

883 Locating Bty R.A. (V)

Report on Annual Camp- 2-15 May 1959.

Make-up of Battery

- (a) Battery Commander – Major H. Worcester R.A. (TA)
- (b) Training Major. Major V. Norris. R.A.
- (c) Strength - 55 all ranks
- (d) Situated - Bristol.

Assistance by the C.B. Wing. School of Artillery.
Final two day exercise, 13/14 May – ICB, Capt. D. Harrison, R.A.
Period of the camp – WO11 (AIG) Wrangle.

General comments.

Two years ago, this unit could only muster some 12 men to come to camp; and those that did appear were apathetic, and for the most part disinterested last year the situation had improved, but only slightly. This year the situation is vastly different and, for the first time for many years the battery was able to deploy both S.Rg and Radar sections; thereby introducing a competitive atmosphere.

The spirit of the men is most marked, and there does certainly appear to be a definite enthusiasm for the job in hand. It is also noticeable that a fair number of intelligent people have been recruited by the unit, which is attributed to the obvious efforts of the BC. and the Training Major.

4. Deployment.

Needs more practice: there was a slight tendency to allow too much time for the task. This can be dangerous as giving a surfeit of work to do in a short time. A proper balance and making a correct assessment of a reasonable quote of work can instil a sense of urgency into a deployment, without losing efficiency.

Perhaps a little more action - for example, another deployment - could have been packed into the 13th, without even firing from one of the positions.

The deployments were well done with little fuss.

Attention could possibly be paid to track planning, but I think, this was noted and will doubtless be put right later.

5. Survey.

S Rg – quite first class, Again, there was not much to do but that which be done all well. The Survey party is good, and well trained; whilst the Svy Sgt, Sgt Smith, is very capable. He understands the Svy Problem thoroughly so does not attempt to complicate matters.

Radar -The Rader Section is rather frightened of this subject, and is too inclined to let the S-Rg section do the job for them. The section must include those competent to tackle all domestic survey problems.

There are methods of linear measurement other than taping, and these - subtending, stadia rod etc - should be included on the next leg of training.

Command Post Work

S Rg. - Well organised, with an efficient team, each man able to do the other man's job.

Minor points are: a pessimistic attitude towards the accuracy of the locations - which were invariably good; small points of drill, which were mentioned at the time.

Radar Telephone procedure between CP and radar needs improvement.

7. Radar drills.

Telephone procedure and reports to the CP need watching.

Identification of the B type display requires practice: perhaps greater use could be made of training rockets.

'Checks during action' are rarely carried out - consequently the drift is never corrected.

8. AP and LP Work.

S RG - good.

Radar - requires more practice.

9. Administration.

The admin arrangements for the battery seemed quite excellent; never have I seen a unit leave an area so clean and tidy.

10. Summary.

The State of training of 883 Bty des not yet compare with a regular unit.

However, this is not surprising as the bulk of those attended have only been with the unit for a matter of weeks.

Bearing this in mind, the Bty Comd has done a first rate job by:-

- (a) Bringing to life a virtually dead unit, by filling it with really worthwhile material.
- (b) Enthusing all ranks with a fine spirit – some achievement when training time is so short.
- (c) Laying the foundation, by bringing the Bty to a reasonable state of competence this time, for a ambitious, and even more successful, camp next year.

D Newman
ICB
Captain RA
14 May 1959

(signed as above but not very clear ?)