The Appearance Method

Another method of judging distance between you and an object is to study what it looks like compared with its surroundings; this is called the appearance method. It takes a lot of practice under varying conditions to become good at it.

The amount of visible detail of a cadet at various ranges gives a good indication of the distance he is away:
- At 100 metres — clear in all detail.
- At 200 metres — clear in all detail, colour of skin and equipment identifiable.
- At 300 metres — clear body outline, face colour good, remaining detail blurred.
- At 400 metres — body outline clear, remaining detail blurred.
- At 500 metres — body begins to taper, head becomes indistinct.
- At 600 metres — body now wedge shaped, no head apparent.

Things seem……

Closer When...
- The light is bright or the sun is shining from behind you.
- They are bigger than other things around them.
- There is dead ground between them and you.
- They are higher up than you are.

Further Away When...
- The light is bad or the sun is in your eyes.
- They are smaller than other things around them.
- You are looking across a valley or down a street or a ride in a wood.
- You are lying down.