

ARTILLERY WITH THE ADVANCED GUARD AND IN ATTACK.

F. S. Regs Chapter III, 15.

The **ROLE OF THE ARTILLERY** is to assist the other arms in **BEATING DOWN** OPPOSITION, and to **AFFORD ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT TO THE INFANTRY**, with whom the eventual decision rests.

**PRINCIPLE OF ECONOMY OF FORCE.**

In battle the necessity for employing every available gun in order to give full support to the Infantry will probably render the retention of a reserve in inadvisable.

To justify the opening of artillery fire there must be a definite tactical objective and a reasonable probability of obtaining it; Expenditure of ammunition proportionate to the tactical importance of the objective.

Difficulty of replenishing ammunition in mobile warfare also short "Life" of modern guns, particularly the more powerful weapons, which must not be employed on tasks which lighter or shorter ranging weapons can equally well accomplish.

**NOTE AGAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GUNS AND HOWITZERS.**

These must be borne in mind all the time.

**THE ADVANCE TO THE BATTLEFIELD** Vol II F. S. Regs, Chap V, Section 28.

An army advances from its concentration area covered by the advanced guards of its several columns, and by an advanced protective force of mobile troops. The approach march is marked by the struggle for information, R. A. F. assistance, supplemented by cavalry and possibly armoured cars. R. A. F. general location and strength, cavalry and A. C.'s to obtain identifications. The advanced troops of the main columns will get definite information later.

**FIRST CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY**, Vol II, F. S. REGS? CHAPTER V, Section 29.

As the opposing forces approach each other collision will occur between the ~~main~~ protective troops of either side.

Commanders well forward with advanced guards to obtain early and more accurate information regarding the enemy and tactical features, and make suitable dispositions to meet situations as they occur to influence the action of the advanced guard in accordance with the intentions of the Commander of the whole force it is protecting.

**RECONNAISSANCE**, Chapter VI, F. S. Regs Vol III, Section 33.

Information to the positions and movements of the enemy affords the best guarantee against surprise. Touch once obtained should not be lost. Personal reconnaissance. All Commanders essential.

**ADVANCED GUARDS**? Chapter VII, F. S. Regs Vol II, Section 45.

Advanced Guards for local protection (1/3 to 1/2 of the whole force)

Advanced Guard - *Advanced guard mounted troops*  
                           Vanguard  
                           Mainguard.

Usually composed of all arms - Reconnaissance and Fighting.

In open country proportion of artillery and mounted troops larger than in close or mountainous country.

Should artillery be with Vanguard?

**"A PROPORTION OF LIGHT ARTILLERY IN THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT"**

ADVANCED GUARD COMMANDER before taking over his duties will be told,

- (1) What is known of the enemy
- (2) Strength and composition of advanced guard
- (3) The intention of the Commander of the force which he is covering.
- (4) The hour of starting of the main body,
- (5) The situation of troops on his flank.
- (6) Action to be taken if enemy is met.

**ADVANCED GUARD COMMANDER'S DUTIES HIS ORDERS**, *issues his orders*

- (1) General situation
- (2) Route or routes to be followed.
- (3) Composition of vanguard and mainguard.
- (4) The action of the advanced guard mounted troops (mounted troops 4 - 5 miles out in open country)
- (5) The order of march
- (6) Hour of starting of his own and other advanced guards on his flank.
- (7) At what points the various advanced guards will gain touch with each other.

**ACTION OF ADVANCED GUARD**

Advanced Guard must protect its main body from the moment the march of the latter begins.

PROTECTION WHEN MOVING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE INFANTRY'S MAIN BODIES  
Leading Infantry units provide their own protection as they advance to  
attack or occupy a position.

SECTION 72, F.S. PAGES VOLL II? CHAPTER VIII,  
ARTILLERY IN THE ENCOUNTER ATTACK

Superiority of fire by artillery, who assist the other arms to maintain  
their mobility and drive home the attack by every means in their power.  
The Artillery Commander and his subordinates during an approach march  
must be ready to give the Commander of the Infantry an appreciation of  
the situation from an artillery point of view (how long it will take to  
open fire etc)

Artillery Commander to keep touch with P.A.F. detached for artillery work.  
When contact with enemy gained artillery commander prepared to bring  
further artillery from the main body up to support the artillery with  
the advanced troops.

Arranges for the supply of ammunition in the forward areas.  
He must be able to at any moment state the approximate amount of  
ammunition available for expenditure in the rear echelons.

C.O. of the Force keeps the Artillery Commander informed of his plans  
throughout. He gives instructions as to the control of the artillery.  
Centralized control necessary to obtain full value from the use of  
of modern guns.

Some P.A.F. may be placed under the command of Infantry Brigadiers, also some  
medium artillery under the command of the Division, Division then allotting  
these to infantry brigades.

PACK ARTILLERY normally employed as the most advanced close support  
anti-tank artillery in the Division. ONE PACK BATTERY normally allotted  
to each INFANTRY BRIGADE in the front line to accompany it during the  
advance.

18-pdr and 4.5" Hows form the bulk of the artillery support for the  
infantry and other arms in the attack. This support depends upon the  
amount of ammunition available.

INFANTRY ARTILLERY SUPPORT - WHICH FORM CAN BE DIRECTED BY OBSERVERS SO  
PLACED AS TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF THE ATTACK AND WITH SECURE  
COMMUNICATIONS TO THEIR GUNS? Usually difficult to obtain.

Artillery support by barrage fire and by concentrations on selected  
targets or by a combination of both methods.

The barrage should owing to shortage of ammunition be CONCENTRATED ON  
THAT PORTION OF THE FRONT SELECTED FOR THE MAIN INFANTRY AND FLANK  
ATTACK.

Medium Artillery meanwhile harass the enemy communications, interfere  
with his deployment and do C.F. work

ADVANCED GUARD ARTILLERY - vigorous and immediate support to infantry.  
Bold combination of fire and movement by the artillery. Sweep away  
minor opposition.

BATTERIES OR SECTIONS MOVE FORWARD BY BOUNDS, some guns in action while  
others moving.

*the* Show ~~the~~ force of advanced guard artillery.  
Deceive the enemy - wide dispersion of guns with adequate expenditure  
of ammunition.

CONTROL AND OBSERVATION OF FIRE ALL IMPORTANT.  
Lengthy and complicated signal communication not practicable, wireless,  
visual, energetic patterns.

Silent positions.  
Holding artillery back in the column or dribbling it into action, as de-  
veal - is not in accordance with the principle of concentration.

Bold handling of advanced guard infantry.  
Our infantry will in advancing to the attack be engaged first by enemy  
batteries.

THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THE ARTILLERY OF THE ATTACK IS TO SUBDUCE THE FIRE  
OF THOSE BATTERIES and so assist the advance of the Inftry. (C.F. work)  
Do not waste ammunition on batteries not located.

Judicious selection of targets, tasks or zones allotted to batteries.  
Artillery use rapid fire when the units of the Inftry are seen to be in  
need of assistance. INFANTRY GAIN GROUND DURING THESE RAPID PURSTS.

NEUTRALIZATION OF HOSTILE BATTERIES - by bursts of fire to disturb their  
aim, to reduce the volume and effect of their fire. Bursts increase  
in intensity as the Infantry approach their objectives.

LOCALITY FIGHTS as the engagement wears on  
The climax is the infantry assault.  
Artillery fire further developed, fire maintained till the last possible  
moment.  
Arrangements of lifts requires the closest liaison with the infantry  
slope of ground, range, facilities for observation, communication alter  
cases.  
Artillery must be moved up in support of the attack as quickly as  
possible, but unnecessary changes of position should be avoided.  
Batteries or sections may be grouped temporarily with battalions.  
OBSERVATION POSTS. Basis of accurate shooting is observed fire by the  
P.C. <sup>battery</sup>  
Selection of O.P. first. In the case of hours, the <sup>battery</sup> position and O.P.  
may be selected simultaneously.  
BATTERY POSITIONS - Covered, semi-covered, open.  
WAGON LINES. In open warfare close to gun position.  
Communication between gun position and wagon lines. Facilities for  
watering. Concealment.  
CLOSE SUPPORT OF INFANTRY. P.C. near his guns, to exercise rigid fire  
control, good view of operations of the infantry.  
Artillery therefore usually well forward, but inadvisable to go too far  
forward (Teams very vulnerable to M.G. Fire)  
INFANTRY MACHINE GUN POSTS engaged by single gun or section.  
LOCAL PROTECTION - By Lewis Guns E.A. Escorts where necessary.