

Eglinton Detachment ACF

Movement at Night

- a. At night people hear more than they see, so silence is vital. To move silently at night movement must be slow. Rubber soled boots are a help on hard ground.
- b. A night patrol must be silent on the move and must stop frequently to look and listen. It must halt in the cover or shadow and, if there is none, the members must lie down. By lying down they are not silhouetted against the sky but, on the other hand, other things will be silhouetted from their point of view. When lying down members will be able to keep their ears to the ground thus being able to hear any other movement. When hearing a noise whilst on the move members of a patrol should freeze whilst looking and listening, and then, if necessary, slowly and silently lie down or take cover.

Moving at night

The ghost walk

Lift your legs high to avoid long grass, and sweep them outwards. Feel gently with your toes for a safe place to put your feet. Make sure one boot is safe before moving the other. Keep the knees a bit bent. Carry the weapon in the alert position in open country. In close country carry it in the front slung carriage position using the sling, leaving the hands free to feel for obstacles in front above waist height.

The cat walk

Crawl on hands and knees; search the ground ahead for twigs with the left hand. The weapon is supported by the sling and held in the right hand.

The kitten crawl

Often the only way to get accurate information is to get close to the enemy, which means keeping low and quiet. The leopard crawl is too noisy, but the kitten crawl is very quiet, though it is slow and tiring and needs a lot of practise. Lie on the stomach, search the ground ahead for twigs with the right hand, lift the body on forearms and toes, press it forward, and lower it on to the ground; the weapon is supported by the sling and held in the right hand.

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Action when caught by enemy lights

When a mini flare is used to light up an area a cadet who is a member of a patrol may be caught in the light. He must take the following action:

- a. If there little cover about it is usually best to take cover or lie down the moment you see the light.
- b. In close country it is best to freeze. If still the background makes it hard to see. If spotted get to cover quickly.

Aids to keeping direction

It is often hard to keep direction, in fog or in close country. Some of the aids to keeping direction are:

- a. The compass, map and air photographs.
- b. A rough sketch copied from a map or photograph.
- c. Keeping two prominent objects in view.
- d. Using a series of easily recognizable landmarks, each visible from the previous one.
- e. The stars and also the sun and the moon if the nature of their movement in the sky is understood
- f. Memorizing a route from a map or air photograph. Helpful details are the direction of streams, distances between recognizable features coupled with pacing, and the course of contours.
- g. Trees in exposed country tend to grow away from the direction of the prevailing wind. Moss may grow on the leeward side of the tree trunks.
- h. Remembering the back view: patrols and others who may have to find their way back should look behind from time to time and pick up landmarks for the return journey
- i. Leaving direction marks on the outward journey: these may be pegs, small heaps of stones or blazed trees.
- j. If the route is being walked by day by cadets who are to guide along it by night, they must take note of skylines and objects or features which they will be able to recognise in the dark.

END OF LESSON

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