

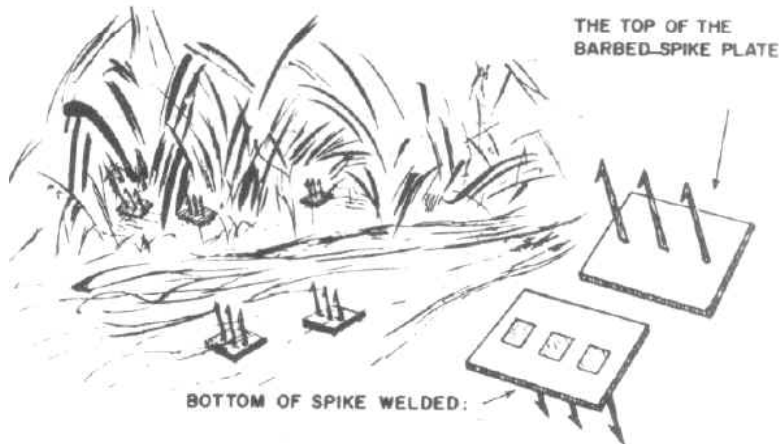
Booby Traps and Area Defense

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The idea of booby traps is as old as man. From the simple earth pit lined with sharpened stakes to highly sophisticated mechanisms of triggered coils and latches, the enemy employs them all. The principle employed is simply to use anything that will catch the victim by surprise.

Barbed-Spike Plate

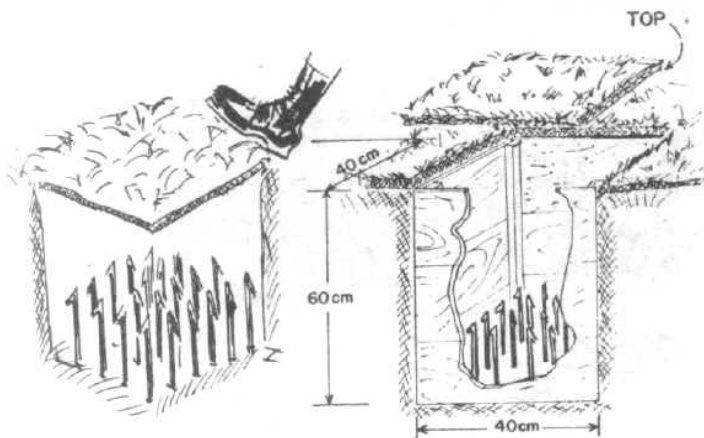
BARBED-SPIKE PLATE



The barbed-spike plate is the basic element of all enemy non explosive booby traps. The plate, a flat piece of wood or metal, is used as a base to fasten any number of barbed spikes. The spikes, ranging in length from several inches to several feet, are fastened securely to the base. When a man steps or falls on the spiked plate, or is struck by one, the spikes will penetrate, producing a serious wound.

Spike Trap Box

SPIKE TRAP BOX



This device is a simple wooden box made of boards joined together with four corner posts. The box has a lightweight-top but the bottom is removed. Barbed spikes are placed in the ground at the bottom pointing upward. This trap is usually set up on dirt roads and trails to take advantage of favorable camouflage.

Pointed Bamboo Stakes

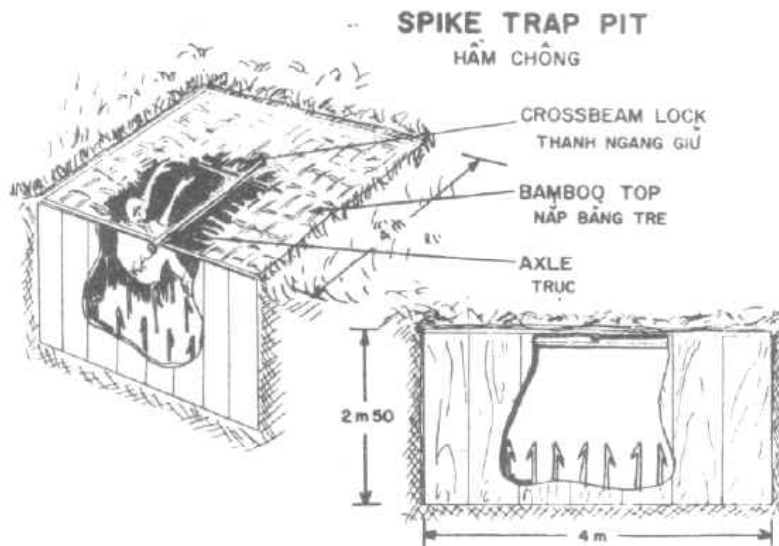
POINTED BAMBOO STAKES



Made of bamboo which has been sharpened, the stakes are stuck in the ground and covered with grass. When a weapon is fired or a grenade thrown, troops seek cover and are impaled.

Spike Trap Pit

SPIKE TRAP PIT



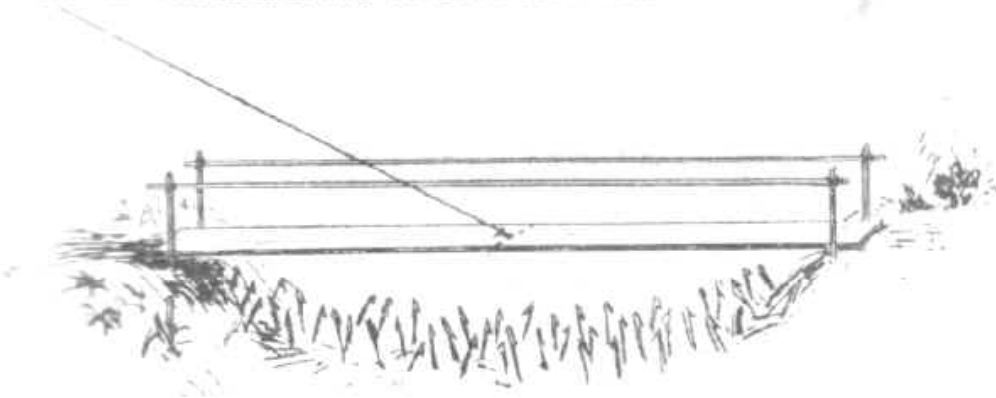
A trap pit is a large trap box with a bamboo top. Stakes are made of sharpened bamboo or barbed spikes and used to line the box. When a man steps on the trap he will fall into the pit. The top turns on an axle; therefore, the trap does not need to be reset to work again. The pit is often prepared as a defensive obstacle and then made safe by locking it in place with a crossbeam (so it can be crossed safely by the enemy) until the desired time of use.

Note that the pit is over 2 metres deep.

Trap Bridge

TRAP BRIDGE

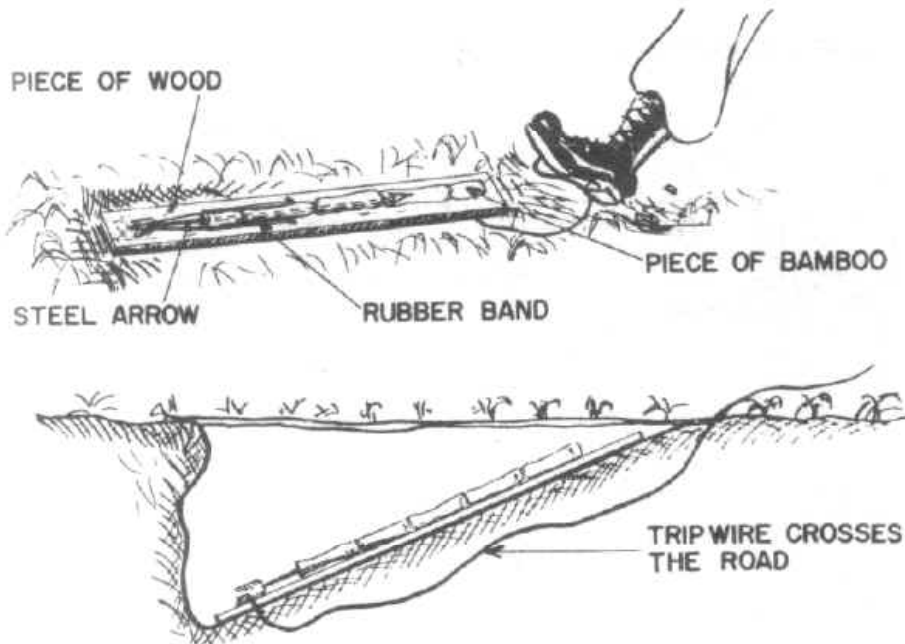
CUT AT THE MIDDLE AND COVERED WITH MUD



A small footbridge is partially cut in the middle. The cut is then camouflaged with coverings of mud, etc. Barbed spikes or sharpened bamboo stakes are emplaced under the cut, using the water, mud or foliage under the bridge as camouflage. The weight of a man on the bridge will cause it to collapse, tumbling the victim onto the spikes. Like the spike trap pit bridges can be prepared in this manner, braced for normal use. At the approach of free world forces the braces are removed.

Steel Arrow Trap

STEEL ARROW TRAP



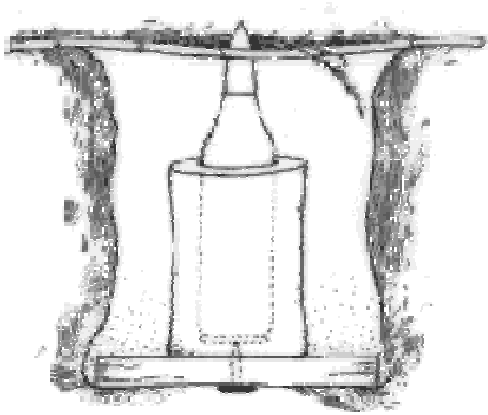
This trap utilizes a bamboo tube (usually about 3 feet long) as a launcher. A steel arrow is placed in the tube using a block of wood as the bolt, a strip of strong rubber for power and a catch to lock the rubber strip, the device is fired with a tripwire. When the victim trips the wire, the latch disengages, allowing the rubber strip to launch the arrow.

Caltrops



Each caltrop has four projecting spikes at different angles so that at least one spike will always face upwards.

Cartridge Trap



The cartridge trap consisted of a cartridge set into a piece of bamboo in a camouflaged hole in the ground. A nail was driven through the bottom of the bamboo, which rested on a solid board. When a man trod on the upper end of the cartridge, it was forced down on the nail, which acts as a firing pin and set off the bullet through the mans foot.

Punji Bear Trap

This booby trap was built basically in the same fashion as the Punji Stake Pit. Instead of one uniformly shaped pit though, this hole consisted of two different sized holes—a larger hole on top of a smaller hole. The VC would place a bear trap over top of the smaller hole so that when the victim's foot penetrated the brush covering, it would land on the trap causing it to snap shut in an upward motion. There was hardly any escaping the trap's grasp on the victim's foot.

