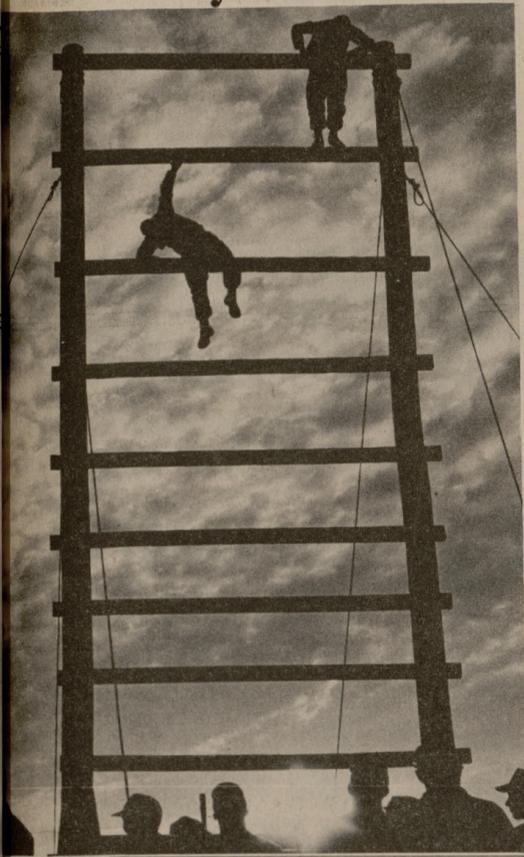


All Good Clean Fun

A Day On The Obstacle Course With The Ranger Company



By JANET LANDERS
Women's Editor

You've all heard the joke about the farm boy who went off to A&M for four years. When he returned his father asked him what he had learned. The boy replied, "Dad when I went off to Aggieland I couldn't even spell engineer and now I are one."

When this reporter went off with Ranger Company last Friday, I couldn't even spell rappelling and now I can perform the exercise with some degree of proficiency.

Veteran's Day was spent on the obstacle course going through a grueling workout with the Rangers. The playground across the tracks may look like fun and games, but judging from my aching muscles and broken fingernails that is not the case.

Rappelling is a mountaineering technique used to get from a point of high elevation, most often a cliff, to the ground by means of descending a rope. A detailed explanation of the technique involved is not as important as the physical and emotional stress one undergoes.

We rappelled off the Bryan Fire tower on two levels. The first level being about 25 feet and the second about 60 feet. Standing on the edge of a 25 feet drop is not my idea of Women's Liberation, but first hand experience can often lead to a broader understanding of the principles behind Ranger training.

Perhaps the strongest emotions I experienced were those of fear and trust. Fear because the thought of falling 60 feet is not the most pleasant one to have. Trust because of the faith I had in my instructor to guide me safely to the ground and faith

that should my brake hand slip the delay man would think highly enough of me to stop my fall by creating tension and friction on the ropes.

This points up two objectives of the training program. First to develop confidence in the individual's physical ability to perform and secondly to help create a team effort attitude.

There had hardly been time to recover from the rappelling experience when it was time to tackle the obstacle course. There are ten different obstacles on the course. These range from tunnels to crawl through, to horizontal logs to low crawl under, others to step over with hands behind the head, to a slanted vertical climb and a wall to scale.

The most challenging obstacle was the 60-foot vertical climb (see left picture). This is referred to as the confidence climb. Any person who masters this obstacle can definitely take pride in his accomplishment. I didn't make it to the top.

The obstacle course is instrumental in developing confidence, physical stamina and determination. It does require a great deal of physical ability and determination to complete the course. The feeling of accomplishment is foremost in one's mind after completing the course.

Rappelling and the obstacle course are only two of the exercises that an A&M Ranger must go through.

"The overall mission of Ranger Company is to prepare the student to go to Airborne and Ranger Schools as well as Summer Camp," commented Edward P. Rumold, Company Commander.

Stiff requirements must be met to qualify as a Ranger. Of the 120 men presently in A&M's Ranger Company, 13 are graduates of the U. S. Army Ranger Course. This is more than any other university in the nation, including West Point.

Distinguished Honor Graduates from both classes of Ranger School this summer and six honor graduates are involved in the company. Distinguished Honor Graduates are Jake Betty and Rumold.

A&M's Ranger Company is named after the late President of A&M, Earl Rudder. Rudder served as a Ranger in World War II. He successfully led a battalion in "securing" an enemy fortification.

The American Rangers' history (See Rangers, page 8)



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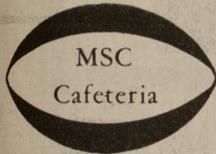
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