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ENGR TRG CENTER ENGR COURSES

May - June 1945

114

F...I...L...E.

SUBJECT:- Mine Warfare Training

'H' DEPT INFO REF

Al Cabo Ufficio ADD  
CANTON

Ref: ICL/C.11/274


12 June 1945

CNO.II (Trg)  
CNO.II (Inf)  
Capt Le Tocq, RE  
Sgt ELLIOTT, A.S.

1. Herewith 20 copies of "Safety Precautions During Mine Warfare Training" (A précis of CNOs 65/45 and CNO 517/44).
2. Please ensure that this information is passed to all persons connected with Mine Warfare Training.

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JCH/asj

  
 Major RE  
 3072

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING MINE WARFARE TRAINING

(Precis of General Routine  
Orders Nos 517/44 & 654/45)

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1. RECENT ACCIDENTS

The following three cases of accidents during mine warfare training occurred recently in this theatre. They are not isolated cases!!

On one occasion the detonation of one GS Mk IV anti-tank mine resulted in the death of 69 men and injury to 87 others of an instructional class. Some of the 87 injured men subsequently died from their wounds.

Later the detonation of a single Grenado No.75 resulted in the instantaneous death of 2 men and injury to 37 others of an instructional class. Many of the injured men were blinded.

Recently 20 officers and men were killed and 20 seriously injured when a R Mi 43 detonated on being demonstrated to an instructional class.

2. PRECAUTIONS

The following safety precautions will in future be adhered to:-

- (a) Whenever possible, mines which have been emptied of their explosive charge should be used for instructional purposes.
- (b) A live mine will never be used for demonstration or instructional purposes if it contains a live igniter or a detonator.
- (c) Enemy Mines. A live igniter or a detonator will never be actually inserted into a live enemy mine.
- (d) Allied Mines. Types of Allied mines which are armed with a "Fuze" comprising detonator, igniter and booster (M, S, Mine, etc), may be so armed under the following precautions.
  - (i) Arming to be done out of doors.
  - (ii) The class to be limited to eight (8) students.  
No one else within 100 yards.
  - (iii) Safety pins will not be withdrawn.

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- (i) Arming to be done out of doors.
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No one else within 100 yards.
  - (iii) Safety pins will not be withdrawn.
- (e) Igniters. Before an igniter is used for instructional training with mines it will be rendered safe as under.
- (i) Percussion type - cap will either be removed or fired.
  - (ii) Chemical type - chemicals will be removed.
  - (iii) Friction type - igniter will be operated by pulling.
- Igniters thus rendered safe will have a narrow white band painted round them.
- (f) Laying Drill.
- (i) Only Allied Mines will be used for laying drill.
  - (ii) Safety pins will NOT be removed.
  - (iii) Before the drill commences the Instructor will check all mines to ensure no fuzes, igniters or detonators are in position and he will list all explosive stores.
  - (iv) At the conclusion of the period the instructor will again check all mines and ensure all stores are present according to his former list.

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(v) As handling is liable to weaken shear wires and increase the sensitivity of the explosive in fuzes and detonators, both these latter will be destroyed at the end of each days training.

(g) Discipline. It is of paramount importance that no untrained or incompetent individual is allowed access to mines, detonators, fuzes, etc, etc.

3. RENDERING SAFE.

- (a) Only a really competent person familiar with the mine concerned should be allowed to remove detonators or igniters or explosive from a mine.
- (b) He must work alone and out of doors. No one is to be within 100 yards of him.
- (c) No attempt is to be made to remove the detonator from a Teller mine T Mi 35 or T Mi 35 (Steel) without the use of the special tool.
- (d) If the detonator sticks (as is prone to happen in the R Mi 43) no attempt will be made by force to remove it and the mine will be destroyed.

4. ASSISTANCE.

The British RE Staff at BRACCIANO and CESANO will give any help or advise concerning safety precautions and should be approached direct on any such matter.

12 June 1945  
JCB/anj

J.C. BLAXLAND,  
Major RE,  
SOE,  
'H' BTL IRTC ICM.

F...I...L...E.

SUBJECT:- Mine Museums

'M' BFI IRTG ICF

Scuola Artieri  
Scuola di Fanteria  
Scuola Specialisti di Fanteria

Ref: BFI/G.11/267

8 June 1945

Captain Le TOCQ, RE  
Sgt ELLIOTT, A.J.

1. Please take greater precautions to ensure that the mine museums are not disarranged by students and staff. The mine museum should be a collection of different mines on show. It should not be a store (cases are noted where four or five similar igniters are displayed when there should rightfully be one) nor a lecture room.
2. Mines must be grouped together in nationalities or class. The visitor only gets confused if he sees an 'S' Mine in one place, its igniter in yet another, its case in a third location and its igniter cap in a fourth.
3. Whenever possible a separate set of mines should be held (outside the museum) for use in lectures.
4. Full use must be made of sectionalising.
5. Particular attention must be paid to collecting and laying out for the museums, the pieces of equipment liable to be found on the ground denoting a minefield - mine boxes, igniter caps, safety pins, arming handles, etc. 126
6. Museums will alter as time goes on and one museum will have acquired equipment which another will not have. Periodic visits to other museums must be made by all officers responsible for mine warfare training.
7. Due to backwardness in the use of the FLARE OP one should be set up permanently in each school as an exhibit.

JCE/asj

Major RE  
SORE

F...I...L...E.

SUBJECT:-

Courses, Officers - Scuola Artieri

*Call*

'H' DTI INTG ICP

Scuola Artieri

Ref: BTI/C.11/200

11 May 1945

Herewith copies of 6 Schemes for the Officers' Courses. Correct solutions will follow shortly.

JOB/nst

Major RM  
SORD

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SCHHEME No:1  
(Fieldwork)

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FILE

1. You are instructed to go to the Flag pole in the main square of the Genio Regiment barracks and obtain the following information:-

- (a) The height of the Flag pole above the ground.
- (b) The diameter of the Flag pole at its thickest point.
- (c) Details of how you would take it down in order to re-erect it at another site.

2. What equipment would you take with you in order to answer (a) (b) and (c)?

3. Answers to questions to be at \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Ask now if you have any questions.

May 45

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SCENES No:2  
 (Stores Recce)

1. NARRATIVE.

You are an officer in an Artillery company. Your unit has just re-occupied BRACCIANO and your CO has instructed you to make a hasty recce for engineer stores over a certain area.

The route your CO has given you is :-

BRACCIANO barracks  
 'T' junction 482598  
 BRACCIANO  
 Road junction 492904  
 Road junction 498896  
 VORDEBORTO 486174  
 Road junction 482885  
 Road junction 479899  
 BRACCIANO barracks.

2. Hand a written report in on what stores you have found, to my office by

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Ask now if you have any questions.

May 45

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SCHEMA No.2  
(Materiale da ricognizione)  
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1.- QUESTIONARIO.

Voi siete un Ufficiale in una compagnia Artieri. Il vostro reparto ha ricoccupato BRACCIANO e il vostro Ufficiale Comandante vi ha dato ordine di fare una minuziosa ricognizione per i materiali del Genio in una certa zona.

Il percorso che il vostro Ufficiale Comandante vi ha dato e' :

CASERME DI BRACCIANO  
(Incrocio "T" 484898)  
BRACCIANO  
(Incrocio stradale 492904  
" " 498886  
VOROSMORTO 486874  
Incrocio stradale 482885  
" " 479899  
BRACCIANO : Caserme

- 2.- Portare un rapporto scritto su quali materiali voi avete trovato, nel mio ufficio da \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.- Chiedere ora se avete qualche domanda da fare.

Maggio 1945

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SCHEME No:3  
(Bridge Recce)

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1. NARRATIVE.

You are a recce officer and are with the leading elements of your Division advancing SOFBI along the road BRACCIANO - CASTEL GIULIANO. You are out of touch with the retreating enemy. Bridge at 461858 is reported blown and you go up to have a look and find the bridge and approaches well and truly demolished for a length of 150 feet.

2. What report would you send back?
3. What equipment would you have with you as Recce officer?
4. Reports to be handed in at \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Ask now if you have any questions.

May 45

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SCHEMA No. 3  
(Riconoscimento ad un ponte)

1.- QUESTIONARIO

Voi siete un Ufficiale di ricognizione e siete con gli elementi di punta della vostra Divisione, avanzando a Sua volta la strada di BRACCIANO - CASTEL S. ANGELO. Siate lontani dal contatto con le retroguardie nemiche. Al ponte 461000 vi accingete a passare e voi andate a vedere e trovate che il ponte e i suoi appoggi sono completamente distrutti per 150 piedi.

- 2.- Quale rapporto voi inviereste?
- 3.- Quale equipaggiamento voi vorreste avere con l'Ufficiale di ricognizione?
- 4.- Consegnati i rapporti a \_\_\_\_\_ da \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5.- Chiedete ora se voi avete qualche domanda da fare.

Maggio 1945

**SCHEME No:4**  
**(Bridge Classification)**

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1. Go to bridge at MR 465882 and estimate its load classification.
2. Answer to be in my office by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Any questions?

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SCHEMA No.4  
(Classificazione dei ponti)

- 1.- Andate al ponte a MR 465882 e stirare la sua classificazione.
- 2.- Le risposte devono essere portate nel mio Ufficio da \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3.- Qualche domanda ?

Maggio 1945

SCHEME No:5  
(Demolitions)

1. NARRATIVE.

You are a retreating German formation retiring through BRACCIANO. Your OC orders you to prepare for demolition the rail over road bridge at MR 49889 to cause the maximum damage to rail and road.

2. What questions would you ask him? (Think for 20 minutes and then ask).
3. Show how you would prepare the bridge for demolition.
4. Give a list of your stores requirements.
5. Answers to 3 and 4 to be in my office by \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Any further questions?

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SCHEMA No. 5  
(Demolizioni)

1.- QUESTIONARIO.

Voi siete una formazione tedesca in ritirata attraverso BRACCIANO. Il vostro Comando vi ordina preparare la demolizione della ferrovia sul ponte stradale a KM 498889 per causare il massimo danno alla ferrovia e alla strada.

2.- Quale domande gli rivolgerete ? (Pensate per 20 minuti e rispondete)

3.- Spiegate ora che cosa farete per demolire il ponte.

4.- Fate un elenco dei materiali che vi necessitano.

5.- Le risposte 3 e 4 da portarmi nel mio Ufficio da \_\_\_\_\_.

6.- Qualche ulteriore domanda ?.

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**SCHEME No:6**  
**(Mine field)**

**PART I**

1. Your Artieri Company is working attached to an Infantry Brigade in the line. The front your forward companies hold is the forward slopes of M. PERO 4888. The line lies roughly NORTH and SOUTH with the enemy strongly holding MONTE ROTA to the EAST.
2. Reports have come in from patrols that the immediate front is mined and wire can be seen from your positions. Infantry patrols are certain that it is a definite mine belt.
3. The Brigade Commander say that he requires a sapper recce to be made ~~of~~ it tonight and your OC calls for you to go on it. You are told "The object of the recce is to learn as much as possible concerning the minefield for future gapping".
4. What preparations would you make for tonight? Ask your OC any questions you wish before dismissing. The time is at present.
5. Do the recce and make your report.

**PART II**

6. You are now another officer in the same company in charge of a platoon. You are given the attached report on the previously mentioned minefield and told by your OC that you will be in charge of making one gap in this field on the night before the morning in which the attack goes in. You are shown on the map exactly where the gap is to be made. Your OC says it is to be a standard 16 yd gap.
7. Ask any questions you wish.
8. Write down your PLAN for the gapping giving exact details of how you intend to organise your party. 15"
9. Make the gap!!

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SCHEMA No. 5  
( Campo minato )

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PARTE I

- 1.- La vostra compagnia Artieri lavora con una Brigata di fanteria in linea. Il fronte tenuto dalle vostre compagnie avanzate e' costituito dalle falde del monte FIERO 4308. La linea tiene in direzione circa N.S. mentre il nemico tiene il Monte ROCCA ad Est.
- 2.- Le pattuglie hanno riportato che le vicinanze del fronte sono minate e sei reticella ti si possono vedere dalle vostre posizioni. Le pattuglie di fanteria sono certe che ci e' un ben definito cordone di mine.
- 3.- Il Comandante di Brigata dice che ha bisogno di una ricognizione di esperti; se e' per questa sera e il vostro comandante vi chiama, andate in ricognizione. Vi si dice : " Obiettivo della ricognizione e' di sapere il piu' possibile intorno al campo minato per potervi aprire in futuro un passaggio. "
- 4.- Che preparazione vorreste fare per questa notte? Chiedete al Vs/ Comandante cio' che vi interessa prima di partire. Parlo subito.
- 5.- Fate la ricognizione e il vostro rapporto.

PARTE II

- 6.- Voi siete ora un altro Ufficiale della stessa compagnia al comando di un plotone. Avete ricevuto il rapporto sul campo minato precedentemente menzionato e il vostro Comandante vi ha detto che siete stato incaricato di aprire un passaggio nel campo minato durante la notte prima del mattino in cui comincerà l'attacco. Vi si mostra sulla carta topografica il punto esatto dove si deve aprire il passaggio. Il vostro Comandante dice che il passaggio deve essere almeno di 16 yards.
- 7.- Chiedete informazioni su qualsiasi punto volete.
- 8.- Scrivete il vostro piano per l'azione dando dettagli esatti di come volete organizzare la pattuglia.
- 9.- Aprire il passaggio.-

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