

SAND TABLES

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

There seems to be no particular type of sand table that could be considered a US Army standard item of issue. Supply catalogs and supply manuals indices list no such item of equipment. Terrain Models and Relief Map Making: Technical Manual 5-249 (Apr 1946) classifies relief models according to use, such as for strategic or tactical planning, or else for field or headquarters use. The manual describes basic materials used to construct the tables -- paints, plywood, cardboard, plaster, paper-maché, cheesecloth, and burlap, plus sawdust, cotton, wire, wood pegs, nails, and glue. Detailed descriptions of construction procedures fill this 69-pg manual.

Older tables are described and depicted in Farrand Sayre's Map Maneuvers and Tactical Rides, 5th edition (Springfield, 1911; U310.S282), p. 48, and in the Index of Graphic Training Aids and Devices: DA Pamphlet 310-5, May 1956, p. 209. The latter pub contains a small photo of a terrain model kit consisting of prefabricated terrain features set upon a metal folding table, which resembles a portable card-playing table with collapsible legs. War game tables are also described on pp. 20 & 118 of Charles Grant's The War Game (NY: St Martin's, 1971; U310.G67). Additional info may be in commercial war gaming periodicals. See also:

"Back to the Sand Table." Soldiers (Aug 1993): pp. 30-32. Per.
Montana National Guard (1/163rd Armor Brigade) in training exercise.

Bond, P.S., and Crouch, E.H. Tactics: The Practical Art of Leading Troops in War. NY: Army & Navy Journal, 1922. p. 23. U165.B662.
Indicates pervasive use of sand tables in the applicatory system of map problems, maneuvers & exercises.

Davies, Edward A. "Correspondence Courses vs. the Sand Table." Infantry Journal (Mar/Apr 1934): p.148. Per.

Drummond, William A.D., & Stevens, F.W. "Sand-Table Construction." Army Quarterly (Oct 1934): p. 138. Per.
British perspective.

English, John A. A Perspective on Infantry. NY: Praeger, 1981. pp. 179 & 196. UD145.E53.
Expedient table used by British in Normandy hedgerows.

Fulmer, J.J. Use of Sand Table. Ft Leavenworth: Army Service Schools, 1917. U311.F84.

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Hughes, I.T. "Notes on the Sand Model." Journal of the United Service Institution of India (Jul 1926): p. 88. Per.

Kent, Thomas. "Why Not Use Both? A Sequel to 'I Don't Want a Sand Table'." Infantry Journal (Jul/Aug 1932): p. 256. Per.

Richards, E.I. Glasbrook. "Schemes on the Sand-Table." Journal of the Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) (May 1930): p. 391. Per.

"Sand-Table Instruction for Reserves." Army & Navy Register (23 Oct 1926): p. 394. Per.

Skelton, Wilfred G. "A Sand Table Problem for a Battalion Intelligence Platoon." Infantry Journal (Mar 1950): p. 274. Per.

Smythe, Donald. Pershing: General of the Armies. Bloomington: Indiana U, 1986. p. 126. E181.P55.S59.

Describes 20x30-foot sand table used to prepare for the 1st Division's attack on Cantigny, May 1918.

Thorp, H.W. "The Sand Table." Journal of the Royal United Service Institute (RUSI) (May 1929): p. 368. Per.

U.S. Army. 117th Infantry Regiment. History of the 117th Infantry, 1944-1945. Baton Rouge: Army & Navy, 1946. p. 43. #603-117.1946.

Unit S-2 constructed field expedient sand table, using it extensively for assault on Siegfried Line, Sep 1944.

U.S. Army Infantry School. Notes on the Preparation and use of the Sand Table. Camp Benning, GA: Infantry School Press, 1921. 51 p., foldouts. U311N67.

_____. Preparation and Use of the Sand Table, with Illustrated Problems. Ft Benning, GA: Inf School Press, 1922. 53 p., photo plates. U311P73.

See also:

-Photo index, PhotoArch.