

**TRAINING IN NIGHT
MOVEMENTS,
BASED ON ACTUAL
EXPERIENCES IN WAR**

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Training in Night Movements, Based on Actual Experiences in War by C. Burnett

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C. BURNETT

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TRAINING IN NIGHT MOVEMENTS

BASED ON

ACTUAL EXPERIENCES IN WAR

TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE

By Major C. BURNETT, Field Artillery, U. S. A.

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1917

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1919

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

The importance of night movements and night attacks in the military operations of the present day is so generally recognized, that any discussion on that point would be more than superfluous. That the Japanese army, from the standpoint of practical experience, is best qualified to discuss such operations, would seem to follow as a matter also beyond discussion. For this reason it occurred to me that the translation of this work of a Japanese officer who was a company commander during the Japanese-Russian War, might, and I venture to say, does contain much that will be of interest and profit to our own service.

Night movements are admittedly among the most difficult operations of war; the margin between victory and defeat is so small that it is a difficult matter to say to just what comparatively trivial reason success or failure may be due. Such being the case, it naturally follows that minute and painstaking training is absolutely necessary if success can be even hoped for. Military writers on this subject have usually recognized that fact, but their treatment of the matter has consisted so largely of vague generalities that they are not of much assistance to Captain Jones in the training of his company and are absolutely useless to Ser-

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geant Smith in leading his squad. This work is not an academic discussion of night movements in general, but is full of valuable practical hints on the training of the small units that go to make up the great military machine; hints not evolved from the inner consciousness, but ideas stamped in the mind by actual experiences of nights on Manchurian battlefields.

Due perhaps to national characteristics, Japanese army training of all kinds proceeds along more exact and minute lines than is usual in our own service. While many may consider that this work errs in that direction, it would be well to consider carefully the necessity for such careful training in the most delicate of all military movements. If Private Brown has not been thoroughly trained and accustomed to night movements, he is sure to make mistakes; multiply him by a hundred or a thousand, and the margin of safety for success will become rather small, to say the least.

This work has been translated at odd times in the press of much other work of the same general character. For this reason there has been no time to spend on niceties of expression or in polishing up the English; and indeed I am not sure but that following the author's words rather closely does not more than compensate for faulty diction. If the meaning can be comprehended I shall be satisfied and beg indulgence for all the things lacking.

TOKYO, JAPAN.

October, 1913.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

A new edition of this volume having become necessary, the translator desires to take advantage of the opportunity to invite attention to the vindication of its basic principles in the present world war.

As foretold by the author, night movements have become a most important factor in modern warfare, and No-Man's-Land has become a busy thoroughfare from dusk to daylight. Practically all movement is made under the friendly cover of darkness; while night reconnaissances and night raids are of constant occurrence, not only for material ends, but for the great opportunity they afford in gaining and keeping a superiority in morale over the enemy. All front-line troops are now practiced in "going over the top," and their chance of accomplishing their mission and returning safely, is directly proportional to their training.

It is believed that the careful, painstaking course of instruction outlined in this book will go far toward preparing our men for the crucial test. They have the courage, and many of them the natural ability for the night-stalker's game, but without careful, detailed training, success cannot be expected. The Second

Edition of this book goes forth in the hope that it may do its part in laying the foundation for this training in our new armies.

C. BURNETT,

Major, F. A., National Army.

CAMP GRANT, ILLS.

November 1, 1917.

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