

GENERAL NOTES.

issues that these Notes cannot cover everything and that they must be supplemented or modified by local officers according to local needs. Let the following be remembered.

Petrol should never be used for incendiary purposes if paraffin is available. It has three main characteristics which distinguish it from other oils.

- 1—Its fluidity.
- 2—Its ability to evaporate quickly.
- 3—Its ability to burn itself out rapidly.

1—Owing to its fluidity it runs over a large area and is consequently difficult to control.

2—Petrol evaporates very rapidly at almost any temperature, and this is intensified by its fluidity. If a tin be emptied on a room, the air is immediately filled with the vapour which takes fire and explodes with considerable violence, communicating the fire to the petrol itself, whether on the floor of a room or in tins which have been opened. (In one case as a result of this the doors of a room were slammed by the explosion, and the occupants confined to the burning room).

3—Petrol burns out rapidly in some cases, so quickly that it may only burn the surface of the object with which it is in contact.

Paraffin does not evaporate so rapidly, and though more difficult to ignite it burns longer and hence affords a better chance of setting fire to the object to be destroyed. It should be used with some solid substance, such as wood shavings, straw or cotton waste which might be helped with small sticks, broken up furniture or the like, the whole being placed where it will get a good hold. In the case of a building the fire should be started at a staircase, or wooden partition or even a few planks placed near the rafters of the roof.

The windows of the building should be opened to ensure a good stream of air, and also to allow the heavy smoke of the burning oil to escape. This is most necessary for good results as the smoke, having no means of escape, may smother the flames and extinguish the fire.

In future operations petrol is only to be used by those who understand its nature and action, and who realize that it is an explosive, or where adequate safeguards have been taken to ensure the safety of men of the Republican Army. If paraffin be not available turpentine may be used.

The enemy is generally able to secure the publication in the Press of lying accounts of attacks on barracks and other military activities of Volunteers. In one case recently where the garrison surrendered and the barracks were entirely destroyed, the newspapers all stated that "the raiders were routed." A large number of successes have been described as failures, and the public, unable to read between the lines is often deceived. It should be pointed out that if a barrack is so far destroyed that the garrison has to evacuate it, the main object of the attack has been secured. Steps will be taken to prevent the publishing of lying and seditious reports, inspired by enemy sources, in the Irish Press.

The Volunteer Executive has decided to establish a scheme for the recognition of valour in action on the part of Volunteers. Decorations and other testimonials will be devised for those who distinguish themselves in action, for those who are wounded and memorials for any who may be killed. The casualties of the Army so far have fortunately been very few; but if the fight is to be waged, as we intend it to be waged, with ever-increasing intensity, a few casualties are unavoidable. Steps are being taken to secure machinery for providing the quickest and most efficient succour to any who may be wounded in action.

At Tipperary recently a British patrol gave a fine proof of their mettle. Having captured some prisoners, a single Volunteer appeared in their midst and fired a revolver, whereupon they all turned and ran. The prisoners escaped and none have been recaptured.

The armed cyclist patrol of 12 English soldiers which was disarmed at Carrigtwohill surrendered to nine Volunteers, of whom only seven were armed. Altogether, Macready's "military measures" seem a great success.

The English "Morning Post" has said many unkind things of us, but we do not know whether a compliment or insult is intended by the following statement of its "special correspondent":—"It may be here remarked that the Irish Republican Volunteers are a fine body of men, very many of their battalions being in physique equal to the best British troops." English humour!

Tá sé ró-luath lós chun éin nith a rádh i dtaobh Dhoiré Cholmcille. Ach beidh rud éigin aguinn le rádh mar gheall air sara lada.