

WHY THEY ARE "PICKED MEN."

Some of Physical Feats to Be Performed in Commando "Battle Culture."

"Battle culture," which to nonmilitary highbrows may seem like a contradiction in terms, is the name applied to the new training program which is making every British soldier a commando. The program teaches the co-ordinated use of head, hands and feet.

The scheme will be tried on all British troops, and when a soldier has "graduated" he will be able to run cross-country for two miles in full battle kit in sixteen minutes, sprint 200 yards and then score three out of five hits in seventy-five seconds in a firing test. This exercise will be followed by a 10-mile "forced hike," to be completed within two hours.

Here are some other feats which must be accomplished during the new training course:

A soldier is expected to carry a man of his own weight 200 yards in two minutes—both wearing full battle kit.

Starting in physical training kit—shirt and shorts—the soldier will have to complete a 100-yard "alarm" race by running twenty yards, stopping to don full battle dress, then sprinting the remaining eighty yards to a finish; all within 330 seconds of starting.

Soldiers are expected to be thoroughly trained for "unarmed combat," which includes the full knowledge of how best to use fists, knees, thumbs, etc., in personal hand-to-hand fighting. Included in this training is a thorough grounding in judo.

One of the primary feats which must be mastered is diving into a swimming pool in full battle order from a height of twenty feet. Soldiers must keep their rifles up during the swim that follows.