LESSON 3 - THE TWO MAN SHELTER

A. CONNECT

0187. **Aim.** The aim of the lesson is to teach the construction of a two man shelter.

0188. **Timings.** Two 40 minute lessons.

0189. **Method.** Basic outdoor instructional periods.

0101. **Stores.**

CEFO	1 set per cadet and instructor
Ground Sheet	1 per cadet and additional for demos
Cord, tent pegs, bungees etc.	As required

0190. **Preparation.**

a. Reconnoitre an area that will best illustrate the construction of a shelter in a wooded area, and on open ground.

b. Before the lesson prepare an example of each type of shelter.

0191. **Miscellaneous.**

a. The lesson is best conducted, first showing the squad the constructed shelters, then demonstrating their construction. The squad should then prepare their own under supervision.

b. The area of operations will normally dictate the best method of constructing a shelter. For training both the methods described in the lesson are to be used.

Preliminaries

0192. **Safety Precautions**. Normal.

0193. **Revision.** Nil. Ensure the squad have got their ground sheets then split the squad into pairs.

Introduction

0194. *Explain*: Protection from the elements is important because the body temperature can drop dangerously low in adverse conditions. The best way of maintaining body heat in wet weather is to wear the waterproof smock and trousers. A shelter constructed from a ground sheet can also serve the same purpose. The shelter also allows cadets to protect their equipment and weapons.

B. DEVELOPMENT

Construction of a Shelter

0195. *Explain*: Frequently in the field, cadets need to spend the night in a hide or harbour. When they do this they must make shelters for themselves. This is best done in pairs with the aid of a ground sheet.

0196. **Wooded Areas.** *Explain and demonstrate*: There are two methods of construction recommended for use in wooded areas:

a. **Method 1** (see Fig 1-6). At two corners of the ground sheet attach string or a cord assembly (bungee). Find two suitable trees far enough apart and attach one corner of the ground sheet to each tree. The corner attachments must be approximately half a metre up the tree in order to create a small downward slope. Pull the other two corners down towards the ground and secure them with either pegs or rocks. If necessary attaching cord assemblies to the other corners. A length of string or cord assembly should then be attached to the upper most two centre loops. The string or cord assembly should then be looped over a branch above and be pulled tight, or tied to two sticks stuck in the ground. The other ground sheet is laid on the ground. It is always best to dig a small storm drain around the shelter area, to take away surface water.

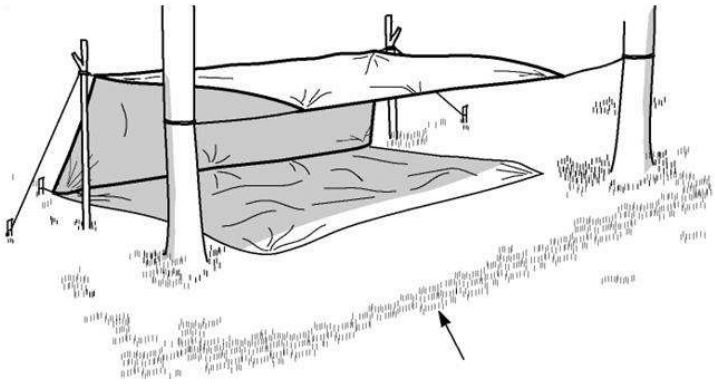

Fig 1-6 - Wooded Area, Method 1

b. **Method 2** (see Fig 1-7). Create a tent by taking string or a cord assembly from the centre loops of the ground sheet and secure them to two trees. The four corners can be secured using either pegs or rocks to prevent water pooling on the outside of the shelter a pole can be used to keep the tent erect. The other ground sheet is laid on the ground, and like the first method a storm drain is dug around the shelter area.

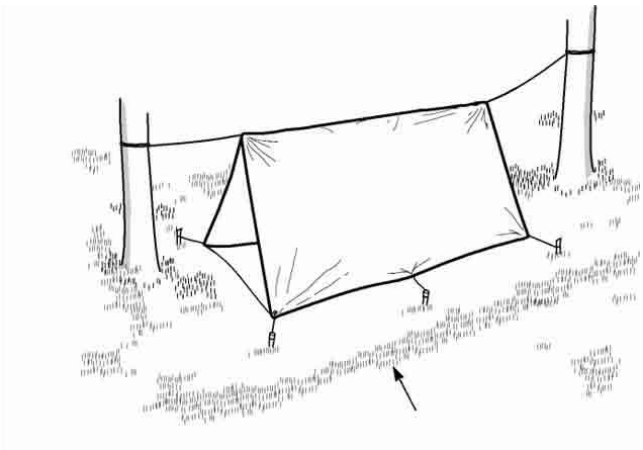

Fig 1-7 - Wooded Area, Method 2

0197. The open end of the shelter must, if possible, be facing the opposite direction to the wind and rain it must be camouflaged with local foliage to break up its outline and shape. It should either be taken down during the day or the cord assemblies loosened and lowered to the ground.

0198. Where string is used to create the shelter it must always be cut down and removed when leaving the area.

0199. *Confirm by questions and practice.*

01100. **Open Areas.** *Explain and demonstrate*: Shelters should only be erected in the open if no suitable cover is available. Anything can be used to construct a shelter as the aim is to protect individuals from the elements. There are two methods which can be employed when constructing a shelter for use in open areas:

a. **Method 1** (see Fig 1-8). At two corners of the ground sheet attach string or cord assembly. Attach these corners to a wall, fallen tree or other suitable structure. Stretch the other two corners away from the structure and secure with either pegs or rocks. If necessary attaching cord assemblies to the other corners. The other ground sheet is laid on the ground and a storm drain dug around the shelter area. It is always best to dig a small storm drain around the shelter area, to take away surface water.

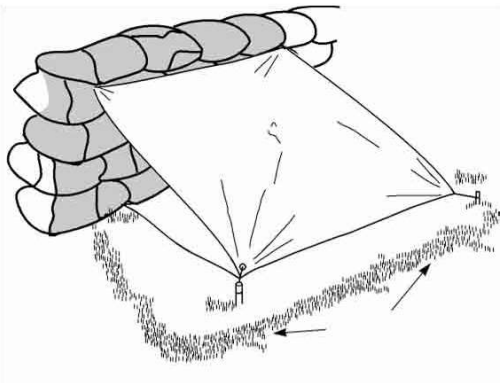

Fig 1-8 - Method 1 Open Area

b. **Method 2** (see Fig 1-9). At four corners of the ground sheet attach string or cord assembly. Attach these corners to shovels or poles. Keeping the ground sheet taut push them into the ground. To prevent pooling of water another pole can be placed in the centre of the shelter, pushing the ground sheet upwards. Again lay the other ground sheet on the ground and dig a storm drain around the shelter area, to take away surface water.

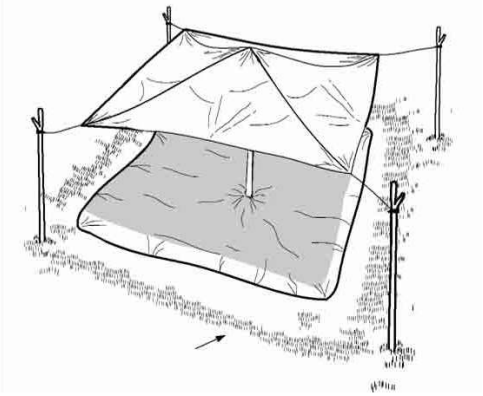

Fig 1-9 - Method 2 Open Area

01101. The open end of the shelter must, if possible, be facing the opposite direction to the wind and rain it must be camouflaged with local foliage to break up its outline and shape. It should either be taken down during the day or the cord assemblies loosened and lowered to the ground.

01102. *Confirm by question and practice.*

C. CONSOLIDATION

Conclusion

01103. **End of Lesson Drill.**

a. Questions from the squad on the lesson.

b. Normal safety precautions.

c. Pack kit.

d. Summary. To include the following:

(1) The importance of keeping dry.

(2) The necessity for camouflage.

(3) The different ways of constructing a shelter, from using ground hollows to fallen trees, from fences or broken walls. They all have one purpose, to give protection from the elements.

e. A *forecast* of the squad's next lesson on this subject.