



Men of the Maquis

► TOUGH, hardy bushes have lately given their name to tough, hardy men.

"Maquis" (pronounced "mah-kee") is a word that has become prominent and frequent in the news, since the war has been successfully transplanted to the soil of France. We hear about the Maquis seizing this town, demolishing that power station, wiping out an isolated German detachment after cutting their telephone line. Practically always, the word is used as applying to the guerrilla fighters themselves; although originally confined pretty well to the south of France, we now hear about activities of the Maquis in other parts of the country.

Actually, until less than two months ago, "maquis" was a well-organized colloquial term, meaning in general the kind of tough, scrubby bush-and-small tree vegetation that grows on the semi-arid hills of France's Mediterranean slope. Nearest American-English equivalents would be "brush" or "scrub". Nearer yet would be the American-Spanish "chaparral" of our Southwest, and the similar country in upland northern Mexico.

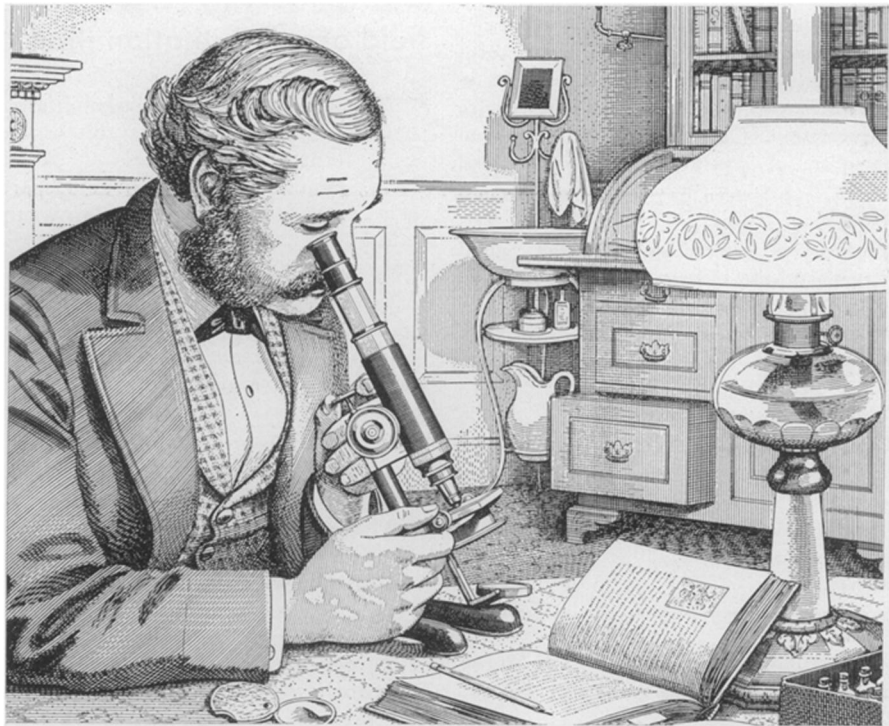
Like the chaparral, the French maquis consists of an endless, monotonous, patternless array of bushes and small trees, most of them with harsh, stiff, leathery leaves, so that at first glance they all look pretty much alike. Closer acquaintance, however, discloses the fact that the maquis, like our chaparral, is made up of many plants with a rather wide array of botanical affinities. Scrub live-oaks tend to predominate, with laurels, holly and a few other species also prominent.

The monotony of appearance is an ecological response to the environment. In dry lands, where the little rainfall comes principally in winter but where evaporation rates are high the year around, long evolutionary experience has shown that a very few types of leaves are most efficient in conserving moisture, and that one of the most successful of these types is the small, tough, leathery kind, sometimes covered with grayish hairs, sometimes with a waxy or varnish-like coating, such as grow

on live-oaks, holly and rhododendron.

Dry brushland of this kind of course has very little use or profit in it. The trees are rarely big enough to cut for anything but gnarled firewood, and most of the soil is so sterile and dry that it is not worth the labor of clearing for even dry-land farming. Great areas, therefore, lie practically empty and uninhabited, with roads poor, few and far between.

Such terrain is practically ideal for men who are "on the run" from the



The Microscope That Changed the Course of Science



Here you see one of the earliest Bausch & Lomb microscopes.

This was the first microscope produced by quantity production methods . . . the first precision compound microscope to be made at a price which the average research worker, educator or medical man could afford. These microscopes made research and study possible in America on an unprecedented scale.

Prior to this development of the mass production of precision optical instruments by Edward Bausch in 1876, the use of the microscope was restricted by high cost. Today the microscope is a familiar laboratory instrument in nearly every field of scientific endeavor.

With this rich background of experi-

ence, Bausch & Lomb makes the most complete line of optical instruments built by anybody anywhere, setting the pace in pioneering optical research, development and manufacture.

This is the experience that can be applied to the solution of your optical problems whether through a standard Bausch & Lomb instrument for research or control, or a completely new optical development for your specific needs.



Makers of Optical Glass and a Complete Line of Optical Instruments for Military Use, Education, Research, Industry and Eyesight Correction and Conservation

SCIENCE INFORMATION

for Members of the Armed Forces OVERSEAS

IN order to serve the armed forces, Science News Letter recently offered its new monthly Overseas Edition to men and women outside the United States.

This special edition is geared to the armed forces—it contains scientific information interesting and useful to them. News important to us here, but not to them there, is cut out in order to pack the Overseas Science News Letter with the science information of greatest interest and use to members of our armed forces Overseas.

It is just sixteen pages (like the Science News Letter you are reading), but it is pocket size, printed on Air Mail weight paper, and the pictures and types are one-third smaller than the regular weekly edition. It is mailed by **FIRST CLASS MAIL** to service people Overseas each month, for \$1.25 per year.

Order this Special Edition for friends and relatives in uniform Overseas on the coupon below. You need not get permission from the military authorities to make this gift; each issue will go quickly and in the same kind of mail as your personal letters.

To Science News Letter, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. For the enclosed \$1.25, please send your Monthly Overseas edition.

PLEASE PRINT

To _____

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Rank		Serial Number

Address _____

Please print your name and address here

authorities. The few inhabitants will sympathize with these popular outlaws and help them by their intimate knowledge of trails, hideouts, and such springs and water-holes as may exist. Enemy ground forces unfamiliar with the terrain will almost certainly never find their quarry, and are very likely to

get lost and finally ambushed themselves. Even airplanes are of little use, for men in dust-colored clothes crouching under dusty bushes are as invisible as quail that have taken cover against a hawk. Thus the maquis takes care of its own, even giving them its name.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH

Veterans' Center

Blinded servicemen of the Navy, Marines and Army will be served. This step takes the Army further into the field of rehabilitation than it has gone before.

➤ THE OPENING of a rehabilitation center for blinded veterans this month at a former boys' school at Avon, Conn., announced by the War Department, marks two changes in Army procedure.

For one thing, although this center, to be known as the Old Farm Convalescent Hospital, will be operated by the War Department, blinded veterans of the Navy and Marine Corps as well as of the Army will be served.

Second, it seems to take the Army further into the field of rehabilitation than it has gone before.

Previously, the Army provided complete rehabilitation of the blind during the time they required hospitalization. Now the rehabilitation can extend beyond that to provide vocational training and training for social and personal adjustment after the period during which the man's condition requires his remaining in a hospital.

There will still be close cooperation with the Veterans' Administration, which will arrange for any necessary additional training after the man leaves the Old Farm Hospital, and will help him find a job and maintain contact with his employer in seeing that he makes satisfactory progress.

Among other advantages of the new plan, it was pointed out, is the fact that it will take the blinded men out of the Army and Navy hospitals more quickly than was possible before.

The new center does not replace the two special Army hospitals for the blind, one in Pennsylvania and one in California. Neither does it mean any great increase, present or expected, in the number of blinded veterans.

To date, there are 185 blind casualties from all the services. Not all of these

are blind as the layman would define the term. Blindness in the services is defined as 20/200 vision or less in the better eye with maximum correction. Men who have 20/200 vision, it was pointed out, can get about and take care of themselves quite easily. They can not only perceive light but can shave themselves, walk without aid and do not need Braille for ordinary reading.

This amount of vision, however, would not be enough for a man to return to a job as bookkeeper, for example, or as mechanic having to read gauges. In such cases, the men need to learn how to do another job. At the new center, they as well as the totally blind will get vocational training.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

MEDICINE

Soldier Fights Many Months With Steel Over His Heart

➤ THE TOUGHNESS of G.I. Joes is attested to in the story, released by the War Department, of one of them who fought through months of the African campaign with a shell fragment lodged on his heart.

Wounded in the chest in March, 1943, this unidentified soldier went back to duty about a month later with his wound healed. In spite of bouts of pain and discomfort from the undetected shell fragment, he did not stop fighting until Aug. 30 when he was sent to a general hospital where X-ray examination showed the fragment and skilful Army surgeons removed it.

Majors Thomas D. Watts and Elam C. Toone, Medical Corps, formerly of the Medical College of Virginia, report the soldier is now well and restored to a useful life.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944