

firing; the order of firing shall not be divulged, excepting to members of the Council and the Executive officers, until each Detachment is brought up in its order.—The firing shall be carried on in series; each series to be numbered from one upwards as per forms which shall be supplied to the markers on the range, and at the battery, and the timekeepers. In case of any corps not bringing up its full complement of Detachments, the order of firing shall not be disturbed, but the missing Detachments shall be struck out.

9.—A drawing of the signalling apparatus, and a description of the mode of signalling adopted by the Association, will be supplied on application to the Secretary. A red flag shall be hoisted at the battery, to be answered by a red flag from each of the markers before the word 'Commence' is given; the flag at the battery to be kept up whilst each of the five rounds are being fired, and lowered when they are completed. Trial or other non-competitive shots to be fired with the flag down. A white flag waved at the range shall signify that the shot has struck beyond the target; a red flag waved at the range will denote a hit out of bounds. The range party alone shall be responsible for the points given for elevation, and the markers at the battery alone for the points for direction. No question as to correctness of signalling or marking can be entertained, or complaints received, unless made at the time and on the spot. The judgment on matters of fact of the officer superintending the practice shall be final.

10.—Four judges at least shall be appointed by the officer superintending the practice—two to estimate the points to be given for each shot, and two to take the time. They shall be placed where they can best judge of the results of the shots, and shall place their own marks at the following distances from the targets:

* At the 1,250 yards Range.

Right and Left.	Over.	Under.
Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
4	65	15
8	85	35
12	105	55

At the 1,500 yards Range.

Right and Left.	Over.	Under.
Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
6	70	20
12	90	40
18	110	60

All the shots striking within the first marks to count for elevation 4, and for direction 3 pts.; within the second, for elevation 3, and for direction 2 points; and within the third, for elevation 2, and for direction 1 point. The value of the shot to be signalled by the range party and from the battery. The value of each shot shall be audibly declared by an appointed person at the battery, [thus: 'Elevation, 4, over; Direction, 2, right.] The scores shall be kept exclusively by the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery, under the superintendence of the officers in charge of the respective departments; and at the conclusion of each day's firing they shall be delivered at the Secretary's office. They are not to be previously shown or divulged.

11.—The commissioned officers in charge of the Detachments may point out any mistakes to No. 1, but are not to interfere with the working of the guns, unless No. 1 should be firing at a wrong target, or unless they shall perceive any infraction of the injunctions contained in Rule 5, respecting the performance of the movements, or desire to

appeal to the officer superintending the practice for an allowance of time.

12.—In shell competitions the firing will be carried on at all times of tide, and for this purpose the banderols and targets will be moored on floating rafts, so that the banderols, four in number, will always make the same parallelogram 50 x 12 yards. The target will be 6 x 6, and moored 15 yards beyond the front banderols; the height of the banderols will be 20 feet. Shells bursting within the parallelogram will count 5 points. The targets will be distant about 1,200 yards.

The shells will be filled beforehand, but not the fuzes fixed, and ten minutes will be allowed for the 5 rounds.

Blind shells, and shells bursting more than 20 feet above the plane, not to score.

The markers for elevation will be 500 yards distant, at right angles to the targets. Ties to be shot off shell by shell.

The competing Detachments to consist of not fewer than nine numbers.

No appeals to be entertained in consequence of any variation of the position of the target and banderols.

The marker's decision to be final.

No corps will be allowed to furnish a detachment for this competition that has not had practice, from either rifled or smooth-bore guns, before joining the Meeting at Shoeburyness, as shown by its practice reports up to the 1st of August, 1873.

13.—In competitions with the 40-pounder Armstrong Guns, hits only shall count, and a value of 12 shall be given for each direct hit, and 6 for each ricochet hit. The targets shall be at 1,200 yards and at 1,600 yards, 9 x 9 feet.

14.—In competitions with a moving target, the target to pass on a line running parallel to the front of the shell Battery, and at 1,000 yards' perpendicular distance from it. Rate 7 miles per hour.

Each Detachment to fire as many shots as possible in 3 minutes from the moment of time given by the Umpire.

Hits only shall count.

The moving target is 5 feet square, inclusive of frame, with 2 wings 3½ feet wide—total size, 5 feet by 12.

If a shot strikes the 5 feet square target direct, to count 4; on ricochet, 2.

If a shot strikes the wings, 5 feet high and 3½ feet wide on either side of the 5 feet square target, to count 2; on ricochet, 1.

In case of target being damaged, or other unavoidable delay, such as a tube missing fire, &c., time of delay to be deducted as in other cases.

By a signal from the Battery the target moves across the range; as soon as the target has cleared the banderols, the Umpire gives orders for the practice to commence, which is continued till exactly 3 minutes have elapsed.

The gun can be loaded previous to the target moving, but not fired till leave is given by the Umpire or superintending officer. (These arrangements are necessary for safety of Markers and Drivers).

In the event of no hit being made at the running target, the Detachment making the most central shot at a standing target 5 by 5 feet, with a 40-pounder Armstrong gun, shall be considered the winner. Winning detachments only will compete. The decision of the Umpire to be final. No appeal.

15.—In the Repository Competition a gun will be on short skids about 4 yards in rear of the platform, and at right angles to its

carriage. The carriage will be in the centre of the platform.

It will be required—

1. To mount the gun by sliding it up skids.

2. To fire two rounds, shells, with blowing charges and time fuzes. Target 1,250 yards.

3. Shift Gun to another Garrison Standing Carriage by plank and rollers.

4. Fire three rounds, shells, with blowing charges and time fuzes. Target 1,600 yards.

Time allowed.—1. Ten minutes. 2. Three minutes. 3. Fifteen minutes. 4. Five min.

Stores required:

Skids, Fir	2
do. Oak	6
Scotches	12
Ground Roller	1
Shifting Rollers	3
Handspikes	10
Drag Ropes	2
Lashing Ropes	4
Sets Luff Tackle	2
Selvagees	2
Plank	1

Two gun detachments, of not less than ten men each, will be told off to form a squad. The squad that completes the duty in the shortest time, to the satisfaction of the Umpire, to be the winner.

At the expiration of the time allowed, the competing squad will be withdrawn. Winning detachments only will compete.

16.—The result of each competition shall not be declared until the day succeeding that on which the firing for the same has taken place, and no information as to the score shall be given to any person by the Statistical Department until such official declaration shall have been made.

17.—Officers making entries for their corps at the Annual National Meeting will forward to the Secretary of the Association, at the earliest possible date, a list of the Officers, with their rank and date of commission. Non-commissioned officers, their rank and date of appointment, Trumpeters and gunners, and of those officers who require camp furniture, with an undertaking to pay for the hire of the same. Messes for officers and men will be established at the following rates—viz., for Officers at 4s. per diem, for Non-commissioned officers and men at 1s. 6d. per diem; and all who attend the meeting will be required to contribute to the Mess Funds at the above rates, whether they choose to join the messes or not. No entry will be considered complete until these conditions have been complied with. Forms for these returns will be supplied on application to the Secretary. The amount for messing must be forwarded when the entry is made.

18.—The Council reserves to itself the power to modify these Rules as circumstances may require. The official organ of the Association is the *Volunteer Service Gazette*, and the Council cannot be responsible for affording information publicly through any other channel, although the Secretary is always prepared to answer questions.

The German War Office has decided not to arm the entire army, not even the entire Prussian army, with the adapted Mauser rifle, upon the merits of which military opinion still differs. Only five army corps will receive the new arm; the others will have adapted chassepots served to them. Both rifles possess the same calibre, and the same cartridge will do for both.

* Applicable only to Smooth-bore guns.