

ADVANCE UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE

Modern Field Artillery can fire up to three or four miles, so that it is unsafe in open ground to advance nearer than this to the enemy's position in close formation.

Experience shows that the best formation to adopt, when exposed to artillery fire only, is a series of irregular lines of Platoons or Sections in column of fours or single file at intervals of at least fifty yards across the front and 200 yards from front to rear.

There are two reasons for this:

1. The Artillery find that such a formation is much more difficult to range on than a long line in extended order.

2. The burst of shrapnel covers a space of 25 yards in width by 200 yards in depth, so that with the intervals given above a shell striking one section will not touch any of the others.

The officers commanding the company and platoons move where they can best supervise the advance of their platoons and sections, i.e., see that they keep their direction and intervals, and do not get into line or follow exactly behind each other.

ADVANCE UNDER DISTANT AND LONG RIFLE FIRE

When the advancing infantry get to within 2,800 yards of the position, it is no longer safe in open ground to advance in any sort of close formation. The leading Platoons or Sections will then extend, under cover if possible and advance in one general line at about two paces interval, until they reach a point, usually about 1,400 yards from the enemy's position, from which it is no longer possible to advance without covering fire.