1.

No. 3 is responsible for keeping the gun supplied with ammunition; seeing that the condenser (half-filled with water) reaches the gun position before there is any chance of the water in barrel casing boiling; and carry out minor repairs whilst the gun is in action.

No. 5 assists No. 3 in his duties. He is responsible for keeping No. 3 supplied with ammunition, water, and spare parts from the spare parts box as required.

No. 2 is horseholder, No. 6 is scout; No. 7 of left detachment is range taker; No. 7 of right detachment horseholder; No. 8 is gun pack leader; No. 9 is first ammunition leader; No. 10 is second ammunition leader; No. 11 is spare pack leader.

6. Section officers will ensure that each man of the section is thoroughly trained in the duties of each “number.” A system of “changing round” will be arranged, so that every man will perform the several duties of the section in turn.
CHAPTER III.

MOUNTED DRILL FOR A MACHINE-GUN SQUADRON.

6.—GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

1. At drill and manœuvre, the squadron will be divided into sections.

2. Numbering in line is from right to left, in column from the right of the head of the column.

The relative positions of sections and sub-sections within a squadron or of detachments within a sub-section may be changed at any time, but sub-sections must not be broken up.

The section or sub-section on the right of the line is always, for the time being, the right section or sub-section. Line is to be formed in any required direction with the utmost rapidity, without regard to the original positions which sections or sub-sections occupied when they were last told off.

3. When it is intended to increase the front, the formation may be to either or both flanks. If no special order is given, the formation will be outwards. If it is intended to form on the right or left it must be so stated.

7.—POST OF OFFICERS, N.C.Os., &c.

The Squadron.

The Squadron Commander—

In Line.—One horse length in front of the centre of the line of section commanders.

While Drill is in Progress.—Wherever he can best superintend and command his squadron.
THE SQUADRON—SERJEANT-MAJOR—

In Line.—One horse length in rear of the centre of the squadron.

Supernumerary officers and N.C.Os. in rear of the squadron.

The Sub-section.

THE SUB-SECTION COMMANDER—

In Line.—One horse length in front of the centre of his sub-section.

In Column of Route.—Where he can best superintend the march discipline of his sub-section.

SERGEANTS—

In Line.—In the centre of the sub-section in line with the men of the front rank of the detachment. One in the serrefile rank.

In Column of Route.—One at the head of the sub-section and one in rear of the sub-section.

CORPORALS—

One with the ammunition wagon.

THE SECOND CORPORAL—

In Line.—In the serrefile rank.

In Column of Route.—In rear of the sub-section.

8.—DETACHMENT DRILL.

1. Formation of the Detachment.

The detachment will fall in in three ranks, the gun numbers in front, the pack leaders and pack horses in the rear rank, shoeing smiths, signallers, officer’s grooms and spare pack horses in the serrefile rank.
The senior N.C.O. in the detachment will be posted as detachment leader half a horse length in front of No. 4. When in line the distance between ranks is one horse length; in column, half a horse length.

From the Right—Number.

Proving a Detachment.—The gun numbers number off from the right, 1 to 7. The flanks and even numbers then prove as in Cavalry Training.

2.—Diminishing and increasing the front.

"Form Detachment Column."

From line to detachment column.—The right file advances; the remaining files as it comes to their turn, incline to the right, follow, and cover at the proper distance.

The spare pack follows the second ammunition pack.

No. 7 and signaller, or shoeing smith, form a half file and follow the spare pack.

The detachment leader places himself in front of No. 1 and directs.

"Form Line."

From detachment column to line.—The leading file continues to advance; the remaining files incline to the left and move up at an increased pace into their places in line.

3.—Movements to a flank.

"Files Right."

From line to form detachment column to the right.—The right file wheels to the right and moves off, the remaining files wheel and follow in succession.
If the order is given when the detachment is moving, all but the leading file halt until it is their turn to move; they then wheel and follow.

Note.—It is not possible to go files left. If detachment column to the left flank is wanted, the order is "Left Wheel—Form Detachment Column."

"Half Files Right," or "Left."

To gain ground to a flank when in detachment column.—Every half file wheels to the flank named.

A further wheel to the opposite flank brings the detachment into column again moving in its original direction.

9.—Sub-Section Drill.

1.—Formations of the sub-section.

Line.—The detachments each in line, side by side without intervals.

Column of detachments.—The detachments in column at a distance of 16 feet. (Plate III.)

Line of detachment columns.—Each detachment in column, at 10 yards interval. A useful formation for working over rough ground and into action.

The sub-section will be formed up on parade, with the two detachments in line.

The senior N.C.O. will be posted as centre guide between No. 7 of the right detachment and No. 1 of the left detachment.

The second serjeant will cover off the centre guide in the serrefile rank.

The sub-section leader will take post—one horse length in front of the centre guide in line, half horse length in column.
"From the right tell off by Detachments."

Proving a Sub-section.—The gun numbers of each detachment numbers off from the right, 1 to 7. The flanks and even numbers then move as in Cavalry Training.

2.—Diminishing the front.

"Form Column of Route."

From line to column of route.—Nos. 1 and 2 followed by gun pack and leader of right detachment advance, serjeant and groom forming a half file and directing.

Nos. 3 and 4 followed by first ammunition pack and leader incline to right, follow and cover.

Nos. 5 and 6 followed by second ammunition pack and leader incline to the right, follow and cover.

Spare pack follows and covers.

No. 7 and signaller form a half file, follow and cover.

Left detachment acts in a like manner, except that No. 7 and shoeing smith form a half file. The serjeant and corporal bring up the rear.

"Advance in " or "Form Column of Detachments."

From line to column of detachments.—The right detachment advances.

The sub-section leader places himself in front of No. 4 and leads to the front.

Left detachment inclines to the right, follows and covers.

Serjeant places himself in front of No. 4 and rides at 4 feet from serrefile rank of leading detachment.
3.—Increasing the front.

"Form Line."

*From column of route to line.*—As in Section 8 (2).

"Form Sub-section."

*From column of detachment to line.*—The right detachment continues at the original pace, the left detachment inclines to the left, and moves up at an increased pace into line.

4.—Formations used for moving across country and into action.

"Form (Line of) Detachment Column." (Plate IV.)

*From line to detachment column.*—Each detachment forms column as in Section 8 (2).

The serjeant takes post in front of No. 1 of left detachment and directs.

The Corporal takes post in rear of right detachment.

The second serjeant takes post in front of No. 1 and 2 respectively of right detachment.

The sub-section leader takes post one horse length in front of, and half-way between, the leading files of the two detachments.

The left detachment directs; the right detachment inclines outwards to 10 yards interval from the left detachment.

"Form line of Detachment Column."

*From column of detachments to line of detachment columns.*—The leading detachment forms detachment column and directs. The rear detachment forms detachment column and is led at an increased pace into line with, and at 10 yards interval from, the directing detachment.
5.—*Formations and movements to a flank and rear.*

"Right (Left) Wheel into Line."

*From column of detachments to form line to a flank.*—Each detachment wheels to the flank named, on completing the wheel, the left detachment right inclines and closes in upon the right detachment.

The serjeant takes post as centre guide.

The sub-section leader takes post one horse length in front of centre guide.

"Form Column of Detachments to the Right" (Left)

"Detachments Right (Left) Wheel."

*From line, to form column of detachments to a flank.*—The right (left) detachment wheels to the flank named; the remaining detachment waits, and if on the move, halts, until its flank is clear, then wheels and follows.

"Files Right."

*From column of detachments to form line of detachment columns to the right.*—As in (4). Note that the interval between detachment column in line will be 16 yards.

"Half Files Right (Left)."

To gain ground to a flank when in line of detachment column.

—As in Section 8 (3).

"Detachments Right (Left) about Wheel."

*From line, and from column of detachments, to go about.* Each detachment wheels about as in Cavalry Drill.

"Right (Left) about Wheel."

*From line of detachment columns, to go about.*—Each detachment wheels about on its own head.
6.—From line of detachment column.

"Form Sub-section."

To form sub-section.—Each detachment forms line.
The left detachment continues to advance and directs; the right detachment closes in upon the left detachment.
Sub-section leader and centre guide take post.

"Form Column of Detachments from the Right (Left)."

To form column of detachments from a named flank.—Each detachment forms into line.
The right (left) detachment advances; the other right (or left) inclines, follows and covers.

7.—Dismounting for action.

"For Action Dismount."

The formation in which to dismount for action is line of detachment column.

No. 1 hands his horse over to No. 2.
No. 4 moves up abreast of No. 2 and hands his horse over to him.
No. 9 moves up abreast, and on the offside of, No. 3, and takes his horse.
No. 7 of the right, and the shoeing smith in the left detachment, move up between Nos. 5 and 6 and take their horses.
No. 7 (range-taker) of the left detachment moves up abreast of, and hands his horse over to No. 10.
The signaller hands his horse over to No. 11.
The second serjeant takes charge of the led horses.
The corporal hands his horse over to No. 10 of the right detachment.
10.—Section Drill.

1.—Formations of the Section.

Note.—In all these formations the two detachments of a sub-section must be kept together, but it does not matter which gun is on the right or left; they are interchangeable.

Line.—The two sub-sections in line, with an interval of 5 yards between sub-sections.

Section column.—The section in column of detachments.

Column of sub-sections.—Sub-sections in column at a distance equal to sub-section frontage, plus 5 yards.

Line of detachment column.—Each detachment in column, at 10 yards interval.

2.—Diminishing the front.

"Form Column of Sub-sections."

From line to column of sub-sections. The right sub-section advances; the left sub-section inclines to the right, follows and covers at wheeling distance, plus 5 yards = 20 yards.

"Form Column of Detachments from (the Right, Left, or any named Detachment)."

From line to column of detachments.—The detachment named advances; the other detachment of that sub-section inclines right or left, follows, and covers.

If no flank or detachment is named, the second detachment advances followed by the first, third and fourth in that order.
"Form Column of Detachments."

From column of sub-sections to column of detachments.—
The right detachment of the leading sub-section advances; the left detachment inclines to the right, follows and covers. The rear sub-section acts in like manner, as soon as its front is clear.

3.—Increasing the front.

"Form Section."

From column of sub-sections to form section.—The right sub-section continues at the original pace; the left sub-section inclines to the left and moves up at an increased pace into line.

"Form Section."

From column of detachments to form section.—The leading detachment advances; the 2nd detachment inclines to the right, and moves up at an increased pace into line.

The rear sub-section forms sub-section, inclines to the left, and moves up at an increased pace into line, at 5 yards interval from right sub-section.

"Form Section."

From column of route to form section.—Each detachment forms line and thus brings the section into column of detachments. Section is then formed as from column of detachment.

4.—Moving across country and into action.

"Form Line of Detachment Column."

From line to line of detachment column.—Each sub-section forms line of detachment column. The right sub-section
leader directs; the left sub-section leader inclines to the left until there is an interval of 10 yards between his right detachment and the directing left detachment of the right sub-section.

"Form Line of Detachment Column."

From column of sub-sections to line of detachment column.—Each sub-section forms line of detachment column. The rear sub-section inclines to the left and moves up at an increased pace into line with the leading sub-section at 10 yards interval.

"Form Line of Detachment Column."

From column of detachments to line of detachment column.—Each detachment forms column; the leading detachment advances and directs; the remaining detachments move up into line at an increased pace, the second on the right, the third and fourth on the left of the leading detachment.

5.—Movements to a flank and rear.

"Right (Left) Wheel into Line."

From column of sub-sections to form line to a flank.—Each sub-section wheels to the flank named.

From column of detachments to form line to a flank.—Each detachment wheels to the flank named, on completion the left detachment of the right sub-section directs.

"Form Column of Sub-sections (Detachments) to the Right-(Left)."

"Sub-sections (Detachments) Right (Left) Wheel."

From line to form column of sub-sections to a flank.—Each sub-section wheels to the flank named.
From line, to form column of detachments to a flank.—Each detachment wheels to the flank named.

The sub-section leader takes post in front of No. 4 of the leading detachment of his sub-section; the serjeant takes his post in front of No. 4 of the rear detachment, at a distance of 4 feet from serrefile rank of detachment in front.

"Files Right."

From column of detachments, to form line of detachment columns to the right.—As in Section 8 (3) and see note.

"Half Files Right (Left)."

From line of detachment columns, to gain ground to a flank.—As in sub-section drill.

"Sub-sections (Detachments) Right (Left) About Wheel."

From line and column of detachments, to go about.—Each sub-section and each detachment wheels about on its own centre.

From line of detachment columns, to go about.—As in sub-section drill.

6.—From line of detachment column.

"Form Section."

To form section.—The right sub-section forms sub-section line, and continues to advance.

The left sub-section forms sub-section on the right detachment and closes upon the right sub-section to 5 yards interval.
"From the Right (Left) Form Column of Sub sections."

To form column of sub-sections from a named flank.—Each sub-section forms sub-section.
The right (left) sub-section advances, the other inclines to the right (left) follows and covers in column.

"From the Right (Left) (or any named detachment) Form Column of Detachments."

To form column of detachments.—Each detachment forms line; column of detachments is then formed as from line, each detachment moving by the shortest route to its place in column.

**11.**—Squadron Drill.

1. **Formations of the Squadron.**

*Line.*—The sections in line at 5 yards interval.

*Line of section columns.*—The sections, each in section column, side by side at such interval that when each section forms line the squadron is in line.

*Column of sub-sections.*—The sections each in column of sub-sections, at such distance that a wheel of sub-sections to either flank would bring the squadron into line.

*Line of detachment columns.*—As in section drill. (Plate VII.)

*Column of detachments.*—Sections, each in column of detachments, in column. Distance between sections is the same as between detachments. (Plate VIII.)

*Mass.*—The sections, each in section column, side by side at 5 yards interval.

**Note.**—*Inspection Order.*—The sections, in close column of sub-sections, side by side at 5 yards interval, covered off by transport as in Plate IX.
The necessity for manoeuvring a Machine Gun Squadron as a single unit is not likely to arise on active service. The above formations are used for purposes of drill and inspections only.

In Squadron Drill the front is diminished and increased, movements made to a flank and rear, and rough and broken ground ridden over, in the same formations and at the same words of command as in Section Drill.

The following points must be noted:

1. In line, or line of detachment columns, the directing section is the centre section, and the directing detachment is the second detachment in the centre section.

2. In forming column from line, the centre section advances, followed by the left, followed by the right section.

"Detachments to ———— Yards Extend."

3. When in line of detachment columns, the interval between detachments may be increased at will. The extension may be made from either flank, or from the directing (i.e., the second) detachment in the centre section.

2.—Formations useful in Squadron Drill not included in Section Drill.

"Form Line of Section Columns."

To form line of section columns.
From line.—Each section forms column of detachments from the right.
From Column.—Each section forms column of detachments; the leading section advances, the second and third sections wheel half right and half left respectively, and move up at an increased pace into line, at an interval of 33 yards.

From Mass.—The centre section advances; the right and left sections wheel half right and half left respectively and extend to 33 yards interval.

"Form Mass."

To form Mass. (Plate X.)

From line.—Each section forms column of detachments, the centre section from the second detachment, the right and left sections from the left and right detachments respectively. The right and left sections then close in upon the centre section to 5 yards interval.

From column.—Each section forms column of detachments. The rear sections then move up into line with the leading section at 5 yards interval, the second section on the left, the third section on the right, of the leading section.

12.—Going into Action.

During all preliminary movements, the section will adopt, as far as possible, the formations of the troops with whom it is co-operating.

When the section (or sub-section) officer has reached a point from which he decides to bring his guns into action, the following procedure will be observed as closely as possible:
(1) The section (or sub-section) officer will explain to his N.C.O.s. and men the situation and the special task allotted to the section.

(2) He will go forward accompanied by the signaller, the rangetaker, and an orderly, to reconnoitre and choose the gun positions.

(3) The senior N.C.O. will be left in charge of the sub-section, with instructions:—

(a) To keep in touch with the officer;
(b) To bring the sub-section as far forward as is consistent with reasonable safety;
(c) To move the sub-section in the formation best suited to the ground and circumstances.

(4) The section (or sub-section) officer, having chosen the approximate positions for his guns, will signal back for the detachment leaders. The rangetaker will take the ranges and will afterwards be at the disposal of the section officer.

(5) The detachment leaders will join the section officer, leaving No. 1 in charge of the section, with instructions:—

(a) To keep in touch with the detachment leader.
(b) To bring up the tripod immediately on receiving a signal.

(6) The section officer will point out the approximate gun positions, allot targets, explain his plan, and indicate probable fire orders, to detachment leaders on the spot.
(7) Detachment leaders will choose the exact positions for guns and signal to No's. 1.

(8) No.'s 1 will bring up the tripod, closely followed by No.'s 4 with gun. If possible the gun should be mounted under cover, and afterwards moved into position for firing. No.'s 3 will bring up ammunition, and find suitable places for themselves in rear, and to flank, of gun positions. Remaining numbers will form a chain of communications between led horses or ammunition dump and guns. No.'s 6 will be at the disposal of the section officer. (Plate XI.)

13. — Action.

Subject to the sub-section officer's orders, each detachment leader will control the fire of his own gun. The sub-section leader will not attempt to control the fire of either or both guns directly, but will remain free to watch the general situation, to make and receive reports, to maintain communication with his superior commander and the troops with whom he is co-operating, and to appreciate and conform with any change in the tactical situation.

14. — Advancing and Retiring after Action.

On orders being given to advance, No.'s 1 and 4 will dismount gun, and the hindmost man in the "chain of communication" will immediately advance.

Each of the remaining gun numbers will remain in his position until all numbers in rear of him have arrived at, or at a point in line with, that position, when he will advance
On orders being given to retire, No.'s 1 and 4 will dismount gun and retire. No. 3 will wait until No.'s 1 and 4 are clear and will then advance to the firing point to bring away belt boxes. Each of the remaining numbers will remain in his position until all numbers in front of him have reached that position, or a point in line with it. Sub-sections must invariably be brought in hand again before any change of position is made.
SYMBOLS.

-------- squadron leader.

-------- sub-section leader.

-------- serjeant.

-------- corporal.

-------- officer's groom.

-------- shoeing smith.

-------- spare pack.

-------- gun pack.

-------- ammunition pack.

-------- signaller.

Plate I.
SECTION DRILL

COLUMN

of

Detachments

or

Section

Column.

Plate III.
SECTION DRILL.

LINE OF DETACHMENT COLUMN.

PLATE IV.
SECTION DRILL.

Detachment consists of one half of a Sub-section.

Time to pass a given point.

Walk 4 m.p.h. = 36 secs.

Trot 8 m.p.h. = 18 secs.

Gallop 15 m.p.h. = 6½ secs.

Plate V.
PLATE VI.
SQUADRON DRILL.

"LINE OF DETACHMENT COLUMN."

The 2nd detachment goes to the right and 3rd and 4th to the left, in order to keep each subsection under its length.
SQUADRON DRILL.

PLATE VIII.
MACHINE-GUN SQUADRON.

DRAWN UP FOR INSPECTION.

PLATE IX.
SQUADRON DRILL.

MASS.

"Section Column" as above with 33 yards interval.

PLATE XI.
A Sub-Section of a Machine Gun Squadron in Action.

PLATE XI.
LIBRARY
THE GENERAL SERVICE SCHOOLS
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS