

TRANSLATION OF  
GERMAN DOCUMENT.1ST BATTALION,  
395TH INF. REGT.

10.9.17.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF MACHINE  
GUNS IN TRENCH WARFARE.

1. In trench warfare, machine guns must maintain a methodical and intense harassing fire by day, and particularly by night, on the hostile trenches, communication trenches and lines of approach. The machine guns detailed for harassing fire, together with their targets, and those detailed for anti-aircraft work must always be specially marked on the machine gun sketch-plans, after the division moves into the line.

2. The engagement of the enemy's infantry aeroplanes (by machine guns) will be organized on the following principles:—

(a) Regiments will detail a portion of the machine guns in the defensive zone for anti-aircraft defence during the opening stages of the battle until the commencement of the infantry battle.

*The remainder of the machine guns will keep under cover on the appearance of the enemy's infantry aeroplanes (contact patrols).*

(b) When the infantry battle commences, all machine guns not required for repelling the enemy's infantry assault will open fire on the aeroplanes which are attacking our infantry.

3. **Instructions for the engagement of the enemy's infantry aeroplanes** (up to a height of 1,000 metres).

*Case (a).*

(i.) The aeroplane is flying in a direct or approximately direct line towards the observer.

(ii.) The aeroplane is flying nearly straight overhead, away from the observer.

In both cases, fire should be opened by machine guns and by the infantry also.

When the aeroplane is approaching fire will be taken straight at it.

When the aeroplane is flying away fire will be taken below the aeroplane, up to a range of 1,000 metres, and directly at it, above that.

Machine guns will not open searching fire on an approaching aeroplane, but will do so (3 graduations) when the aeroplane is flying away.

If the aeroplane is not approaching directly in the line of fire, the direction of its flight should be traversed with fire to a width of 50 metres.

Sights should be set as follows:—

| Height of Aeroplane. | Aeroplane approaching. | Aeroplane flying away. |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Metres.              | Sights at, Metres.     | Sights at, Metres.     |
| 100 — 400            | 1,400 — 1,700          | 400                    |
| 400 — 700            | 1,700 — 2,000          | 400                    |
| 700 — 1,000          | 1,900 — 2,000          | 400                    |

Aeroplanes flying at a height exceeding 1,000 metres should not be fired on. Fire will be opened at about 2,000 metres range. Sights once set will not be altered so long as the aeroplane remains at the same height. Variation of range does not entail a corresponding modification of the sighting.

*Case (b).*

If the aeroplane is flying across the front or obliquely to a flank, it will be engaged by machine guns only.

Aim will be taken, on principle, in front of the aeroplane, in the direction in which it is flying.

In order to keep the aeroplane as long as possible within the zone of dispersion of the bullets, machine guns will both employ searching fire (*Tiefenfeuer*), and will alter the point of aim from one of minimum "lead" (in which the cone of dispersion certainly lies behind the aeroplane) to one of maximum "lead" (in which the cone of dispersion certainly lies ahead of the aeroplane).

This traverse will be made slightly faster than the speed of the aeroplane.

As soon as the point of aim of maximum "lead" is reached, fire will cease, and will be opened again at the point of aim of minimum "lead."