

PART C- ARMS AND AMMUNITION

The following rules have been framed by the Punjab Government for the guidance of officers dealing with arms, ammunition and military stores deposited in district *malkhanas*:-

RULES

1. A separate room in every district *malkhana* shall, if possible, be set apart for the deposit of arms, ammunition and military stores. Where such a separate room is used, it shall be kept under double lock, one key being retained by the officer of the headquarters staff responsible for the supervision of the *malkhana*, who is referred to in these rules as the "Nazarat Officer," and the other by the "District Nazir".

Nazarat Officer-
Separate room in
Malkhana under
double lock to be
provided for
custody of arms,
etc.

2. The Nazarat Officer shall be generally responsible for the supervision and disposal of arms, ammunition and military stores deposited in the *malkhana*. He shall compare the arms, ammunition and military stores in stock in the *malkhana* with the register prescribed by rule 4 once a month, and shall submit a report of this inspection to the District Magistrate by the 10th of each month.

Responsibility
of the Nazarat
Officer.

3. Subject to the control of the Nazarat Officer, the District Nazir, and not any of his assistants, shall be held personally responsible for the proper receipt, safe custody and disposal of all arms, ammunition and military stores.

Responsibility
of the District
Nazir.

4. Particulars of all arms, ammunition or military stores received in the *malkhana* shall at once be entered in register to be kept for this purpose, in addition to Miscellaneous Register F, in form I appended to these rules. On the receipt of any arms, ammunition or military stores, columns 1 to 13 shall forthwith be filled up, and the register shall then be submitted to the Nazarat Officer who, after satisfying himself as to the accuracy of the entries, shall place his initials in column 14.

Register of
Arms, etc.,
deposited in
Malkhana.

Return of arms,
etc., deposited
in the
Malkhana.

5. Arms, ammunition and military stores which have been deposited in the *malkhana*, and have not been forfeited to Government, shall be returned to the persons entitled to possess them in cases in which the deposit was made by a Court, under the orders in writing of that court and in other cases under the orders in writing of the Nazarat Officer. The return of all arms, ammunition and military stores under this rule shall take place in the presence of a Gazetted Officer, who shall be responsible for seeing that the relevant columns of the register are filled up.

Sale of arms,
etc. forfeited
and not ordered
to be destroyed.

6. All arms, ammunition and military stores which have been deposited in the *malkhana*, and have been forfeited to Government, and have not been ordered by a Court to be destroyed, may be sold under the orders in writing of the District Magistrate to persons entitled to possess them. A specific and distinct order must be passed with respect to the sale of each weapon or of each lot of ammunition or military stores proposed to be sold, and the sale price must be fixed by the District Magistrate unless the sale is to be by auction. In passing orders for the sale of arms, ammunition and military stores, the District Magistrate should remember that arms, ammunition and stores which can be utilized by the police or by any department under Government may be retained and brought into use with the sanction of the State Government, and should refer for orders any case in which it appears that it would be to the advantage of Government that the arms, ammunition or stores should be retained.

Magistrate
dealing with
administration of
the Indian Arms
Act to be
informed of the
sale.

7. The officer of the headquarters staff who, under the orders of the District Magistrate, deals in the first instance with questions relating to the administration of the Indian Arms Act, 1878, and of the rules thereunder, shall be informed of the sale of all arms, ammunition and military stores, and shall be furnished with a full description of the articles sold and with information as to the address of the purchaser.

8. All arms, ammunition and military stores which have been ordered by a court to be destroyed, or for the destruction of which the District Magistrate, after considering the possibility of their disposal under rule 5, has passed express orders, shall be dealt with as follows:-

Procedure for destruction of arms, ammunition and military stores.

(a) All rifled fire-arms and fire-barrels, pistols and revolvers shall be sent to the nearest Ordnance Officer, under proper precautions, to be broken up. The Nazarat Officer shall advise the Ordnance Officer concerned of the dispatch of such arms, and shall personally supervise their dispatch. He shall also inform the District Magistrate as soon as he has actually dispatched them, and shall, in due course, submit the receipt of the Ordnance Officer to the District Magistrate for his information.

(b) All arms, other than those referred to in clause (a) of this rule, ammunition and military stores shall be broken up or destroyed locally in the presence of the Nazarat Officer and the materials(if any) remaining shall be sold.

When the procedure prescribed by this rule has been completed, the relevant columns of the register shall be filled up. It is of great importance that the number of articles awaiting disposal under this rule should not be allowed to become excessive. Articles, the destruction of which has been ordered, should be kept as far as possible separate from the remainder of the arms, ammunition and military stores in the *malkhana*, and should be dispatched to the Arsenal or destroyed locally, as the case may be, at least once a month. A simple register of such articles should be kept in form II appended to these rules.

9. The register mentioned in rule 4 shall be an annual register. At the beginning of each year a new register shall be opened on to which all arms, ammunition and military stores lying in the *malkhana* shall be brought before

Register No. 1 to be opened a new every year. Its checking by the Nazarat Officer and the District Magistrate.

the 10th of January. The Nazarat Officer shall be personally responsible for seeing that all arms, ammunition and military stores not shown as disposed of in the previous year's register are in the *malkhana*, and he shall at once report if there is any deficiency. The District Magistrate shall, during the month of January, check the entries in the register with the arms in the *malkhana*, and, in order to satisfy himself that the register has been properly prepared, he shall examine a sufficient number of entries in the previous year's register. He shall specially arrange for the disposal of arms liable to sale or destruction if their number is excessive.

FORM I
(See rule 4)

REGISTER SHOWING ARMS, AMMUNITION AND MILITARY STORES IN THE *MALKHANA* AT _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
								FOR WHAT OBJECT RECEIV- ED						DATE OF DISPOSAL									
Serial No.	Date of receipt	Class of weapon	No. of weapon	Class and number of ammunition, or nature and quantity of military stores	From whom received	Under whose orders received	Name and address of owner (where known)	Destruction	Deposit	Date on which liable to forfeiture	Date on which liable to destruction	Initials of Receiving Officer	Initials of Nazarat Officer	Despatch to Arsenal	District Magistrate's sanction to sale and actual sale	Destruction	Restoration to owner	Signatures of despatcher	Signature of receiver, or date of receipt at Arsenal	Initials of Nazarat or Gazetted Officer in whose presence arms were returned to owner	Sale price with No. of chalan and date of despot in Treasury	REMARKS	

FORM II

(See rule 8)

REGISTER OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND MILITARY STORES, THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH HAS BEEN ORDERED

1	2	3	4	5	6
Serial No.	Reference to the serial number in the register in form I	Description of article	Date of despatch to Arsenal	Date of destruction	Initials of Nazarat Officer