

SMALL WARS MANUAL
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1940

+

CHAPTER VI
INFANTRY PATROLS



RESTRICTED

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1940

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Small Wars Manual, U. S. Marine Corps, 1940, is published in 15 chapters as follows:

- CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION.**
- II. ORGANIZATION.**
- III. LOGISTICS.**
- IV. TRAINING.**
- V. INITIAL OPERATIONS.**
- VI. INFANTRY PATROLS.**
- VII. MOUNTED DETACHMENTS.**
- VIII. CONVOYS AND CONVOY ESCORTS.**
- IX. AVIATION.**
- X. RIVER OPERATIONS.**
- XI. DISARMAMENT OF POPULATION.**
- XII. ARMED NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS.**
- XIII. MILITARY GOVERNMENT.**
- XIV. SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS.**
- XV. WITHDRAWAL.**

Restricted

SMALL WARS MANUAL
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

CHAPTER VI

INFANTRY PATROLS

	Par.	Page
SECTION I. SMALL WAR TACTICS.....	6- 1 to 6- 5	1- 3
II. ORDERS AND GENERAL IN- STRUCTIONS.....	6- 6 to 6- 8	5
III. ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL.....	6- 9 to 6-30	7-18
IV. FEEDING THE PERSONNEL.....	6-31 to 6-37	19-22
V. THE MARCH.....	6-38 to 6-56	23-25
VI. RECONNAISSANCE AND SECURITY.....	6-57 to 6-68	37-40
VII. LAYING AMBUSHES.....	6-69 to 6-74	41-44
VIII. ATTACKING AMBUSHES.....	6-75 to 6-79	45-49
IX. ATTACKING HOUSES AND SMALL BIVOUACS.....	6-80 to 6-82	51-52
X. STRATAGEMS AND RUSES.....	6-83 to 6-87	53-54
XI. RIVER CROSSINGS.....	6-88 to 6-97	55-66
XII. SPECIAL OPERATIONS.....	6-98 to 6-99	67-68

SECTION I

SMALL WAR TACTICS

	Par.	Page
Tactics during initial phases.....	6-1	1
Tactics during later phases.....	6-2	1
Influence of terrain.....	6-3	2
The principle of the offensive.....	6-4	2
The principles of mass, movement, surprise, and security.....	6-5	2

6-1. Tactics during initial phases.—During the initial phases of intervention, when the landing and movement inland may be opposed by comparatively large, well led, organized, and equipped hostile forces, the tactics employed are generally those of a force of similar strength and composition engaged in major warfare. If a crushing defeat can be inflicted upon those forces, the immediate cessation of armed opposition may result. This is seldom achieved. Usually the hostile forces will withdraw as a body into the more remote parts of the country, or will be dispersed into numerous small groups which continue to oppose the occupation. Even though the recognized leaders may capitulate, subordinate commanders often refuse to abide by the terms of capitulation. Escaping to the hinterland, they assemble heterogeneous armed groups of patriotic soldiers, malcontents, notorious outlaws, and impressed civilians, and, by means of guerrilla warfare, continue to harass and oppose the intervening force in its attempt to restore peace and good order throughout the country as a whole.

6-2. Tactics during later phases.—To combat such action, the intervening force must resort to typical small war operations, with numerous infantry patrols and outposts dispersed over a wide area, in order to afford the maximum protection to the peaceful inhabitants of the country and to seek out and destroy the hostile groups. The tactics of such infantry patrols are basically the military methods, principles, and doctrines of minor tactics, as prescribed in the manuals pertaining to the combat principles of the units concerned. The majority of contacts in small wars is in the nature of ambushes, or surprise-meeting engagements, in which the various subdivisions of a small patrol may be brought almost simultaneously under the opening hostile fire. This prevents the normal development and deployment

of the command for combat. In larger patrols, however, most of the main body may escape the initial burst of fire and consequently may be developed and deployed for combat from the march column in an orthodox manner.

6-3. Influence of terrain.—The tactics employed by patrols in combat over open terrain are, in general, the same as those in open warfare operations in a major war. Since open terrain is more advantageous to regular troops than to irregulars, the latter usually try to avoid combat under these conditions. As a result, infantry patrols engaged in the later phases of small wars operations generally must cope with the military problems encountered in combat in mountainous, wooded terrain, with the attendant limited visibility and lack of centralized control. These tactics are analogous to those prescribed in training manuals for combat in wooded areas in major warfare.

6-4. The principle of the offensive.—So long as there is armed opposition to the occupation, the intervening force must maintain the principle of the offensive. If it adopts a defensive attitude by garrisoning only the more important cities and towns without accompanying combat patrols throughout the theater of operations, minor opposition to the force will soon increase to alarming proportions. A guerrilla leader, if unmolested in his activities, creates the impression among the native population that the intervening forces are inferior to him; recruits flock to his standard, and the rapid pacification of the country will be jeopardized. Such hostile groups will seldom openly attack the regular garrisons, but will pillage defenseless towns, molest the peaceful citizenry, and interfere with the systems of supply and communication of the force of occupation. The latter must, therefore, adopt an aggressive attitude in order to seek out, capture, destroy, or disperse the hostile groups and drive them from the country. (See also Section II, Chapter I, "Psychology.")

6-5. The principles of mass, movement, surprise, and security.—
a. Mass.—In nearly every engagement, the hostile groups will outnumber the infantry patrols opposed to them. This superiority in numbers must be overcome by increased fire power through the proper employment of better armament, superior training and morale, and development of the spirit of the offensive.

b. Movement.—Infantry patrols of the intervening force must develop mobility equal to that of the opposing forces. The guerrilla groups must be continually harassed by patrols working throughout the theater of operation.

SMALL WAR TACTICS

c. Surprise.—Surprise is achieved by varying the route, dates, and hours of departure of combat patrols, by mobility, and by stratagems and ruses. The intelligence system of the guerrillas decreases in proportion to the mobility and number of patrols employed in the theater of operations.

d. Security.—The tendency of the force to relax its service of security during the later phases of small war operations must be carefully guarded against. Security on the march and at rest must be constantly enforced throughout the entire period of occupation.

SECTION II

ORDERS AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

	Par.	Page
Written orders.....	6-6	5
Verbal orders.....	6-7	5
General instructions.....	6-8	5

6-6. Written orders.—Whenever possible, orders to a patrol leader should be issued in writing. This is especially true when several patrols are operating simultaneously in the same general area. The patrol leader must assure himself that he understands the orders issued to him. Subordinate leaders and the other members of the patrol should be thoroughly informed of such parts of the order as will enable them to carry out the mission of the particular patrol, and of the force as a whole. For the purpose of secrecy it is sometimes necessary to limit the information imparted to individual members of the patrol. Written orders follow the general form of a regular operation order.

6-7. Verbal orders.—Because of the nature of small war operations, verbal orders will be issued to patrol leaders more frequently than written orders. Such verbal orders should be as complete as the situation permits, and will follow the general form of an operations order. Patrol leaders should reduce to writing any verbal orders or verbal modifications of written orders received.

6-8. General instructions.—The force commander should publish, in the form of general instructions, the policies which will govern the action of patrols in the theater of operations in regard to the following:

- a.* Firing upon suspicious individuals or groups before being fired upon.
- b.* Firing upon guerrillas accompanied by women and children.
- c.* The seizure of property and foodstuffs for the benefit of the patrol or to prevent its use by hostile forces.
- d.* The destruction of houses.
- e.* The destruction of crops which may be of value to the hostile forces.
- f.* Other pertinent instructions regarding general policy.

SECTION III

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

	Par.	Page
Definition.....	6- 9	7
Factors which govern its organization.....	6-10	8
Size of the patrol.....	6-11	8
Permanent roving patrols.....	6-12	9
Selections of units.....	6-13	9
Elimination of the physically unfit.....	6-14	10
Patrol and subordinate leaders.....	6-15	10
The rifle squad.....	6-16	10
The headquarters section.....	6-17	11
Attached units.....	6-18	11
Guides and interpreters.....	6-19	11
Native transport personnel.....	6-20	12
Native troops.....	6-21	12
Prominent native civilians.....	6-22	12
Transportation.....	6-23	13
Weapons.....	6-24	13
Ammunition.....	6-25	14
Signal equipment.....	6-26	15
Medical supplies.....	6-27	15
Miscellaneous equipment.....	6-28	15
Personal clothing and accessories.....	6-29	16
General preparations.....	6-30	17

6-9. **Definition.**—An infantry patrol is a detachment of infantry troops dispatched from a garrison, camp, or column with the mission of visiting designated areas for combat or for other purposes. It is a military unit disposed in such a manner that its various subdivisions are in suitable formations to engage the enemy immediately after contact is made. In general, the infantry patrol in a small war differs from one in a major war in the following respects:

- a.* It is larger.
- b.* It is more capable of independent action.
- c.* It operates at greater distances, in miles and hours of marching, from its base or supporting troops; a distance of 50 miles or more is not uncommon.
- d.* It conducts its operations for a longer period of time; missions of 10 days or more duration are not unusual.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

e. It is often encumbered by a proportionately large combat train.

6-10. **Factors which govern its organization.**—Some of the factors that govern the size and composition of an infantry patrol in a small war are:

a. Mission.

b. Information of the hostile forces.

c. The probability of combat.

d. Strength and armament of the enemy.

e. Nature of the terrain, with particular reference to its effect on the formation and length of the column, the number of men required on service of security, and the work to be done, such as cutting trails.

f. Proximity of friendly troops.

g. Aviation support, including reconnaissance, liaison, combat support, transportation of supplies and personnel, evacuation of wounded.

h. Personnel available for assignment to the patrol, their efficiency and armament.

i. Native troops available, their efficiency and armament.

j. Native nonmilitary personnel available, such as guides, interpreters, and transportation personnel.

k. Time and distance involved.

l. Problem of supply.

m. Methods of communication.

The above factors are considered in the estimate of the situation which precedes the organization of any patrol.

6-11. **Size of the patrol.**—*a. General.*—The patrol should be large enough to defeat any enemy force that it can reasonably expect to encounter in the field. It should be able to assume the defensive and successfully withstand hostile attacks while awaiting reinforcement if it encounters enemy forces of unexpected strength. It is desirable to keep the patrol as small as is consistent with the accomplishment of its mission. The larger the patrol the more difficult its control in combat, the more complicated its supply problems, and the more it sacrifices in the way of concealment and secrecy of movement.

b. Effect of mission.—The mission assigned an infantry patrol in a small war, such as reconnaissance, security, liaison, convoy, and combat, is analogous to the corresponding mission in major warfare, and will affect the strength of the patrol. In some situations it will be desirable to have the patrol sufficiently large to establish a temporary or permanent base in the theater of operations from which it can maintain one or more combat patrols in the field.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

c. Effect of terrain.—The nature of the terrain in which the patrol will operate has a marked influence on its size and composition. In fairly open country, with roads available which permit the use of normal distances within the column, a reenforced rifle company or larger organizations can operate with reasonable control and battle efficiency. In mountainous, wooded terrain, where the column must march in single file over narrow, winding trails, the reenforced rifle platoon with its combat train has been found to be the largest unit that can be controlled effectively on the march and in combat. It is the basic combat unit in the later phases of small war operations. If, in such terrain, the situation requires a stronger patrol than a reenforced rifle platoon, it is advisable to divide the column into combat groups equivalent to a platoon, marching over the same route and within supporting distance (5 to 15 minutes) of each other. Liaison should be established between the rear leading patrols and head of the following patrol during halts and at prearranged time intervals during the day's march.

6-12. **Permanent roving patrols.**—It is sometimes desirable to organize a few permanent combat patrols with roving commissions throughout the theater of operations, irrespective of area boundaries or other limitations. These patrols should be as lightly equipped as possible commensurate with their tasks. Authority should be granted them to secure from the nearest outpost or garrison such replacements of personnel, animals, equipment, and rations as may be required. Aviation is normally their main source of supply while in the field.

6-13. **Selection of units.**—*a. Permanent organizations.*—Whenever possible, an infantry patrol should be composed of personnel permanently assigned to organized units, such as a squad, platoon, or company. This applies also to attached machine-gun units or other supporting weapons.

b. Hastily organized patrols.—In the rapidly changing situations encountered in wars, the operations may require the simultaneous movement of more patrols than can be furnished by a single organization. In some instances, two or more units from different posts will be combined into a single patrol for an emergency operation. Other situations will require that supply train escorts and special duty men be relieved and made available for patrol duty. The result of this pressing need for men is the intermingling of personnel from several different organizations, whose individual combat efficiency is unknown to the patrol leaders, or to one another. Although such hastily organized patrols should be avoided whenever possible, they are often necessary.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

6-14. Elimination of the physically unfit.—Men who are physically unfit for duty in the field or whose presence would hinder the operations of a patrol should be eliminated from the organization. They include the following:

a. Those who have been recently ill, and especially those who have recently had malaria, dysentery, jaundice, or a venereal disease.

b. Those suffering from deformities or diseases of the feet, particularly flatfoot, hammertoes, bunions, corns, or severe trichophytosis (athlete's foot).

c. The old or fat, or those of obviously poor physique from any cause.

d. The neurotic or mentally unstable; and the alcohol addicts.

6-15. Patrol and subordinate leader.—*a.* Officers and noncommissioned officers assigned to the theater of active operations in small wars will generally command smaller elements than those assigned to them in major warfare, for the following reasons:

(1) A patrol on an independent mission is usually far removed from the direction and control of more experienced superiors.

(2) The suddenness with which action may break, and the necessity for rapid and practical employment of all the small elements in the patrol. An officer or experienced noncommissioned officer should be with each small group to facilitate its control during combat. This is especially true in wooded terrain where the limited visibility and short battle ranges usually restrict the patrol leader's control over the situation to his immediate vicinity.

(3) The possible dispersion of the troops in column at the moment of contact, and in the subsequent attack and assault.

(4) The possibility that the troops are not thoroughly trained.

b. Two commissioned officers should accompany every rifle platoon assigned to an independent combat mission. If this cannot be done, the second in command must be an experienced, capable, senior noncommissioned officer who is in addition to the regular complement. This requirement is necessary to insure a continuity of effort in the event the patrol leader becomes a casualty. The normal complement of officers is usually sufficient if the combat patrol consists of two or more rifle platoons combined under one commander.

6-16. The rifle squad.—Wherever possible, the rifle squad is employed in small wars in the same manner as in major warfare. In many situations in small war operations, however, it will be desirable to divide the squad into two combat teams of four or five men each, one of which is commanded by the corporal, the other by the second

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

in command. Such combat teams can be profitably employed as the point for a combat patrol in close country, as flank patrols, and for reconnaissance or other security missions. In thickly wooded terrain, it is often impossible for the corporal to maintain control over the entire squad in combat. Under such conditions, the two combat teams must fight as independent units until the situation or better visibility permits the corporal to regain direction and control of the squad as a whole. Automatic and special weapons within the squad should be equally divided between the combat teams.

6-17. **The headquarters section.**—*a.* The headquarters section of a combat patrol, consisting of a rifle platoon or reenforced rifle platoon, must be augmented by certain personnel who are not organically assigned to it. Such personnel includes one or more competent cooks, a medical officer or one or more qualified hospital corpsmen, and a radioman when the patrol is equipped with a portable radio.

b. If the hostile forces are not complying with the "Rules of Land Warfare," the medical personnel should be armed for self-defense.

6-18. **Attached units.**—In the future, most combat patrols of the strength of a rifle platoon or more, operating in hostile areas, probably will be reenforced by attached supporting weapons. With the adoption of the semi-automatic rifle as the standard infantry arm or as a replacement for the Browning automatic rifle, a light machine gun squad or section and a 60-mm. mortar squad or section would appear to be appropriate units to accompany a rifle platoon assigned a combat mission. These organized units should be attached to the platoon from the headquarters platoon of the rifle company. A combat patrol consisting of a rifle company may require the support of a heavy machine gun section or platoon and an 81-mm. mortar squad or section. These should be attached to the company as intact units from the appropriate organizations of the battalion or regiment. (For further details, see Section III, Chapter II, "Organization.")

6-19. **Guides and interpreters.**—*a.* Native officials and foreign residents are usually helpful in securing reliable guides and interpreters whenever their employment is necessary. Local inhabitants who have suffered injury from the hostile forces and those having members of their families who have so suffered, often volunteer their services for such duty. The integrity of these men must be tested in the field before they can be considered entirely reliable and trustworthy. In many cases, their employment in any capacity makes them subject to hostile reprisal measures and the intervening force must assume responsibility for their protection.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

b. Troops assigned to combat operations should learn the terrain and trails within their sectors, and gain a working knowledge of the local language as quickly as possible so that they may dispense with the employment of native guides and interpreters insofar as the situation permits.

6-20. **Native transport personnel.**—In most situations, the employment of native porters (carriers), muleteers, or other transport personnel will be required with each combat patrol. For further details, see Chapter III, "Logistics."

6-21. **Native troops.**—*a.* When native troops are available, they may be included in the patrol. In addition to their combat duties, they will, if properly indoctrinated, do much to establish friendly relations between the peaceful inhabitants and the intervening force.

b. Native troops are especially valuable for reconnaissance and security missions. They will notice and correctly interpret those signs which indicate the presence of the enemy much more quickly and surely than will the average member of a foreign force unaccustomed to the country.

c. Work and guard duty must be divided and distributed proportionally between the regular forces and native troops, and friction between the two organizations must be avoided.

6-22. **Prominent native civilians.**—*a.* It is sometimes advisable to include prominent native civilians or government officials in the patrol. They can do much to explain the mission of the intervening forces in the community, spread the gospel of peace, friendly relations, and cooperation, and counter the propaganda of the enemy. The natives of the community are all potential enemies and many will become actively hostile if they are not convinced of the true objective of the occupation.

b. If political alignments and hatreds are virile in the area, the patrol leader must be very circumspect in the choice of civilians and government officials who accompany the patrol. If the patrol is suspected of political partisanship, the problems of pacification may be intensified.

c. Frequently prominent and well-informed civilians will furnish valuable information, provided their identity is not disclosed and they are not required to act as guides or otherwise openly associate themselves with the intervening force. Their wishes should be respected in order to gain their confidence and obtain the information which they possess.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

6-23. **Transportation.**—*a.* The means and amount of transportation included in an infantry patrol will influence its composition, its mobility, the length of time that it can stay away from its base, and its combat efficiency. In general, infantry patrols should carry only the minimum equipment and supplies necessary to accomplish their mission. The more nearly they can approach the hostile forces in this respect, the more efficient they will become in the field. It is a common failing for troops engaged in small war operations to decrease their mobility by transporting too much equipment and too many varied, desirable but nonessential supplies.

b. The principal means of transportation employed by infantry patrols include:

- (1) All or part of the equipment and supplies carried on the person.
- (2) Native porters.
- (3) Riding and pack animals.
- (4) Airplanes for evacuation of the wounded and supply by plane drops.
- (5) Motor transport.

c. In hot, tropical climates, the personnel should not be required to carry packs if it can be avoided. The weight of the rations which troops can transport in addition to their equipment will limit the range of a combat patrol unless it can subsist almost entirely off the country. On the other hand, a reconnaissance patrol whose members are inured to the local fare can often accomplish its mission more successfully if it is not encumbered with a train.

d. For further details concerning transportation, see Chapter III, "Logistics," and Chapter IX, "Aviation."

6-24. **Weapons.**—*a.* The weapons carried by an infantry patrol will normally be those organically assigned to the squad, platoon, or company, plus attached units of supporting weapons if the situation indicates the necessity therefor.

b. If the rifle units are completely equipped with the semi-automatic rifle, the inclusion of any full shoulder weapon in each squad is not warranted. If the basic arm in the patrol is the bolt-action rifle, the armament of each squad should include two semi-automatic, or two Browning automatic rifles, or one of each. This proportion of automatic shoulder weapons to bolt-action rifles should rarely, if ever, be exceeded. Ammunition supply in small wars operations is a difficult problem. Volume of fire can seldom replace accuracy of fire in a small war. The morale of guerrilla forces is little affected by the loss of a particular position, but it is seriously

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

affected by the number of casualties sustained in combat. The majority of the personnel in an infantry patrol should be armed, therefore, with weapons that are capable of delivering deliberate, aimed, accurate fire rather than with weapons whose chief characteristic is the delivery of a great volume of fire. The automatic weapons should be utilized to protect the exposed flanks, or to silence hostile automatic weapons.

c. Whether or not the bayonet is included in the armament of the patrol depends upon the terrain, the nature of the particular operation, the training of the men, and the opinion of the patrol leader. In jungle terrain, the bayonet impedes the movement of the individuals both on the march and when deployed for combat by snagging on vines and the dense underbrush; it is doubtful if it can be used effectively, even in the assault, in such terrain. In fairly open country, the bayonet should be carried and employed as in regular warfare. It is an essential weapon in night attacks. The bayonet is practically useless in the hands of untrained troops who have no confidence in it; it is a very effective weapon in small war operations when employed by troops who have been thoroughly trained in its use.

d. For further details regarding infantry weapons, see Section III, Chapter II, "Organization."

6-25. **Ammunition.**—*a.* In past small war operations, the average expenditure of small arms ammunition for a single engagement has seldom exceeded 50 rounds for each person in the patrol. There have been a very few instances where the expenditure has slightly exceeded 100 rounds per person. It is believed that the following is a reasonable basis for the quantities of ammunition to be carried for each type of weapon with infantry patrols assigned a combat mission in small war operations:

(1) *On the person*—the full capacity of the belt or other carrier issued to the individual.

(2) *In the combat train*— $\frac{1}{2}$ unit of fire.

These quantities should be modified as dictated by experience or as indicated by the situation confronting a particular patrol.

b. Emergency replacements of some types of ammunition can be dropped by plane.

c. If the regular ammunition containers are too heavy for the means of transportation in the combat train, the ammunition is repacked and the individual loads made lighter.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

d. Cartridge belts and other carriers with the patrol must be in perfect condition to prevent the loss of ammunition.

6-26. **Signal equipment.**—*a.* The following signal equipment must be taken with every patrol:

- (1) Airplane panels, Codes, and pick-up equipment.
- (2) Pyrotechnics.

b. The following signal equipment should be carried with the patrol when it is available:

- (1) Portable radio.
- (2) Other special equipment demanded by the situation or the use of which can be foreseen. (See Section III, Chapter II, "Organization.")

6-27. **Medical supplies.**—*a.* The patrol leader, in conjunction with the medical personnel, must assure himself of the sufficiency of his medical equipment and supplies. If charity medical work among the native inhabitants is anticipated, additional supplies must be provided for that purpose.

b. Besides the regular medical kit carried by the hospital corpsman, reserve supplies should be made up into several assorted kits distributed throughout the column.

c. Sufficient ampoules should be carried for chlorination of water for the duration of the patrol. The Lyster bag, if carried, should be carefully inspected for leaks, particularly at the taps, and should be cleaned and dried. Four to six yards of muslin for straining trash from the water should be provided. The bag should be rolled and stowed so that it will not chafe in carrying.

d. A few "sanitubes" should be carried for prophylaxis and for the treatment of certain skin diseases.

e. Several additional first aid packets, tubes of iodine, and a small roll of adhesive should be carried with patrols to which medical personnel is not attached.

f. Preparations to carry the wounded must be made before the patrol leaves the garrison. In addition to the methods described in Chapter 14, "Landing Force Manual," USN, the canvas field cot cover is easily carried and can be quickly converted into a stretcher in the field.

6-28. **Miscellaneous equipment.**—Such of the following articles as may be necessary should be carried with the patrol:

a. Native machetes, for cutting trails, forage, firewood, fields of fire, and material for bivouac shelters.

b. Matches in waterproof containers, flashlights, candles, and a lantern for the mess force.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

c. A quantity of hemp rope to assist the patrol in crossing dangerous streams. It can be stretched across the stream and used as a hand hold while crossing, or it can be used in building an improvised raft.

d. Entrenching tools or larger engineering tools as demanded by the situation.

e. A horse-shoer's kit, if the number of animals with the patrol makes it advisable.

6-29. **Personal clothing and accessories.**—*a. General.*—The personal clothing and accessories worn or carried by the patrol must be reduced to the minimum consistent with the length of time the patrol will be absent from its base, and the climate and season of the year. Clothing should be in good condition when the patrol leaves its base. It is better to rely on airplane supply for necessary replacements in the field than to overburden the patrol with too much impedimenta. Superfluous articles will increase the transportation problems, and decrease the quantities of essential ammunition and rations which can be carried. Personal comfort and appearance must always be of secondary importance as compared with the efficient accomplishment of the assigned mission. Officers should fare no better in these respects than the enlisted men of the organization. The inclusion of officers' bedding rolls, field cots, and similar equipment is unwarranted in patrols operating from a base in the theater of operations.

b. Clothing worn by troops.—Shoes should fit properly, be broken in, and in good condition. New shoes, though of the correct size, will usually give trouble on the march. Socks should be clean, free from holes and darns. Flannel shirts, which absorb perspiration, rain, and water freely, and still afford warmth and protection at night, are preferable to cotton khaki shirts even in the tropics. The scarf should not be worn. The value of canvas leggings in the field is questionable. The woolen sock pulled over the bottom of the trouser leg is a satisfactory substitute.

c. Clothing and accessories carried in the pack.—The following articles are considered reasonable quantities to be carried in the pack or roll of each individual with a patrol operating in a warm climate:

(1) A shelter-half, poncho, or light native hammock, depending upon the nature of the terrain, the season of the year, and the personal decision of the patrol leader. The shelter-half can be dispensed with if materials are available in the field for the construction of lean-to shelters. In this case, the poncho is utilized as a cover for the pack or roll. The poncho is primarily useful as protection

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL

from the damp ground while sleeping at night. It interferes with movement of an individual if worn on the march, and is a distinct impediment if worn in combat. The hammock has many advantages, but it is bulky and adds considerable weight to the pack or roll. During the rainy season, two of these articles may be desirable. If the shelter-half is carried, the tent pole and pins are included when necessary.

(2) One blanket.

(3) A mosquito net is desirable in malarious countries. It is bulky and quite heavy. Some combat patrols in past operations in tropical countries did not carry the net in the field and did not incur any apparent harmful consequences.

(4) One change of underwear.

(5) At least two pairs of woolen socks; four pairs are recommended, if the patrol is to operate for 2 weeks or longer.

(6) One change of outer clothing.

(7) Toilet articles: soap, small bath towel, tooth brush and powder or paste, comb, and mirror. A razor, shaving brush, and shaving soap may be carried, although they are not considered essential items.

(8) Tobacco, as desired.

(9) Toilet paper, a small quantity to be carried by each individual, the remainder with the mess equipment.

d. Personal cleanliness.—A bath should be taken and soiled clothing should be washed as frequently as opportunity affords. Simply soaking clothes in water, wringing them out, and permitting them to dry in the sun, is better than not washing them at all.

6-30. **General preparations.**—Prior to clearing its base, the patrol leader of an infantry patrol personally verifies or arranges for such of the following as may be pertinent to the particular situation:

a. Aviation; support.—

(1) Liaison, reconnaissance, and combat support.

(2) Regular and emergency supply by plane.

b. Information.—

(1) A personal airplane reconnaissance over the area, if practicable.

(2) A map or sketch of the area, including the route or alternate routes to be followed. A rude sketch, however, inaccurate, is better than none.

(3) Airplane photographs of villages and important terrain features, such as stream crossings, possible or former ambush positions, etc., if practicable.

ORGANIZING THE INFANTRY PATROL.

(4) The condition of the roads and trails, the attitude of the local inhabitants, and the possible food supply.

c. Inspection of.—

(1) Men; individual, combat, communications, and medical supplies and equipment; and animals, pack, and riding equipment.

(2) Cleaning materials for the weapons, especially oil for automatic arms.

d. Liaison with.—

(1) Native officials, when desirable.

(2) Native troops, or other persons not of the command, who are to accompany the patrol.

(3) Other friendly patrols operating in the area.

e. Employment of.—Native transportation personnel, intelligence agents, guides, and interpreters.

f. Money, in small denominations, for the purchase of supplies, emergency transportation, and information. In some countries, articles such as soap, salt, tobacco, etc., which are expensive and difficult to obtain locally, are more acceptable to the natives than money.

SECTION IV

FEEDING THE PERSONNEL

	Par.	Page
Responsibility of patrol leader.....	6-31	19
Mess equipment.....	6-32	19
Weight of rations.....	6-33	20
The field ration.....	6-34	21
Butchering on the march.....	6-35	22
Feeding native personnel.....	6-36	22
Emergency rations.....	6-37	22

6-31. **Responsibility of patrol leader.**—The patrol leader should confer with the mess officer at the garrison or base from which the patrol will operate, and, in conjunction with the patrol's mess sergeant or cooks, determine what suitable foodstuffs are available for the patrol. Also, he must decide what kitchen equipment is required and procure it. Written menus for breakfast and supper for each day of the proposed operations are prepared. It is not desirable to make midday halts for the purpose of cooking a meal, although it may be desirable in some situations to prepare cold lunches which may be issued to the men prior to breaking camp in the morning. Based on these menus, a check-off list of the necessary rations is prepared, the rations drawn and carefully verified before loading. Thereafter, the rations are issued as required and notations made on the check-off list. The rations remaining in the train should be inventoried periodically while the patrol is in the field. Canned goods should be inspected for swelling of the top due to deterioration of the contents, for leaks, and for bad dents. Such cans should be rejected, or destroyed.

6-32. **Mess equipment.**—*a.* The amount of mess equipment carried by the patrol should be reduced to a minimum.

b. The cavalry pack kitchen is satisfactory for a large patrol which includes pack animals. The complete unit less hangers for the Phillips pack saddle, weighs 118 pounds and constitutes one pack load. It is adequate for feeding 200 men in the field. Patrols of between fifty and one hundred men can eliminate unnecessary pieces. It is questionable whether a patrol of less than 50 men should carry it.

c. If a regular pack kitchen unit is not used, issue or improvised cooking equipment will have to be provided. The following points are pertinent:

FEEDING THE PERSONNEL

(1) Although G. I. buckets are seldom used for cooking in garrison, they are useful for that purpose in the field. They can be set on a fire or suspended over it. They nest well and do not rattle if leaves or similar materials are packed between them.

(2) In comparison with tin boilers, buckets, and roasting pans, large iron kettles are not so fragile, do not burn food so quickly, hold heat better, can be used for frying, and pack better. Packed, one on each side of the animal, they can carry the cooked or uncooked foodstuffs necessary for the evening meal, thus expediting its preparation. Suitable iron kettles can generally be purchased locally in the theater of operations.

(3) A small metal grill about 2 feet square and fitted with four collapsible legs facilitates cooking in the field.

d. During rainy weather or in areas where many streams have to be forded, some provision must be made to protect such foodstuffs as sugar, salt, flour, coffee, etc. Bags made of canvas, leather, or of canvas material coated with rubber, and tarpaulins or pieces of canvas, have been used successfully in the past.

e. When a patrol is to be made into unfamiliar country where the existence of an adequate water supply is doubtful, drinking water may have to be transported in the train. 5-gallon cans may be used for this purpose in the absence of specially designed equipment.

f. A limited amount of soap should be carried as an aid in cleansing the cooking equipment.

6-33. **Weight of rations.**—*a.* The aggregate weight of the rations carried by a patrol is influenced by:

- (1) Number of men in the patrol.
- (2) Native foodstuffs available in the field.
- (3) Issue foodstuffs available.
- (4) Rations to be supplied by plane drop.
- (5) Replenishments expected from outposts and other garrisons in the area.
- (6) The ability of the cooks.
- (7) The ability of the personnel to adjust themselves to diminished rations.
- (8) The method of transport and the predetermined size of the combat train.

b. The normal field ration weighs approximately 3 pounds. The normal garrison ration weighs about 4 pounds. The average pack animal found in most small-wars countries can carry 30 man-day garrison rations, computed on the assumption that no foodstuffs can

FEEDING THE PERSONNEL

be procured in the field, 40 man-day complete field rations, or 50 reduced field rations.

6-34. **The field ration.**—*a.* Every effort should be made to build up the supply of rations at the advanced patrol bases and outposts until they approach or equal the normal garrison ration in quantity and variety. A patrol operating from those bases, should never carry more, and may often carry less, than the components of the field ration, modified in accordance with the probable foodstuffs which can be obtained in the area. Emphasis should be placed on those articles which give the greatest return in food value for the bulk and weight carried, and the ease with which they can be transported. This may not result in a "balanced" ration, but the deficiencies encountered in the field can be compensated for upon the return of the patrol to its base. The general tendency of troops is to carry too great a variety and too large a quantity of foodstuffs with patrols in the field. Man should become accustomed to the native fare as quickly as possible. If properly led, they will soon learn that they can subsist quite well and operate efficiently on much less than the regular garrison ration. This is a matter of training and is influenced in a large measure by the attitude of the patrol leaders and other commissioned and noncommissioned officers.

b. The prescribed field ration is approximately as follows:

<i>Component articles</i>	<i>Substitute articles</i>
1 pound hard bread.....	1¼ fresh bread, or 1½ pounds flour.
1 pound tinned.....	1¼ pounds salt meat, or 1¼ pounds smoked meat, or 1¾ pounds fresh meat, or 1¾ pounds fresh fish, or 1¾ pounds poultry.
¾ pound tinned vegetables.....	1¾ pounds fresh vegetables, or 3 gills beans or peas, or ½ pound rice or other cereal.
2 ounces coffee.....	2 ounces cocoa, or ½ ounce tea.
1 ounce evaporated milk.....	¼ quart fresh milk.
Salt and pepper.	

c. Suitable foodstuffs from the regular issue include: rice, rolled oats, hominy grits, dry beans, canned pork and beans, corned beef hash, salmon, corned beef, chipped beef, bacon, Vienna sausage, hard bread, dried fruits, cheese, sugar, coffee, tea, evaporated or dried milk, salt, black pepper, and limited amounts of canned potatoes and vegetables. In general, canned and fresh fruits should not be carried.

FEEDING THE PERSONNEL

Small sized cans are usually preferable to the larger sizes for issue to patrols. Generally a combat patrol should carry such foodstuffs that not more than one component, other than tea or coffee, requires cooking for each meal in order to reduce the number of cooking utensils to be carried and the time of preparation in the field.

d. Native foodstuffs sometimes found in inhabited areas include: beef on the hoof, fish, chickens, eggs, beans, rice, corn, coffee, and fruits and vegetables in season. To these may be added such wild game as may be killed by the patrol. If hostile groups are active in the area, the available supply of native food will be limited.

6-35. **Butchering on the march.**—*a.* Each patrol operating in the field should include a man familiar with the killing and dressing of livestock and game. If the patrol is dependent upon the country for its meat supply, suitable stock should be procured during the day's march unless it is definitely known that the desired animals will be available at or near the bivouac.

b. The animal should be butchered in such a manner that it will bleed profusely. It should be dressed, cut-up, and cooked while it is still warm. Meat cooked after rigor mortis has set in will be tough unless it is cooked in a solution of vinegar or acetic acid, or allowed to season for at least 24 hours. Excess beef may be barbecued and utilized the following day.

6-36. **Feeding native personnel.**—Native personnel attached to patrols may provide their own food and cooking arrangements. In certain situations they may be given a cash allowance which will permit them to eat with the local inhabitants. When circumstances require them to subsist with the patrol, they should receive their proportionate share of the available food. If the patrol is living off the country, equitable treatment given to the natives attached to the patrol will usually be more than repaid by their foraging ability and by assistance in preparing palatable dishes out of the foodstuffs which are indigenous to the locality.

6-37. **Emergency rations.**—Either a specially prepared, commercial emergency ration, or one composed of available materials, should be issued to each individual and carried on the person at all times while operating in the field. This ration should be eaten only on the orders of a responsible commander, or as a last resort if an individual becomes separated from his patrol. Frequent inspections should be made to insure troops are complying with these instructions.

SECTION V
THE MARCH

	Par.	Page
General.....	6-38	23
Hour of starting.....	6-39	23
Rate of march.....	6-40	23
Factors influencing march formations.....	6-41	24
Influence of terrain on march formation.....	6-42	25
Road spaces.....	6-43	25
Location of patrol and subordinate leaders in march formation.....	6-44	26
Location of the combat train.....	6-45	26
Descriptive march formations.....	6-46	26
March formations for a reenforced rifle company.....	6-47	27
March formations for a reenforced rifle platoon.....	6-48	29
March formation for a rifle platoon.....	6-49	30
March formation for a rifle squad.....	6-50	31
March discipline.....	6-51	31
March outposts.....	6-52	32
Camp sites.....	6-53	32
Making camp.....	6-54	33
Shelter.....	6-55	33
Bivouac beds.....	6-56	34

6-38. **General.**—The conduct of marches will vary considerably with the condition of the men, their state of training, the condition of the roads or trails, the climate, the weather, the tactical situation, and various other factors. Whenever it can be avoided, the men should not arrive at their destination in a state of exhaustion.

6-39. **Hour of starting.**—In small wars, breakfast usually should be served at dawn, animals fed and watered, camp broken, packs assembled and loaded, and the march begun as soon after daylight as possible. The march should begin slowly in order to warm up the men and animals, and to permit packs and equipment to settle and adjust themselves to both personnel and animals.

6-40. **Rate of march.**—*a.* The first halt should be made not later than three-quarters of an hour after the start, and should be of about 15 minutes duration, so that the men can adjust their equipment, check and tighten the pack loads in the train, and attend to the calls of nature.

b. Under normal conditions, troops usually halt 10 minutes every hour after the first halt. This cannot be accepted as doctrine in

THE MARCH

small wars operations, in which the rate of march is dependent upon the state of training and efficiency within the combat train. The column must be kept closed up at all times. Liaison should be constantly maintained throughout the column by word of mouth. Whenever a pack needs readjustment, or an animal becomes bogged in some mudhole, or any other delay occurs within the column, a halt should be called until the defect is remedied and the patrol ready to move forward as a body. If the regulation 50 minute march, 10 minute halt schedule is maintained, even a small patrol may become so elongated that several miles will separate the head and tail of the column at the end of the day's march. As the men become trained in such operations, forced halts will become more infrequent and of shorter duration, and the normal march schedule may be achieved. To avoid disaster, however, it is essential that liaison be maintained throughout the entire length of the column at all times, regardless of the frequency of the halts.

c. Under normal conditions, intervals of marching should be modified to take advantage of good halting places, especially those which afford proper security to the column.

6-41. Factors influencing march formations.—The march formation of a patrol in small wars is influenced by the following factors:

- (1) The nature of the terrain.
- (2) The strength, composition, and armament of the patrol.
- (3) The size of the combat train.
- (4) The necessity for security, observing the principle that security elements should increase proportionately in strength from the point to the main body.
- (5) Ability to shift rapidly and automatically from a column to a line formation that will face the enemy, cognizance being taken of the possibility of the enemy being in several different directions.
- (6) The necessity for dividing the patrol into small, mutually supporting, maneuver units, each one capable of developing its offensive power independently and immediately at short, battle ranges.
- (7) Sufficient distance between elements to enable one or more units in the main body to escape the initial burst of hostile fire, thus assuring some freedom of maneuver.
- (8) The distribution of supporting weapons throughout the column to facilitate their entry into action in any direction.
- (9) The rapid development of maximum fire power.
- (10) The necessity of withholding an initial reserve.
- (11) The degree of darkness during night marches.

THE MARCH

6-42. Influence of terrain on march formation.—*a. Open terrain.*—In open country, the distribution of the troops in the column, and the distances between the various elements, will be similar to that employed by a force of comparable strength in major warfare.

b. Close terrain.—(1) In the mountainous, heavily wooded terrain in which the majority of small war operations occur, patrols are usually forced to march in a column of files. Underbrush encroaches upon the trails, which are narrow and tortuous, and visibility is often limited in every direction to only a few yards. As a result, the column is greatly elongated, the distances between security elements and the main body are reduced, and the patrol leader can personally see and control only a small portion of his command.

(2) There should be sufficient distance between subdivisions in the column to avoid the intermingling of units, to fix in the minds of each individual the maneuver unit to which he is attached, and to subject as few men as possible to the initial bursts of hostile fire delivered at short ranges. The distance between units should be sufficient to enable one or more of them to get free to maneuver, thus creating an opening for the employment of fire and movement. On the other hand, the various elements in the column must be mutually supporting as too much distance between them may enable an aggressive enemy to defeat the patrol in detail.

6-43. Road spaces.—*a.* Depending on the prevailing conditions, the distances between men within subdivisions of a patrol operating in thickly wooded terrain generally will be about as follows:

<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>Distance between men</i>
Point -----	10 to 40 yards.
Advance party -----	5 to 20 yards.
Support -----	3 to 10 yards.
Main body -----	2 to 5 yards.
Rear guard -----	2 to 20 yards.

b. The distances between the various subdivisions in the column will vary from 10 to 50 yards or more, depending upon the strength of the patrol and the nature of the terrain through which it is marching.

c. The distances given above should never be considered as fixed and immutable. They usually will be changed several times during a day's march on the orders of the patrol and subordinate leaders as required by the nature of the country.

d. The road space for a riding or pack animal is considered to be 5 yards. This includes the man assigned to ride, lead, drive, or guard the animal.

THE MARCH

6-44. Location of patrol and subordinate leaders in march formation.—*a. Patrol leader.*—The patrol leader will usually march with or at the head of the main body. This is particularly desirable in the case of large patrols. In small patrols, the leader may have to alternate with a subordinate as commander of the advance guard. The leader of the patrol should not make a practice of marching in the point unless necessity requires it. If he is at the head of the main body, he can always move forward to the point to indicate the route to be followed or to make some other important decision which cannot be assumed by the advance guard commander.

b. Subordinate leaders.—Subordinate leaders of all elements in the patrol, except the point, normally march at or near the head of their respective units or subdivisions. The point commander should march near the center of that group so that he may effectively control all of the men in the point. Leaders of supporting units, such as a machine-gun section or platoon, normally march close to the patrol commander.

6-45. Location of the combat train.—The location of the combat train in the column depends upon several factors. These include the strength of the patrol, the probability of combat, the normal tactics of the enemy, and the size of the train itself. Normally, the combat trains should follow the main body, preceding the rear guard of the column. If, as is often the case in small wars, attack may be expected from any direction, it may be advisable to place the combat train near the center of the column, or to split it into two or more sections interspersed with elements of the main body of troops. If the train is exceptionally large, it may be detached from the combat elements of the patrol and marched as a separate convoy (see ch. VIII, "Convoys and Convoy Escorts"). Whatever its location in the column, the reserve supply of ammunition should be distributed throughout the train so that some of it may reasonably be expected to escape the initial burst of hostile fire in the event of ambush.

6-46. Descriptive march formations.—*a. General.*—The march formations described in the next three succeeding paragraphs illustrate several of the principles previously described in this chapter. They should not be considered as the only formations which organizations of comparable size and composition may adopt. It is believed that they will be effective under the conditions assumed. Every experienced patrol leader will have his own opinion of how his patrol should be organized. He should not hesitate to modify the forma-

THE MARCH

tion or redistribute the personnel of his command to meet the particular situation which confronts him.

b. Assumptions as to terrain.—In each instance, the terrain in which the following patrols are operating is assumed to be mountainous, heavily wooded country, with only narrow, winding trails available.

6-47. March formations for a reinforced rifle company.—a.

Situation.—A reinforced rifle company consisting of: a headquarters platoon which includes a light machine-gun section (4 Browning automatic rifles, modified), a 60-mm. mortar section (2 60-mm. mortars), attached signal and medical enlisted personnel, a native guide, and an interpreter; 3 rifle platoons of 3 squads each, armed with semi-automatic rifles; an attached machine platoon (less 1 section) with 4 machine guns (2 of which are for defense only); an attached 81-mm. mortar section; an attached squad of native troops; and a combat train of 75 pack animals and 20 native muleteers; has been ordered to proceed to an outlying village to establish an advanced base and conduct further patrol activities therefrom. The village is 3 days march from the point of departure. The total strength of the patrol is 220 officers and men and 30 native soldiers and civilians. The road space for the patrol in column of files is estimated at 1,140 yards, of which the combat train (less 6 miles carrying organic machine-gun and 81-mm. mortar equipment), will occupy 350 yards. A hostile guerrilla force estimated at 600 men has been active in the area which must be traversed. That force is well led, and armed with bolt action rifles, automatic shoulder weapons, and some machine guns. In previous engagements, the enemy has attempted to ambush the leading elements of the main body, but there has been one instance in which he created a diversion at the head of the column and directed his main attack at the rear elements.

b. Formation "A."—

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Point-----	1 rifle sqd. plus $\frac{1}{2}$ sqd. native troops commanded by a Sgt.
Distance-----	
Advanced party-----	1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.) Lt. MG sect. (less 1 sqd.) 60-mm. sect. (less 1 sqd.) Commander by Lieut. "Rifle Plat."

THE MARCH

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Distance-----	
Main body-----	Patrol commander. Native guide. Native interpreter. Fwd. esch., Co. Hdqtrs. 1 rifle plat. 1 MG plat. (less 1 sect.) 1 81-mm. sect.
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	Rear esch., Co. Hdqtrs. Supply personnel and ammunition sqd. from attached units. ½ sqd. native troops. Commanded by Lt. "2d in command."
Distance-----	
Rear party-----	1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.) Lt. MG sqd. 60-mm. sqd. Commanded by Lieut. "Rifle Plat."
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	1 rifle sqd. Commanded by a Sgt.

c. Formation "B."—

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Point-----	½ sqd. ½ sqd. native troops Commanded by plat. Lt.
Distance-----	
1st section of main body-----	Patrol commander Native guide Native interpreter Fwd. esch., Co. Hdqtrs. 1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.) Lt. MG Sect. (less 1 sqd.) 60-mm. sect. (less 1 sqd.)
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	Approximately ⅓ combat train Rear esch., Co. Hdqtrs. ½ sqd. native troops Commanded by Sgt.
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Sgt.

THE MARCH

5 minutes marching distance

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Sgt.
Distance-----	
2d section of main body-----	1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.) 1 MG plat. (less 1 sect.) 1 81-mm. sect. (less 1 sqd.) Commanded by Lieut. "Rifle Plat."
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	App. ⅓ combat train. MG ammunition supply personnel Commanded by Sgt.
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Sgt.

5 minutes marching distance

Point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Sgt.
Distance-----	
3d section of main body-----	1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.) Lt. MG sqd. 60-mm. sqd. 81-mm. sqd. Commanded by Lieut. "Rifle Plat."
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	App. ⅓ combat train 81-mm. ammunition sqd. Commanded by Lt. "2d in command"
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Sgt.

NOTE.—Contact between subdivisions of the patrol is established once each hour as follows: 1st section halts. 2d section makes contact and halts. As 3d section gains contact with 2d section, word is passed forward to 1st section, which resumes march, followed at 5-minute intervals by 2d and 3d sections.

6-48. March formation for a reinforced rifle platoon.—a. Situation.—It is assumed that a reinforced rifle platoon, consisting of: One rifle platoon of three squads armed with semi-automatic rifles; one light machine section (4 Browning automatic rifles, modified); one 60-mm. mortar squad; an officer, a cook, and a hospital corpsman from company headquarters; a native guide; a native interpreter; and a combat train of 15 pack mules, 1 riding mule for wounded, and 4 native muleteers; has been ordered to proceed from its base for a 10-day combat patrol missions. The total strength of the patrol

THE MARCH

is 57 officers and enlisted men, and 6 natives. Hostile guerrillas have been active in the vicinity.

b. Patrol formation.—

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by a Sgt.
Distance-----	
Main body-----	Patrol commander. Native guide. Native interpreter. Fwd. esch. Plat. Hdqtrs. 1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.). Lt. MG. sect. (less 1 sqd.). 60-mm. sqd.
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	Rear esch. Plat. Hdqtrs. Lt. MG sqd. Commanded by Lt. "2d in command."
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by a Sgt.

6-49. **March formation for a rifle platoon.**—*a. Situation.*—It is assumed that a rifle platoon consisting of three squads, each armed with bolt action rifles and two Browning automatic rifles or semi-automatic rifles; an officer, a cook, and a hospital corpsman from company headquarters; a native interpreter; and a combat train of 10 pack mules and 1 riding mule (for wounded) and 3 native muleteers; has been ordered to proceed from its base on a 10-day patrol into a section in which hostile guerrillas are known to be operating. The total strength of the patrol is 33 officers and enlisted men, and 4 natives.

b. Patrol formation.—

<i>Element</i>	<i>Composition</i>
Point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by a Sgt.
Distance-----	
Main body-----	Patrol commander. Native interpreter. Fwd. esch. Plat. Hdqtrs. 1 rifle plat. (less 1 sqd.).
Distance-----	
Combat train and train guard-----	Rear esch. Plat. Hdqtrs. Commanded by Sgt.
Distance-----	
Rear point-----	½ rifle sqd. Commanded by Lt. "2d in command."

THE MARCH

6-50. **March formation for a rifle squad.**—A rifle squad should rarely, if ever, be sent as a patrol on a combat mission. Its normal employment in small wars, as in a major war, is that of reconnaissance, security, or liaison. The duration of the patrol will seldom exceed 1 day's march. If it extends over 1 day, it will usually subsist off the country and should not be encumbered with a train. It may often be mounted, in which case the riding animals will carry the necessary impedimenta. The formations of a squad acting as an independent patrol are basically those prescribed in FM 21-45. The important points are: it must provide for all-around security by means of a point, rear point, and flank observation or flankers; the patrol leader should be near the head of the main body, rather than in the point, so that he can control the action of the entire patrol; the automatic weapons within the patrol should be located near the leader in order that he may control their initial action before they become committed or pinned to the ground in the first burst of hostile fire; a get-away man should be designated. The distances between the individuals in the patrol will depend entirely upon the nature of the terrain through which it is passing, bearing in mind that mutual support must be assured.

6-51. **March discipline.**—*a. Silence essential.*—A combat patrol operating in a hostile area must march in silence. The noises, including voices, made by the patrol at a halt should not be loud enough to be heard by the outguards.

b. Maintaining distances.—(1) The distances to be maintained between subdivisions of the patrol, and between individuals, are designated by the patrol leader. If these distances are temporarily decreased or increased due to the terrain or for other unavoidable reasons, they should be resumed as soon as warranted by the situation.

(2) Distances should be maintained with respect to the elements both in front and in rear. If an individual loses contact with the man next in rear of him, word should be passed forward and the rate of march decreased or the patrol temporarily halted until the gap is closed.

(3) It requires particular effort to prevent men from bunching at stream crossings, fallen trees, large mudholes, and similar obstacles.

(4) The arm signals "halt" and "forward" should be used freely to indicate to the men in rear what is happening to their front.

c. General rules.—All members of the patrol should comply with such of the following rules as pertain to the situation:

(1) No noise or "skylarking" to be permitted.

THE MARCH

(2) Weapons and ammunition carried by individuals will be retained on their persons. They will not be secured to riding or pack animals.

(3) A man leading an animal will not secure the lead line to his person or equipment.

(4) The riding animal for the sick will march at the rear of the train.

(5) Be alert at all times. Do not depend entirely on the leading elements for reconnaissance.

(6) No smoking except when authorized.

(7) Do not leave articles foreign or strange to the locality on the trail or in camp sites.

(8) Only the patrol leader will question natives encountered on the trail for information about distances and directions. When he does so, he should ask for data about several places so as to disguise the route to be taken.

(9) No conversations will be entered into with natives except by the patrol leader, designated subordinates, or interpreter.

(10) The native guide will not talk to other natives except in the presence of the interpreter.

(11) When passing or halting in the vicinity of dwellings occupied by peaceful natives, do not take fruit, eggs, or other things without fair payment; do not gamble or drink with natives; do not enter native houses without clearly understood invitation; do not assume a hostile attitude.

(12) All distances will be maintained at temporary halts as when marching.

6-52. **March outposts.**—March outposts should be established at every temporary halt. The advance party, or, in small patrols, the main body should halt on ground which can be easily defended. The point should proceed at least a hundred yards along the trail and take up a position in observation. Other routine security measures are followed, such as reconnoitering and observing lateral trails, reconnaissance of commanding ground to the flanks, and security to the rear. These requirements are fully as important in small war operations as in major warfare.

6-53. **Camp sites.**—*a.* If the patrol is to bivouac on the trail, the day's march should cease at least 2 hours before sundown.

b. When the location of the camp site is not definitely known, the patrol leader should begin looking for a favorable site at least 3 hours before sundown. In peaceful territory, inquiries may be made of

THE MARCH

friendly natives but this is inadvisable in a hostile region. Too much reliance cannot be placed in the information received. Usually the natives accompanying the patrol as guides, interpreters, or muleteers will be able to give fairly definite information regarding good camp sites.

c. The camp area should be a level or slightly rolling, cleared, dry, well-drained field with firm turf free from stones, stubble, and brush, and ample in size to accommodate the command without crowding. Water is essential. Fuel and forage should be available. The vicinity of swamps, marshes, and native houses should be particularly avoided because of the danger of insects and disease. Camp sites recently used by other troops are undesirable unless they have been left in good police.

d. Dry stream beds and ravines are undesirable because of warmth, poor ventilation, and the danger of floods.

e. Part or all of the desirable features for a camp site may have to be disregarded in hostile territory when proper defense of the bivouac will be paramount.

6-54. **Making camp.**—When the patrol is halted for the night, march outpost security is immediately enforced until the regular outguards can be formed, instructed, and posted. Reconnaissance patrols should be sent over all trails radiating from the camp site for a distance of at least a half mile, including the route which has just been traversed. Outguards will usually be detailed from the unit which has furnished the advance guard for the day. In small patrols it is often necessary to detail some personnel from the main body for this duty. Plans for the defense of the bivouac should be formulated, and every element of the patrol instructed accordingly. Squads and other units should be bivouacked as organizations and in relation to their respective sectors in the defense. Working details are assigned to procure water and fuel, to dig latrines, and to perform other necessary tasks.

6-55. **Shelter.**—*a. The shelter tent.*—In good weather it is often better to sleep in the open rather than to construct temporary shelter. If some shelter is desirable, the shelter tent is generally the best type for troops in bivouac.

b. The lean-to.—When necessary materials are available lean-tos can be constructed almost as quickly as shelter tents can be erected. They are roomier than the shelter tent and afford better protection during heavy rains. The lean-to consists of two forked uprights, a cross pole, and a rough framework which is thatched with large

THE MARCH

leaves, such as manaca, banana, palm, etc., or with grass or reed tied in bunches. The uprights may be two convenient forked trees or saplings. After the cross-pole is secured in place, the framework is leaned against it, and the covering secured in place. The various parts of the lean-to are lashed together with vines which are usually found in the vicinity. A well made lean-to will last for 3 or 4 weeks before it has to be recovered. (See Plate I.)

c. The canvas lean-to.—This combines certain desirable features of both the shelter tent and the thatched lean-to. It consists of a frame of light poles with a tarpaulin, tent fly, or several shelter halves or ponchos thrown over it and staked down on one edge. The two ends are enclosed. The front is left open like a lean-to. This shelter is strong, quickly built, and makes use of various sizes of canvas.

d. Native buildings.—Native buildings generally should not be used by patrols for shelter. Most of them are unclean and infested with insects. They are usually more difficult to defend than bivouac which can be selected with its defense in view. Sometimes, vacant buildings may contain mines or bombs laid by the hostile forces to explode on contact.

6-56. **Bivouac beds.**—*a.* Men should not sleep on damp ground. In temporary camps and in bivouac, they should raise their beds with leaves, boughs, or makeshift bunks in addition to placing the poncho between them and the ground. Satisfactory bunks can be made from small poles placed together on crosspieces raised about 6 inches from the ground. The poles should be covered with leaves or similar material. Bamboo can be split lengthwise, the joints cracked, and the piece flattened out to make an excellent, spring-like bunk when laid on crosspieces at the head and foot.

b. Native hammocks made of light material are of practical use in some operations. The sleeper can protect himself from the rain by stretching a line between the hammock lashings and hanging a shelter-half or poncho over it.

THE MARCH

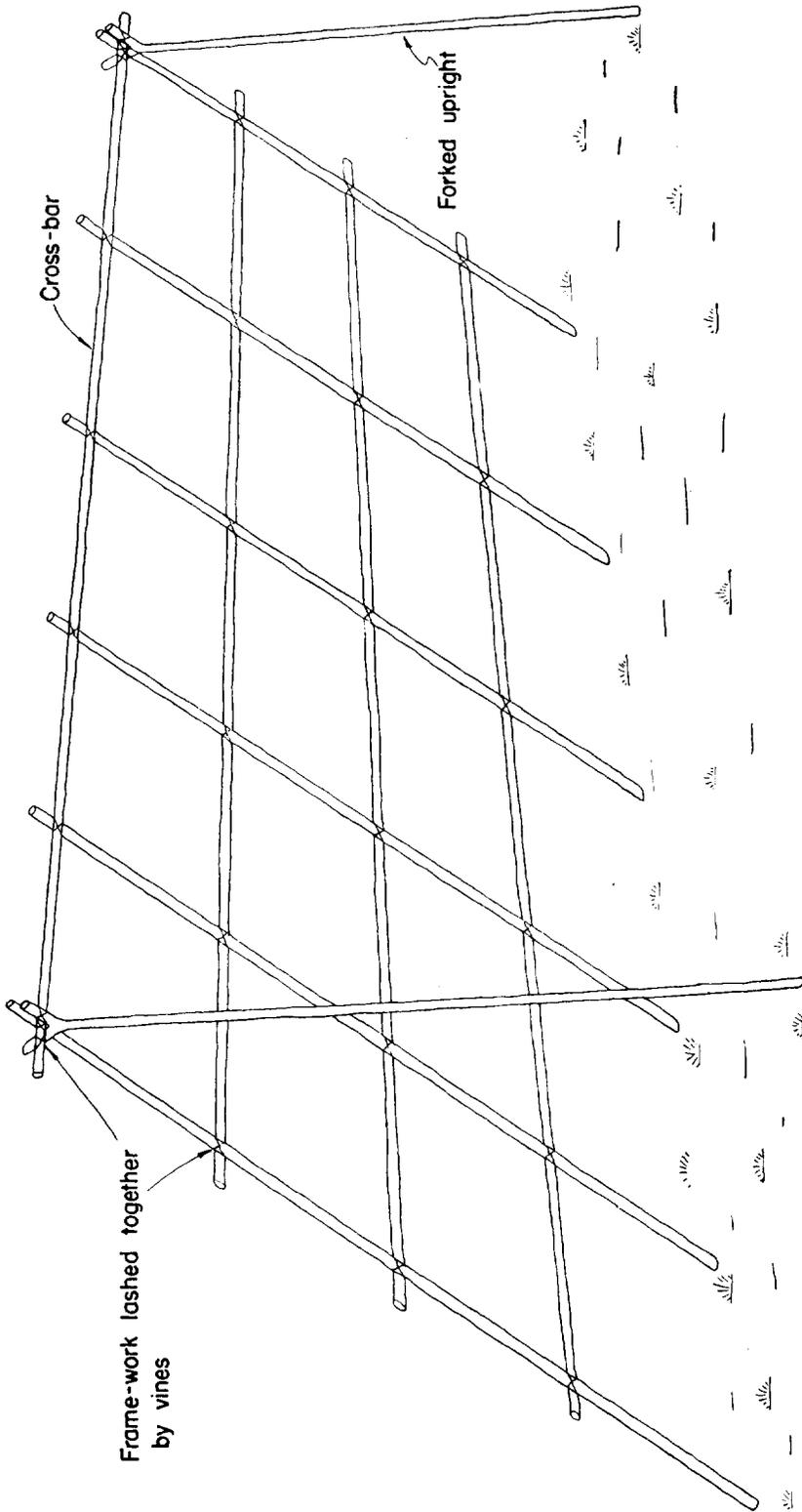


PLATE I.

RD 2828

SECTION VI

RECONNAISSANCE AND SECURITY

	Par.	Page
Methods of reconnaissance.....	6-57	37
Reconnoitering by scouts.....	6-58	37
Careful visual reconnaissance.....	6-59	38
Hasty visual reconnaissance.....	6-60	38
Reconnaissance by fire.....	6-61	38
Reconnaissance by aviation personnel.....	6-62	39
Airplane reconnaissance by patrol leaders.....	6-63	39
Intelligence agents.....	6-64	39
Questioning inhabitants for information.....	6-65	39
Dogs on reconnaissance.....	6-66	39
Security on the march.....	6-67	39
Security at rest.....	6-68	40

6-57. **Methods of reconnaissance.**—The various methods of reconnaissance and security employed by patrols in small wars do not vary in principle from those used in major warfare. Because of the nature of the terrain in which most small war operations occur, the difficulties of reconnaissance and security are increased. Several months of active operation in the field are required to train average individuals as efficient scouts, and only a small proportion will acquire the ability of a native to interpret correctly the things observed along the trail.

6-58. **Reconnoitering by scouts.**—*a.* The most certain method to uncover an enemy is to send scouts to visit suspected positions. The disadvantages of this method include:

- (1) It slows up the progress of the patrol.
- (2) Dense underbrush, and mountains, broken terrain are difficult to negotiate and will rapidly exhaust the personnel.
- (3) Scouts are likely to be in the line of fire when the battle commences.

In spite of its disadvantages, the results of this method of reconnaissance are so reliable that it should normally be employed.

b. Scouts sent to reconnoiter positions which may be occupied by the enemy at any time during the passage of the patrol, such as commanding positions, and roads and trails intersecting the route being

RECONNAISSANCE AND SECURITY

traversed, should remain in position until the patrol completes its passage. This is the principle of "crowning the heights."

6-59. **Careful visual reconnaissance.**—The careful visual reconnaissance of suspected positions while approaching and passing them enables a patrol to march more rapidly, but it is not as certain to disclose the presence of an enemy as the method of reconnaissance by scouts. Excellent field glasses are essential for efficient observation.

6-60. **Hasty visual reconnaissance.**—*a.* In some situations reconnaissance will consist only of a hasty visual inspection of dangerous and suspicious places. Hasty visual reconnaissance may be employed when:

(1) Patrols are operating in supposedly peaceful areas, or in areas which have been recently vacated by the enemy.

(2) Airplane reconnaissance has indicated that the area is free of the enemy.

(3) Military necessity requires the patrol to expedite its march.

b. It must be understood that to carefully reconnoiter every commanding position and suspected ambush site will, in some terrain, almost immobilize the patrol.

6-61. **Reconnaissance by fire.**—*a.* Reconnaissance by fire attempts to inveigle the enemy to disclose his position by returning fire directed against a suspected hostile position. This method should never be used by patrols assigned to aggressive or offensive missions.

b. Some of the disadvantages of reconnaissance by fire are:

(1) It discloses the presence and location of the patrol to the enemy within range of the sound of the gunfire.

(2) It prevents the capture of guerrillas who may be traveling alone or in small groups.

(3) It expends valuable ammunition, the supply of which may be limited and all of which may be needed in a crisis.

(4) It has a tendency to make the men on service of security less observant.

(5) There is always the chance that a well-controlled enemy force in ambush will not return the fire.

(6) The members of the patrol have difficulty in distinguishing between the reconnaissance fire and the initial shots fired from an ambush.

c. Reconnaissance by fire may be reasonably employed by:

(1) Liaison patrols which are too weak to engage in combat with hostile forces.

RECONNAISSANCE AND SECURITY

(2) Patrols whose mission requires them to reach their destination as quickly as possible.

6-62. **Reconnaissance by aviation personnel.**—*a.* Reconnaissance by plane is invaluable in small wars operations. It has the following disadvantages, however :

- (1) Difficulty of detecting the enemy in wooded country.
- (2) It may divulge the location of friendly ground patrols.
- (3) The difficulties of maintaining continuous reconnaissance.
- (4) It does not relieve the ground patrols of their responsibility for continuous close reconnaissance, although it often gives them a false sense of security.

b. For further details, see Chapter IX, "Aviation."

6-63. **Airplane reconnaissance by patrol leaders.**—Patrol leaders should make an airplane reconnaissance of the area of operation at every opportunity in order to study terrain features. This is especially important if accurate maps of the area are not available.

6-64. **Intelligence agents.**—Reliable intelligence agents can sometimes be employed to reconnoiter an area prior to the arrival of a patrol, and to continue their reconnaissance in conjunction with the patrol's activities.

6-65. **Questioning inhabitants for information.**—Patrol leaders must evaluate cautiously information obtained by questioning inhabitants encountered on the trail. A person who resides in a community overrun by guerrillas generally is sympathetic towards them or fearful of their reprisals.

6-66. **Dogs on reconnaissance.**—Dogs may sometimes be profitably employed with outguards and security detachments on the march to detect the presence of hostile forces. Unless they are carefully and specially trained, their usefulness for this purpose is doubtful.

6-67. **Security on the march.**—*a. General.*—Whenever practicable, the methods of security employed in normal warfare are used by patrols in small wars.

b. Breaking camp.—Security measures must not be relaxed when breaking camp. The exit from the camp should be reconnoitered and the patrol should be vigilant when getting into its march formation.

c. Duties of the point.—The primary function of the point is reconnaissance, to disclose the presence of hostile forces on or near the route of march before the next succeeding unit in the column comes under fire. It is a security detachment rather than a combat unit. There is a tendency in small war operations to overlook this important principle. If a patrol leader assigns too large a proportion

RECONNAISSANCE AND SECURITY

of his force to the point, he sacrifices his freedom to maneuver in combat. The leading man of the point should never be armed with an automatic rifle. He, more than any other man in the patrol, is likely to become a casualty in the initial burst of hostile fire from ambush. Point duty is dangerous and fatiguing. Men assigned to the point should be relieved every 2 or 3 hours during the day's march, and more frequently in dangerous localities.

d. Flank security.—The most difficult feature of security for a patrol marching through wooded terrain is adequate protection against ambush and attack from the flanks. It is usually impossible or undesirable to maintain flank patrols continuously in such country. An experienced patrol leader will often detect the presence of a hostile force in the vicinity by signs along the trail. At that time, he should establish flank patrols abreast or slightly in rear of the point, even though the rate of march will be adversely affected. Except under these conditions, flank security is generally maintained by observation, and reconnaissance of intersecting trails.

6-68. **Security at rest.**—*a.* See paragraphs 6-52 and 6-54.

b. Camp fires should be screened at night to prevent the personnel from being silhouetted against them in the event of a hostile attack.

c. Not more than 50 percent of the patrol, including the mess detail, men washing or bathing, and working parties, should be separated from their weapons during daylight hours. During the night, all men should keep their weapons near their persons.

SECTION VII

LAYING AMBUSHES

	Par.	Page
Definition	6-69	41
Selection of position	6-70	41
Usual characteristics of an ambush	6-71	41
Occupying the position	6-72	43
The ambush engagement	6-73	43
Employment of infantry weapons	6-74	44

6-69. **Definition.**—An ambush is the legitimate disposition of troops in concealment for the purpose of attacking an enemy by surprise. The laying of a successful ambush in hostile territory in a small war is a difficult operation.

6-70. **Selection of position.**—*a. Offensive ambush.*—An offensive ambush should be so located as to facilitate the assault after the initial burst of fire.

b. Defensive ambush.—A defensive ambush presupposes an inability to assault and the probable necessity of a rapid withdrawal. It should be so located as to facilitate defense, with natural obstacles between the position and the enemy, and routes of withdrawal should be carefully planned, reconnoitered, and prepared, if necessary. These requirements usually limit the location of a defensive ambush to the military or geographical crest, where the withdrawal will be protected by the reverse slope.

c. Direction of wind.—The ambush site should be selected so that the odor and noises of the men will be carried away from the enemy's route of approach.

d. Obstacles.—Stream crossings, large mudholes, or fallen trees across the trail, are all useful obstacles. They generally cause the ambushed troops to bunch up before the firing starts, and hinder their movements afterwards. Intersecting stream beds and trails at the position should be enfiladed by fire.

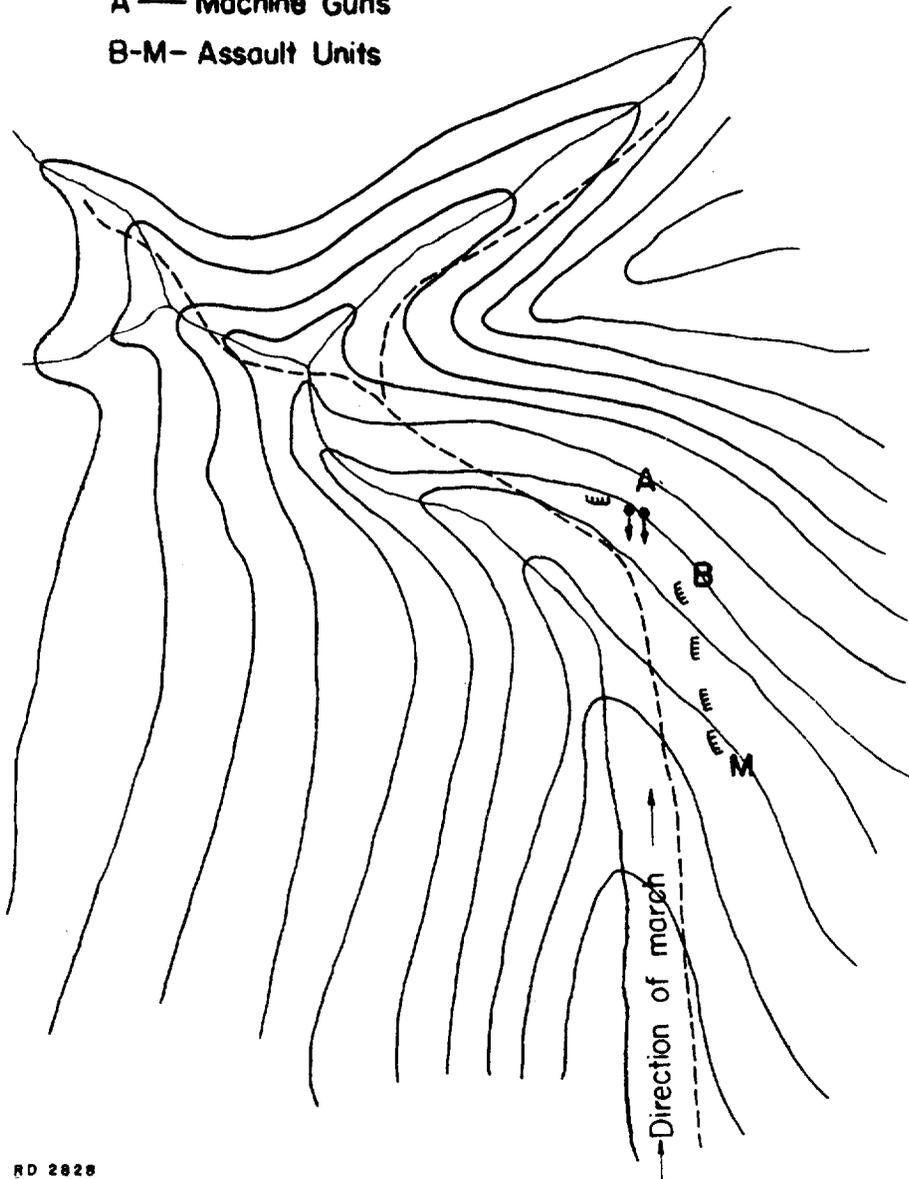
6-71. **Usual characteristics of an ambush.**—Every ambush must provide suitable firing positions and concealment in close proximity to the hostile route of march. The usual position is located on the forward slope and at a bend in the trail. Automatic weapons or machine guns are placed in prolongation of the probable direction of march at the bend in order to take the enemy in enfilade. The main body of the ambush is placed parallel to the hostile route of march to facilitate the assault after the initial burst of fire. The security elements of the enemy should be permitted to pass by the

LAYING AMBUSHES

position in order to secure the maximum effect against the hostile main force. A position that permits engaging the enemy column from both flanks simultaneously is possible only if the trail lies in a deep ravine. Even then there is considerable danger that ricochets and wild shots from one flank will cause casualties to the other flank.

A — Machine Guns

B-M — Assault Units



RD 2828

LAYING AMBUSHES

6-72. Occupying the position.—*a. To ambush a pursuing force.*—In the event a combat patrol wishes to ambush a hostile force known to be following over the same trail, it must proceed well beyond the ambush position selected. At a suitable point, such as a stream, it is led off the trail and counter-marched, parallel to, but clear of the trail, until it reaches the reverse slope immediately in rear of the selected ambush. The men then move individually, as carefully as possible, into their firing positions and remain motionless.

b. To ambush a meeting force.—It is more difficult to lay a successful ambush against a meeting force than one which is pursuing, unless the patrol leader is thoroughly familiar with the terrain and has definite information of the approach of the hostile party. The ambuscade must leave the trail some distance in advance of the selected position. It then moves into firing position as before and awaits the approach of the enemy. Any movement along the trail in advance of the ambush will disclose its location by footprints, or other tell-tale signs.

c. Night ambush.—In some situations it may be desirable to occupy an ambush position at night. This maneuver requires a definite knowledge of the terrain, and good guides.

d. Ambush outposts.—An outpost must be established at the point the patrol leaves the main trail to intercept and capture any person traveling the trail who might inform the hostile force of the location of the ambush.

e. Observation post.—An observation post should be established in a position that will enable the observer to give timely warning of the enemy's appearance. The most desirable position is some distance from the ambush and in the direction of the enemy's approach.

f. Firing positions.—Each man should select a good firing position as close to the trail as is consistent with complete concealment.

g. Tell-tale signs.—Every effort must be made to avoid moving foliage or earth for purposes of cover, shelter, or camouflage. The keen eyes of the enemy may detect the turning of a leaf, the breaking of a twig, or the appearance of a handful of new dirt.

6-73. The ambush engagement.—*a. The enemy approaches.*—As the enemy approaches the ambush, the men lie face downward and remain motionless until the signal to "commence firing" is given. If they raise their heads, the position will usually be disclosed by the outline of the heads or headgear, by movement, or by the reflection of light from their eyes and faces. Too often, some man will become so excited that he cannot resist firing prematurely at the first enemy he sees.

LAYING AMBUSHES

b. The signal to commence firing.—The patrol leader should give the signal to commence firing. An excellent method of doing this is by opening fire with an automatic weapon. He should be on the flank toward the enemy, or in a commanding position that will enable him to observe the entire enemy force.

c. Action after opening fire.—Depending upon the situation, the heavy initial fire will be followed by an assault, a defense, or a withdrawal.

6-74. Employment of infantry weapons.—Machine guns should be sited to enfilade a portion of the trail. Trench mortars, hand grenades, and rifle grenades are difficult to employ in an offensive ambush because of the danger of such projectiles falling among friendly assaulting troops. They are of value in defensive ambushes.

SECTION VIII
ATTACKING AMBUSHES

	Par.	Page
Mental preparation-----	6-75	45
Prearranged schemes of maneuver-----	6-76	45
Spirit of the offensive-----	6-77	47
Fire and movement-----	6-78	48
Authority of subordinates to act on own initiative-----	6-79	48

6-75. **Mental preparation.**—The principal objective of an offensive ambush is to take advantage of surprise. The closeness and suddenness of the attack is supposed to disorganize and demoralize the enemy. A necessary protection against complete disorganization, and possible demoralization, is to prepare the troops mentally for the shock of ambush. They must be steeled to withstand a sudden blast of fire at close quarters and to react to it in a manner that will unnerve the enemy. To accomplish this, the troops must have a thorough understanding of what is likely to happen if they are ambushed.

6-76. **Prearranged schemes of maneuver.**—*a. General.*—Since the great majority of ambushes have certain similar characteristics, the nature of an ambush attack can be anticipated. Usually there will be a burst of automatic fire from the front that will enfilade the column, combined with an attack from one flank. Both of these attacks will be delivered at short ranges and from positions located in thick cover on commanding ground. With this situation in mind, the patrol can be indoctrinated with simple prearranged schemes of maneuver to combat such attacks.

b. Actions of the train and train guard.—(1) In the event the train is not under fire when the engagement commences, it should be closed up on the forward elements in the column. As soon as closed up, or when endangered by hostile fire, the animals are driven into positions affording cover or shelter. When possible, the animals are tied to trees to prevent them from running away. This enables the train guard to use its weapons to protect the train, and assists the native muleteers to control the train. In some situations, particularly where the area is heavily wooded, the animals tired, and the enemy aggressive, the ration and baggage animals are abandoned until after the battle.

ATTACKING AMBUSHES

(2) Men leading animals carrying weapons and ammunition retain possession of them. In desperate situations, it may be necessary to shoot these animals to prevent them from bolting into the enemy positions.

(3) If heavy machine guns or 81 mm. mortar units are attached to the patrol the crews take their loads from the pack animals and, moving "by hand," prepare to go into action.

(4) The train guard keeps the muleteers and animals under control. It is assembled under the train commander and is available to augment the patrol reserve.

c. Patrol reserve.—A patrol reserve should be withheld from the initial action. An alert enemy may fire upon the leading elements from one flank only and, once the patrol has been committed, launch an unexpected attack from the rear or some other direction. As soon as the hostile position has been fully developed, however, the reserve may be employed to envelop his flank or as otherwise required by the situation. In many situations the rear guard will constitute the patrol reserve. Certain automatic weapons should be definitely assigned to the patrol reserve.

d. The rear guard.—If the patrol is ambushed from either flank, the rear of the column becomes an exposed flank. The primary function of the rear guard is to protect this flank, and it should not be committed to action until the situation makes it mandatory. The rear guard commander may, if necessary, send part of his unit to assist the train guard in controlling the animals and native muleteers. If the rear guard constitutes the patrol reserve, it may be employed after the train is secured and the train guard has been assembled to assume the functions of the reserve.

e. Anticipated action against an attack from the front and a forward part of the right (left) flank.—In the majority of an ambush the attack will be delivered against the front and forward part of the right (left) flank of the column. The point (advance guard) and the leading elements of the main body usually are immobilized by the initial burst of fire. They return the fire and act as a holding force, developing the hostile position. The rear elements of the main body immediately maneuver to envelop and overrun the exposed hostile flank and capture the enemy's automatic weapons. As the attack progresses, the hostile force will begin to withdraw, and the point (advance guard) and leading units of the main body will be enabled to participate in the final assault of the position. The

ATTACKING AMBUSHES

patrol reserve may be employed to extend the envelopment in order to intercept the enemy's line of retreat. The action of the rear guard and train guard is as outlined above.

f. Anticipated action against an attack from the front and entire length of the right (left) flank.—(1) The point (advance guard) builds up a firing line facing the enemy and makes a holding attack, developing the enemy's position, until able to participate in the assault.

(2) The main body advances the attack as rapidly and aggressively as possible in order to penetrate the hostile position. When the ambush is penetrated, a flank attack is delivered in one or both directions, overrunning and capturing the enemy's automatic weapons.

(3) The train guard builds up a firing line facing the enemy and makes a holding attack, developing the hostile position, until able to participate in the assault.

(4) Attached weapons, if present with the patrol, are unpacked and put into action.

(5) Enlisted mule leaders secure their animals under cover and then assemble under command of the train commander as the patrol reserve.

(6) The rear point builds up a firing line facing the enemy and makes a holding attack, developing the hostile position, until able to participate in the assault.

g. Direction of fire.—When operating along winding trails in hilly country the selection of targets and direction of fire must be well controlled to avoid killing or wounding friendly personnel.

h. The bolo attack.—In certain theaters of small wars operations there is the possibility that a patrol may be ambushed and rushed from both sides of the trail by an enemy armed only with bladed weapons. Such attacks are launched from positions located a few feet from the sides of the trail. The use of rifle fire in the general melee which results is fully as dangerous to friendly personnel as to the enemy. The experience of regular forces which have encountered such tactics in the past has indicated that the bayonet is the most satisfactory weapon to combat an attack of this nature.

6-77. Spirit of the offensive.—*a.* Troops engaged in small war operations must be thoroughly indoctrinated with a determination to close with the enemy at the earliest possible moment. A rapid, aggressive attack is necessary to overrun the hostile positions and

ATTACKING AMBUSHES

seize his automatic weapons. It often happens that some slight movement, or the reflection of light from hostile weapons, will disclose the location of an enemy ambush before the first shot has been fired. If this occurs, immediate action of some sort is imperative. To stand still, even momentarily, or simply to attract the attention of the person next in column, is usually fatal. If the individual or unit who observes the ambush rushes forward immediately, not in a straight line but in a zigzag course depending upon the nature of the terrain, the enemy may break from his position. In any event his opening burst of fire will be erratic and comparatively ineffective instead of deliberate and well aimed. The rush should be accompanied by a yell to warn the remainder of the patrol, which will also disconcert the enemy. This action is effective even though the bayonet is not carried or fixed to the rifle, nor is it any more dangerous than taking up a firing position near the trail which is almost certain to be within the beaten zone of some hostile weapon. It is analogous to the final assault which is the objective in every combat.

6-78. **Fire and movement.—a.** If an immediate assault is not initiated against the hostile position, the ambushed patrol must seek cover and engage in a fire fight. Even though the patrol is armed with superior weapons and is better trained in combat firing than the enemy, it is at a disadvantage in a purely passive fire fight. The hostile forces have the advantage of commanding ground and concealed positions. So long as they are not forced to disclose their individual positions by actual or threatened personal contact, they are free to break off the engagement at any time. The eventual loss of ground means nothing to the guerilla. If he can withdraw with no casualties or only minor ones after delaying and harassing the patrol, the engagement has been a success. The objective of the patrol must be, therefore, to inflict as many casualties upon the enemy as possible. This can be accomplished in a fire fight only if the spirit of the offensive, with movement, is employed. During the fire fight, members of the patrol must move forward at every opportunity in order to close with the enemy as quickly as possible, or make him disclose his position so that he may become a definite target. The culmination of the action is the assault, to overrun the enemy, capture his weapons, and pursue him by fire to the limit of visibility.

6-79. **Authority of subordinates to act on own initiative.—a.** Considerable authority must be granted all leaders to act independently and on their own initiative. In the absence of orders, action on

ATTACKING AMBUSHES

the part of the patrol's subdivision is preferable to inaction. Subordinate leaders must remember that the action which they initiate should furnish mutual support in the action to the hostile force.

b. Leaders must make every effort to gain direction and control of the elements of their own units. They must not hesitate to influence the action of subordinate leaders of nearby elements which have become separated from the control of their normal superiors.

SECTION IX

ATTACKING HOUSES AND SMALL BIVOUACS

	Par.	Page
Attacking houses.....	6-80	51
Attacking small bivouacs.....	6-81	52
Destroying captured bivouacs.....	6-82	52

6-80. **Attacking houses.**—*a.* In small war operations, it is frequently necessary to seize individuals or attack hostile groups known to be at a certain house. Although the task may appear to be simple, it is often difficult to accomplish successfully.

b. The following instructions are generally applicable in planning an attack against a house:

(1) Secrecy is essential. Relatives, sympathizers, or intimidated natives may warn the enemy of the patrol's approach. In some instances, they have been warned before the patrol cleared its home station.

(2) The location of the house and the nature of the terrain surrounding it must be definitely known, either by personal reconnaissance, a sketch, or through the medium of a guide.

(3) The patrol should usually approach and occupy its position under cover of darkness.

(4) Do not use a larger patrol than necessary to carry out the mission. A large patrol is hard to control, difficult to conceal, and makes too much noise.

(5) The approach must be made quietly and cautiously. Barking dogs often warn the inhabitants of the approach of the patrol.

(6) Utilize all available cover.

(7) Cover all avenues of escape, either physically or by fire.

(8) Bayonets should be fixed. The patrol is sometimes unable to open fire due to the presence of women, children, or unidentified persons, or because of instructions received from higher authority.

(9) If the mission is the capture of the occupants and armed resistance is not expected, surround the house and approach it from all sides.

(10) If the mission is to attack the house, and armed resistance may be expected, the patrol must be located so that every side of the building will be covered by fire. Particular care must be taken to make certain that no member of the patrol will be in the line of fire of any other individual in the patrol.

ATTACKING HOUSES AND SMALL BIVOUACS

6-81. **Attacking small bivouacs.**—*a.* A successful attack on a hostile bivouac often has a more demoralizing effect than a defeat in ordinary engagements.

b. Many of the instructions for attacking houses are applicable to attacking bivouacs. In addition, the leader of a patrol making a surprise attack on a small enemy force in bivouac should be guided by such of the following instructions as may be applicable in the particular operation:

(1) Secure a guide who knows the exact location of the bivouac. If he is a reliable, friendly native, an effort should be made to have him reconnoiter a good approach to the bivouac.

(2) Require the guide to make a sketch of the bivouac and its approaches. This can be traced on the ground. The leader should study it carefully, but should be prepared to find the actual situation quite different from that expected.

(3) Attack with few men. A leader and two teams of four men each is a suitable group for most situations.

(4) Arm the majority of the patrol with automatic or semiautomatic weapons.

(5) Leave the trail as soon as convenient and approach the bivouac from unexpected direction. When in the vicinity of the bivouac, approach slowly and cautiously.

(6) After sighting the bivouac, the leader should make a careful reconnaissance of it. Determining the exact location of the principal groups of the enemy force is generally difficult. When confident of the location of the major portion of the enemy, the leader builds up a final firing line.

(7) When the firing line is in position and prepared to open fire, the leader orders the enemy to surrender. In the event they refuse, the leader signals, "Commence Firing." All men direct their fire into the bivouac, firing rapidly, but semi-automatically.

(8) The possibility of an assault and a pursuit should be considered, but the lack of bayonets, the nature of the terrain over which the enemy will flee, and the agility of the enemy, will often make such efforts futile.

6-82. **Destroying captured bivouacs.**—The value of a bivouac as a known enemy camp site should be considered before destroying it. Guerrillas have a weakness for occupying camp sites they have previously found satisfactory, particularly if shelters have been constructed. The burning of bivouac shelters rarely serves any useful purpose unless they contain military stores of some value.

SECTION X

STRATAGEMS AND RUSES

	Par.	Page
Rules of land warfare.....	6-83	53
Clearing the station.....	6-84	53
Apprehending informers.....	6-85	53
Spies following a patrol.....	6-86	53
Guerrilla ruses and stratagems.....	6-87	54

6-83. **Rules of land warfare.**—Patrol operations always furnish opportunities for the employment of stratagems and ruses; however, such as are used must be in accordance with the accepted Rules of Land Warfare.

6-84. **Clearing the station.**—A patrol should be able to clear its stations without that fact being transmitted to the hostile forces by their intelligence agents. The following methods may be used to deceive the enemy as to the plans of the patrol:

(1) Having decided to attack a certain hostile bivouac, a rumor is started among the natives that the patrol is to march to some place in the opposite direction. The patrol clears the town in that direction and eventually circles at some distance from the station and marches towards the objective.

(2) Clearing the station late at night.

(3) The members of the patrol filtrate out of the camp during the day or night and assemble at a rendezvous some distance from the station.

6-85. **Apprehending informers.**—Guerrilla spies who live near the garrison are a constant menace. While they are often suspected, it is very difficult to apprehend them in a guilty act. One way of doing this is to establish sentinels on the trails leading from the station to the hostile areas. After the sentinels have reached their posts, organize a patrol and allow word to be passed among the natives that the patrol is clearing for the hostile area. This information may cause the informers to start for the enemy camp in order to warn them, thus permitting the sentinels to intercept and detain them for questioning.

6-86. **Spies following a patrol.**—Hostile intelligence agents may follow a patrol, but at a safe distance. One way to capture them

is to leave an outpost several hundred yards in rear of a selected camp site. The men in the outpost take cover and capture any suspicious persons following the patrol.

6-87. Guerrilla ruses and stratagems.—For purposes of protection, a careful study must be made of the ruses and stratagems practiced by the enemy, and the facts learned should be published for the information of the regular forces concerned. Ruses and stratagems practiced in warfare between forces of irregulars, or by irregulars against regulars, include:

(1) Inveigling the enemy into an attack and pursuit and then, when he is disorganized and scattered, make a violent counter-attack. A modification of this method includes abandoning animals and supplies and then, when the attacking force is more interested in booty than pursuit, to counter-attack.

(2) A group of the enemy may retreat before the attacking force and lure it into a carefully prepared ambush.

(3) Disguising themselves to resemble their foes, sometimes wearing a similar uniform.

(4) Having their men on service of security disguised like their foes.

(5) On one pretext or another, to lure a small enemy force into an exposed position and destroy it. Examples:

(a) Cutting a telegraph wire and then destroying the repair party.

(b) Raiding a community with a small group and then striking the patrol sent to its relief with a stronger force.

(6) A guerrilla group surprised in an area may hide its firearms and assume the appearance of a peaceful group of citizens busy in their fields or clearing trails.

SECTION XI

RIVER CROSSINGS

	Par.	Page
Introduction.....	6-88	55
Availability of means.....	6-89	55
Swimming.....	6-90	55
Bridges.....	6-91	56
Boats.....	6-92	57
Ferries.....	6-93	57
Fords.....	6-94	58
Rafts.....	6-95	59
Crossing unfordable streams with usual infantry equipment..	6-96	59
Crossing horses and mules.....	6-97	63

6-88. **Introduction.**—*a.* The passage of a patrol across a stream in small wars operations is similar to the passage of a defile. It should be assumed that every crossing will be opposed by the enemy, and necessary precautions should be taken to effect the passage with a reasonable degree of safety. The security measures taken and the tactics employed to force a crossing against opposition in small wars do not differ from those of major warfare.

b. All streams act as obstacles to a greater or lesser extent. Some means must be devised to get the troops and material across without disorganization and in condition effectively to resist an enemy attack before, during, and after crossing. Crossing may be opposed or unopposed. The probability of opposition is frequently the determining factor in the choice of a crossing site. Poorly adapted sites may have to be used by the reconnoitering parties. Time is a factor in every crossing and the means employed must be those that will permit a crossing in the minimum of time to avoid continued separation of the parts of the patrol by the river.

6-89. **Availability of means.**—Means of crossing may be divided into fords, boats (including rubber boats of the collapsible variety), rafts, ferries, permanent and temporary bridges, and swimming. It may be necessary to make use of several or all of these expedients for the crossing of a body of troops with its supplies. It may be said that fording and swimming will be the normal means of crossing in small wars operations.

6-90. **Swimming.**—Most unfordable streams, especially in small wars operations, will have to be crossed, initially at least, by swim-

ming, until protection for the main crossing has been established on the opposite bank. Most men will be incapable of swimming even a short distance with their rifles, belts, and clothing and would be helpless and naked when they landed on the opposite bank if they discarded this equipment. Swimming is therefore usually combined with some such method as the use of individual floats or rafts, or the use of the few boats available for the transport of arms and supplies. Such floats may assist the swimmers in keeping afloat while crossing relatively wide rivers. When the men land, they establish themselves in a position that will protect the crossing, assist on the far side in construction of bridges, ferries and similar means of getting the remaining troops and supplies across, or proceed on their assigned mission, which may be to drive an enemy detachment from a more suitable crossing place. Life lines may be stretched across the river, one above and one below the crossing, as safety measures to prevent men from being swept away downstream by the current.

6-91. **Bridges.**—*a.* The construction of bridges for the passage of all arms requires considerable time and material, and a certain amount of technical engineering training. Bridges are most useful at crossings on the line of communications and have the advantage of providing a permanent means of crossing a river. Only those forms of bridges easily constructed with materials or tools available at the bridge site will be considered here.

b. Felled tree.—Very narrow streams may be bridged by felling a large tree across the stream, staking down or otherwise securing the ends, and then cutting off the branches above the water so that troops can walk across. A line can be stretched as a handrail if necessary from bank to bank over the fallen tree trunk.

c. Foot bridge of two or more trees.—Where one tree will not reach across the stream, two trees may be felled on opposite sides of the stream, and their branches and tops secured together in midstream. Lines should be made fast near their tops before felling, and the line snubbed to other trees well upstream and eased downstream by the ropes until the two trees intertwine. Then the tops should be securely lashed together and the branches cleared to provide a footpath over the tree trunks. Stakes on either side of the felled tree trunks may be used to strengthen this bridge. A third tree, felled so that its top falls on the point where the other two meet in midstream, but at an angle to them, will strengthen the bridge, as it provides a tension member against the force of the current.

RIVER CROSSINGS

d. Floating bridges.—Floating bridges may be constructed of rafts or boats, with planks laid across the gunwales. These boats should be securely anchored or moored with their bows upstream. Sections of the bridge may be constructed and floated downstream into place. It is desirable to have all the floats of about the same capacity, to avoid extra strain on the planks or other flooring. The larger boats or rafts may be placed at greater intervals than the smaller, to accomplish the same purpose. Rafts or floats may be made of timber, casks, barrels or anything at hand that will float.

6-92. **Boats.**—*a.* In the countries in which small wars operations usually occur, some native boats will be found in the vicinity of river crossings which are too deep to be fordable. These will normally be of the dug-out type which are quite unstable, but unsinkable. Their capacity will range from small, two-man boats, to bateaux of 30- or 40-man capacity. If the crossing is opposed, it is desirable to have a sufficient number of boats available to execute the crossing of the patrol promptly. If the passage is unopposed, even one small boat will be found of inestimable value.

b. If no boats can be found in the locality, it is sometimes necessary to construct makeshift boats from available materials. In recent small wars operations, boards found in a local dwelling were used to construct a 6- by 22-foot boat, caulked with gauze from the hospital corpsman's kit. It was employed to ferry a patrol of 135 officers and men and 70 animals across a stream swollen with torrential rains which made the customary fording impossible. The current was so swift that the use of a raft was impracticable.

c. Collapsible rubber boats, which can be carried by patrols in the field or dropped by aircraft in case of necessity, will probably be used extensively in future small wars operations.

6-93. **Ferries.**—*a.* Ferries may be either "flying" ferries or "trail" ferries, and in most streams the current can be used to propel them. If the current is too sluggish, a "rope" ferry may be used; i. e., the boat or raft is drawn across the stream by pulling on the rope or by poling. "Trail" and "flying" ferries are propelled by the current by holding the boat or float at an angle to the current, either by means of ropes or by rudders, or even by paddles held in the water. The angle and the speed of the current controls the speed of the ferry, and since the angle may be varied, the speed can also be controlled.

b. **Trail ferry.**—A good trail ferry may be constructed in most streams that are not too wide by stretching a rope or cable (several

telegraph wires twisted together will do for a small boat) across the stream and rigging a pulley so that it will travel on this line ("sheer line"). A line is then fastened to the pulley from the bow of the boat. Some ferries, especially in slow streams, must be controlled by a bow and a stern line ("maneuvering ropes") attached to the pulley. By hauling in on the bow line and slackening the stern line, or vice versa, the bow may be set at such an angle to the current that the force of the current acting on the hull will cause the boat to move across the stream. In a swifter current, where the boat points more nearly upstream, a paddle may be held over the downstream side at the stern, or a rudder may be used.

c. Flying ferry.—A flying ferry uses the same means of propulsion, but in place of the "sheer line," there is an anchorage upstream to which a long line is fastened from the bow of the boat, enabling the boat to swing like a pendulum across the stream. The line is supported by floats at intervals, so that it will not trail in the water and slow up or even stop the ferry. In narrow streams it may be possible to find a curve in the stream that will permit the anchorage to be on land, but still above the center of the stream at the point where the ferry crosses. An island is also a convenient location for an anchorage. The cable must be long enough so that the ferry will not have difficulty in reaching both banks.

d. Rafts as ferries.—Rafts may be used in all types of ferries, but they should be so constructed that the current will act against them efficiently, and so that they may be easily maneuvered but hard to swamp.

6-94. **Fords.**—*a.* The requisites of a good ford are low banks, no abrupt changes in depth of water, the bottom offering a firm footing for men and animals and the current moderate. One of the first duties of the reconnaissance parties of a patrol or larger detachment on arriving at a stream is to reconnoiter for fords and bridges in the vicinity, and when found, to test them and define their limits. Dangerous fords should be marked before use by the main body. Fords that show signs of use are likely to be passable, but *care must be taken to allow for the height of the water* above normal. This may be ascertained by an examination of the banks, especially of the vegetation on the banks and of small trails parallel to the water. When fording swift shallow streams with native pack animals, each animal should be led and not herded across. When the water is deep enough to reach the pack, the cinch may be loosened and two men accompany each animal, one on either side to raise the sugar, coffee, and similar

RIVER CROSSINGS

loads to their shoulders in the deep water. Rain in the uplands, which are drained by rivers, may cause sudden floods. These floods rapidly descend the rivers, and make it dangerous to use fords until after the swollen streams subside.

b. Fords may be improved in very swift streams or during freshets, by felling trees across the stream and lashing their ends together (narrow streams only) or by fastening a line of floating obstacles such as logs or barrels above the ford, to cut down the current, at least on the surface. A life line should be stretched across the stream for the crossing of large numbers of troops, and men should hold on to this line. Crossings should be guarded by good swimmers and by boats downstream if available, to take care of those who may be swept off their feet or who may stray from the ford. Infantry may ford a stream in a column of squads, by men in each rank holding on to each other abreast. The distance between ranks is greatly lengthened to avoid the increased resistance which might be caused by partially damming the stream. Mounted men pass over the ford in column of twos or files.

6-95. **Rafts.**—Rafts may be constructed of any materials that will furnish sufficient buoyance, and which are available at or very near the point of crossing. Many woods do not have enough buoyance even when dry, and this is especially true of green hard woods. "GI" cans with burlap or other cloth under the covers, to make them watertight, casks and barrels, gasoline drums and other containers may be used to give buoyancy to a raft. In general the construction of rafts to effect a crossing will be inadvisable except for the heavy articles that cannot be conveniently crossed by other means. Rafts drift more than boats, and must therefore be started across farther upstream than boats. Rafts may be used for carrying equipment of men who cross by swimming or for the assistance of those who do not swim well enough. These individual rafts may be made of two logs with a board or two across them, reeds bound together (or bound banana stacks), or inflated rubber bags. Large rubber bags have been carried by patrols operating on or near the rivers. These bags were made from coffee sacks by coating the sacks with crude rubber. They were larger than seabags, and would hold one man's personal belongings and equipment. When partially filled with air and the mouth tied securely, they floated indefinitely, with sufficient buoyancy to support a man in the water.

6-96. **Crossing unfordable streams with usual infantry equipment.**—a. Recent experiments by the Philippine Scouts have resulted

RIVER CROSSINGS

in a method of stream crossing making use of little else besides the equipment usually carried. This method is believed to be superior to most methods of crossing by swimming. It is suitable for crossing in the face of opposition, its rapidity gives it great tactical value, and should cut down casualties considerably.

b. The two-man rifle float.—This float can be prepared by two men in 7 minutes. The two shelter halves (one on top of the other) are placed on the ground, and the remainder of the two packs and the clothing of the two soldiers are placed in the center of the canvas. Now the rifles are placed (crossed to give rigidity) on top of the packs and clothing. The float is completed by binding the 4 corners of the outside shelter half to the four extremities of the rifles by means of the shelter tent ropes.

TWO-MAN FLOAT, USING PONCHO

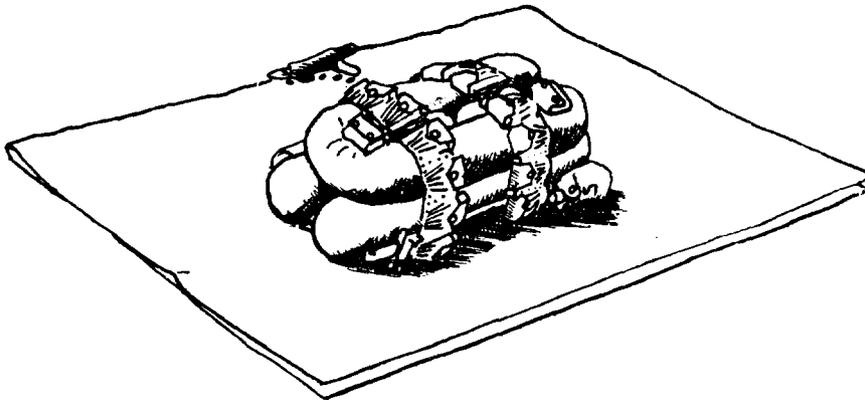


FIGURE 1.—First stage.

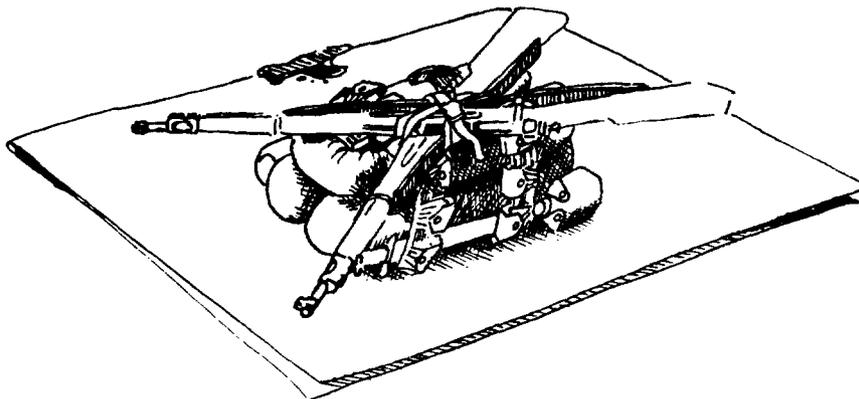


FIGURE 2.—Second stage.

RIVER CROSSINGS

“In a similar manner, using two 3-foot sticks or shelter tent poles instead of rifles, a machine gun complete can be floated in a shelter tent.” (“Infantry Journal” for March and April, 1933.)

c. In the construction of the above float, bayonets are attached to rifles, with the scabbards on, to give greater length. A very little untying will make the rifle available to the man after landing on the opposite side since slip knots are used. As no additional materials are required this method is suitable for almost any stream crossing, even for deep fords, and is available to detachments who must go up or down the stream to make a land attack on forces opposing the use of a ford or ferry. Canvas is more nearly waterproof if wetted before making up the float.

d. Use of poncho in two-man float with horseshoe rolls.—
 (1) A method of constructing a two-man float using ponchos and the equipment usually carried in small wars operations was developed at the Marine Corps Schools along the lines stated in subparagraph *b* above, and has met tests satisfactorily. The float is made up of the rifles, ponchos, and shelter tent guy ropes. It contains: the horseshoe rolls consisting of one blanket, spare suit of underwear, toilet articles, food, the cartridge belts, canteens, haversacks, and

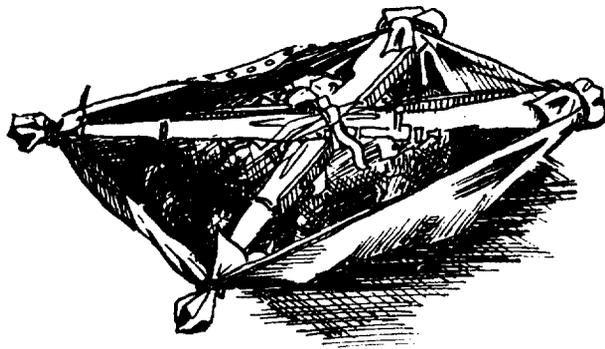


FIGURE 3.—Finished float.



FIGURE 4.—Cross section of float.

RIVER CROSSINGS

bayonets of two men, as well as their clothing and shoes which they remove. The horseshoe roll has the poncho on the outside of the blanket with the shelter tent guy rope used for lashing.

(2) *To make the float.*—(a) Remove the ponchos and shelter tent guy ropes from the horseshoe roll. Fold the poncho the long way with the head hole at the side, and lay it flat on the ground.

(b) Lay the two cartridge belts on top of the center of the poncho, ammunition pockets down, so that one bayonet and one canteen will be on each side.

(c) Lay the horseshoe rolls on top of one another on the cartridge belts with their long dimensions parallel to the longest side of the folded poncho. Buckle the two cartridge belts around both rolls and slip the end of each bayonet under the other cartridge belt to hold the sides of the bundle rigid. See Diagram No. 1.

(d) Take the haversacks and place them on edge in the space in the center of the horseshoe rolls. Men remove their shoes and place one pair on each side of the bundle so as to build out the sides.

(e) Lay the two rifles, crossed to form an X, on top of the bundle with their ends pointed at the four corners of the folded poncho. Lash the rifles where they cross, with a waist belt to hold them in place. See Diagram No. 2.

(f) Then the two men, starting at opposite ends of the same rifle, fold the corner of the poncho up over the rifle end, and wrap the sides of the poncho corner up around it, lashing the poncho around the rifle end with one end of the shelter tent guy rope.

(g) The two men, next pass to the other rifle and wrap its ends in the two remaining corners of the poncho, lashing them in place with the bight of the shelter tent guy rope. The remaining end of the rope is then lashed to the next rifle end so that the float will be held in place by lashings between all four rifle ends. Care should be taken to wrap the corners of the poncho around the rifle ends and lash them so that water will not enter the float readily if one corner dips under. Diagram No. 3.

(h) Place the other poncho, folded twice, over the top of the equipment in the float and tuck the sides down around the edges of the equipment.

(3) When making up this float, stow the equipment and lash the rifles, in such a way that the float will be regular in shape, flat on the bottom, and not too high, so that it will float on an even keel and not tend to upset easily. The two men swimming

RIVER CROSSINGS

with the float should be on opposite sides of it and use a side stroke to swim, leaving one hand free to guide the float. If desired, the men can take turns pushing the float ahead of them with both hands, the float keeping their heads out of water while they paddle with their legs.

(4) Trained men need about 5 minutes to make these floats, exclusive of the time they spend removing their clothing. Care should be taken in lashing the float to use slip hitches that can be removed quickly when the line is wet, so that the rifles can be used instantly once the river is crossed.

(5) Similar larger floats may be improvised, by using wall, etc., tent flies with the upright poles or ridge poles.

e. Other canvas floats.—All canvas floats should be wide enough to prevent their capsizing easily, and the loads should have sufficient bulk in proportion to their weight so as to give buoyancy to the whole float. A light frame of boards or sticks will help in the case of heavy articles. Patrols and larger detachments may easily carry extra line for use in establishing lifelines for crossing streams, for starting animals into the water, etc., by wrapping about 30 feet of line, one-fourth inch in diameter, about a man's body just below the belt. (Many natives habitually carry such a line on their bodies when contemplating crossing streams.) Stronger lines may be carried by patrols using pack animals carrying the lines as top loads. These lines serve as picket lines during halts, and may be used in the construction of ferries. Extra canvas may be carried in the form of tent flies, which are used to construct floats, and as shelters for galleys or other purposes in camp. The inclusion of these few pounds of extra equipment may actually increase the mobility of a patrol. If strong vines grow near the river, they may be used as ropes in lashing trees together to obstruct the current, in lashing rafts together, as lines for small flying ferries, or as life lines. It is presumed that all patrols will include some machetes in their equipment when operating in the small wars situations.

6-97. Crossing horses and mules.—*a.* A stream that is too deep to be crossed by fording presents a very serious obstacle to a unit which includes riding or pack animals, and particularly so if the unit be operating in hostile country. Horses and mules can ford with relative ease streams that are difficult if not impossible to ford by men on foot. To cross animals, their cargo loads and equipment over a stream too deep or too swift to be forded is an opera-

RIVER CROSSINGS

tion to be undertaken only when the situation permits of no other course of action. The difficulties of such a crossing increase with:

- (1) Width of the stream.
- (2) Swiftmess of the current.
- (3) Size of the command (No. of animals).
- (4) Slope of the banks, particularly on the far side.
- (5) Hostile opposition encountered.

The width and the current are difficulties which are correlated. For any given width of stream, the animal will be carried farther downstream as the current is increased and likewise for any given current, the animal will be carried farther downstream as the width is increased. Since some animals will naturally swim faster than others, they will arrive on the far bank dispersed over a wide front. This front will sometimes be several hundred yards wide. When the animals arrive on the far bank, they must arrive at a point where the bank is not too steep or the footing too poor for them to get out of the water. Many horses will be drowned if a good landing place of suitable slope, width, and footing is not available on the far bank. Unfordable streams have been and can be crossed by single riders and by very small patrols but even the most daring and boldest leaders have hesitated to cross such streams. Many of the smaller streams rise and fall very rapidly. The unit leader should bear this in mind. Frequently it will be advisable to increase the rate of march so as to arrive at a crossing before an expected rise, or to decrease the rate so as to take advantage of an expected fall before crossing.

b. When the patrol includes riding or pack animals, these are usually taken across the stream by swimming. Mounted patrols in small wars usually cross by swimming with full equipment. Sometime the saddles and all equipment except the halter and snaffle bridle are removed and ferried across by boat or raft, and the rider removes most of his clothing. Pack animals are unpacked and unsaddled. The rider then mounts and rides the horse into the water at a point well upstream from a good landing place on the other side. The reins should be knotted on the neck, and only used when necessary to turn the horse, and before the horse gets beyond his depth in the water. Horses that are unwilling to take the water may be ridden behind other horses or tied behind boats or rafts. When the horse enters deep water, the rider slides out of the saddle,

RIVER CROSSINGS

or off the animal's back, and hangs onto the mane or halter on the downstream side, keeping low in the water and stretching out. Care must be taken to avoid being struck by the horse's front feet, and not to throw the animal off balance by putting too much weight on his head and neck. A swimming animal may be easily guided across a stream and prevented from turning back by the rider resting slightly forward of the withers and pushing the horse's head to the front with either hand if he attempts to turn. If the horse gets too excited, it may be necessary to release the halter or mane, and then catch the horse's tail and hold on. The horse should be kept headed upstream, especially in a swift current.

c. A much quicker and easier method of swimming animals is to herd them across, but animals not trained or practiced in swimming are often difficult to herd into water, and often turn around and come back when halfway across. (Herding should not be attempted in a swift current.) Sometimes the appearance of a few horses or mules on the opposite bank will help to start the herd across, and those which are seen to turn back in midstream may be kept out of the herd and crossed individually later. Some animals will have to be forced into the water. This may be done by passing a strong line across the rump of the animal and manning each end, a good rider then mounting the animal, and having a long lead line pulled by a man in a boat or on the other side of the stream. In dangerous streams it may be necessary to run a strong line across, and have a lead of at least 10 feet long tied to a pulley or sliding ring on the line and tied to the horse's halter with two leads of smaller line on the ring from each bank. The horse is then put into the water, head upstream, and drawn over to the other side by men pulling on the line and by the horse swimming. The ring is then drawn back for further operations. If the ropes do not fail, no horse can be washed downstream, and if done promptly, none should be in danger of drowning, as the tendency of this pulley method is to force the horse's head up. Sheer lines for trail ferries may be used in this manner, but it is usually more economical to lead the horse behind the ferry. A few difficult horses may be crossed by simply carrying a line from the horse to the other side of a narrow swift stream, holding it at a point upstream from the landing, and letting the horse swing across the stream and land on the other side (as is described in par. 27-7 *e*, for Flying Ferries). As this requires more

RIVER CROSSINGS

trouble than any of the other methods, it should be used only when there are few such difficult animals, and when other methods fail.

4. Mounted Marines should be thoroughly trained in swimming their mounts and in fording. Practice of this kind makes the animals willing to enter the water, and saves much time in emergencies. With light equipment, mounts may be crossed by swimming with the saddles on. The cantle roll aids buoyancy rather than detracts from it.

SECTION XII

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

	Par.	Page
Trail cutting.....	6-98	67
Night operations.....	6-99	68

6-98. **Trail cutting.**—*a.* Some situations will require the cutting of trails through wooded terrain. One cutter at the head of a small column will suffice. When it is desirable to open a trail for pack animals, there should be three or four cutters.

b. The leading cutter is charged with direction. In general the trail will follow a compass azimuth, with necessary variations to the right and left as determined by the terrain features, the ease of cutting, etc. As a prerequisite to trail cutting, the patrol leader must have a general knowledge of the area, the direction of flow of the more important stream lines and the intervening ridge lines, the distance to his objective and its general direction from the point of origin. A fairly accurate map, an airplane mosaic or a previous air reconnaissance over the route would be of inestimable value, but probably none of them will be available. Native cutters should be employed, if possible, and they can usually be relied upon to select the best and shortest route. This does not relieve the patrol leader of his responsibility of checking the general direction of the trail from compass bearings.

c. The second cutter widens to the right, the third to the left, and so on depending upon the number of cutters and width desired. If the trail is to be used by mounted men, a second group of cutters should follow the first, increasing the height of cut. All cutters should be equipped with suitable machetes. The cutters have a fatiguing task and should be relieved after from 10 to 30 minutes, depending upon the speed of movement desired, the thickness of the underbrush, and whether native or enlisted cutters are employed. The speed of cutting will vary from an eighth of a mile per hour for a large trail through the worst sort of jungle, to a mile or more an hour for a hasty trail through lighter growth. The heaviest brush will be found in the river bottoms, while the ridge lines will usually be comparatively open.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

6-99. **Night operations.**—*a. General.*—Night operations present, in general, the same problems that are associated with such operations in major warfare.

b. Night marches.—Night marches are extremely exhausting for both men and animals. The rate of march is approximately half that of a day march. The distances between men and subdivisions in the column will have to be less than during day operations. In heavily wooded terrain, a night march is impossible on a dark night unless artificial lights are used. When marching over bad trails on clear or moonlight nights in such terrain, it will be necessary to march slowly and with only comfortable walking distance between men and subdivisions. Night marches are practicable, and desirable under some circumstances, when conducted over known trails. They are of very doubtful value if made over routes which are being traversed for the first time.

c. Night attacks.—A night attack, to be successful, implies an accurate knowledge of the location and dispositions of the enemy, of the routes of approach, and of the terrain in the vicinity of the hostile position. Each man participating in the operation should wear a distinctive white arm band, or other identification marker. A night attack should be an assault only, with the bayonet. Indiscriminate firing by the attacking force is fully as dangerous to friendly personnel as it is to the enemy. The problems of control are greatly increased. The favorable outcome of an attack is so doubtful that this operation should be attempted only after the most careful consideration. These remarks do not apply to attacks that are launched at dawn, but only to those that are made during the hours of darkness.

