

LESSON 6 - OBSERVATION

A. CONNECT

01129. **Aim.** The aim of the lesson is to teach how to systematically observe an area of ground.

01130. **Timings.** One 40 minute period.

01131. **Method.** A basic instructional outdoor period.

01132. **Stores.**

Various items of military equipment	As required 1 per cadet
Check sheet	1
Loud hailer	1
Signal flag	As required
Demonstrators	

01133. **Preparation.**

- a. Reconnoitre the area and select ground which can be easily divided into foreground, middle distance and distance, ideally up to 600 metres, with an arc of at least 45°.
- b. Position demonstrators and equipment so that they provide varying degrees of contrast in colour, tone, texture, shape and shadow. This is best done as close to the lesson start time as is possible.
- c. Position the squad so they are able to see the objects within the specified arc. If this is not possible the squad must be moved to another 'stand' so they can see.
- d. Prepare a suitable visual aid as per [Fig 1-20](#).

01134. **Miscellaneous.**

- a. Rehearse the demonstrators in their actions prior to sending them to their locations.
- b. Some equipment need not be too well concealed but all demonstrators should provide realistic battle type targets.
- c. During practice, get the squad to write down what they have observed. Then discuss how they identified the object and finally get them to confirm the locations.
- d. Mention is made of the SUSAT in this lesson, cadets will not be able to put this knowledge to use until they have been introduced to the SUSAT.

Preliminaries

01135. **Safety Precautions.** Normal.

01136. **Revision.** Revise [Lesson 4](#) (why things are seen) then indicate areas of observation.

Introduction

01137. *Explain:* In order to locate an enemy, who will be adept in the skills of camouflage and concealment, a cadet needs to learn how to observe, by scanning and searching.

B. DEVELOPMENT

Scanning and Searching

01138. *Explain and demonstrate*: Scanning is a general and systematic examination of an area, to detect any unusual or significant object or movement. Searching is a thorough examination of certain features in the area. Both require complete concentration, combined with a knowledge of why things are seen and the principles of camouflage and concealment:

- a. Scanning (see [Fig 1-20](#)).
 - (1) Divide the area into foreground, middle distance and distance.
 - (2) Scan each area horizontally starting with the foreground. To obtain maximum efficiency, move the eyes in short overlapping movements. Moving the head will minimize eye fatigue. The speed at which scanning is carried out will depend upon the type of country being observed and the amount of cover it affords to possible targets.
 - (3) When horizontal scanning is completed, scan along the line of any features which are angled away from the observation position.

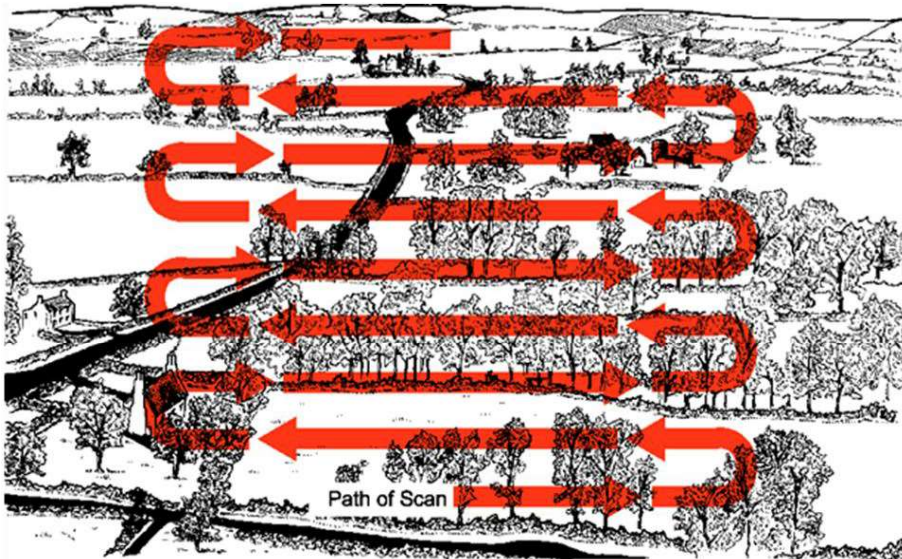


Fig 1-20 - Scanning

- b. Searching.
 - (1) Searching may take place at any stage during scanning ie if the cadet's position is dominated by a piece of ground, they should search that area thoroughly before continuing with scanning. Furthermore, any significant movement or object, suspected camouflage, etc spotted during scanning requires an immediate search of that area. The SUSAT is a useful aid when searching ground in detail, likewise binoculars.
 - (2) Search for each of the factors of why things are seen in turn. The weather may assist, ie frost will reveal tracks made during the night or a hot sun will alter the tone and colour of foliage used for camouflage by withering its leaves.
 - (3) Search across hedgerows or a row of trees, not along them.

01139. *Confirm by practice*.

C. CONSOLIDATION

Conclusion

01140. End of Lesson Drill.

- a. Questions to and from the squad on the lesson.
- b. Normal safety precautions.
- c. Pack kit.
- d. Summary. To include the following:
 - (1) The fact that the key to good observation is a thorough knowledge of the principles of concealment.
 - (2) Diligent and systematic searching of a feature, hedgerow, etc will give clues and this will lead, with practice, to locating the enemy.
- e. A forecast of the squad's next lesson in this subject.