

formed around the firing platform that holds the tripod. The gunner gets behind the gun on the longer axis of the L. The assistant gunner is left of the M60 on the shorter axis.

**Low-profile Dragon Position.** The Dragon position differs from the others in that it has an additional position that is only waist deep and a shelf for the Dragon feet. This firing position is dug only waist deep to give the missile 24 inches of clearance and to keep the backblast from bouncing off the back of the position and injuring the soldier.

The chief advantage of the built-down series of positions is increased survivability through concealment, which allows the soldier to escape enemy detection and

subsequent destruction, and an infinite amount of cover from the chin down. One of the shortcomings is that these positions cannot be used everywhere. They are ineffective when not dug deep enough; for example, in permafrost or shallow bedrock areas. They are also less effective in jungle terrain.

For a quick guide to a built-down position, see Graphic Training Aid 7-6-1, and look soon (in six months to a year) for a video tape on the built-down series. Also in the works is a three-dimensional model, which instructors can use as an example when describing the positions.

The positions in the built-down series offer more protection than the built-up fighting position. The most important

thing is for the commander to see that his troops dig in every time they are not moving.

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### **FIFTY YEARS AGO IN HISTORY July-August 1946**

*Tensions among former Allies had not abated by the summer of 1946; in fact many had steadily worsened. Friction between Nationalist and Communist Chinese factions was at the breaking point; Yugoslav gunners regularly fired on U.S. aircraft crossing that nation's airspace, and the Soviet Union attempted to align Turkey against the United States. At the same time, the United States was taking its first tentative steps into the atomic age with testing and legislation aimed at harnessing and administering the power of the atom.*

*These and other highlights of the postwar years have been provided by Mr. Bud Hannings, in preparation for his upcoming chronology of the Korean War.*

- 1 July** *The Russians send a message to Turkey, suggesting that only Black Sea nations have access to the Dardanelles, and that the straits be placed under joint Russian-Turkish defense. Fearing the advantage this would afford the Russians, and not wanting Russian troops on Turkish soil, the Turkish government seeks advice from the Truman Administration, and subsequently rejects the plan.*
- 1 July** *The United States detonates a 20-kiloton atomic bomb over the Bikini test site, in the Marshall Islands. A second, underwater, detonation will take place on 25 July.*
- 7 July** *The Chinese Communist Party issues a manifesto criticizing U.S. policy toward the Nationalist Central Government of Chiang Kai-shek.*
- 13-27 July** *Chinese Communists ambush and capture seven U.S. Marines, but their safe return is negotiated without retaliatory action.*
- 21 July** *At a meeting with the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, Bernard Baruch announces that the United States will endorse an international inspection team to oversee the production of atomic bombs.*
- 29 July** *Chinese Communist troops ambush a small Marine patrol, killing three and wounding others.*
- 10 August** *President Truman dispatches a letter to Chiang Kai-shek, expressing dissatisfaction at the inability of the Nationalists and the Communists to form a united government, and blaming both factions for the escalating chaos. General George C. Marshall has previously advised President Truman that the Communists will prevail if all-out civil war takes place.*
- 21 August** *The U.S. delivers an ultimatum to the Yugoslav government following the shooting down of two unarmed T-47 transport aircraft enroute to Italy. Yet another C-47 is shot down on 23 July, resulting in the death of five crewman. Tensions ease somewhat with the arrival of an official Yugoslav apology.*