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M/B/c
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COMBINED MILITARY AND POLICE ACTION

for Platoon Commanders and
Junior Police Ranks



HEADQUARTERS
PALESTINE
JUNE 1947

INTRODUCTION

The object of this booklet is to explain in simple terms some of the problems which have to be tackled by the Army and Palestine Police in collaboration with each other. Co-operation between the two has never been better; but what with leave, and battalions changing over and divisions exchanging their areas, it often happens that a first-class partnership between a unit and the local police gets broken up, and both sides have to start all over again learning each other's names, habits and little ways.

It is essential that all operations in support of the civil power be carried out methodically and systematically. The discipline and behaviour of the troops throughout must be absolutely correct. It is this that has kept the reputation of the Army so high in the past, and it is in this that any failure can only make our task, and in the long run that of the troops themselves, so much more difficult and open to criticism.

Hence this booklet. It lays down drills for various occasions, so that soldiers and police shall have an identical approach to the more common jobs which crop up every week, and in which both are concerned.

Study it and get to know your opposite numbers.

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SECTION I.—THE PALESTINE POLICE.

1. *General Description.*

(a) This Force was originally formed as Gendarmerie in 1922, after the occupation of Palestine. It took its present form and name in 1926. Since then it has been increased in strength several times, and is now nearly eight thousand strong, of which about 4,000 are British. There are in addition eight thousand Temporary Additional Police. The Force is organised in *Police Districts*, *Police Divisions*, and *Police Station and Post Areas*. The number of men in each varies according to the size, population and needs of the District.









(b) The map at the end of this booklet shows how the country is divided into Districts, etc. You will notice that there are six Districts: Jerusalem, Lydda (which includes Jaffa and Tel Aviv), Haifa, Galilee (with H.Q. at Nazareth), Samaria (with H.Q. at Nablus) and Gaza. See Appendix 'B'. Although individuals may be posted from District to District, or within their own District, the Police never moves lock, stock and barrel from one District, to another, as a Brigade or Battalion does. That is how the Police acquire their minute knowledge of the area to which they belong, and of the people who live in it. You should not count on the local Police having the same knowledge of an area to which they do not belong.

(c) The Force is divided into British and Palestinian sections. There are many other branches, such as the C.I.D., the mounted, the Port and Marine, the Mobile Unit down in the desert, the Traffic, and so on. But the Police that the Army sees most of, and has most to do with, are the District Police, with their Divisions and Police Stations, organised as already described, and comprising both British and Palestinians.

2. *Police Ranks.*

(a) Although the Police wear badges of rank resembling Army ones, their jobs are entirely different. Because you see a man wearing three pips on his shoulder, or one pip on his shoulder, you don't want to think "there's a Captain of Police" or "There's a 2/Lieut of the Police". They are in fact respectively an Assistant Superintendent of Police (commonly known as an "A.S.P.") and an Inspector and are therefore likely to be officers who can give you some pretty good advice. An A.S.P. may be in charge of a Division, or he may be employed on a Headquarters job, serving perhaps twenty or thirty villages and fifteen, twenty thousand or more people.

(b) The principal ranks are as follows :—

<i>Title and Badge</i>	<i>Title and Badge</i>
<p><i>Inspector General:</i> Crown and cross batons encircled by laurel.</p>	<p><i>Deputy Superintendent:</i> Crown.</p>
	
<p><i>Deputy Inspector General:</i> Star and cross batons encircled by laurel.</p>	<p><i>Assistant Superintendent:</i> Three stars.</p>
	
<p><i>Assistant Inspector General:</i> Crown and two stars.</p>	<p><i>Acting Assistant Superintendent:</i> Two stars.</p>
	
<p><i>Superintendent:</i> Crown and star.</p>	<p><i>Inspector:</i> One star.</p>
	
	<p><i>Head Constable:</i> Crown on right forearm. <i>First British Sergeant:</i> Stripes with badge. <i>Second British Sergeant:</i> Stripes.</p>

There are Palestinian Officers in all ranks up to and including Superintendent, except Head Constable. Some Palestinian Inspectors wear silver bars instead of a pip.

(c) *Certificate of Appointment*.—As means of establishing their identity all Police Officers and Other Ranks must have in their possession both on and off duty in uniform or plain clothes, a printed card with a photograph of the holder affixed known as a CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT marked P.61 at the top left hand corner. When checking British Police it may help if you ascertain his hometown, football team, etc.

(d) A District is usually commanded by a Superintendent, and a Division usually by an A.S.P. or A/A.S.P. : sometimes in a big Division you will find a D.S.P. in command. Sometimes you will find junior people acting for these ranks when they are on leave or sick.

3. *Duties of the Police.*

(a) It is worth bearing in mind that the majority of the work of the Police consists of the ordinary daily tasks that such a Force carries out in a civilized country. While the soldier is largely engaged on guards, escort duties and special operations, the normal work of the Police has to go on. Murders, thefts, smuggling and other crimes are far more common in this country than at home; and quite apart from the unsettled political situation, the Police have a whole time job to do. And the British Constable has to learn not only one or both of the languages spoken here; he has to learn a great deal of Law and many things besides. On such matters as these he is at the disposal of the soldier for help, advice or local information.

(b) Remember that some of the C.I.D. go around in plain clothes, and that what looks like a civilian gate-crasher may be a plain-clothes man.

4. *Local Organisation of the Police.*

(a) You have seen how the Police are divided into Police Districts, Police Divisions, and Police Station Areas. There are also small Police Posts which may be manned entirely by Palestinians. It is as well to know what you may expect to find at each level.

A District Headquarters is a large establishment. The Superintendent will have a Deputy Superintendent as his second-in-command, and he will also have a Superior Police Officer in charge of the local C.I.D. Remember that the District Headquarters does not directly run the town in which it is sited: for instance Haifa District Headquarters is an entirely separate establishment from Haifa Urban Division, which runs Haifa Town, even though it is in the same building.

At Divisional Headquarters, of which there may be up to four in a district, you will find a D.S.P., and A.S.P., or an A/A.S.P. in command.

At a Police Station you will find either an Inspector or a British Sergeant in command, with a number of British Constables, and a number of Palestinians. There will also be British and Palestinian N.C.O.'s.

At a Post you may find a British Sergeant, British Constable, Palestinian Inspector or Palestinian N.C.O. in charge.

(b) You may have served chiefly in the country districts so far, and have become used to the big police stations which are usually known as "Tegart Buildings". Don't expect to find them in the cities: the Police there are mostly housed in less impressive buildings which are rather harder to find. Soldiers should get to know where they are. In fact at all times and wherever he may be stationed, the soldier should know in which Police Station Area he is located.

SECTION II.—ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS.

In order to understand clearly the relations between the Military and the Police it is also necessary to know briefly the way in which Palestine is divided up and the civil administration is carried out.

5. Palestine is divided into six Civil Administration Districts, the boundaries of which are the same as the Police Districts. (*see* map at back). Each District is under the charge of the District Commissioner who is chief civil official and representative of the Government in this area, and works under the general directions of the Chief Secretary. He is responsible for carrying into effect the policy and decisions of the Government affecting his District. He is assisted by a Deputy District Commissioner, the next grade is Assistant District Commissioner and the next District Officer. The Assistant District Commissioner may be, and the District Officer is, a Palestinian.

SECTION III.—DIVISION OF POLICE AND ARMY RESPONSIBILITY.

6. *Command and Control during Searches.*

Whether the civilian police or Military take control of a search depends upon the size of the area being searched and consequently on the number of troops involved. Generally speaking any search involving a battalion or more will be controlled by the Mil Comd, and advised by the police; any smaller search being controlled by the civil police and assisted by the Military as follows:—

(a) *A large search (involving a battalion or more).*—The Military Commander will decide on the method of carrying out the search and the dispositions of his troops based on the local knowledge of the civilian police. The actual search of individual houses is carried out by the police assisted by the military, but the command and control of the search remains a military responsibility.

(b) *A small search (involving less than a battalion).*—The police will decide what portion of a town or village is to be searched and will inform the Military Commander of what is required and the method in which the search will be carried out. With this information the Military Commander organises his troops as necessary, bearing in mind his responsibilities, i.e.

- (i) The defence of the area being searched.
- (ii) The provision of sufficient search parties as requested by the police.

The number and strength of these parties must in no way prejudice the local defence of the main area under search.

Good liaison, cooperation and understanding between the police and the Military Commander is the first essential to a successful operation.

SECTION IV.—SEARCHING OF A SINGLE HOUSE, SMALL GROUP OF HOUSES
OR A BLOCK OF FLATS.

7. *Preparation.*

(a) Normally the information which renders it desirable to search a house or small area will come from Police channels. It is a Police job and whenever possible should be under command of the Police. The Police however will often require military protection for their search parties; such military protection should in such cases come under command of the Police who will be responsible with military advice in preparing the plan.

(b) It is of vital importance, if these small operations are to be successful, that a proper and simple plan be evolved before the party arrives on the spot selected. Normally there will be time for a meeting of the Police and Military authorities concerned. The Police with their intimate knowledge of the area are in a far better position to detail the protective party to likely lanes of escape and to decide the best ways of approach. Whatever the urgency, parties for each type of job must be detailed off before troops leave camp i.e.

Stop parties — to bar ways of escape.

Cage parties — to look after the occupants during interrogation.

Search parties — normally Police with as much military aid as they require.

These parties should be detailed by name beforehand and move complete in their parties whether in transport or on foot ready for immediate action as Teams on arrival at the scene of operations.

(c) On arrival at the scene, the various parties will, if there has been time to lay on a proper plan, go at once to their previously arranged positions — or if the operation is of a hurried nature, on arrival the teams will immediately be ordered to those locations which appear most suitable to the Police or Military Officer in command.

(d) The Police and Military elements of the force should wherever possible meet in camp before the operation takes place and move to the selected area together.

(e) Fig 1 shows one way of positioning troops for the search of a house. In this case it is envisaged that the light is good enough for the stop parties to see some distance. In the event of the operation being carried out at night the stops must be closer to the building, more in the nature of a cordon.

8. *The Approach.*

On occasions the occupants of the houses may be expected to be in a dangerous mood, and the approach should be carried out with this in mind.

Even so, however, swift and sure movement is the best practice; the house is surrounded before the occupants know what is afoot, and you have won the first round. Sometimes it will be correct to drive up to the door; sometimes it will be better to dismount from the vehicles a little way off: it depends on the approaches, the exits and local conditions. But the quickest way is always the best. The approach in vehicles need not be noisy. Our vehicles can coast in to the search with engines cut. This is an old Gestapo trick and is particularly effective at night.

9. *The Actual Search.*

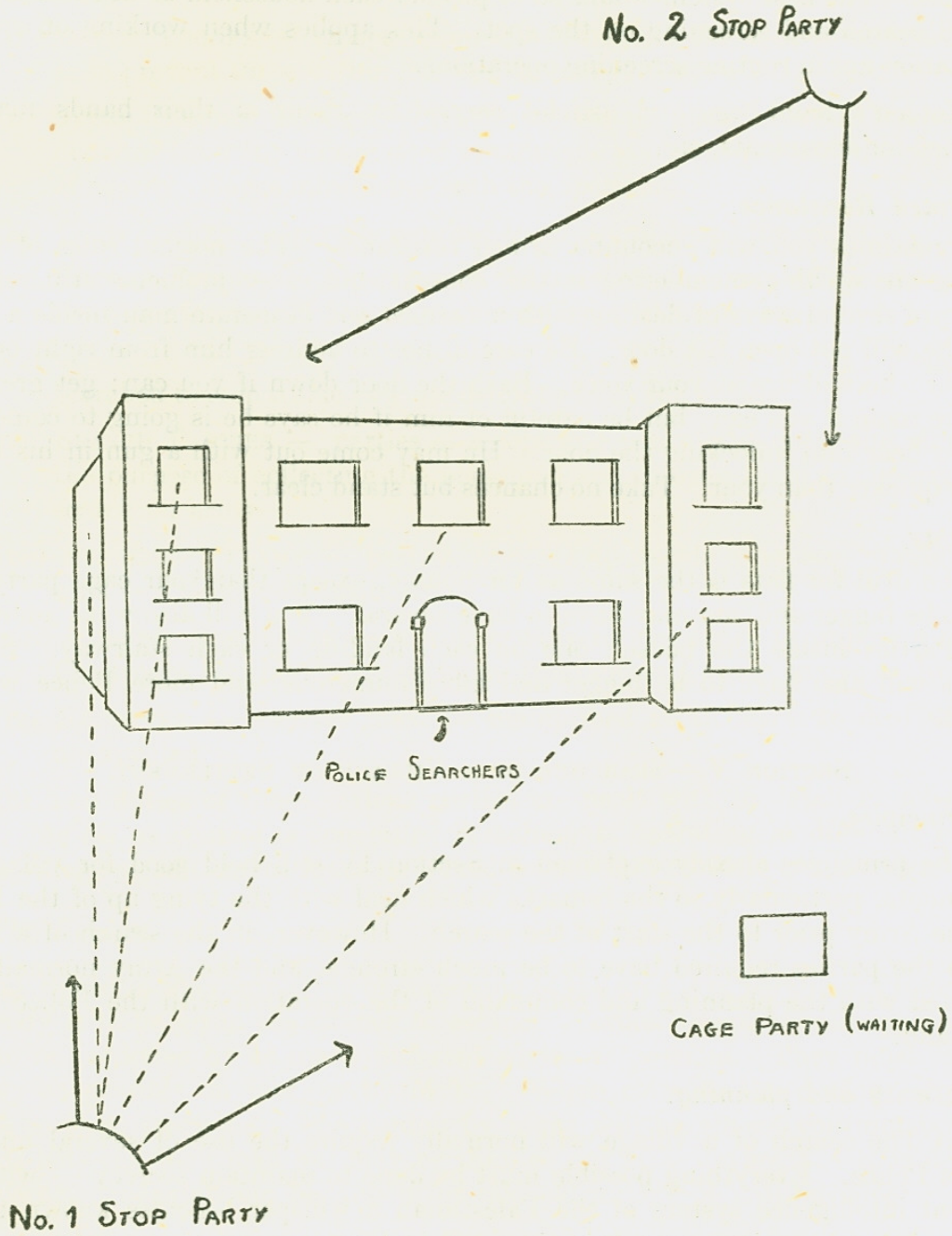
(a) The first thing to do is to get all the occupants of the house into one place, whether in one room or outside the house altogether. These people must themselves be searched, in the presence of the Mukhtar. The Mukhtar in fact must be present throughout. The Police are the best people to give the orders to the occupants. Whichever you do, it is the job of the Cage Party to look after them, firmly but politely, and to make sure that they neither escape nor destroy any documents nor hide anything. The head of the household, or some other senior member, must however accompany the searchers and witness all they do. Firmness, politeness, thoroughness and good humour must be the keynotes. Remember you may be searching an innocent house, and that what may be boring or funny for you is not so funny for the householders—who may be innocent and good friends to the Government. Picture to yourself that it might be your own home which is being searched.

(b) The Police will normally carry out the search with such additional troops as they require to help. There must in all events be one policeman to each such party and he will be in charge of the searching.

(c) Search the house from bottom to top, especially if you are searching for individuals. (And don't forget that people have been known to jump from windows).

Arms, etc., have been found in walls, under the floors, under cattle byres, in wells, in sewage systems, under window sills, under stones in wadis and a score of other ingenious places. Use your imagination. Where would *you* hide them if this was your house?

Fig. 1



(d) It is not considered advisable to remove all persons from the houses or blocks of flats to one place, since there are instances when dissidents after carrying out an attack have entered into private houses and mingled with families. If they are removed with families and they later become suspect there would be great difficulty in connecting them with articles and papers they would leave behind in the house. The best system would be to picquet each household or flat and experts conduct search and screening on the spot. This applies when working on specific information not in routine screening operations.

Women's hand-bags and articles carried by them in their hands may be examined for documents, etc.

10. *Armed Resistance.*

Sometimes you will encounter armed resistance. The normal rules of street fighting are worth remembering in this context, but other problems still remain. There are several ways of dealing with an armed and desperate man inside a room when he will not open the door. Be careful not to address him from right outside the door: he will fire at your voice. Bash the door down if you can; get grenades into the room if you can; but be careful of him if he says he is going to come out, and you hear him unlocking the door. He may come out with a gun in his hand, and be quicker than your. Take no chances but stand clear.

11. *Flats.*

The drill for flats is the same as for houses, except that your cage party will have to be bigger and you may have to have several. You will also want additional Stop Parties inside the house: one on each landing or each stairway. Search Parties will also have to be bigger and more numerous, and more Police will be needed.

SECTION V.—SEARCHES OF A VILLAGE OR SETTLEMENT.

12. *Principles.*

The principles already explained in Section IV still hold good for villages or settlements, particularly so the remarks which deal with the tying up of the Police and the Army prior to the start of the search. However, in the search of a whole village the parties required have to be much stronger and the Army normally are entrusted with the planning and command of the operation with the Police under Command.

13. *Security and planning.*

(a) The search of a village will normally require the use of several units as well as Police. Everything possible must be done to maintain secrecy — with the excellent intelligence system of the Palestinian a whisper becomes known to the community at large in a very short time. Telephone conversations on future plans must not be made and recon of the area for search cannot be undertaken. Air photographs of all villages are available and are essential, in the absence of ground-recon, for the planning of an operation.

(b) The briefing of the soldiers and police should be done as late as possible before the operation to minimise the loss of security.

14. *Types of parties that may be required.*

(a) The following types of parties may be needed for the carrying out of a village search.

- (i) CORDON TROOPS — troops required to surround the area to be searched so as to prevent those within the cordon area getting out.
- (ii) OUTER CORDON TROOPS — parties of troops placed round, but at some distance from the village sited at strategic points to prevent the population of nearby villages interfering with the operation.
- (iii) CAGE TROOPS — parties required to erect and guard the cages.
- (iv) ESCORT TROOPS — a party with tpt to escort the 'wanted' personnel from the cages to place of detention on conclusion of screening.
- (v) ROAD BLOCKS — may be required on roads leading to the village to be searched to stop traffic at some distance from the village.
- (vi) SEARCH PARTIES — parties of troops and police who enter the village for the purpose of collecting the personnel and moving them to the cage or to search for arms.
- (vii) SCREENING TEAMS — parties who are to decide who are 'wanted' persons — a police responsibility.
- (viii) CURFEW ENFORCERS — it will usually be necessary to impose a curfew. The troops for this might be found from either Cordon troops or Reserves.
- (ix) RESERVES — reserves must be maintained at all levels to deal with the unexpected.

(b) The duties of these various parties are dealt with in detail in subsequent parts. As far as control is concerned detachments operating in different portions of the village or settlement must be linked by wireless to their commander.

15. *The Cordon.*

(a) Speed in the completing of cordoning of the area is of paramount importance if nobody is to be given the chance to escape. Cordon troops should approach the area to be cordoned by as many different routes as possible. They must move as silently as possible on foot, or by M.T. When close to the cordon they must double to their positions. The cordon by night will be almost continuous — say 5 yards between each man but may be thinned out after daybreak. It is desirable that cordon troops should be dug in or take advantage of natural cover.

16. *The Outer Cordon.*

(a) Where there are nearby villages or danger is foreseen of crowds coming from a distance to interfere with the conduct of operations it will be necessary to

position bodies of troops at vantage points at some distance from the village being searched to prevent such mobs approaching the village. At all costs such mobs must be prevented from joining up with the inhabitants of a village being searched.

(b) Air OP's are most useful for giving early warning of the approach of such mobs.

(c) For reason of their mobility and cross country performance, carriers may usefully be employed as Outer Cordon Troops.

17. *Cage Troops.*

(a) Cage troops on arrival at the village are responsible for erecting the cage. Subsequently they are used for the guarding of the personnel in the cages.

(b) In selecting the site for a cage try and set a place in the shade so that you will not have the additional bother of people getting sunstroke — if shade is impossible tents must be erected for the women. Select if possible a site free of stony ground — stones provide excellent ammunition if the crowd becomes hostile.

(c) Separate cages must be provided for men and women, they should be out of sight of one-another. The cage for 'wanted' persons after screening should be out of sight of the 'unwanted' persons and sited so that vehicles can get close up to take them away. Confusion is often caused by children, they should be regarded with suspicion as very often they have been "well trained" by their parents. They should be dealt with firmly and if under the age of approx 12 should be put into the womens' cages.

NOTE — Latrines must be provided for, unscreened and screened, males and females.

A suitable layout for the Cage is shown at FIG 2.

(d) The stores wanted for the cage must be readily available, loaded onto vehicles and travel with the Cage Troops—they will include :—

DANNERT WIRE AND PICQUETS.

Tent for screening team

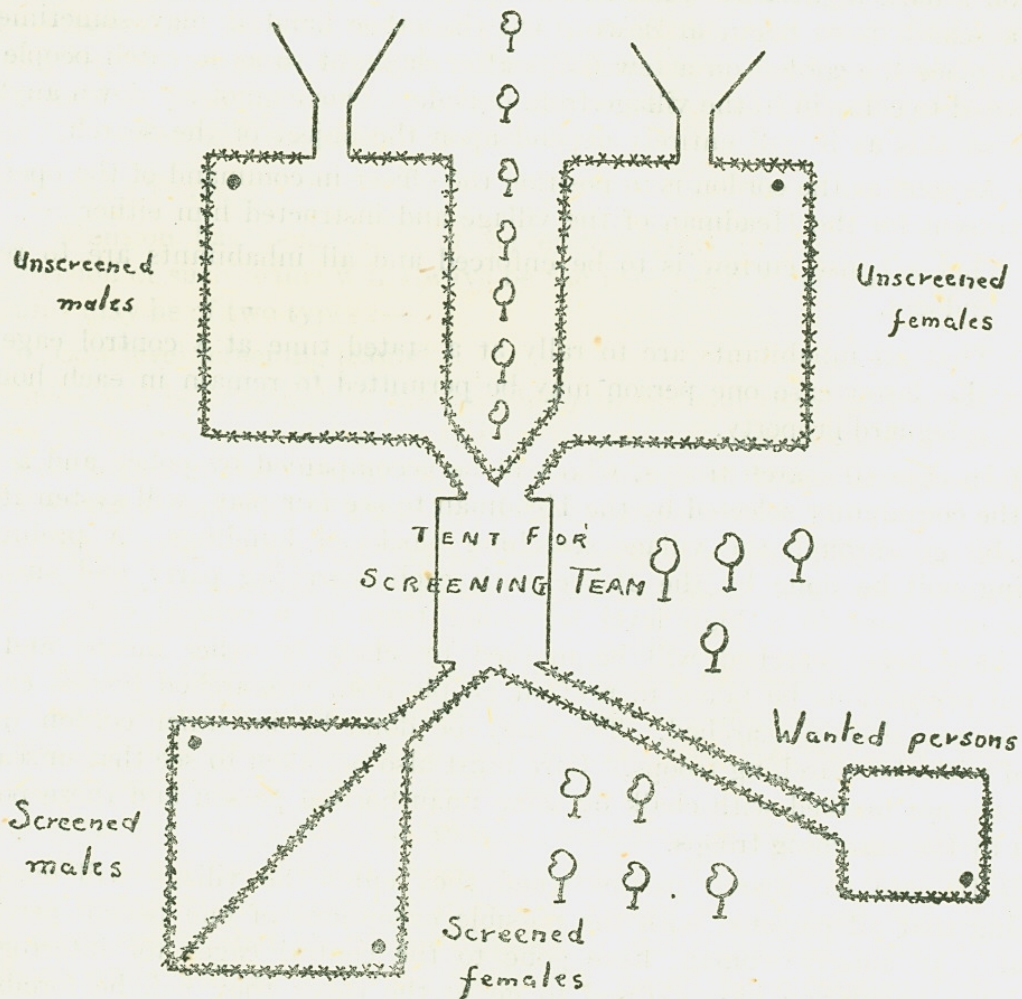
Tables and chairs for screening teams

Tent for females in case shade is not available

Latrine screens and thunder boxes.

(e) A water truck is always required at the cage. A Medical Officer and Interpreter should also be in the vicinity.

Fig. 2



● - LATRINES

18. *Escorts.*

(a) It is most desirable to evacuate the wanted persons as soon as possible after screening is completed. An escort to take them to their place of detention must be detailed off beforehand and briefed. Vehicles to carry "wanted" persons (preferably 3 tonners) should have a wired off compartment to segregate them from their guards travelling in the same vehicles.

19. *Search Parties.*

(a) Troops must be prepared to carry out searches at any time during the day or night. It is clearly more difficult to place a cordon in position accurately and quietly on a dark night with untrained troops but it may often be necessary to do this if a search is to begin at dawn. On the other hand it may sometimes be better to place the cordon on a few hours after daylight so as to catch people who are expected to come in to the village from outside. One cannot lay down anything rigid about this as it will entirely depend upon the object of the search.

(b) As soon as the cordon is in position the officer in command of the operation will have sent for the Headman of the village and instructed him either :—

(i) That a house curfew is to be enforced and all inhabitants are to remain indoors.

(ii) That all inhabitants are to rally at a stated time at a control cage. In this latter case one person may be permitted to remain in each house to safeguard property.

(c) In case (i) search troops, who will be accompanied by police and a member of the community selected by the Headman to see fair play, will systematically bit by bit go through the village searching blocks of buildings. A preliminary screening will be done by the Police with each searching party and suspected persons only sent to a high level screening team at a central cage. Houses which have been searched will be marked by chalk or other means and it is essential precautions be taken to prevent people from unsearched houses entering those houses already searched. This may be done by an inner cordon moving forward with the searching troops. Care must also be taken to see that unsearched houses are not marked with chalk by some unauthorised person and these possibly left out by the searching troops.

(d) In case (ii) search parties when they enter the village will ensure by searching that all persons, with the possible exceptions of one person per house, preferably an elderly woman, have gone to the central cages for interrogation. Should the population have refused to go to the cages they will be forcibly removed there.

(e) The object of leaving one person in each house, (if the second course is adopted), is to make sure that no house is searched in the absence of the owner or a representative of the owner. It is important that if suspicious people or suspicious things are found, the owner or his representative are present at the time; otherwise they will say they know nothing about it, or that an enemy—or perhaps even we—planted them there out of spite when the owner was away in the Cage.

The Police know the legal procedure, and it is as well to ask their advice whenever you find or think you are just going to find, something incriminating. The Police know what the Courts will want to know, and will help the Army make sure that valuable evidence isn't overlooked. Immediately you discover anything suspicious leave it and call the Police, *do not touch anything*. Finger — prints on paraffin lamp glasses, table tops, polished articles etc., provide important evidence, e.g. when thugs rent premises under a fictitious name.

(f) Don't do any avoidable damage. If houses, or cupboards, or drawers are locked, give the owner every chance to produce the keys. If you must do damage in order to be thorough, get hold of a Mukhtar or someone responsible, and demonstrate to him that you are doing the minimum damage possible. But don't on the other hand, let this restraint prey so much on your mind that the search will not be 100 per cent effective. The Police know the legal side. You must be prepared to take up floors and tear down walls and pull off roofs. See Appendix 'C' — Search Clearance Proforma.

20. Screening Teams.

(a) Mention has been made of screening teams in previous paragraphs — the provision of such teams will always be the responsibility of the Police. Screening teams may be of two types :—

(i) Low level screening teams

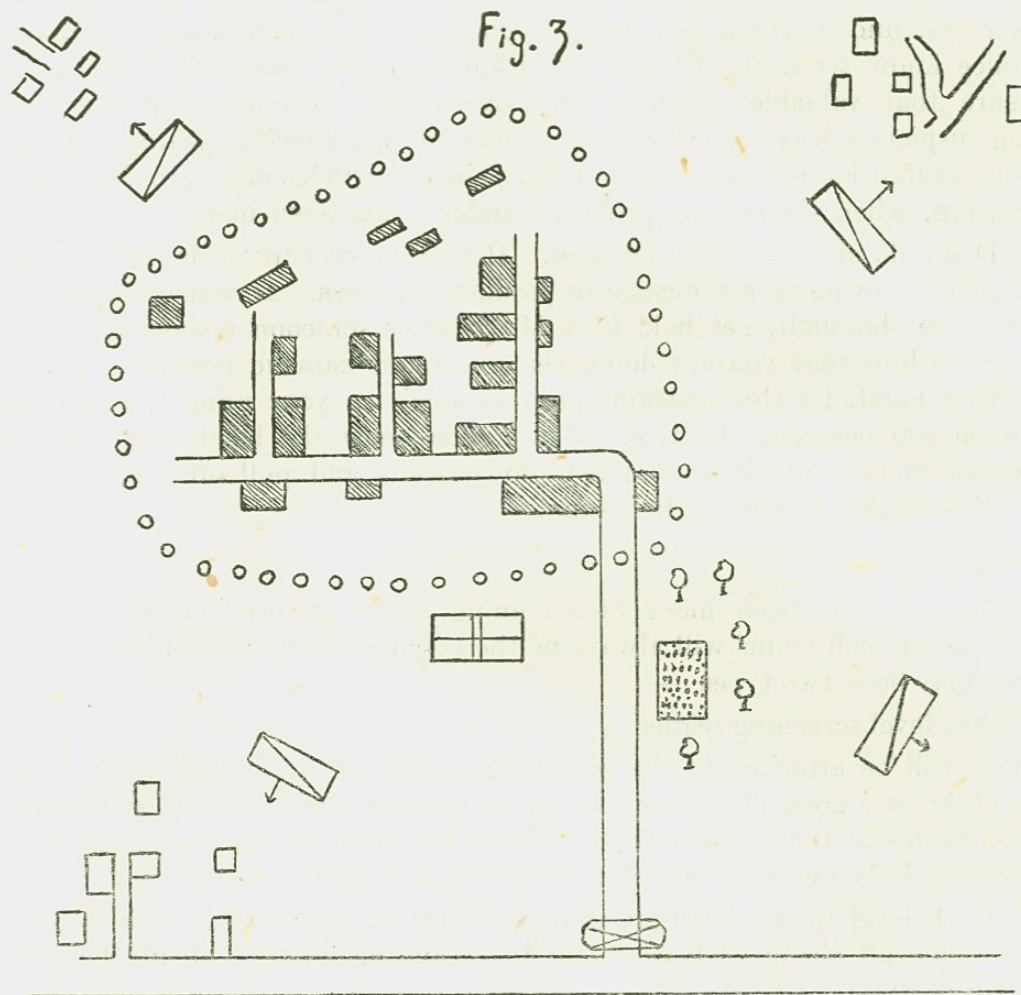
These will be attached to the searching troops and their task is to eliminate persons of known good character and so to prevent such persons swamping the high level teams at the Central Cage. These low level teams are generally made up of the local Police with, if available, a CID representative.

(ii) High level teams function at the Central cage and their task is to interrogate all persons who are sent there and decide who should be detained or released.

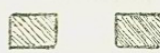

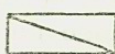
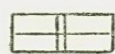


(b) At both these phases an Army Intelligence representative should be present, so as to keep the Army informed as to what is going on. At the preliminary screening the representative would probably be from the battalion, and at the higher grade screening probably from Brigade.

(c) Although the actual function of screening is the responsibility of the Police, the Army has certain tasks to perform. The Army is responsible for escorting personnel for screening from the village to the cage and during this period must ensure that no person disposes or exchanges any document or other property; while waiting screening personnel should be prevented from talking or making signs to people outside. Also they may try the trick of disposing of incriminating papers in the latrine, so this must be watched. In fact any hanky panky should be reported at once to the Police.

(d) The collection of incriminating documents and the precaution of detention certificates for suspected persons is the job of the Police, but the move under escort of those wanted to the place of detention will normally be carried out by the Military.



KEY

-  - Village to be searched
-  - Cordon
-  - Outer Cordon (Posts should be so sited to see all ground between them)
-  - Search troops waiting to enter village
-  - Cage area and CID high level screening team
-  - Road Block

This sketch FIG. 3 shows the functions of the various parties discussed above.