

# PICTURE SCOOP

I N C O R P O R A T E D

114 EAST 32nd STREET • N.Y.C

TEL • MURRAY HILL 3-9877

August 11, 1942

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
313 H Street, North West  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Harold:

I am sending you herewith a number of pictures with captions, and a brief statement giving the general tenor of the yarn I have in mind.

These pictures, of course, are not of Commando training, but of soldiers going over obstacle courses to toughen up.

The article I have in mind is one on how men in the army are made fit and how they keep fit. As I understand it, in the last war soldiers were hardened by making them march hundreds of miles every week, etc. The modern method is to put them through obstacle courses which are right on the premises of every army camp. (I have even heard that these courses now supplant calisthenics. Check to see if this is true.) *not true*

I'd like you to get in touch with Schubert and get all the dope possible on this modern method of training. For example, find out:

1. Whose idea was it to institute and use these obstacle courses?
2. When did the idea originate?
3. Is there a branch of the service which is devoted exclusively to thinking up obstacle courses or setting them up?
4. Are there a number of different types of obstacle courses? If so, why are there different types? What I mean is, are they constructed in different ways to build up different parts of the body so that the men in infantry get certain muscles strengthened, the men who drive tanks get certain parts of their bodies strengthened, etc.?
5. How successful are the courses in toughening our men up?

Also find out exactly how men in the last war got their physical build-ups.

These pictures, of course, are not all inclusive. I know, for example, that at Fort Knox, in Kentucky, they have a trainasium which looks like a bunch of chiming bars from a gymnasium. But a workout on this is equivalent to 45 minutes in a football game.

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If you can get some more pictures from Schubert which show other types of obstacle courses, fine. But at any rate, I should like to tell in the copy about these other courses so that the article will really be complete and authoritative.

Incidentally, could you get a byline for this article? I don't see how, possibly, any army man could object to signing his name to a story like this which tells how our fighting forces keep fit. The copy needs to be only 4 or 500 words in length.

If you can get the article on army generals, you know that I want it for the next issue. However, I'd like you to get busy on this at once, just in case the general article falls through. Let me know developments just as soon as possible by wire or telephone.

Don't construe the above as meaning that I don't want the <sup>army</sup> general story if you can get this one; or that I don't want this obstacle course yarn if you can get the generals. I want both, and I'll use both. But I should like the two of them prepared so that I can be sure of an army story for our next issue.

Keep working on that "Can We Do Business With Russia After the War?" business. I expect to get Joe Curran and Wardwell and Joseph Davies, but the latter two are not definite as yet. So if you can get more than four people, do so.

How are you making out on the Parran article? *and P. O.*

Regards,

Sincerely,

*AJ*  
Al Whynman

AW:fb  
uopwa #18

P.S. FROM FRANCES BORDEN:

This letter was written just before your telephone call today. If Alex gave you any further instructions or anything above was changed, just act accordingly.

Regards from me.

*Frances*  
Frances Borden