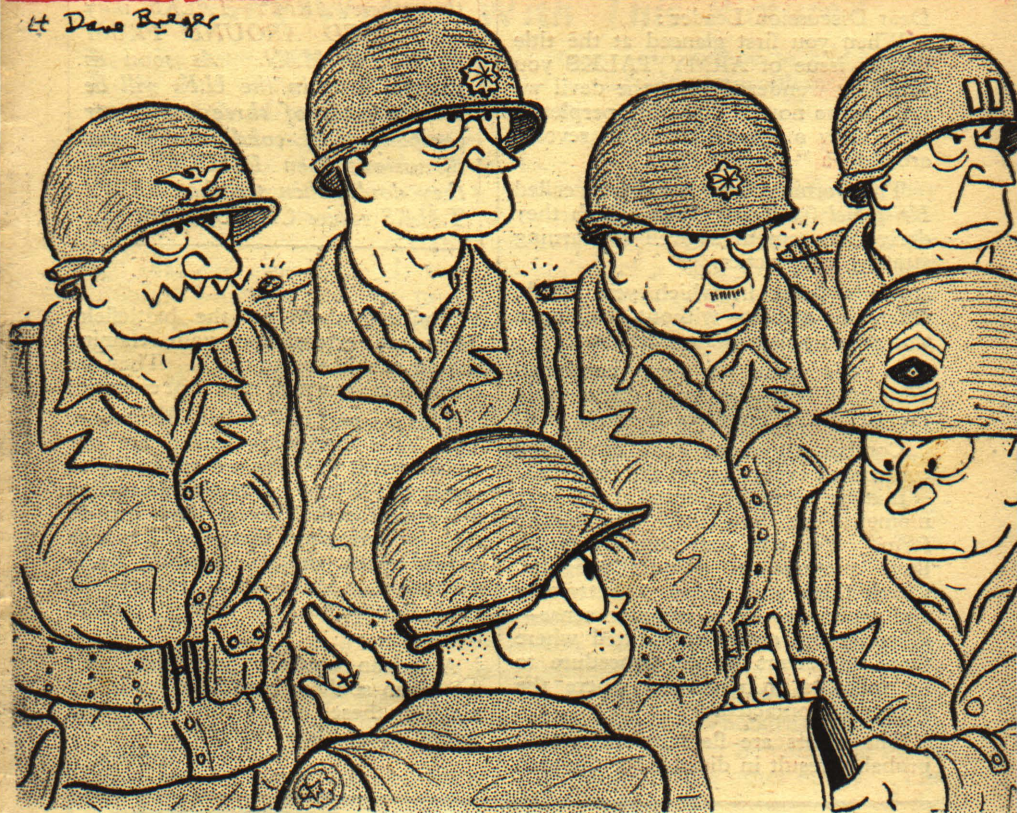


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lt Dave Berger

# ARMY TALKS



## What's Wrong With This Picture?



RESTRICTED • EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS • UNITED STATES ARMY



## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR OF



# ARMY TALKS

Dear Discussion Leader :

When you first glanced at the title of this issue of ARMY TALKS you probably wondered what the devil we were up to now. You were perplexed as to how a discussion could revolve around—a "Picture Quiz."

The German Army has a game called *Kriegspiel* (play war) from which they derive amusement as well as learning strategy and tactics.

It's a game in which you attack, defend or retreat—without catching a slug when you make a mistake.

In this issue we have combined *Kriegspiel* with the quiz game—only the 64 dollar question is—your life!

Combat situations that are being confronted every day on the battlefield—that are being confronted at this very moment—are presented in picture form. You and your men are to use these pictures in a quiz program. Check them and, using your training and experience—plus common sense—diagnose the errors committed where there are errors or the procedure to be followed in situations where the enemy is contacted.

The errors are flagrant and would probably result in disaster for the men

*Issue of ARMY TALKS to units in France has been increased to an average of ten copies per company, or equivalent unit. Under present conditions in the field discussions are impracticable or impossible. For this reason distribution has been increased, so that these ARMY TALKS may be PASSED AROUND FROM MAN TO MAN. As soon as possible issue in the U.K. will be on the basis of three copies per company. If conditions permit discussion, then DISCUSS. If they don't, then see that ARMY TALKS copies CIRCULATE.*

committing them on the battlefield. They are errors that your training should enable you to catch. They are errors that your men must not commit!

This is a part of Combat Orientation. You, as a discussion leader, are our contact with the men we are trying to reach. It is your job to give those men a chance for their lives. You can do this by bringing these combat tips before them and encouraging lively discussion. Make them realize the vital importance of these "combat issues."

American soldiers have died and American soldiers have been wounded making these errors—analysis: less errors equals less casualties.

THE EDITOR.

*"The purpose of the program is to give the soldier psychological preparation for combat, and a better realization of the import of every phase of his military training. Emphasis will be placed on combat orientation. The mental and physical conditioning of the enemy, and a proper evaluation of the enemy's weapons and fighting qualities will be stressed. A better understanding of the background of the war, and the soldier's responsibilities in the post-war world will also be developed. . . ."*

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.  
(Extract from letter ETO, 1 August, 1944, AG 352/2 OpSS, Subject: Combat Orientation Program.)



# ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

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## **What's Wrong With This Picture?**

**I**N this issue, ARMY TALKS gives you a new method to add variety to your discussion groups. By the use of picture-problems and the principle of competition, "What's Wrong With This Picture" will stimulate hot discussion, no matter what branch of the service your outfit is in. It's a tested method that works.

On the assumption that every soldier on this side of the Atlantic may find himself near the front before we're through, we urge you to use this method, not only because it's an interesting puzzle, but because this is the stuff that can save lives. It tests the ability of a man to recognize field situations which he has been taught in basic training, and in which he may find himself at any time. Every branch of the service is represented on the casualty lists. Therefore, this is directed at T/5 Brown in a Quartermaster Depot as well as at Cpl. Green in the Infantry.

Here's how it works. On the following pages six typical military scenes are portrayed. In each picture there are a number of serious errors—errors which, if committed, would mean dead soldiers. Your discussion group may be too large for everyone to see the pictures. Therefore, a complete description of the scene has been provided on the opposite pages. Use your own words to describe it. The object, of course, is to have the men in your group call out the mistakes as soon as they are recognized. Underneath the descriptions are the answers. Maybe your group will discover some other answers that we have missed.

Be sure to make it a competitive session. You might divide the group into two teams. Start reading the description. The man who first recognizes a mistake should raise his hand. Call on him immediately; don't wait until you have finished the reading or description. To encourage participation, a man who has already called a mistake should not be called on again unless he is the only man on his team to recognize the other errors. The side which has the largest number of first recognitions in any one of the problems wins that round.

Here's another way: Divide the group into two teams. Show the picture and describe it to one side only, while the others listen. Read the complete description first, then see how long it takes them to point out every error. Do the same to the other team on the next problem. Make it a race against time. At the end, the team which has the least total elapsed time wins.

If you feel that some of the problems don't apply to your particular outfit, omit them. Use only the ones you wish. Make up your own situations, but make it competitive. If an argument develops about the answers, that's good. Keep it going. It's just another chance to drive home vital training tips.



## Pix Quiz No. 1

**ARTILLERY IS A FIGHTING TEAM**

The greatest example of teamwork in the Army is a well-trained gun crew. But a gun crew doesn't just happen. It takes endless hours of sweat, drill and dry-runs. That sweat is paying off now in France, Italy and the South-west Pacific. Our accurate, devastating artillery fire has been one of the military sensations of World War II. In the following description, artillery experts will pick out the errors easily. Others may not, but it will give them a better idea of the intensive training and teamwork necessary in artillery action—a fact we often take too much for granted.

This 105 mm. howitzer went into position last night and has opened fire this morning. The gun is in a field, and the only tree nearby is in the background behind the ammunition. The gunner is straddling the trails, which have just been dropped, and is looking through his sights. The No. 1 man is holding the lanyard as the Chief of Section raises his hand. The No. 2 man is crouching behind the gunner and holding a shell, one end of which rests on the ground, the other in his left hand. Empty shell casings lie on the ground between the trails, with a pick, an axe and two shovels in the immediate foreground. In the background are the ammunition handlers—three crouching, one standing—and the fuse setter. The shells are lined up standing on end.

If this group, by some remote chance, should continue firing the piece without casualties, they will have made at least nine mistakes. Can you find them ?

**Answers :**

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1. The howitzer is not camouflaged.
  2. The howitzer is not dug in.
  3. The Chief of Section should not have his hand raised (signifying the piece is ready to fire) if the gunner is not ready (he is still looking through his sights).
  4. The No. 1 man should not touch the lanyard until the piece is ready to fire.
  5. The gunner should not straddle the trail.





6. The empty shell casings should be thrown out of the way.
7. The shells in the rear should be horizontal—not standing on end.
8. The No. 2 man in the foreground is letting his shell touch the ground (i.e., dirt on the shell means dirt in the breech).
9. The man near the ammunition should be squatting, not standing.

## Pix Quiz No. 2

**HOW A MORTAR CREW OPERATES**

The effectiveness of the mortar has been one of the great surprises of the war. But, like any other weapon, it is not so effective if improperly used. Here is a 60 mm. mortar squad in action. The gun position is on the forward slope of a hill. The ground itself is fairly even, with no ridges or depressions, and the battered remains of a tree trunk directly behind the mortar is the only vegetation in sight.

Four of the men are grouped near the piece, while the fifth is lying in the field about twenty yards to the rear. As the gunner is aiming, the assistant gunner is crouched facing the direction of gun fire, his right hand crossed over and holding the leg of the tripod, while his left hand holds the shell ready to drop it into the barrel. A ring is attached to the nose of the shell. The observer stands directly behind the tree trunk and the fourth man lies prone to the right of the observer.

Before this gun crew gets knocked off by some Nazi bullets, can you tell them five serious mistakes they are making?

Answers :

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1. The position has been badly chosen. On the forward slope of a hill, with no concealment and no defilade, they wouldn't last long.
2. The men are badly placed, some too close, one too far away—and the observer should be elsewhere, not so near the piece.





3. The gunner is in the proper position for aiming, but the assistant gunner is not loading properly.
4. Since the gunner is still aiming, the assistant should not have the projectile ready to drop into the barrel.
5. The ring is still hanging from the projectile. This means that the pin has not been pulled and the round will not fire.

## Pix Quiz No. 3

**YOU TOO CAN FACE ENEMY TANKS**

Just because you're in a quartermaster, supply or finance outfit, don't think that you might not be caught short some sunny afternoon—looking into the gun of an approaching German Mark IV tank. It's already happened many times. If you'll note carefully what serious mistakes these men are making, it may save your hide some day.

These are some American soldiers fighting off a German tank attack, somewhere in France. The tank is thundering down the side of a hill. Directly in the path of the onrushing tank, a soldier rears up from his foxhole and cocks his arm to hurl an improvised bomb at his armored opponent. The man in the foreground crouches in his shallow foxhole, his back and head above the surface of the ground. In the background, a third man has turned away and is removing his GI hide in a hurry.

Before the tank gets any further, tell these guys four things they better stop doing—but quick!

**Answers :**

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- 1. The man in the background is doing the worst possible thing in the face of an armored attack. He became panicky and left his foxhole to run.**
- 2. The man in the foreground is doing the proper things in the face of the attack, but he has neglected, for one reason or another, to dig his foxhole deep enough. If the tank swerves in his direction, he'll be crushed.**





3. In his excitement the man preparing to hurl the sticky bomb at the tank has chosen the wrong moment. He should hide in his foxhole until the tank has passed, and then hurl his improvised bomb at the tank's more vulnerable rear, at which time he can't possibly be seen.

4. The two foxholes are much too close together and also on the reverse slope of a hill.

(The tank, incidentally, is a PzKW IV, the commonest of the Nazi armored tanks, corresponding to our Mediums.)

## Pix-Quiz No. 4

**MINES ARE A SERIOUS BUSINESS**

Here is a night patrol engaged in one of the most dangerous jobs of the war—mine locating. In this kind of business, you don't get a second chance. That's why these boys have to be on the ball 100 percent of the time, whether they are in training or doing the real thing. One slip, and you're a dead pigeon.

There are four men on this night patrol. Three of them have crawled up to a taut wire, while the fourth man has dropped behind to dig up a mine. The man in the foreground carries his markers (the wire circles) around his left wrist, the others have attached theirs to their belts. The second man is cutting the wire, using a cloth and wire-cutters. All but one have their sleeves rolled up and their arms bare. Except for the single strip of white cloth which guides the men in the darkness, the surface of the mine field is clear.

Before these four soldiers grab themselves an armful of clouds, can you find at least four things they are doing wrong?

**Answers :**

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- 1. The man cutting the wire is committing the worst error. Taut wires across mine fields are used to set off the mines. It should be marked and left for the removal squad to handle.**
- 2. The man in the foreground is almost as bad—his sleeves should be rolled up and his arms bare, otherwise, groping around in the dark, his sleeves or wrist watch might catch on a trip-wire.**





3. The soldier digging up the mine is committing two errors. First, his job is merely to locate and mark the mines. The removal squad coming behind will dispose of them, and second, he has dropped out of line. An even front should be kept, so that all the ground is covered.
4. Although the men are carrying markers (the wire circles), they haven't marked any mines. If they had, it would show —because mines are planted close together.

## Pix Quiz No. 5

**KEEP'EM ROLLING WITH SUPPLIES**

The gang that moves up fuel to the tanks and trucks at the front has no snap job. They are often No. 1 on the enemy's aircraft and artillery hit parade. Their job demands extra care and caution, because, if they don't deliver, the tanks don't roll. It's as simple as that.

This is a Class III dump in Eastern France, and two trucks are parked on a narrow, one-way mud road facing each other and waiting for their empty cans to be exchanged for full ones. The small area that has been cleared away for this purpose is in the midst of dense foliage and trees, and the only objects outside of the natural growth and the trucks are the gasoline cans. Immediately beside one of the trucks is a neat group of cans, tightly packed in rows of fours. Some of the lids are open and some closed. Two stray cans have been thrown aside. One man is checking cans; two men are carrying them to and from the truck; a fourth man stands on the truck arranging the cans in rows and stacking them two deep.

The way these soldiers are working, there's just about a 50-50 chance they'll deliver the goods. Point out four errors they are making.

**Answers :**

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1. The cans are arranged wrong. They should be in two rows so that they are more accessible, and thus speed up the loading.
  2. The lids of all the cans should be kept closed ; leaving them open allows the gas fumes to escape and invites fire.
  3. There have been no precautions taken against fire. There should be a pile of dirt to throw on any flames and also an extinguisher handy. There should also be "no smoking" signs to remind the men.





4. The cans should be farther off the trail, so that the loading truck can pull off and allow traffic to keep moving. This way, it is holding up the other truck, which incidentally is going the wrong way . . . one-way traffic in any dump is imperative.

## Pix Quiz No. 6

**PATROL SPOTS GERMAN POSITION**

The efficiency of any combat unit is no better than its information. There's a technique in giving information, just as there is to driving a tank. Compare the message this patrol leader sends back, to the correct way as described in the answers.

At 1800 hours an American patrol, well-hidden in the woods, discovers ten German soldiers in a clearing. They have evidently just come over the hill in the background, as a machine-gunner and two riflemen are guarding the path. From the uniforms and helmets, you can tell that nine of the soldiers are paratroopers and one is an infantryman. Two of the paratroopers have machine-guns, one a Schmeisser machine ("burp gun") pistol and the rest carry rifles. In the group of five in the foreground, the infantry soldier is apparently giving directions and indicating the location on a map.

After observing this scene, Sgt. Cannon, the patrol leader, sent back the following message: "To: Capt. Smith—Saw group German soldiers 20 yard E of Hill 604. They had machine gun. Signature: Cannon, Sgt. Time signed: 1820."

Why was Sgt. Cannon busted ?

Answers :

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1. Message should contain number and date.
2. Message should not be addressed to Capt. Smith by name.
3. There are 10 soldiers in the picture. The word "group" does not indicate this.
4. Nine of the soldiers are paratroopers, as indicated by their helmets and uniforms. The tenth soldier is an infantryman, shown by his helmet and uniform.
5. The time of observation is not given.
6. The infantry soldier is apparently giving directions and indicating the location on a map. The message does not give any information as to what the enemy was doing.





7. The number of machine-guns is not given.
8. Action taken by our patrol is not given. Patrol leader should have indicated what he intended to do, such as: "Am remaining in observation."
9. Every message must contain all information: **WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY** and sometimes **HOW**.



# SECRET WEAPON



■ “The smart soldier lives.”

■ He is armed with the greatest “secret” weapon ever developed—his brain.

■ The United States Army is determined to have a “heads-up” team—an army that knows what the score is.

■ That’s the job of Orientation, of ARMY TALKS, which brings you the experiences of men in combat—lessons learned in the world’s most dangerous school—to take you through battle victoriously and bring you back in one piece.



Tune in on your American Forces Network station for a dramatized presentation of the week’s ARMY TALK. Tie it up with your talk, use it as a self-starter for the discussion. Time: Saturday 30 September 1944 at 1030 hours. Choose any convenient spot where you have a radio and a room for your platoon to listen in, and follow up discussing the subject.

The subject matter of this week’s ARMY TALK will appear in an illustrated GI digest in the “Warweek” supplement of “Stars and Stripes” on Thursday 28 September 1944. Purpose: to enable the soldier to enter the discussion with knowledge of the subject. “Warweek,” official orientation organ for the ETO, is striving to make the American soldier in this theater the best informed soldier in the world.

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**1<sup>ST</sup>** *in importance is morale...*

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL