

Elementary Observation

The normal way to search ground is to divide it into foreground, middle distance and distance, and search each of them, in that order, from right to left. In that way you are sure that you do not leave out any of the ground; but there are other ways of dividing the ground up which may sometimes be better, particularly if the ground is very broken. The ground may be divided into arcs, left or right of a specified centre line. Areas that are likely to be occupied by the enemy may be specially indicated for thorough searching.

Scanning and Searching

Scanning is a general and systematic examination of an area to detect any unusual or significant object or movement. Searching is a thorough examination of certain features in the area. Both require complete concentration combined with a knowledge of why things are seen and the principles of camouflage and concealment.

Scanning.

1. Divide the area into foreground, middle distance and distance.
2. Scan each area horizontally starting with the foreground. To obtain maximum efficiency, move the eyes in short overlapping movements. Moving the head will minimize eye fatigue. The speed at which scanning is carried out will depend upon the type of country being observed and the amount of cover it affords to possible targets.
3. When horizontal scanning is completed, scan along the line of any features which are angled away from the observation position.

Searching.

1. Searching may take place at any stage during scanning i.e., if the cadet's position is dominated by a piece of ground, he should search that area thoroughly before continuing with scanning. Furthermore, any significant movement or object, suspected camouflage, etc., spotted during scanning would require an immediate search of that area.
2. Search for each of the factors of why things are seen in turn. The weather may assist, i.e., frost will reveal tracks made during the night or a hot sun will alter the tone and colour of foliage used for camouflage by withering its leaves.
3. Search across hedgerows or a row of trees, not along them.