

ARMY TALKS



The German Soldier



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EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES ARMY



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ARMY TALKS



EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

THE GERMAN SOLDIER

WHEN Adolf Hitler was elected Chancellor of the German Reich in 1933—it was the first of the famous German “Ja—or else” elections—he gained control of a Versailles Treaty army of 100,000 officers and men.

That's what it was on paper, a small professional army, limited as to strength and equipment, which had been intended for little more than internal police duties and frontier guard. But within the framework of that small army, Hitler's predecessors had created one of the finest military schools in the world.

Non-Coms Really Officers

Every non-commissioned officer of the pre-Hitler German Army had been so carefully picked, so long and thoroughly trained, so well educated and indoctrinated that he could take over a company under the conditions of actual warfare.

General Hans von Seeckt, commander of that regular army, the “Reichswehr,” had interpreted his job as making up in quality what his army, by treaty regulations, lacked in quantity. To the natural aptitude for soldiering which his men showed, he added the finest training he could devise.

His problem was the problem which, in a slightly different form, faces the commanders of all peacetime armies :

Whether it is better to build up a large reserve through comparatively short enlistments and basic training only, or to lengthen the enlistment period, make the service attractive and attempt to create an “elite corps” of thoroughly trained men, any one of whom is capable of rapid advancement to much higher rank in time of emergency.

Men Best in Europe

Von Seeckt chose the latter method, and his men, in the early 1930s, were probably the best trained soldiers in Europe.

One of the first objectives of the Nazis when they assumed power in Germany was the nullification of the treaty restrictions on the size of the army.

The years 1938 and 1939 witnessed the Nazification of von Seeckt's professional army.

Always highly regarded in Germany, the man in uniform became a sort of demi-god to his civilian compatriots.

Nothing was spared to make the soldier's life enviable from a civilian point of view. Large, airy barracks were built.

This issue of ARMY TALKS was prepared by S/Sgt. H. Whitman of the staff of ARMY TALKS, based upon material from U.S. Army files, the British Ministry of Information and the British War Office. The data on the psychological training of German troops was first published in New York by the American Committee for National Morals in 1941 as a part of a report entitled "German Psychological Warfare."

Clothing was improved, in quantity and quality. The food was the best available.

Subtle changes in the relations between officers and men were introduced. During duty hours discipline was strict, but after the last formation of the day officers and men were encouraged to fraternize on a basis of comradeship.

Captains Became Colonels, Sergeants Made Captains

By 1935 the Nazis were ready to denounce the Versailles Treaty, introduce conscription on a national basis, and use von Seeckt's captains as colonels and his sergeants as captains of a new army of 600,000 men. The General Staff was re-established, and the Reichswehr gradually lost its character as it was merged into the new Wehrmacht of what Hitler, Goering and Goebbels were so fond of calling "the new Germany." There are some 8,000,000 men in it today.

It was a new army for the new Germany, and the training was new, too. Close order drill was by no means the most important feature of the training program. Great emphasis was placed on extended order maneuvers in which the infantry squad was based around a light machine-gun, similar to the Browning automatic rifle, and the corporal, his gunners and ammunition carriers, protected by riflemen on the flanks and in the rear, became the basic strategic unit.

Austrian Invasion Ragged

Re-militarization of the Rhineland and the march into Austria provided the first tests for the staff work and logistic ability of the new German Army. The performance was not impressive.

Hitler's generals noted the rough spots—made their training changes,

and embarked upon a program of correction and improvement.

How well they carried out that program was first revealed to the world in the Polish campaign.

In slightly more than one month the German Army slashed through the confused Polish defenses, smashed organized battle lines into diminishing "islands of resistance," and, by October 5, 1939, had completed the conquest of a nation of 34,000,000 people.

Nazis Were Ominous Fact Among World's Guesses, Hopes

Hitler did this with his new army. His Nazi-model "soldiers" were an ominous fact among the fears and hopes, the theories and guesses of the rest of the world.

SUMMARY

The Nazis re-made General Hans von Seeckt's regular German Army when they took control in 1933. His 100,000-man military school became the trunk of a military tree which now bears 8,000,000 leaves. The march into Austria revealed weaknesses—the Polish campaign proved they had been corrected. A thorough knowledge of the enemy he is to meet will give the American soldier added confidence in his own command.

What was the problem which faced von Seeckt as commander of the regular German Army? How did he meet it? How have other commanders met it? What was the American solution to the same problem?

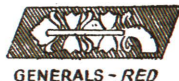
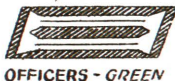
Every American soldier in the ETO, poised for the attack against the enemy on the European mainland, is, or should be, very curious about the man he is soon to meet in combat.

For two years or more he has been

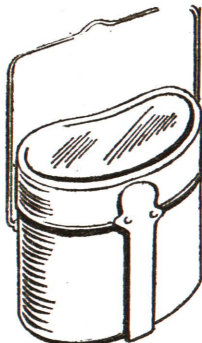
Equipment & Weapons



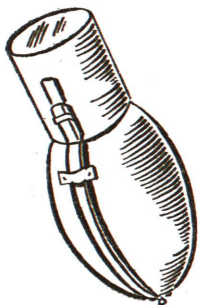
COLLAR
PATCHES



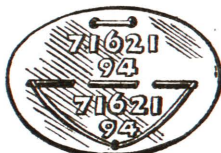
CAP - ENLISTED MEN
(Officers have silver piping)



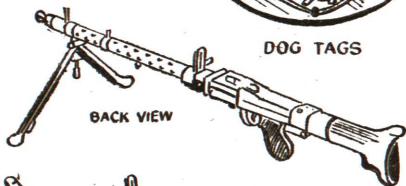
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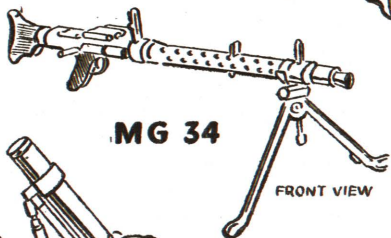
CANTEEN with CUP



DOG TAGS

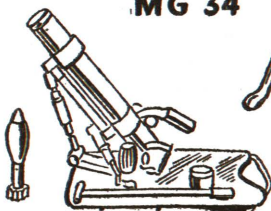


BACK VIEW



MG 34

FRONT VIEW



50 mm MORTAR

MAUSER
CARBINE



CORPORAL - INFANTRY

hearing about or reading about the German Army. He knows the list of its successes and he knows where Hitler's "supermen" have been defeated. He knows that there are many German prisoners in camps here in Great Britain and in America.

He may not know that there are more than 100,000 former Nazi warriors now living behind the barbed wire in American prison camps at home. These men—most of them came from Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps—give a pretty good picture of what the best of Hitler's army is like.

One Prisoner Camp Located Near White Sulphur Springs

One American prisoner of war camp is located in the foothills of the Alleghenies, only a couple of miles from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. There 1,000 husky young Nazis have been interned. They are formed into prison companies of 250 men, each under the command of one of their own non-coms.

By far the greatest number are between 22 and 25 years of age. Physically they are in splendid shape and the percentage of 200-pound six-footers is high. Mentally they are perfect examples of what the Nazi system produces. They know that they were captured, but when they read in an American newspaper about other German surrenders they shrug it off as "enemy propaganda—all lies."

Won't Believe Own Senses

In North Africa and Sicily they saw the effect of Allied air superiority but when they hear about the RAF night raids on Berlin or the USAAF day attacks on Germany they just don't believe it.

When the prisoners eat a mess-hall meal—the same mess-hall meal American soldiers get at home—it is just "propaganda" intended to kid

them into thinking there is enough food in the United States.

So thorough has been their indoctrination in the German Army that they simply do not and cannot believe the evidence of their own eyes and ears.

There have been some strange stories about them and about how they have carried their Nazi discipline to the prison camps in the United States.

A camp at Concordia, Kas., houses captured officers. Among these officers was Capt. Felix Tropschuh.

Nazi "Justice" in U.S.

He was found hanged in a small camp-building room, one morning this winter. The German officers asked that he be buried outside the officers' enclosure in the prison cemetery. Finally, the American Camp Commandant learned the story.

Tropschuh had been "tried" by a barrack-room court martial on charges of "making remarks about Hitler," betraying an escape plot and of "treason." He was condemned to death.

Four of the German officers marched him to the death chamber and then, because they had no gun, handed him a rope and told him to hang himself "for the honor of the Nazi cause."

Twenty minutes later they entered the room and cut down his lifeless body.

Beaten in Battle,

They Weren't Licked

These are men who have been beaten in battle, who have surrendered and who are now prisoners of war, more than three thousand miles away from the Fatherland.

What, then, must be the attitude of men still in action, of Germans who have not been beaten nor captured and who must be defeated before the war can be counted as won?

The battle communiques from Italy indicate what kind of men they are. What made them that way?

The answer lies in the training they have had and the battle successes they have scored.

The backbone of the German Army today consists of men in the 22-28-year-old age group—with some replacements as young as 17 and as old as 45. That means that most of Hitler's soldiers have been members of some kind of military or semi-military organization since they were 10 years old.

Little Nazis Started Drilling at 14 Years

At an age when most American troops were mainly concerned with baseball, "western" moving pictures and a promotion to the next grade in grammar school, Hitler's little Nazis were drilling and heiling, in uniform and wearing their first stripes.

At 14 they graduate into the Hitler Jugend, the Hitler Youth organization, and are ready to start their Nazi careers in earnest.

Here they get more drill, including platoon and company movements, and are issued their first weapon. It is a symbolic dagger which the budding Nazi soldiers love to carry. Along with their drill, Hitler Youth members get endless lectures on the greatness of Nazi Germany, the infallibility of the Fuehrer and the racial and political theories of Nazism.

Sports Part of Program

They also participate in mass sports and calisthenics, all carefully worked out to do two things:

To develop them physically and to promote a team spirit which pays dividends later on the field of battle. They are already going through a sorting-out process which results in the selection of officers and non-commissioned officers.

Normally, that is in peace-time, they go to a Labor Corps outfit at 19, do six months work similar to

our old pre-war CCC except for the indoctrination and then, at 19, are inducted into the Army for two years of service.

Now, in war-time, young Germans are drafted at 17, given three months basic training, and sent to an outfit as replacements.

They may make application for the German equivalent of Officer Candidate



Schools and the candidates are chosen from among the applicants much as they are in the United States Army. Combat training in the field forms a part of the German OCS course and many candidates were among the prisoners captured in Africa.

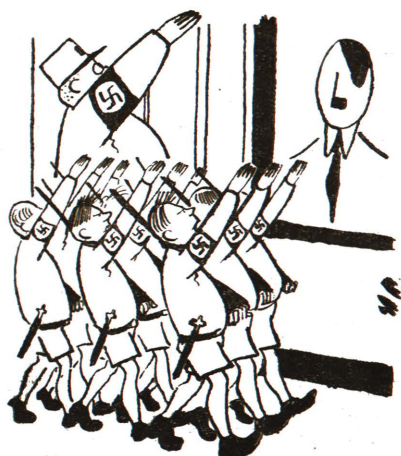
Classification System Good

The German classification system seems to be excellent and Allied officers who have been in close touch with the German Army say that generally the men appear to be assigned to the kind of duty for which their civilian experience best fits them.

Their uniforms and equipment are good.

An item-by-item description of what a German soldier wears and carries is:

A suit of heavy underwear, very much like the GI variety. His socks are grey ribbed wool with two stripes at the top.



Trousers of "feld-grau" are narrow at the bottom so they can be tucked into a pair of black leather, hob-nailed boots, which reach almost to the knee. Except for the low, flat heel and the lack of fancy stitching, they are not unlike the Western cow-puncher's boot.

He wears no shirt such as ours.

Germans Have Two Blouses, One Dress, One for Service

The German soldier has two types of blouse. One, used for the same kind of duty as our "Class A uniform," is better cut than his field blouse and his regimental shoulder insignia and colored collar tabs denoting the branch of service to which he is assigned. The field blouse, used the way we use the field jacket, lacks all ornaments.

His belt is of black leather, instead of the web we wear, and has cartridge pouches on either side of the front buckle. The forage cap is very much like the American garrison cap. At the front is worn a rosette.

Overcoat is Double-Breasted

The overcoat is double-breasted, with two rows of buttons, two pockets and a belt in the back. Its cut is

more like a British Army overcoat than our own.

The German canteen, of spun aluminium, is a pear shaped flask holding approximately a quart. It has a plastic cap. The German mess-kit consists of a deep, oval cannister, used for soup, coffee and other liquids, the shallow cover, which can be used as a plate, and, of course, a knife, fork and spoon. There is also a small, aluminium cup. The deep cannister can be used for cooking in the field. The whole affair is bulky and probably not so easy to carry, use, or keep clean as our mess-kit.

Gas-Mask in Metal Can

The German soldier carries his gas-mask in a cylindrical metal can, slung across shoulders by a strap.

The bayonet scabbard, of pressed and welded steel, hangs from the black waist belt by a leather frog.

Each soldier has a canvas fatigue uniform which he carries in his pack, along with extra socks and underwear, emergency rations, toilet articles, letter writing material, sewing kit and his rifle cleaning equipment.

A water-proof "ground sheet" is a part of each man's equipment. It serves a purpose similar to our shelter half and may be rigged as a shelter tent or used, combined with blankets, as an improvised sleeping bag.

Infantry Rifle is Well-Made, 7.9 Mauser

The long infantry rifle, a 7.9 mm. calibre Mauser, is being replaced by the shorter carbine of the same bore diameter. It is approximately .31 Cal., by American and British methods of measurement, and ballistically is about the same as the American .30-'06 cartridge as used in the Springfield and M1. The hand-operated bolt is almost identical with that of the Springfield which is, by the

way, an improvement on the basic Mauser design.

Recently-captured German rifles are well-made, mechanically, as far as the barrel and action are concerned, but have very rough wood stocks which appear never to have been sandpapered or given a drop of linseed oil. The German helmet, the design of which must be well known to most American soldiers if only through newspaper photographs, is considerably lighter than the American model and, unless made of a very high-grade steel, would not give such good protection.

The preceding paragraphs describe the uniform and equipment of the line infantryman, the soldier upon whom falls most of the campaigning.

Clothing, Equipment Is Very, Very Good

Special outfits have special uniforms and equipment. Tank men, members of the Luftwaffe, paratroopers and other specialists have clothing and equipment more suited to their particular type of duty.

It should be kept always in mind that the quality of German clothing and equipment is very, very good. Whatever shortages have developed in Germany because of the blockade and the bombing, they will affect the German soldier last of all.



Probably the most surprising feature about the condition under which Hermann, the GI German, has lived while he defeated 110 million people in four years, is his pay scale.

Don't make any mistake about it, the German soldier is well paid. Privates, captured in Africa, were getting a monthly pay that figured out at just a little under \$40.

Pay Divided Into "Wehrsold," "Gehalt"

In the German Army, each man's pay account is carried under two headings. One called "wehrsold," is paid every 10 days and ranges from one Reichsmark (about 40 cents) per day for a private to two marks per day for an Oberfeldwebel, equivalent of a Master Sergeant. That is the soldier's pocket money and he gets it free of deductions or charges of any kind. The second entry in his pay account, the "gehalt," runs from 50 to 60 marks for a private up to 160 marks per month for an Oberfeldwebel. Married enlisted men also get an allowance of from 20 to 30 marks per month plus 20 marks per month for each child under 16.

SUMMARY

A Nazi prisoner is a Nazi still—a good example of the tough, able, magnificently trained and magnificently equipped troops still fighting for the Fuehrer. Knowing how they think and why they think that way will give the American soldier a basic understanding of the causes of this war and an ability to assess its progress from day to day. Knowing that he can beat this German "grenadier" gives him a pride in his own service and a vital sense of participation. Training for that job, along with British, Polish and Fighting French troops promotes a better understanding of our allies.

Studying the highly developed German "indoctrination" methods, the American GI develops an interest in current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of peace.

What is the age bracket which takes in most of Hitler's fighting troops? How are they armed, equipped and dressed? Are any items of their equipment inferior or superior in any marked degree to our own?

What Makes Them

Our Enemy—Ideas

So far, this pamphlet has dealt with the more obvious points regarding the German soldier. The history of Hitler's army has been very briefly sketched, there has been an outline of his training, his equipment has been described in more detail. But the one thing which makes him different from other soldiers—the thing which makes him an enemy to our way of life—has not been considered.

That is something which American soldiers should understand, if they are to understand why they are fighting this war and what our country has to gain or to lose by its outcome.

Toy Daggers Abandoned

The uniform which the young German wore, with other 10-year-olds, as a member of his first Nazi organization, is no use whatever to him in the Italian mountains or on the Russian Front.

None of the Panzer men carry the little dagger which they were so proud of when they belonged to the Hitler Youth, at 14. But there is one weapon they carry with them all the time—the ideas of Naziism.

German propaganda had a fearsome reputation in 1914-1918. Nazi propaganda has been one of Hitler's chief weapons in this war.

Hitler's propaganda directed against his enemies, or his intended victims, it an old and familiar story now. Most men understand pretty well how it works. But it may be news to many that there was a second type, intended strictly for consumption by the German soldier. It was planned by psychologists and it is carried out, in the main, by the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Army itself.

Mental Preparation Stressed

In the German Army, the mental preparation of men for battle is considered of equal and often of greater importance than their technical training. It is all very well to teach a man to perform his duties as a member of an anti-tank gun crew, for instance, to such a point of perfection that he functions like a well-oiled machine—but if he doesn't really want to do it, he becomes an unreliable element when the odds are against him and the chips are down.

So, from the very beginning of their basic training, German troops are given a thorough abstract of "psychological" training as well.

Company Meetings

Regular Feature

For one hour every day, officers gather their men for explanations of the political acts of the Nazi leadership designed to give every soldier an immediate participation in the decisive events of the functions of state and race. These discussions are reported to be very effective.

At regular intervals, each company runs a "social evening," with programs of music, vaudeville, or whatever the men are able to do. Once a week each company holds a "Weekly Hour," featuring community singing or lectures of a political, scientific or cultural nature. These lectures are arranged by the German Labor Front as a "gift of

the German worker to the German soldier."

Impromptu "festive hours" are arranged whenever possible, usually in connection with a visit to some spot of military or historical importance. Every day there is a 10-minute "Front-Spirit" period, usually featuring some officer back from the front or a veteran of the 1914-1918 campaigns who makes a brief talk along the lines of:

"Now this is the real, inside stuff about fighting."



The whole program is integrated and planned to bring about the desired effect on the German enlisted man.

The plan for officers and non-coms is even more thorough.

Officers Come From Ranks After Long Special Training

Each officer's Army education is calculated to develop his intellectual power, to create a positive attitude toward the Fuehrer and the Fatherland of the Germans as the "Herrenvolk"—the master race of Europe and the world.

Like all other young Germans, the officer belonged to various Nazi organizations as a boy and, in peacetime, did his time in a Labor Corps unit.

Here he is already marked as "officer material" and usually makes his application for officer training while still in the labor unit. When he goes into the Army it is as a private, with no special privileges whatever, but with his progress being carefully watched. Is his bunk untidy? A mark goes against his name. Is he late for a formation? His company officers may wonder whether or not he is quite up to the standard.

"Fatherly Advisor" Named For Each Officer Candidate

As an officer candidate he will find that a "fatherly advisor," usually an officer with the rank of captain or major, has been assigned to help him. The candidate is encouraged to make friends with this older officer, learning from him what the text-books do not include and discussing with him any private or professional problems which may arise.

This period of the prospective officer's career lasts a full year, at the end of which time the officer candidate is promoted to non-com's rank. The next nine to 10 months are spent in one of the five officers' schools and finally, after two and a half years in the Army, and after passing two examinations, he is commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

Psychologists Pick Non-Coms

Throughout this whole period he has been getting the same indoctrination as the men with whom he serves, plus the advice and example of his "fatherly advisor."

The German Army has established its "ideal type" for rating as a non-commissioned officer.

Sifted out from a mass of recruits in a series of psychological tests, similar to the American Army General Test, candidates for the rank of gefreiter,

lance corporal ; obergefreiter, corporal ; unteroffizier, sergeant ; unterfeldwebel, staff/technical sergeant ; feldwebel, 1st sergeant, and oberfeldwebel, master sergeant—all are subjected to a special course of mental preparation for their rating.

It is intended to eliminate all disturbing factors of the NCO's relationship with the privates who will be under him. Present-day privates in the German Army, the German war psychologists believe, are more sensitive and critical of superiors than in the past. They are thus more likely to have only disdain for a non-commissioned officer whose simple way of thinking is based on practical knowledge but ignores theoretical or background understanding.

Army Psychologists Faced Two Problems With Troops

When the Nazis re-introduced conscription in Germany and masses of youths began pouring into the reception centres or "truppensammelplatzler," the army psychologists found they were faced with two problems.

1. Young men entering the Army were not prepared for aggressive war.

2. The Army itself, as distinct from the individual conscript reporting for service, had also been affected by egotism, avarice, selfishness and class-consciousness, which the Nazis considered incompatible with the "community spirit of the Army."

The Army resolved to separate both old and new soldiers from their ties with family, profession and church, substituting military and nationalistic thinking for individual thinking.

Each Captain a Father

Military service as "a sacred duty to the Fatherland" was made as attractive as possible. In hundreds of different ways, each man was led to substitute in his own mind the members



of his squad for the members of his family. His company became the equivalent of his street, if he lived in the city, or his village, if he was a country boy.

Each man's captain became a kind of father, friend and schoolmaster, rolled into one. This really happened, it was done in orders from the High Command.

An illustration of the relations between officers and men in the German Army is found in an article by Pvt. Peter de Polnay, of the British Pioneer Corps, who was in Paris when the Germans entered the city on June 14th, 1940.

De Polnay's account of that occupation formed part of an issue of War, the publication of the British Army Bureau of Current Affairs. In it he says, in part :—

"The troops that occupied Paris were crack troops. Young and fanatic they were. It was always the same story—the regular army, the Spanish Civil War, the march into Austria and Czechoslovakia, Norway, Holland, Belgium and now France.

Discipline Harsh on Duty

"Discipline was harsh, but after duties there was very little of it. Officers and men mingled freely in cafes and restaurants. A major in the infantry told me officers had special

instructions to eat with their men in the Paris restaurants. Each kept his distance but the officers never behaved like wet blankets. I often saw quite drunk soldiers being helped out of bars by officers.

"I saw, too, in a small bar where all the tables were occupied two privates sitting down at a general's table.

"First, of course, they clicked heels and emitted lusty 'Heil Hitlers' then they sat down and ordered drinks. The general said a few words to them, then the soldiers drank and talked as though they weren't at the same table."

SUMMARY

The German soldier is tough, well-trained and well equipped. He has had such a thorough psychological training that even when he is routed in battle, captured, transported thousands of miles and landed in a barbed-wire "bull-pen," he still believes the men he left behind are winning this war. He can be beaten but only by men who are tougher, more able and better trained than he is.

What do you think are the reasons that American, British and French troops have been able to achieve signal successes against the Germans in Africa, Sicily and Italy? Admitting that our troops have not had the years of training of Hitler's Army, how is it that we

have been able to defeat them? Is there a military secret—coming from our way of life—which makes Americans and British and Frenchmen better fighters than the Nazis? If so, what is it?

Whole books and shelves of books have been written on Germany and Hitler. In this pamphlet you have been given an outline of the German soldier as he actually exists today—a tough, well-trained, well-equipped fighting man who takes plenty of beating before he is through.

Kill Him—Or He Kills You

Think it over, this is the man you are going to whip:

He's 22 to 28 years old, he has been in some kind of a military or semi-military organization since he was 10 years old, he has conquered 110 million people on the continent of Europe, his mind as well as his body has been given basic, advanced and combat training. His captain writes letters to his family, visits him if he's in the hospital. He has excellent clothing and equipment, he gets the best food there is in Europe today, every man is a trained machine gunner and privates get about \$40 per month pay.

He's able, he's rough—but he can be beaten, by better, tougher men than he is. Good, tough men, who know why the German must be beaten will do the best job.





Preparation

What kind of man is the German soldier? How well is he trained and equipped? How hard will he fight? We all want to have a comprehensive answer to these questions. Part of the business today of being a shrewd, disciplined soldier is being a well-informed soldier, and no information can be of greater importance to any soldier than knowing his enemy.

Ever since the last war estimates and criticisms of the German soldier have been discussed and written, and he has been evaluated all the way up the line. Today, for the most part, he is considered a first-class soldier, with remarkable powers of endurance and courage. In the past war he was sometimes found to be lacking in qualities of initiative, especially under combat conditions when his officers had been killed or wounded, and his leadership removed. Today his record indicates ability and training to handle himself with aggressive skill in the most trying situations. As the author has indicated the well-trained German soldier today is a tough, wary and hard-hitting fighter who will take plenty of punishment, will bar no holds, and will probably still be there to greet you after you think you have grenaded him to bits.

This is the training we are up against, and this is the outfit we are going to beat. We are going to beat the German soldier not only by training and equipment, which are as good as, or better than his, but by knowing as much about him as we can. In the final analysis one soldier will beat another by out-thinking and out-maneuvering him. That is our business.

For the discussion the leader can do a number of things to make the period dramatically effective. He can procure a chart of German insignia, badges and uniforms, and hang it up where it can be easily seen. Best of all, if he can get a German uniform he can have some member of the group appear fully equipped as a German soldier. Possibly some member of the group is of German parentage, or was himself born in Germany. That man can contribute a great deal to the discussion. He is worth discovering. It is obvious that the military training of the German has made him a reliable, disciplined, self-sacrificing soldier. A part of that has been the discipline of mental training. Against that discipline our own discipline must ultimately be set. This is a point which the discussion leader can give careful attention to. In considering the German soldier, his pride in service, his supreme confidence in Der Fuehrer, his constant study of the Nazi ideology, what parallels can be drawn to the five points of command enumerated by the Commanding General, ETO? In what ways is the democratic system more effective than the Nazi in creating knowledge of the causes of war, understanding of our allies, and an interest in current events?

See the last two issues of YANK for a large double spread map of Europe. It may prove of great value to the discussion leader.

QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION

Q. How does the German Army differ from the American Army in discipline, training and equipment? Are there any features of German Army procedure which might well be adopted by the United States?

Q. Are there any weaknesses in the German system? What are they?

Q. With such a formidable army, how do you account for the collapse of General von Arnim's force in Tunisia? Was he outfought, outmaneuvered, or crushed by superior numbers and equipment?

Q. What was the size of the German Army when Hitler became Chancellor of the Reich? What is the estimated figure today? How was the Old German Army organized and how were the men trained? pp. 3 & 4.

Q. What are some of the differences between German and American training methods?

Q. What are the facts regarding the German soldier's uniform and personal equipment? Would you like to wear and carry what he does? p. 8.

Q. What do you think of the German pay-scale and the method by which it is computed? How often is he paid? Approximately how much does a German private get per month? p. 9.

Q. Describe the current events, discussion and indoctrination systems of the German training program. What do you think of them? Do you suppose they have any particular effect on his ability as a fighter? Why? p. 10.

Q. How are German officers chosen and trained? Do you think the method would produce good platoon leaders? How long is the training period? What is one of the big differences between German and American OCS courses? p. 11.

Q. On the basis of the facts presented in this booklet, what kind of a soldier would you expect to find if you were going into action against Germans? Why do you think you would be able to beat him?



German Paratrooper



Discussion Leaders' School

Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the Education Branch of Special Service runs a school for ARMY TALKS discussion leaders at Headquarters, Special Services Division, HQ, ETOUSA, APO 887.

Under the direction of Capt. Daniel S. Shank, officers and enlisted men, on a Temporary Duty status, attend classes in leading a discussion, administration of an educational program, participation in group discussions and allied subjects.

Quotas have been set for Air Force, Ground and SOS units.

Application should be made, through channels, to the Education Officer at Regimental or higher headquarters.

Officers and men, assigned to the school, report before 1800 hours the Tuesday preceding the opening of the school which they are to attend. The classes are held from 0830 to 1730 hours. Information regarding plays, concerts, lectures, Churchill Club activities and other interesting evening events is available.

The next issue of ARMY TALKS, entitled The Yank in Britain, is an attempt by an American scientist to explain to English and American people why they are the way they are.

For additional copies of previous issues of ARMY TALKS, see your Special Service Officer, or get in touch with the circulation representative of The Stars and Stripes who covers your area.