

DIRECTORATE GENERAL BORDER ROADS

GENERAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTION NO 48

ON

HINTS FOR DRIVERS IN THE DESERT

Before the Journey

1. Check correctness of oil and water levels.
2. Check that all nipples are greased.
3. Carry :-
 - (a) 1 to 5 Litres HD 30 oil for the engine.
 - (b) One jerrican of water for the radiator.
 - (c) All essential tools particularly foot pump. Sand channels and tow chain.
4. Do not tamper with the fuel injection pump nozzle.

During Journey

Do not exceed the speed limit ; drive slowly but keep up the momentum and do not break the continuity of motion.

5. Keep an eye on the thermo temperature gauge and do not allow the engine to overheat.
6. **Gears**
 - (a) Select the correct gear before entering a sandy patch, and do not drive in low gear unnecessarily nor over accelerate.
 - (b) Change gears swiftly and smoothly.
 - (c) Disengage auxiliary gears after crossing a sandy patch.
8. **Tyres.** Reduce tyre pressure by 20 percent before entering a soft sandy patch. While doing so remember the following :-
 - (a) Reduce tyre pressure by one fifth.
 - (b) Pump to normal pressure as soon as possible.
 - (c) Tyres must not get so hot that they can not be touched by hand.
9. Use your clutch carefully ; do not 'ride' the clutch.

Go over a soft patch as fast as you can with safety and hope that the momentum will carry you over. Do not turn sharply or overtake or apply brakes abruptly in soft sand but allow the vehicle to roll to a halt. Do not follow in the tracks of vehicle in front in sandy patches.

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10. Always stop on a down hill slope whenever possible, even though it is slight.

When stuck do not accelerate when the wheels have lost contact with the ground. Ensure that all occupants dismount (except driver) and push the vehicle. If this does not succeed, use shovel and level the sand in front of the wheels of the vehicle. Also use bushes, stones and sand channels. If all this fails, wait for a tow. Do not drive up to the vehicle in front, which is stuck, otherwise you will get stuck yourself.

Stay with your vehicle if it breaks down or if you are lost. RATION your FOOD and WATER AT ONCE and help those who are looking for you by flashing a mirror, waving a flag and so on.

11. Halts

- (a) Check water and oil levels and re-top, if necessary.
- (b) As soon as you halt, disperse and camouflage your vehicle.

After the Journey

12. Carry out last parade maintenance.

Miscellaneous Points

13. Ensure the following :-
- (a) Battery is secured and properly maintained.
 - (b) Fuel tank cap is on.
 - (c) Clean fuel is poured through the funnel.
 - (d) Fuel filters are regularly cleaned or changed.
 - (e) Vehicle casualties get back to the center line.

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