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OBSERVATION, CAMOUFLAGE & CONCEALMENT

FC & BC 3

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Introduction

The term camouflage comes from French word “Camouflier”, meaning “to blind or veil”. It means to disguise an object in plain sight in order to conceal it from something or someone. The object loses its three dimensional qualities and appears flat.

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Camouflage is defined as action of misleading enemy by concealing or misrepresenting the identity of won troops, equipment, installations and activities.



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Why Things are Seen

Various factors responsible for things to be seen are as follows:

- (a) Shape
- (b) Shine
- (c) Shadow
- (d) Surface
- (e) Spacing
- (f) Smoke
- (g) Sound
- (h) Movement

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You have seen as to why things are visible during day or in clear moonlit night. Now let us see why things are visible at night. **There are two factors which are given below:**

- (a) Sound
- (b) Light

Personal Camouflage

Camouflage means to disguise an object in plain sight in order to conceal it from something or someone.



We will now see how personal camouflage is done which includes camouflage of equipment worn or carried by a soldier.

- (a) Use of Disruptive Pattern
- (b) Clothing and Local Vegetation
- (c) Camouflage of Face
- (d) Camouflage of Equipment

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Equipment is camouflaged as follows

(i) Helmet

- Use of Hessian Cloth
- Use of Camouflage Net



(ii) Camouflage of Back packs

Packs have square outline which is broken by tying thin ropes on the packs and branches of local vegetation are stuck in the ropes.



(iii) Camouflage of Rifle

Metal parts of rifles are phosphate and hence shine is reduced. Garnish of suitable colour should be wrapped over wooden parts / plastic parts to contrast with surroundings.



(iv) Camouflage of LMG

Wooden / plastic parts of the LMG should be covered by garnish. LMG trench is camouflaged by use of a net.



(v) Camouflage of Equipment

Equipment like binocular, map case, Radio Set should also be camouflaged by breaking its outline and preventing shine.



Concealment

If the enemy can see you, he can hit you with his fire. So you must be concealed from enemy observation and have cover from enemy fire. When the terrain does not provide natural cover and concealment, you must prepare your cover and use natural and man-made materials to camouflage / conceal yourself, your equipment, and your position.

TYPES OF COVER AND CORRECT USE

There are of following types

- (a) Cover from view
- (b) Cover from fire
- (c) Look Through or Around Cover
- (d) Avoid Breaking a Straight Line
- (e) Isolated Cover is Dangerous

Cover from view

A person is concealed only from view and not from fire.



Cover from fire

This means that the concealed person is protected both from view and fire of weapon.



Look Through or Around Cover

Whenever possible look through or around the cover but not over it.



Avoid Breaking a Straight Line

Skyline/light coloured back ground is the worst background as the object against it will be found out because of contrasting background and shape.



Isolated Cover is Dangerous

Eye catches isolated cover easily especially if there is any movement near it.



Conclusion

To conclude, the importance of camouflage and concealment can be realized from the following

- (a) In earlier days it was said "If it can be seen, it can be hit, if it can be hit it can be killed".
- (b) But now in the modern warfare "If it can be seen it will be killed".

Conclusion (Cont..)

Therefore, camouflage needs greater emphasis and the art of camouflage and concealment reduces the different varieties of soldiers into two main categories viz, "The good and the dead." Concealment is an aid to tactical deception and misinforms the enemy as to our intentions and strengths.

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THANK YOU



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