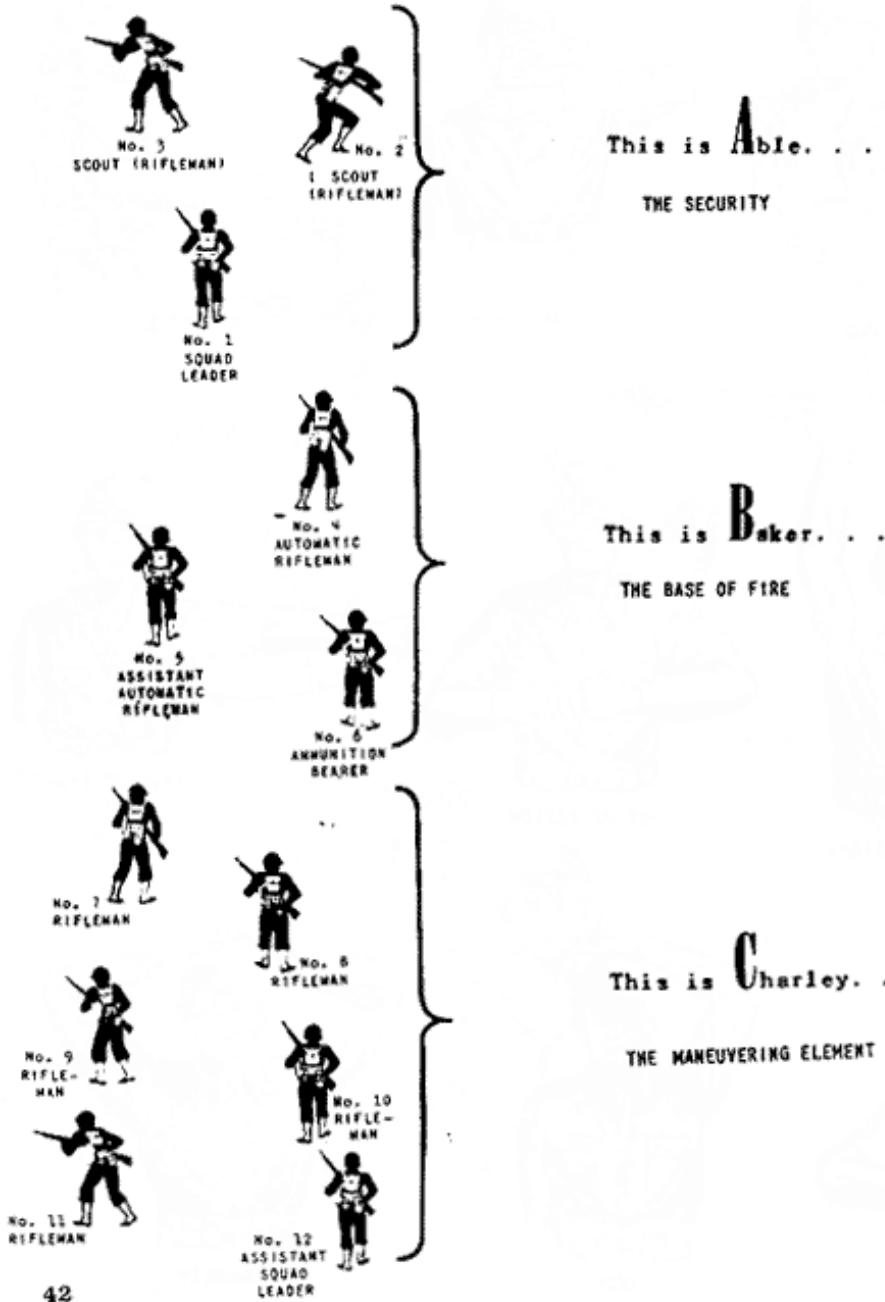


COMBAT FORMATIONS  
COMPOSITION OF THE RIFLE SQUAD



## COMBAT FORMATIONS

# USES OF COMBAT FORMATIONS



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 3

### SKIRMISHERS

The Skirmish Line is more difficult to control than other formations, but is less vulnerable to enemy fire from the front. It may be used to enable the entire squad to direct fire to the front immediately on contact with the enemy (Fig. 1); in crossing open areas that can't be avoided (Fig. 2); and for rapid dashes across shelled areas (Fig. 3).

# COMBAT FORMATIONS

## USES OF COMBAT FORMATIONS



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

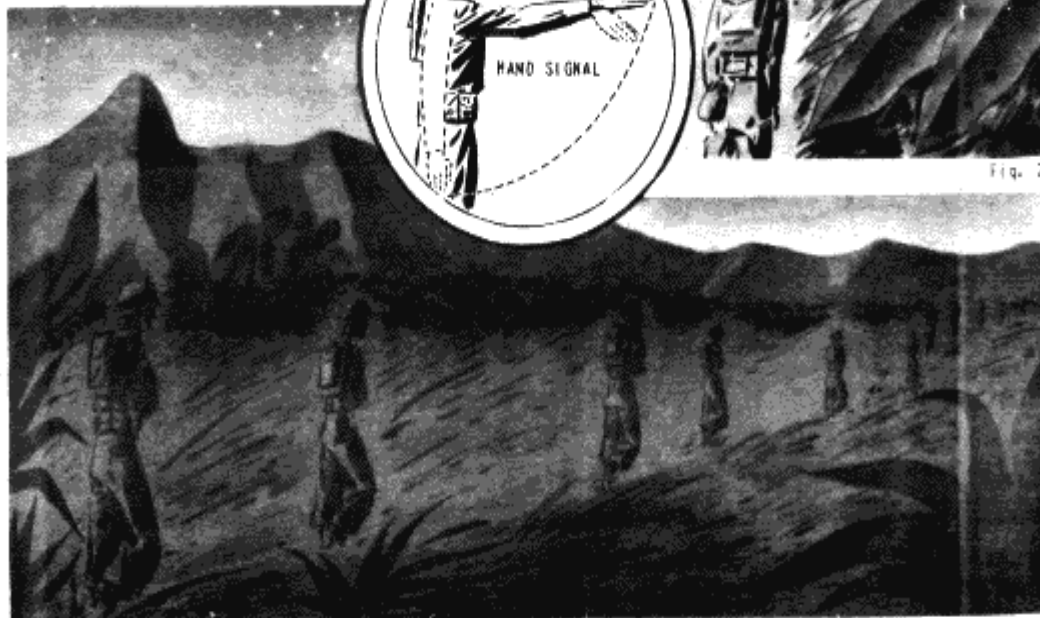


Fig. 3



### SQUAD COLUMN

The Squad Column is easily controlled and maneuvered. It is suitable for crossing open areas exposed to artillery fire (Fig. 1); movement through narrow trails (Fig. 2); and in darkness (Fig. 3).

**Reconnaissance of woods.** The near edges of woods should always be approached with caution, the platoon being halted if necessary. The scouts reconnoiter in pairs, one man entering the woods, the other remaining at the edge to maintain contact with the platoon. The scout who enters proceeds to the limit of visibility. If no sign of the enemy is discovered, he signals "Forward," which signal is transmitted to the platoon by the scout remaining at the edge of the woods. The scouts remain as they are until the advanced elements of the platoon reach the edge of the woods. In passing through the woods, distances and intervals are reduced so that adjacent pairs of scouts can see each other and the platoon runners in rear.



Plate 21. Approaching a Wood.