

ARMY CONCENTRATES ON BEING OFFENSIVE.

Issue No. 1034...27..1..1941.
Title: Love In The Army.
Track: Ditto.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Do.
Discs: Nil.

The army didn't allow the recent cold-snap to hold up training. The infantry had a date with the artillery, to demonstrate an attack-manoevre - footsloggers moving up behind a creeping barrage. Even in these mechanised days the final assault of fortified places such as Bardia and Tobruk - mustoften be made by gun-protected infantry.

Accordingly the men spread out to take up their zero-hour positions. Incidentally it's the first time this manoeuvre has been performed in training with live ammunition.

The artillery commander watched the infantry deploying. Radio brought the message, 'All Set', and watches were synchronised. Split-second timing's the essence of a creeping-barrage, and dead on the second the guns opened fire.

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Carefully and without haste the battalions advanced to the safety-limit of the bursting shells. The guns kept firing for the agreed time. Then the attackers stood by and the line of fire went a step forward as the gunners increased their range. That, repeated several times, is a creeping barrage.

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(GV) If the gunfire has been effective the infantry have a safe advance. The time-table must be rigidly kept.

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Smoke-shells now screened the attackers and under the double protection of guns and smoke, they went forwards.

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The army has had a trying wait of two winters with no actual warfare. The middle East has proved thatwhen the time to strike does come Tommy's been trained to strike hard.

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