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# Small Arms Training

Volume I, Pamphlet No. 22

## Sten Machine Carbine

1942

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GENERAL

1. Preliminary arrangements and safety precautions. At the start of every lesson the instructor will inspect the machine carbine and pouches. When live ammunition is used for practice in magazine filling it must be carefully checked both before and after the lesson and *must not be used for any other purpose.*

2. Instructors must appreciate that, while the lessons are designed to be taught in one period, more time will be necessary in order to permit of sufficient practice to obtain proficiency.

STEN, MARK I

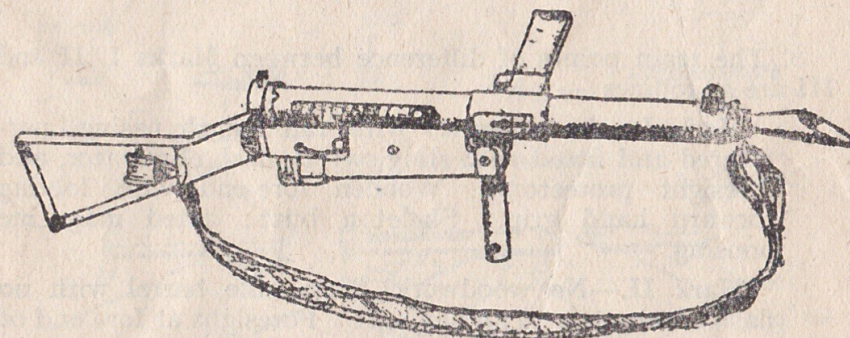


Fig. 1

STEN, MARK II

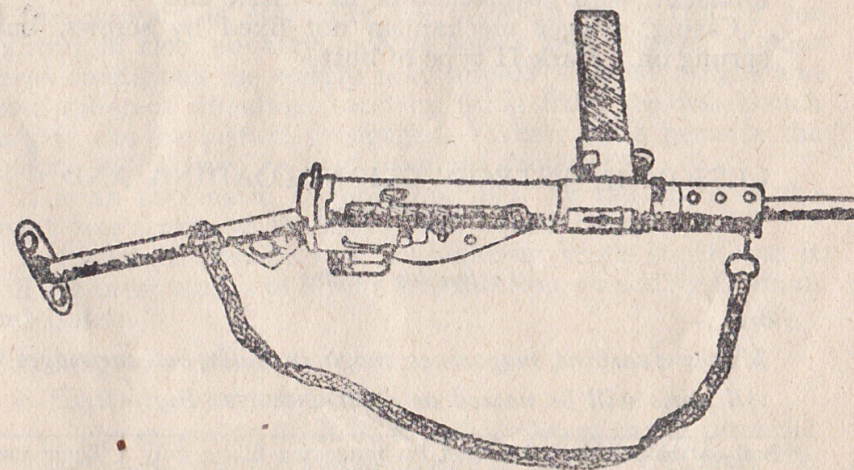


Fig. 2

## STEN, MARK III

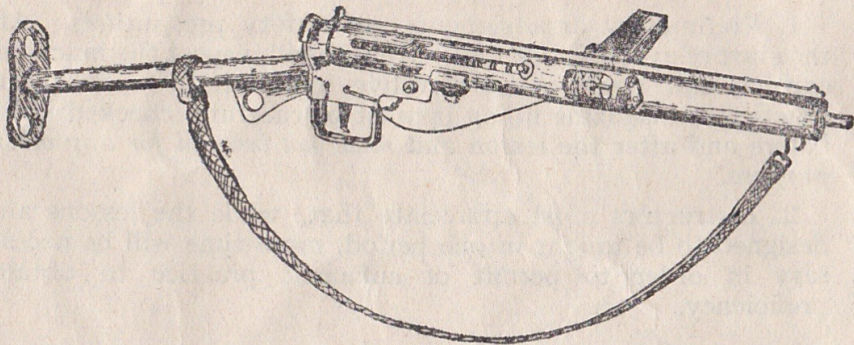


Fig. 3

3. The main points of difference between Marks I, II and III are as follows:—

Mark I.—Fixed barrel with full length casing, perforated and fitted with sling swivel, flash eliminator, and foresight protectors. Wooden fore-end with folding forward hand grip. Skeleton butt; fixed magazine housing.

Mark II.—No woodwork, removable barrel with no flash eliminator. Tubular butt. Foresight at fore end of breech casing.

Mark III.—Breech casing continued forward to form barrel casing with a rib running full length along the top; foresight, with no protectors, at muzzle end.

Casing, trigger mechanism not fixed by screws, but sprung on. Mark II type of butt.

## LESSON 1.—INTRODUCTION, LOADING AND UNLOADING

### *Instructor's notes*

Stores:—

*Machine carbine, magazines, magazine filler, ball cartridges.\**

*All parts will be named as dealt with (see Fig. 4).*

\* Ball cartridges must be used for magazine filling only. Their use must be carefully supervised and in no circumstances will they be used for any other purpose.

1. Explain:—

The machine carbine is a short range weapon introduced for the purpose of engaging targets at ranges of from 10 to 100 yards. At greater distances the speed of the bullet is so reduced that it has lost much of its penetrative power.

## STEN, MARK. II

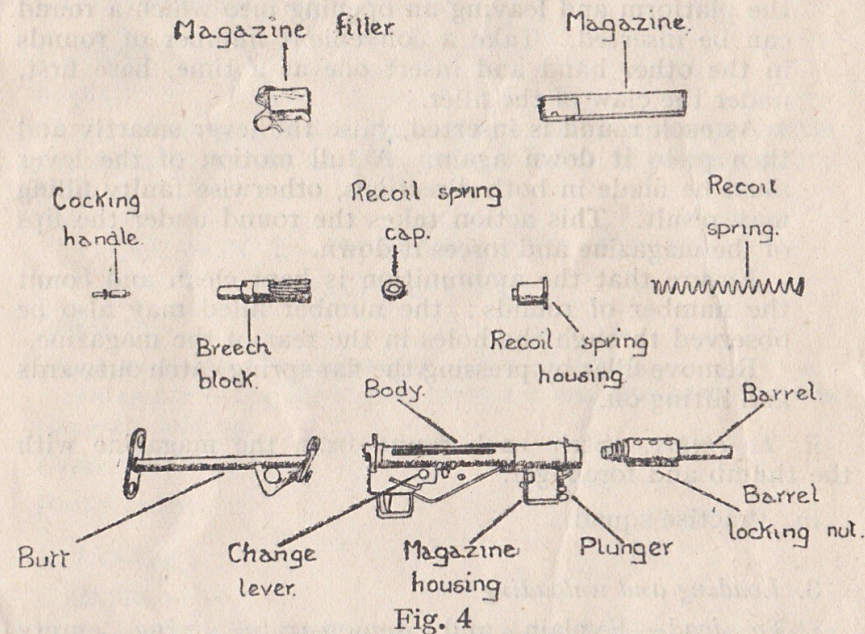


Fig. 4

The weapon is especially useful when on patrol or for fighting in close country such as woods and villages. Under these conditions the enemy may appear at close ranges and from different directions, and by firing from the waist such targets can be instantly engaged. Where time permits the weapon will always be fired from the shoulder.

It is an automatic weapon, operated by the recoil of the spent case acting on the face of the breech block.

The machine carbine will fire bursts or single shots, and it will fire most makes of 9 mm. ammunition, including German and Italian.

### 2. Magazine filling

i. Explain and demonstrate:—

The magazine holds 32 rounds. Owing to the powerful spring it is not possible to fill it quickly by hand. A filler is, therefore, provided.

Place filler on the top of magazine and press home so that the filler catch engages in the recess on the side or back of the magazine.

Hold the magazine in one hand, groove in the magazine away from the body. Place the forefinger in the loop of the brass handle, thumb on the forward knuckle, second and third fingers in the recesses provided.

Press the rear of the lever downwards, thus depressing the platform and leaving an opening into which a round can be inserted. Take a convenient number of rounds in the other hand and insert one at a time, base first, under the claw of the filler.

As each round is inserted, raise the lever smartly and then press it down again. A full motion of the lever must be made in both directions, otherwise faulty filling may result. This action takes the round under the lips of the magazine and forces it down.

Ensure that the ammunition is kept clean and count the number of rounds; the number filled may also be observed through the holes in the rear of the magazine.

Remove filler by pressing the flat spring catch outwards and lifting off.

ii. *To empty*.—Strip each round from the magazine with the thumb and forefinger.

iii. Practise squad.

### 3. Loading and unloading

i. *To load*.—Explain and demonstrate (using empty magazines) :—

Hold the machine carbine with the right hand, forefinger outside the trigger guard, butt under the arm, muzzle pointing downward at an angle of 45°.

Take the magazine in the left hand with the groove to the rear and insert it into the magazine housing on the left side of the machine carbine. Ensure that it is fully home.

Pull back the cocking handle and move it into the safety slot in the top of the body.

On action becoming imminent, release the cocking handle from the safety slot.

*Note*.—If the working parts are forward with a full or partially full magazine in the magazine housing, a smart jerk may cause a round to be fired. On no account, therefore, will the machine carbine be carried, or allowed to remain, in this condition.

### ii. *To unload*

Press down the catch on the magazine housing with the thumb and remove the magazine with the fingers of the left hand. Hold the cocking handle with the left hand, press the trigger and allow the working parts to go forward under control. Repeat this action.

iii. Practise squad. Words of command: "Load"—"Action imminent"—"Unload".

### 4. Sights

Explain :—

The weapon is fitted with a simple fixed aperture battle sight, sighted for use at 100 yards. Rules of aiming as for L.M.G.

## LESSON 2.—HOLDING AND FIRING

*Instructor's notes*

*Stores* :—

*Machine carbine ; magazines ; Fig. 2 target.*

*An empty magazine should be on the machine carbine when teaching holding.*

*Dress* :—

*Battle order.*

### 1. Holding

i. Explain :—

Holding is of the first importance, especially when firing in bursts. Correct holding can be gained only by experience in firing ball ammunition.

ii. There are two positions for holding the machine carbine, viz. :—

(a) At the waist.

(b) In the shoulder.

2. i. Explain and demonstrate :—

*Holding at the waist*.—The left foot is advanced with the knee bent, the weight of the body being balanced on the left foot. The right hand is on the butt with the forefinger on the trigger, the left hand on the barrel locking nut with the wrist under the magazine,\* the butt of the weapon is pressed tightly against the side by the right arm. The left elbow is pulled well back

\* Mark I machine carbine—left hand on fore grip.

into the body in order that, no matter in which direction the firer turns, the weapon is brought automatically in the same direction. The muzzle is directed towards the centre of target. Care must be taken that the little finger of the left hand is clear of the ejection opening. The attention of the firer must be concentrated on the target. (See Fig. 5.)

### FIRING FROM THE WAIST



Fig. 5

ii. Practise squad, instructor standing behind man and checking that the barrel is aligned on the target.

3. i. Explain and demonstrate:—

*Holding in the shoulder.*—The position of the body and hands is the same as for holding at the waist. The right elbow is raised and the right shoulder pushed well forward into the butt. (See Fig. 6.)

ii. Practise squad.

### FIRING FROM THE SHOULDER



Fig. 6

#### 4. Firing

i. Explain and demonstrate, where necessary:—

The machine carbine will fire single rounds or bursts. A stud passes through the body of the machine carbine; this is marked "R" on the left side and "A" on the right side. It is only necessary to press on the stud from the side marked "R" for single rounds and "A" for bursts. With experience, single rounds can be fired with the change lever at automatic, thus enabling it to be kept permanently in this position. Owing to the speed with which single rounds can be fired, the greater accuracy obtained by this method and the need for economy of ammunition, single round firing will be

employed whenever possible. Bursts should be reserved for extreme emergencies, and, when used, should be of 2 or 3 rounds only.

ii. The machine carbine can be carried in any convenient position, but when expecting to meet the enemy it should be held at the waist. From this position it can be instantly cocked and fired, or, time permitting, it will be fired from the shoulder. (See Fig. 6.) Although the weapon can be fired whilst on the move, greater accuracy is obtained by halting momentarily to do so.

iii. For targets at about 25 yards the weapon may be fired from the waist by sense of direction. For ranges between 25 and 100 yards, and if time permits, aim will be taken using the battle sight. Whichever method is used an attempt should be made to observe the strike of the shots, as this is the only quick method of making necessary corrections.

iv. Having disposed of the target the weapon will be placed at safety by placing the cocking handle into the safety slot. If necessary change the magazine.

#### 5. Immediate action

Explain and demonstrate, using an empty magazine :—

- i. When the magazine is empty, the machine carbine will stop with the working parts *forward*. It is only necessary to change the magazine, cock the machine carbine, and continue firing.
- ii. Should the machine carbine stop whilst firing, cock it, examine the ejection opening, and if nothing is there, continue firing. If one live round or empty case is there, vigorously shake the machine carbine to the right; if it falls out, continue firing.
- iii. If it does not fall out, or if there is a live round and an empty case there, remove the magazine, shake out the case, fire the round, replace the magazine (or a full one) and continue firing.
- iv. Practise squad, varying the order of stoppages as progress is made. When practising, the working parts must always be eased forward under control.

### LESSON 3.—STRIPPING AND CLEANING

Stores :—

Machine carbine, magazines, pullthrough flannelette, wire gauze and oil.

#### Instructor's notes

*Before any part is stripped, and again after assembly, the machine carbine will always be cocked and the working parts eased forward under control.*

#### 1. Stripping

Mention names of main parts as they are stripped (see Fig. 4). Explain and demonstrate :—

i. *Butt.*—Press in the stud on the recoil spring housing and slide the butt off downwards.

*Breech block.*—Press the cap (or ring), round the stud, inwards and turn anti-clockwise, thus releasing the cap from its engagement in the body. Withdraw the cap, spring housing and spring. Draw cocking handle to the rear, rotate it half-way into the safety slot and, in this position, withdraw cocking handle. Slide the breech block out of the body.

*Barrel (Mark II only).*—Pull out the plunger on the side of the magazine housing and rotate the housing downwards. Unscrew the barrel locking nut (the front hand grip) and pull out the locking nut and barrel together.

The machine carbine will NOT be stripped further than this.

#### ii. Assembly

*Barrel.*—Push barrel on to its seating and screw home the barrel locking nut. Rotate the magazine housing into the firing position. Mark II carbines require the barrel to be positioned rotationally to ensure accurate shooting. These weapons have the last three figures of the number stamped on the barrel or a line scribed on the barrel; on assembly, this number or line should be roughly aligned with the foresight.

*Breech block.*—Hold the machine carbine in a horizontal position, place the breech block in the body; and, keeping the trigger pressed, push the block forward until the cocking handle hole is opposite the safety slot. With one end of the cocking handle as a pilot, bring the hole into the correct position and insert the cocking handle. Keeping the trigger pressed, slide the breech block forward. Insert the spring and its housing, replace the cap, press it into the slots, and rotate clockwise until it engages.

NOTE.—Do NOT drop the breech block into the body, as this may cause damage to the ejector.

*Butt.*—Press the stud on the return spring housing inwards with the top of the butt. Hook the butt catch into its slide and push home until locked.

iii. Practise squad.

## 2. Magazine

*To strip.*—Press in the stud on the bottom plate and slide it off, controlling the spring as it comes out. Lift out the spring and platform.

*To assemble.*—Replace the platform and spring, and slide on the bottom plate until the stud engages in the hole in the plate. A tap with the hand will assist it to engage.

## 3. Cleaning

i. Explain and demonstrate :—

Strip the machine carbine completely. Clean the bore using pullthrough and flannelette, size 4 inches by 3 inches, in the manner taught for the rifle. A gauze is provided, but should be used only when absolutely necessary. When satisfied that the bore is clean, oil it, using flannelette 4 inches by 2 inches.

ii. Clean and oil the chamber using the pullthrough weight or a piece of stick with flannelette round it.

iii. Clean and oil thoroughly the remaining parts of the machine carbine, paying special attention to the following :—

Face of the breech block.

Inside the body and ejector.

iv. Before firing, it is preferable to dry all parts of the weapon. Unlike the Thompson Machine Carbine, the Sten will fire whether dry or oily; but in hot dry climates all working parts must be perfectly dry and free from oil for firing.

v. Clean the magazines with an oily rag. Ensure that all will fit the magazine housing; it is possible for one or the other to become damaged.

vi. Practise squad.

## 4. Decontamination

i. Explain :—

Should the machine carbine be subjected to gas, it will be cleaned in the manner laid down for the rifle (see Pamphlet No. 3, Lesson 1).

ii. Question squad.

## APPENDIX

1. The spotlight projector can be used with the Sten Machine Carbine, Mark II.

2. The following additional items are required :—

i. Spotlight bracket.

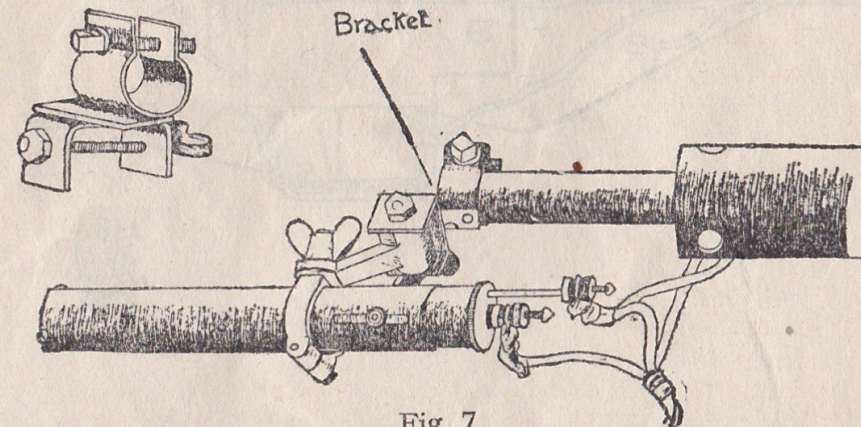


Fig. 7

ii. Terminal block with spring clip.

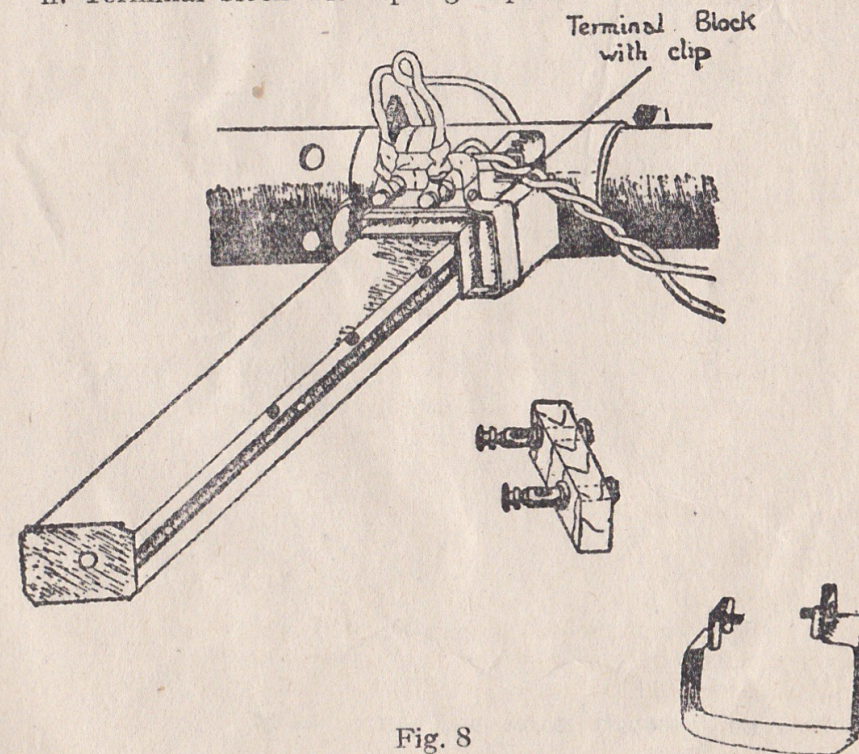


Fig. 8

iii. Clip trigger guard.

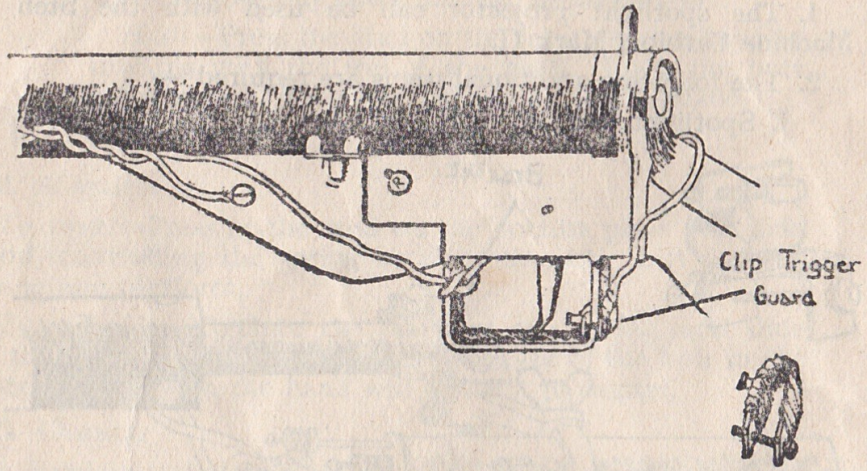


Fig. 9