

Kawaga

You know, Clint, some of the boys here think that the work in regard to the physical conditioning course is not necessary. What do you really think about it?

I think that it is very necessary. These boys don't really comprehend what they are in for. Last week, for example, we went four successive days from 2 o'clock in the morning until six in the evening, and then because of our classes weren't allowed to go to bed until eleven o'clock. And the next morning we were up at 2 again. We are in the cold and wet all day, up to our knees in mud. By 3:30 or 4 a.m. we get into Higgins speed boat launch - we wear dungarees (big coveralls) - and run all day with wet feet. It isn't just spending 16 hours a day walking along - we are busy every minute of the time. We don't stop to eat, even, but take rations and eat while we are working. We carry rifles, knives, bayonets and grenades. Some of the boys carry heavy machine guns and mortars all day.

This is what we did last week. Each week we have work from 5 in the morning until 10 at night.

When I was in school I used to holler about four or five classes a day, and if I had had to take physical training three times a week that would have been worse. These fellows in school have absolutely no conception of what they are going in for. When we are on night raids we come in about midnight or 1 or 2 o'clock, and get to sleep about 4 hours. Even those of us who are in tip-top shape are dead tired. We learn to sleep any place, any time, anywhere. We grab a nap for half an hour or longer whenever we can - in the woods, in the mud - anywhere. When I was a kid I disliked very much running through thistles, briars, etc., but now we go through all of these things and never think anything about it; in fact, if we get to lie down on the thorns for a half-hour nap it is like sleeping on a bed of roses. It is amazing what you can take when you have to, and you like it.

We recently went on a 16-mile hike in four hours in the morning, and then went on tactical problems all afternoon. The next morning we started out