

APPX. VCOY VILLAGE FIGHTING EXERCISEGeneral Idea

The Bosche have landed and seized EASTDEAN with a force of approx. 100. O.C. RHC orders O.C. Blank Coy to take his coy. on foot and annihilate the enemy, consolidating on the FRISTON high ground by 1100hrs.

"A" Coy 16th Feb

Coy moved out across the Downs in a direct line from EASTBOURNE to EASTDEAN. It was noticeable that formations while crossing open ground were not widely enough dispersed and that when moving down valleys flank protection was not observed.

When first fired upon the Coy was crossing a hill some five hundred yards S-E of EASTDEAN, clearly outlined on the skyline. The Coy Commander at once ordered a move into the valley running into EASTDEAN from the SOUTH and one Pl. was put in which cleared out an enemy outpost on the edge of the village. The Coy then concentrated for orders which were for an attack into the village on a three pl. front. It is probable that this was too wide as pls. became widely dispersed at an early stage.

Casualties in moving up to the final posn in farm buildings were heavy owing to secs not working as a team and individuals attempting to clear a house. The final assault was broken up before it materialized by the action of an enemy fighting patrol which moved out and killed the Coy Commander, Coy. H.Q. and one sec.

The correct method of moving down village streets, searching houses, etc., still requires much practice.

"B" Coy 17 Feb

The Coy. were met at CRAPHAM HILL RD. JUNC. by a Home Guard guide who led the Coy Commander to the NORTH of the road and pointed out the enemy position. The Coy Commander from over a mile away decided on a right flanking attack with two pls. with the third pl. pushing in from the EAST and acting as stop when pinned.

The movement went fast and well and resulted in the extreme right Pl. completely encircling the rt. of the village and surprising an enemy outpost in a house. The attack was then pushed home with several casualties especially in the stop Pl. when it moved, but secs worked well as teams and pushed forward covered usually by fire from their own Brens. Finally the right flank pl. came in from the FRISTON high ground almost intact and took the final posn in the farm buildings without much loss.

It was a very good morning's work, bringing out well the necessity for sec. commanders working their secs as a team and the uselessness of individual effort unsupported.