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Bougainville.

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DOD DIR 5200. 9

DISSEMINATION DIVISION
G-2 Section

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

SUBJECT: Extracts from Overseas Reports.

1. Attached extracts are from an overseas report: "Songainville - An Experience in Jungle Warfare", by Maj. Gen. G. S. Griswold, Dec 43 - May 44.
2. These extracts are for your information, any appropriate action and retention.
3. Where the subject represents the consensus of opinion or is controversial, extracts are so marked.
4. Distribution of extracts from this report has been made as indicated by "Ex" below. Copies of full reports have been distributed as indicated by numerals.

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Report distributed:

Extracts distributed: 7 Aug 44

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"Bougainville- An Experience
in Jungle Warfare" -
Maj. Gen. O. W. Griswold

SWPA

Dec. 43 - May 44.

7-IV
17-III

Extract:

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CONSOLIDATION OF PERIMETER

Coordination between tank and infantry in jungle fighting proved to be inadequate in this attack. Under cover of smoke, the tanks moved up to the line which was to be held. Several pillboxes were reduced by the tanks acting alone, but many more bypassed or the occupants took shelter behind jungle masses and large banyan roots. When the infantry moved in, they were met by fire from all directions. When the conventional type of attack with a tank spearhead was found unsuited for the jungle, immediate training was instituted to devise a tank-infantry team for local offensive action. From these studies were developed a team of medium and light tanks and infantry. Visibility within the tank is limited at best, and in the dense jungle growth, it was found to have visibility not to exceed five yards in front, and two or three yards on the flanks. Thus, to direct a tank, it was necessary to have a guide who trailed the tank carrying a phone with a line running into the turret. A signal light replaced the bell on the phone in the tank, and the guide, protected by the tank, would direct it by closing the switch and telling the tank commander which way to maneuver.

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"Bougainville - An Experience
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Maj. Gen. O. W. Griswold

SPA

Dec. 43 - May 44.

7-II

Extract:

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THE ATTACK OF HILL 260

Japs were still behind that portion of the tree that still remained standing and at which a 60mm mortar, adapted to throw cans of gasoline, fired at its base.

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A most ingenious flame thrower was used to reduce the pillboxes. Warrant Officer ROBERT P. MARTIN and Chief Petty Officer JOHN T. SHANE, USNR, connected 200 feet of pipe to a drum of gasoline to which oxygen pressure was applied. Snaking the pipe to a position nine feet from the Jap-held pillbox, the valve was opened, the fuel spraying the box. The fuel was then ignited by means of a WP grenade.

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Dec 43 - May 44

7-IV

Extract:

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CONSOLIDATION OF PERIMETER

Flame throwers had proven their worth on NEW GEORGIA, and were used in the attack of 30 January. These weapons, while a valuable adjunct to infantry, must be handled by trained men who are thoroughly familiar with the intricacies of maintenance and repair. The characteristic silhouette of the flame thrower makes its operator extremely vulnerable, and he must take every advantage offered by the terrain, and he must be protected by small arms. Every effort was made to speed the training of men in the application and operation of this weapon. The 37th Infantry Division trained a flame thrower squad of eight men from each battalion ammunition and pioneer platoon, while in the Americal Division a flame thrower platoon of 41 men divided into six squads of six men each with two flame throwers to the squad was organized. In each squad the leader and one other man carried and operated the flame throwers, protected by two BAR men and two men armed with shotguns. The assistant squad leader was responsible for the maintenance of the equipment and repair, and did not accompany the squad into combat except for substitution.

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