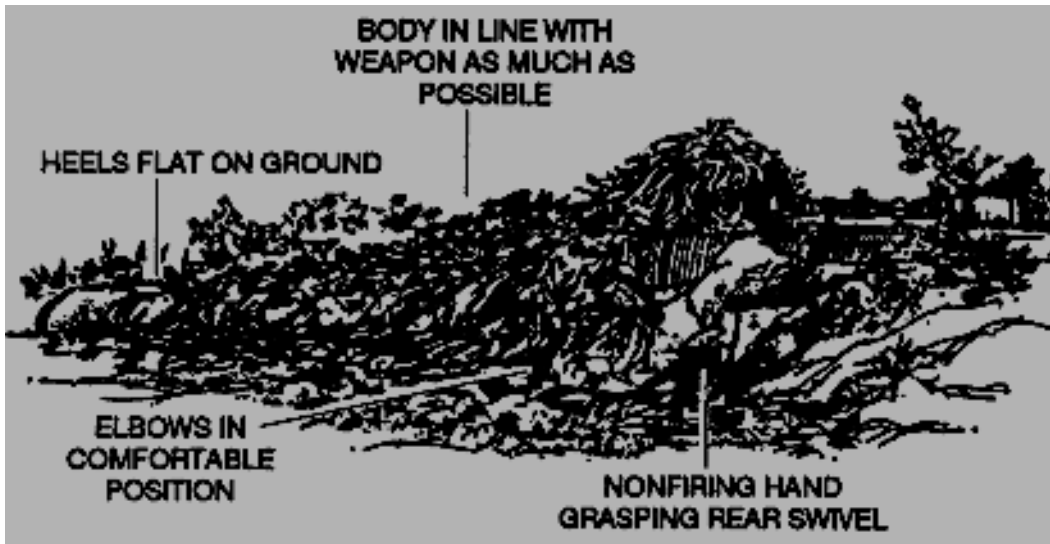# A Long-Term Survival Guide - Types Of Combat Cover:

There are two types of cover that apply to combat situations; cover from sight, and cover from return fire. Cover from sight is when you are not visible to the enemy. Cover from return fire is when you are positioned behind a barrier that can stop the enemy's bullets. Both types of cover are important, and they should always be combined, if at all possible.
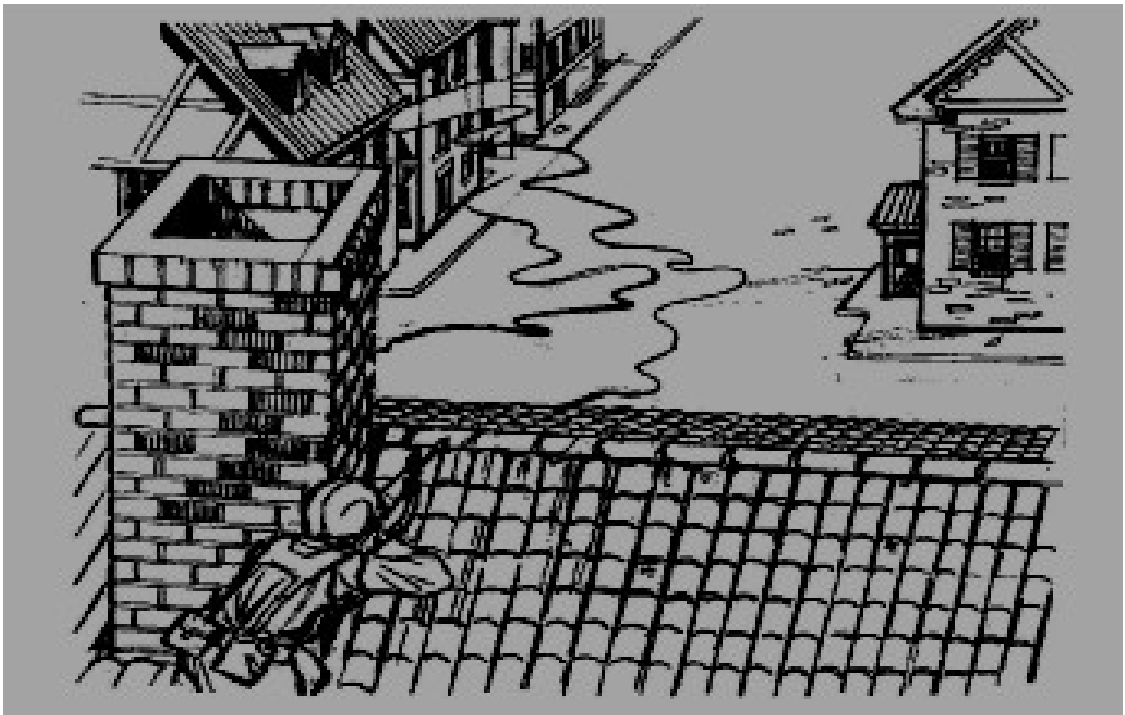

This rifleman has both types of cover; he has sight cover by his camouflage and the local vegetation, and he has return fire cover from the rise to his right, which is between him and the enemy. Note that he is still vulnerable to being flanked, because the rise only provides return fire cover from one direction.

This rifleman has poor cover. He is too visible if he fires from this window, and these walls may not stop return fire. Even if sandbags are added, the window is still to obvious a position.
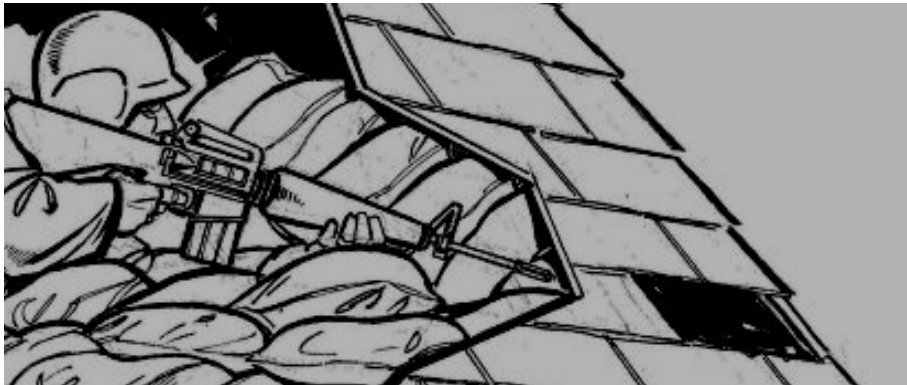
This thick wall provides reasonable cover from return fire. Always fire around the side of a cover wall like this, not over the top. This gives you the best concealment. Keep a retreat path open, in case the enemy tries to flank you.

This is the best rooftop position available, behind the return fire cover provided by the chimney. Rooftop positions are very vulnerable to aircraft and flanking attacks, so always have a fast retreat path ready.
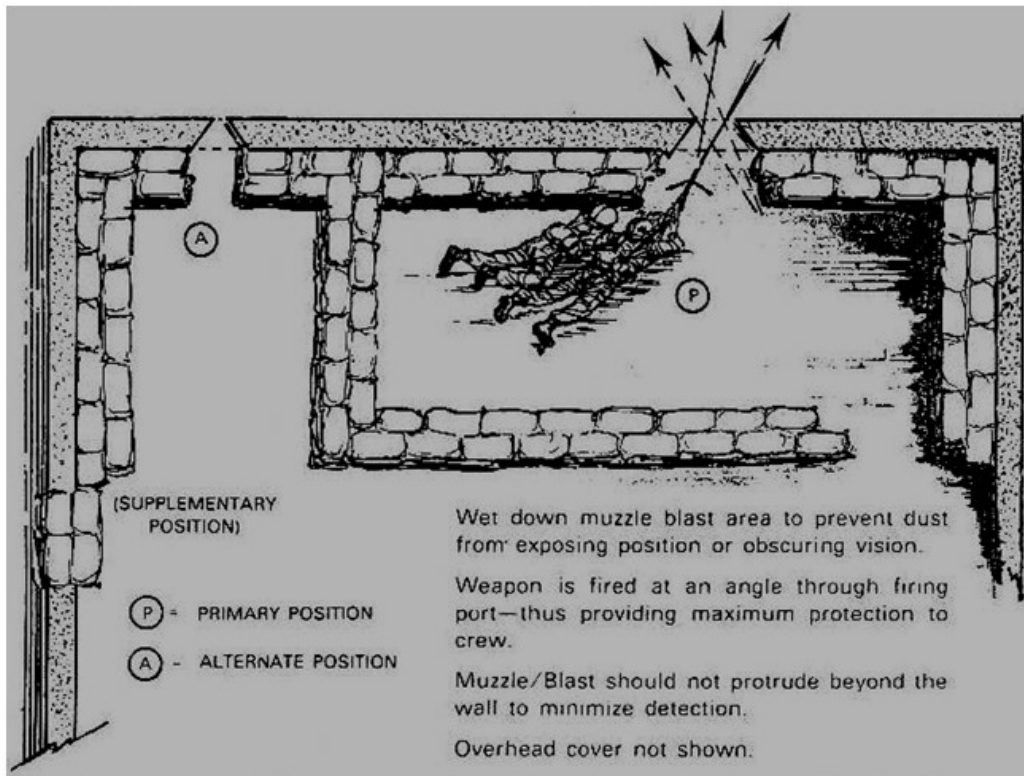
This soldier is well-protected by sandbags, but is still firing from a window. He should make a firing port in the wall. (Cutaway view shown)
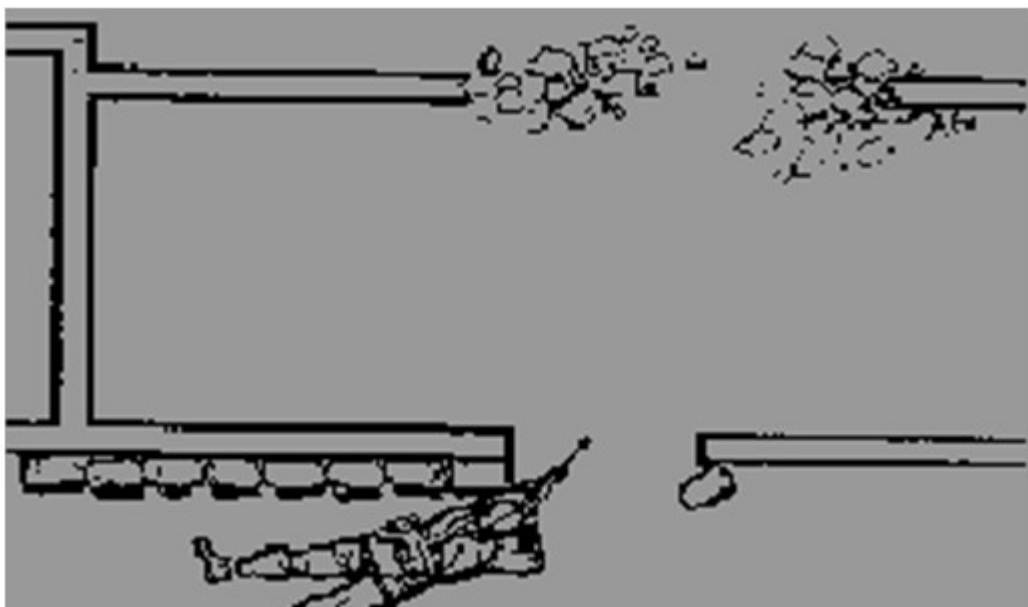

This firing port in the roof is a big improvement. (These are cutaway views; the soldier would be fully concealed here.) Extra ports, and false ports, can be added to make spotting yours harder.

This view shows the firing port, sandbag cover, and escape route. Remember, any building can be fire bombed, so always have an escape route prepared.

Wet down muzzle blast area to prevent dust from exposing position or obscuring vision.

Weapon is fired at an angle through firing port—thus providing maximum protection to crew.

Muzzle/Blast should not protrude beyond the wall to minimize detection.

Overhead cover not shown.

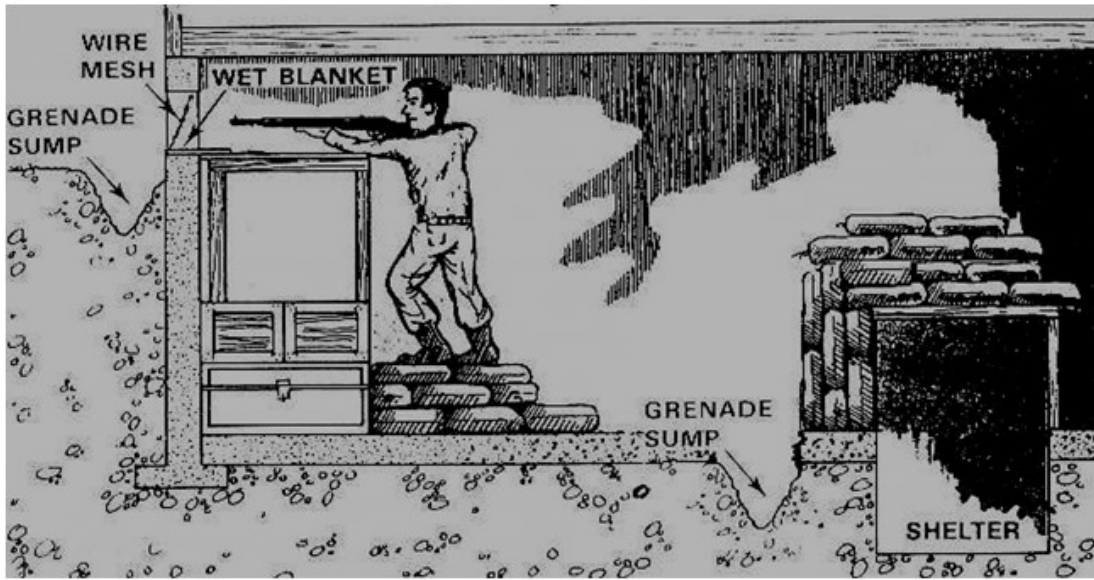Where to add sandbags to a room, and how to shoot through the firing ports, or loopholes.

Locating your position farther inside a building increases your cover from sight, but will reduce your field of view. This is a good way to guard an entranceway, from deeper inside the building. (Don't forget your escape route.)
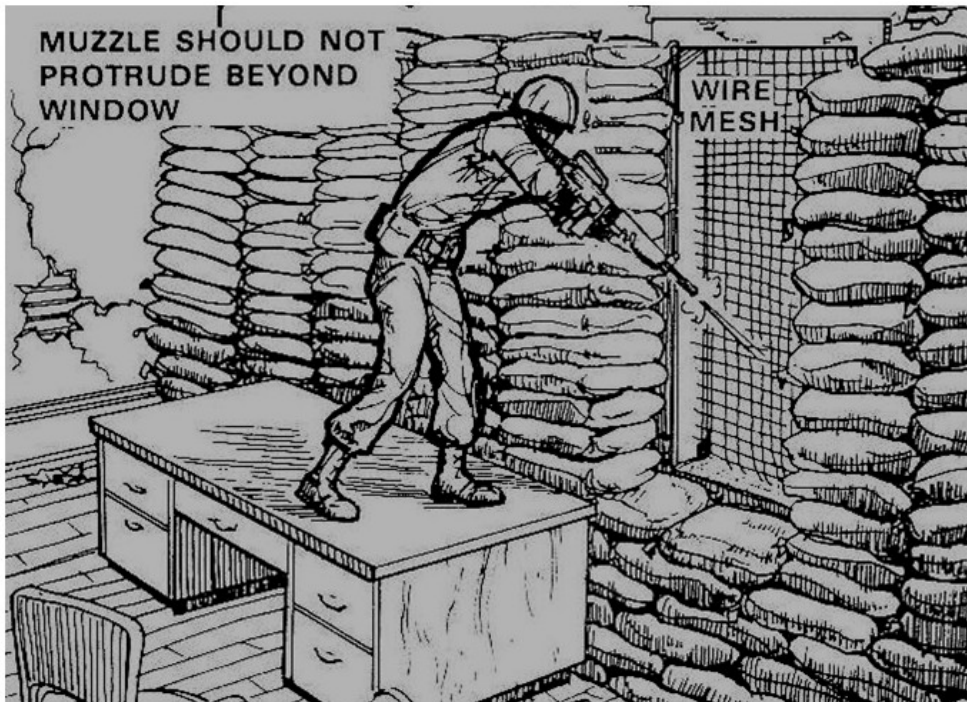
This is a good example of a corner firing position. Properly constructed, it allows a wide field of fire.

This is a cutaway view of the corner firing position, from the outside. In reality, only the firing port in the wall would be visible. The window to the right should be blocked closed with planks or sandbags, to deter hand grenades.

Basement Fighting Position, with fire step, grenade sumps, and reinforced shelter. There should also be an escape route.

Elevated Fighting Position, for upper floors of taller buildings. Note that outer wall is sandbagged, to stop return fire.