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## CHAPTER II - INDIVIDUAL ASSAULT

Section IIITHE 60MM MORTAR TEAM IN THE ASSAULT SECTION1. ORGANIZATION.

a. The 60mm Mortar Party is composed of four men of the total 29 men in the Assault Section.

b. These four men are infantrymen and have had basic infantry training. They are qualified in their arms: mortar, carbine, and pistol. The observer, Number 1, is designated as party leader. The party is trained to work together as a team. It is under control of the section leader, but most often takes its orders from the second-in-command of the section.

2. EQUIPMENT:a. Observer (Number 1)

Sight  
Cleaning Staff  
Binoculars  
Compass  
Flashlight  
12 rounds of Ammunition  
Carbine  
5 clips of Ammunition

b. Gunner (Number 2)

Mortar, complete  
Pistol  
5 clips of Ammunition

c. Assistant Gunner (Number 3)

12 rounds of Ammunition  
Carbine  
5 clips of Ammunition

d. Ammunition Carrier (Number 4)

12 rounds of Ammunition  
Carbine  
5 clips of Ammunition

3. TRAINING. The members of the mortar party of the support section are trained in the technique of the 60mm Mortar, and in marksmanship. They must be familiar with the powers and limitations of their weapon as a means of supporting the assault section. They are taught the mission of the mortar in such support and are schooled in the tactical disposition of their party in relation to the operations of the Assault Section.

4. PHASES OF TRAINING. The phases of training include the following:

- a. Marksmanship.
- b. Tactical employment of the mortar.
- c. 60mm mortar in support of the Assault Section.

5. MISSION OF THE 60MM MORTAR PARTY. The 60mm mortar's mission in support of the Assault Section is to neutralize enemy open emplacements and entrenchments and to fire on enemy in case of counterattack.

6. THE MORTAR PARTY IN ACTION. The four-man party with equipment will debark rapidly from the landing craft, and immediately go into an initial position affording some protection from enemy fire, if possible. While in the initial position, the party leader hastily makes a reconnaissance for a position. After selecting the position, he advances to the position chosen,

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drops his sight case and cleaning staff the re, with the cleaning staff pointing in the direction the mortar is to be laid. After the position has been so designated, the gunner runs forward and mounts the mortar. While in the initial position, the assistant gunner removes the ammunition bag, and when the mortar is partially mounted, he joins the gunner. The party leader selects his target, and without waiting for the mortar to be leveled at 62°, commences to give his fire order. When open emplacements and entrenchments covering the fortification and wire entanglements have been neutralized, and a gap in the anti-personnel obstacles has been made, the party leader will move forward to a position where observation on targets (troop concentrations, enemy mortar positions, etc) can be obtained. He will leave the remainder of the party in the rear and will direct fire by hand and arm signals. Should the distance from the selected observation post to the mortar be too great, or visibility be limited, the leader will signal his party forward, and during its movement forward, will select a position for the mortar, and will prepare fire data to targets visible from the observation post. After the fortification has been taken, he will contact the section leader for further instructions.

b. Individual duties of each party member:

(1) Observer. He selects a position, moves forward to observe for enemy open emplacements and watches the section leader and the assistant leader for signals and orders. He orders the party into action without waiting for observation of a remunerative target. He gives fire orders.

(2) Gunner (Number 2). He lays the mortar on targets picked by the group leader. He gives ammunition data to the assistant gunner.

(3) Assistant Gunner (Number 3). He prepares the ammunition and places it in the mortar. He observes to the right for targets and for signals from the assistant section leader. He protects the right flank of the group.

(4) Ammunition Carrier (Number 4). He passes ammunition forward when necessary. He observes to the left for targets and protects the left flank of the group.



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## CHAPTER II - INDIVIDUAL ASSAULT

### Section IIIa

#### THE 81 MM MORTAR TEAM IN THE SUPPORT SECTION

##### 1. ORGANIZATION.

a. The 81mm Mortar Party is composed of eight men of the total of 29 men in the Support Section.

b. These eight men are infantrymen and have had basic infantry training. They are qualified in their arms: mortar, carbine, and M-1 Rifle. The Observer, Number 1, is designated as party leader. The party is trained to work together as a team, and each man will be trained to take over any duty within the party. The party will be under the control of the section leader, but will most often take its orders from the second-in-command of the Support Section.

##### 2. EQUIPMENT.

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| a. <u>Observer.</u>              | Sight, Binoculars, Compass (lensatic), Flashlight, five rounds of mortar ammunition. He is armed with a carbine with 5 clips of carbine ammunition. 1 telephone (sound power) |
| b. <u>Gunner.</u>                | Carries bipod, carbine, 5 clips carbine ammunition. 1 telephone (sound power)   |
| c. <u>Ass't Gunner.</u>          | Carries mortar, carbine, aiming stakes (within the mortar) and 5 clips carbine ammunition.  |
| d. <u>Number 4.</u>              | Carries base plate, carbine, 5 clips carbine ammunition.  |
| e. <u>Number 5.</u>              | Carries seven rounds mortar ammunition. Armed with carbine and 75 rounds carbine ammunition. 400 yds wire.  |
| f. <u>Numbers 6, 7, &amp; 8.</u> | Carry seven rounds mortar ammunition. Armed with the M-1 rifle with 96 rounds of rifle ammunition each.   |

3. TRAINING. The members of the mortar party of the support section are trained in the technique of the 81mm mortar party in close in support of the support section, and in marksmanship. They must be familiar with the powers and limitations of their weapon as used in the support section. They are schooled in the tactical disposition of their party in relation to the operations of the support section.

a. Training will be given in nomenclature, assembly, functioning, and characteristics of the mortar and its ammunition in accordance with FM 23-90.

b. Speed and exactness is stressed in placing the mortar in and out of action and in laying on targets.

c. In marksmanship training, emphasis is placed on speed and precision in getting into action rapidly, laying on the target, rapid adjustment of fire, and relaying on other targets after the first target is destroyed.

d. Instruction is given in the tactical employment of the mortar in support of the support section, by carrying out its mission as set forth below.

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4. MISSION OF THE 81 MM MORTAR PARTY. The mission of the 81mm Mortar party is to support the support section by neutralizing known enemy open emplacements and entrenchments covering pillboxes and other anti-personnel obstacles, and to break up concentrations of enemy personnel preparing to counterattack. After the successful reduction of enemy fortifications, the 81mm mortar functions normally in the defense of the battalion perimeter, or beachhead line.

5. 81MM MORTAR PARTY IN ACTION.

a. The eight man party with equipment advances quickly from the landing craft. The observer will, if possible, designate the position the mortar is to be mounted by leaving the sight at that position. (If possible cover should be available at this position). He will then move forward to a position from which he can observe. He will be on the alert for possible targets (open emplacements containing automatic weapons.) When the observer selects his position and designates it by dropping the sight, Numbers 2, 3 and 4 immediately mount the mortar, and then await the fire order from the observer. Infantry tactics are applied by the party in taking advantage of all cover and concealment. Immediately without waiting for orders, when a remunerative target is observed, Number 1 orders the party into action. When open emplacements supporting a pillbox or covering anti-personnel obstacles have been silenced and the demolitions party prepares to move on the pillbox, the observer moves forward through the gap in the wire to such a position from where he can observe for possible enemy troop concentrations and other targets of opportunity, and if possible direct the fire from his forward position; should the need arise, he signals the remainder of the party forward.

b. Individual duties of each party member.

(1) Number 1. Selects a position, moves forward to observe for enemy open emplacements and looks to the section and assistant section leader for signals and orders. Upon sighting a target, he will immediately direct the fire of the mortar on it without awaiting orders from the section or assistant section leader. He will designate whenever possible by firing of tracers.

(2) Number 2. Carries the bipod. Upon orders from the party leader he lays the mortar on the targets and gives ammunition data to the assistant gunner. He continually observes the party leader for signals. In the absence of instruction from number 1 and in emergency, he will fire on targets.

(3) Number 3. Carries the mortar tube. He prepares the ammunition for the mortar as it is requested by the gunner, removes the safety pin, and actually fires the mortar. He observes to the right for signals from the assistant section leader, and for possible targets.

(4) Number 4. Carries the base plate. He passes forward ammunition from the ammunition bearers as it is required by the assistant gunner. He observes to the left for possible counterattack or open emplacements.

(5) Numbers 5 & 7. Pass forward ammunition as required, and provide local protection and observe to the right and right front. They move to positions whence they may support by fire the section as a whole.

(6) Numbers 6 & 8. Pass forward ammunition as required, and provide local protection, observe, and give supporting fire to the left and left front, supporting the section as a whole.