

THIS LEGEND IS NO MYTH

Try It Out

■ Due to recent promotion legislation, there soon will be a large number of you Marine Corps Officers arming yourselves with alidades, compasses, clinometers, and sketching boards. With these weapons you will go forth determined to subjugate three or four miles of a rugged roadway and to limit its meanderings to the narrow confines of a sheet of sketching paper. Being so confronted, little matter what has been your previous attitude about the value of road sketching as an essential part of your military education, its significance will doubtless increase with the approach of the day set aside for your practical examination in Topography.

The completion of a sketch in the allotted time is a highly important factor under campaign conditions. Your examining board will, therefore, as governed by existing regulations, set a limit of time for the completion of your sketch. And, without exception, you will be anxious to gain the benefits attendant upon the timely completion of your assignment.

After the last set-up and the completion of the graphical representation of your assigned task, there will remain the highly important duty of placing upon your sketch a neat and correct legend. Without the proper performance of this last service your drawing is worthless. Your sketch is a message in code. The legend is the key to its exact translation. The correct appreciation of accuracy in the construction of the legend, therefore, cannot be overemphasized.

It is the purpose of this article then to present to you a method which, if followed, will increase the accuracy, add to the neatness, and materially reduce the time required to draw a suitable legend on your sketch.

First, secure a small piece of tough white paper or light cardboard of a size that will fit well in the pocket of your shirt or dispatch case. Three inches by six inches is a suitable size. Photographic paper, either single or double weight, is ideal for this purpose.

Then around the center point of the paper you have selected, draw a two by three inch rectangle. It is well to construct this with the sides parallel to the corresponding sides of the paper. This is the outline for the legend.

Now draw within the small rectangle a model legend; be sure to include all the necessary data, Figure 1. Arrange these neatly and in their proper places. Be especially careful to make the yard and map distance scales as exact as possible. For the yard scale, determine the length of line required to represent eleven hundred yards and place it on the *model legend*. Then on a thin sheet of paper draw a line of equal length and divide it geometrically into eleven equal parts. Transfer these division points to the model by superimposing the divided line upon the line you have drawn on the model and piercing it with a pin. Complete by dividing the extreme left unit by estimation into whatever smaller units are desired and numbering the remaining divisions one to ten consecutively from the left.

In constructing the map distance scale it is helpful to total the distance to be used for each of the degrees from one to ten inclusive and plot this distance on the model first. Then divide the whole line into its proper parts. Thus, 1° slope .69 inch; 2° slope .35 inch; 3° slope .23 inch, etc., total 2.02 inches. This all may be quite accurately done with a rule having tenth inch divisions. You will recall that the same M.D. scale may be used for any sketch made according to the normal system of scales for U. S. military maps.

The above completed, take a sharp needle and, holding it vertical to your model, pierce it through at the points A, B, C, and D. Also pierce all the division points on the hundreds of yards and map distance scales. If desired the extremities of the guide lines for the printing also may be marked.

You are now able to place an accurate outline for your legend in any position on your sketch. Just place the

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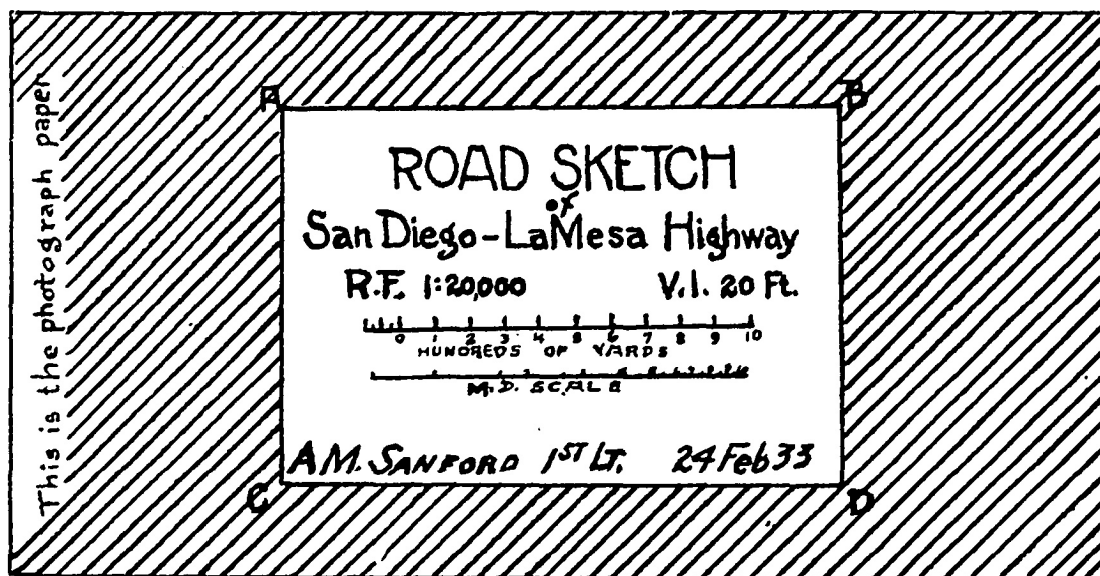


Figure 1.

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model in the desired position on your sketch and pierce the outline onto the sketch with a pin. Fill in the outline with a sharp pencil and write in their right places the correct figures and proper lettering for the particular sketch at hand.

With this method you have a ready reference which prevents the omission of some vital part of a legend. And in making the M.D. scale for the legend you will find this method much more simple and less subject to error than searching for the 1, 2, 3, etc., degree divisions on your alidade and transferring them to a line on your sketch. This method also gives a sureness which is an assistance in producing good sketches, and it allows you more of your allotted time for the actual drawing of the sketch. Keep the model in your dispatch case where it is always ready to serve you.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Major Chester L. Fordney, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve—Upon receiving a Silver Medal from the Allied Federation Aeronautical International for his stratosphere flight.

Colonel William Garland Fay, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve; Lieutenant-Colonel Victor I. Morrison, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve; Lieutenant-Colonel Littleton W. T. Waller, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve; Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Drexel Biddle, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, upon their recent promotions.

Former First Lieutenant Frank Porter Graham, U.S.M.C. (during the World War), former President of the University of North Carolina, upon his appointment as Chairman of the President's Committee on Economic Security.

First Lieutenant Luther A. Brown, U.S.M.C., upon the composition of his useful contribution: "A Marine's Handbook."

COLONEL RICHARD MALCOLM CUTTS PASSES AWAY

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operations. From 1929 to 1931 you commanded the First Marine Brigade in the Republic of Haiti, and were commended by the Secretary of the Navy for leadership and ability displayed during riots and disorders in December, 1929. You were also commended during this period by the President of Santo Domingo for prompt assistance to the people of that country following a hurricane in September, 1930.

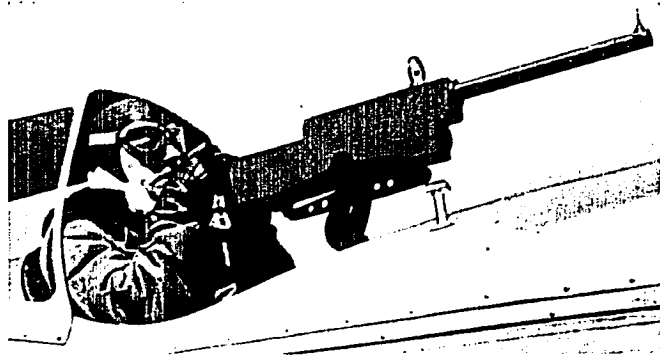
4. In June, 1932, you graduated from the Naval War College and joined the staff of that institution as instructor, in which capacity you rendered excellent service in the development of war plans and war material, especially in connection with the employment of Marines on advanced base work with the Fleet.

5. As you are aware, you were recommended by the Major General Commandant for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General, and the recommendation was only withdrawn when the fact of your physical incapacity became definitely known.

6. I hope that the rest from arduous duty which you have so well earned may result in a decided improvement in your health, and that many years of happiness lie before you.

JOHN H. RUSSELL.

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