
CREW DRILL
LIGHT ARMORED CAR
M8



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
SECTION I. General.....	1-2	1
II. Crew composition and formations.....	3-4	2
III. Crew control.....	5-6	3
IV. Crew drill.....	7-11	7
V. Signals.....	12	9
VI. Dismounted action.....	13-14	9
VII. Inspections.....	15	10
VIII. Service of 37-mm gun.....	16-22	10
IX. Mounted action.....	23-27	13
X. Special situations.....	28-29	14
XI. Destruction of equipment.....	30-33	15
APPENDIX.....		17

CREW DRILL, LIGHT ARMORED CAR M8

SECTION I

GENERAL

■ 1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**—*a.* This manual is designed for the use of the platoon leader and car commander in training members of the crew of the light armored car M8. (See fig. 1.) It is to be used as a guide to achieve orderly, disciplined, and efficient execution of mounted and dismounted action, and precision, accuracy, and speed in the service of the vehicular weapons.

b. Reference is made to other War Department publications where appropriate. A complete list is contained in FM 21-6.

■ 2. **TRAINING PRINCIPLE.**—Training in crew drill will stress the importance of the prompt execution of correct movements at all times. Strict adherence to standardized procedures during the training period will insure the smooth functioning of the crew as a team in critical combat situations.



FIGURE 1.—Light armored car M8.

SECTION II

CREW COMPOSITION AND FORMATIONS

■ 3. COMPOSITION.—The crew of the light armored car M8 consists of four members, a car commander, a radio operator and assistant driver (hereafter referred to as radio operator), a driver, and a radio operator and gunner (hereafter referred to as gunner). The car commander may be an officer or a noncommissioned officer.

■ 4. FORMATIONS.—*a. Dismounted posts.*—The crew forms in one rank. (See fig. 2.) The car commander takes his post three paces in front of the right front wheel, facing to the front. The radio operator, driver, and gunner, in that order, take posts on the left of the car commander at close interval (4 inches).

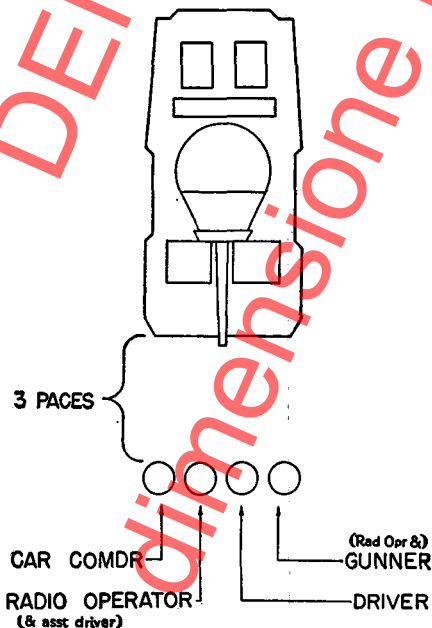


FIGURE 2.—Dismounted posts.

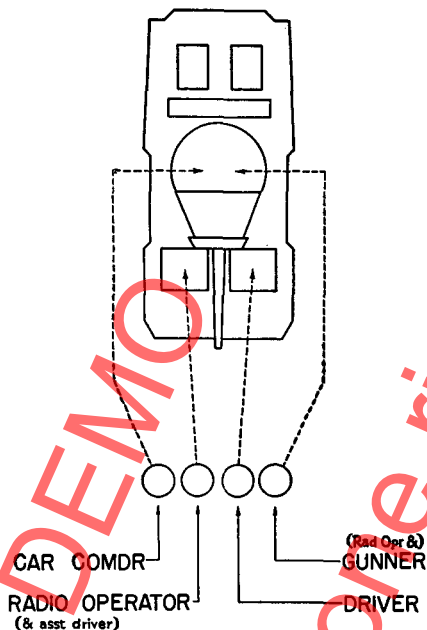


FIGURE 3.—Method of mounting.

b. *Mounted posts.*—The crew forms mounted as follows (see fig. 4):

- (1) *Car commander.*—On the right side of the turret, standing on the floor, or sitting or standing on the turret seat.
- (2) *Radio operator.*—In the assistant driver's seat.
- (3) *Driver.*—In the driver's seat.
- (4) *Gunner.*—On the left side of the turret, standing on the floor, or sitting or standing on the turret seat.

SECTION III

CREW CONTROL

■ 5. OPERATION OF INTERPHONE.—a. The interphone is used whenever the car is operated. After mounting, headsets and

microphones are put on and tested according to the procedure outlined in paragraph 1 of the appendix.

b. In connecting the break-away plug, each crew member inserts the plug of the short cord extending from his headset, into the break-away plug of the extension cord of his interphone control box. The throat microphone is adjusted so that the microphone buttons fit firmly on the front part of the operator's neck, and is connected to the break-away plug on the extension cord. During the procedure of checking interphone, each crew member adjusts the volume control on his interphone control box to the desired level. Care must be taken that the microphone switch does not remain in a locked position.

c. It is the duty of each man invariably to check his personal interphone equipment upon mounting. He ascertains that it is properly maintained and reports malfunctions to the car commander.

d. Definite commands and terminology are set forth in paragraph 6. These terms, and such others as are standardized by individual units, are used in order to insure speed and accuracy in the transmission of orders. General conversation on the interphone causes misunderstanding and disorder and is detrimental to discipline.

■ 6. INTERPHONE LANGUAGE.—a. *Terms.*

Car commander.....	LIEUTENANT or SERGEANT
Radio operator.....	RAD
Driver.....	DRIVER
Gunner.....	GUNNER
Any unarmored car....	CAR
Armored car.....	ARMORED CAR
Any unarmored truck..	TRUCK
Any antitank gun....	ANTITANK
Infantry.....	DOUGHS
Machine gun.....	MACHINE GUN
Airplane.....	PLANE
Tank.....	TANK
Mines.....	MINES
Ditch.....	DITCH

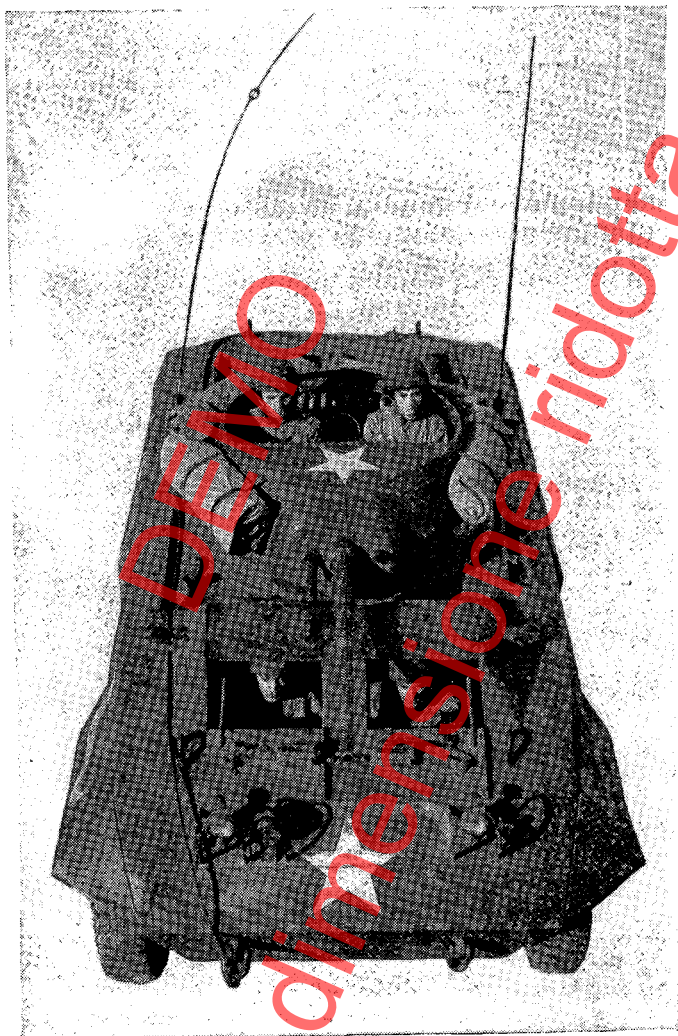


FIGURE 4.—Crew at MOUNTED POSTS.

b. *Commands for movement of car* (see also FM 2-5).

To move forward-----	DRIVER MOVE OUT
To halt-----	DRIVER STOP
To reverse-----	DRIVER REVERSE
To decrease speed-----	DRIVER SLOW DOWN
To turn right 90°-----	DRIVER CLOCK 3, STEADY ON
To turn left 60°-----	DRIVER CLOCK 10, STEADY ON
To turn right (left) 180°-----	DRIVER, CLOCK 6 RIGHT (LEFT), STEADY ON
To have driver move toward a terrain feature or reference point, the car being headed in proper direction-----	DRIVER MARCH ON WHITE HOUSE (HILL, DEAD TREE, ETC.)
To follow in column--	DRIVER FOLLOW THAT CAR (DRIVER FOLLOW CAR NO. --)
To follow on road or trail-----	DRIVER RIGHT ON ROAD (DRIVER RIGHT ON TRAIL)
To start engine-----	DRIVER CRANK UP
To stop engine-----	DRIVER CUT ENGINE
To proceed in a spe- cific gear-----	DRIVER THIRD GEAR (FIRST GEAR) (FOURTH GEAR)
To proceed at same speed-----	DRIVER STEADY

■ 11. DUTIES IN FIRING.—The car being prepared for action, the crew executes the following:

Loads 37-mm gun. Operates radio.

Gives fire order.

Controls and adjusts fire by sensing strike or trace and announces appropriate changes of range and deflection to gunner.

Controls driver so that car operates tactically with rest of platoon.

Signals "Ready" each time 37-mm has been reloaded. (Touches leg of gunner with his foot to indicate gun is loaded.)

Fires on targets designated by car commander. Continues fire until target is destroyed, new target is designated, or CEASE (SUSPEND) FIRING is given.

Drives in direction indicated by car commander. Operates car at a constant speed. Does not deviate from designated course except to avoid large obstacles. Announces "Changing course" or "Trough" when necessary.

CAR COMMANDER	RADIO OPERATOR	DRIVER	GUNNER
<p>Inspects each round of 37-mm ammunition before loading. Watches recoil and counter-recoil of gun and indicates any necessary adjustments to gunner.</p> <p>Reduces malfunctions in coaxial machine gun.</p>			<p>Informs car commander if caliber .30 machine gun fails to fire by calling "Jam."</p>
			<p>Traverses turret, as ordered by car commander, when anti-aircraft machine gun is being fired.</p>

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■ 12. To SUSPEND FIRE.—The crew proceeds as follows:

Commands **SUSPEND FIRE.**

Operates car as ordered.

Reloads 37-mm gun, if unloaded.

Puts safety on **SAFE.**

Unloads or orders fire resumed before round heats.

Observes and lays on target or lays on new target if directed.

■ 13. To CEASE FIRING.—The crew proceeds as follows:

Unloads 37-mm gun if loaded.

Operates car as ordered.

Observes for new targets.

Ceases firing. Assists in replenishing the ready racks. Observes for new targets.

Orders and assists in the shifting of ammunition as required.

Traverses turret as directed by car commander.

■ 14. To SECURE EQUIPMENT.—After firing, when car is to be moved, the crew proceeds as follows:

CAR COMMANDER	RADIO OPERATOR	DRIVER	GUNNER
Commands SECURE EQUIPMENT.			
When gun is traversed to straight ahead position, assists gunner in setting gun mount traveling lock.			Traverses turret to straight ahead position.
Assists gunner in replacing breech cover for turret guns.	Opens hatch front cover.	Opens hatch front cover.	Replaces breech cover of turret guns.
Checks ammunition and replenishes if necessary.			Replenishes caliber .30 machine - gun ammunition, if necessary.
	Reports "Aid ready."	Reports "Driver ready."	Reports "Gunner ready."
Receives reports from crew members.			
Reports "Car commander ready."			

■ 15. To DESTROY VEHICLE.—It may be necessary to abandon and destroy the vehicle and equipment to prevent its capture by the enemy. (See par. 31.) When the command **ABANDON AND DESTROY VEHICLE** is given, the crew proceeds as follows:

Time required: 1 to 2 minutes

Punctures gas tank. Removes and empties 2-pound TNT charge against clutch housing, side of cylinder, in der block, the transmission housing, or transfer case.

Inserts tetryl nonelectric caps with at least 5 feet of safety fuze in each charge.

Reports "Gunner ready."

Ignites fuzes and takes cover.

Pours gasoline over portable fire extinguishers.

When combined with destruction of vehicle by TNT, fires should be well started before detonating TNT.)

Reports "Rad ready."

Reports "Driver ready."

Takes cover.

Takes cover.

Receives reports.

Commands **IGNITE**.

Takes cover.

■ 16. To DESTROY WEAPONS.—The destruction of the 37-mm gun is accomplished by one or a combination of the following methods (see par 32):

Method No. 1

Time required: 2 to 3 minutes, if ramrod is used to plug bore and cut-down TNT is carried with car

CAR COMMANDER	RADIO OPERATOR	DRIVER	GUNNER
Opens drain plug on recoil mechanism, allowing recoil fluid to drain.	Assists car commander and driver.		Detaches all optical sights. (If evacuation is possible, carries sights; if evacuation is not possible, thoroughly smashes sights.)
Removes HE shell from a complete round and seats shell in chamber.			

Cuts down a 1/2-pound TNT block to fit snugly in chamber behind the HE shell.