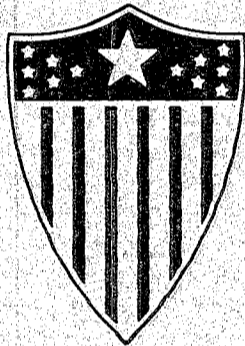


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BY NARA DATE 6-1-19

INCP-1139-3.13

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**WASHINGTON**



Assault Boat Ring Program - 1139th Inger Combat Cp

**DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.**

31 Oct 44

DECLASSIFIED  
AUTHORITY 2140-735017  
BY 61 NARA DATE 6-1-19

31 Oct 44

TO: Commanding Officer, 1139th Engineer Combat Group, APO 403  
Enclosed Infantry Assault Boat Training Program forwarded per  
your request.

GRP  
Commanding

Incl: Infantry Assault Boat Training Program

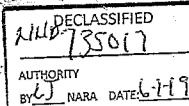
ENCGP-1139-3.15

{ Regmtl Cree  
Bn CO. Cree - Staff  
Cree - Co Comdrs  
S.O. }

Bathua  
CP  
Sat Net  
~~1800~~

1900

Start - 0800 Sun training



## INFANTRY ASSAULT BOAT TRAINING

### I. Purpose:

To familiarize Infantry Commanders and Infantry Troops with Assault Boats, and with stream crossing technique so that tactical unity will be maintained.

### II. Instruction:

#### COURSE "A"

A one (1) hour demonstration and discussion with Regt. and Bn. Staffs describing and exhibiting Assault Boat M-2, and type loadings.

- (1) Attendance: Regt. and Bn. Commanders, Executive Officers, S-3's, and Selected Staff Officers
- (2) Instructor: Div. Engr. and 16 EM.
- (3) Equipment: One (1) Assault Boat M2, 9 paddles, 2--.30 cal. light machine-gun with 20 boxes ammunition 1--.30 cal. heavy machine-gun with 13 boxes ammunition, 2--60mm mortars with 72 rounds ammunition, one (1) 81mm mortar with 50 rounds with 1 switchboard, 10 rolls combat wire, 1 reel 110 wire, 3 phones.  
(Appendix #4)
- (4) Lecture: (Appendix #1)
- (5) Demonstration:
- (6) Discussion: A request for questions will be made. While answering questions, an attempt will be made to judiciously point out some of the common faults of the Infantry exhibited in previous river crossing. (Appendix #3)
- (7) Time Schedule (Appendix #4)

## INFANTRY ASSAULT BOAT TRAINING

### APPENDIX I

Lecture to Regimental and Battalion Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, S-3's and selected Staff Officers. (To be given separately to Regiments in turn by Division Engineer)

"Colonel \_\_\_\_\_, Officers of the \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment:

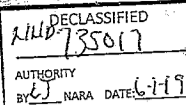
The purpose of this demonstration is to show you types of loads in the Assault Boat M2 and to discuss with you the characteristics of the boat, and methods of handling during an assault crossing.

The present boat "M2" was redesigned by the Engineer Board from the old M1 to accommodate the 12 man squad, and to provide the Engineers with a boat suitable for crossing personnel and also for constructing light bridges and rafts.

The boat will hold an Engineer crew of three, plus a 12 man Infantry squad fully equipped. It is propelled by the Infantry passengers with paddles provided by the crew, and steered by the crew chief in the stern. The Engineer crew then make a return trip for a second wave. Three Engineers are necessary to handle the boat in swift current, a fourth acts as guide.

The boat is approximately six feet wide (5'9"), thirteen feet long (13'4") and two feet deep (2'1") and weighs about four hundred pounds (410 lbs). It will support two tons with eight inches of the sides still above water (8" freeboard) but it will support almost three tons before swamping (5300 lbs with 4" freeboard). The boat is made of part mahogany and part from plywood screwed and rivetted together.

(At this point boat is brought into view of group by Engineer demonstration crew).



Notice that one end of the boat is scow shaped for easier handling and nesting, the other end squared for joining with another boat to make a bridge support. Notice also that the many flat surfaces of the boat create sounding boards to amplify noises made by rocks or branches hitting the boat.

(Demonstration squad turn boat upside down for proper carry and stand by).

The boat is carried upside down to within a few feet of the waters edge, like this, to avoid making noise and to ease the strain of carrying. Notice that the Infantry carrying the boat have slung their rifles diagonally, muzzles up, with the barrel pointing toward the boat, to avoid making noise by striking the boat with a rifle. The Engineer crew chief marches in the rear with three paddles, and each of the other two Engineer crew members precede the boat, also carrying three paddles, to maintain contact with the Engineer guide. When the number of Infantry is reduced the Engineers also carry the boat. This carry will be limited to one or two hundred yards where conditions permit.

At a spot previously selected by the Engineer crew chief within a few yards of the waters edge, the boat is righted. It is then carried to the water and floated, rifles are unslung, and paddles are distributed.

(Demonstration squad rights boat transfers rifles and steps into boat).

Engineer crew steady the boat and the Infantry enter and kneel in three rows of fours. Six Infantrymen paddle and the crossing is made without firing from the boat.

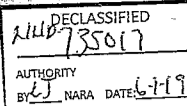
Several type loadings will be demonstrated to show how the boat can be adapted to tactical organization.

1. (Two Infantrymen get out of boat (leaving 10) and are replaced by two light caliber .30 machine guns and 20 boxes of ammunition).
2. (Light machine guns and ammunition are replaced by two 60mm mortars and 72 rounds of ammunition).
3. Mortars and ammunition are removed, three more Infantrymen get out of boat (leaving seven) and are replaced by one caliber .30 heavy machine gun and 13 boxes of ammunition).
4. (Heavy machine gun and ammunition is replaced by 81mm mortar and 50 rounds of ammunition).
5. (81mm mortar and ammunition are removed and platoon wire section (eight men) and equipment are displayed).

Movement from final assembly areas to the river is made with Engineer guides over previously reconnoitered routes in boat groups of squads or sections as previously organized in the initial assembly area.

A rifle company normally crosses on a 300 to 1200 yard front. The recommended spacing is 20 yards between boats. Each rifle platoon normally requires four boats, one for each squad and one for platoon headquarters. Seventeen are normally required for a company; twelve for rifle platoons, four for weapons platoon, one for company headquarters.

The second wave may consist of heavy weapons company, battalion forward CP and liaison details. The reserve rifle company may then be crossed or may cross on a footbridge if constructed.



"An Engineer CP will be established near the river to assist in coordinating Engineer troops to link the crossing sites together."

#### APPENDIX #2

A demonstration crew of 16 Engr. EM will have been organized and rehearsed. 12 men will represent an Infantry Rifle Squad and will carry their equipment, 3 men will act as the Engr. boat crew, and 1 man as the Engr. Guide.

**1st Phase:** Upon signal, the squad will appear, carrying an M2 assault boat. Two members of the Engr. Crew will precede the boat, carrying paddles. The Engr. NCO in charge will follow the boat. Engr guide will precede party to site.

Upon nearing the group the boat will be put down and the crew stand by for signal to invert the boat and stand by again. During simulated carry Engineers will take positions described and again on signal will lower the boat, unslung rifles, distribute paddles, load, and kneel as directed by the Engr. NCO. Then the Engrs. will take their positions in the boat.

**2nd Phase:** In the 2nd phase of the demonstration two men will be unloaded; and 2 light .30 caliber machine-guns and 20 boxes of ammunition will be loaded. This demonstrates the loading of one section Heavy machine-guns in the weapons platoon of the rifle company.

**3rd Phase:** With the same men in the boat the machine-guns and ammunition will be unloaded and 2-60mm mortars with 72 pounds of ammunition will be loaded. This demonstrates the loading of one section Heavy machine-guns in the weapons platoon of the rifle company.

**4th Phase:** Three additional men (7 remaining) and the mortars and ammunition will be unloaded. A heavy .30 caliber machine gun and 13 boxes of ammunition will be loaded. This demonstrates the loading of a section of machine-gun section of a platoon of a heavy weapons company.

**5th Phase:** The machine-gun and ammunition are removed and an 81mm mortar with 50 pounds of ammunition are loaded. This demonstrates the proper loading of a mortar section of a mortar platoon of a Heavy weapons company.

**6th Phase:** The 81mm mortar and ammunition are unloaded and one man reenters boat with the equipment of the platoon wire section to demonstrate loading of a communications platoon.

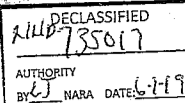
#### APPENDIX #3

1. Insufficient time allowed for a thorough reconnaissance.
2. Arbitrarily designated crossing sites without regard for technical considerations.
3. Failure to plan in conjunction with Engrs boat loads.
4. Failure to allow any time for the procurement and movement into assembly areas of assault boats.
5. Failure to inform all Infantry NCO's that Engineers are in command during crossing phase.
6. Failure to designate objectives close to the far shore & quick reorganization of Infantry units.
7. Failure to obey anti-noise precautions.

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APPENDIX #4

	TIME	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
Lecture	10	
Demonstration	35	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ton Truck -1 Assault Boat M2
1st Phase	15	
2nd Phase	4	2 Cal. .30 light machine-guns -20 boxes ammunition
3rd Phase	4	2-60mm Mortars - 72 rounds ammunition
4th Phase	4	1-Cal .30 heavy machine-gun - 13 boxes ammunition
5th Phase	4	1-81mm Mortar - 50 rounds ammunition
6th Phase	4	1-switchboard - 10 reels combat wire- 1 reel #110 wire - 3 phones
Discussion	15	
Total	60	



### COURSE "B"

One hour of regular training time scheduled for each Infantry Rifle Company in the Division to teach the individual soldier how to carry the Assault Boat M2, how to sling his rifle during carrying, how to avoid making noises, when to enter the boat, how to enter the boat, how to kneel in the boat, how paddles are distributed, how to paddle the boat, not to fire from the boat, when and how to disembark, to familiarize the Infantry Squad Leaders, Platoon Leaders, and Officers with methods of combat loading, particularly to adjust loadings to the Infantry Unit tactical organization, to assure Infantry Leaders that tactical unity need not be disturbed during the Engineer phase of the Assault Crossing.

- (1) Attendance: All members of the Infantry Rifle and Heavy Weapons Companies.
- (2) Instructor: Combat Team Engr. Co.
- (3) Equipment: 17 Assault Boats M2
- (4) Introduction: It is not considered advisable to deliver a lecture to the company in formation. Prior to the class Engrs. in charge of boats and boat groups will have been thoroughly briefed on all points in Appendix #1. Engineer crew members for demonstration and engineer soldiers will all be identified by a red arm band or similar device during instruction of Infantry troops.

To the company it will be explained that the Engrs. are going to demonstrate to them how an Assault boat should be carried and how they should load and unload from the boat so as not to attract the attention of the enemy. After the demonstration the Infantry themselves will have a dry run so that each man can see just how his squad fits into the boat.

- (5) Demonstration: Appendix #5.
- (6) Practice: Appendix #6.

#### APPENDIX #5

For the demonstration, a crew of 16 men will have been thoroughly instructed and rehearsed in the proper method of carrying, embarking, rowing, and debarking. Twelve (12) of the men will represent an Infantry Rifle Squad, three (3) and Engr. Boat Crew, and one (1) as Engr. Guide.

The boat will be carried inverted for 100 yards and 5 yards from the simulated river bank, it will be turned upright. During the demonstration the instructor will deliver the following discourse which will note points that the Demonstration Crew has been taught to observe meticulously.

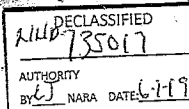
(Men start forward with boat)

These men carrying the boat are Infantrymen. The lead man is the Engr. guide. The two men in front of the boat with the paddles are Engr. crewmen and the man in back is the engineer crewman in charge of the boat.

Once you pick up the boat you keep moving unless the Engr. in charge has you stop for a rest or to change sides. Notice that they carry the boat upside down, this makes it easier to carry, and cuts out noise.

You see how they all have their rifles slung diagonally, with the muzzle up, and on the side nearest the boat, this keeps it from hitting the boat and making a noise that will wake up Jerry, just across the river.

(Men lower boat, right it, moved forward and lower to ground)



It is hard to see it on dry land but they carry the boat right out into the water until it floats without dropping or dragging it.

(Two (2) Engrs grasp boat at bow, other men enter boat, handing rifle to man beside him).

Notice how one man gets in from each side while the two (2) Engrs in front steady the boat. Also notice that each man hands his rifle to a man beside him while he gets into the boat.

( 4 men crouch low in the center of the boat and 4 on each side, as they get in, 3 men on each side are given paddles, 2 Engrs get into the bow and one in the stern).

You see that 3 men on each side have been given paddles and that they have handed their rifles to men in the center of the boat. If you are paddling watch the Engr. in front and stroke with him. By kneeling with your weight on your outside knee you can paddle easier without hitting the sides of the boat.

(Men with paddles simulate rowing feathering the oars. Upon signal from the instructor the 2 Engrs. in the bow get out and steady the boat. The other men disembark quietly, 2 men at a time and lay their paddles in the bottom).

Splashing paddles make lots of noise so be careful and feather your oars, like those men are doing. When you debark take your rifle back from the man who has been holding it but don't get in a hurry and make a splash, one man can get out on each side. Oh yes, don't forget to leave your paddle, but don't throw it down.

(The Instructor directs the Infantry Platoon Leaders to report their Platoons to Boat Group. Sites, 1, 3, 4, (pointing) where an Engr. Officer will give further directions, he directs the Co. Commander to have his Company Headquarters and weapons platoon to report to site #2)

#### APPENDIX #6

Preparation for the Infantry Practice Phase of the Class will have included, laying out the boats in the Final Assembly Area as shown in Figure II, and organization of the Engr. Co. into boat crews of 4 men, with an NCO in charge of each boat, and into boat groups with an Engr. Officer in charge of each boat group.

When the Infantry Platoon arrives at the Boat Group Site the Engr. Officer will assign a boat to each squad and one to Platoon Headquarters. He will then have the Squads move to their respective boats for further instruction by the NCO in charge of the boat. He will then render close supervision over the instruction being given by the NCOs in his boat group.

Because the knowledge retained by the Individual Infantryman depends upon the quality of the boat NCOs instruction he will have been thoroughly rehearsed in the execution of the following Boat Drill:

You six line up on this side of the boat (pointing) any you six on this side of the boat (pointing). Now sling your arms diagonally so the muzzle is on the side toward the boat. Remember I'm in charge of the boat, and there is to be no talking, smoking, or noise of anykind.

We're going to pick the boat up, carry it to the river, get in it, row awhile, and get out. We'll keep doing it until we can do it perfectly without making a sound. You men on the right, lay hold; raise; give your side to the men on the left and now you pick up the other side and we have the boat upside down.



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Follow the Engineers in front of you.

(The boat is picked up, inverted and the Engr. Guide moves out toward the river with the boat following. Near the bank they halt, turn the boat upright and move on to the river.)

Ordinarily I wouldn't say anything now as it would make too much noise and you will know what to do anyway. To upright the boat you men on the left lower your side, and you men on the right hand your side over and grasp the other side. Now wade right out into the water until the boat floats, in this case just set it down gently. Don't scramble to get in, I'll tell you when this time.

The 1st two men give your rifles to the men behind you, step in, kneel in the center of the boat at the front and take your rifle as it is handed to you. The next two men do likewise, only kneel at each side, leaving room in front of you for the two Engrs that are holding the boat; take your rifles and give them to the two men in the center.

The 3rd men on each side take your position on the outside and keep your rifles. The fourth man on each side will kneel in the center while the 5th and 6th men will kneel on the side and hand their rifles to men in the center. No. 6 men will hand their rifles to men while getting in the boat.

(Men take position in the boat and are given paddles).

The Engrs. will give paddles to 3 men on each side, Nos. 2, 5, and 6 as you load into the boat. You men on the outside be sure your weight is on your outside knee, and that you can hold the paddle away from the boat. Watch the Engr. in front of you and keep in time with him. Breathe your care just as he does and you won't splash. I'll guide the boat from back here.

(Paddling is simulated for a short time and the men unload).

When we get to the far shore the Engrs. get out to steady the boat while you men get out in just the reverse order that you entered, handing rifles out in the same way they were handed in. As you get out, place your paddles quietly in the bottom of the boat and wade ashore.

(After unloading the entire drill is repeated until every man has a working knowledge of the drill.)

APPENDIX 42

	TIME
Introduction	2
Demonstration	13
Practice	45
Assignment to Boats and movement to river	15
Loading and Correction of loads	30
Total	60

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MASTER SCHEDULE

Course "A" - Conducted in Reg't Area

HOURE	REG'T BEING INSTRUCTED	REMARKS
0800-0900	X	one hour is allowed for
0900-1100	Movement to Y Reg't	movement between Reg't
1100-1200	X	Areas
1300-1500	Movement to Z Reg't	
1500-1600	Z	

Course "B" - Conducted in Reg't Area - Instruction in three (3) Reg'ts. Conducted simultaneously by CT Engr, Cos.

1st Day

HOURE	COMPANY	REMARKS
0800-0900	"A"	one hour is allowed after
1000-1100	"B"	each period to replace
1300-1400	"C"	boats at original sites
1600-1700	"E"	

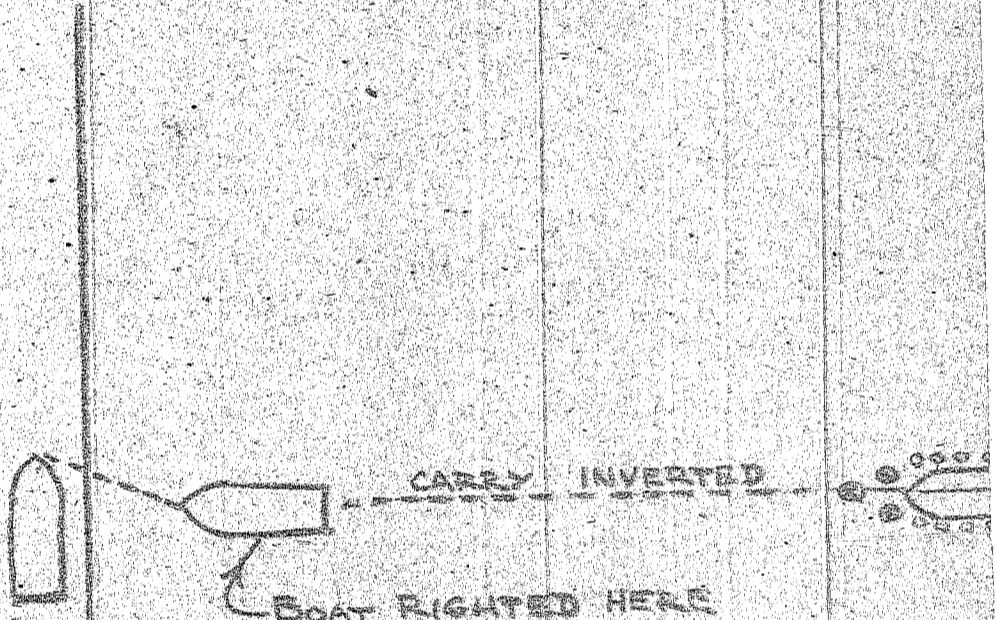
2nd Day

0800-0900	"F"	
1000-1100	"G"	
1200-1300	"I"	
1400-1500	"K"	
1600-1700	"L"	

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FIG 1

REGIMENTAL & BN CMDRS & STAFF



TRACING TAPE LINE  
INDICATING RIVER BANK

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SCHEMATIC  
NOT TO SCALE

LEGEND

- ⊙ ENGR CREW
- INFANTRY MEN