

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

In: Message.

Infiltration Run The "Real Thing", Soldier Discovers.

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Infiltration Run The "Real Thing," Soldier Discovers

(Editor's Note: Below are presented the reactions of a Camp Crowder soldier who had just undergone his baptism of fire on the Infiltration Course.)

It's probably as nearly "the real thing" as any experience can be which is not the real thing itself.

The dirt is real; the same kind of mud and dust will cover your face, hands and clothes when you lie flat on the soil of Italy or New Guinea. The barbed wire is real; it's this kind of thorny maze you will have to struggle with on the battlefields of Europe and Asia. The explosions around you whirl real stones and sand through the air. And this whistling sound over your head—that's real. This is the kind of music—soft but penetrating—flying bullets produce. You may as well try to get used to it. The machine guns over there, toward which you are crawling, are not toys; they actually fire at you. This is live ammunition.

That is why the Infiltration Course seems so excitingly different from anything you passed through in your previous career as a trainee. It's not that this particular exercise is more tiring or more difficult to perform than any other job you had to take care of before. True, to crawl a hundred yards on your belly is not exactly a picnic; but it's less tedious, I think, than 14 hours of KP or a 20-mile hike in hot weather. The new sensation is the reality of the danger. One awkward motion, and you may be knocked out. What is at stake, this time, is not a promotion or a three-day pass, but your life—nothing else.

Does the idea make you shaky? To me, it is stimulating—I can't explain why, but that's the way I felt—in the mud, under fire.

Whatever the psychological explanation, it's a fact that I've enjoyed the Infiltration Course more than any other phase of my military training—not only because I realize its usefulness but also because I think it's fun. Hardships without danger are a nuisance. The more dramatic the situation the less will you be bothered by the hardships involved.

But what if the guns were manned by Japs or Nazis? Would you manage to crawl in a composed and military manner, with the enemy actually aiming at you? Or would you get jittery? It was this question that puzzled me, while I was creeping, reptile-like, through the Missouri mire. What will be my reaction when it comes to facing the really real thing? It will be a tough proposition—a lot tougher, mind you, than even the most realistic Infiltration Course. But I, for one, want to know if I can take it all right. After this well-staged and instructive "dress rehearsal," I am more eager than ever to see the show proper and to play my little part in it.

—A Camp Crowder Soldier.

Rainy Weather Forces Review's Postponement

Inclement weather forced postponement of a review and retreat formation by Station Complement troops scheduled for last Friday in celebration of the second anniversary of the activation of Camp Crowder.

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