

# VIII. Defensive Combat As Taught At The U. S. Army School

(Continued from June issue)

*(The following installment is a part of the series which is a follow-up of the series on Offensive Warfare which was concluded in the November issue of Khaki and Red. This series will prove instructive and beneficial for everyone who plans to take the promotional examinations which are based largely on the Infantry Manual of which Defensive Combat is a part. The glossary for this series may be found in the December, 1932, issue of Khaki and Red.—Editor's Note.)*

i. The organization and plan of defense of a strongpoint by a front-line company should include the following:

(1) Main line of resistance.

(a) The deployment of one or two platoons as a holding force.

(b) Location of combat posts to secure the development of the maximum fire effect on the front, covering all approaches, and on the flanks covering the fronts of adjacent units and the unoccupied intervals.

(c) Provisions for mutual fire support and cooperation with adjacent units.

(d) Coordination of supporting weapons, including provision for the protection of machine guns and the covering of dead spaces in their hands of fire by the fire of automatic rifles.

(e) Observation and concealment

(f) Coordination with the support.

(g) Effective use of obstacles.

(2) Support.

(a) Deployment of one or two as a supporting force to be used primarily for counterattack and to provide the maximum fire support to the front line.

(b) Cooperation with the combat posts on the main line of resistance within the strongpoint, and with adjacent units.

(c) Concealment of dispositions.

(3) Local security. The detail of a local-security detachment (when not provided by higher authority) with instructions as to location, mission, and coordination with adjacent units.

(4) Command post and observation post. The establishment of a command post and observation post in accordance with the considerations discussed herein (paragraph 34).

(5) Trenches and obstacles

(a) Construction in accordance with the instruction contained in the battalion order and the principles contained in paragraph 39.

(b) Location of tactical wire in coordination with the final protective lines of machine guns.

(c) Determination of the number and location of approach trenches.

(d) Establishment of the trace of trenches along the intervals between combat posts.

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(e) Construction of wire around combat posts and strongpoints.

(6) Coordination of fire and shock action.

(a) Coordination of the fire of the combat posts on the main line of resistance with:

(i) Each other.

(ii) Adjacent units.

(iii) Supporting weapons.

(iv) Supports.

(b) Coordination of shock action to include:

(i) Support to be given a counterattack within either platoon sector by the adjacent combat post.

(ii) Support to be given adjacent combat post.

(iii) Support to be given by supporting weapons

(iv) Assistance to be given to the battalion reserve in case it counterattacks.

(7) Plans for counterattacks by the support.

(a) Best use to be made of the terrain features.

(b) Support to be given by adjacent units and supporting weapons.

(c) Part to be played by each and individual of the support.

33. COMBAT POSTS.—a. A combat posts (see glossary) is the smallest organized tactical locality in the defense, its garrison varying from a few men to a rifle platoon. It is so disposed as to cover by a fire definite portion of the terrain, and its garrison is always prepared to resist attack from the front, the flanks, and, when practicable, from the rear, it is the organic cell of ground organization; and the desirability of unity of command and control indicates the platoon as its usual garrison. In broken terrain, however, or when the platoon has been given a wide sector, the necessity for covering by fire the sector assigned may require the platoon to garrison more than one combat post.

b. The usual deployment of the platoon in defense is in one line, but two lines may be advisable in situations such as the following:

(1) When the platoon is located on a flank of a defensive position.

(2) When the sector assigned the platoon is so narrow as to prohibit deployment in one line.

(3) When the field of fire is short and broken, enabling the attacker to reach assaulting distance under cover.

(4) When the platoon is acting alone.

c. Regardless of how the platoon is deployed (one or two lines), it is a fundamental precept of the defensive tactics of the units within the combat post that each shall be able to cover with fire its own front and flanks and the fronts of adjacent units. When it is deployed in two lines, those units in rear must also be able to cover the flanks of

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the elements to their front. In general the rifle units of a combat post are located in such a manner as to favor the deployment of frontal and flanking fire. In order that they may be able to deliver a maximum amount of effective fire to the front and flanks, and, if necessary, to the rear of the combat post, it may be advisable to locate them on a line either parallel, oblique, or perpendicular to the general front.

d. In the early stages of a hastily assumed defensive (as when an attack has broken down when the machine guns not occupied their defensive positions, the plan of defense must be temporarily developed upon the dispositions of the rifle units. Changes in these original dispositions will often have to be made in order to coordinate them with the dispositions of the machine guns (see Figure 5). When the time and means are available for deliberate organization of the ground, the plan of defense must be arrived at by such mutual adjustment between dispositions of the rifle units and those of the machine guns as to permit the full use of their combined defensive powers. In accomplishing this adjustment, great weight must be given to the utilization of the defensive firepower of the machine guns.


e. (1) The rifle units within a combat post are distributed in groups of from four men to a squad, the squad leader retaining command and control even though there be two groups. He stations himself where he can conduct the fight of his squad, and at the same time keep in communication with the next higher leader. He is responsible for and charge with the following:

- (a) The proper fire distributions, fire control, and fire discipline of his unit.
- (b) Proper distribution of ammunition within the unit.

(To be Continued)

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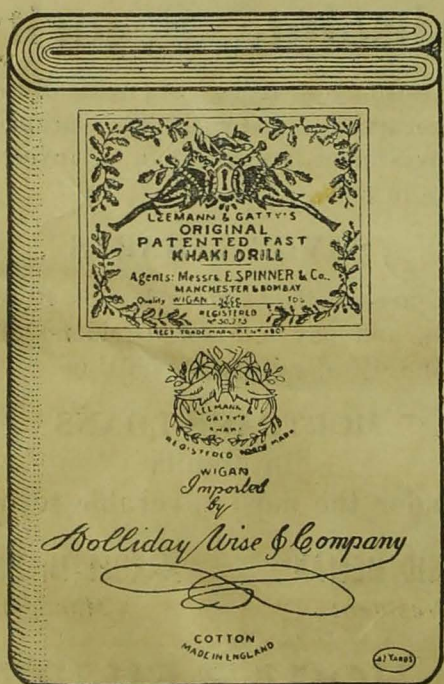


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practiced by a physician or midwife and dispensing of abortives.—The penalties provided in article 256 shall be imposed in its maximum period, respectively, upon any physician or midwife who, taking advantage of their scientific knowledge or skill, shall cause an abortion or assist in causing the same.

Any pharmacist who, without the proper prescription from a physician, shall dispense any abortive shall suffer *arresto mayor* and a fine not ex-1,000 pesos.

**SECTION THREE—Duel.**

ART. 260. *Responsibility of participants in a duel.*—The penalty of *reclusión temporal* shall be imposed upon any person who shall kill his adversary in a duel.

If he shall inflict upon the latter physical injuries only, he shall suffer the penalty provided therefore, according to their nature.

In case any other case, the combatants shall suffer the penalty of *arresto mayor*, although no physical injuries have been inflicted.

The seconds shall in all events be punished as accomplices.

ART. 261. *Challenging to a duel.*—The penalty of *prisión correccional* in its minimum period shall be imposed upon any person who shall challenge another, or incite another to give or accept a challenge to a duel, or shall scoff at or decry another publicly for having refused to accept a challenge to fight a duel.

(To Be Continued)

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