WAR DEPARTMENT

BASIC FIELD MANUAL

Volume III
BASIC WEAPONS

PART ONE
RIFLE COMPANY

CHAPTER 3
AUTOMATIC PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

BASIC FIELD MANUAL

Volume III

BASIC WEAPONS

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CHAPTER 3

AUTOMATIC PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

PREPARED UNDER DIRECTION OF THE
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Chapter 3 (Automatic Pistol Marksmanship), Part One (Rifle Company), Basic Field Manual, Volume III (Basic Weapons), is published for the information and guidance of all concerned.

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

DOUGLAS MACARTHUR,
General,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

C. H. BRIDGES,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

FOREWORD

Basic Field Manual, Volume III, Basic Weapons, will be published in six parts as follows:

PART ONE. Rifle company. (Each chapter of Part One will be published as a separate pamphlet.)
- Chapter 1. Rifle marksmanship.
- 2. Automatic rifle marksmanship.
- 3. Automatic pistol marksmanship.
- 4. Instruction with the bayonet.
- 5. Instruction with hand and rifle grenades.
- 6. Musketry.

PART TWO. Fire-control instruments.
- Chapter 1. Machine-gun instruments.
- 2. 37-mm. gun and 3-inch trench-mortar instruments.
- 3. Care, repair, and adjustment of instruments.

PART THREE. Machine-gun company.
- Chapter 1. Mechanical training with the machine gun.
- 2. Machine-gun marksmanship.
- 3. Technique of machine-gun fire.
- 4. Barrages and concentrations.

PART FOUR. Howitzer company.
- Chapter 1. Mechanical training with the 37-mm. gun and the 3-inch trench mortar.
- 2. 37-mm. gun and the 3-inch trench-mortar marksmanship.
- 3. Technique of the 37-mm. gun and the 3-inch trench-mortar fire.

PART FIVE. Combat practice firing.
- Chapter 1. General.
- 2. Rifle company.
- 3. Machine-gun company.
- 4. Howitzer company.

PART SIX. Antiaircraft marksmanship—Infantry weapons.
- Chapter 1. General.
- 2. Rifle and automatic rifle.
- 3. Machine gun, caliber 30.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Paragraph	Page
SECTION I.	General	1–3	1–4
II.	Marksmanship, dismounted	4–16	5–34
III.	Marksmanship, mounted	17–19	34–48
IV.	Manual of the pistol	20–22	48–51

BASIC FIELD MANUAL, VOLUME III

BASIC WEAPONS

PART ONE

RIFLE COMPANY

CHAPTER 3

AUTOMATIC PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

(The matter contained herein supersedes TR 150–20, June 15, 1927 (including C1, January 3, 1928; C2, January 2, 1929; and C3, January 2, 1930), and 150–25, January 28, 1924 (including C1, February 15, 1926; C2, January 2, 1929; and C3, January 2, 1930).)

SECTION I

GENERAL

1. Scope.—Instruction in pistol marksmanship is divided into two distinct courses, dismounted and mounted. The dismounted course applies to all units armed with the pistol, the mounted course to Cavalry only.

2. Care and cleaning of automatic pistol.—*a*. Careful, conscientious work is required to keep the automatic pistol in a condition that will insure perfect functioning of the mechanism and continued accuracy of the barrel. It is essential that the entire mechanism is kept cleaned and oiled to avoid jams.

b. The magazines also require care to prevent rust or an accumulation of sand or dirt in the interior. They are easily disassembled for cleaning and oiling.

c. To clean the pistol after firing, remove the slide from the receiver and the barrel from the slide; this is usually all the disassembling required but, after prolonged firing, the extrac-

tor and firing pin should also be removed. When the pistol has been exposed to sand or water, it is necessary to disassemble it completely for thorough cleaning and oiling. The details of disassembling the pistol may be found in paragraph 3.

d. The care and cleaning of the bore and the removal of primer and metal fouling are described fully in chapter 1.

3. Disassembling and assembling the automatic pistol.—*a. To disassemble (fig. 1).*—(1) Remove the magazine by pressing the magazine catch (48).

(2) Press the plug (16) inward and turn the barrel bushing (13) to the right until the plug (16) and the end of the recoil

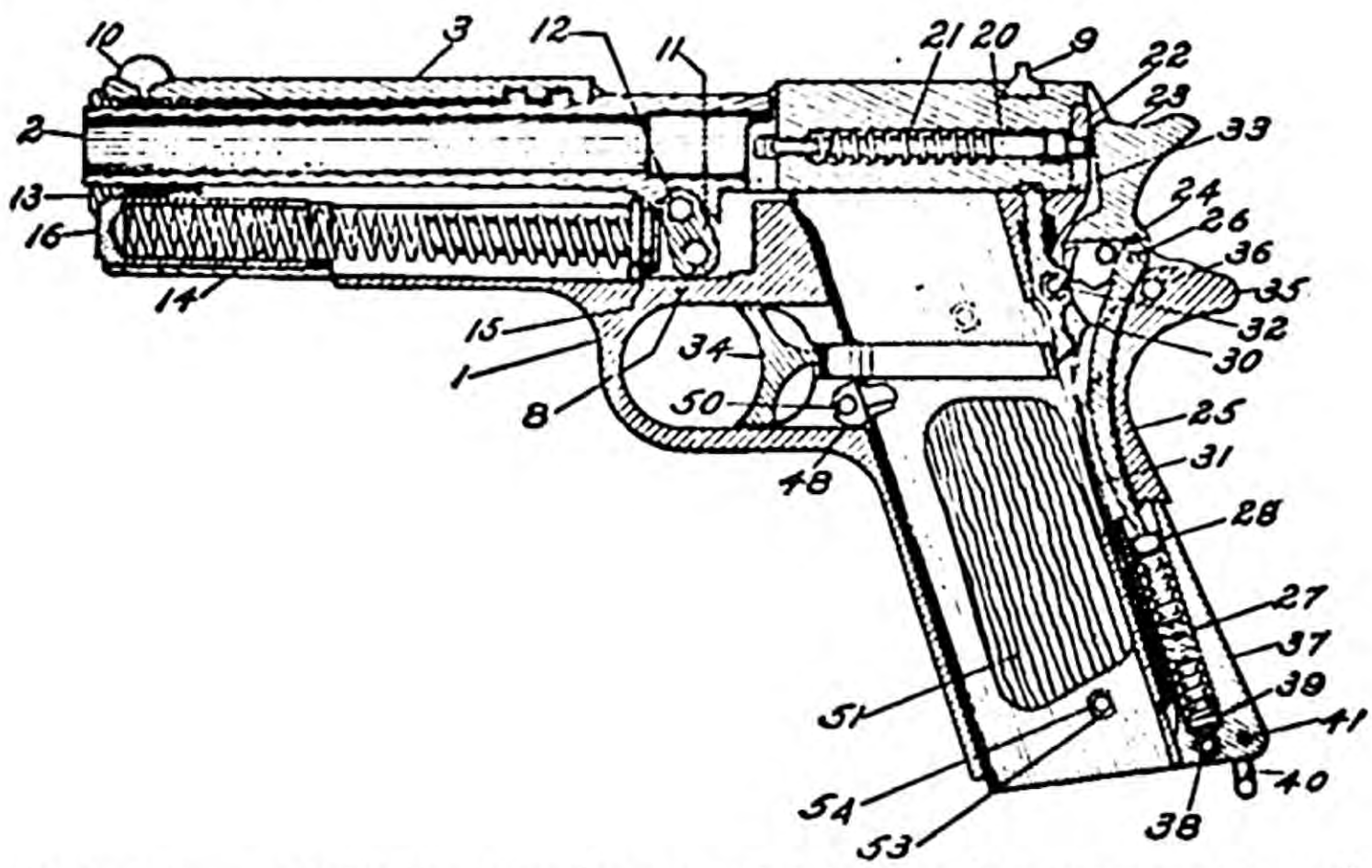

FIGURE 1.—Longitudinal section of pistol, showing component parts in assembled position

spring (14) protrude from their seat, releasing the tension of the spring (14). As the plug (16) is allowed to protrude from its seat, the finger or thumb should be kept over it so that it will not jump away and be lost or strike the operator. Draw the slide (3) rearward until the smaller rear recess in its lower left edge stands above the projection on the thumb piece of the slide stop (8); press gently against the end of the pin of the slide stop (8) which protrudes from the right side of the receiver (1) above the trigger guard and remove the slide stop (8).

(3) This releases the link (11), allowing the barrel (2), with the link (11) and the slide (3), to be drawn forward together

from the receiver (1), carrying with them the barrel bushing (13), recoil spring (14), plug (16), and recoil-spring guide (15).

(4) Remove these parts from the slide (3) by withdrawing the recoil-spring guide (15) from the rear of the recoil spring (14), and drawing the plug (16) and the recoil spring (14) forward from the slide (3). Turn plug (16) to right to remove from recoil spring (14). Turn the barrel bushing (13) to the left until it may be drawn forward from the slide (3). This releases the barrel (2), which, with the link (11), may be drawn forward from the slide (3), and by pushing out the link pin (12) the link (11) is released from the barrel (2).

(5) Press the rear end of the firing pin (20) forward until it clears the firing-pin stop (22), which is then drawn downward from its seat in the slide (3); the firing pin (20), firing-pin spring (21), and extractor (17) are then removed from the rear of the slide (3).

(6) The safety lock (36) is readily withdrawn from the receiver (1) by cocking the hammer (23) and pushing from the right on the pin part or pulling outward on the thumb piece of the safety lock (36) when it is midway between its upper and lower positions. The cocked hammer (23) is then lowered and removed after removing the hammer pin (24) from the left side of the receiver (1). The housing pin (38) is then pushed out from the right side of the receiver (1), which allows the mainspring housing (37) to be withdrawn downward and the grip safety (35) rearward from the handle. The sear spring (31) may then be removed. By pushing out the sear pin (32) from the right to the left side of the receiver (1), the sear (30) and the disconnector (33) are released.

(7) To remove the mainspring (27), mainspring cap (28), and housing-pin retainer (39) from the mainspring housing (37), compress the mainspring (27) and push out the small mainspring-cap pin (29).

(8) To remove the magazine catch (48) from the receiver (1), its checkered left end must be pressed inward, when the right end of the magazine catch (48) will project so far from the right side of the receiver (1) that it may be rotated one half turn. This movement will release the magazine-catch lock (50) from its seat in the receiver (1), when the magazine catch (48), the magazine-catch lock (50), and the magazine-catch spring (49) may be removed.

(9) With the improved design of magazine-catch lock (50) the operation of dismounting the magazine catch (48) is simplified in that when the magazine catch (48) has been pressed inward the magazine-catch lock (50) is turned by means of a screw driver or the short leaf of the sear spring (31) a quarter turn to the left when the magazine catch (48) with its contents can be removed. The improved design will be recognized from the fact that the head of the magazine-catch lock (50) is slotted.

(10) The trigger (34) can then be removed rearward from the receiver (1).

(11) The hammer strut (25) or the long arm of the screw driver can be used to push out all the pins except the mainspring-cap pin (29) lanyard-loop pin (41), and ejector pin (19).

b. To assemble.—(1) Proceed in the reverse order.

(2) It should be noted that the disconnector (33) and sear (30) are assembled as follows: Place the cylindrical part of the disconnector (33) in its hole in the receiver (1) with the flat face of the lower part of the disconnector (33) resting against the yoke of the trigger (34). Then place the sear (30), lugs downward, so that it straddles the disconnector (33). The sear pin (32) is then inserted in place, so that it passes through both the disconnector (33) and the sear (30).

(3) The sear (30), disconnector (33), and hammer (23) being in place and the hammer (23) down, to replace the sear spring (31), locate its lower end in the cut in the receiver (1), with the end of the long leaf resting on the sear (30); then insert the mainspring housing (37) until its lower end projects below the frame about one-eighth inch, replace the grip safety (35), cock the hammer (23), and replace the safety lock (36); then lower the cocked hammer (23), push the mainspring housing (37) home and insert the housing pin (38).

(4) In assembling the safety lock (36) to the receiver (1) use the tip of the magazine follower (47) or the screw driver to press the safety-lock plunger (7) home, thus allowing the seating of the safety lock (36). It should be remembered that when assembling the safety lock (36) the hammer (23) must be cocked.

(5) When replacing the slide (3) and barrel (2) on the receiver (1), care must be taken that the link (11) is tilted forward as far as possible and that the link pin (12) is in place.

SECTION II

MARKSMANSHIP, DISMOUNTED

4. Safety precautions.—*a. Rules for safety.*—Before ball ammunition is issued, the soldier must know the essential rules for safety with the pistol. The following rules will be taught as soon as the recruit is sufficiently familiar with the pistol to understand them. They should be enforced by constant repetition and coaching until their observance becomes the soldier's fixed habit when handling the pistol. When units carrying the pistol are first formed, the officer or noncommissioned officer in charge will cause the men to execute *inspection pistol.*

(1) Execute *unload* every time the pistol is picked up for any purpose. Never trust your memory. Consider every pistol as loaded until you have proved it otherwise.

(2) Always unload the pistol if it is to be left where someone else may handle it.

(3) Always point the pistol up when snapping it after examination. Keep the hammer fully down when the pistol is not loaded.

(4) Never place the finger within the trigger guard until you intend to fire or to snap for practice.

(5) *Never point the pistol at anyone you do not intend to shoot, nor in a direction where an accidental discharge may do harm.* On the range, do not snap for practice while standing back of the firing line.

(6) Before loading the pistol, draw back the slide and look through the bore to see that it is free from obstruction.

(7) On the range, do not insert a loaded magazine until the time for firing.

(8) Never turn around at the firing point while you hold a loaded pistol in your hand, because by so doing you may point it at the man firing alongside of you.

(9) On the range, do not load the pistol with a cartridge in the chamber until immediate use is anticipated. If there is any delay, lock the pistol and only unlock it while extending the arm to fire. Do not lower the hammer on a loaded cartridge; the pistol is much safer cocked and locked.

(10) In reducing a jam *first remove the magazine.*

(11) To remove a cartridge not fired *first remove the magazine* and then extract the cartridge from the chamber by drawing back the slide.

(12) In campaign, when early use of the pistol is not foreseen, it should be carried with a fully loaded magazine in the socket, chamber empty, hammer down. When early use of the pistol is probable, it should be carried loaded and locked in the holster or hand. Extra magazines should, in campaign, be carried fully loaded.

(13) When the pistol is carried in the holster loaded, cocked, and locked the butt should be rotated away from the body when drawing the pistol in order to avoid displacing the safety lock.

(14) Safety devices should be frequently tested. A safety device is a danger device if it does not work when expected.

b. Tests.—(1) *Safety lock.*—Cock the hammer, and then press the safety lock upward into the safe position. Grasp the stock so that the grip safety is depressed and squeeze the trigger three or four times. If the hammer falls, the safety lock is not safe and must be repaired.

(2) *Grip safety.*—Cock the hammer and, being careful not to depress the grip safety, point pistol downward and squeeze the trigger three or four times. If the hammer falls, or the grip safety is depressed by its own weight, the grip safety is not safe and must be repaired.

(3) *Half-cock notch.*—Draw back the hammer until the sear engages the half-cock notch and squeeze the trigger. If the hammer falls, the hammer or sear must be replaced or repaired. Draw the hammer back nearly to full cock and then let it slip. It should fall only to half cock.

(4) *Disconnector.*—Cock the hammer. Shove the slide one-quarter inch to the rear; hold slide in that position and squeeze the trigger. Let the slide go forward, maintaining the pressure on the trigger. If the hammer falls, the disconnector is worn on top and must be replaced. Pull the slide all the way to the rear and engage the slide stop. Squeeze the trigger and at the same time release the slide. The hammer should not fall. Release the pressure on the trigger and then squeeze it. The hammer should then fall. The disconnector prevents the release of the hammer unless the slide and barrel are in the forward position safely interlocked. It also prevents more than one shot following each squeeze of the trigger.

5. Instruction and practice.—*a. Relative value.*—(1) Pistol firing is a purely mechanical operation that any man who is physically and mentally fit to be a soldier can learn to do well if properly instructed. The methods of instruction must be

the same as are used in teaching any mechanical operation. The soldier must be taught the various steps in their proper order and must be carefully watched and corrected whenever he makes a mistake.

(2) Good shooting is more the result of careful instruction than of mere practice. Unless properly instructed, men instinctively do the wrong thing in firing the pistol. They instinctively jerk the trigger, which is the cause of flinching. Hence, mere practice fixes the instinctive bad habits.

(3) If, however, a man has been first thoroughly instructed in the mechanism of correct shooting and is then carefully and properly coached when he begins firing, correct shooting habits rapidly become fixed.

(4) The ultimate object of the training is to develop the ability to fire one or more accurate shots quickly, but training must begin with carefully coached slow fire to attain accuracy and be followed by practice that will gradually shorten the time without sacrificing the accuracy.

b. Methods of instruction.—(1) Pistol instruction is divided into two phases; preparatory instruction and range firing. In the preparatory instruction the soldier learns practically all the principles of good shooting. In range firing he cultivates the will power to apply these principles when using ball ammunition until proper, fixed habits have been acquired.

(2) The principles of good shooting are simple and easy to learn except the trigger squeeze, which is difficult to apply to a loaded pistol. To this important item most of the instructor's time will be devoted during the period of range practice.

(3) There are six distinct steps in the preparatory instruction:

(*a*) Aiming exercises.
(*b*) Position exercises.
(*c*) Trigger-squeeze exercises.
(*d*) Rapid-fire exercises.
(*e*) Quick-fire exercises.
(*f*) Examination on preparatory work.

(4) The steps are progressive and must always be taught in proper sequence.

(5) Each of the first five steps begins with a talk by the instructor and a demonstration by a squad which the instructor puts through the exercises that are to constitute the day's work. He shows how the corporal organizes the work in the

squad so that no men are idle and how pairs coach each other when they are not under instruction by an officer or a noncommissioned officer. He shows exactly how to execute each of the exercises about to be taken up and explains its purpose and application in pistol shooting.

(6) The instructor who gives these very essential talks and demonstrations may be the organization commander, or he may be a specially qualified officer who has been detailed as battalion or regimental instructor. But the actual application of the demonstrated exercises to the men of the command must be by the officers and noncommissioned officers of the organization undergoing instruction.

(7) Instruction must be thorough and must be individual. General instruction of groups of men is not enough. The instructors must see that each man understands each and every point and can explain it in his own words.

(8) In peace-time training and in war, when time is available for a complete course of instruction and practice, the blank form shown in paragraph 6 *c* (explained in the first talk) must be kept by each squad leader and by each platoon leader independently. This blank form shows at a glance just how much each man knows about each feature of training and permits concentration of instruction where most needed.

(9) Interest and enthusiasm must be sustained and everything possible should be done to stimulate them. If the exercises are carried out in a manner approximately correct and as a routine piece of work, results will be very disappointing.

(10) It is of utmost importance that the trigger squeeze be explained in such a manner as to give the soldier a clear understanding of how it should be executed.

(11) All authorities on shooting agree that the trigger must be squeezed with a steady increase of pressure. If a man knows when his pistol will go off it is because he suddenly gives the trigger all the pressure necessary. Conversely, if the increase of pressure is steady the man can not know when the pistol will be discharged. Hence, he is instructed to *squeeze the trigger in such a way as not to know just when the hammer will fall.* This does not mean that the process is necessarily a slow one and that it will take a comparatively long time to fire a shot. A man, through training, can reduce the time used in pressing the trigger to as brief a period as one second and still press it in such a manner that he does not know just what

part of the second the discharge will take place. When the soldier has acquired the ability to squeeze the trigger properly, even though it be very slowly, he soon learns to shorten the time without changing the process.

(12) Whenever a man is in a firing position, whether it be at preparatory instruction or during practice firing, he must have a coach beside him to watch him and point out his errors.

(13) None of the preparatory exercises are executed by command or in unison by a group of men. Instruction is at all times individual. The men are placed in pairs and alternate in coaching each other. This method gives each man the necessary physical rest without halting the progress of his instruction. He is learning while watching another man and attempting to correct his mistakes.

(14) A great deal of preparatory practice is necessary in order to strengthen the muscles of the hand and arm and to fix the habit of correct trigger squeeze. The periods of exercise should not ordinarily be of long duration. Three or four 10-minute periods per day for a month will produce good results on the range. These periods of instruction can often be held during waits when troops are on maneuvers or field exercises. Some kind of a mark can always be found that will serve as an aiming point.

(15) It is a good plan to have full-sized pistol targets placed in the vicinity of the barracks to encourage the men to spend part of their time in preparatory practice.

(16) The preparatory exercises should be held out of doors, using full-sized pistol targets, but during inclement weather they can be held indoors, using miniature targets, with good results.

c. *Scope of preparatory instruction.*—(1) Each man's pistol will be closely examined for defects before the beginning of the preparatory instruction.

(2) Every man who is to fire on the range should be put through the preparatory course. Part of the preparatory instruction may have escaped the men the previous year and part of it has certainly been forgotten; in any case it will be beneficial to go over it anew and refresh the mind on the subject.

(3) In peace time noncommissioned officers should be put through a rigid test before the period of preparatory instruction for the organization begins. This is also desirable in war time when time is available.

6. **First step; aiming.**—*a. Apparatus required.*—The apparatus required for a set of equipment is listed below. When an entire squad is engaged in this work there should be two sets of this equipment in order that a number of the men do not remain idle. The work of the squad can then be carried on as in rifle marksmanship.

One sighting bar.
One pistol rest.
Two small aiming disks.
One 5-inch aiming disk.
Two small boxes, with paper tacked on one side.
One piece of paper at least 2 feet square and tacked on a wall or frame.

NOTE.—Men who have once been instructed in the aiming exercises, either in preparation for rifle or for pistol firing, will require very little instruction in aiming during subsequent seasons. They will, however, go through the aiming exercises at least once to verify their knowledge of this subject and to assign them a mark in the proper column on the blank form shown in *o* below.

(1) *The sighting bar.*—(*a*) The sighting bar is described in chapter 1. References there to the peep sight should be disregarded.

(*b*) Carefully blacken all pieces of tin or cardboard and the top of the bar. Nail the bar to a box about one foot high and place the box on the ground, table, or other suitable place.

(*c*) The sighting bar is used in instruction for two reasons; the sights are larger than on the pistol and errors in aiming can be more easily seen and pointed out to the beginner, and the eyepiece of the sighting bar forces the man under instruction to place his eye so that he sees the sights in proper alignment and thus he learns how to align the sights of the pistol properly. Without an eyepiece the instructor can not know whether or not the recruit has his eye in proper position.

(2) *The pistol rest.*—(*a*) To construct a sighting rest for the pistol (fig. 2) take a piece of wood about 10 inches long, 1¼ inches wide, and nine-sixteenths inch thick. Shape one end so that it will fit snugly in the handle of the pistol when the magazine has been removed. Screw or nail this stick to the top of a post or other object at such an angle that the pistol when placed on the stick will have its barrel approximately horizontal. A suitable sighting rest for the pistol may also be

easily improvised by cutting an additional notch to hold the pistol in one end of the box used as a rifle rest.

(*b*) Having first learned the principles of aiming by means of the sighting bar, the soldier is taught to apply them to the pistol on its rest.

(3) *Aiming disks.*—(*a*) For each sighting bar and each pistol rest a small disk (three inches in diameter) is made of white cardboard or of tin with white paper pasted on it and with a small bull's-eye in the center. In the exact center of the bull's-eye is a small hole just large enough to admit the point of a pencil. For indoor or close-range work the bull's-eye should not be larger than a 50-cent piece.

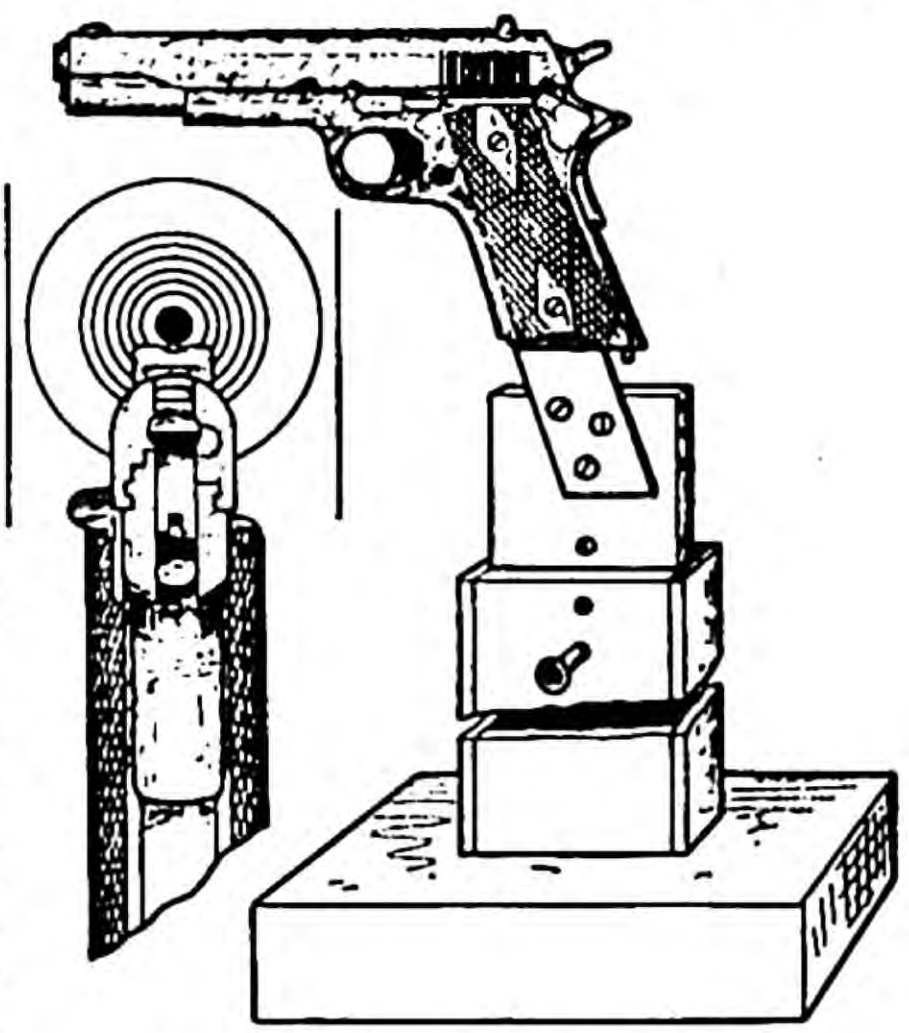

FIGURE 2.—The pistol rest

(*b*) There should be one 5-inch aiming disk for each squad for shot-group exercise at 25 yards. The large disk should be of tin, painted black, with a handle four or five feet long and of the same color as the paper on which the shot groups are to be made.

b. Sighting exercises.

(1) *First exercise.*—(*a*) The squad leader or instructor shows a sighting bar to his squad or group and points out the front and rear sights, the eyepiece, and the removable target. He explains the use of the sighting bar as follows:

1. The front and rear sights on the sighting bar represent enlarged pistol sights.
2. The sighting bar is used in the first sighting exercise because with it small errors can be easily seen and explained to the pupil.
3. The eyepiece requires the pupil to place his eye in such position that he sees the sights in exactly the same alignment as seen by the coach.

4. There is no eyepiece on the pistol, but the pupil learns by use of the sighting bar how to align the sights properly when using the pistol.
5. The removable target attached to the end of the sighting bar is a simple method of readily aligning the sights on a bull's-eye.

(*b*) The instructor explains the open sight to the assembled group, showing each man the illustration of a correct sight alignment. (Fig. 3.)

(*c*) The instructor, using the open sight, adjusts the sights of the sighting bar, with target removed, to illustrate a correct alignment of the sights. He has each man of the assembled group look through the eyepiece at each of the sight adjustments.

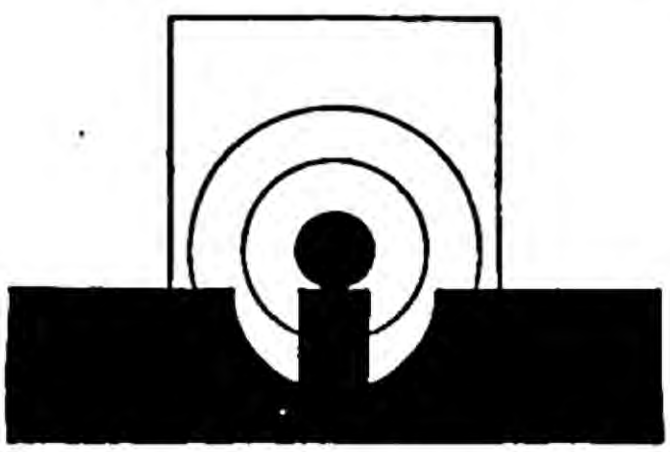

FIGURE 3.—Normal open sight

(*d*) The instructor adjusts the sights of the sighting bar with various small errors in sight alignment and has each man of the assembled group endeavor to detect the errors.

(*e*) The instructor describes a correct aim, again showing the illustration to each man. (Fig. 3.) He explains that the top of the front sight is seen through the middle of the open sight and is raised to a height so that its top is level with the outside edges of the open sight and just touches the bottom of the bull's-eye, so that all of the bull's-eye can be clearly seen.

(*f*) The instructor explains that the eye should be focused on the bull's-eye in aiming, and he assures himself, by questioning the pupils, that each man understands what is meant by focusing the eye on the bull's-eye.

(*g*) The instructor adjusts the sights of the sighting bar and the removable target so as to illustrate a correct aim and has each man of the group look through the eyepiece to observe this correct aim.

(*h*) The instructor adjusts the sights and the removable target of the sighting bar so as to illustrate various small errors and has each man in the group attempt to detect the error.

(*i*) The exercise described above having been completed by the squad leader or other instructor, the men are placed in pairs and the exercise is repeated by the coach and pupil method.

(2) *Second exercise.*—(*a*) With the pistol on the pistol rest and the sights pointing at a blank sheet of paper on a board or on the wall, stand with the head in the same relative position as in firing the pistol and look through the sights. (Fig. 4.) Then by signal or by word have the disk moved until the bottom edge of the bull's-eye is in exact alignment with the sights. Then command ***Hold*** and move away from the pistol and let the man undergoing instruction look through the sights to see what is the proper aim.

(*b*) Have the man under instruction look through the sights while he directs the disk to be moved until the sights are aligned on the bottom of the bull's-eye. The instructor then looks through the sights to see if any error has been made.

(*c*) Have the sights adjusted on the bull's-eye with various very slight errors and see if the man under instruction can detect them readily.

(3) *Third exercise.*—Using the sighting rest for the pistol, require the man under instruction to direct the marker to move the disk until the sights are aimed at the bottom edge of the bull's-eye and to command ***Hold.*** The instructor then looks at the aim, and after noticing whether the aim is right or wrong commands: ***MARK.*** The marker, without moving the disk, makes a pencil mark on the paper through the hole in the center of the bull's-eye. Repeat the operation until three marks have been made. The instructor looks at the aim each time, but he says nothing to the man until all three marks have been made and joined together so as to make a shot group. The faults, if any, are then pointed out. The size and shape of the shot group will be discussed and the exercise will be repeated several times. At 30 feet, using the small bull's-eye, the shot group should be small enough to be covered by a dime.

c. Blank form.—This form is used during the period of preparatory instruction. Its object is to show at all times the state of instruction of each man and to insure his thorough instruction in all necessary points before range practice begins.

Names	Recruit instruction				Pistol marksmanship—dismounted										Remarks
	Functioning and operation	Safety precautions	Test of safety devices	Care and cleaning	Sighting bar	Exercises with the pistol rest	Holding the breath	Position of the hand	Position exercise	Trigger squeeze exercise	Instruction in calling the shot	Rapid-fire exercise	Quick-fire exercise	Ability as a coach	Final examination	

Method of marking:

×	Fair.	× ×	Good.
× × ×	Very good.	× × × ×	Excellent.
× × × × ×	Excellent. Has instructional ability.		

7. Second step; position.—*a. Essentials of proper position.*—To assume the proper position for firing it is necessary to know how to aim, how to grasp the pistol, how to hold the breath properly, and the correct position of the body with relation to the target.

(1) *How to grasp the pistol.*—(*a*) To take the grip, hold the pistol in the left hand and force the grip safety device down and back into the crotch formed between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand. The thumb is carried parallel with or slightly higher than the forefinger; it should never be lower. Close the three lower fingers on the stock firmly but not with a tense grip.

(*b*) The thumb and forefinger squeeze the frame of the pistol but the ball of the thumb does not always touch the pistol, depending on the conformation of the man's hand. By this pressure, movement to the right or left is controlled, and the trigger squeeze can be better applied and coordinated.

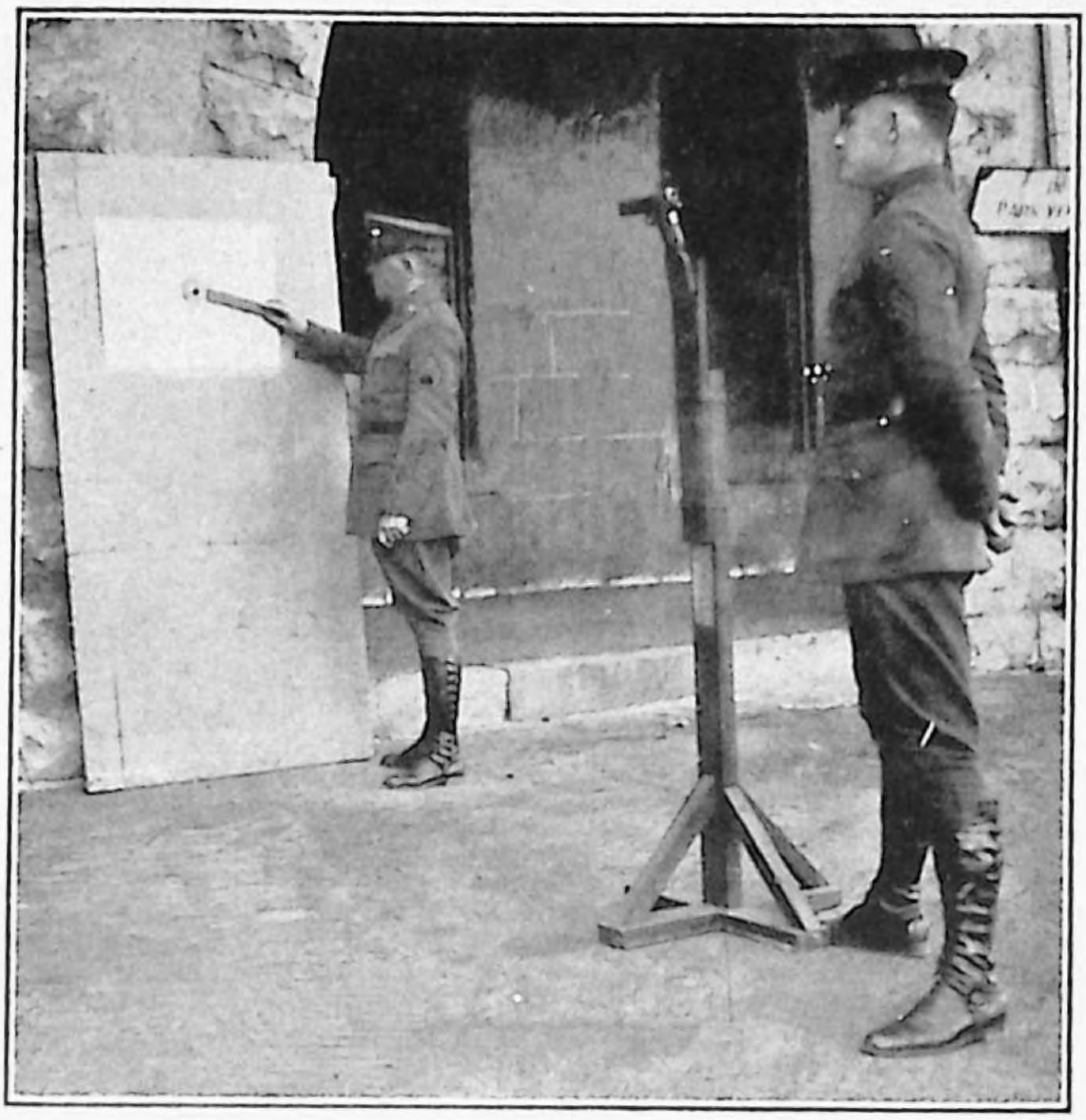

FIGURE 4.—Sighting exercise

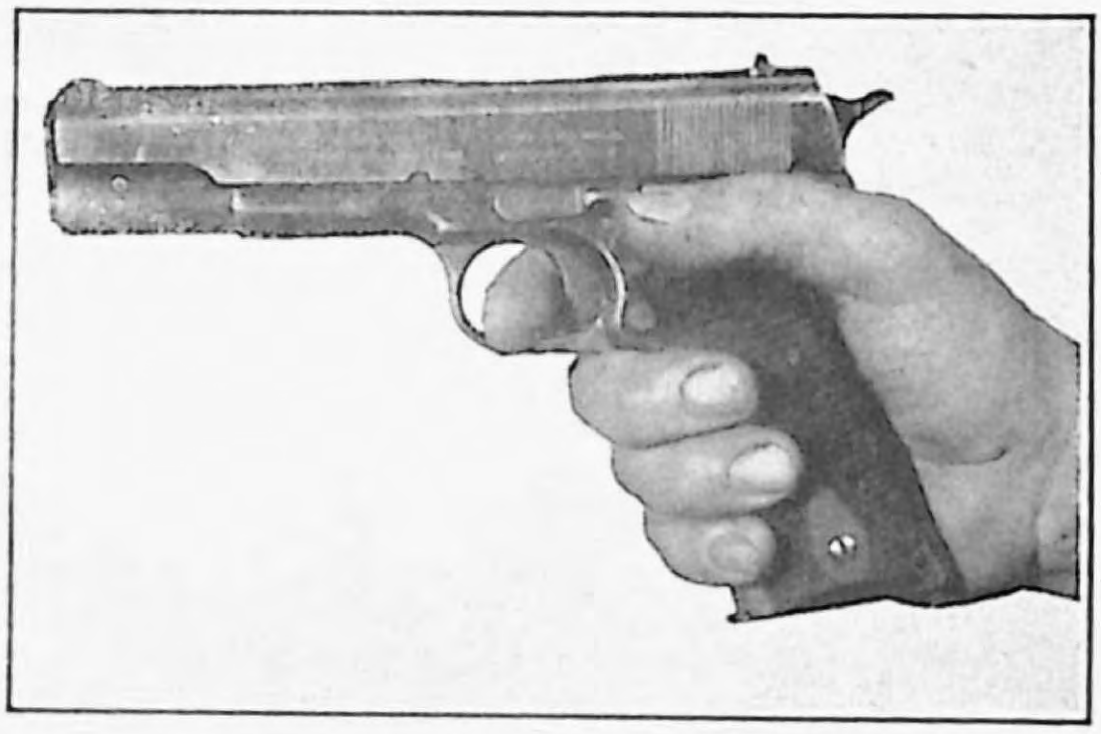

FIGURE 5.—How to grasp the pistol

(*c*) The muscles of the arm are firm without being rigid. There should be no bending of the arm at the elbow when the pistol is fired. On the other hand, the arm should not be locked at the elbow. When the firer is shooting properly, after recoil, the pistol arm should automatically carry the pistol back to the position shown in Figure 6.

(2) *How to hold the breath.*—(*a*) The proper method of holding the breath is important because many men, without instruction, hold the breath in the wrong way or do not hold it at all.

(*b*) To hold the breath, draw into the lungs a little more air than an ordinary breath, let a little of the air out and stop the rest by closing the throat. Do not hold the breath with the throat open or by the muscular effort of the diaphragm.

(3) *Position of the body.*—(*a*) The position of the body is a little more than half faced to the left, the feet 12 or 18 inches apart, depending on the man, the head erect, and the body perfectly balanced when the pistol is held in the shooting position.

(*b*) The whole position should be natural and comfortable. Upon assuming the position there is some point to which the pistol points naturally and without effort. If this point is not the center of the target the whole body must be shifted so as to bring the target into proper alignment. Otherwise the firer will be firing under a strain because he will be pulling the pistol on the target by muscular effort for each shot. Any unnecessary tensing of any of the muscles of the hand, arm, or body will cause tremors and should therefore be avoided.

b. Position exercise.—(1) Required for this exercise: A line of L targets with firing points at 15 and 25 yards, or a line of small aiming bull's-eyes placed at the height of the shoulder.

(2) The men, armed with the pistol, are placed in one line at one pace interval. The command: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** is given to verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded.

(3) Demonstrate the position of the hand in gripping the stock and describe the grip in detail.

(4) Require each man to grip the stock of his pistol in the prescribed manner, using the free hand to grasp the barrel and set the stock well back in the pistol hand between the thumb and the first finger.

(5) Describe the correct method of holding the breath while aiming and require each man to practice it a few times.

(6) Demonstrate the correct position of the whole body when firing, explaining in detail the position of the feet, legs, body muscles, arms, and head.

(7) Require each man to assume the correct firing position. The officers and noncommissioned officers of the organization correct individuals who are at fault.

(8) The above exercises having been completed, instruction becomes individual, under a coach. The men are placed in pairs opposite L targets or opposite small aiming bull's-eyes and take turns coaching each other.

(9) The details of the position exercises are—

(*a*) Grasp the stock with the correct grip.

(*b*) Face target, then face half left.

(*c*) Separate the feet 12 to 18 inches.

(*d*) Align the sights on the bottom edge of the bull's-eye, arm extended.

(*e*) Hold the breath.

(*f*) As soon as the arm becomes tired or the aim becomes unsteady, assume the position of *raise pistol.*

(*g*) The pistol should be removed from the right hand and the muscles of the hand, arm, and shoulder relaxed and exercised before resuming the grip. This should also be done between shots in slow fire.

(10) After the firer has completed the position exercise he may repeat it with a weight, such as a pair of field glasses in a case suspended from the right arm. The weight is suspended, first between shoulder and elbow, then from the forearm, then from the wrist, and finally from the barrel of the pistol, interspersed with short rests. The value of this exercise lies in developing the muscles of the shoulder and arm.

(11) (*a*) The hammer is not raised during the position exercises and the trigger is grasped very lightly with the finger.

(*b*) After a short rest repeat the exercise.

(*c*) The man acting as coach watches carefully and corrects all errors.

(*d*) The man under instruction and the coach change places as the officer in charge of the instruction desires. This should be every three to five minutes.

(*e*) Only a few hours in all should be devoted to the position exercises, as all of its details are included in the trigger-squeeze exercise.



FIGURE 6.—Position of the body

8. Third step; trigger squeeze.—*a. Importance of correct trigger squeeze.*—(1) The recruit can readily learn to aim and hold the aim, either on the bull's-eye or very close to it, for at least 10 seconds. When he has learned to press the trigger in such a manner as not to spoil his hold he becomes a good shot. All men flinch in firing the pistol if they know the exact instant at which the discharge is to take place. This is an involuntary action which can not be controlled. A sudden pressure of the trigger may derange the aim slightly, but the extreme inaccuracy of a shot fired in this way is mainly due to the flinch; that is, the thrusting forward of the hand to meet the shock of recoil. Any man who holds the sights of the pistol as nearly on the bull's-eye as possible and continues to press on the trigger with a uniformly increasing pressure until the pistol goes off is a *good shot.* Any man who has learned to increase the pressure on the trigger only when the sights are in alignment with the bull's-eye, who holds the pressure when the muzzle swerves, and who continues with the pressure when the sights are again in line with the bull's-eye is an *excellent shot.* Any man who tries to "catch his sights" as they touch the bull's-eye and to set the pistol off at that instant is a *very bad shot.*

(2) The apparent unsteadiness of the pistol while being held on the bull's-eye does not cause much variation in the striking place of the bullet, due to the fact that the movement is of the whole extended arm and pistol. But the sudden pressure of the trigger, which always accompanies the flinch, deflects the muzzle of the pistol and causes the bullet to strike far from the mark. In squeezing the trigger the pressure must be *straight* to the rear. There is a tendency on the part of some men to press the trigger also to the left.

b. Calling the shot.—To call the shot is to state where the sights were pointed at the instant the hammer fell; thus, "high," "a little low," "to the left," "slightly to the right," "bull's-eye," etc. If the soldier can not call his shot correctly in range practice he did not press the trigger properly and consequently did not know where the sights were pointed when the hammer fell.

c. Trigger-squeeze exercises.—(1) *First exercise.*—(*a*) Required for this exercise a line of L targets with a firing point at 25 yards.

(*b*) Give the command: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** and verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded.

(*c*) The squad leader explains to his squad the details of this exercise which are as follows:

1. Cock and lock the piece.
2. Take the correct grip.
3. Take the correct position.
4. Align the sights on the target and start the squeeze, gradually increasing the pressure on the trigger until all the strength of the hand is employed.
5. Rest the hand.
6. Repeat the above operation with the piece unlocked.
7. Call the shot.

(*d*) The squad leader assures himself that all the men understand the details of this exercise. The work is then carried on by pairs working together, coach and pupil. Members of the squad should change over frequently to avoid tiring the muscles of the arm. Extended trigger-squeeze exercise is necessary and the periods should be short but frequent.

(*e*) The duties of the coach are as follows:

1. See that the firer takes the correct grip.
2. See that the firer takes a correct position.
3. Watch the hand of the firer to see that he is gradually increasing the pressure on the trigger.
4. See that the firer rests his shooting hand after having unlocked the piece.
5. See that the firer calls the shot when the exercise is repeated with the piece unlocked.

(2) *Second exercise.*—(*a*) Give the command: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** and verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded.

(*b*) The squad leader explains to his squad the details of this exercise, which are as follows:

1. Cock the piece.
2. Take the correct grip.
3. Take the correct position.
4. Align the sights on the target and start the squeeze. Close the eyes and continue to squeeze until the hammer falls.
5. When the hammer falls, open the eyes and check the aim to see if it has been deranged.

NOTE.—The firer should be able to keep on the target. If he is off persistently he should check on his grip and position to see that they are correct.

(*c*) The duties of the coach in this exercise are the same as in the first trigger-squeeze exercise.

(3) *Third exercise.*—In learning to fire the pistol, the average man has a tendency to push or punch forward with the arm or shoulder to meet the force of recoil of the piece. To assist the firer in overcoming this tendency the following exercise is prescribed: By command, verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded. The firer cocks and locks the piece, takes his firing position, aligns the sights under the bull's-eye and squeezes the trigger. The coach stands in front of the firer, facing him, and strikes the muzzle of the piece with the palm of his hand. At irregular intervals his hand misses the muzzle. The firer should hold the piece on the target and make no forward punching movement to meet the shock of the blow. If he does push forward with the arm or shoulder it will be apparent when the coach misses the muzzle.

9. Fourth step; rapid fire.—*a. Training for rapid fire.*—(1) Training for rapid fire is taken up after the trigger-squeeze exercise has been practiced sufficiently to be thoroughly understood, but the trigger-squeeze exercise practice in slow fire should be resumed and continued during the entire period of preparatory training.

(2) The time consumed in pressing the trigger must necessarily be shorter in rapid fire than in slow fire, but the process is the same.

(3) To fire the first shot, the pistol should be brought from the position of *raise pistol* by the shortest route to the aiming position, with the sights aligned on the mark. This is done by a smooth, rapid extension of the right arm straight from the shoulder, inserting the right forefinger in the trigger guard during the movement and holding the breath. To bring the pistol through the arc of a circle to the aiming position is an unnecessary loss of valuable time.

(4) For succeeding shots the sights should be held as nearly on the mark as possible and the breath held throughout the score. The recoil after each shot will throw the sights out of alignment, but they should be brought back to the mark immediately by the shortest route. The recoil should cause a vertical movement of the firing arm upward, the hand moving only 6 to 8 inches. There should be no snapping or bending of the wrist or elbow. The sights will then come back auto-

matically on the mark after each shot. To give the pistol a flourish between shots is a useless loss of time.

(5) To simulate the self-loading action of the automatic pistol take a strong cord about 4 feet long and tie one end to the thumb piece of the hammer, *the knot on top*. Take a few turns of the other end of the cord around the thumb or fingers of the left hand. The cord should be long enough to permit the left hand to hang naturally at the side while aiming the pistol with the right hand, right arm fully extended.

(6) Each time the hammer falls a quick backward jerk of the left hand recocks the pistol and at the same time jerks the sights out of alignment with the bull's-eye. This derangement of the alignment corresponds very closely to the jump of the pistol when actually firing.

(7) If the knot is underneath the hammer or if a very thick cord is used the hammer will not remain cocked when jerked back.

b. Rapid-fire exercise.—(1) Required for this exercise: A piece of strong cord 4½ feet long for each man; a row of L targets or a row of aiming bull's-eyes.

(2) Give the command: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** and verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded.

(3) Explain to the assembled command that the trigger squeeze is the same in rapid fire as in slow fire.

(4) Demonstrate the correct method of bringing the pistol by the shortest route to the aiming position. Show how this is done both from *raise pistol* and in drawing the pistol from the holster in an emergency.

(5) Show how to tie the cord to the thumb piece of the hammer and cause each man to adjust his cord.

(6) Demonstrate the method of cocking the pistol by means of the cord and explain how this simulates the self-loading action of the pistol.

(7) Show how the pistol is kept as nearly on the mark as possible during the whole score. Caution the men to avoid unnecessary flourishes or movements between shots.

(8) Demonstrate—

(*a*) The action of the pistol in recoil when a shot is fired.

(*b*) How the arm should not be permitted to bend at the elbow.

(*c*) How the pistol should move upward through a small arc and be deflected from the original point of aim only a short distance.

(*d*) How the forefinger should move forward after the explosion only far enough to allow the sear to become reengaged and immediately thereafter start pressing the trigger for the next shot.

(*e*) How the eye should not be allowed to close when the explosion occurs.

(*f*) How the breath should be held for each shot.

(9) (*a*) The above demonstrations having been completed, the men are placed in front of the line of targets in pairs, one to practice and one to coach. The exercise is then carried on exactly the same as rapid fire in range practice. If a line of disappearing targets has been arranged for this exercise the targets appear, remain in sight the allotted time, and then disappear. While the targets are in sight each man undergoing instruction attempts to fire five shots (simulated fire), cocking the piece for each shot, except the first, by a jerk of the cord with the left hand.

(*b*) If the targets are stationary the exercise begins with the command: 1. ***Commence,*** 2. ***FIRING,*** and ends with the command: 1. ***Cease,*** 2. ***FIRING.***

(*c*) After each three or four scores of simulated fire the men of each pair are directed to change places, the firer becoming the coach and the coach becoming the firer.

(10) (*a*) In this exercise the coach watches the man carefully and corrects all errors in grip, position, trigger squeeze, and manipulation of the piece, paying particular attention to the trigger squeeze.

(*b*) Rapid-fire exercises should be frequent but not of long duration.

(*c*) It is advisable to extend the time limit several seconds when rapid-fire exercise is first taken up. The time limit is then gradually reduced until it corresponds to the time prescribed for range firing, record practice.

10. Fifth step; quick fire.—*a. Training for quick fire.*—(1) The training for quick fire is taken up after the rapid-fire exercise has been practiced sufficiently to be thoroughly understood. Thereafter, exercises in slow fire, rapid fire, and quick fire

should all be continued until the end of the period of preparatory training.

(2) For each shot the pistol is brought from *raise pistol* to the aiming position by the shortest route after the target appears.

(3) The pistol may be cocked after each shot in this exercise either by means of a cord, as in rapid-fire exercise, or by using the left hand to pull the hammer back after the position of *raise pistol* is resumed.

b. Quick-fire exercise.—(1) Required for this exercise: A line of E targets that can be operated as bobbing targets from a pit or screen, or a line of E targets so arranged on pivots that the edge can be turned toward the firer when the target is not exposed.

(2) Give the command: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** and verify the fact that all pistols are unloaded.

(3) Explain to the assembled command that the trigger squeeze is the same in quick fire as in slow fire.

(4) Demonstrate the correct method of bringing the piece from *raise pistol* to the aiming position.

(5) Show how the pistol is cocked between shots when the left hand is used instead of the cord.

(6) The above demonstrations having been completed, the men are placed in pairs in front of the line of bobbing targets, one man of each pair to act as coach for the other man. The exercise is then carried on exactly the same as quick fire in range practice. The targets appear, remain in sight the allotted time, and then disappear. After the targets appear each man undergoing instruction brings his pistol from *raise pistol* to the aiming position, aims, fire one shot (simulated fire), and returns his piece to the position of *raise pistol.* After three or four scores of simulated fire the men of each pair are directed to change places.

(7) The coach watches carefully the man going through the exercises and corrects all errors in the grip, position, holding the breath, trigger squeeze, and the manipulation of the piece, paying particular attention to the trigger squeeze. It is advisable to extend the time limit about two seconds for each shot when quick-firing exercise is first taken up. The time is then gradually reduced until it corresponds to the time prescribed for range firing, record practice.

(8) When disappearing targets can not be provided for this exercise it may be held with stationary E targets. The command *Up* is given to signify that the targets are in sight, and the command *Down* to signify that they have been withdrawn.

(9) Practice in quick fire should be held frequently, but the periods of practice should not be of long duration.

(10) If the range is some distance from the area designated for preparatory exercises, or it is impracticable to arrange for a line of bobbing targets, L targets may be substituted for the bobbing targets.

11. **Sixth step; examination.**—At the completion of the preparatory instruction, the instructor should assure himself, by an examination, that every man thoroughly understands and can explain every phase of the preparatory training. The questions and answers given below are merely examples. Each man should be required to explain each item in his own words.

Instructor: Examine your pistol to see that it is unloaded.

Q. What are the safety devices of the pistol? *A.* The safety lock, the grip safety, the half-cock notch, and the disconnector.

Q. Show me how you test the safety lock. *A.* I cock the pistol, move the safety lock up into place, and then grip the stock and see if the hammer remains up when pressure is applied to the trigger.

Q. Show me how you test the grip safety. *A.* I cock the pistol, see that the safety lock is down, and then without putting any pressure on the grip safety, I see if the hammer will remain up when a strong pressure is applied to the trigger.

Q. Show me how you test the half-cock safety device. *A.* I half cock the pistol, grip the stock, and see if the hammer remains at half cock when pressure is applied to the trigger. Then I take my finger off the trigger, pull the hammer back almost to full cock, and let go of it to see if it stops at half cock as it falls.

Q. Show me how you test the disconnector. *A.* I cock the pistol and grip the stock; then with my left hand I move the slide to the rear a quarter of an inch; I then apply a strong pressure on the trigger and release the slide to see if the hammer will remain up. I also pull the slide fully back until it is held in place by the slide stop; I then grip the stock, apply a strong pressure on the trigger and release the slide by pressing down the slide stop with my left hand. The hammer should remain up after the slide moves forward into place.

Q. If the hammer does not remain up after the slide moves forward into place, what does it indicate? *A.* That with ball ammunition the pistol would continue to fire automatically as long as pressure is maintained on the trigger, which is very dangerous.

Q. If any of the tests of the safety devices fail at any time, what should you do? *A.* I should report the matter at once to my platoon or company commander.

Q. What is this [indicating a sighting bar]? *A.* A sighting bar.

Q. What is it used for? *A.* To teach men how to aim.

Q. Why is it better than a pistol for this purpose? *A.* Because the sights are much larger and slight errors can be more easily seen and pointed out.

Q. What does this represent? *A.* The front sight.

Q. What does this represent? *A.* The rear sight.

Q. What is this? *A.* The eyepiece.

Q. What is it for? *A.* To make the man hold his head in the right place, so that he will see the sights properly aligned.

Q. Is there an eyepiece on the pistol? *A.* No. A man learns by the sighting bar how the sights look when properly aligned, and he must hold the pistol while aiming so as to see the sights in the same way.

Q. Adjust the sights of this sighting bar so that they are in proper alignment with each other. [Verified by instructor.]

Q. Now that the sights are properly adjusted, have the small bull's-eye moved until the sights are aimed at it properly. [Verified by instructor.]

Q. Tell me what is wrong with this aim. [The instructor now adjusts the sights of the sighting bar on the bull's-eye with various very slight errors, requring the man to point out the error.]

Q. Show me how you grip the stock of the pistol.

Q. Show me the position you take when you are going to shoot, standing; kneeling; prone.

Q. How do you squeeze the trigger? *A.* I squeeze it with such a steady increase of pressure as not to know exactly when the hammer will fall.

Q. If the sights get slightly out of alignment while you are squeezing the trigger, what do you do? *A.* I hold the pressure I have on the trigger and only go on with the increase of pressure when the sights become aligned again.

Q. If you do this can your shot be a bad one? *A.* No.

Q. Why? *A.* Because I can not flinch, for I do not know when to flinch, and the sights will always be lined up with the bull's-eye when the shot is fired, because I never increase the pressure on the trigger except when the sights are properly aligned.

Q. When you are practicing in slow fire and your arm becomes unsteady and your aim uncertain, what should you do? *A.* I should come back to raise pistol without firing the shot and then try again after a short rest.

Q. If it is impossible for you to hold the pistol very steady, can you still do good shooting? *A.* Yes; if I press the trigger properly.

Q. Tell me why that is. *A.* Because the natural unsteadiness of the arm moves the whole pistol and the barrel remains nearly parallel to the line of sight. But if I give the trigger a sudden pressure the front end of the barrel will be thrown out of line with the target, and the bullets will strike far out from the mark.

Q. What causes this deflection of one end of the pistol when the trigger is given a sudden pressure? *A.* The sudden pressure itself causes some of it, but most of it is caused by the flinch that always accompanies this kind of a trigger pressure.

Q. What does a man do when he flinches in shooting a pistol? *A.* He usually thrusts his hand forward as if trying to meet the shock by suddenly stiffening all his muscles.

Q. Must the trigger always be squeezed slowly in order to do it correctly? *A.* No. I squeeze it the same way in rapid fire and quick fire. The time is shorter but the process is the same.

Q. What is meant by calling the shot? *A.* To say where you think the bullet will hit as soon as you shoot and before the shot is marked.

Q. How can you do this? *A.* By noticing exactly where the sights point at the time the pistol is fired.

Q. If a man can not call his shot correctly, what does it indicate? *A.* That he did not squeeze the trigger properly and consequently did not know where the sights were pointed at the instant the discharge took place.

Q. Show me how you hold your breath while aiming.

Q. Take your pistol. Aim at that bull's-eye and squeeze the trigger a few times, calling the shot each time. [The instructor particularly notes the holding of the breath.]

Q. Show me how you come to a position of aim from *raise pistol.*

Q. Show me how you come to the aiming position in drawing the pistol from the holster in an emergency.

Q. Take this pistol with the cord tied to the hammer and fire a rapid-fire score at that target (simulated fire).

Q. Fire a score (simulated fire) at that quick-fire target. I will give the command ***Up*** when it is supposed to come into sight, and the command ***Down*** when it is supposed to be withdrawn from view.

Q. What do you do in case a cartridge misses fire? *A.* I bring the piece to *raise pistol*, grasp the slide with my left thumb and finger, pull the slide fully back and let go of it. This throws out the faulty cartridge and loads in another cartridge.

Q. Are there any points about pistol firing that you do not understand?

NOTE.—In all the demonstrations by the man undergoing examination the instructor carefully notes all points that are covered in the preparatory exercises. Each man will be put through a thorough test along the line indicated in these questions and answers before he is allowed to fire.

12. **Gallery practice.**—*a. General.*—Where facilities and equipment permit, all soldiers who have satisfactorily passed the examination on preparatory exercises should be advanced to gallery practice. The actual firing and observed results stimulate endeavor. Rapid progress, particularly in teaching trigger squeeze, may be made. There is no recoil nor loud report to induce nervousness or flinching and the soldier soon learns that he can make good scores if he observes the proper methods and precautions in which he has been instructed. Gallery practice is not only valuable to the beginner but it affords to the good shot a means of retaining his efficiency throughout the year. Continued practice is essential in maintaining pistol marksmanship.

b. Gallery practice course.—Prior to range firing the minimum number of scores shown in the following gallery practice table should be fired by each individual required to fire the pistol, dismounted. The procedure of firing is similar to that in range firing. No reports of the results of gallery practice are required but the firing record of individuals should be posted in order to stimulate interest and competition among the men of the organizations.

Gallery table

Range	Slow-fire target		Rapid-fire target		Quick-fire target	
	Iron gallery target or paper target X		Same as slow fire		Target E—Bobbing	
	Time	Scores	Time	Scores	Time	Scores
5 yards	No time limit.	2	15 seconds per score.	2		
10 yards	do	2	do	2		
15 yards					2 seconds per shot.	2

c. Additional practice.—In addition to the minimum number of scores prescribed in the table above, gallery practice should be carried on throughout the year, the amount and details of the practice being left to the discretion of the organization commander. Varied targets, such as tin cans, bottles, pendulums, and moving targets, stimulate interest. Matches between individuals and teams of the same or different units should be promoted during the year.

13. Coaching methods and organizations.—*a. Range practice.*—(1) The object of range practice is to teach the men to apply, with a loaded pistol, the principles of good shooting that they have learned during the preparatory exercises.

(2) Each man while firing must have a coach to correct him whenever he violates any of these principles.

(3) Slow-fire practice should be carried on until the men under instruction thoroughly understand the principles of good shooting.

(4) When rapid fire and quick fire are first taken up the time limit should be extended a few seconds. The time should then be gradually reduced until the scores are being fired in the time prescribed for record practice.

b. Dummy cartridges.—(1) Dummy cartridges are of great value in teaching both slow and rapid fire.

(2) *Dummy cartridges will not be used except on the firing line of the pistol range.* The same precautions will be observed as in using service ammunition.

c. Slow fire.—(1) The coach stands on the left side of the firer in such a position as to be able to observe his trigger finger,

his grip, his eye, and his position. It is the duty of the coach to correct all errors. The coach fills the magazines for the firer and hands them to him. At the beginning of range practice the magazines should be filled partly with service ammunition and partly with dummy cartridges. The firer must not know how many dummy cartridges are in the magazine or the order in which they are packed.

(2) The object of placing dummy cartridges in the magazine is to show the coach whether or not the man under instruction is squeezing the trigger correctly, and, in case of an improper trigger squeeze, to bring the fact forcibly to the attention of the firer himself. When a loaded cartridge is fired the flinch is often masked by the recoil of the pistol and the firer is not conscious of having flinched. When the hammer falls on a dummy cartridge, which the firer thinks is loaded, the sudden stiffening of the muscles and the thrusting forward of the hand to meet the shock that does not come are apparent to everybody in the vicinity, including the firer himself. The mixing of dummy cartridges with service ammunition causes the man to make a determined effort to press the trigger properly for all shots.

(3) The firing of scores with dummy cartridges and service ammunition should not be confined to the early stages of training. It is advisable to have some practice of this kind each day during the entire period of instruction practice. Many expert pistol shots use this form of practice in training for competitions.

(4) The following items of instruction are given to a pupil on beginning range practice, even though that person has already done a great deal of shooting. Once a person has been put through this instruction it is usually not necessary to repeat it during subsequent periods of range practice.

(*a*) Explain the method of grasping the piece.

(*b*) Show the amount of force used in gripping the stock by grasping the pupil's hand, saying: "This is too tight a grip" [gripping his hand very tightly]. "This is too loose a grip" [gripping his hand loosely]. "This is the right amount of force to use in gripping the stock" [gripping his hand with the firm but comfortable grip that should be used in shooting].

(*c*) Explain and demonstrate the position of the body, the feet, and the arm (par. 7 *d*, and fig. 6), and have the pupil assume this position.

(*d*) Explain the proper method of aiming.

(*e*) Explain that any man can aim and hold well enough for a good score. Have the pupil assume the proper position and aim at the target with an empty pistol without attempting to press the trigger, to see how long he can hold the sights on or near the bull's-eye. Explain to him that this aiming at the target with an empty gun demonstrates how near to the center his bullets will strike provided he presses the trigger properly.

(*f*) Explain the proper method of pressing the trigger.

(*g*) Have the pupil aim at the target with an empty pistol and then press the trigger for him several times, as described in *d* below (fig. 7), directing the pupil to call the shot each time the hammer falls.

(*h*) Have the pupil aim at the target with a loaded pistol and then press the trigger for him as described in *d* below, directing him to call the shot each time the piece is fired. Fire a score of five shots in this way.

(*i*) Have the pupil fire a score of five shots, pressing the trigger himself, to see if he can press the trigger properly and make as good a score as the one made when the coach pressed the trigger.

d. Squeezing the trigger.—One method of showing the men under instruction how to squeeze the trigger properly is to have him hold and aim the pistol while the coach presses the trigger. This is done in the following manner:

(1) The coach demonstrates the value of correct trigger press to the student by placing his hands in the position shown in Figure 7 and pressing on the end of the pupil's trigger finger with his left thumb. The coach cautions the pupil to neither assist nor resist the pressure which is put on the end of his trigger finger but to devote his whole attention to his aim and hold.

(2) The coach must be careful to apply a slow, steady pressure to the finger of the pupil and, at the same time, not interfere with the pupil's aim while applying this pressure. As a rule, the coach should consume from 5 to 10 seconds in putting sufficient pressure on the pupil's finger to fire the pistol.

(3) When pressing the trigger for a pupil as above described the coach should hold his head well to the rear to keep from having his left ear too near the muzzle of the piece.

(4) If the firer shows a tendency to apply the last part of the squeeze himself by giving the trigger a sudden pressure, he is directed to place his finger below the trigger guard, and the coach applies the pressure directly to the trigger instead of through the finger of the man under instruction.

e. Calling the shot.—Men should be required to call each shot in slow fire. If a man does not call the shot immediately after firing, the coach directs him to do so.

f. Coaching rapid fire.—(1) The firing of scores with dummy cartridges and service ammunition mixed is a very valuable form of rapid-fire practice. The coach fills the magazine in such a way that the firer can not know the order in which the cartridges are placed.

(2) The coach must watch the man closely, and each time he is seen to flinch, whether on a loaded or a dummy cartridge, the coach should caution him.

(3) When the hammer falls on a dummy cartridge the firer grasps the slide with his left hand, pulls it fully back, and releases it. This ejects the dummy and loads in another cartridge. The time limit must be extended to compensate for the time lost in ejecting the dummy cartridges. It should not take more than 2 seconds to eject a dummy cartridge and resume the aiming position.

g. Coaching quick fire.—(1) The use of dummy cartridges and the coaching methods are the same in quick fire as in rapid fire.

(2) The occasional use of dummy cartridges in both rapid fire and quick fire should be continued throughout the entire period of instruction practice.

h. Safety precautions on the range.—(1) Never place a loaded magazine in the pistol until you have taken your place at the firing point.

(2) Always remove the magazine and unload the pistol before leaving the firing point.

(3) Always hold the loaded pistol at the position of *raise pistol*, except while aiming.

(4) When firing ceases temporarily, lock the piece and hold it at *raise pistol*. Do not assume any position except *raise pistol* without first removing the magazine and unloading.

(5) If one or more cartridges remain unfired at the end of a rapid-fire or quick-fire score, remove the magazine and unload immediately.

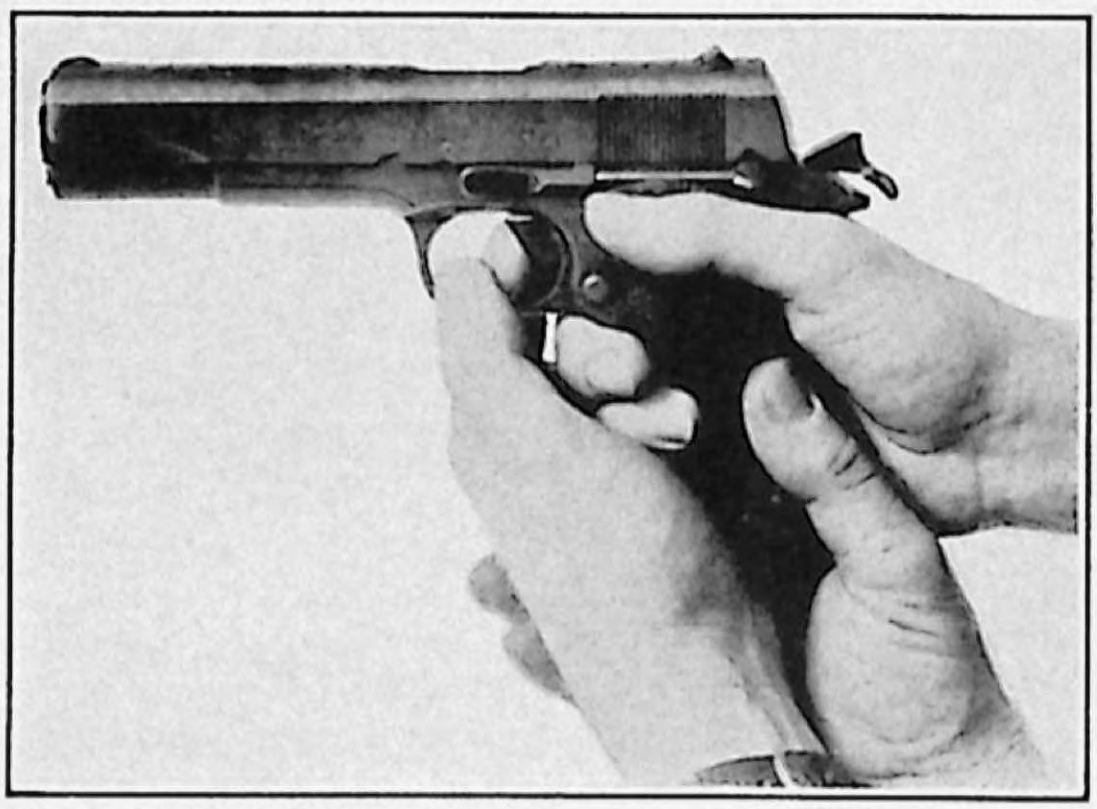

FIGURE 7.—Coach pressing the trigger

i. Range organization.—(1) The work on the range should be so organized that no men are idle for any length of time. A good arrangement is four or six orders per target. It should never be necessary to assign more than six orders. If there is not a sufficient number of targets to provide for this, the extra men should remain off the range and be given other instruction.

(2) One method is to have a line of pistol targets on a flank of each firing point of the rifle range, so arranged that the firing points of the rifle range and of the pistol range are on one line. There should be about 50 yards interval between the rifle range and the pistol range. The targets may be placed on the ground instead of in pits. The bobbing targets are arranged to revolve on their own axis and are operated from behind the firing line by means of cords. When the targets are to be marked the whole line ceases firing, unloads pistols, and moves up to the targets to record the hits and paste the shot holes. In slow fire the coach can keep the firer informed as to the location of his hits by use of field glasses.

(3) When the time is short and range facilities and proper supervision permit, rifle firing and dismounted pistol firing may be carried on at the same time. While one group is firing on the rifle range the other is firing on the pistol range. As the men complete a score with the rifle they move to the pistol range and their places at the rifle-firing point are filled by men who have completed a score of pistol firing. As soon as all men present have completed their scores with the rifle the whole group moves back to the next firing point (moving the pistol targets if necessary) and continue as before with the alternate rifle and pistol firing.

(4) The pistol targets may be placed so that the line of fire is at right angles to the line of fire of the rifle range if the terrain permits. When it is not practicable to have pistol firing and rifle firing at the same time, other means will be adopted to keep the men occupied while they are not actually firing or coaching.

14. Instruction practice.—The following tables prescribe the firing in instruction practice in the order followed by the individual soldier. Target L is used in much of the practice, as the bull's-eye makes competition keener and shows up errors as no other target can. The tables apply to both automatic pistol and the revolver, when used.

a. Slow fire.

TABLE I.—*Slow fire—Target L*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each), minimum
15 yards	No time limit	1
25 yards	do	1

Unlimited time is permitted for slow fire in order to permit proper explanation of the causes of errors and indication of corresponding remedies. It is intended to be the elementary phase of instruction in the proper manipulation of the weapon and for determining and correcting the personal errors of the firer.

b. Rapid fire.

TABLE II.—*Rapid fire—Target L*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each), minimum
15 yards	11 seconds per score	1
25 yards	15 seconds per score	1

NOTE.—For the revolver the time allowance at 15 yards is 15 seconds and at 25 yards 20 seconds.

If pits are used, time is taken at the pits as in rapid fire rifle practice. If pits are not used time is taken at the firing point. The target being up, the soldier stands with the weapon at *raise pistol,* loaded and locked. The command: 1. *Commence,* 2. ***FIRING,*** is given and the soldier must fire one score within the prescribed limit of time, at the end of which the command: 1. *Cease,* 2. ***FIRING,*** will be given. Intervals of time are measured from the last words of the commands.

c. Quick fire.

TABLE III.—*Quick fire—Target E—Bobbing*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each), minimum
15 yards	2 seconds per shot	2
25 yards	3 seconds per shot	2

15. Record practice.—The following tables prescribe the firing in record practice in the order followed by the individual soldier. The procedure is as in instruction practice.

a. Slow fire.

TABLE IV.—*Slow fire—Target L*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each)
25 yards	No time limit	2

b. Rapid fire.

TABLE V.—*Rapid fire—Target L*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each)
15 yards	11 seconds per score	2
25 yards	15 seconds per score	2

NOTE.—For the revolver the time allowance at 15 yards is 15 seconds and at 25 yards is 20 seconds.

c. Quick fire.

TABLE VI.—*Quick fire—Target E—Bobbing*

Range	Time	Scores (5 shots each)
25 yards	3 seconds per shot	3

16. Targets.—*a. Target E.*—Target E is a drab silhouette, about the height of a soldier in a kneeling position, made of bookbinder's board or other similar material. (See fig. 8.) Hits are valued at 1. Any shot cutting the edge of the target is a hit.

b. Target E—bobbing.—Target E—bobbing is so arranged as to be fully exposed to firer for a limited time, edge of target toward firer when target is not exposed. (Fig. 9.)

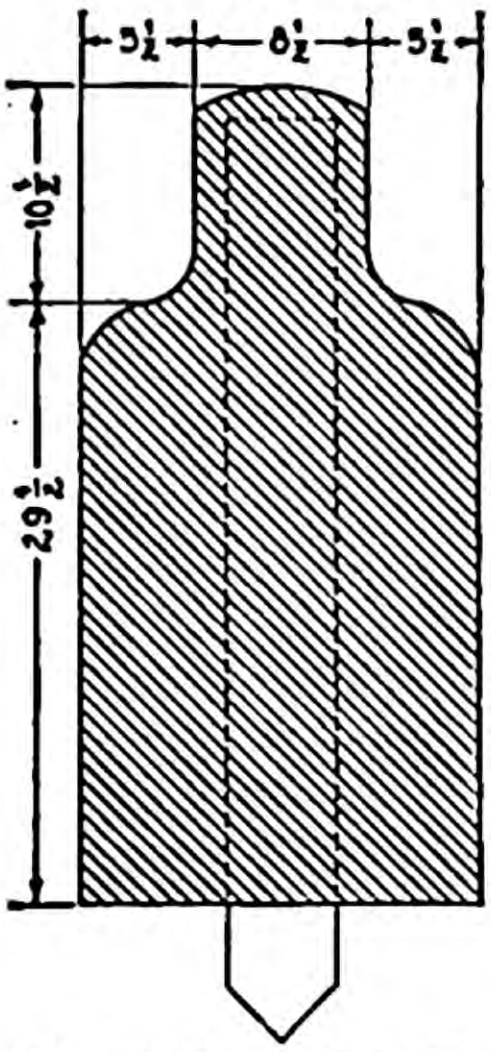

FIGURE 8.—Target E

c. Target L.—Target L is a rectangle 6 feet high and 4 feet wide, with black circular bull's-eye 5 inches in diameter and seven outer rings. (Fig. 10.) Value of hits in the bull's-eye, 10. The diameter of each ring and value of hits are as follows:

Diameter	Value of hit
8½ inches	9
12 inches	8
15½ inches	7
19 inches	6
22½ inches	5
26 inches	4
46 inches	3
Outer, remainder of target	2

SECTION III

MARKSMANSHIP, MOUNTED

17. General.—The regulations and instructions governing pistol marksmanship, dismounted, apply to the mounted course unless obviously inappropriate, or except as noted herein.

18. Preparatory instruction.—*a. Instruction throughout the year.*—Mounted exercises with the pistol shall be carried on during the entire year. By exercises is meant simulated firing at different objects at all gaits. In practicing pistol attacks in field exercises the troopers will be required to observe the proper form in simulating firing.

b. Safety precautions.—In order to teach the trooper to handle his pistol with safety he will frequently be required to go through the motions of loading and unloading, locking and

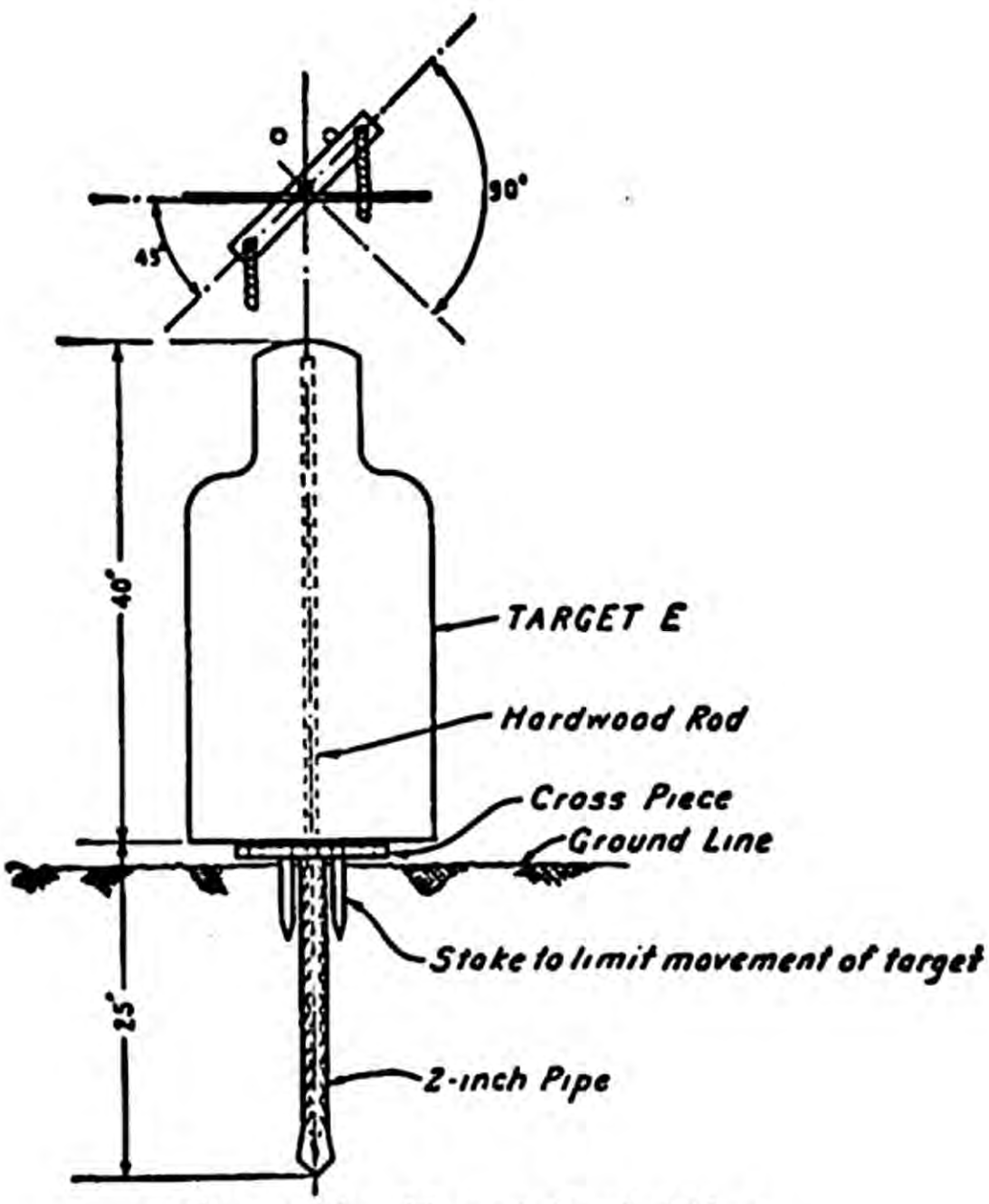

FIGURE 9.—Target E—bobbing

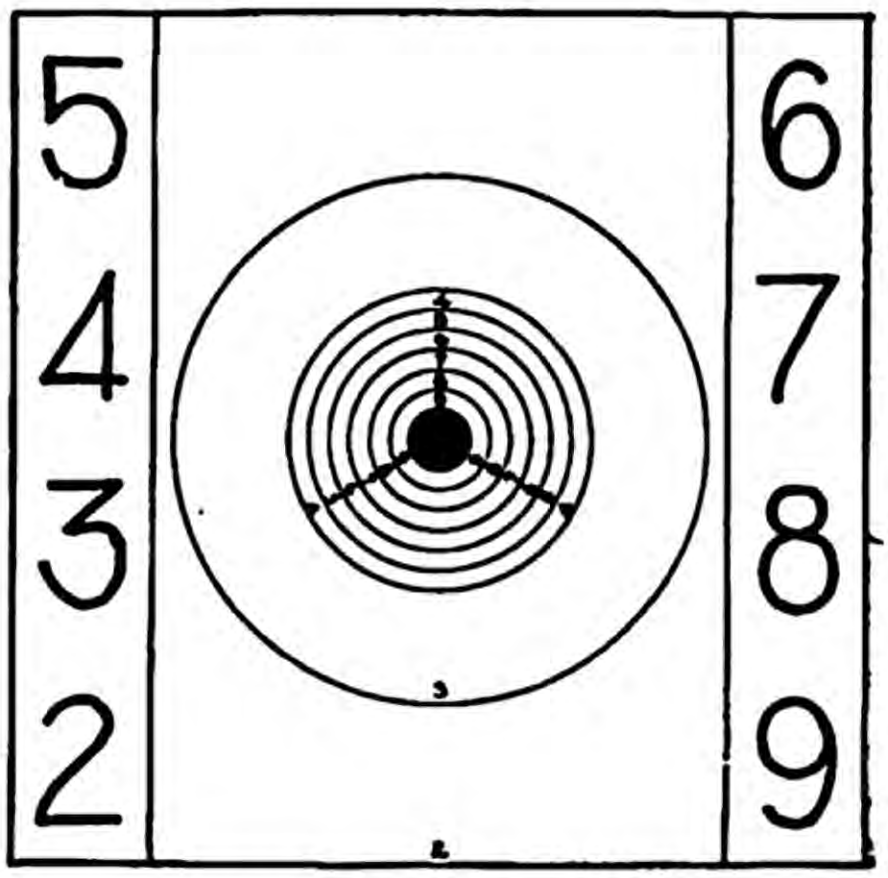

FIGURE 10.—Target L

unlocking the pistol while mounted, both at the halt and at all gaits. The troopers should also be practiced in withdrawing and inserting magazine at all gaits. During this preparatory instruction the trooper must be taught by exercises in simulated fire to observe the following rules. This will be done daily until the proper movements in their proper sequence become matters of habit and are instinctively performed when they become necessary.

(1) Always lock the pistol after loading and keep it locked until about to fire.

(2) When a cocked pistol is held in the hand it must always be held at *raise pistol* until it is locked, or until it is necessary to fire, load, or unload. If it becomes necessary to lower the pistol for any other purpose, the pistol must first be locked. Mounted men should never, under any circumstances, use both hands on the reins when the pistol is drawn.

(3) At the slightest misbehavior of the horse, the pistol must be locked. The trooper then makes a fresh start to complete his firing. If the horse rears, plunges, bolts, stumbles, or leaves the track, the trooper should instinctively lock the pistol.

c. Safety exercises.—In order to habituate the troopers to obey these rules the following exercises must be practiced frequently:

(1) The trooper, at *raise pistol* and with pistol cocked and locked, takes the track in front of the targets and unlocks the pistol. He then rides alternately off the track and onto it again, each time locking pistol as he leaves and unlocking pistol as he returns. This exercise is executed at all gaits. It simulates a misbehaving horse and teaches the trooper to lock pistol at once at the beginning of such misbehavior.

(2) The trooper, with pistol cocked and locked, takes the track at *raise pistol.* He now unlocks the pistol as if about to fire, and allows his bridle hand to slide along the reins until the latter are too long; whereupon he locks and returns pistol, and uses his pistol hand to assist in readjusting the reins. He next draws and raises pistol, continuing the exercise until he has passed the end of the track. This exercise is practiced at all gaits.

(3) Exercises for loading, unloading, withdrawing, and inserting magazine must be improvised and practiced at all gaits.

d. Simulated firing exercises.—With the targets set up as required for actual firing the trooper simulates fire to the right,

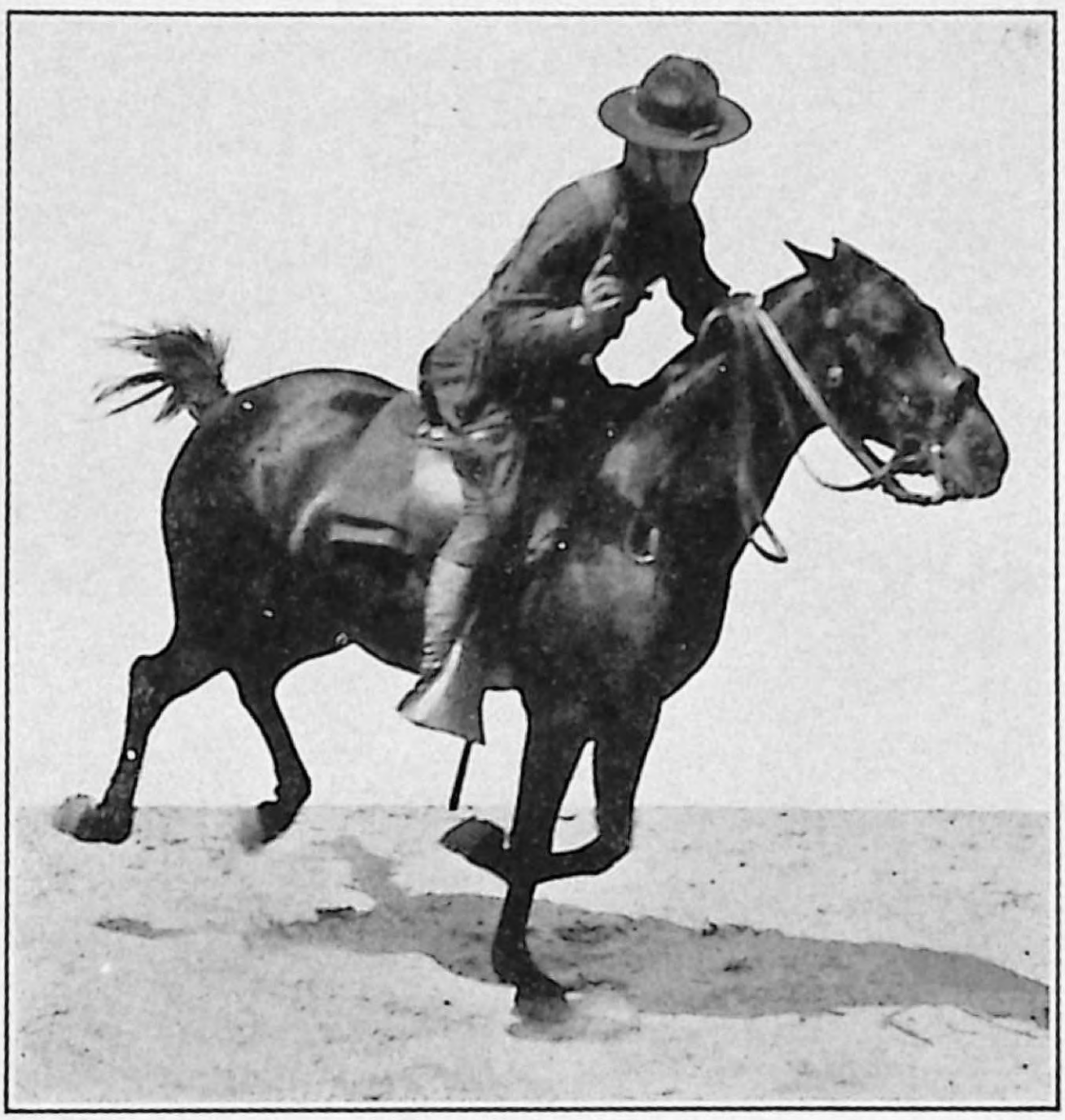

FIGURE 11.—Beginning the thrust



FIGURE 12.—The thrust continued

left, right front, left front, and right rear, bringing his horse to a halt upon the completion of each run For firing, mounted, it is of special importance that the pistol be pointed in prolongation of the forearm, and not to the right of the forearm as is the common tendency. To enable men with average sized or smaller hands to avoid this tendency the pistol barrel is swung well to the left, even though only the tip of the index finger will then reach the trigger. These exercises should be made as realistic as possible, as a perfunctory execution of them is a waste of time.

(1) The trooper is given practice in simulating fire to the right (left) at the *walk* and the *gallop*. From *raise pistol* the trooper points his pistol by thrusting it toward the target by the shortest possible line, not by flourishing the weapon over the arc of a circle. This movement should be steady, easy, and smooth. In bringing the pistol downward he lowers the forearm in the direction of the target, keeping the elbow slightly bent, the forearm and pistol in the same straight line, and the wrist rigid. He then leans his body well toward the target, resting the bridle hand on the horse's crest, at the same time forcing the right elbow well to the left, thus getting the elbow in the same vertical plane as the wrist and shoulder. He then extends the forearm so as to thrust toward the target, keeping the elbow forced well to the left. There are thus four movements; leaning the body toward the target, lowering forearm and pistol, forcing elbow to the left, and a thrusting toward the target. Throughout the exercise he keeps his eyes fixed on the center of the target and concentrates his mind on making hits. (Figs. 11, 12, 13, and 14.)

(2) The trigger squeeze is started at the beginning of the thrust and is continued so that when the arm is fully extended, or the thrust completed, the squeeze is completed and the piece is fired. Upon completion of the thrust the target should be seen along the top of the pistol. If the next target is on the same side as the one just fired on, the body remains leaning well toward the target and the elbow is bent ready for the next thrust. During the processes of firing, the bridle hand remains on the horse's crest.

(3) In firing to the front (fig. 15), the trooper pushes his horse forward into the extended gallop and with reins gathered up short, leans well forward and extends his pistol arm as far as possible to the front over his horse's head. To accomplish

this, he should half stand in the stirrups. When the target is so low or so close that he can not point at it directly over his horse's head, the trooper may extend his arm by the side of the horse's head, being careful to have the muzzle of the pistol barrel well in front of the horse's face. He selects his target, fixes his eyes upon it with concentrated effort, catches sight of the target over his pistol barrel, and squeezes his trigger with steadiness and precision. He remains in this attitude simulating the firing of successive shots until he has passed the targets.

(4) In firing to the rear (fig. 16), the trooper applies the principles of arm extension, seeing the target over the pistol, and squeezing the trigger, as described in the preceding exercises; but instead of half rising in the stirrups and leaning forward, he sits well down in the saddle and rotates his body to the right and rear, being careful not to disturb his bridle hand nor to allow his lower legs to fly to the front.

e. Training horses.—Horses should be accustomed to the sight of barriers and targets and to the sound of firing. Targets placed in the corral and targets and barriers placed near the road to the drill ground, where the horses pass them frequently, soon familiarize them with the odd shapes and colors. A horse that shows fear of a target should not be forced up to it roughly but should be ridden close to the targets gradually and patiently. A practicable way of inuring horses to the sound of firing is to locate them on a picket line or otherwise in close proximity to the firing points during rifle and dismounted pistol practice. The training of horses to accustom them to the noise of firing should not be hurried. Calmness usually develops gradually. Horses should always be exercised before firing, in order to take the edge off. A group of horses stand firing more quietly than an individual horse. The most nervous horses should have quiet horses on either side during training. As they grow steadier, firing by individuals armed with revolver and blank ammunition should be done at drill in line formations and at increased gaits.

19. Range firing. — *a. Individual practice.* — (1) *Regular course.*—(*a*) *Construction of the course.*—The course will be laid out as shown in Figure 17. The length of the course, measured from start to finish, is 345 yards. In selecting the site for the course due weight will be given to the terrain and space requirements of the mounted saber course, which must



FIGURE 13.—Completed thrust



FIGURE 14.—Firing to the left



FIGURE 15.—Firing to the front



FIGURE 16.—Firing to the rear

be located near the mounted pistol course. All curves will be marked by flags or posts. All targets are of the M type and are located as shown by the numbers 1 to 14, Figure 17. Barriers at least 18 inches high will be placed as indicated by the heavy lines in Figure 17.

(*b*) *Marking, scoring, etc.*—The targets are designated Nos. 1, 2, etc., as indicated in Figure 17. The number of soldiers detailed as markers is left to the discretion of the officer conducting the firing. The following scheme for assignment of markers is suggested: Five markers are employed; one is assigned targets Nos. 1 and 14, one is assigned targets Nos. 2, 3, and 4, one is assigned targets Nos. 5, 6, and 7, one is assigned targets Nos. 11, 12, and 13, and one is assigned targets Nos. 8, 9, and 10. The markers take position approximately opposite their targets and on a designated line not less than 5 yards from the track, as shown in Figure 17. When a score has been fired, the markers run to their targets and call in numerical order the hits or misses; for example, "No. 1, a hit"; "No. 2, a hit"; "No. 3, a miss," etc. After calling the hits or misses the markers cover any shot holes with pasters and run back to their positions. One noncommissioned officer, detailed as scorer, is posted behind the markers at a convenient place to hear the calls. In record practice the scorers and markers should, when practicable, be from a troop other than the one firing. The regulations for scoring and recording scores in rifle practice will govern in mounted pistol firing as far as may be applicable. In record firing new paper covers for the silhouette targets will be used for each day's firing. Upon completion of the firing of each 10 scores, the officer conducting the firing will count the number of hits on each target and compare the totals with the recorded scores. If the examination of the targets gives a result which differs more than 2 per cent from the recorded scores, the 10 men who fired last will be required to repeat the firing and the markers and scorers will be cautioned to use greater care in marking and scoring, respectively.

(*c*) *Value of hits.*—Each hit on a target counts one point.

(*d*) *Defective cartridges and malfunctions.*

1. If a defective cartridge or a malfunction of the pistol causes a failure to fire at any of the targets from Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive, the firer will return to the starting point, at *raise pistol*, where he will correct

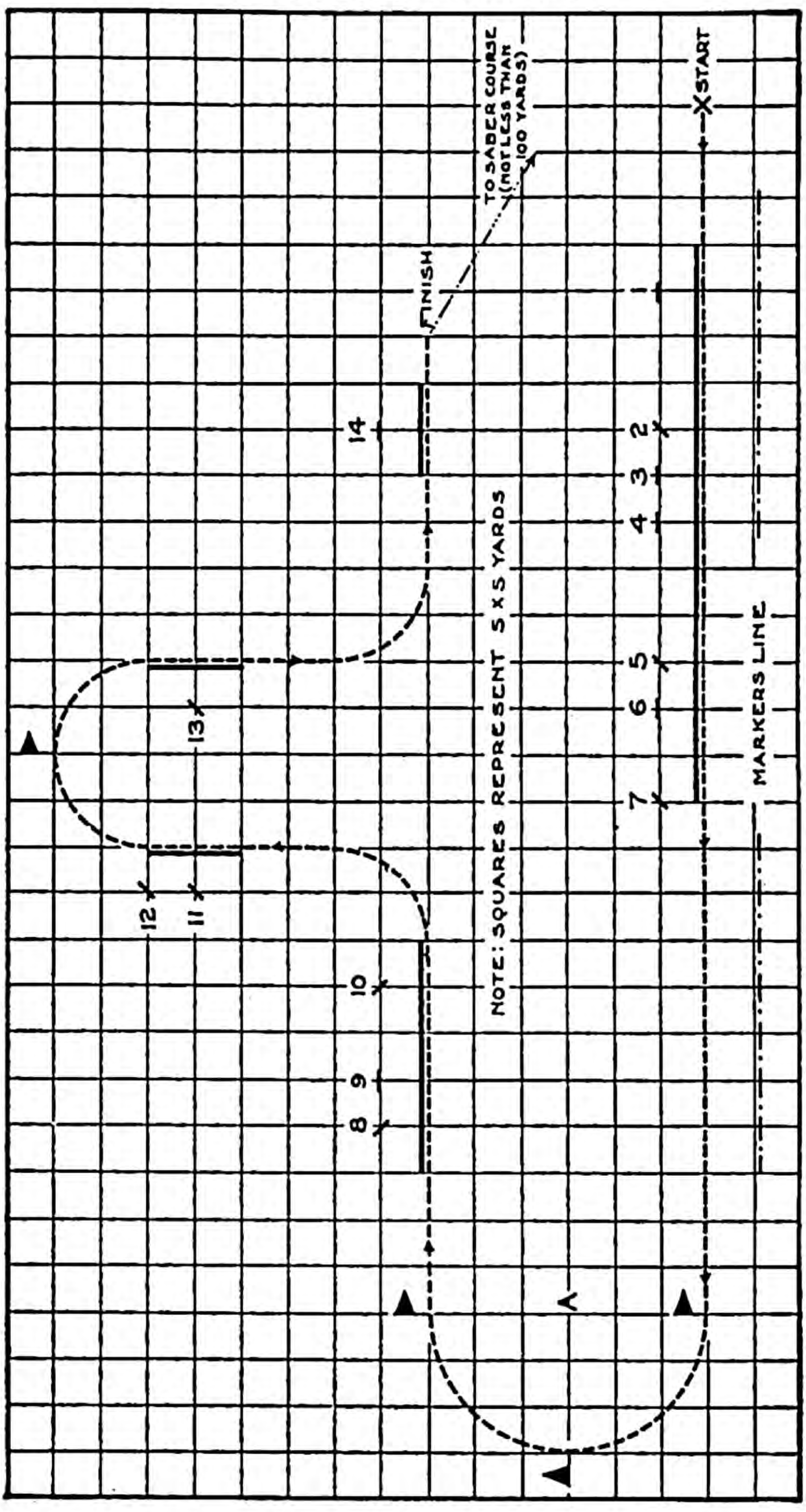

FIGURE 17.—Arrangement of targets for instruction and record practice

the defect. The pistol will then be loaded so as to provide one cartridge for each target numbered 1 to 7 at which he failed to fire. The firer will then start his run anew, firing on those targets only which he has previously failed to fire upon.

2. If a malfunction occurs between targets Nos. 7 and 8, the firer will return to the starting point, at *raise pistol*, where he will correct the defect, place an empty magazine in the pistol and draw the slide back. The firer will then start his run anew. After passing target No. 7 he will withdraw the empty magazine, insert a loaded magazine, and commence firing at target No. 8.

3. If a defective cartridge or malfunction of the pistol causes a failure to fire at any of the targets from Nos. 8 to 14, inclusive, the firer will continue around the track to the starting point, at *raise pistol*, where he will correct the defect. The pistol will then be loaded so as to provide one cartridge for each target numbered 8 to 14 at which he failed to fire. The firer will then start his run anew, firing at those targets only, from Nos. 8 to 14, inclusive, which he has previously failed to fire upon.

(*c*) *Time limit.*—The time limit for each run, measured from the instant the firer fires upon or passes target No. 1 up to the instant he fires upon or passes target No. 14, is 55 seconds. In case, due to a defective cartridge or malfunction, the firer is permitted to renew his run, the timing also starts anew, as prescribed for a regular run.

(*f*) *Horses.*—So far as practicable individual firers will be required to ride the horses regularly assigned them. In no case, in the Regular Army, will any horse be used by more than two individuals, nor will more than 25 per cent of the individuals of a troop be permitted to fire from horses other than those regularly assigned to them. Troop reports of Regular Army organizations relating to individual mounted pistol practice will contain a certificate to the effect that the provisions of this paragraph have been complied with.

(*g*) *Tabulation.*—Tables I and II relate to the divisions of the mounted course in the order to be followed in range practice.

(*h*) *Instruction practice.*

TABLE I

	Runs	Targets	Range	Gait	Time limit
Firing to the right, left, right front, left front, and right rear.	Minimum of 2 runs of 14 shots each.	14 M	5 to 7 yards.	Gallop..	55 seconds for each run.

Total minimum number of shots, 28.

1. The firer is equipped with saber, pistol, lanyard, field belt, and two loaded magazines of seven rounds each. Just prior to starting a run he inserts a loaded magazine, loads and locks the pistol, and takes the position of *raise pistol.* The other magazine remains in the magazine pocket. Starting with the gallop at X, the firer rides along and parallel to the barrier, as indicated in Figure 17, and fires at the first seven targets as he encounters them. When he has fired his seventh shot, the firer, continuing around the course at the *gallop*, changes magazines and then fires at the remaining seven targets. Upon changing magazines after passing target No. 7, the firer may place the empty magazine in any secure place most convenient to him. such as a shirt pocket, or inside the shirt, or he may if he so desires, return the magazine to the magazine pocket.

2. Prior to making a complete run as outlined in *1* above the trooper should be afforded practice in going through the course and simulating fire on all targets and going through the course firing blank cartridges from the .45 caliber revolver at each alternate target.

3. To accustom horses and riders to this type of firing and to minimize the chances of accidents, the first run of instruction practice may be divided into two phases, as follows:

(a) In the first phase the soldier fires ball cartridges at targets Nos. 1 to 7, removes empty magazine, and inserts another empty magazine while en route to target No. 8, and simulates fire on targets Nos. 8 to 14.

(b) In the second phase the soldier, having an empty magazine in pistol and the slide held back by the slide stop, simulates fire on targets Nos. 1 to 7, removes the empty magazine, and inserts a loaded magazine while en route to target No. 8 and fires ball cartridges on targets Nos. 8 to 14. The slide is held back at the beginning of the run in order that, as the firer passes target No. 7, the slide will be in the position it normally would be in if actual firing had taken place on targets Nos. 1 to 7.

4. Penalties will be exacted as follows:

(a) For each 5 seconds or fraction thereof in excess of the prescribed time limit of 55 seconds, one point will be deducted from the firer's score.

(b) For each instance during a run that the horse assumes a gait other than the gallop, one point will be deducted from the firer's score. This penalty is not to be construed as applicable to a case where the horse in changing leads hits two or three beats of the trot.

(*i*) *Record practice.*

1. The individual record practice is fired in the same manner and with the same penalties as prescribed in (*h*) *1* and *4* above.

TABLE II

	Runs	Targets	Range	Gait	Time limit
Firing to the right, left, right front, left front, and right rear.	2 runs of 14 shots.	14 M	5 to 7 yards	Gallop	55 seconds for each run.

Total shots, 28.

2. In record practice each individual armed with both pistol and the saber will be required to make a continuous run over the combined pistol and saber course. (Individuals not armed with the saber will run the pistol course only.) The time for the pistol

course and time for the saber course will be taken separately as prescribed in (*c*) above. A second similar continuous run completes the record practice.

(*j*) *Coordination with saber course.*—Upon completing a run the firer, while continuing the gallop toward the starting point of the saber course, releases the pistol slide, locks and returns the pistol to the holster, and draws saber. The saber hand need not be passed through the loop of the saber knot. The firer then enters upon the saber qualification course.

(2) *Special course.*—This course, or one approximating it, may be fired preparatory to field service when for any reason it may be impracticable to fire the regular course.

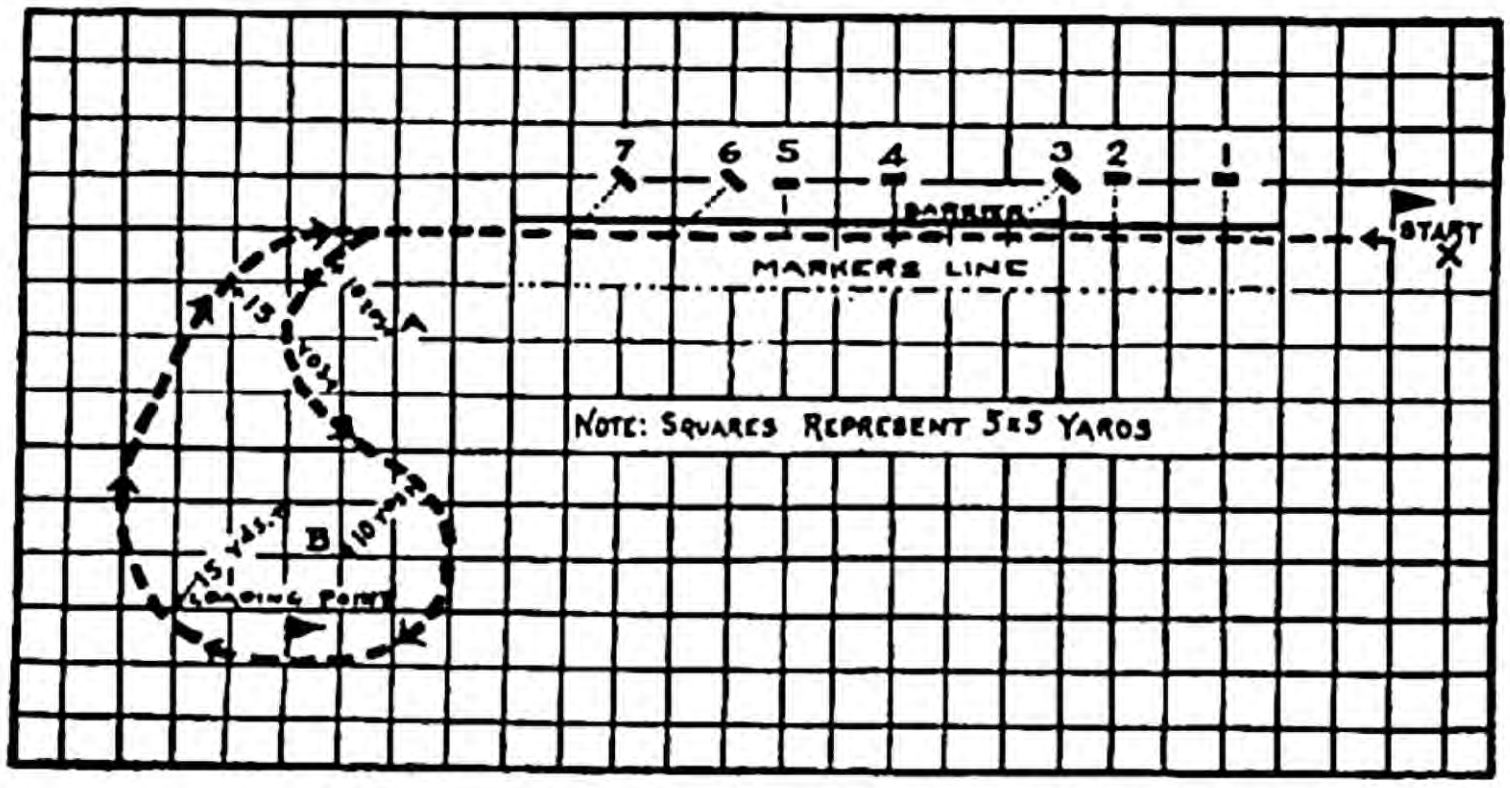

FIGURE 18.—Pistol marksmanship, mounted (special course), arrangement of targets

(*a*) *Construction of course.*—The course will be laid out as shown in Figure 18. The length of the course is 306 yards. The curves at A and B have a radius of 10 yards. The other curves have a radius of 15 yards. All curves will be marked with flags or posts. All targets are of the M type, and are located as shown by the numbers 1 to 7 in Figure 18. A barrier, at least 18 inches high, will be placed as indicated on the figure.

(*b*) *Marking, scoring, etc.*—The targets are designated No. 1, No. 2, etc., as shown in Figure 18. The number of men detailed as markers is left to the discretion of the officer conducting the firing. The markers take position approximately opposite their targets and on the designated line, not less than 5 yards from the track as shown in Figure 18. When a com-

plete score has been fired, the markers run to their targets. examine them, face the scorer, and call in numerical order the hits or misses, as for example, "No. 1, a hit," "No. 2, a miss," "No. 3, two hits," etc. After calling the hits or misses the markers cover any shot holes with pasters and run back to their position. One noncommissioned officer detailed as scorer is posted behind the markers at a convenient place to hear the calls. The regulations for scoring and recording scores in rifle practice will govern in mounted pistol fire as far as applicable.

(*c*) *Value of hits.*—Each hit on a target counts one point.

(*d*) *Defective cartridges and malfunctions.*—If a defective cartridge or a malfunction of the pistol causes a failure to fire at any of the targets, the firer will return to the starting point, at *raise pistol*, where he will correct the defect. The pistol will then be loaded so as to provide one cartridge for each target at which he failed to fire. The firer will then start his run anew, firing on those targets only which he has previously failed to fire upon.

(*e*) *Time limit.*—The time limit for each run is 45 seconds. The time is measured from the instant the firer fires upon or passes target No. 1, firing to the right, up to the instant he fires upon or passes No. 1 firing to the left. In case, due to a defective cartridge or malfunction, the firer is permitted to renew his run, the timing starts as prescribed for a regular run.

(*f*) *Individual practice.*

TABLE III

	Runs	Targets	Ranges	Gait	Time limit
Firing to the right, left, left front, and right rear.	Minimum of 2 runs of 14 shots each.	7 M	5 to 7 yards.	Gallop..	45 seconds for each complete run.

Total minimum of shots, 28.

1. The firer is equipped with saber, pistol, lanyard, field belt, and two loaded magazines of seven rounds each. Just prior to starting a run he inserts a loaded magazine, loads and locks the pistol, and takes the position of *raise pistol.* The other magazine remains in the magazine pocket. Starting with the gallop at X, the firer rides along and parallel

to the barrier as indicated in Figure 18, and fires one shot at each of the targets numbered 1 to 7 as he passes them. When he has fired his seventh shot, the firer, continuing around the course at the gallop, withdraws the empty magazine and, after passing the flag at the loading point shown in Figure 18, inserts the second magazine, loads and locks the pistol, takes the position of *raise pistol* and fires one shot at each of the targets numbered 7 to 1 as he again passes them. Upon changing magazines, the firer may place the empty magazine in any secure place most convenient to him.

2. Prior to making a run as outlined in *1* above, the trooper should be required to go through the course, change magazines, and simulate fire on all targets and to go through the course and fire blank cartridges from the .45 caliber revolver at five targets selected at random.

b. Collective practice.—(1) *General.*—(*a*) After individual practice is completed collective practice is commenced by all rifle troops.

(*b*) The restrictions regarding the use of horses contained in *a* (1) (*f*) above do not apply to collective practice. Prior to the commencement of this practice, the commanding officer of each rifle troop will select from among the horses permanently assigned his troop those best trained for pistol firing. The horses so selected will be used in collective practice.

(*c*) This firing is practiced by squads. Men not belonging to permanent squads are either formed into squads or are used to replace absentees in permanent squads.

(*d*) A suitable marker will be placed on each side of the course, 35 yards from the line of targets, to indicate the line at which firing may commence. This line will be known as the firing line.

(*e*) After crossing the firing line, any trooper who is passed by the trooper on his right or left will cease firing, lock his pistol, and take the position of *raise pistol.*

(*f*) A suitable marker will be placed on each side of the course, 5 yards in front of the line of targets, to indicate a line beyond which there will be no firing. This line will be known as the safety line.

(*g*) When the squad reaches the safety line, or at any time in case of emergency, the whistle signal "Suspend firing" will be sounded. At this signal, all firing will cease, pistols will be locked, and the position of *raise pistol* will be taken.

(*h*) In these exercises the squad leader is the guide upon whom the troopers maintain their alignment and preserve their intervals.

(*i*) After passing beyond the targets, the squad leader halts the squad and gives the necessary commands for unloading and returning pistols. He then marches the squad off at a slow gait.

TABLE IV

Formation	Scores	Targets	Range	Gait
Exercise No. 1: Squad of 8 troopers in close-order line.	3 runs, each trooper firing 3 shots in each run.	8 targets E, suspended.	Between 35 and 5 yards.	Extended gallop.
Exercise No. 2: Squad of 8 troopers deployed as foragers at a minimum of 5-yard intervals.	.....do.....	9 targets M.	.....do.....	Do.

NOTE.—The object of exercise No. 1 is to teach the men to fire to the front over their horses' heads while the squad is in line in close order. The object of exercise No. 2 is to teach the men to fire to the front at low targets while the squad is in line in extended order. Target M is a drab silhouette, representing a standing figure, made of bookbinder's board or similar material. It consists of two parts; the upper is target E and the lower is a trapezoidal piece whose upper edge is placed closely against the lower edge of target E. Hits are valued at 1. Any shot cutting the edge of the target is a hit.

(2) *Exercise No. 1.*—(*a*) Eight silhouette targets E, with 1½ yards between centers, are suspended from a rope (or wire cable). The rope is stretched between poles erected 30 yards apart. The targets are suspended from the rope by any suitable means in such a manner that the lower edges of the targets when suspended will be about 10 feet from the ground.

(*b*) The squad is formed in line in close order facing the targets and at not less than 75 yards distance from them. The squad leader, posted as No. 1 of the left four, requires each trooper to load his magazine with three cartridges. He causes the squad to *load* and *raise pistol*, and then gives the necessary commands for putting the squad in motion and for increasing the gait to a gallop. The rate of the *gallop* is gradually increased until the squad is moving at approximately 16 miles

per hour when it reaches the firing line. When the squad reaches this line the leader commences firing; this is the signal for the other troopers to commence firing. Each trooper leans well forward and fires carefully and deliberately at the target directly in front of him. Firing ceases at the whistle signal, "Suspend firing."

(3) *Exercise No. 2.*—(*a*) Nine silhouette targets M, with a minimum interval of 5 yards between centers, are erected in line.

(*b*) The squad is formed in line in close order facing the targets, at not less than 100 yards distance from them. The squad leader, posted as No. 1 of the left four, requires each trooper to load his magazine with three cartridges. He causes the squad to execute *load* and *raise pistol*, and then gives the necessary commands for putting the squad in motion, for deploying it, and for increasing the gait to a *gallop*. The rate of the *gallop* is gradually increased until the squad is moving at approximately 16 miles per hour when it reaches the firing line. When the squad reaches this line, the leader commences firing; this is the signal for the other troopers to commence firing. Each trooper leans well forward and fires carefully and deliberately at the target to the right of the interval through which he is to pass. Firing ceases at the whistle signal, "Suspend firing."

SECTION IV

MANUAL OF THE PISTOL

20. General.—*a*. The movements hereinafter described differ in purpose from the manual of arms for the rifle in that they are not designed to be executed in exact unison. Furthermore, with only a few exceptions, there is no real necessity for their simultaneous execution. They are not therefore planned as a disciplinary drill to be executed in cadence with snap and precision, but merely as simple, quick, and safe methods of handling the pistol. Commands are prescribed for only such movements as may be occasionally executed simultaneously by the squad or larger unit.

b. In general, movements begin and end at the position of ***raise pistol.***

c. Commands for firing, when required, are limited to ***Commence firing*** and ***Cease firing.***

d. Whenever the pistol is carried mounted the lanyard will be used. The lanyard should be of such length that the arm may be fully extended without constraint.

21. Dismounted.—*a. To raise the pistol.*—The command is: 1. ***Raise,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Unbutton the flap of the holster with the right hand and grasp the stock, back of the hand outward. Draw the pistol from the holster; reverse it, muzzle up, the thumb and last three fingers holding the stock, the forefinger extended outside the trigger guard, the barrel of the pistol to the rear and inclined to the front at an angle of 30°, the hand as high as, and 6 inches in front of, the point of the right shoulder. This is the position of *raise pistol.*

b. To withdraw the magazine.—Without lowering the right hand, turn the barrel slightly to the right, press the magazine catch with the right thumb and with the left hand remove the magazine. Place it in the belt or otherwise dispose of it; in no case throw it away.

c. To open the chamber.—Withdraw the magazine and resume the position of *raise pistol.* Without lowering the right hand, grasp the slide with the thumb and the first two fingers of the left hand (thumb on left side of slide and pointing downward); keeping the muzzle elevated, shift the grip of the right hand so that the right thumb engages with the slide stop. Push the slide downward to its full extent, and force the slide stop into its notch with the right thumb, without lowering the muzzle of the pistol.

d. To close the chamber.—With the right thumb press down the slide stop and let the slide go forward. Squeeze the trigger.

e. To insert a magazine.—Without lowering the right hand, turn the barrel to the right. Grasp a magazine with the first two fingers and thumb of the left hand; withdraw it from the belt and insert it in the pistol. Press it fully home.

f. To load the pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Load,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** If a loaded magazine is not already in the pistol, insert one. Without lowering the right hand, turn the barrel slightly to the left. Grasp the slide with the thumb and fingers of the left hand (thumb on right side of slide and pointing upward). Pull the slide downward to its full extent. Release the slide and engage the safety lock.

g. To unload the pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Unload,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Withdraw the magazine. Open the chamber. Glance at the chamber to verify that it is empty. Close the chamber.

Take position of *raise pistol* and squeeze the trigger. Then insert an empty magazine.

h. To inspect the pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Withdraw the magazine. Open the chamber. Take the position of *raise pistol.* The withdrawn magazine is held in the open left hand at the height of the belt. After the pistol has been inspected, or at the command 1. ***Return,*** 2. ***PISTOL,*** close the chamber, take the position of *raise pistol,* and squeeze the trigger. Insert an empty magazine, and execute *return pistol.*

i. To return pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Return,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Lower the pistol to the holster, reversing it, muzzle down, back of the hand to the right; raise the flap of the holster with the right thumb; insert the pistol in the holster and thrust it home; button the flap of the holster with the right hand.

22. Mounted.—*a. General.*—(1) The movements of *raise pistol, close chamber, return pistol* are executed as prescribed in paragraph 21 *a, d,* and *i.*

(2) The mounted movements may be practiced when dismounted by first cautioning ***Mounted position.*** The right foot is then carried about 20 inches to the right, and left hand to the position of the bridle hand.

(3) Whenever the pistol is lowered into the bridle hand, the movement is executed by rotating the barrel to the *right.* Grasp the slide in the full grip of the left hand, thumb extending along the slide, back of the hand down, barrel down and pointing upward and to the left front.

b. To withdraw the magazine.—Lower the pistol into the bridle hand. Press the magazine catch with the forefinger of the right hand, palm of the hand over the base of the magazine to prevent it from springing out; withdraw the magazine and place it in the belt, or otherwise dispose of it.

c. To open the chamber.—Withdraw the magazine. Grasp the stock with the right hand, back of the hand down, thrust forward and upward with the right hand, and engage the slide stop by pressure of the right thumb.

d. To insert a magazine.—Lower the pistol into the bridle hand. Extra magazines should be carried in the belt with the projection on the base pointing to the left. Grasp the magazine with the tip of the right forefinger on the projection, withdraw it from the belt, and insert it in the pistol. Press it fully home.

e. To load the pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Load,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Lower the pistol into the bridle hand. If a loaded magazine is not already in the pistol, insert one. Grasp the stock with the right hand, back of the hand down, and thrust upward and to the left front; release the slide and engage the safety lock.

f. To unload the pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Unload,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** Withdraw the magazine. Open the chamber. Glance at the chamber to verify that it is empty. Close the chamber. Take the position of *raise pistol* and squeeze the trigger. Then insert an empty magazine.

g. To inspect pistol.—The command is: 1. ***Inspection,*** 2. ***PISTOL.*** (The pistol ih inspected mounted only at mounted guard mounting. The magazine is not withdrawn.) Take the position of *raise pistol.* After the pistol has been inspected or at the command, pistols are returned.

INDEX

	Paragraph	Page
Aiming:		
Apparatus required	6	10
Blank form used during period of preparatory instruction	6	18
Sighting exercise	6	11
Aiming disks	6	11
Assembling automatic pistol	8	2
Automatic pistol:		
Assembling	8	2
Care and cleaning	2	1
Disassembling	8	2
Automatic-piston marksmanship:		
Dismounted	4–16	5–34
Manual of the pistol	20–22	48–51
Mounted	17–19	34–48
Blank form used during period of preparatory instruction	6	13
Cleaning; automatic pistol	2	1
Coaching methods and organizations:		
Dummy cartridges	13	27
Quick-fire	13	30
Range organization	13	31
Range practice	13	27
Safety precautions on the range	13	30
Slow fire	13	27
Squeezing the trigger	13	29
Disassembling automatic pistol	8	2
Dummy cartridges; use in coaching	13	27
Examination at completion of preparatory instruction	11	23
Gallery practice:		
Additional practice	12	27
Course	12	26
Purpose	12	26
Horses; training	13	33
Instruction and practice:		
Methods of instruction	5	7
Relative value	5	6
Scope of preparatory instruction	5	6
Instruction practice:		
Quick fire	14	32
Rapid fire	14	32
Slow fire	14	32

	Paragraph	Page
Manual of the pistol:		
Dismounted	21	49
General	20	48
Mounted	22	50
Pistol, automatic. *See* Automatic pistol.		
Pistol rest	6	10
Position:		
Essentials of proper	7	14
Exercises	7	15
Quick fire:		
Exercises	10	22
Training	10	21
Range firing:		
Collective practice	19	46
Individual practice	19	38
Rapid fire:		
Exercises	9	20
Training	9	19
Record Practice:		
Quick fire	15	33
Rapid fire	15	33
Slow fire	15	33
Safety precautions:		
On the range	13	30
Rules for	4, 18	5, 34
Tests	4	6
Sighting bar	6	10
Targets; description	16	34
Training horses	18	38
Trigger squeeze:		
Exercises	8	17
Importance of correct	8	17