

SECTION 117 - IMPROVISED SWAMP CROSSING

2562. General- principle to remember are :-

- a. Existing turf or other surface mat of vegetation must be carefully preserve
- b. Every effort must be made to improve site conditions by draining
- c. A fairly thick layer of material is required to spread the load of wheeled traffic, and this must normally be found from local resources (*see para 703*)
- d. A wearing surface is usually needed.

2563. Base. The foundation of the road will often take the form of a grillage about 18 ins thick formed o local material such as logs, fascines, sapling mats, or bundles of reeds, millet stalks brushwood, or coarse grass. Such materials should be placed in layers, alternately transverse and longitudinal. The top layer should be across the line of traffic.

Corduroy of plank roads or wheel tracks will sometimes suffice (see Section 121), but fascines will usually be needed under the bearers.

2564. Surface. To prevent rutting and damage by abrasion it is advisable to superimpose a wearing course of crushes aggregate, gravel, timber, or prefabricated metal surfacing (see Section 114)

2565. Hertzberg mattress. A Hertzberg mattress comprises two layers of PBS, with a 12-in to 24-in layer of compacted soil between them. In practice this has been found very effective for temporary tracks, but great care is necessary in compacting the filling.

The bottom layer of PBS is laid first, allowing an extra width of 4 ft on either side to form the mattress edge. An additional width of PBS is used to form a reinforcing gaiter at the edge, between the upper and lower covers of the mattress. The soil filling is then spread and compacted in layers, preferably using dumpers and a pneumatic typed roller. A double layer of PBS is then laid on top of the compacted fill, and is sealed to the turned in edge and gaiter. PBS is dealt with in Section 107.