

Mission of Soldier Told by General Cook

Commander of Timber Wolf Div. Stresses Importance of Unity

Last week marked the closing of the first series of orientation courses in the Timber Wolf Division. A part of the talk delivered by Major General Gilbert R. Cook over radio station KOAC in Corvallis follows:

When I first spoke to you, last January, you had begun your training in "How to Fight." If I remember right it was raining, and how. It seemed that the howl of the Timber Wolf was becoming tinged with the "quack, quack" of the duck. But rain, mud, or snow, you trained. No obstacle prevented training. Now you are no longer beginners. You have advanced and know much about "How to kill" and "How not to be killed." You know your weapons. You are excellent shots. You can march. You are hard physically. You are beginning to appreciate the value of team-play of weapons, of individuals and of units. You are becoming efficient fighting soldiers. I am proud of you. The nation will be proud of you. You are, however, not yet fully trained. You don't know all your leaders and team-mates and what other individuals and units in and out of the division can do to help you, your unit and the division. You don't yet know tactical team plays.

In other words you have not yet completed your training program. In fact you are just now well under way. You are, however, in the most important phase of training. You are being taught to operate as company and battalion teams. You are being taught to fight in large packs. The Timber Wolf Division can be no stronger than its packs of wolves.

The nation, your communities, has made up its mind to win this war. Unconditional surrender of the enemy. This means that he must be defeated in battle. The job of the Timber Wolf Division, then, is to help defeat the enemy by destroying his fighting strength, your jobs are derived from this mission.

The Job to Do

The jobs of the American soldiers in the Timber Wolf Division are few.

First Job, and foremost, you must make yourself the best soldier individually in your unit. Proud and confident of your ability, your uniform and your company, troop or battery.

A good soldier does nothing that will bring discredit on himself, his family, his company or his Army. He is a good soldier in camp, in adjacent communities, in training and in battle.

A good soldier keeps himself fit at all times; he is neat in appearance; and salutes promptly and with snap.

A good soldier is respected by other good soldiers.

A soldier is no better than he thinks he is; if he thinks he is a poor soldier he probably is, because no one should know better than himself.

A poor soldier is one who cannot be trusted. He can't be trusted to even scare the enemy he shoots at, to keep his weapon and ammunition clean, to be present for duty, to be on time, or even to fight well in battle with his team-mates. He often causes good soldiers to be killed uselessly. He should not be tolerated in a company.

Second Job, and of greater importance, you must make your unit

the best combat unit in the Timber Wolf Division.

Your squad, section, platoon and company must be, and is, the finest and best in the Army. Likewise for your battalion and regiment. Your unit can be no better than you make it and no better than you think it is. Good combat units don't just grow, they are made by the soldiers belonging to them. If you put your heart, soul and body into making a good unit you will have one. If training is just something to play at, and get over with, your unit is just a boarding house and a poor one at that. Ten cents worth of efforts makes a ten cent unit. Who wants to serve in a five and dime unit?

The members of a good fighting unit, think, talk and live for their unit. They design team plays, learn signals and practice issuing and obeying orders. They know the capabilities of each individual and component unit—their strong and weak points. They try to strengthen both.

A unit is good, because its individuals are good.

Third Job, and of equal importance. You must make the Timber Wolf Division the finest fighting unit of combined arms in the Army.

The Timber Wolf Division, in addition to fighting with its own weapons, will often fight with other divisions, with tanks, with aviation, with tank destroyers, with anti-aircraft units, with the Navy, the Marine Corps and units of allied nations.

Enemy Strong, Too

It will be fighting against enemy units similarly organized and equipped.

To operate with such units and against such enemy units means that the division must be good. To have a good fighting division means that you make it so. To make it so, you must study, learn and teach each other, how efficiently to destroy all types of enemy.

What you have been taught as individuals and are now being taught as units are the foundation upon which correct methods of fighting any type of armed enemy is based. Learn what is being taught you thoroughly and we will have, as we now have, the finest division in the Army.

The Timber Wolf Division's creed is "Stalk and Kill" and its battle cry is "Rally the Pack."

Fourth Job, and of the greatest importance. We must not play at learning "How to Kill" and "How not to be Killed." War is a costly game, particularly to us soldiers. Our cost is measured in killed and wounded. Time or effort wasted during the training period must inevitably be paid for on the battlefield by you and your comrades. You are responsible for the battle welfare of yourself and of your comrades. This is a heavy responsibility. It cannot be shifted. Training is an investment as well as an insurance. The soldier who does not take it seriously is a menace to good soldiers and a detriment to his unit, his family and his country.

Training Appreciated

Many soldiers telling of their first experience in battle in Tunisia, New Guinea and Guadalcanal charge themselves with neglect during the training period. They say, "If we had only known and appreciated the value of training." This is particularly true of non-commissioned officers. They found that they had lacked imagi-

nation and initiative, that they had either avoided responsibility or had been given none. In battle, responsibility was thrust upon them, it was either accept it, and do something, or be destroyed.

In training, a good soldier carries on his person or in the truck everything that he needs in battle. He gets in the habit of doing it. He does not make exception. When he does he knows he's playing at war.

Good individuals and units practice constantly only those activities that are useful in combat. They don't kid themselves by saying, "Oh, we know how to set sights or level the bubble. Why keep doing it over and over. We'll do it in combat." They know if they start skipping this important step in training that they will skip it in the excitement of battle.

The Orientation Program, explaining the background and progress of the war, is finished. But that does not mean that keeping up to date on the war is finished. The war isn't finished, it's still going on.

Know Your Enemy

It is the constant duty of every soldier to keep abreast of world events. As I said in my first talk with you, keeping oriented means, simply, to "Know where we are, why we are there, and where we are going."

A foreknowledge of the enemy, how he fights, is almost as important to every member of the Timber Wolf Division as skill in the use of his weapon. Without that knowledge we go into battle only partly prepared.

It is the direct responsibility of the officers and non-commissioned officers to make this knowledge available and to see that it does reach the men. The officer must assume the role of the teacher, ready at all times to discuss current news and explain the significance of each new phase of the war. But it does not stop there; such responsibility falls not only on the officers, but on each and every individual soldier in the Timber Wolf Division. Every man must make it his business to follow the progress of the war, to know what is going on and to interpret the news in terms of what it means to him as a fighting soldier.

War Concerns All

No man can say, "What do I care what happens in Africa or Russia? That doesn't concern me." It does concern you. You are a part of the whole conflict; you are involved in everything that happens—because from the lessons which experience teaches others you must learn how best to do the duty ahead of you. Who knows where the Timber Wolf Division is going to fight?

Learn now while you have the opportunity. It will not be so easy to learn when the time comes for us to go into battle.

There are several methods by which you can inform yourself of the course the war is taking. Read the newspapers. Study the Daily Orientation Bulletins posted on your bulletin boards. Find the time county sheriffs to congressmen. To read the several magazines which concern themselves with interpretation of the week's events. Read YANK, the Army weekly

written by Enlisted Men.

In the Service Club libraries are hundreds of new books, many of which are directly related to the present war. These are well worth an hour or two of your time.

Second Series

Following this initial series of Orientation Programs will be a second series, presented by the Timber Wolf Special Service office. This series will give you, each week, a half-hour dramatic presentation of the outstanding war news of the preceding seven days. Let your radio help you keep yourself oriented.

Before closing I desire to thank and compliment Captains Barnes and Gridley, Lieutenants Bowen, Buckley, Madigan and Black, Sergeants O'Neil, Vaka and Stegeman, and Private, now Corporal, Chapman, for outstanding work in connection with the preparation and presentation of the Orientation Talks during this series.

A Timber Wolf likes to howl because he knows the value of the pack. Timber Wolf and Good Soldier are the same.

Just When We Planned To Run for Cover

The army has just issued an order to stop Army men from running for public office. Last November dozens of soldiers were elected to all kinds of jobs from the county sheriffs to congressmen. The army says soldiers can't be in the Army and politics both.

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Notice: The Restaurant at Service Club 1 will be closed Mondays and the Restaurant at Service Club 2 on Tuesdays. The fountain, however, will be open for business as usual, each day. Come in, soldier!

• DOORS OPEN •
Daily 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Sunday 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.