Copied from "The Farmers Weekly" 26/8/1960

Poem

Ten Little Trigger Boys

By Colin Willock

See also Vol I P40.

1 Ten little trigger boys walking up in line,
Kindly keep those muzzles up or soon there'll
be nine.

2 Nine rough shooting gents coming to a gate,
One climbed the wire instead — and then
there were eight.

3 Eight little trigger boys keen to go to heaven,
One carried "at the slope" and then there
were seven.

4 Seven little partridge guns full of clever tricks,
One swung along the line and then there
were six.

5 Six little standing guns waiting for a drive,
Never hold your gun like this; or else
there'll be five.

6 This little trigger boy using a 12-bore,
Slipped in a 20-gauge, and then there
were four.

7 These little trigger boys, happy as can be,
Stopped to have a friendly chat, and then
there were three.

8 This little shooting man — a thing you'll never do,
Pulled his gun right through a hedge, and
then there were two.

9 Two little trigger boys passing over gun.
Didn't break and empty it — and then
there was one.

10 One little trigger boy resting in the sun,
Used his gun to lean against — and then
there were none.

The right and the wrong of it is:-

A photograph above each numbered pair of lines shows the man holding his gun in the obviously wrong way

1 Holding his gun horizontly across his body directly in line with the man to left.
2 Climbing over a barb wire fence, the gun with butt on the ground, barrels upward, leaning on the wire towards himself.
3 Carrying gun on right shoulder, triggers downward, and barrels horizontal.
4 Obviously swinging at low target towards the next man in line.
5 Similar to 1 with gun resting in crook of left arm again horizontal and in line.
6 Gun held breech open, inserting a cartridge of wrong gauge.
7 One man approaching another gun in crook of his arm pointing forwards.
8 Pulling the gun towards himself with barrels forward.
9 At barb wire fence handing gun horizontly muzzle first.
10 Stood with butt on ground, gun vertical and both hands resting over the ends of the barrels.

The comments are as follows again numbered to apply to each photo.

1 If the walking gun on your right insists on covering you with his muzzles, don't stand on ceremony - tell him plainly.

2 Even though I posed for this picture and know that the gun is unloaded it still gives me the shivers just to look at it. But people do handle guns like this.

3 By all means carry a gun over the shoulde but see that the triggers are uppermost and the barrels well cocked up.

4 Watch safety angles. Droh butt and only swing on to bird again when well past the line.

5 There are several safe rest positions. This is'nt one of them. Please keep muzzles pointing at the ground, or well up into the sky, fore or aft of you, and clear of other shooters.

6 Some people refuse to own a 20 bore AND a 12. A 20 bore cartridge will droh through the cone of a 12 and lodge in the barrel. It is easy to load a 12 bore cartridge behind it, as the gun looks empty. A burst is inevitable and often fatal.

7 No wonder both look uneasy. Never approach another shooter unless your gun is broken and empty. How does he know otherwise, until it goes off - accidently.

8 An ideal situation for a fatal accident. Guns do go off even with their safety catches on. Crossing obstacles, always break, unload, carry broken.

9 Correct method: gun broken, unloaded, stock towards receiver.

10 Incredible, but I've often seen it done. Hands are scarce.

Photos Photographs by Charles Topham.

16/9/87

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See P. 117

Some verses which I felt were worth recording

Poems

On Sundays, be it wet or fine—
My Church I always visit;
So, when at last I'm carried in,
The Lord won't say "Who is it?"

The Ringing World 5/12/80 P1058

Think on

Sometime, when you feel that your going,
Would leave an unfillable hole
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out,—and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how you are missed.
You may splash as you please when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop; and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks just the same as before.
The moral of this quaint example
Is, do just the best that you can.
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There's no indispensible man.

P1091

The Ringing World Dec 19-26, 1980

Whether the weather be cold
Or, whether the weather be hot
We'll whether the weather
Whatever the weather
Whether we want to, or not!!

It takes a special day like this
To just look back and reminisce
And think of all the things you've shared
Since that first day you knew "you cared"
Of course things change, for that is life
And love between a man and wife
Cannot remain 'romantic bliss'
Forever, 'favoured with a kiss.
But, always there's that bond of love
There's just no explanation of
And with the 'storms' and 'trials' it grows
Like flowers do beneath the snow.
Sometimes its hidden from the sight
Just like the sun gets lost in night
But always there's that bond of love
There's just no explanation of
And every year that you're together,
Regardless of the "kind of weather" —
The bond of love grows that much stronger
Because you've shared it one year longer.

The Anniversary? by Helen Steiner Rice.

God does not promise sky's always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives thro';
God does not promise sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain;
But God does promise strength for the day
Light for the darkness, rest for the way.
Peace after conflict, help from above,
Infinite tenderness, undying love.

Patience Strong.

Poem

This framed poem hangs in the vestry at East Budleigh. It was given to the minister there when leaving his former parish.

I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day,
I'd rather one would walk with me
Than merely show the way.

The eye is a better pupil
And more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing
But example's always clear

The best of all the preachers
Are the men who live their creeds.
For to see good put in action
Is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it
If you let me see it done,
I can watch your hands in action
But your tongue too fast may run.

The lectures you deliver
May be very wise and true.
But I'd rather get my lessons
By observing what you do.

I may not understand
The high advice that you may give
But there's no misunderstanding
How you act and how you live.

See Vol II P.34 Home Guard

Some Home Guard papers recently found.
Battalion Signal Code. (NOT TO BE PUBLISHED)

1 The Code consists of three letter groups made up as follows:-

FIRST letter shows to whom the message refers namely:
- I I (originator of message
- E Enemy
- U You (receiver of message.
- T They (referring to a third party (but not the enemy)

SECOND letter indicates the subject matter, namely:
- A Advancing
- B Bombing
- C Concentration or Closing
- F Firing
- H Held up
- L Located at
- M Moving to
- P in Position
- R Reconnoitring or Recce
- S Sending or Send
- T in Touch with
- W Withdrawing

THIRD letter indicates the sense viz:-
- A Affirmative
- N Negative
- Q Query

Special Signal:-
- SIT Report situation

2 A number of signals can be built up from a single subject letter, such as the following from the letter A (Advancing):

I A A I am advancing
I A N I am not advancing
I A Q Am I to advance?
E A A Enemy is advancing
E A N Enemy is not advancing
E A Q Is enemy advancing?
U A N You are not to advance
U A A You are to advance
U A Q Are you advancing

3 Other examples:-
U T Q B Are you in touch with B Coy?
C T H A C Coy are held up

4 Encoding and decoding is the duty of originators and addressees.
Three letter groups will be repeated back.

H.Q. 'C' (Honiton) Coy. D.H.G.
Nat. Provincial Bank Chambers
Honiton 8 Mar. 43. Ref. HB/1028.

To:- O.C. No 5 (Luppitt) Platoon
Subject:- Promotions.

The following promotions are approved:-

LUPPITT Batt. Pl.

Names
L/Cpl. FONE, D.R.D. to be Cpl. W.E.F. 8 Mar 43
L/Cpl. EWINS, S.C. to be Cpl W.E.F. 8 Mar 43
Pte. THORNE, H.J. to be L/Cpl W.E.F. 8 Mar 43
Pte. CHURCHILL, C. to be L/Cpl W.E.F. 8 Mar 43

BEACON Batt. Pl.

L/Cpl PERKINS, W.J. to be Cpl. W.E.F. 8 Mar 43
Pte MANLEY, A.E. to be L/Cpl W.E.F. 8 Mar 43

G. Summerfield Major
O.C. "C" (Honiton) Coy. D.H.G.

Copy to:- Sgt. SAGE
Sgt. HOOPER.

Subject: IMPORTANCE OF HOME GUARD —
PRIME MINISTER M/4/131
To: All Boys and Battle Platoons 17th NOV, 43

The Director General of the Home Guard has instructed that the information given below has the widest circulation.

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1/ The following is an extract from a Speech by the Prime minister at the Mansion House on 9th November, 1943.

"We cannot, however, exclude the possibility of new forms of attack upon this island. We have been vigilantly watching for many months past every sign of preparation for such attacks. Whatever happens they will not be of a nature to affect the final course of the war. But, should they come, they will certainly call for the utmost efficiency and devotion in our fire watchers and Home Guard, and also for a further display of the firmness and fortitude for which the British nation has won renown. This is no time to relax any of our precautions or discourage our splendid auxilary services.

2/ The following is the text of a question asked in the House of Commons on the 11th November, 1943, and the reply made by the Prime minister:

Question "To ask if the Prime minister if, in view of the recent increase in the number of air raids on this country and especially

on London, and the proximity of the enemy, he will make it clear that the duties of Home Guards and Fire Guards are still of great national importance and encourage them in the performance of these duties".

Reply by the Prime minister.

"Sir, His Majesty's Government attach the highest importance to the work of the Home Guard and Fire Guards who have played and continue to play so important a part in our Home Defence.

"In my speech at the Mansion House on Tuesday last I gave reasons why, in my opinion, this is no time to relax any of our precautions or discourage our auxiliary services. On the other hand I have asked that steps should be taken to ease up, as much as public safety allows, the strain upon efficient members of the Home Guard who are working long hours a day."

T W Rich Capt Adj
Lieut. Col.,
O.C. 19th (Seaton) Battn. Devon HG

Oaklands
Honiton

It would appear from the above printed circular that sometime between 8th March 1943 and 17th November 1943 there might have been a change of address. However as one message came from Coy. H.Q and the other from Battn H.Q they might not have been at the same address.