BOX NUMBER 5

DESCRIPTION OF

THE COLEMAN HOLD

—AND—

TRIGGER SQUEEZE DEVICE.

Prepared in the
WAR PLANS DIVISION,
General Staff, U. S. Army.



ARMY WAR COLLEGE,
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WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, *April* 19, 1918.

The following description of "The Coleman Hold and Trigger-Squeeze Device" is published for the information of all concerned.

(062.1 A. G. O.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

PEYTON C. MARCH,
Major General, Acting Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

H. P. McCAIN,
The Adjutant General.

THE COLEMAN HOLD

—AND—

TRIGGER-SQUEEZE DEVICE.

PURPOSE.

The device is for use in connection with preliminary instruction in target practice and qualifying the individual soldier in: (*a*) Correct holding of the rifle; (*b*) correct trigger squeeze.

DESCRIPTION.

(See photographs and diagrams herein. Note that the device is simple and cheap and can readily be constructed by a company mechanic.)

The device consists of a U-shaped frame, which holds in its near side a needle and in its far side a miniature target.

The needle points in the direction of the firer and is about one foot in front of and perpendicular to the target. It is so adjusted that when the rifle is correctly aimed at the target it will be centered in the muzzle of the rifle.

An open electric current runs from the muzzle of the rifle through two dry cells and a bell or buzzer to the needle. For the convenience of the instructor, a switch is provided, by means of which this circuit at the proper time may be closed, except at the muzzle. Should the soldier fail to hold the rifle steadily and squeeze the trigger properly, with the switch closed, contact will be obtained between the needle and the bore at the muzzle, thereby completely closing the circuit and ringing the bell or buzzer. The target frame, battery and bell are mounted on a single wooden base.

TEST.

(Infantry School of Arms, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.)

"By means of the blue print furnished the school, one of these devices was constructed and tested as follows:

Five enlisted men were used, three were qualified men, one was an expert rifleman, one sharpshooter and one marksman.

The Coleman Hold and Trigger Squeeze Device.

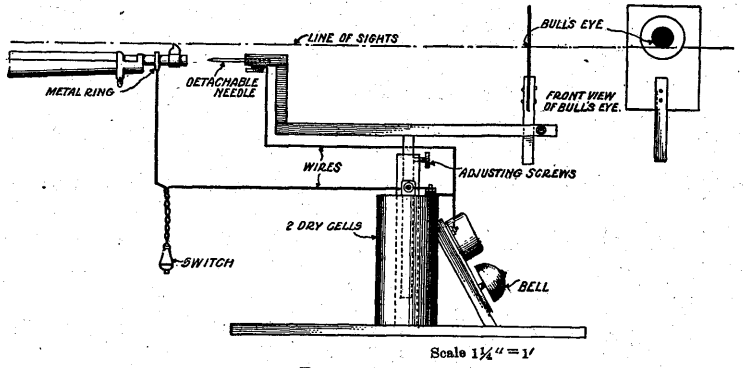


PLATE I.

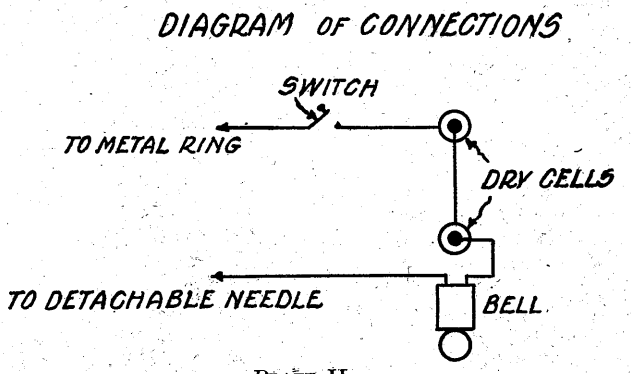

DIAGRAM OF CONNECTIONS
SWITCH
TO METAL RING
DRY CELLS
TO DETACHABLE NEEDLE
BELL

PLATE II.

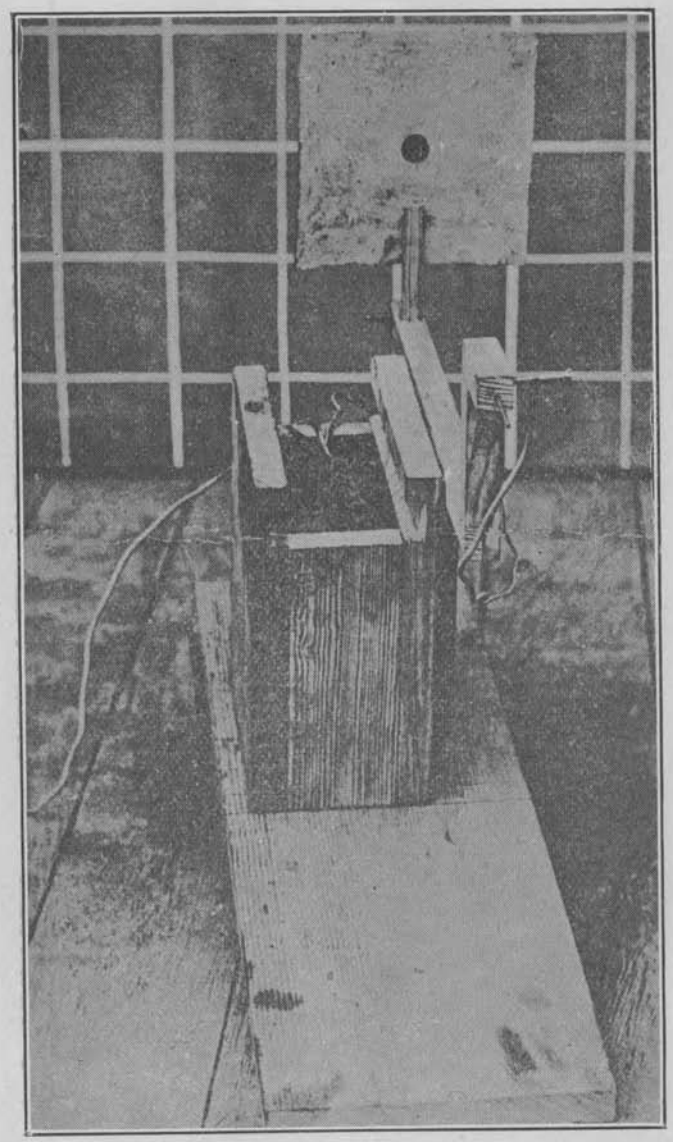


PLATE III.

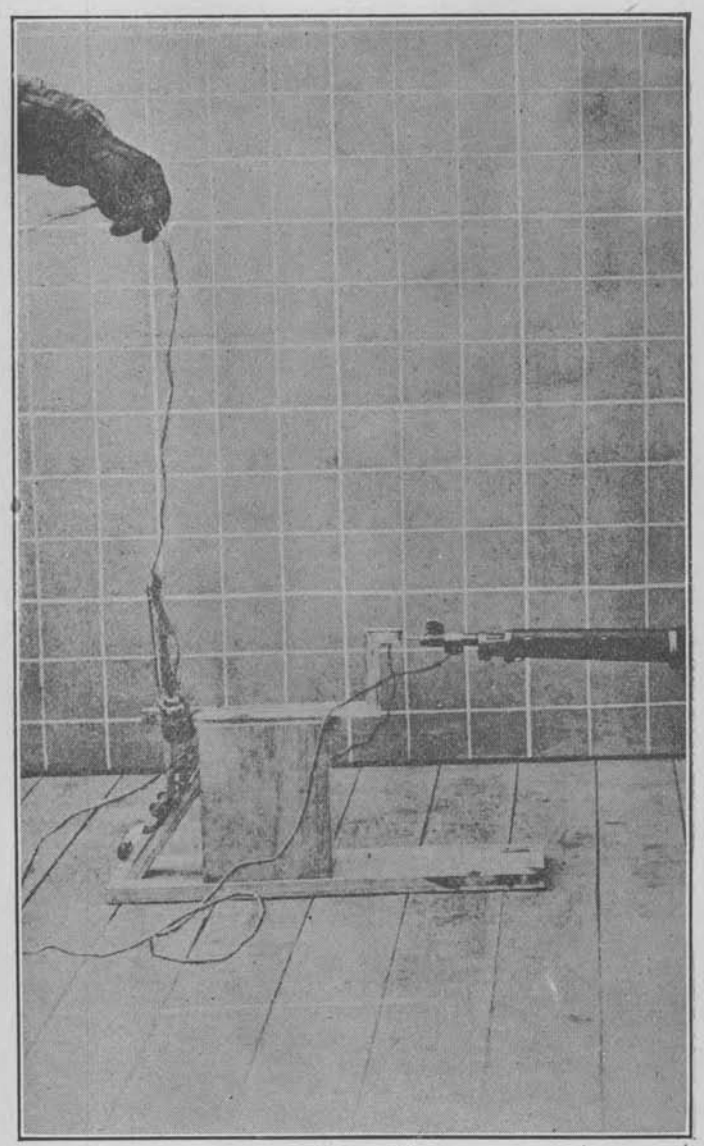


PLATE IV.

Two were unqualified recruits. The device was thoroughly explained to the five men, after which each man fired the rifle five times. The qualified men held properly and squeezed the trigger correctly each time, while the recruits were only able to prevent the ringing of the bell two out of five times. After thirty minutes' practice, however, these unqualified men became as proficient in the mechanism of holding and squeezing as were the qualified men at the commencement of the test."

USE.

To shoot a rifle successfully, one must be brought to a realization of what "hold and squeeze" means. To do this successfully is the most difficult step in the instruction. And while there are many devices that assist in teaching men to become good rifle shots, they do not isolate the test of holding and squeezing, but, like gallery practice, combine it with other features of the instruction.

By this device a man's inability properly to hold and squeeze becomes plainly apparent to himself and his instructor, and therein lies its merit.

The sling of the rifle is adjusted for use in the prone position and is placed on the arm of the recruit, who cocks his piece and takes the prone position. The device is placed immediately in front of the recruit, and near enough for the point of the detachable needle slightly to enter the muzzle when the rifle is held in the aiming position, with line of sight touching bottom of miniature bull's eye target.

As soon as the rifle becomes steady, indicating that a proper aim is being taken, the switch is closed and the recruit is required to squeeze the trigger and snap the piece without causing the bell to ring. Any decided movement of the rifle will cause a contact to be made between the point of the needle and the side of the bore and the bell will ring.