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Boxing For Battle

Manly art used at Camp Butner to overcome fear of physical combat



AMBUSH: PATROL ENCOUNTERS "ENEMY" SQUAD ARMED WITH GLOVES

The mission of combat soldiers is to close with the enemy. Every man has a fear of the unknown and if he does not know what physical combat is he will fear it. Mass boxing overcomes this natural reluctance." These words of Lieut. Colonel James L. Grier, former West Point boxer, sum up the purpose of the training program initiated at Camp Butner, N. C., under the command of Major General Edwin P. Parker, Jr.

The training falls into three types. The first is regular boxing every night with eleven three-round bouts on Friday night for the Divisional Championship. The rules at Camp Butner, however, are quite unique. Decisions are given by points: 25% for blows landed, 25% for generalship, 50% for sheer aggressiveness. And anything goes. The idea is to develop the fighting heart. The entire boxing program is directed toward this goal.

The "battle royal" is the second training device. Here two platoons are lined up, all wearing heavy boxing gloves. The instructions are brief: fight until you drop. The boys have a high old time of it, too, all being in perfect physical condition. Platoon with most men on their feet at the end wins.

The third training phase is as close to the real thing as the men can get without actually injuring each other. A reconnaissance patrol moves stealthily down a woodland road, leaving a "get away" man behind—to communicate with the main forces

Camp Butner

in the event of an ambush. The main patrol moves on into dense woods. It walks into a trap. From a tree a silent form leaps upon the "get away" man, fells him. From a roadside ditch an ambush patrol scrambles up and throws itself on the advancing soldiers, overpowering and capturing them. And so they learn to meet sudden, unexpected physical assault.



BATTLE ROYAL begins by issue of boxing gloves to rival platoons. This form of free-for-all in an open field simulates hand-to-hand combat.



INSTRUCTIONS are to forget the Marquis of Queensberry rules and to remember that this is war and the gloves are only to prevent real injury.



THEY CAN TAKE IT! Anything goes, short of actually injuring an opponent. Purpose of drill: to overcome natural fear of personal combat.

Camp Butner



JUNGLE TACTIC: FIGHTER WAITS IN TREE FOR "GET AWAY" MAN TO PASS



IN REAL WAR SUCH A LEAP STUNS OPPONENT, MAKES HIM EASY PREY