

**Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCoE) Libraries
MCoE HQ Donovan Research Library
Fort Benning, Georgia**

Report date: December 1944

Title: Defense against Mortar

Organization: Headquarters Army Ground Forces Board

Abstract: Report from the Army Ground Forces Board, European Theater of Operations, dated 9 December 1944.

Number of pages: 7 p.

Notes: From the MCoE HQ Donovan Research Library, Fort Benning, GA. Documents collection. Call #: D 731.1 .E91 #413.

Classification: Unclassified; Approved for public release

D 731.1 Defense Against Mortar
.E 91 #413

HEADQUARTERS ARMY GROUND FORCES
Army War College
Washington 25, D. C.

Number **C-413** Inclosure

- [illegible]

By authority of: W.D. Asa D., 7A00, Cir 109, 1947

By my authority as:
Military Observer.
Initials: S.O.S.
Date: 25 Nov 44

HEAD PARTIAL

1111 1111 1111

1111 1111 1111

25 November 1944

REF: AGF Report no. 417 - Defense Against Mortars.

TO : Commanding General, Army Ground School, War College,
Washington 25, D.C.
(Att: G.O.S. of G.O.S. - 2)

FROM : Colonel A.G. G.O.S., Infantry Observer.

1. This report supplements report no. 378, "Defense Against Mortars", forwarded 23 October 1944.
2. The 2d Infantry Division in line at 1111, 1111, reports successful use of the mortar report system adopted and used by the 4th Infantry Division.
3. Attention invited to forms used in reporting and recording the data.
4. This system is highly regarded by the 2d and 4th Infantry Divisions. Both divisions were in a similar type of situation, i.e. static - holding wide fronts and confronted with an enemy who was making active use of his mortars.
5. Major Daniel Foster, West C-2, 2d Infantry Division, reports:
"We have adopted the system used by the 4th Infantry Division. In this phase of our operation it has proven highly successful. Mortars have been extensively used by the Germans on our front. This type of fire is particularly hard on our troops. The shells give no warning. Among the advantages offered by this system are: first the soldiers are intensely interested in it. They feel that they are 'doing something about it'. The reports are rarely developed - still in location by sound of the 'ping' and examination of the crater. Second, the Battalion Commander, by watching these reports and picking out mortar locations, have definite ideas on their observation of the terrain and in planning their fire for advance. We have found that the enemy is very prone to use the same location over and over. We will have the mortar in a certain pillbox, set it up, fire a few rounds, dismount it, and return it to the pillbox. We feel that we are building up quite an accurate knowledge of his mortar locations and procedure on our front."

C-413

Each of the 2nd Infantry Regiment reported: "I am sold on the system. I believe it is the only system of positions that will be located. The only fire system in use in it. The enemy's fire is not as good as the fire on one regiment or battalion will come from in front of another regiment or battalion. This system can be used by putting the force, putting it on one side, and on the other it is division; to make it a complete system. I like the various positions on an overlay on a map. I have another overlay that gives the various locations and sources of all our own and supporting weapons. I also see a good bit of the small or firing line toward of these weapons. When I am out of range of position, I am reporting the fire to what is the best of it. I am not any further this system of our position to all the credit, but I do know that since we have been using it we have been able to make the enemy's position fire."

Colonel, 2nd Infantry
President, 2nd Infantry

Colonel,
2nd Infantry


A - Reported by: _____
(Co. Reg't)

B - Location of
Observer : _____
(Coordinates)

C - Time Mortars
Active : _____
(From - To)

D - Magnetic Az-
imuth from)
observer to) (Sound, Smoke, Flash)
mortars &)
est. range) (Yds)

E - Magnetic Az-
imuth from)
observer to) (comb Crater)
mortars &)
est. range) (Yds)

F - No. of Ads : _____

G - Size of Ads : _____ (Cal.)

H - Area Hit: _____
(Coordinates, if possible.
Direction from observer)

EXHIBIT A 

(Late)

RECEIVED		FROM WHOM:		TIME:	NO.
Rept By :	Loc :	Time Fr :	Mag Ar-Rg :	(Mag Ar & R:No Rds:Cal:	Area
(Co, Regt):	Obvvr :	Time To-:	(By Sound, Flash, (Bomb	Fired (Rds:	Hit
			(Or Smoke)	(Falar)	

REPORTED SHOT & STAR LOCATIONS

Rept by:	Source of Info :	Location :	Time :	No. Meters:	Accuracy:	Time
(Unit):	(FAR, P, Patrol :	(Coord) :	Active :	Rds Fired :	(Yes)	Observed

REMARKS:

EXHIBIT B

