

disturbing sounds of battle, and it is most probable that the control of the men will be less difficult, provided regular distinct pauses in the fire are made after every few rounds.

Mass firing requires just as much training and practice as volley firing to obtain good results. We cannot lay too great stress on the importance of habit and custom. Men must be accustomed in peace time to the use of mass firing, if we desire to make use of it in war.

(8). As regards the rapidity of fire, a slow fire (1 round a minute) should be maintained against bad targets and a quick fire (4 to 5 rounds a minute) against good targets, also the shorter the range the more rapid should the fire be. But it must be carefully remembered that quick firing must only be obtained by *quick loading* and not merely by hasty aiming.

It should also be remembered that in the long and medium ranges accuracy of fire is more essential than rapidity of fire.

*Careful aiming and firing are required for all firing in order to get good results.* Rapid firing gained by rapid aiming has a very bad effect on the men and leads to loss of control and waste of ammunition, while it soon creates a thick cloud of smoke, which prevents proper aim being taken.

(9). The moments of advancing and halting must be left to the judgment of the senior officers in the firing line. As a rough rule it may be said that, when advancing by alternate rushes, at each halt the men after adjusting their sights to the new range should be allowed to fire 3 rounds. It will then be time to advance again.

(10). As regards the attitudes of the men, they should lie down at the longer ranges, and then as the ranges decrease they should kneel, and finally at the shorter ranges stand. If they are allowed to lie down at the shorter ranges it will take away from the vigor of the attack and it is hard to make the men get up again. Material losses are not the only losses to be considered,—loss of *moral* is even more important. Further, when the men are breathing hard for want of breath the lying down position is a bad one for good firing, and long grass and small folds in the ground will prevent a recumbent man from seeing the enemy.

(11). Bayonets should be fixed at about 300 yards from the enemy from the moral effect produced by so doing. The men should be taught and thoroughly impressed with the idea that the fixing of bayonets is a sign that it is safer to go on than to retire over the fire swept ground over which they have already advanced.

(12). The question of replenishing the ammunition that has been expended cannot well be entered into here. It is a subject which is large enough to form the subject of a separate lecture; but it may be remarked that the replenishing of expended ammunition to any considerable extent under an effective fire is considered to be so difficult that nearly every military writer of note insists on the necessity of the men being given all the ammunition they may require before they are sent into action. Consequently the leading troops should have from 150 to 200 rounds per man, while those intended for the assault need only have 50 to 70 rounds per man on their persons.