

## **CHAPTER 5 - TANK TARGET INDICATION**

### **501. INTRODUCTION**

1. The aim of the tank target indication is to enable the infantry to quickly indicate a target so that it may be rapidly and effectively engaged by tanks.

### **502. GENERAL**

1. The normal means of infantry requesting support from Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) will be by radio. However, depending on the proximity of infantry and AFVs, indication of targets to the AFV commander may be by means other than radio, e.g., external interphone (tank telephone) on the rear of the tank, hand signals or by personal contact.
2. To obtain support from AFVs the infantry should:
  - a. Attract the AFV commander's attention (ALERT);
  - b. Get the AFV commander to look in the right direction (DIRECTION);
  - c. Give him the range to the target (RANGE);
  - d. Describe target (TARGET DESCRIPTION);
  - e. Tell the AFV commander what fire effect is required and when (FIRE REQUEST);
  - f. If the target cannot be readily seen, continue to correct the fire until the AFV commander sees the target; and

- g. Tell the AFV commander to cease firing if requested.

### **503. TYPES OF TARGETS**

1. The great accuracy of the AFV main armament, and the high volume of fire available from AFV machine-guns, provide ideal intimate close-support fire for infantry. Suitable point targets for engagements by these weapons are:
  - a. Dug-in enemy weapons;
  - b. Fortifications such as bunkers;
  - c. Enemy troops both in the open and in the fire trenches close to our own positions; and
  - d. Enemy AFVs and soft-skinned vehicles.
2. Areas targets, not in proximity to friendly troops, should be dealt with by artillery/mortars in order to conserve AFV ammunition for the types of targets listed above.

### **504. ATTRACTING ATTENTION OF AFV's**

1. Infantry requiring fire support from AFVs should attract the attention of the appropriate AFV commander. Normally this is accomplished by radio, external interphone (tank telephone), or by personal contact.

### **505. INDICATING DIRECTION OF THE TARGET**

1. One of the following methods should be used to indicate the general direction of the target to the AFV commander:

- a. **Reference Point.** Directions from a reference point, either pre-arrange or hasty, in metres. The reference point method is used in open country and, when time allows, pre-arranged reference points are agreed, e.g., before a deliberate attack. Hasty reference points can be conspicuous natural or artificial features;
- b. **Gun Barrel of the Tank.** The gun barrel method is mainly used in close country, and whichever direction the barrel is pointing is taken as 12 o'clock on the horizontal clock;
- c. **Hull Axis or Axis of Advance.** The axis system is similar to the gun barrel system except in this case the hull axis or axis of advance, whether moving across country or along a road/track, is taken as 12 o'clock on the horizontal clock. If the infantryman is using the tank telephone, the axis-of-the-hull method will be simplest; and
- d. **Fire Shot for Reference.** The shot-for-reference method has many variations. It is usually used with one of the methods above. The Infantry commander may request the tank to: "Fire shot (main armament) or burst (MG) for reference", or he may indicate the target himself by firing a shot (tracer) or a burst from a machine-gun instructing the tank: "Firing shot/burst for reference". Once the fall of shot is identified, corrections are made onto the target.

## **506. RANGE**

1. The estimated range in metres from the AFV to the target should be given. In open country over longer ranges, the grid reference of the target should be given.

## **507. DESCRIPTION OF TARGET**

1. The AFV commander must be told what the target is so that he can, if necessary, select the most appropriate ammunition with which to engage it.

## **508. FIRE REQUEST**

1. The Infantry commander is to give the fire request to the AFV commander. This request is to indicate to the AFV commander what treatment is to be given to the target, e.g., "Suppress for five minutes now"; or "Destroy now"; or "Neutralize now and stop firing on my order".

2. Caution must be exercised in the phraseology of the fire request. Although in a support role, the AFV commander must be granted the prerogative as to what treatment is given to a designated target. The overall tactical situation, as well as vehicle basic ammunition load, are only two factors which, if not considered by both the AFV commander and the Infantry commander, may well place the armoured support in a compromising position and limit its overall effectiveness.

## **509. CORRECTION OF AFV FIRE**

1. Correction of fire by the Infantry commander may be necessary to help identify the target or to stop the engagement of the wrong target.

2. When minor corrections to AFV fire are necessary to ensure that it is applied exactly as desired, they are to be given by the Infantry commander as necessary, and stated in relation to the tank- target line of observation. The corrections are:

- a. GO LEFT..... metres;
  - b. GO RIGHT..... metres;
  - c. ADD..... metres;
  - d. DROP..... metres; and
  - e. Azimuth corrections may also be given, e.g., "GO RIGHT .....mils", using the graticule scale of optical or night-viewing devices.
3. If an AFV commences to engage the wrong target and corrections as in para 2 above are liable to be lengthy or complicated, the Infantry commander is to order "STOP FIRING" and give a new description of the target before the engagement continues.

**510. EXAMPLES**

1. In examples given in the following, the transmissions may be broken down into shorter and more convenient lengths.

**EXAMPLE A:** (Using a feature on the ground as a reference point):

| <b>Serial</b> | <b>Infantry</b>  | <b>AFV</b>                     | <b>Remarks</b> |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1             | Tango Three<br>One – THIS IS<br>– One One –<br>Target – OVER |                                |                |
| 2             |  | - Tango Three<br>One<br>- OVER |                |
| 3             | - One One –<br>Lone tree on                                  |                                |                |

|   |  |                                     |  |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
|   | ridge – GO<br>RIGHT four<br>o'clock – Four<br>hundred –<br>Machine – gun<br>in bush –<br>Destroy now -<br>OVER |                                     |  |
| 4 |  | - Tango Three<br>One - WILCO<br>OUT | AFV commander<br>identifies and engages<br>target. |

**EXAMPLE B:** (Using direction on AFV gun barrel for reference):

| <b>Seria<br/>l</b> | <b>Infantry</b>   | <b>AFV</b>                                     | <b>Remarks</b>   |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| 1                  | Tango Three One –<br>THIS IS – One One –<br>Target – OVER   |  |  |
| 2                  |   | - Tango<br>Three One<br>- OVER                 |  |
| 3                  | - One One – Gun<br>barrel – GO RIGHT<br>three o'clock – Eight<br>hundred – Three small<br>bushes – IDENTIFY –<br>OVER |  | If the message is long<br>or there is a chance of<br>confusion, the AFV<br>commander should be<br>asked to identify. |
| 4                  |   | - Tango<br>Three One<br>- Identified<br>- OVER |  |
| 5                  | - One One – From<br>right bush – GO<br>RIGHT three o'clock –<br>Machine – gun in<br>trench – Neutralize–<br>OVER      |  |  |
| 6                  |   | - Tango<br>Three One<br>- WILCO –<br>OVER      |  |

**EXAMPLE C:** (Using direction on AFV gun barrel for reference):

| Serial | Infantry   | AFV   | Remarks   |
|--------|--|---|---|
| 1      | Tango Three<br>One – THIS IS<br>– One One –<br>Target – OVER   |   |   |
| 2      |  | (THIS IS) -<br>- Tango Three<br>One<br>- OVER                       |   |
| 3      | - One One –<br>Gun barrel –<br>GO LEFT nine<br>o'clock – Eight<br>hundred – Fire<br>round for<br>reference –<br>OVER |   |   |
| 4      |  | - Tango Three<br>One – WILCO<br>– WAIT OUT                          |   |
| 5      |  | One One –<br>THIS IS –<br>Tango Three<br>One – Firing<br>now – OVER | AFV Commander warns<br>the Inf that he is firing to<br>ensure identification of<br>fall of round. |



| <b>Serial</b> | <b>Infantry</b>  | <b>AFV</b>                                | <b>Remarks</b> |
|---------------|--|---|----------------|
| 6             | One One –<br>From last round<br>– GO RIGHT<br>one hundred –<br>DROP fifty –<br>Along line of<br>hedgerow –<br>Enemy in small<br>trench below<br>hedge –<br>Destroy and fire<br>on my order –<br>OVER |   |                |
| 7             |  | - Tango Three<br>One –<br>WILLCO -<br>OUT |                |

**EXAMPLE D:** (Using direction on AFV gun barrel for reference):

| <b>Serial</b> | <b>Infantry</b>   | <b>AFV</b>                  | <b>Remarks</b> |
|---------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1             | Tango Three One –<br>THIS IS – One One<br>– Target – OVER |                             |                |
| 2             |   | - Tango Three One<br>- OVER |                |

| Serial | Infantry  | AFV                             | Remarks                    |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3      | - One One – Gun barrel – GO RIGHT three o'clock – Three hundred – Machine – gun post – I will fire burst of tracer for reference – OVER |                                 |                            |
| 4      |   | - Tango Three One – ROGER – OUT | Burst is fired.            |
| 5      | Tango Three One – THIS IS – One One – From burst – ADD five hundred – Machine – gun post in dark patch of grass – Destroy now – OVER    |                                 |                            |
| 6      |   | - Tango Three One – WILCO – OUT | First round is off target. |
| 7      | Tango Three One – THIS IS – One One – GO RIGHT twenty – five – ADD fifty – OVER   |                                 |                            |
| 8      |   | - Tango Three One – WILCO – OUT | Further round is fired.    |
| 9      | Tango Three One – THIS IS – One One – Target - OUT  |                                 |                            |

(511 to 599 not allocated)