

## ARMY PHOTOS

The article on unit histories by Major Glenn W. Davis (INFANTRY, January-February 1987, pages 13-14) is an excellent reference source, and I intend to use it as the basis for helping patrons of our museum library with questions about the histories of various Army units.

It should be noted, however, that the paragraph on page 14 concerning photographs needs to be updated to reflect the move last year of millions of Army photos of World War II and Korea from the Department of Defense to the National Archives and Records Service.

As I understand it, the Defense Audio-visual Agency now has Army photos only from 1955 to the present, while the National Archives maintains the earlier photos.

Additional information on photographs can be obtained from the Still Picture Branch, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408; telephone (202) 523-3236/3237.

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## OVER-BURDENED

Reference the excellent article "A Soldier's Load," by Captain William C. Mayville (INFANTRY, January-February 1987, pages 25-28), I quite agree with the captain—the foot soldier is a sadly over-burdened fighting man who cannot reasonably be expected to perform at his best on the battlefield. It seems to me that the "soldier loaders" would take a look at battle history and learn a few things. Apparently, they don't. They recommend that the soldier's load be restricted to 40 pounds. That's a lot of weight to carry on your back when you're fighting a war.

Realizing that infantry combat today is entirely different from that of World War II, I would like to pass on what the typical Canadian infantryman carried on his back and in his hands into battle in that war. It certainly wasn't 40 pounds, but perhaps half that weight.

He wore the standard two-piece wool battledress uniform, a steel helmet, and high boots (incidentally, the first "combat boots" issued to any Allied troops). He carried his Lee-Enfield rifle with its 10-round magazine (and "one up the spout" for insurance), an Imperial-pint canteen (water, tea or whatever was locally available), a short bayonet and scabbard, web belt, shoulder harness, and small pack on his back. In front, he wore two Bren pouches (each large enough to carry two Bren gun magazines but invariably filled with personal gear). In addition, he had one, sometimes two, Mills bombs (grenades), a cloth bandoleer holding ten 5-round clips of rifle ammunition, mess tins, knife, fork, spoon, housewife (sewing gear), groundsheet, socks, underwear, cigarettes (often at the expense of other gear), razor, soap, toothbrush and paste, and whatever he had in his pockets. He was ready for anything war had in store. (Chemical warfare was unknown, so gas masks were quickly turned back to platoon supplies. They were rarely discarded, for King's Regulations took an extremely dim view of soldiers who purposefully lost or destroyed government property.)

All of that tipped the scales at not much more than 20-25 pounds—and we felt vastly over-burdened. Quite often, depending on the job at hand, the small pack was left with the platoon 15-cwt (three-quarter ton) truck, and an extra bandoleer of ammunition or a couple of extra Mills bombs were substituted.

Those infantrymen didn't lay down volumes of fire. They had been trained to shoot straight, and a bolt action Lee-Enfield was an accurate rifle. Bren gun-

ners (light machinegunners, three per platoon) carried pistols if they could scrounge them, as did the number two men on the teams—the ones who toted the heavy ammunition boxes.

Often enough in the summer the battledress tunic was discarded, and the war was fought in rolled-up shirtsleeves. Also, very few over-burdened German infantrymen were seen around, and they were the real pros in that war—the rest of us were amateurs, reluctant or otherwise.

In short, the World War II Canuck infantryman went into battle carrying what he required for immediate survival, not what some quartermaster type back in Canada thought he should be carrying. Food and ammunition were his basic requirements, and food was often in the form of Cadbury raisin-chocolate bars or a handful of hard sugar candies. Hot meals were almost always provided by conscientious company cooks as quickly after an action as possible.

Granted, today's infantryman will fight a much different war from the one his World War II predecessor fought, but it seems to me that if he is suitably armed, munitioned, and fed, he should be ready for combat without having to struggle under an overload of "extras."

Besides, a heap of supplies and equipment on his back makes it all that much harder for him to hide himself when he hits the dirt.

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## PROOFREADERS DOZED OFF

Thank you for publishing my article "Bradley Platoon Organization" (INFANTRY, March-April 1987, pages 16-18). In reading it, however, I discovered three errors:

First, although the byline reads "Ma-

101." I am still a captain.

Second, in the illustration on page 17 one of the Rs (for rifleman) was omitted from the fire team on the right. There should be four men on that team.

Finally, the last sentence of the center column on page 17 should read "Each BFV platoon would lift an infantry platoon by taking the six fire teams (four or five men each) . . . *not* "four or six men each."

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### JOHNNY STILL CAN'T READ A MAP

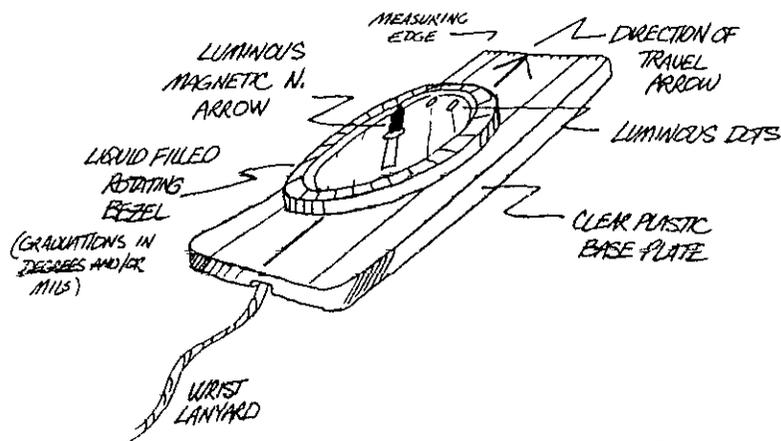
Some of the innovative tools and techniques used for years by sport orienteers are now becoming more common in the military community. These tools allow new navigators to learn the basics faster, progress more rapidly, and retain instruction better. But more units and agencies should be taking advantage of the dramatic benefits.

In his article "Why Johnny Can't Read . . . A Map" (INFANTRY, July-August 1979, pages 6-8), Lieutenant Colonel Dan Telfair identifies the problems with teaching map reading:

*Because our training base has not come up with a training methodology to use in teaching our junior enlisted soldiers land navigation in a reasonable amount of time, the subject has been dropped from POIs or reduced to a minimum level of familiarization. . . Johnny can't read a map because for all these many years we have given him the wrong tools and have taught him to use them in the most complex way imaginable.*

But now, eight years later, Johnny still can't read a map.

One of the orienteering tools that we could be using to a greater extent for military applications is the clear-based protractor-style compass, which simplifies the basic techniques employed with all compasses. (Common manufacturers of this compass are Silva, Brunton, and Suunto.) It is superior to other compasses when instructing new navigators, and its simplicity and ease of use makes



TYPICAL PROTRACTOR-STYLE COMPASS

it an excellent device for advanced navigators as well. Inexpensive models are available that incorporate bearings in degrees and mils, clicking bezel rings, pace counters, and luminous markings. A specific sighting-model protractor-compass is accurate to within half a degree and is used universally by makers of detailed orienteering maps during their field surveys.

Contrary to traditional thought, novice navigators learn quicker and retain more basic instruction with accurately detailed, five-color, large-scale (1:10,000 or 1:15,000) orienteering maps. Then they can more productively make the transition to less detailed, smaller-scale maps (1:24,000, 1:25,000, or 1:50,000). With the emerging popularity of sport orienteering, the local availability of maps of this type has increased. Five-color maps of International Orienteering Federation quality exist for many of our urban parks and state or national wildlife preserves.

For new students, the complexities of deciphering the declination deviation and the grid-to-magnetic angle can be simplified temporarily for the sake of instruction by altering standard military maps. A straight-edge and red ballpoint pen can be used to extend the magnetic north lines across a map's face. This simple change, by eliminating the need to convert grid-to-magnetic and magnetic-to-grid angles, allows novices to concentrate on reading the map, selecting routes, and recognizing terrain features.

Methods of teaching map reading also need to be improved, and, again, orienteering methods can help greatly.

I have been an avid competitive sport

orienteer since 1979 and served for four years as orienteering coach for the U.S. CIOR team. (CIOR is the acronym for the French version of International Confederation of Reserve Officers.) During that time, we successfully used orienteering training techniques to identify the best navigators from about 30 able candidates and then, in about two weeks, to convert them into competitive champions.

Large-scale (1:15,000 to 1:25,000), detailed, five-color orienteering maps, plastic protractor style compasses, and training techniques endorsed by the U.S. orienteering team were used to achieve this rapid and successful training.

In addition to CIOR's use of these techniques, the Army ROTC "Ranger Challenge" competition also employs "score" orienteering competitions to test military navigators.

The reason these tools and techniques work so well for sport orienteers and military navigators alike is that they simplify the tasks involved, emphasize map memory and terrain picturing, and stress economical route selection.

Winning in the demanding environment of competitive navigation requires the same intensity of concentration and accuracy that winning in a combat environment requires. To be successful, navigators have to commit themselves to using the time-approved skills of the professionals. Better tools and techniques are available. We must now employ them service-wide.

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## TEAM VEHICLES

Mechanized infantry squads equipped with the M113A2 armored personnel carrier have three weapons that can be used with some efficiency against Soviet armored vehicles: the M47 Dragon, the M2 .50 caliber machinegun, and the 7.62mm M60 machinegun. All three weapons are carried in or on the same vehicle.

The Dragon, with a maximum effective range of 1,000 meters, should not be used against tanks but against infantry carriers. Because of its launch signature and long flight time, the Dragon carries an inherent danger for its gunner, who is vulnerable to suppressive fire from long ranges. (There are recorded instances from World War II of U.S. infantrymen using bazookas against German tanks from ranges of 10 yards, and from Vietnam of the use of B40-RPG2s at ranges of 10 meters. But the results were not very pleasant for the gunners.)

The .50 caliber machinegun is of dubious value against anything other than thin-skinned vehicles and area targets, because of its low penetration and the instability of the M113A2 mount. In its air defense role, the .50 caliber machinegun simply slings bullets into the sky.

The M60 machinegun, like the .50 caliber, can damage ancillary equipment on armored vehicles—lights, antennas, and such—but its primary purpose is to kill enemy infantry.

Instead of three squad-sized elements in a mechanized infantry platoon, plus a headquarters vehicle, what is needed are six *team* vehicles—plus, of course, a headquarters vehicle.

With three Dragon vehicles and three machinegun vehicles, each with a crew of five, the mobility and survivability of a mechanized infantry platoon would be increased, and the platoon leader would have more choices as to the disposition and firepower from his platoon. With the proper power plant, seven light vehicles would be able to move faster from one position to another than would four medium-sized vehicles. And, of course, smaller vehicles make smaller targets.

Since team vehicles would be small and lightly armored, state-of-the-art laminate armor would not be necessary. Spaced-armor boxes could be slung on areas of

greatest vulnerability.

As presently constituted, a mechanized infantry squad has three teams: a carrier team, a Dragon team, and an M60 machinegun team. Since the squad's primary weapons are the Dragon and the M60, the squad is built around these two weapons. The carrier team delivers the Dragon and M60 teams to their destination. The function of the two teams is to protect each other—the Dragon team protects the M60 team from enemy armor, and the machinegun team protects the Dragon team from enemy infantry.

Since the squad, as now constituted, has two major teams, why jeopardize the survival of the teams by placing them in the same vehicle? If the teams were split, each with its own vehicle, their survivability would be increased.

The Dragon team would consist of:

- Dragon gunner, with Dragon and M16A1 rifle.
- Assistant gunner, with M16A1 rifle.
- Squad leader, with M203 grenade launcher.
- Vehicle commander, with mounted machinegun.
- Vehicle driver, with M203 grenade launcher.

The machinegun team would consist of:

- Two machinegunners, with weapons mounted on vehicle pintles.
- Team leader, with M203 grenade launcher.
- Vehicle commander, with mounted machinegun.
- Vehicle driver, with M203 grenade launcher.

Rank integrity would be maintained by having the squad leader in command of both teams and still carrying the rank of *staff sergeant*. The machinegun team leader and the Dragon gunner would be sergeants. (Since the Dragon is the squad's primary antiarmor weapon, why not give the gunner more rank?) Vehicle commanders would be specialist fours. To take the idea a step further, the Dragon vehicle could be built with a pop-up launcher—a "mini-ITV."

No doubt, research is in progress on a replacement for the Dragon. Whether it turns out to be television guided or "fire-and-forget," an antiarmor vehicle for each squad should also be considered; combined with a machinegun vehicle, it

would make the mechanized infantry squad more mobile and better able to survive on the modern battlefield.

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## OLD GUARD REUNION

The 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) Veterans Association will hold a reunion at the Officers Open Mess, Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on 19 September.

Companies are encouraged to hold reunions the previous Friday.

For more information, anyone who is interested may write or call Howard Wright, 10341 Harriet Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420: (612) 888-2038.

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## 47th INFANTRY REACTIVATING

The 47th Infantry, which is being reactivated, is searching for an Honorary Colonel and an Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment. Retired officers in the rank of colonel or above and retired noncommissioned officers in the rank of sergeant first class or above with prior service in the 47th Infantry may apply.

In addition, active duty, retired, or former soldiers who served in the 47th are being sought for nomination as Distinguished Members of the Regiment. Anyone who would like to share regimental memorabilia from the 47th should also contact us as soon as possible.

Upon selection of the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, an official reactivation ceremony will be held at Fort Lewis.

Further details are available from Commander, 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry (ATTN: ILT DeBoer), Fort Lewis, WA 98433-6430; (206) 967-3647/3871.

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