

THE JUNGLE SOLDIER

RESTRICTED

For further information on this subject consult

FM 31-20 “Jungle Warfare”

TM “Tactics of the Jungle Squad”

February, 1942

<http://thejungleisneutral.wordpress.com/>

JUNGLE FIGHTING

FOREWORD

The necessity for training in jungle fighting is becoming increasingly apparent as reports of fighting in various theatres are received. It is essential that the Panama Mobile Force receive this training.

The pamphlet which follows was written by First Lieutenant Cresson H. Kearny, Aide de Camp. For material he turned to his experiences in the jungles of Venezuela where he served as an exploration geologist for the Standard Oil Company of Venezuela immediately prior to his being called to active service on October 25, 1940. The simple jungle tactics described are based on operations of the Jungle Platoon of the Fifth U. S. Infantry in the jungles of Panama.

This brief booklet is to be regarded as a simple primer of jungle operations. It is hoped that as experience in the jungle progresses officers and men of the Panama Mobile Force will submit their recommendations with a view to improving and enlarging the scope of this pamphlet.

As a chart of jungle training this booklet will serve in the Panama Mobile Force until it is replaced by a regularly issued War Department Training Regulation.

WALTER E. PROSSER,
Major General, United States Army

(2)

<http://thejungleisneutral.wordpress.com/>

THE JUNGLE SOLDIER

Section 1 — Jungle Fighting

1. *Jungle fighting is important to the American Soldier.* Today American soldiers must stand ready to fight in the jungles of Central and South America. Before long U.S. troops may be battling across tropical Africa. Already thousands of Americans are fighting in the jungles of the Far East.

Japanese soldiers, using equipment and tactics very similar to those recently developed by our Army, have proved that they can penetrate the worst jungles easily and successfully.

If you are an American soldier stationed in the tropics you owe it to yourself and to your country to learn jungle fighting.

2. *You can make the jungle your friend.* By hard work and intelligence you can learn to move silently and invisibly in the jungle. Then you can strike your enemy with the greatest of all advantages—*surprise*.

Always remember that *invisibility* is the best protection yet devised for the soldier and that there is no such thing as an “*impenetrable*” jungle.

3. *Surprise* is the ultimate goal of all jungle tactics. The jungle soldier must fight like an Indian armed with more deadly weapons and advanced knowledge. In the jungle the skilled soldier can surprise his Enemy, defeat him and disappear before help can arrive.

Without invisibility there is no surprise and a jungle soldier does not attack. If detected by sound or sight the jungle soldier withdraws into the cover of the jungle and seeks another opportunity to strike with surprise.

Jungle soldiers should know that raiding tactics have brought victory to small mobile forces in many lands. The renowned Mexican raider, Emiliano Zapata, leader of many successful harassing raids gave his fighters these excellent orders: "We may get scattered, and then every man must use his own judgement, but my general orders are: Never engage the enemy except from cover, ambush him, flank him, draw him on, tease him, lure him into pursuit, exhaust him, cut back on him when he is exhausted, fade away. Do nothing that you're supposed to do; do everything that no one would dream that you'd do. Keep cover, shoot straight, and never let up."

4. *The deadly dangers of the jungle* do not exist for the trained jungle soldier. More white men die in a week in the United States from automobile accidents than are killed in twenty years by South American snakes, alligators, Indians, vampire bats, big cats and other jungle animals. For example, in the last ten years not one soldier in Panama has died of snake bite.

Likewise the danger of tropical disease is not great for careful men who observe the laws of life in the jungle. Ordinary Americans have lived and enjoyed robust health for twenty years in the worst Panamanian jungles, far from

civilization. American oil geologists, carefully observing jungle rules of health, have mapped practically all of the "unknown" jungles of South America, and have grown rugged at their work. Life in the jungle is usually trying, but it is not dangerous for an intelligent man.

5. *You must be physically fit and acquire endurance to successfully move and fight in the jungle. You should be able to:*

a. March 20 miles a day for two consecutive hot days, carrying a jungle pack and rifle, *without* having sore feet, shoulders, legs or back.

b. Run one mile on a hot, tropical day in your field clothes and shoes in less than seven and one half minutes, *without* feeling sick or exhausted afterwards.

c. Cut brush while marching with a machete for one full day, *without* having blisters or sore muscles.

d. Swim fifty yards wearing field clothes and shoes, *without* being exhausted.

These are hard first requirements. But—remember that every jungle soldier must be a self-contained, independent fighting unit. He must be able to cut his way through jungle from dawn till dark for many days, carrying his arms, ammunition, food, medicine and sleeping equipment. And end up fighting.

Only after getting yourself into sound physical condition can you master successfully your problems of living and moving in the jungle. It can be done. Many men of all races move daily through the densest jungles known.

Section 2 — Your Jungle Problems

6. The *real jungle dangers* are invisible. They are *germs, insects, fungi*. These tiny enemies obey the fighting law of the jungle—*strike with surprise*. To stop germs, insects and fungi from killing or crippling you, you must learn to protect yourself against their unseen attacks. At first much time will be taken up with necessary jungle health precautions. But with practice health rules become automatic habits requiring but a small part of your day.

7. *Germs* are the cause of most jungle sickness. The most dangerous germs usually come from diseased natives. *Therefore the most uninhabited jungles are the safest.*

The wet, warm air of the tropics helps germs multiply and survive. Any man can say to himself, "To hell with germs!" and promptly get sick. But the smart soldier can lick dangerous germs in spite of being splashed with mud, soaked with sweat, and soiled with plant juices. Especially you must learn to be careful with your *water, food* and *personal cleanliness*.

8. Everydrop of *water* you put in your mouth must be *boiled or chlorinated*. If you want to get sick in a hurry, start drinking innocent looking, crystal clear, untreated jungle water. The best way to treat your canteen water is with small chlorine pills such as "Halazone" tablets. However, if such tablets are not available make a strong chlorine solution by emptying one glass chlorine tube into a canteen of water, and then put a canteen *cap* full of the strong chlorine solution into each canteen of drinking water. No matter how you chlorinate your water, remember to let it stand for at least 30 minutes before drinking.

In the jungle be sure to fill your canteen from small, clear streams that flow from uninhabited areas. The smaller the stream, the less chance that some of its water has come from a pig pen or a privy. But chlorinate it if you want to live to a ripe, old age.

You can drink all the chlorinated or boiled water you desire, provided you take salt several times during the day. Don't forget to eat salt in the jungle.

9. *Clean food* is essential. Remember that even the smallest amount of dirty food can give you a lifelong disease such as tropical dysentery, that eats out the linings of your intestines and makes you bleed internally. The following rules will help you eat only clean food:

a. Keep flies and all other insects off your food and utensils.

b. Stay away from native houses, the worst sources of disease.

c. Wash your hands before eating.

d. If you are forced to eat foods cooked by natives, be sure you dish up the native food while it is boiling. Put food into a plate that you yourself have washed and disinfected.

e. Disinfect each drinking or eating vessel you use. A little strong chlorine or iodine solution will kill germs.

f. Clean and disinfect the top of every can you open. Never keep food in a can after you open it.

g. Cook all meats until they are well done.

h. Cook only enough food for one meal. Do not keep cooked foods for future meals.

i. Don't eat with your hands.

j. Peel all fruits, and keep your fingers off the parts

you put in your mouth.

10. Remember your *personal cleanliness*. Even if you are exhausted after marching, discipline yourself to do the following:

a. Wash your whole body, or at least your feet and private parts, every day. In the jungle you will see that even the most primitive natives wash their bodies daily and wash their clothes regularly.

b. Carry your own soap always.

c. Wash your socks and clothes every day. Putting on wet clothes in the morning will not hurt you, but wearing dirty clothes and socks will give you real trouble within a few days.

d. Carry an extra pair of socks and shorts. Wear your two pairs of socks on alternate days.

11. *Venereal diseases* are very dangerous in the tropics. In many jungle regions 90 per cent of all natives are infected. Natives usually receive no medical attention. A jungle soldier cannot expect venereal treatment in the jungle. Therefore, the American soldier must avoid sexual contact with native women when he is in the jungle.

12. *Don't drink liquor in the jungle*. Alcohol burns up your strength and resistance. You know that if you get tight you will break every health rule you ever learned.

13. *Mosquitoes and malaria* are your worst jungle enemies. Help yourself keep alive by remembering that:

a. Tropical malaria is not like malaria in the States; it is a deadly disease that can kill a man in two days.

b. Tropical malaria can be avoided by an intelligent soldier.

c. Only mosquitoes that have bitten an infected man can give you malaria. Most natives are infected with malaria. Mosquitoes do not fly more than a few hundred yards. Therefore *stay as far away from natives and native houses as you possibly can.*

d. Malaria mosquitoes bite mostly after dark.

e. You must sleep under a mosquito or sandfly net.

f. When you are outside your mosquito net at night, you must wear headnet and gloves if your work permits.

g. Insect lotions and creams will help keep mosquitoes from biting you. The wildest South American Indians who are the toughest men in the jungle, smear themselves with foul-smelling preparations to keep off mosquitoes and flies. Modern insect repellants such as *Flit Lotion* help keep insects from biting.

h. You must not scratch mosquito bites. Scratching usually causes infections.

i. *Never fail to take quinine as prescribed.* Never be without a bottle of quinine in your pack. If you are separated for several days, take three 5-grain tablets every day to be sure you will not come down with malaria when there is no one around to pick you up.

14. *Jungle insects* will make your life unbearable if you do not learn to defeat their surprise attacks. Remember that in the jungle the strongest men often get infections from insect bites that elsewhere would amount to nothing.

a. *Jungle gnats and flies* often are serious. Keep your shirt on and your sleeves rolled down. Use insect repellent when on the march.

b. *Ants and termites* swarm on the ground and in certain trees. Look for them *before* you camp. Get off the

ground, if possible in a hammock, to avoid most ants and termites. Always hang your pack from a limb or a vine where the ants cannot reach it easily.

c. *Ticks and chiggers* are often a curse. But don't scratch them. No matter how tired you are at night, always remove ticks without breaking off their heads in your skin. This must be done by first making each tick uncomfortable with a drop of iodine or a flame. Then you or your buddy must slowly pull each tick loose. You must do this every night to prevent diseases that ticks can give you.

d. *Hookworms* are widespread tropical parasites. These and other strange earth inhabiting parasites get into the skin of your feet and under your toe nails. *Never go barefoot* at any time in the tropics.

e. *Scorpions* often crawl into shoes, socks and clothing. Inspect yours before dressing.

f. *Lice, fleas and dangerous insects* that carry the worst tropical diseases all live in native houses, *where a trained jungle soldier never sleeps.*

15. *Fungi and your feet* are everlasting jungle problems. The tough little vegetable growths that cause athlete's foot and many skin troubles are fungi. Tropical athlete's foot can make the skin of your feet become soft and peel, leaving your flesh raw and open to infection. Fungi grows best in wet, warm skin. When you are marching through hot, wet jungles your feet are damp all day long. Therefore, allow your feet to dry at night. Don't ever sleep in your wet shoes or socks. If you do you can be sure that in two or three days your feet will put you out of action.

Carry a small personal bottle of Army anti-fungus medicine such as *Fraser's Solution* or *Whitfield's Ointment*. Every night put a little on your feet with your fingers.

Just one more worrbersome chore, you say ! But remember that if your feet go bad, you are helpless in the jungle.

Since ordinary leather field shoes seldom hold together for more than a week of jungle marching in the wet season, carry a pair of light rubber soled sneakers on a long jungle march. Sneakers have been for years the favorite footwear of jungle natives. Now Japanese jungle troops are using sneakers, and an improved rubber-soled fabric jungle boot will soon be available for Army jungle troops.

16. *Sleeping in the jungle* is an art. Remember these facts about jungle sleeping:

a. To get a refreshing sleep in the jungle, you must always work before you turn in.

b. The first rule for successful sleeping is to get off the ground. Being off the ground will give your skin a chance to dry out and will keep you away from insects.

c. Sleep in a hammock if possible. In all wet, tropical countries, the smartest jungle natives and professional explorers sleep in hammocks. Certain of our soldiers already have a combined hammock, mosquito net, and rainproof fly. It weighs less than an issue shelter half and blanket. In it a soldier can sleep comfortably in a swamp or a jungle hillside.

d. When you have no hammock, if possible make a jungle bunk of sticks, vines and leaves, at least make a thick pile of leaves to keep you off the wet ground.

e. Sleep as nearly naked as the night coolness will permit. Clothing keeps your skin from drying. Also a cool night's sleep is good for you.

f. Always protect yourself from mosquitoes by sleeping under a net.

g. Make sure that if rain comes during the night you will not get wet.

17. *Wild jungle foods* cannot be relied upon by troops on the move. Fish and game, however, can usually be obtained at the price of considerable time and effort. In an emergency you can easily kill fish with a grenade, or a machete and flashlight at night. Since many jungle fruits are poisonous, you should only eat fruits you are absolutely sure are edible.

18. *Cultivated native plants and domesticated animals*, always purchased, are a good source of food. Often a tiny patch of bananas will supply enough green bananas to feed a company, but remember to boil them. Sugar cane is nourishing and refreshing. Coconuts are refreshing. Almost any native house has rice and chickens and pigs that can be put over the fire in a hurry. Always pay the natives a good price for everything you buy.

19. *Dry foods are most efficient foods* for a jungle soldier to carry. All foods carried in wartime should be ready to eat without cooking. Hot food is unnecessary, and heating food wastes time and energy. Hard jungle tests have proved that an ordinary American can march for weeks on two pounds daily of such dry, ready-to-eat foods as milk powder, raisins, apricots, pitted prunes, dry biscuits, Grapenuts, peanuts, sugar and salt.

These dry foods should be carried in waterproof flexible containers that are light and easy to pack. Small sacks of tightly-woven cloth, boiled in paraffin, are excellent waterproof food containers. They can easily be made in any town.

A jungle soldier should start out with at least one week's *dry* marching ration of about 15 pounds on his

back. He carries no canned water. If he carried an equal amount of nourishment in the best canned food, he would have to pack at least 30 pounds of "food." The needless 15 pounds of useless water and can would make it impossible to carry the necessary ammunition and explosives for a week's jungle fighting. For remember that even a can of meat contains more water and metal than food solids.

Suppose you carry vital personal medicines weighing no more than the water in one can beans. Do you know any better way to give yourself a tremendous advantage in jungle combat without packing a single extra ounce?

For the sake of your digestion and efficiency eat your daily ration during four or more small meals. You can not eat big meals or heavy foods when you are hot and tired. If you are exhausted but have to keep on going, eat only sugar and salt. Otherwise you are almost sure to get sick.

Salt is an essential food in hot, tropical country. Be sure you take salt several times every day.

20. A *sharp machete* must be in the hands of every real jungle soldier. The poorest jungle native treasures his machete. It is his chief means of livelihood, movement and survival. Without a machete you are almost helpless in some jungles. But with a good machete to help you, no jungle is impenetrable. Learn to care for, preserve and use your machete, your most vital jungle tool and weapon. Below are some helpful rules:

a. Keep your machete razor sharp, with a thin tapered edge. Never allow your machete to keep the axe edge it has when new.

b. Only sharpen your machete on a stone you wet with water. Never under any condition sharpen a machete on an emery wheel, a fast power grindstone or a file, under penalty of ruining your blade.

c. Leave your machete handle smooth. Do not wrap it with adhesive tape or cord.

d. Learn how to use your machete like a native, swinging it with an easy arm and wrist movement that permits fast, clean cutting.

e. Always cut limbs and vines on a slant.

f. Do not grasp limbs you are going to cut. Use a hooked stick to move brush into cutting position.

g. Be very careful not to hit anyone with your machete, and keep at a healthful distance from all machete-men.

21. Jungle clothing and equipment should be specialized. Clothing should be light, yet thick enough to give protection against insect bites. A heavy cotton shirt is good. No undershirt is necessary. In bad tick country a one-piece zipper closing suit is ideal. A good jungle hat should be light, rain proof, ventilated and flexible. A light wool undershirt or shirt replaces a blanket for sleeping. No raincoat is carried. All loads, including ammunition, are best carried hung from the shoulders, since belts cause skin irritations and make clothing hot. A suitable jungle pack should be roomy, rain proof, easily adjusted, cool and comfortable. The Finnish style ski-pack, with metal frame and butt strap that keep the pack from touching the wearer's back is ideal.

Carry only essential equipment. Pack no extra clothing except one pair of socks and one underwear shorts. Leave behind all luxuries such as your mess kit, fork, blanket, tent pins, camera, or extra gadgets.

Whatever equipment you take into the jungle, you must give it the very best care possible. No supply sergeant is going to replace a broken part that may mean the difference between life and death to you.

22. *The care of weapons* in the humid tropics must be unending. All metal rusts astonishingly fast. No matter how exhausted you may feel, you must clean and oil your weapons at least once a day to keep them dependable. Especially must you care for your weapon's bore. Also you must clean and oil your ammunition and clips regularly.

To protect metal from rusting in continual rain and damp, rub a thick grease or vaseline on the metal when it is clean and dry. Grease or vaseline will give much more lasting protection than will ordinary light sperm oil.

23. Jungle rivers and swamps are usually no great problem for skilled soldiers. Remember always be ready to swim when around water. Even if you are in a big wooden boat in smooth water, be sure that your pack, belt and arms are off your body. Tie them to the boat. Then if there is an accident, the boat, and not you, will have to hold up your equipment.

Never try to swim your equipment across any stream without buoyant support such as a log, a simple raft or a meteorological balloon, a prize possession for any jungle soldier.

24. *Do you know how to walk in the jungle?* Probably you do not. So here are a few hints to help you when you start learning to walk:

a. Always put your feet down with care on the best spots you can reach.

b. Put your heels down flat, and walk off your heels. You will tire yourself needlessly if you rise on your toes when walking across wet or slippery ground. Your heels are the best points of traction.

c. Have a few hobnails put into your shoes.

d. Don't try to walk fast in the humid tropics. Easy swinging steps are best.

e. Take short steps when going up hill, rest at the top.

f. Get off your feet whenever you can. Take a five minute break every half hour. March all day long, but take many short breaks to cool off and rest.

g. Never attempt to tear your way through vines or other jungle growth. Save energy by pausing to cut the vine or untangle yourself.

h. Pick your route carefully and notice the country you pass through. Don't just blunder ahead.

25. When lost you are only in danger if you lose your head. Fear of being alone in the jungle drives some men to panic and exhaustion. This fear can be easily overcome if you know that:

a. You are not lost unless you have no idea in which direction you should go.

b. You can march for many days without any food at all, provided you keep calm.

c. You will never find a jungle where it is impossible to find some habitations within a week's march.

d. If you are in enemy country, you should stay off trails whenever possible.

e. River and stream valleys are the lines of human travel and settlement. Always work your way down streams to find people.

26. Elementary jungle craft must be learned by every jungle soldier. Jungle craft is mainly the ability to see simple things and to know what those simple things mean. You can learn only by jungle experience how to track a man, to see old machete marks in thick country, to cross

swift river fords without being knocked down, to find jungle food and to see animals and men in the jungle before they see you.

27. Jungle natives will be your friends or your enemies, depending on how *you* treat them. Never suppose, because a native runs barefoot or speaks a queer language, that he is stupid, or lacks self-respect. An American soldier must treat all natives as if he were a polite stranger travelling in their country and grateful for their aid.

Do not try to bully or rush the natives. Always pay every native a fair price for everything you get from him.

Don't use terrorist methods on natives to get labor or to keep word of your whereabouts from reaching the enemy. Jungle natives move about a great deal. You could not, if you desired, eliminate even one family. Since natives when left alone and not threatened and abused will seldom take enough interest to rush news of you to the enemy, the jungle soldier who acts ruthlessly towards natives is working against himself. Once a soldier has personally wronged a backward native, that native will become America's active enemy even if he has never heard of Hitler or Pearl Harbor.

28. Several important personal items for jungle use should be yours today. Never forget that tomorrow you may be fighting in the jungle alone. If your Company will not supply you with all of these items, then spend the price of a few beers to buy these few essentials for yourself:

a. A sharp 18-inch machete. Every jungle native has a machete, the most useful possession of any man in the jungle.

b. A compass, even if it is a very cheap or small one.

c. A small bottle of iodine, with an applicator top, for

cuts, bites and wounds. Always keep your iodine in your pocket. Use it immediately when needed. In an emergency you can use ordinary iodine to make jungle water safe to drink. Put three drops in your almost full canteen, and then wait 30 minutes before drinking.

e. A little anti-fungus and athlete's foot medicine, such as Fraser's Solution or Whitfield's Ointment.

f. A small bottle of quinine pills for malaria.

g. A small roll of adhesive tape for first aid, and for patching holes in mosquito net.

h. Some good insect repellent like Flit Lotion.

i. A waterproof match container, or a dependable cigarette lighter.

j. A small flashlight, preferably with a blue lens, and two extra batteries.

k. Some salt, preferably in tablet form, to save you from heat fatigue and cramps.

l. One hundred yards of strong, light string, to pull the pins of your grenades used in ambushes.

All of these little things together weigh less than the useless water in two cans of beans.

29. For outstanding physical fitness there is no substitute. No matter how much you know about life in the jungle, or what fine jungle equipment you have, you are completely useless unless you can march for days and attack your enemy. You must learn to endure hardships. You must learn to attack alone when the inviting jungle stands ready to hide you. Today, before the bullets are cracking close to you, you owe it to yourself and to your country to train your body and willpower to conquer the stern problems that jungle combat will bring to you, a jungle soldier.



JUNGLE SOLDIER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Fight to win. Use all your strength and cunning. Surprise and defeat your Enemy.
2. Learn your job. Then do it. Dangers and hardships can't stop a jungle soldier.
3. Use cover skillfully. The jungle is your friend.
4. Guard your health. Without health you are useless in the jungle.
5. Protect your arms and equipment. Never leave them. You can't live without them.
6. Keep calm. Keep silent. Keep mobile. Keep alive.
7. Make every shot count. Never fire blindly. Save ammunition.
8. Use team work. Do your part, especially when alone.
9. Never surrender. Withdraw into jungle cover. Or kill one more Enemy.
10. Strike where it hurts most, when it hurts most.