

Eglinton Detachment

Sentries

Arrangements must be made in every unit and sub – unit down to and including the section for its own protection at all times. When a section is on the move this presents few problems because every cadet is alert and ready for an emergency.

When static in a temporary position, which may be for as little as 5 minutes, or in a patrol base, protection is more of a problem because cadets are likely to be less alert and ready for a surprise attack which may come from any direction.

There are three principles which apply in ensuring that protection at rest is adequate:

- a. The correct positioning of the section.
- b. The location of the alarm post(s).
- c. The posting of sentries.

A quick reconnaissance by the section commander will disclose which are the most likely enemy approaches into the position so that the rifle and gun groups can be sited to cover them by fire.

There will be normally be one alarm post in a section and it is the area to which cadets will move to automatically at a signal if danger threatens.

In practise, as cadets will be resting or sleeping near the alarm post they will be at their positions in the alarm almost at once. It must be sited so that, as stated above, enemy approaches into the position can be covered by fire, and it must be concealed from the air. Immediately on arrival in the position a practise manning of the alarm post must be carried out.

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Because it is wasteful in numbers and unnecessarily saps cadets energy, not all the cadets need to be alert all the time. The majority should be resting or sleeping whilst sentries are watching and listening, ready for instant action.

There is usually one sentry by day and two by night in a section position, and the alarm post to which they are posted is normally adjacent to the LSW covering the most likely approach into the position. They are posted by an officer or NCO who will ensure that they know:

- a. The direction of the enemy.
- b. The ground they have to watch.
- c. The position of flanking posts. (left or right of you)
- d. The name of the landmarks in front.
- e. The procedure for challenging.
- f. Particulars of returning patrol (how many men in section, who the leader is, the direction they came from).
- g. The password.
- h. Length of duty.

A sentry's duty may be for half an hour and no more than two hours, and relief time of sentries at night will be staggered so that there is always one fresh sentry and one adapted to night vision.