

Figure 7-6.
Sections in Trail

the more line-abreast arrangements, since with trail formations leading elements are poorly placed for rapid support of trailing elements.

When the division is composed of only three aircraft, a modification of the old vic can be useful. This formation, depicted in Figure 7-7, places a section in loose trail on the lead fighter. This arrangement is particularly well suited to the use of decoy tactics. The lead fighter can "stooge" around looking helpless until it is attacked by the enemy, at which time the trailing section, often stacked high, can swoop in and pull off a rather rude surprise party. Separation between lead and trail elements of this formation normally should be such that a bogey cannot slip into its weapons parameters behind the lead fighter without entering the trailing element's firing envelope.

The [German] is a master at using stooge decoys who would probably be as helpless as they look, if half the Luftwaffe were not keeping a jealous eye on them from the sun.

Group Captain Reade Tilley, RAF

The reverse of the vic is the "section-and-stinger" formation depicted in Figure 7-8. In this case the single fighter (the "stinger") trails the lead

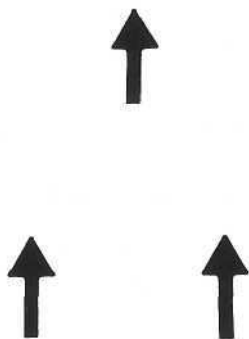


Figure 7-7. Modified Vic