

The
Soldier's Dictionary
of
Military Terms.



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PREFACE

This little book has been compiled to meet the very general need for a compact Dictionary of military terms and phrases. It does not pretend to be in any sense exhaustive, but the editor has tried to include definitions of all military expressions in general use. It is hoped that it will be found of service especially by the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

OTTAWA,

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Cer. Ceremonial, 1912.
- F.S.R. . . . Field Service Regulations,
Parts I. and II., 1914.
- F.S.P.B. . . Field Service Pocket Book,
1914.
- I.T. Infantry Training, 1914.
- M.F.E. . . . Manual of Field Engineering,
1913.
- M.R. Musketry Regulations, Parts
I. and II., 1914.
- M.M.R. . . . Manual of Map Reading and
Field Sketching, 1912.

Abatis—Obstacle formed of trees felled in the direction of the enemy, secured to the ground, and branches pointed.

Absentee Reports—Contain a record of the absence, with or without leave of every soldier.

Accoutrements—Equipment other than arms and clothing.

Active Defence—A defence designed to be turned at the first favourable opportunity into a decisive attack.

Active Service.—In Canada, means whenever a soldier is enrolled, enlisted, drafted or warned for service or duty during an emergency, or when he is on duty, or has been warned for duty in aid of the civil power. See **Emergency**.

Adjutant—An officer appointed to assist the officer commanding an Infantry battalion, Cavalry regiment, or brigade of Artillery in the interior economy and efficiency of his corps.

Adjutant-General—The head of that branch of the War Office, or in Canada, the Militia Department, responsible for the discipline and efficiency of the army, recruiting, training, etc. The Assistant Ad-

jutant-General, and Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, are subordinate officers of the same branch.

Administrative Commander—Vested with command of administrative troops only.

Administrative Departments—Departments of the Judge-Advocate-General, Principal Chaplain, and Paymaster-in-Chief.

Administrative Services—Include signal, medical, supplies, transport, ordnance, railways, works, remounts, veterinary and postal.

Administrative Troops—Troops, combatant or otherwise, belonging to the administrative services.

Advanced Base—The area within which may be situated the advanced depots of ammunition, supplies, animals, and material, from which issues are made to field units.

Advanced Guard—A protective screen in front of a body of troops on the march. It is divided into Vanguard and Main Guard, and its duties are to reconnoitre and fight.

Aeroplane—A flying machine heavier than air. See **Biplane** and **Monoplane**.

Aeroplane Squadron—Consists of 12 aeroplanes with their crews.

Aid of the Civil Power.—Troops called out, on requisition signed by civil authorities, to prevent or suppress riot or disturbance.

Aim Corrector—An appliance to be attached to a rifle for the instruction of recruits. See *M.R.*, pt. II.

Aiming Rest—A tripod to hold the rifle in elementary musketry instruction. See *M.R.*, pt. II.

Aiming Tubes—Tubes inserted in service rifles for use on miniature ranges.

Airship—Aircraft sustained by a balloon. Divided as to type into Rigid and Semi-Rigid.

Alarm Post—Place for the assembly of troops in case of alarm.

Alignment—Any straight line on which a body of troops is formed or is to form.

Altiscope—An instrument for ascertaining the position of an object hidden by intervening ground or obstacles.

Ambit—The circumference of a fortification.

Ambush—Troops concealed for a surprise attack. Also a place where troops are concealed.

Ammunition Supply—Ammunition is conveyed to the firing line from the Lines of Communications, through the Divisional Ammunition Column, the Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column, the Infantry Brigade Reserve and the Regimental Reserve. See *F.S.R.*, pt. I., and *F.S.P.B.*

Anemometer—Instrument for measuring speed of wind.

Aneroid Barometer—Measures air pressure by its action on elastic lid of box exhausted of air. Used for fixing levels.

Angle—In Topography,—*Back-angle*: the direction or bearing in a traverse of a station which has been passed. *Closing-Angle*: the bearing taken from the last station in a traverse to some fixed point, to ascertain if the traverse closes satisfactorily. *Forward-angle*: the forward direction or bearing from one station in a traverse to the next. Angles may be plotted and read by means of the **protractor** (*q.v.*). See *M.M.R.*

Angle of Departure—Angle between the line of departure and the axis of the barrel of a rifle before firing.

Angle of Descent—Angle which a tangent to the trajectory makes with the line of sight at the point where they intersect.

Angle of Quadrant Elevation—Angle between the axis of the bore and the horizontal plane.

Angle of Sight—Angle between the line of sight and the horizontal plane.

Angle of Tangent Elevation—Angle between the axis of the bore of a rifle and the line of sight.

Anti-aircraft Guns—Rapid-fire guns mounted on tripods; can be fired up to elevation of 80°.

Appointment—As distinguished from **Rank**, implies the particular duties with which an officer or N.C.O. is charged.

Approaches—Routes selected for movement of troops to a position or objective.

Armed Corps—Consist of a regiment of Cavalry, battery of Artillery with guns, battalion of Infantry, two companies Garrison Artillery, or four companies Engineers.

Armoured Train—A train protected against rifle fire. Usually equipped with machine guns.

Army Act—An Imperial Statute kept in force from year to year by the passage of the Army Annual Act. Governs all ranks of the service.

Army Corps—Consists of 2 divisions; strength about 38,000 men and 152 guns.

Army Council—Consists of four officers and three civilians, presided over by the Secretary of State for War.

Army Medical Corps—Charge of sick and wounded, hospitals, medical equipment and supplies.

Army Ordnance Corps—Deals with supply of ammunition, equipment, clothing, stores and vehicles, but not medical and veterinary stores.

Army Service Corps—Responsible for transport of supplies, and furnishing food, forage and fuel.

Army Signal Service—Administered by the Director of Army Signals, with representatives at various headquarters. Consists of signal troops attached to cavalry, and signal companies to infantry; also air-line, cable and wireless signal sections.

Army Veterinary Corps—Care of sick animals, veterinary stores, etc.

Arrest—May be Open or Close. Open Arrest for an officer means that he must not leave the precincts of barracks or camp; if under Close Arrest, he is not to leave his quarters or tent except for such exercise as the M.O. thinks necessary. In either case he is not permitted to wear sword, belt or spurs. Open Arrest for a private means that he must not leave barracks or camp; Close Arrest is confinement in Guard Detention Room. N.C.O.'s and Warrant Officers are subject to the same regulations as officers.

Artillery—Comprises *Field*, using quick-firing guns of about 3-inch calibre and shrapnel shell weighing 18.48 lb.; also Field Howitzers, using 4.5 and 4.7 shells; *Heavy*, 60-pounder guns; *Horse*, 3-inch calibre; *Garrison*, 9.4 inch calibre; *Siege*, howitzers of 9.4 inch calibre; *Mountain*, small quick-firing guns.

Automatic Alarms—Attached to obstacles to give warning in case of a night attack.

Aviator—The pilot or driver of an aeroplane.

Axis—In a rifle or gun, an imaginary line through centre of bore from breech to muzzle.

Back-Sight—The sight at the breech end of a rifle.

Ballistite—A powerful explosive containing nitroglycerine and gun-cotton.

Ballot—In Canada the Militia Act provides that the Active Militia shall consist of (a) corps raised by voluntary enlistment; (b) corps raised by ballot; and sets forth how and when men shall be drafted by ballot.

Bandmaster—Usually a Warrant Officer. Responsible for the efficiency and conduct of the band.

Bank—Turning an aeroplane by changing the angle of the planes.

Banquette—Platform or ledge in a trench on which men stand when firing.

Barbette—Platform for heavy guns on the rampart of a fort.

Barleycorn—A type of foresight on service rifles.

Barrack Detention Room—For the confinement of soldiers awarded detention.

Barricade—A barrier built across a street, road, etc., to check the advance of enemy troops.

Base—The place where magazines of stores for forces in the field are maintained.

Base-Line—A carefully chosen and accurately measured line upon which a triangulation depends.

Basin—A small area of level ground surrounded or nearly surrounded by hills. Also a district drained by a river and its tributaries.

Bastion—Outstanding portion of a rampart, consisting of two flanks and a salient.

Batmen—A term sometimes applied to officers' servants; also to soldiers who do odd chores for sergeants.

Battalion—An Infantry unit consisting of four companies and a machine-gun section, under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel. A Canadian Expeditionary Force Battalion consists of approximately 1,159 of all ranks, including detail of 100 at base.

Batter—Slope of the face of any stone or masonry structure which is not vertical.

Battery—In Horse and Field Artillery and Howitzers, consists of 6 guns; in Heavy Artillery, of 4 guns.

Baulk—A road bearer in a military bridge.

Bay—The distance bridged by one set of baulks.

Bearing—True bearing is the angle a line makes with the true north line. Magnetic bearing is the angle a line makes with the magnetic north line. In each case the angle is measured from north by east and south, as the hands of a watch move.

Beaten Zone—Area of ground beaten by a cone of fire.

Bench Mark—A stone placed to mark a level accurately fixed by instruments.

Berm—A small space left between the parapet and excavations of a work.

Bight—A loop formed on a rope, the two parts of which lie alongside one another.

Billeting—Requisitioning house accommodation for troops.

Biplane—An aeroplane with two sets of main planes, one above the other.

Bivouac—A temporary camp without tents.

Blade—A form of foresight used on rifles.

Block Letters—In all reports and maps, names of people and places must be in block letters.

Boards—Similar in composition to **Courts of Enquiry**, but do not deal with questions of discipline, and evidence not taken under oath.

Bombardier—Lowest rank of N.C.O. in Artillery.

Bomb-proof—A shelter built to resist the penetration of shells.

Bore—Interior of barrel of gun, rifle or revolver.

Breech—That part of a rifle or gun in which ammunition is loaded.

Breech Block—Block or bolt which closes the breech of a breech-loading gun or rifle.

Brevet—Rank conferred for special or long service; higher than that for which pay is received.

Bridge Head—Defensive works to deny passage over a bridge to the enemy.

Bridging Expedients—Where usual bridging materials lacking, means

for crossing a river must be improvised, such as using carts or wagons for the superstructure of a bridge, constructing rafts of tarpaulins stuffed with straw, heather, etc. See *M.F.E.*

Bridging Train—Transport for bridge-building materials.

Brigade—In Artillery, consists of headquarters, 3 batteries with Ammunition Column; in Cavalry, headquarters, 3 regiments, 1 H. A. battery and ammunition column, 1 field troop, 1 signal troop and 1 field ambulance; in Infantry, headquarters and 4 battalions. Commanded by a Brigadier-General.

Brigade Major—Adjutant to a Brigadier-General.

Brigadier-General—Commands a Brigade; a Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel with temporary rank of General.

Bugle Calls—For music of the various calls, see *Otter's Guide*.

Burster—High explosive charge in a projectile designed to burst it.

Butt—The larger end of a round spar.

Calibre—The diameter of the bore of a gun in inches, measured across the **lands**.

Camp—A body of troops quartered in tents or huts.

Canteen—Part of a barracks or camp where food and drink are sold.

Cap—Cover of soft steel on point of projectile, to prevent glancing when projectile strikes at an angle.

Caponier—A small chamber formed in the ditch of a work projecting from the escarp to give fire along the bottom of a ditch.

Captain—An officer ranking above lieutenant and below major. In Infantry, a company commander may be a mounted captain or a major; the company second in command is a captain. A troop of horse is commanded by a captain; in Artillery he is second in command of a battery.

Captain of the Day—The officer responsible for the cleanliness and regularity of a barracks or camp. His tour of duty is from Reveille one day to Reveille the next. He assumes such part of his duties as he thinks fit, and assigns the remainder to the **Subaltern of the Day**.

Carbine—Short rifle used by cavalry and artillery; same calibre as service rifle.

- Cartouch**—Cartridge case or pouch.
- Casemate**—A shell-proof chamber constructed for the accommodation of the garrison of a work or position.
- Cashiering**—Dismissal of an officer from the service by court-martial.
- Casualty Book**—Records all changes in a soldier's service, such as length of service, promotion, reduction, detention, etc.
- Cavalry**—Mounted troops trained to combine attack and surprise to the best advantage. Armed with both sword and rifle.
- Chamber**—Part of gun or rifle which holds cartridge.
- Charge Report**—A report giving particulars as to an offence committed by a soldier, and the punishment awarded.
- Charger**—A form of holder for cartridges in a magazine rifle. See **Clip**.
- Chassis, Landing**—See **Under-carriage**.
- Chess**—A plank forming a portion of the flooring of a bridge.
- Chevron**—Stripes worn on sleeves by N.C.O.'s to indicate their rank. Good conduct stripes also classed as Chevrons.
- Choke**—Mouth of a sandbag when closed and secured.

Climbing—An aeroplane rising in the air.

Clip—Holder for a charge of cartridges in service rifle. Another form is the **Charger**.

Clock Method—In describing a target with reference to a **Description Point** (*q.v.*), the bearing may be given by using the position of figures on the dial of a clock, as "3 o'clock," etc.

Close Billets—Concentrating as many men as possible in one building. See **Billeting**.

Close Country—Country offering obstructions to the passage of troops, i.e., woods, hedges, ditches, fences, etc.

Col—A depression between two adjacent hills; a break in a ridge; the neck of land connecting an outlying feature with the main range.

Collective Fire—Fire of several rifles combined for a definite purpose, under the orders of a fire leader.

Colonel—An officer ranking above a Lieutenant-Colonel, and below a Major-General.

Column—Bodies of troops on parallel and successive alignments. As used in Infantry, these bodies

are at a distance from one another equal to their own frontage.

Column, Close—A column of infantry with distances reduced to suit requirements, normally seven paces.

Column, Double—Two parallel columns, with any named interval between them.

Column of Route—A column of fours with not more than four men abreast in any part of the column, including officers and supernumeraries. This is the normal formation for troops marching on a road.

Combatant Troops—See **Fighting Troops**.

Command—In Military engineering, the vertical height of the crest of a work above the natural surface of the ground.

Commander—An officer vested with the command of a detachment, unit, or formation of fighting or administrative troops.

Commander of Lines of Communication—Responsible for security of Lines of Communication.

Commission—Granted to officers by the King; in Canada, signed by the Governor-General.

Committees—Groups of officers or N.C.O.'s appointed to look after Regimental Institutes, and other matters of interior economy.

Company—Infantry, consists of four platoons, each of four sections; strength in Canada (1916), 7 officers and 221 other ranks. Also tactical unit of Engineers attached to Infantry, of Garrison Artillery and Signallers, but not of Cavalry.

Compass, Prismatic—A compass provided with a glass prism, so arranged that the compass can be read while taking a sight. The Service Pr. C. has a luminous dial for night work.

Compliments—Ceremonial regulations as to guards and sentries presenting arms, etc.; also how, when and who, officers and men are to salute.

Conditional Phrases—To be avoided in Operation Orders and Reports, such as "if possible," "if practicable," etc.

Conduct Sheets—Records of offences committed and punishment awarded. Company Conduct Sheets include N.C.O.'s under rank of Company Sergeant Major and Company Quartermaster Sergeant

as well as men; Regimental Conduct Sheets include Warrant Officers and all N.C.O.'s.

Conductors—Warrant officers of the Ordnance Department and Army Service Corps.

Cone of Fire—The density of shot marks on a particular target.

Constant Readiness—Troops remaining accoutred and sleeping with arms handy.

Contour—The representation on a map of an imaginary line running along the surface of the ground at the same height above mean sea level throughout its length.

Contribution—A levy made on a town or community.

Control Lever—Lever with which the pilot controls an aeroplane.

Conventional Signs—Arbitrary signs for indicating on a map various features such as roads, bridges, cuttings, embankments, etc.

Converging Fire—Concentration of rifle or gun fire from a number of points on one position.

Convoy—The troops guarding transport.

Co-operation—One of the basic principles of success in war.

Cordite—A smokeless powder, composed of nitroglycerine, guncotton and vaseline.

Corporal—Lowest rank of Non-Commissioned officer.

Cossack Post—Sentry groups consisting of 3 to 6 mounted men under a N.C.O.

Counter Attack—Transformation of a defensive attitude into one of attack; should as far as possible take the enemy by surprise.

Countermining—Destroying the enemy's mines by tunnelling out from your own side and exploding them.

Counterscarp—The side of the ditch of a work farthest from the parapet.

Court-Martial—A military tribunal for the trial of offences too serious to be dealt with by a commanding officer. Divided into: **General**, **District** and **Regimental**, also **Field General**. See *M.M.L.* and *K.R. & O.*

Cover—Protection from view or fire of the enemy.

Courts of Enquiry—Appointed to examine witnesses under oath in regard to any matter of discipline,

etc., and report the result of their conclusions, with or without recommendations.

Covering Fire—Supporting the advance of troops by artillery or rifle fire delivered from the rear or a flank, or by alternate sections of the firing line.

Crest—In Military Engineering, the intersection of the interior and superior slopes of a parapet. In Topography, the edge of the top of a hill or mountain; the position at which a gentle slope changes to an abrupt one.

Crib-Pier—A support for a bridge formed of layers of baulks of wood laid alternately at right angles to each other.

Crime—A form of **Charge Report**.

Crying down Credit—Public newspaper notice by a C.O. every three years that under the Army Act a soldier cannot be put under stoppages of pay for a private debt.

Culminating Point—The greatest height above the line of sight to which a bullet rises in its flight.

Curtain—Portion of a parapet between two bastions.

Cut-Off—A device shutting off the supply of cartridges from the magazine of a service rifle.

Cyclist Battalion—Headquarters, 8 companies, and machine-gun section.

Cyclist Company—Two half-companies, each of 2 sections, each section consisting of 2 squads.

Dangerous Space—Space swept by rifle fire at any given range. Described as the distance between the **First Catch** and the **First Graze**, (*q.v.*).

Datum—An assumed level to which altitudes are referred.

Dead Ground—Ground affording shelter from gun or rifle fire.

Dead Load—A load which is applied to a structure continuously and which remains steady.

Decisive Attack—Usually carried out by the **General Reserve** from a flank, while the enemy is engaged along the front by a sufficient force to pin him to his ground.

Defaulter—A soldier undergoing minor punishment.

Defence—Three forms: (a) **Active Defence**: (b) **Passive Defence**: (c) **Delaying Action**, (*q.v.*)

Defilade—Adjustment of levels of crest and interior portions of a work with a view to obtaining cover for the defenders or to screen them from view.

Defile—A mountain pass, bridge, embankment, etc., which troops can only pass on a narrow front.

Delaying Action—Action of a defensive force, such as a Rear Guard to a force retreating, in holding back the enemy without seeking a decisive result.

Deploy—To change formation from column or close column, fours, file or single file, into line on the same alignment. To increase the frontage.

Deploying Interval—Interval equal to the frontage of a unit in line.

Depression—Pointing a gun below the horizontal.

Depth—Space occupied by a body of troops from front to rear.

Depth for Fords—For Infantry, 3 ft; Cavalry, 4 ft.; Ammunition Wagons, 2 ft. 4 ins.

Derrick—A single spar held by four guys, used for lifting or moving weights.

Description Point—Targets may be described by reference to one or more prominent objects, so many fingers'-breadth apart, the hand held at arms length in front of the face, the direction being given by means of the **Clock method** (*q.v.*)

Detached Post—A small group of men sent out by an Outpost Commander to watch a position where the enemy might collect, or to hold one affording a view beyond the range of sentry groups.

Detention—Confinement in detention barracks or guard detention rooms. Detention was established so that soldiers convicted of offences not warranting discharge, might not be subjected to the stigma attaching to imprisonment.

Detonator—A small charge of fulminating explosive used to fire high explosives.

Detrain—The systematic unloading of a troop train.

Diaries, War—Record operations, etc., with a view to providing material for history, and for improvements in practice.

Direct Laying—Method of laying a gun by looking at the target over or through the sights.

Direction, Battalion, etc., of—The battalion, company, platoon, section or file responsible for keeping the direction in a drill movement.

Discharge—A certificate granted to a N.C.O. or man on completing his term of service.

Discipline—Means obedience to orders, and the establishment of cohesion between the individuals composing a military force.

Distance—The space between men or bodies of troops from front to rear.

District Court Martial—Convened by an officer authorized to convene General Court Martial, or by an officer deriving authority from him. Should not consist of less than three officers. Has not power to try an officer. Limited to award of two years' imprisonment.

Ditch—Excavation not intended for occupation. Serves as source of supply of earth for parapet, an obstacle to assault, or means of drainage.

Diving—An aeroplane descending at too steep an angle.

Division—*Cavalry*: Consists of Headquarters, four cavalry brigades, cavalry divisional Artillery, cavalry divisional Engineers, A.S.C., and four cavalry field ambulances. *Infantry*: Headquarters, three infantry brigades, divisional Artillery, divisional Engineers, Cavalry squadron, divisional Train and three field ambulances. See *F.S.P.B.*

Divisional Collecting Station—A place where slightly wounded men who are able to walk are collected.

Divisional Mounted Troops—Used for protective duties, reconnaissance, and inter-communication.

Doing a Pancake—An aeroplane descending too flat, and so losing flying speed.

Double Sentries—At night or in close country, two sentries are on duty instead of one, with each sentry group.

Dress, To—To take up the alignment correctly.

Dressing Station—A place where wounded are collected and attended to by the personnel of a **Field Ambulance**.

Drift—Lateral deviation of bullet after leaving the barrel, caused by rotation of bullet.

Drill—Training of a soldier to execute certain movements as a second nature.

Earthwork—Fortifications made of earth.

Echelon—A formation of successive and parallel units facing in the same direction, each on a flank and to the rear of the unit in front of it.

Elevation—Pointing a gun or rifle above the horizontal, to allow for the curve of the **Trajectory** (*q.v.*).

Embrasure—A channel through the parapet of a work through which a gun is fired.

Emergency—Defined by the Militia Act of Canada as meaning war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended.

Empennage—See **Tail**.

Enfilade—Rifle or gun fire sweeping a trench or position along its length.

Engine Bearers—Supports for the engine of an aeroplane.

Engineers—Field companies are allotted to Infantry, field squadrons to Cavalry. Duties are to improve communications, build or destroy bridges, etc. Also fortress companies, and railway companies.

Entanglements—Usually of barbed wire, low wire connecting pickets, high wire running from post to post, also trip wire hidden in undergrowth, at foot of slopes, etc. Trees also used for entanglements. See *M.F.E.*

Entrain—The systematic placing of men on a troop train.

Entrenchment—May be of any description according to circumstances, from the simplest to the most elaborate form. For table of time, men and tools, see *F.S.P.B.*, 97.

Epaulment—A small parapet to give cover to a gun and detachment in action.

Escarp—The side of a ditch nearest the parapet.

Escarpment—An extended line of cliffs or bluffs.

Escort—Troops detailed to guard convoy, artillery, prisoners on the march, etc.

Esplanade—The glacis of a counter-scarp.

Extractor—A device for drawing live cartridges from guns or rifles.

Fall—Slope of a river, usually measured in inches (or feet) per mile, as—9 inches per mile.

Fascines—Bundles of brushwood to hold the earth in a steep slope; also used in road-making.

Fatigue—Duties without arms.

Field Air Line—A bare wire erected on light poles.

Field Allowance—Special allowance for service in the field.

Field Ambulance—Divided into three sections, A, B and C, each containing a bearer sub-division and a tent sub-division. A Cavalry field ambulance is similarly organized, but in two sections A and B; it is more mobile.

Field Army—That portion of the forces in the field not allotted to fortresses, coast defences or garrisons.

Field Cable—An insulated wire laid along the ground.

Field Company—Engineers attached to Infantry.

Field Depot—A small temporary depot of supplies in the immediate vicinity of the field units.

Field-General Court Martial—For trial of offences on active service. May be convened by O.C. the unit

to which offender belongs. Should consist of not less than three members. Powers are those of a General Court Martial, but death sentence must be concurred in by all members.

Field Kitchen—A portable kitchen accompanying battalions and other units in the field; attached to the **First Line Transport**.

Field-Marshal—The highest rank in the Army.

Field Message Book—Used for field messages and reports.

Field of Fire—Any area of ground exposed to the fire of a body of troops or group of guns.

Field Officer—Includes Majors, Lieutenant-Colonels, and Colonels.

Field Troop—Engineers attached to cavalry.

Field Units—Mobile units of the field army allotted to divisions, cavalry divisions, brigades, army troops, or L. of C. defence troops.

Fighting Troops—Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, (including ammunition columns), Cyclists, Flying Corps and Engineer field units. The headquarters of commanders of fighting troops are fighting units.

File—A front-rank man with his rear-rank man.

Fines—Imposed as a punishment only for drunkenness. In Canada, no fine is imposed for the first offence; for the second, \$2; for the third and every subsequent instance, \$3 if not within six months of previous offence; \$5 if within six months; \$6 if within three months. See also **Forfeitures; Stoppages.**

Fire—A military projectile during its flight.

Fire, High Angle—Fire from all guns and howitzers at all angles of elevation exceeding 25°. See also **Enfilade Fire; Frontal Fire; Oblique Fire; Reverse Fire.**

Fire Control—Regulation of infantry fire so as to obtain maximum results with minimum expenditure of ammunition.

Fire Unit—Any number of men firing by the executive command of one. The section is the normal fire unit.

First Catch—Point where bullet has descended sufficiently to strike head of a man whether mounted, standing, kneeling or lying.

First Graze—Point where bullet, if not interfered with, will first strike the ground.

First Line Transport—Is an integral part of the war organization of a fighting unit, without which it cannot perform its tactical functions, and by which it must be accompanied in action and at all times. Includes gun carriages, ammunition wagons, pack animals, wagons for tools, machine guns, technical stores or medical equipment, telephone wagons, water carts, travelling kitchens, etc.

First Post.—Sounded at 9.30 p.m.

Flank—The right or left of a body of troops, or a position. *Directing Flank:* The flank by which units march or dress. *Inner Flank:* That nearer to the directing flank. *Outer Flank:* That opposite to the inner or directing flank.

Flank Guard—Troops detailed to guard the flanks of troops on the march. May be a separate body, or provided from the Advanced Guard.

Fleche—See Redan.

Flight Commander—Commander of an Air Squadron.

Forced March—Increased distance gained not by increasing the pace, but by shortening the halts, and if necessary by adding one or more

hours to the normal day's march. Should be resorted to only when the expenditure of fighting power thereby entailed is justified by the object to be gained.

Forces in the Field—The whole of the military forces mobilized in the theatre of operations under the supreme command of the C. in C. Includes the field army or armies, fortress, coast defence and garrison troops, and L. of C. units and defence troops.

Foreground—That portion of a field of fire lying nearest the origin of the fire.

Foresight—Sight at the muzzle end of a gun or rifle.

Forfeitures—A soldier forfeits his pay for absence without leave; for the period of his arrest, detention or imprisonment; for time in hospital when illness due to his own fault.

Form Line—An approximate contour; a sketch contour.

Formation, Battalion, &c., of—The battalion, company, platoon, section or file on which a change of formation is based.

Fougasse—A small mine filled with stones which are projected toward the enemy on the mine being fired.

Front of Attack—That portion of the enemy's line of defence, in a siege, against which the investing army makes a vigorous attack, pushed home by siege operations.

Frontage—Extent of ground covered laterally by troops.

Frontal Fire—Fire the line of which is perpendicular to the front of the target.

Fulminate of Mercury—A high explosive used as a **Detonator**.

Furlough—Leave of absence to a soldier exceeding six days.

Fuse—A tube filled with inflammable material, cord, ribbon, or other device used to ignite the charge in a gun, shell, mine, etc.

Fuselage—The outrigger or framework of an aeroplane connecting the main planes with the tail-piece or with the elevator.

Gabion—An open cylinder of brush-wood, sheet iron, etc., used for revetting.

Gauze Wire—Used with a **Pull-through** (*q.v.*) in cleaning rifles.

General—Highest rank in the army below Field-Marshal.

General Advanced Guard—For protection of a large force marching in more than one column, each column also having its own Tactical Advanced Guard; consists of all arms.

General Court Martial—Convened by the King, or an officer holding a warrant from His Majesty, or one to whom the latter has delegated his authority. Consists in Canada of not less than five members. Has power to sentence to death, penal servitude, dismissal, and lesser punishments.

General Reserve—In both defence and attack, that portion of a force whose special duty it is to initiate the decisive attack.

Glacis—The ground around a work within close rifle range. Sometimes formed artificially.

Gorge—In Topography, a rugged and deep ravine. In Military Engineering, the face of a work least prepared to receive frontal fire.

Gradient—A slope expressed by a fraction, i.e., $\frac{1}{30}$ represents a rise or fall of 1' in 30'.

Grand Rounds—Tour of inspection in a Brigade camp.

Grazing Fire—Fire which is parallel, or nearly so, to the surface of the ground.

Groove—Spiral channel in bore of gun or rifle.

Group—On Outpost duty, a sentry post of from 3 to 8 men. Also, in Musketry, the diagram made on the target by a series of shot marks.

Guard Report—Made daily by the Commander of the Guard, giving detail of Guard and Sentries, articles in charge, men in detention, etc.

Guards—Groups of soldiers, under a Commander, responsible for the protection of barracks or camp, and the custody of men in arrest or detention. For method of mounting and relieving Guard, see *Cer.*

Gun Cradle—The structure which supports and guides a field gun in its recoil.

Gun Shield—Steel shields attached to field and other guns for the protection of the men.

Gun Slide—Base on which a gun slides in the recoil.

Guncotton—A high explosive prepared by treating cotton with a mixture of sulphuric and nitric acids.

Gunlayer—The gunner who lays and fires a big gun.

Guy—A rope fastened to the tip of a spar or frame, to support, raise, or lower it.

Gyn—A tripod with tackle, used for raising weights.

Hachures—A conventional method of representing hill features on a map by shading with short, disconnected lines drawn directly down the slopes in the direction of the flow of water.

Hand Grenade—A small shell with a handle, to be thrown by hand. Used in trench warfare. For description see *M.R.* pt. 1, App. vii. In the present war various mechanical devices are used for throwing grenades.

Head Cover—In trenches and other defensive works, protection for the head from rifle fire.

Headers—Sods, sandbags, etc., placed so that the longest side is at right angles to the face of the structure.

Headquarters—Administrative staffs of battalions, brigades, divisions, etc.

Headquarters, Army—The headquarters of the commander of an army or group of army corps. If army corps are not grouped in separate armies, Army Headquarters and General Headquarters become identical, and the latter term will be used.

Headquarters, Army Corps—The headquarters of the commander of an army corps or group of divisions.

Headquarters, General—The headquarters of Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the field.

Heliograph—Signalling by means of mirrors.

Holdfasts—Pickets driven into the ground at right angles to the direction of the strain.

Holster—Leather case for carrying a pistol.

Honorary Rank—Given to officers whose duties are wholly administrative.

Horizontal Equivalent—The distance in plan between two adjacent contours measured in yards.

Horse-Length—Eight feet.

Horse-Width—Three feet, which includes 3 inches outside the rider's knee on either side.

Howitzer—A heavy gun discharging shells at a high angle of fire. The Q.F. Field Howitzer fires a heavy shell at angles up to 45° .

Imperial General Staff—Responsible for war organization, defence, training, education of officers, intelligence, etc.

In Action—A machine gun is said to be in action when mounted, loaded and laid, not necessarily firing.

Incline—The movement by which ground is gained to the front and flank simultaneously.

Independent Cavalry—Mounted troops made temporarily independent of the remainder of the force, to carry out a special mission.

Indirect Laying—Method of laying a gun when direction is obtained by an aiming point or aiming posts, and elevation adjusted by sight clinometer.

Individual Fire—Rifle fire opened without orders from a fire leader, as when the firing line is nearing the enemy.

Infantry—Troops on foot armed with rifle and bayonet. Can act under more varied conditions than any other arm.

Information—As to enemy's dispositions and topographical features of the theatre of operations, acquired by (a) reconnaissance; (b) examination of inhabitants, prisoners, deserters or papers; (c) intercepting messages; (d) secret service.

Inlying Piquet—Appointed to act as a reserve to Outposts. Also for internal security in a brigade area.

Inspector General of Communications—Responsible for control and co-ordination of all traffic on the Lines of Communication, etc. See *F.S.R.* pt. II.

Instructions—Take place of formal Orders in the case of troops detached for special objects.

Intercommunication—Carried out by the Army Signal Service, by means of telegraphs, telephones, wireless, visual signalling and despatch riders. The latter use horses, bicycles, motor cycles or motor cars.

Interior Economy—The administration of a military unit apart from drill, discipline and duties.

Interval—The lateral space between units on the same alignment.

Judge-Advocate-General—Deals with matters of military, martial and international law. Also Deputy Judge-Advocates-General.

Judging Distance—By measuring intervening ground with the eye in terms of some familiar unit, such as 100 yards; by the apparent size of the object, or the visual angle; by the visibility of the object.

Jump—Deviation due to movement of gun or rifle on firing.

Keep—A separate enclosure within another work to enable defenders to bring fire to bear upon a field of fire lying within the outer line of defences. Also called *Rèduit*.

Kitchen—See **Field Kitchen**.

Knoll—A low detached hill.

Lance-Corporal—A temporary or acting Corporal.

Lance-Sergeant—A temporary or acting Sergeant.

Lancers—Light cavalry armed with the lance.

Lands—Raised portions of bore of rifle between the grooves.

Last Post—Sounded at 10.00 p.m.

Laying—Aiming a gun.

Lead—That part of a rifle barrel immediately in front of the cartridge chamber. Also any line used to convey an electric current.

Leave of Absence—Permission to an officer to absent himself from duty. Leave to a N.C.O. or private is by **Pass** or **Furlough**.

Ledger—The lowest horizontal timber connecting the legs of a trestle or frame.

Lieutenant—Lowest commissioned rank in Canadian forces. In the British Army there are Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants.

Lieutenant-Colonel—Ranks between Major and Colonel. Usually commands a battalion of Infantry, or regiment of Cavalry.

Lieutenant-General—Ranks between Major-General and General.

Lights Out—Sounded fifteen minutes after **Last Post**.

Limber—Forepart of the gun-carriage of a field gun.

Line—Troops formed on the same alignment.

Line of Departure—Direction of a bullet on leaving the muzzle of a rifle, i.e., the prolongation of the axis of the barrel.

Line of Fire—Line joining the muzzle of the rifle and the target.

Line of Sight—A line passing through the sights of a gun or rifle and the object aimed at.

Lines—Guarded area within which troops are stationed or encamped.

Lines of Communication—The systems of communication by rail, road and navigable waterways between the army and its base or bases, inclusive, together with the district through which they pass, within such limits as the Commander in Chief may determine.

Lines of Communication Defences—The defences of that portion of the Lines of Communication for the security of which the commander of Lines of Communication Defences is made responsible by the Commander in Chief, together with all fortifications and defences in that area.

Lines of Communication Defence Troops—That portion of the field army which is detailed for the defence of the Lines of Communication.

Lines of Communication Units—

Administrative units on the Lines of Communication and under the command of the Inspector-General of Communications.

Live Load—A load suddenly applied to a structure or part of a structure with slight impact, producing strains in excess of those due to its weight when at rest.

Local Magnetic Attraction—Deviation of the magnetic needle of a compass from its mean position, owing to presence of masses of magnetic iron-ore or iron in the neighbourhood.

Local Reserve—Used for local counter-attacks.

Lock—Mechanism by which the charge of a breech-loading gun is fired.

Lookout Men—Sentries for infantry patrols.

Loophole—Opening in a trench parapet, wall, fence or hedge through which a rifle may be fired.

Lunette—A work consisting of four faces, the two centre ones forming an obtuse salient, the two side ones affording fire to the flanks.

Lunette, Blunted—A Lunette with five faces.

Lyddite—A high explosive composed of picric acid, used as the bursting charge for shells.

Machicoulis Gallery—A balcony with a bullet-proof floor and parapet loop-holed in the floor to afford fire downward.

Machine Gun—An automatic rifle, actuated by the kick of the discharging cartridge. Two or more are attached to each infantry battalion.

Magazine—The case holding the cartridges in a service rifle.

Magnetic Meridian—A magnetic north and south line.

Magnetic Variation—The angle between the true north and magnetic north.

Main Body—The force from which an **Advanced Guard**, **Rear Guard** or **Flank Guard** has been detached.

Main Guard—The principal division of an **Advanced Guard**.

Major-General—Ranks between Colonel and Lieutenant-General.

March Discipline—Includes everything that affects the efficiency of man and horse during a march.

Marching Order—Includes rifle and bayonet, ammunition belt, kit-bag, greatcoat, water-bottle and haversack.

Martial Law—Means the suspension of ordinary law and the government of a country or parts of it by military tribunals.

Masked Fire—Gun or rifle fire checked by the presence of friendly troops in the line of fire.

Masking a Fortress—Detaching a force to prevent its garrison from interfering with the operations or communications of a field army.

Mass—A battalion with its companies in line of close columns of platoons, with 5 paces interval between companies and 7 paces distance between platoons.

Mass, Open—A battalion with its companies in line of column of platoons, with 5 paces interval between companies.

Masses, Column of—Battalions in mass, on parallel and successive alignments, with any named distance between battalions.

Masses, Line of—A line of battalions in mass, with 10 paces interval between the battalions.

Meridian—A true north and south line.

Message—May be verbal or in writing.

Less formal than a report.

Messes—Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have as their primary object the encouragement of esprit de corps; also afford opportunities for discussing matters affecting the well-being of the corps.

Military Custody—See **Detention**.

Military Law—The law which governs the soldier in peace and in war, at home and abroad.

Military Police—A small body of men acting under the charge of the Provost Sergeant to patrol the barracks or camp.

Militia Council—In Canada, consists of the Minister of Militia and Defence, the Deputy Minister, the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General, the Master-General of Ordnance, and the Accountant and Paymaster-General.

Mine—An underground chamber filled with explosives, designed to destroy enemy troops, entrenchments, etc.

Minor Punishment—Punishment inflicted for minor offences; confinement to barracks, extra guards and piquets.

Miss-fires—Caused by defective cartridges, or a defective rifle.

Mobilization—The process by which an armed force passes from a peace to a war footing. The mobilization therefore, of a unit, means its assembly and completion for war in men, horses and material.

Monoplane—An aeroplane with one set of main planes.

Mutiny—Implies collective insubordination, or a combination of two or more persons to resist or to induce others to resist lawful military authority.

Muzzle—Front end of a gun or rifle.

Nacelle—The car of a balloon or dirigible. An enclosed shelter for the pilot of a biplane.

Night Operations—Movements of troops by night to outmanœuvre an enemy; to avoid observation; to pass over an area of ground difficult or impossible to traverse in daylight; to effect a tactical surprise, etc.

Non-Commissioned Officer—A subordinate officer who does not hold a commission; appointed by the C.O.

Oblique Fire—Fire directed obliquely from a flank.

Orderlies—Official messengers for officers.

Orderly Corporal—Generally assists the Orderly Sergeant in his duties.

Orderly Officer—Responsible for general cleanliness and good order of barracks or camp. See **Captain of the Day** and **Subaltern of the Day**.

Orderly Room—The office and court of a Commanding Officer.

Orderly Room Sergeant—Has charge of the Orderly Room, under the direction of the Adjutant.

Orderly Sergeant—*Battalion*: Appointed daily, for the purpose of assisting in preserving the good order of the barracks or camp.

Company: Appointed weekly, parades his company and all parties for duty, calls the roll, keeps the duty roster, etc.

Orders—Divided into **Standing Orders**, **Operation Orders**, and **Routine Orders**, *q.v.*

Orders, Operation—Deal with all strategical and tactical operations, and include such information regarding supply, transport, etc., as it is necessary to publish to the troops.

Orders, Routine—Deal with matters not concerned with operations, such as discipline and interior economy.

Orders, Standing—Issued to adapt existing regulations to local conditions and to save frequent repetitions in Operation and Routine Orders.

Ordnance—General term for big guns.

Orienting—See **Setting a Map**.

Outposts—Troops guarding the main force when halted. Divided into Piquets and Supports and sometimes Reserve. Piquets furnish Sentry Groups and Detached Posts; Reconnoitring Patrols generally detailed from the Supports.

Overhead Cover—Cover provided over trenches against shrapnel and plunging fire.

Overslaugh—Credit an officer receives for one duty when it overlaps another.

Pace—The denomination of different degrees of speed; also a measurement of distance (30 inches).

Palisade—A barrier of wooden posts or palings.

Panjies—Bamboo spikes sharpened and charred to hardness; driven into the ground and concealed in long grass, to form an obstacle.

Parade—Troops drawn up for inspection, muster, etc.

Parade State—A statement showing the number of all ranks on parade.

Parados—A mound along the rear bank of a trench to give cover from reverse fire.

Parapet—Earth thrown up on the enemy side of a trench. For concealment, sod is laid over it.

Park—A collection of guns and ammunition wagons.

Pass—Leave of absence to a N.C.O. or private, not exceeding six days. See also **Furlough**.

Passive Defence—Defence of a position against a superior force, without hope of converting it into a decisive offensive.

Patrol—A body of men sent out to reconnoitre, or to guard against surprise.

Pay and Allowances—The pay to which each officer and man is entitled according to his rank; and the allowances provided when on active service.

Paymaster—An officer on the headquarters' staff of a battalion, who makes and keeps records of disbursements. Also District Paymaster.

Permanent Force—In Canada, small bodies of regulars of the various arms, whose principal duty is to provide schools of instruction for the Militia.

Personnel—Officers and men making up any particular unit.

Pickets—Posts sharpened at one end for driving into the ground by hand power.

Picric Powder—Used as an exploder for Lyddite shells.

Pier—A means of support intermediate to the abutments or shore-ends of a bridge.

Piles—Posts sharpened at one end for driving into the ground by a force in excess of hand power.

Pioneers—Artisans with Infantry, attached to each company, and equipped with tools to clear obstacles, repair bridges, etc. With Cavalry, carry explosives and implements for destruction of bridges, railways, etc.

Piquets—The advanced portion of Outposts. Supply Sentry Groups and Detached Posts.

Pivot Flank—The flank on which a unit pivots when changing front.

Pivot Guide—A guide on the pivot flank of a unit.

Place of Assembly—In Mobilization, the place where troops are assembled to proceed to the place of Mobilization.

Place of Mobilization—The place where troops are collected on mobilization.

Plateau—An elevated plain.

Platoon—The quarter of an infantry company. Consists of four sections.

Plotting—The process of laying down on paper field observations and measurements.

Plunging Fire—Fire when the target is much below the gun, so that the projectile strikes the ground at a steep angle of descent.

Pontoon—A waterproof frame used as the pier of a floating bridge.

Position, Change of—A movement by which a body of troops takes up a new alignment.

- Position of Assembly**—In an attack, the place where troops change from march formation into formations for attack.
- Position of Deployment**—In an attack, the position where troops deploy for the attack.
- Position of Observation**—Implies batteries in action watching all ground in their field of fire and ready to open fire.
- Position of Readiness**—Implies batteries limbered up under cover, with position in the immediate neighborhood reconnoitred, and everything ready for their occupation.
- Primers**—Small discs of dry gun-cotton used to detonate wet gun-cotton.
- Private**—The lowest rank in the army.
- Profile**—The outline of a section of a parapet at right angles to the crest.
- Protractor**—An instrument for measuring angles.
- Provost Marshal**—Appointed by the C.-in-C. to maintain discipline.
- Provost Sergeant**—Has charge of military police.

Puddle—Clay freed from stones and dirt and worked up with water to form a plastic and waterproof lining to earthen reservoirs for water.

Pull-Off—Amount of pressure required to release the nose of the sear in a service rifle from the full bent of the cocking-piece.

Pull-through—A special cord used with wire gauze in cleaning a rifle.

Quartermaster—An appointment in regiments of cavalry, brigades of artillery or engineers, and battalions of infantry. Looks after quarters and rations, etc.

Quartermaster-General—Member of Headquarters' staff, and has charge of questions of transport and quarters, ammunition, clothing, etc. The Assistant and Deputy Quartermasters-General are subordinate officers in the same department.

Quartermaster-Sergeant—Acts as Assistant to the Quartermaster, in a Battalion. Also a Quartermaster-Sergeant in each Company.

Racklashing—A prepared lashing by which ribands are secured to the outside roadbearers of a bridge.

Railhead—A locality on the railway where ammunition and supplies are transferred to ammunition parks and supply columns.

Railway Transport Officer—Forms the channel of communication between troops and the railway service.

Raking Fire—Enfilading fire from guns or rifles.

Ramp—An inclined plane on the inner side of a rampart. Also a wooden slope used in entraining and detraining horses, etc.

Rampart—In fortification, the raised work on which the Parapet is built.

Range—Distance which a projectile will travel. The following ranges are recognized:

Rifle: Distant, 2800 to 2000 yds.; Long, 2000 to 1400; Effective, 1400 to 600; Close, 600 and under.

Field Artillery: Distant, 6500 to 5000 yds.; Long, 5000 to 4000; Effective, 4000 to 2500; Close, 2500 and under.

Heavy Batteries: Distant, 10000 to 6500 yds.; Long, 6500 to 5000; Effective, 5000 to 2500; Close, 2500 and under.

Range Cards—Cards showing distances to various objects.

Range-finder—Appliance for finding the range of an object, to ensure accurate sighting of guns and rifles.

Rank—The permanent grade of a soldier, as distinguished from **Appointment** (*q.v.*). Rank is also distinguished as **Substantive**, **Brevet**, and **Honorary** (*q.v.*).

Rate of Marching—For rate of movement of various arms, see *F.S.R.* pt. I, p. 52.

Rations—Daily or weekly allowance of food. Emergency Ration, also called Iron Ration, is packed in a metal tube, for use in case of necessity.

Ravelin—A triangular defensive work.

Ray—A line drawn to represent the direction of an object without reference to the points of the compass.

Rear Guard—Detailed both for a force advancing, and for one retreating. Much more important in latter case. Must hold off enemy and give main body time to escape.

Rear Party—That portion of a Rear Guard nearest the enemy.

Reconnaissance—Gathering information as to the enemy or the country.

Reconnoitre—Less thorough than a reconnaissance.

Recruit—An untrained soldier.

Rectifier—A boxwood implement for enlarging perforations in gun-cotton primers so as to take the shanks of detonators.

Redan—A work consisting of two faces, forming a salient angle towards the enemy.

Redan, Blunted—A work consisting of three faces, the centre one firing to the front, the others to flanks.

Redoubt—A field work entirely enclosed by defensible parapets giving all-round rifle fire.

Re-entrant—A valley or depression running into a main feature.

Refilling Points—Places where divisional ammunition columns and supply sections of trains are refilled from ammunition parks and supply columns respectively.

Regiment—In Infantry, composed of two or more battalions. In Cavalry, comprises three squadrons.

Regimental Books—Books necessary for keeping the records of a regiment or battalion.

Regimental Court-Martial—Consists of three or more officers. Powers limited to 42 days' detention, reduction, fines, stoppages, etc.

Regimental Institute—To supply troops with good articles at reasonable prices, and to organize and maintain means available for their recreation and amusement.

Regulating Station—A place where railway trains are marshalled and whence they are despatched to rail-heads.

Relief—The length of time that men have to work before being relieved; also a number of men who work, or are on duty, for a given length of time.

Remounts—Horses passed for the army.

Rendezvous—Places where ammunition parks and supply columns are met by representatives of the headquarters concerned and directed to refilling points.

Reports—See **Guard Report, Sick Report, Charge Report, Absentee Report.**

Representative Fraction—In map-making, means that one unit on the map (numerator) represents a certain number of same units on the ground (denominator).

Reprimand—An official rebuke administered to an officer as the result of a Court Martial; or by an officer to a private. Latter is entered on the soldier's conduct sheet. Also Severe Reprimand.

Requisition—A mode of making inhabitants of a district contribute supplies, etc., to an army. Must be paid for, but a Requisition Receipt Note implies no promise to pay.

Resection—Method by which the sketcher determines his position by observing the bearings of, or drawing lines from, at least two previously fixed points.

Retreat—Sounded at sundown.

Retrenchment—A work or works arranged so as to form a second, but not necessarily separate, line of defence, and also usually to reduce the area to be covered by fire.

Reveille—Signal for troops to rise. Hour is 5.00 a.m. in summer and 6.30 a.m. in winter.

Reverse Fire—Fire directed against the rear of a target.

Revetment—Any material formed into a retaining wall to support earth at a steeper slope than the natural one.

Riband—A beam or spar fastened down on each side of a roadway to keep the chesses in place.

Ricochet—A shot striking an object and flying off at a tangent.

Rifle, Parts of—See *M.R.*, pt. II., plates I. and VI.

Rifling—Spiral grooves in the bore of a rifle.

River, Rate of Flow—Get surface velocity by finding time a chip of wood takes to travel say 30 feet. Four-fifths of this gives mean velocity; and seven-tenths mean velocity gives number of miles per hour.

River, Width of—Method of finding the approximate width of a river at any given point. See *M.F.E.* p. 51.

Road Spaces—For spaces between units in column of route, see *F.S.R.* pt. I, p. 51.

Ross Rifle—A breech-loading magazine rifle supplied to Canadian troops.

Roster—A tabulated form showing order in which officers, N.C.O.'s or men are to perform duties.

Rounds—An officer's tour of inspection.

Royal Flying Corps—Body responsible for aerial navigation and service.

Saddle—See Col.

Salient—The apex of a Bastion, in form of an acute angle.

Sandbag—Bag filled with sand or earth, used in building up trenches, revetment, etc.

Sangar—A dry built stone wall to give protection against rifle fire.

Sap—A trench formed by constantly extending the end toward the enemy.

Scale—The proportion which a distance between any two points on a map bears to the horizontal distance between the same points on the ground.

Scout—Soldier specially trained for reconnoitring. Should have good sight, hearing and physique; be self-reliant, resourceful, and prepared to take risks; able to read maps, signal, judge distance and estimate numbers; guide himself

by compass, sun or stars; read footprints and other signs; know how to report and what to say.

Searching Power—The power of a projectile to reach an objective behind cover.

Section—*Cavalry*: 4 front rank men with their coverers. *Artillery*: 2 guns of a battery with their complement of men, horses and wagons. *Infantry*: The quarter of a platoon. Also in Topography, the outline of the intersection of the surface of the ground by a vertical plane.

Section of Defence—A portion of a defensive position, which is allotted to a distinct body of troops.

Sentry—A soldier guarding property, barracks or camp; on Outpost duty, to watch the enemy and prevent surprise. Constant vigilance is his watchword.

Sergeant—A non-commissioned officer ranking above Corporal.

Sergeant-Major—A Warrant Officer, or senior N.C.O., in a regiment of Cavalry, brigade of Artillery, or battalion of Infantry. Infantry companies also have a S.M. Generally assists Adjutant in his duties.

Serrefile—Such officers, N.C.O.'s or men, as may be detailed to ride in rear of the rear rank of a squadron when in line.

Setting a Map—Placing it, by means of compass, etc., so that the north line on the map points north.

Sheers—Two spars lashed together at the tip and raised to rest on their butts, which are separated. They are used to lift and move weights in one plane.

Shell—Projectile fired by guns. Contains high explosive, bursting on contact or by means of a time fuse; or shrapnel, sending out a shower of bullets; or an incendiary composition; or firework stars for illumination.

Shock Action—The action of cavalry in attacking with the sword, and infantry with the bayonet.

Shrapnel, Spread of—Width of area struck by bullets about 25 yards; distance, varies from 50 to 100 yards.

Sick Report—Report giving particulars, sent with the sick to the Medical Officer, and the Hospital.

Side Arms—Swords, sabres or bayonets.

Signal Units—Units employed on the service of intercommunication.

They include signal squadrons and troops, divisional and L. of C. Sig. Cos., Hd. Qrs. of a G. H. Q. Sig. Co., Hd. Qrs. of an Army Hd. Qrs. Sig. Co., and airline, cable and wireless sections, but do not include regimental signalers on the establishment of other units.

Siting Trenches—Selecting the most advantageous location, and marking the actual position.

Slope—*Exterior*: the outside slope of a parapet extending downwards from the superior slope. *Interior*: the inside slope of a parapet extending from the crest to the banquette. *Superior*: the top of a parapet immediately forward from the crest.

Slopes—For slopes practicable for wheeled vehicles, etc., see *M.M.R.*, p. 25.

Spade—Metal projection on the Trail of a field-gun carriage.

Span—The horizontal distance between the centres of any two supports of a bridge.

Splinter-proof—A shelter, proof against splinters of shell.

Spit-lock—To mark out a line on the ground with the point of a pick.

Spot Level—The record on a map of the exact height of a particular point.

Spur—In Topography, a projection from the side of a hill or mountain running out from the main feature.

Squad—A small body of men formed for drill or for work.

Squadron—Tactical unit of cavalry, 3 or 4 troops.

Staff, The—Staff officers appointed to the General Staff, to the A.G.'s and Q.M.G.'s branches of the staff, or as brigade majors and staff captains, to assist certain commanders in the discharge of their duties.

Staggered Planes—A biplane or triplane in which the upper planes are set in advance of the lower.

Stockade—A temporary d e f e n s i v e work built of logs or other material.

Stoppages—Deducted from a man's pay for extra messing, washing, necessaries, hospital diet, and replacing articles of uniform or equipment lost, spoilt or damaged by carelessness.

Storm-proof—A work so designed that assailants can be destroyed as fast as they can advance to the attack.

Strategical Concentration—The process by which an army is brought into the theatre of operations.

Strategy—The theory or science of war as distinguished from its practice which is exemplified in **Tactics** (*q.v.*).

Strengthening a Position—By entrenching, improving communications, clearing the field of fire, placing obstacles, etc.

Stretchers—Litters for moving the wounded. Also, in Mil. Eng., sods, sandbags, etc., placed so that their longest side is parallel to the face of the structure.

Subaltern—An officer under the rank of Captain.

Subaltern of the Day—Assists the Captain of the Day in his duties.

Sub-section—One gun with its men, horses and ammunition wagon.

Substantive Rank—Permanent rank, as distinguished from **Brevet** and **Honorary Rank**, (*q.v.*).

Summary Punishment—Punishment awarded by a Commanding Officer other than Minor Punishment.

Supernumerary—Officers detailed from their corps for special duties.

Supplies—Food, forage, fuel, light and disinfectants.

Supports—Troops held in reserve, as Supports to Firing Line, Supports in an Advanced Guard.

Tackle—Any system of blocks and ropes by which power is gained at the expense of time (i.e., more power less speed.)

Tactics—The practice of war. See also **Strategy**.

Tail—Rear horizontal plane of an aeroplane.

Tambour—A bullet-proof projection, constructed so as to flank the walls of a building.

Tamp, to—To cover a charge over with earth or other material so as to confine the gases at the commencement of an explosion, and thus develop their forces more fully.

Tampion—Plug for mouth of a gun, to keep out water and dust.

Tangent—A straight line turning to a curve at any point.

- Task**—The amount of work to be executed by a man during a Relief. Also the work assigned to a commander in a tactical operation.
- Tattoo**—Time between First Post and Last Post.
- Telemeter**—Instrument for measuring distances.
- Terreplein**—The surface of the ground inside a work.
- Theatre of Operations**—The whole area of land or sea in which fighting may be expected or in which movements of troops are liable to interruption or interference by the enemy.
- Tip**—The smaller end of a round spar.
- Tour of Duty**—The various duties to be performed by an officer during the period of his appointment.
- Trace**—The outline of a work in plan.
- Tractor**—An aeroplane having its propeller in front.
- Trail**—Lower end of a gun-carriage.
- Trail Arms**—Carry the rifle horizontally at full length of the arm.
- Train**—Transport allotted to fighting units for the conveyance of the baggage, stores and supplies necessary for their subsistence.

Trajectory—A curved line travelled by a bullet, due to the combined effect of the explosion of the charge, the force of gravity, and the resistance of the air.

Transom—The transverse beam or support on which the baulks or roadbearers rest.

Transport—In two divisions: **First Line Transport**, always with the fighting troops; **Train**, well to the rear.

Traverse—In Military Engineering, a bank of earth erected to give lateral cover. In Topography, the survey of a road, river, or track by measuring a continuous series of straight lines along its course and the angles at their junctions.

Trenches—Generally ditches affording opportunity for fire combined with protection from the enemy's fire. Also Cover Trenches, to protect Reserves; Communication Trenches, from firing line to rear; Machine Gun Trenches; Observation Posts; and Field Redoubts giving all-round rifle fire. See *M.F.E.*

Triangle of Error—Method of demonstrating character of errors in aiming a rifle. See *M.R.*, pt. I., p. 88.

Triangulation—The process of fixing the position of points on the area to be surveyed, by means of a measured base and a network of triangles dependent on it.

Trinitrotoluol—A high explosive derived from coal tar.

Triplane—An aeroplane with three sets of main planes one above the other.

Troop—A sub-division of a squadron, corresponding to a platoon in Infantry. Also used for certain units, e.g., field troop, signal troop.

True North—For approximate methods of finding the True North, see *M.M.R.*, p. 40.

Trunnions—The supports of a gun mounted on its carriage.

Undercarriage—Landing chassis of an aeroplane, consisting of the wheels, skids, wires and struts under the body.

Underfeature—A minor feature of ground, an offshoot of a main feature.

Unit—The foundation of a military organization. The unit of a cavalry regiment is a troop, of an artillery brigade a battery, and of an infantry battalion a company.

- Vanguard**—That part of an Advanced Guard which marches ahead of the Main Guard. It is divided into Advanced Party and Supports, the former broken up into mounted patrols, the latter mainly infantry.
- Vedette**—A sentry of mounted troops.
- Vent**—Hole in breech of a gun through which the charge is fired.
- Vertical Interval**—The difference of level between two adjacent contours, in feet.
- Visibility**—Methods of testing the visibility of one point as shown on a map from another. See *M.M.R.*, p. 86.
- Visiting Rounds**—Inspection of the Guard, etc., by the Orderly Officer.
- Visual Signalling**—Carried out by heliograph, flag, disc or lamp. The range depends upon the nature of country and state of atmosphere.
- Volplane**—An aeroplane descending without the help of its engine.
- War Office**—The department of the British Government responsible for the organization, maintenance and control of the army.
- Warrant Officer**—A rank inferior to all commissioned officers and superior to all non-commissioned officers.

- In Canada appointed by warrant signed by the Minister of Militia.
- Water Allowance**—One gallon per man per day, for drinking and cooking; in standing camps, five gallons per man for all purposes; 10 gallons per day for a horse.
- Watercourse**—Line defining the lower part of a valley whether occupied by a stream or not.
- Watershed**—A ridge of high land separating two drainage basins; the summit land from which water divides or flows in two directions. Does not necessarily include the highest points of a range.
- Water Supply**—Inspected by Medical or Sanitary Officer; protected from pollution; and marked with flags; white for drinking water; blue for horses; and red for washing and bathing.
- Wattle**—Continuous brushwood hurdle work.
- Yeomanry**—Light horse equipped as cavalry, but generally with less complete training.
- Zone of Attack**—Ground intervening between the **Front of Attack** (*q.v.*), in siege operations, and that portion of the investing line enveloping this front.