

PSYCHOLOGY

Training Rough Guerrillas

Army psychologists have devised new methods for picking the men best suited to go behind enemy lines as guerrilla leaders in case of war, Tove Neville reports.

► WOULD YOU BE a good guerrilla? Could you obtain and cook rattlesnake meat if that was the only type food available? Could you get rid of an enemy silently?

A good guerrilla leader must be able to blow up bridges, dams and railroads in enemy territory where such enterprises would be very hazardous. Most likely, enemy soldiers would be on the lookout constantly, and your helpers in this dangerous work would be natives whose language you might not even know. Could you keep up your courage under such conditions and still do the job?

A guerrilla leader must also be able to live off the land, whether it be jungle, mountain, desert or arctic terrain. He must be able to walk 100 miles, carrying a full pack, with only short rests.

These are just some of the everyday tasks of the Special Forces soldier who becomes a guerrilla leader. After being trained, he is an expert at equipping and training guerrilla forces behind enemy lines, and he is also an authority on practically every type of small arms known to man. He is, besides, a diplomat, salesman, teacher and organizer all rolled into one.

In order to find out which men are the best suited to become these superoperators, the Army has developed new ways of picking soldiers with the best potentialities, Drs. Rudolph G. Berkhouse and Milton M. Maier of the Army's Personnel Research Branch reported to the American Psychological Association in Chicago.

Psychologists Took Same Training

They described how a team of psychologists, assigned to the Special Forces Research Task, studied the qualifications needed to be a guerrilla leader, then went through the same field training as the trainees and themselves learned the tasks of a guerrilla operator. Finally, they designed the tests that now make it easier to pick the human material needed for these tough jobs.

As a result, the Army can now give the tests and pick very nearly the men who would be successful in these jobs. This means that personnel not suited for the task can be eliminated from long weeks of strenuous and expensive training.

To find the best methods of picking these men, about 250 men were assigned to the Special Warfare Center at Ft. Bragg, N. C., where they had concentrated training, lasting 11 weeks. Before the training began, the group was given a battery of psychological tests.

During training, all the men were closely observed. Afterwards they were required to show how well they could do the tasks

of a Special Forces operator. They had to show they knew how to use radio communications equipment, that they could use different kinds of weapons and that they could handle land navigation problems. They also had to demonstrate how to take care of such injuries as bullet wounds, abdominal wounds and a shattered jaw.

Each trainee performed for two weeks under close scrutiny. The evaluation of the performances were judged on an all or none basis. If the task was performed satisfactorily, the trainee received credit; if not, he got no credit at all.

Finally, the scores on the original psychological tests were compared with the indications of suitability for each man. Analysis of the test scores and evaluations enabled the psychologists to determine the tests given prior to training that best indicated which men should have been accepted for

training and which should have been rejected.

Of all the tests tried out, four were found highly useful in finding the potentially successful Special Forces soldier.

1. Infantry Aptitude Area. The score of this test has been found previously to show combat potential. The guerrilla leader must above all be a good soldier.

2. Critical Decisions Test. The problems of this test are presented by tape recorder. The trainee is told to evaluate several possible solutions and their effectiveness in handling the problem presented.

3. Special Forces Suitability Inventory. This test measures what a man tends to do from his personal motivation rather than what he is capable of doing.

4. Locations Test. The problems involved in this test require ability to orient oneself in unfamiliar terrain. The guerrilla leader must be able to find his way around without asking directions.

In taking the tests, it is very difficult for the trainees to give right or wrong answers intentionally because there are no clearcut "right" answers. Often a trainee may think



HIGH-JUMPING—Trainees of the Army Special Forces who expect to become guerrilla leaders behind enemy lines must be able to take the high jump as one of the many tasks required to meet the Army's suitability standards for the job. Leadership, daring and courage are of prime importance.

he gives a right answer when one of the other responses would be better. Therefore it is very difficult for him to attain deliberately a score higher or lower than his abilities.

A successful detachment of Special Forces operators, consisting of one or two officers, a medic, a weapons specialist, a demolition expert and a radio operator, can be as effective against an enemy as an entire regiment because it trains the natives of an area as guerrilla forces. Each man in such a detachment is trained to do more than one job and can take over for one of the others if necessary.

Today, three Special Forces groups are in a constant training status, one in the United States, one in Europe and one in the Far East. These three groups must be prepared for immediate action at all times in the event of war.

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Hazing Had Parallel Among Primitive People

► WHEN COLLEGE STUDENTS haze the incoming freshmen by shaving their heads or spray-painting them, or when members of a fraternal organization make the initiate walk down Main Street in girls' clothing, they are reenacting rites performed by primitive peoples for hundreds of years.

Puberty rites, initiating the young boy or girl into manhood or womanhood, are very widespread among primitive people, and some groups have secret societies with initiation ceremonies as bizarre as any hazing customs that college boys of today can think up.

Many of the primitive initiation rites include symbolic death for the initiate so that they can be "reborn" into adult life, a symbolism common to many Christian sects. And occasionally the symbolic death is so realistic, among primitive tribes, that the initiate does not survive.

Among the native tribes of Africa, similar violence is sometimes directed, not against initiates, but against victims who have provoked the ire of members of a secret fraternity. The Leopard Men in Africa, like the Ku Klux Klan in the United States, strike in the dark against their victims.

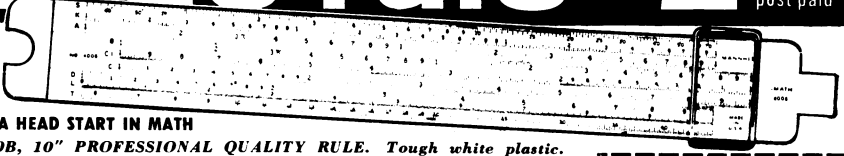
The Leopard Men wear leopard-skin cloaks and make false leopard imprints in the earth to leave the impression that real leopards have seized the victims. With clawlike knives they mutilate and lacerate the flesh of their victims.

In some areas of Africa, the Leopard and other secret fraternities have been reduced to more sociable activities, but it was as recently as April, 1945, that the police were making arrests in an attempt to break up the deadly activity of the Lion Men and Lion Women.

The African secret societies do not exist, however, merely for the purpose of organized murder. Like our own lodges, they are mutual-aid organizations.

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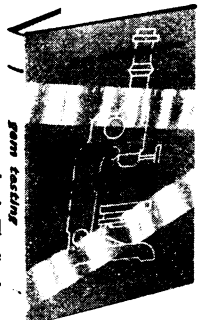
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