

Drill Instruction

The technique of instruction for drill is somewhat different from that for other subjects.

The Sequence of Instruction

General. The instructor should use the following sequence when instructing:

1. Formation of squad.
2. Explanation.
3. Demonstration.
4. Question.
5. Practice.

Formation of Squad. Two factors must be kept in mind:

1. The comfort of the squad. Make sure that they are not looking into the sun nor into the teeth of a gale.
2. The formation in which they will learn most quickly. Here is a guide:
 - a. Straight Line for foot drill
 - b. Half Circle for rifle drill
 - c. Three ranks, open order, inclined for saluting at the halt

Explanation. The instructor should explain what the lesson is about and why it is necessary.

Demonstration. This should be broken down as follows:

1. Demonstration of complete drill movement shouting out words of command.
2. Demonstration by numbers, pointing out important details. This method of teaching drill movement breaks them down into stages which makes them easier for the instructor to teach and the cadet to master.
3. Another demonstration of complete movement.

Questions. After giving the first and successive demonstrations by numbers the instructor should ask the squad if they have any questions on each occasion.

Practice. After each demonstration by numbers and questions, the squad should be practised in that movement with faults being checked. Finally, when the complete drill movement has been demonstrated and practised by numbers, the squad should be practised, judging the time.

Instructional Aids

When drilling on the move synchronization is comparatively simple as the precision and speed of movement depend on the pace of marching. When learning both foot and rifle drill at the halt, however, there is no marching pace to assist the squad. Therefore all members must call out numbers which are the equivalent of paces thus: "ONE, TWO THREE, ONE", and move only as they call out the first and last "ONE". When calling out the numbers "TWO, THREE" there is a pause equivalent to two paces and this is referred to as 'The Regulation Pause', where this method of drill is referred to as 'judging the time'.

As an aid to improving the word of command of instructors, and cadets when appropriate, the following methods should be used:

1. Communication Drill.

- a. First demonstrate to the squad all words of command at the halt, including rifle exercises.
- b. Practise the squad giving elementary words of command, insisting on clarity and power from each man.
- c. Divide the squad into two ranks, place them thirty yards apart, with five paces interval between each man. Then make each cadet in one rank drill his opposite number in the other without regard to the cadet to the left or right of him.
- d. After not more than ten minutes, change over, so that the cadets in both ranks have a chance of drilling their opposite numbers.

2. Mutual Drill.

- a. Form the squad into three ranks and explain the introductory word of command.
- b. Call out each member of the squad in turn to drill the squad and call out another member of the squad to watch and to be prepared to comment on his performance.

When correcting mistakes to drill, the instructor must make sure that he addresses the whole squad, so that every member learns from the mistakes made by others.