

## **Patrols**

### **Aims and Types of Patrol**

#### **Explanation**

Patrolling is probably the most important operation in war so far as the infantry is concerned

#### **Aims of patrolling**

There are three aims of patrolling:

- a. To obtain up-to-date and accurate information as a result of which a commander can plan an operation.
- b. To dominate the ground between a commanders own unit and that of the enemy, thus making it easier and safer for his own patrols to gather information and more difficult for the enemy patrols to achieve similar results.
- c. To destroy and disrupt enemy forces, particularly those which may try to infiltrate the commanders own positions or between neighbouring positions.

Patrolling is carried by both sides by day and night in all phases of war. Successful patrolling calls for a high standard of individual training, good teamwork and initiative and determination on the part of the patrol leader. Successful patrolling has a beneficial effect on unit morale and will adversely affect the enemy morale.

Patrolling enables the defence to be conducted in an aggressive manner.

In peacetime it is an excellent stimulant to training because it creates keen interest and can so easily be made realistic.

The foundation of successful patrolling is thorough preparation.

#### **Types of patrolling**

All patrols have the task of providing information. They must also be prepared to fight, either to gain information required or to protect themselves if necessary. There are three main types of dismounted patrols:

- a. Reconnaissance patrols.
- b. Standing patrols.
- c. Fighting patrols.

## **Reconnaissance Patrols**

These are patrols of minimum strength for the task, usually one NCO and three cadets which gain information by information and observation and operate generally by stealth (quietly and concealed). They avoid combat except for self- protection or to take advantage of an unusual opportunity.

The roles in which reconnaissance patrols may be employed include:

- a. Collecting topographical information features, tracks and the state of the ground.
- b. Obtaining details of enemy minefields and the extent of enemy positions.
- c. Locating enemy machine guns and defensive fire areas, where fire is immediately directed on call in case of emergency.
- d. Investigating noises made by the enemy, their habits and patrol routes.
- e. Checking our wire and/or minefields at first and last light.
- f. Acting as listening posts to give early warning of enemy approach and with the ability to call down fire.

## **Standing patrols**

These are patrols of a minimum strength of one NCO and three cadets which gain information of enemy movement and prevent or disrupt enemy infiltration. They move into position as quietly as possible and try to remain concealed and gain information until they are required to withdraw or, discovered fight their out. Their main tasks are to:

- a. Watch and listen on likely enemy approaches.
- b. Watch over dead ground in front of and between friendly localities.
- c. Watch over minefields and obstacles.

For these tasks they should have good communications so that they can inform the main body.

## **Fighting patrols**

These are patrols organised with sufficient strength and armament (usually a minimum of two NCOs and nine cadets) to accept combat in order to fulfil their role:

- a. Denying enemy patrols freedom of action in no mans land
- b. Driving in enemy protective patrols.
- c. Interfering with enemy working parties.
- d. Distracting enemy attention from other activities.
- e. Carrying out raids.

- f. Capturing prisoners for identification purposes.
- g. Tank hunting.
- h. Laying ambushes.
- i. Protecting reconnaissance and other working parties of other arms.
- j. Escorting stretcher bearers.

### **Brief outline**

Recce patrol – 1 NCO - 3 Rifle men - Gather info on the ground and the enemy.

Standing patrol – 1 NCO – 3 Rifle men – Watch over dead ground – No-mans land (The land between the friendly forces and the enemy forces) watch over likely enemy approaches.

Fighting patrol – 2 NCOs – 9 rifle men – no mans land – ambush – raid – attack – gather prisoners and protect recce patrol and working parties.

### **End of lesson**