

Section IX

Camouflage

To survive and win in combat in built-up areas, a unit should supplement cover and concealment with camouflage. To properly camouflage men, carriers, and equipment, Marines should study the surrounding area and make their fighting positions blend with the local terrain.

36. Application. Only the proper amount of material needed for camouflaging a position should be used. Excess material could reveal the position. Material should be obtained from a wide area around the position. For example, Marines defending a cinder-block building do not strip the front, sides, or rear of the building to camouflage a position.

a. Buildings provide numerous opportunities for establishing concealed positions. Armored vehicles can often find prospective positions under archways or inside small industrial or commercial structures. Thick masonry, stone, or brick walls offer excellent protection from direct fire and may provide concealed routes into or out of the position.

b. After camouflage is completed, the Marine inspects his position from the enemy's viewpoint. He makes routine checks to see whether the camouflage remains natural looking and actually conceals the position. If it does not look natural, the Marine should rearrange or replace it until a natural look is achieved.

c. Positions should be progressively camouflaged as they are prepared. Work should continue until all camouflage is complete. If the enemy has air superiority, work may be possible only at night. Shiny or light-colored objects that attract attention from the air should be hidden.

d. Camouflage face paint is issued in three standard, two-tone sticks. When issue-type face-paint sticks are not available, burnt cork, charcoal, or lampblack can be used to tone down exposed skin. Mud may be used as a last resort because it dries and may peel off, leaving the skin exposed, and may also contain harmful bacteria.

37. Use of Shadows. Buildings throw sharp shadows that can be used to conceal vehicles and equipment (Figure A-76). Marines should avoid movement or positions in areas that are not in shadows. Vehicles may have to be moved periodically as shadows shift during the day. Emplacements inside buildings provide better concealment and cover as well.

38. Color and Texture. Standard camouflage-pattern painting of equipment is not as effective in built-up areas as a solid, dull, dark color hidden in shadows. Because repainting vehicles before entering a built-up area is not always practical, the lighter sand-colored patterns should be subdued with mud or dirt.

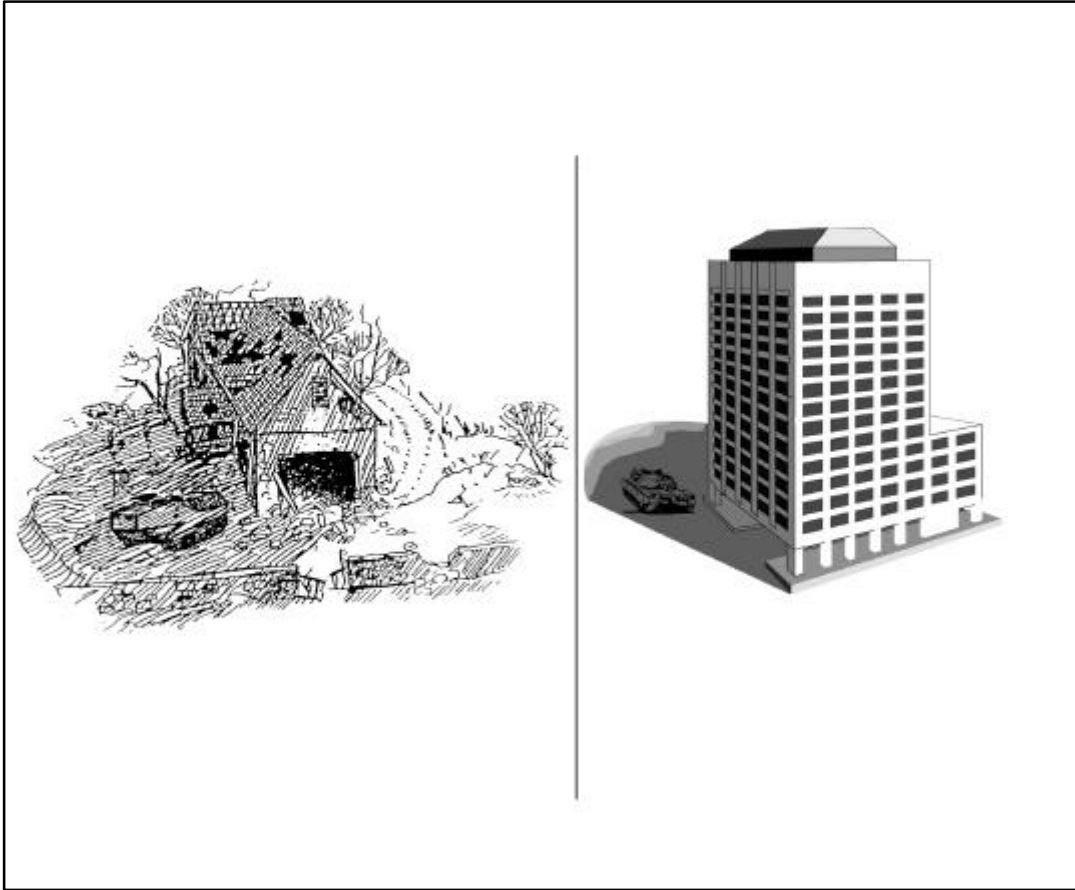


Figure A-76. Use of Shadows for Concealment

a. The need to break up the silhouette of helmets and individual equipment exists in built-up areas the same as it does elsewhere. However, burlap or canvas strips are a more effective camouflage than foliage (Figure A-77). Predominant colors are normally browns, tans, and sometimes grays rather than greens, but each camouflage location should be evaluated to determine ideal colors and patterns.



Figure A-77. Helmet Camouflaged With Burlap Strips

b. CPs and logistics emplacements are easier to camouflage and better protected if located underground. Antennas can be remotod to upper stories or to higher buildings based on remote capabilities. Field telephone wire should be laid in conduits, in sewers, or through buildings.

c. Marines should consider the background to ensure that they are not silhouetted or skylined, but rather blend into their surroundings. To defeat enemy urban camouflage, Marines should be alert for common camouflage errors such as:

- Tracks or other evidence of activity
- Shine or shadows
- Unnatural color or texture
- Muzzle flash, smoke, or dust
- Unnatural sounds and smells
- Movement.

d. Dummy positions can be used effectively to distract the enemy and make him reveal his position by firing on them.

e. Built-up areas afford cover, resources for camouflage, and locations for concealment. Following are the basic rules of cover, camouflage, and concealment to which Marines should adhere:

- (1) Use the terrain and alter camouflage habits to suit your surroundings.
- (2) Employ deceptive camouflage of buildings.
- (3) Continue to improve positions. Reinforce fighting positions with sandbags or other fragment- and blast-absorbent material.
- (4) Maintain the natural look of the area.
- (5) Keep positions hidden by clearing away minimal debris for fields of fire.
- (6) Choose firing ports in inconspicuous spots when available.

Note: Remember that a force that *covers* and *conceals* itself has a significant advantage over a force that does not.