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ACCESSION NO. 1916/208.

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SOURCE: VIA Captain W.V.Pratt, U.S.Navy.

SUBJECT: Copies of Problems for solution by Army Officers in
Post Graduate Course on duty in Canal Zone. Problems
based on defense of Canal Zone.

DECLASSIFIED IAW DOD MEMO OF 3 MAY 1972, SUBJ:
DECLASSIFICATION OF WWII RECORDS

18 May, 1916.

From: Commanding General.
To: Land Defense Committee.
Subject: Problems in connection with Post Graduate Course.

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1. In connection with Post Graduate Course, June to November, 1916, I have approved certain problems for solution treating in a practical way the four defense areas into which the Zone, and territory adjacent thereto, is divided. Not only does this make the officers engaged in these solutions more familiar with the terrain, and the various tasks at hand, but it will cause to be filed in the archives of the Land Defense Committee much information that may add to that already there, besides bringing to the subject entirely new view points.
2. In order however that the best results may be attained, interest stimulated, work made progressive and knowledge of members of the Defense Committee increased, the following course of treatment will be followed:-
 - (a) Upon completion of the solutions they will be submitted to the Defense Committee for an analysis and discussion.
 - (b) A member, or members, of the defense committee will be appointed to analyze and discuss the solution handed in from each defense area. This analysis will point out the best solutions, the worst solutions, will shed any new light or information and, in fact, will be as thorough as the average War College critique and modeled on the same lines.
 - (c) This critique will be made the subject of lecture before a general conference of all officers. The officer, or officers, who have made the critique will conduct the lecture. Under the direction of the Commanding General a discussion may follow, the primary participants being the commanding officer of the troops, with his officers, charged with the original solution.

C. R. Edwards,

Brigadier General

Problem No.2 (5th Infantry)

An Orange expeditionary force consisting of battle cruisers, destroyers and scouts, accompanied by a fleet of transports and auxiliaries, has entered MONTIJO BAY. Force reported to consist of an infantry division (12,000 rifles, 1 regt. field artillery, 36 guns, 1 regt. of cavalry, 600 sabers, and the necessary auxiliary troops including aircraft) It is not yet known whether landing is contemplated here or at some other point.

Note:- Orange fleet is known to be amply provided with 4.7 and 6 inch naval guns. They also carry 3 inch howitzers.

A.

Determine:-

1. Possible and probable landing places between Montijo Bay and Pacific entrance to the Canal; description of same with relative advantages and disadvantages.
2. Men, animals and guns that can be put ashore in a given time.
3. Conduct of such an operation.
4. Feasibility of landing 4.7 and 6 inch naval guns.
5. Lines of advance.
6. Plans of action open to the enemy - his probable intentions.

B.

Theatre of Operations:

A study of this subject involves all factors affecting both our own and enemy movements within the area considered.

1. Topography - mountains, hills, mesas and plains; rivers and streams; forest, jungle and swamp areas; valleys, ravines and ditches; fences and hedges; soil, sandy, brush covered, dry or swampy; towns and villages; coast line and islands.
2. Existing roads, trails and bridges with description.
3. Details of navigable streams.
4. Resources - population, food supplies, wood, water, forage, animals and means of transportation, camp sites.
5. Distances (time and space elements to be considered)
6. Climate and its affect on military operations.

C.

Our own forces:

1. Mission
2. Organization, strength and composition of force required to defend the area under consideration under assumed conditions.
3. System of supply for troops operating in the field.
 - (a) bases
 - (b) subsistence
 - (c) ammunition
 - (d) clothing and camp equipage
 - (e) forage
 - (f) fuel and mineral oil
 - (g) medical stores

(2)

C (contd)

This study must include the subjects of current supply, reserves needed, local resources and storage.

4. Animals and means of transportation - on hand and required.
5. Equipment.
6. Shelter.

D.

System of communications and lines of information in area considered.

This study must take into consideration existing lines and additional needed, to include complete system of coast observation and patrol.

E.

Tactical measures:

1. General discussion of means of resistance practicable, and a system of defense suited to the terrain - tactics to be employed, offensive, defensive or defensive-offensive.
2. Security and information (see D above)
3. Offensive - advantages offered for military operations, obstacles, communications, points of support, strategical points of prime and secondary importance to be occupied, fortifications necessary, if any, relation of coast line to the above, connection with harbor defenses.
4. Defensive - obstacles and passage of same, lines of defense and the protection they afford, lines of operation cutting them, bases, points of support for defense, communications, probable direction of invasion and attack, advantages of guerilla warfare.
5. Details of defensive positions, importance, tactical features, selection and preparation of, distances from bases, locations for parks and localities where wood, water and forage can be obtained, materials available and required for strengthening.

Note: The above headings are intended merely as a guide and data of value is not to be omitted simply because it does not happen to fall under one of the headings mentioned.

Problem No. 1.

An Orange expeditionary force of about 20,000 has entered SAN MIGUEL BAY and has seized the SABOGA ANCHORAGE. This force is reported to consist of an infantry division (12,000 rifles, 1 Regt. Field Artillery, 36 guns, 1 Regt. of Cavalry, 600 sabers and the necessary auxiliary troops including air craft). Wireless reports indicate that 4.7 naval guns are being unloaded.

A.

Determine:-

1. Possible and probable landing places between San Miguel Bay and Pacific entrance to the Canal; description of same with relative advantages and disadvantages.
2. Men, animals and guns that can be put ashore in a given time.
3. Conduct of such an operation.
4. Lines of advance.
5. Plans of action open to the enemy - his probable intentions.

B.

Theatre of Operations:

A study of this subject involves all factors affecting both our ~~own~~ own and enemy movements within the area considered.

1. Topography - mountains, hills, mesas and plains; rivers and streams; forest, jungle and swamp areas; valleys, ravines and ditches; fences and hedges; soil, sandy, brush covered, dry or swampy; towns and villages; coast line and islands.
2. Existing roads, trails and bridges with description.
3. Details of navigable streams.
4. Resources - population, food supplies, wood, water, forage, animals and means of transportation, camp sites.
5. Distances (time and space elements to be considered)
6. Climate and its effect on military operations.

C.

Our own forces.

1. Mission.
2. Organization, strength and composition of force required to defend the area under consideration under assumed conditions.
3. System of supply of troops operating in the field.
 - (a) bases
 - (b) subsistence
 - (c) ammunition
 - (d) clothing and camp, equipage
 - (e) forage
 - (f) fuel and mineral oil
 - (g) medical stores

This study must include the subjects of current supply, reserves needed, local resources and storage.

(2)
G (contd.)

4. Animals and means of transportation - on hand and required.
5. Equipment.
6. Shelter.

D.

System of communications and Lines of Information in area considered.

This study must take into consideration existing lines and additional needed, to include complete system of coast observation and patrol.

E.

Tactical measures.

1. General discussion of means of resistance practicable and a system of defense suited to the terrain - tactics to be employed, offensive, defensive or defensive-offensive.
2. Security and information (see D)
3. Offensive - advantages offered for military operations, obstacles, communications, points of support, strategical points of prime and secondary importance to be occupied, fortifications necessary, if any, relations of coast line to the above, connection with harbor defenses.
4. Defensive - obstacles and passage of same, lines of defense and the protection they afford, lines of operation cutting them, bases, points of support for defense, communications, probable direction of invasion and attack, advantages of guerilla warfare.
5. Details of defensive positions, importance, tactical features, selection and preparation of, distances from bases, locations for parks and localities where wood, water and forage can be obtained, materials available, and required, for strengthening.

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PROBLEM No. 3 (29th INFANTRY).

A Black expeditionary force consisting of Battle cruisers, destroyers and scouts, accompanied by a fleet of transports and auxiliaries, has been reported entering SAN BLAS GULF on the north coast. Force reported to consist of an infantry division (12,000 rifles, 1 Regt. of Cavalry, 600 sabers, 1 Regt. of Field Art., 36 guns and the necessary auxiliary troops including aircraft).

At the same time a wireless report indicates a smaller force, probably detached from the above, operating off the coast to the west of the Atlantic entrance to the Canal.

NOTE:- The Black fleet is known to be amply provided with naval guns of 6 inch and lesser caliber.

A

Determine:

1. Possible and probable landing places between San Blas Gulf and Atlantic entrance to the Canal, and west of Atlantic entrance as far as the mouth of the Indio River; description of same with relative advantages and disadvantages.
2. Men, animals and guns that can be put ashore in a given time.
3. Conduct of such an operation.
4. Feasibility of landing 5 and 6 inch naval guns.
5. Lines of advance open to enemy.
6. Plans of action open to enemy - his probable intentions.

B

Theatre of Operations:

A study of this subject involves all factors affecting both our own and enemy movements within the areas considered.

1. Topography - mountains, hills, mesas and plains; rivers and streams; forest, jungle and swamp areas; valleys, ravines and ditches; fences and hedges; soil, sandy, brush covered, dry or swampy; towns and villages; coast line and islands.
2. Existing roads, trails and bridges with description.
3. Details of navigable streams.
4. Resources - population, food supplies, wood, water, forage, animals and means of transportation, camp sites.
5. Distances (time and space elements to be considered).
6. Climate, and its effect on military operations.

C

Our own forces:

1. Mission.
2. Organization, strength and composition of force required to defend the areas under consideration under assumed conditions.

3. System of supply for troops operating in the field.

- (a) bases
- (b) subsistence
- (c) ammunition
- (d) clothing and camp equipage
- (e) forage
- (f) fuel and mineral oil
- (g) medical stores

This study must include the subjects of current supply, reserves needed, local resources and storage.

- 4. Animals and means of transportation - on hand and required.
- 5. Equipment.
- 6. Shelter.

D

System of communications and lines of information in areas considered.

This study must take into consideration existing lines, if any, and additional needed to include complete system of coast observation and patrol.

E

Tactical Measures:

1. General discussion of means of resistance practicable, and a system of defense suited to the terrain - tactics to be employed, offensive, defensive, or defensive-offensive.

2. Security and information (see D above).

3. Offensive - advantages offered for military operations, obstacles, communications, points of support, strategical points of prime and secondary importance to be occupied, fortifications necessary, if any, relation of coast line to the above, connection with harbor defenses.

4. Defensive - obstacles and passage of same, lines of defense and the protection they afford, lines of operation cutting them, bases, points of support for defense, communications, probable direction of invasion and attack, connection with harbor defenses, advantages of guerilla warfare.

5. Details of defensive positions, importance, tactical features, selection and preparation of, distances from bases, locations for parks and localities where wood, water and forage can be obtained, materials available and required for strengthening.

NOTE:- The above headings are intended merely as a guide and data of value is not to be omitted simply because it does not happen to fall under one of the headings mentioned.

