

SCENARIO ON THE
JUNGLE OPERATIONS COURSE AT
FORT SHELTON, CZ

US ARMY SPECIAL PHOTO DET, PANAMA

JUNGLE OPERATIONS
COURSE

Scene Description

Scene No.:

1. JUNGLE - DAY

1 to 10

The opening will consist of a montage effect, depicting in short scenes the jungle in its most primitive form. Snakes, cats, crocodiles, and other jungle animals appear in their native habitat. A soldier's muddy boot enters the frame, stepping cautiously; another moves slowly near water where the bootprint is obliterated by the rolling surf; a soldier is reflected in the water as he crosses a precarious footbridge; and a half-hidden soldier's form, deep in mud, inches along through a swamp. The denseness, the danger, the impenetrableness of it all is depicted graphically from the air as the camera moves first slowly along the tops of the trees, then lower, quickening the momentum. This emphasis increases as the camera goes yet lower towards the densely covered ground suddenly swooping downward into a clearing, coming in on a "Vietcong" village undergoing a village sweep by students of the Jungle Operations Course at Fort Sherman.

CUT TO:

2. VILLAGE - FORT SHERMAN - HIGH ANGLE FROM TOWER

11

Continuing the downward angle started from the air, the camera (zoom lens) settles on one soldier as he cautiously begins his search of a hut. A close look at his face establishes his grim, but cautious, determination. Other aspects of the village sweep appear in a rapidly moving series of close shots.

CUT TO:

3. VILLAGE - FORT SHERMAN

12 to 13

Resident villagers have been rounded up and, seated in the foreground, they watch as the search of their houses continues. (This scene of the search in progress, villagers watching in the foreground, frames in a slide which, on the optical bench, is used as a background for the film's main title.)

CUT TO:

4. FORT SHERMAN - LONG SHOT OF TRUCKS ENTERING

18

The home post of "Jungle Expert" training is established as the truckloads of new students are brought into Fort Sherman.

CUT TO:

5. SUPPLY ISSUE - FORT SHERMAN - INTERIOR

19 to 23

Machetes, sling ropes, two canteens, are issued to each student. Compasses and other navigational aids are also issued. They will be taught the best utilization of this equipment during their training.

CUT TO:

6. ORIENTATION - FORT SHERMAN

24 to 30

During the orientation, several specific students will be photographically established. These particular students, tall, young, and enthusiastic, are to appear again in later phases of the course. (The photographic stress on these men will be upon their willingness and eagerness to learn jungle operations, the tactics employed by the enemy, and the various defenses against them and him.) The important premise is the initiative, knowledge, and confidence gained by each of the men established during the orientation to jungle operation.

CUT TO:

7. HAND TO HAND FIGHTING - FORT SHERMAN

35 to 45

Because contact with an enemy in jungle fighting often results in close-quarter fighting, hand to

more

hand combat techniques are reviewed and emphasized.

A lack of sharply defined fronts in jungle warfare also increases the chances of hand to hand fighting.

CUT TO:

8 JUNGLE LIVING

46 to 61

To fight effectively in the jungle, the soldier must know it intimately. This is learned best by liming in, and off the jungle as is demonstrated in sequences of the students building bohios.

Shown will be the initial step of locating natural materials, some construction, and the men finally beginning their two-week stay in their hand-made homes.

CUT TO:

9 JOC TROPICAL GARDEN

62 to 72

The film moves from the living "in", to living "from" the jungle as classes in edible and poisonous plants and foods are shown. A graphic demonstration of eating available foods will be shown in a sequence on the killing of a chicken, and preparation for cooking and eating it. Later

in the course, live chickens will be given to groups of the students for a nighttime meal. There will be a sequence on the preparation of iguana and various snakes. Close shots of perhaps doubtful faces will emphasize the new, but interesting, aspect of jungle foods as the students taste the prepared meat.

CUT TO:

ZOOLOGICAL TRAINING AREA

73 to 82

A variety of snakes and animals will be seen as the students further their acquaintance with them. Scenes will include especially close ups of faces and animal heads, and hands filled with several feet of muscular boa constrictor.

8. JUNGLE LIVING

CUT TO:

WEAPONS, MINES AND TRAPS

84 to 94

Demonstrations of weapons, mines and traps are held for the students. On film, special attention will be paid to things in this classification unique to jungle fighting, particularly in Vietnam.

75

CUT TO:

AMBUSH AND IMMEDIATE ACTION DRILLS

95 to 110

This sequence will show a demonstration aimed at illustrating the extreme importance of immediate

action in jungle fighting. The demonstration is vivid and quickly shocks the students into the harsh reality of jungle warfare. The film on this will move quickly, re-emphasizing quick action as a necessity. The film then follows the students who, in platoon formation, participate in a practical exercise. Closeups will help to emphasize caution and responsiveness in immediate action being learned.

CUT TO:

ROPES AND BRIDGES

111 to 116

That section of rope issued earlier gets a workout as the film shows students learning and practicing the tying of various necessary knots. The film will also show the rope in use as an aid in climbing up and down a hillside.

CUT TO:

SUPPLY AND EVACUATION

117 to 122

Methods of air supply is the subject here and the film will illustrate how the students are taught the making of a poncho parachute, preparation of equipment and rations for re-supply missions. A stretcher is strapped to a horse to illustrate one way of evacuating a casualty.

CUT TO:

DAY NAVIGATION

123 to 132

This sequence shows the men being taught the use of maps and compass in navigating through dense jungle areas. The camera follows one of the small groups of students as they put their instruction into practice traversing a course within the jungle.

CUT TO:

USE OF WATERWAYS AND OBSTACLE CROSSING

132 to 159

This sequence begins in the early morning when the students board assault boats and head out on the Chagres River to the Suspension Traverse and Obstacle Crossing training areas. The students are to be depicted boarding, and while on board, listening to an instructor talking about the river and the transportation in use to move large groups. Disembarking, the men reassemble on bleachers to watch some demonstrations. The film will show these in quick succession, emphasizing the importance of those connected with water/jungle situations. These to include poncho rafts, high suspension, traverse, etc. The men are then seen trying the latter across the river. Once across, they will

be seen building their rafts, and under the buddy system, return across the Chagres. The film moves with the students to the rappelling course, down the hillside and on to the rope bridge. The usefulness of the rope in the jungle is again emphasized as each student crosses the two different types of rope bridges. The trickiness of this will be seen as the camera will probably capture one or two men falling into the water. A repeat filming of the above will be made during the rainy season, which, present in all jungle areas, creates new and more difficult situations such as higher water, etc.

CUT TO:

BOAT DRILL - FORT SHERMAN

160 to 165

Here a boat drill is seen as is a rubber raft demonstration. The film is to show some of the boats deliberately being overturned by an instructor, giving the students the problem of righting the boat and re-boarding it.

CUT TO:

TARGET DETECTION & ENGAGEMENT

166 to 180

This segment of the course is new and will be given full treatment to illustrate how the student is taught to detect a hidden target, (the target is one

of the instructors, concealed in thick brush). Both student and instructors are clothed with a special helmet, face shield, pads to cover the fronts of their body and a special shield for covering the lower abdominal area. The target has a loaded beebee gun. As the student approaches him, the target moves slightly so as to possibly attract the student's attention. The target counts three seconds for the student to react. At the end of the count, the target fires at the student, the beebee striking the student and making the "kill". The student thereby realizes the extreme importance of target detection and split-second response in the jungle.

CUT TO:

SEARCH AND CLEAR

181 to 186

The men are seen moving into an area specifically given them to search and clear. The problem is tactical and embodies obstacles such as prepositioned "aggressors" to further hinder the task of the students. Instructors will be seen observing this accuracy of the men which is figured in their grading.

CUT TO:

VILLAGE TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES

187 to 207

A close shot of a model village in a sand table, a pointer moving among the models indicates the next subject: Village search. The men are seen

assembling in an area some 300 yards away from the village for preliminary instructions in the kinds of tactical approaches and search and seizure techniques. The camera moves with the men as they advance through the jungle. A shot from inside the village compound will show the men moving in to begin the search. They know of possibly hidden weapons, tunnels, enemy agents and try to uncover them. A critique follows, and the students are seen watching a demonstration of the proper way to conduct a village search. However, during the search by the students, and in the event they discover underground tunnels and hideaways, a small smoke generator, strapped to the back of a student, is used to smoke out anyone. The unit, called the "Mighty Mite" is shown to be useful in revealing underground passages where the smoke billows out all exits of escape from the passages. After the critique, a demonstration is given on methods of dealing with the villagers in winning their confidence and voluntarily submit their village to a search.

CUT TO:

INFILTRATION AND RAID

208 to 218

This is another exercise which deals primarily with infiltration of an area being held by aggressors.

After capturing the enemy, the students will be seen

raiding their objective which is a hill between Fort Sherman and San Lorenzo. Again, the students' actions are critiqued by instructors. A brief respite follows, as will be seen, when the men receive a hot meal prior to attacking their next problem in jungle warfare....Evasion and Escape.

CUT TO:

EVASION AND ESCAPE

219 to 259

This section of the film will give a mood of taxed energy as a situation demanding escape vs. capture and internment is presented. The men are given a mission to: Execute a tactical movement from present location to a point of rendezvous 13,000 meters distant by 1300 hours the following day. (Problem takes approximately 24 to 26 hours.) At that point, a friendly partisan group will place them in an escape net for evacuation to friendly lines.

The situation is this: The men are completely surrounded. Their movement must be within the boundaries of Pina Road and Chagres River on the right flank; and the ocean on the left flank. The aggressor has established road blocks and defensive lines which the students will be required to infiltrate. Upon reaching friendly lines, they will then be debriefed by an intelligence officer. Capture

means internment and hard treatment similar to that received in an actual situation.

CUT TO:

LONG SHOT TO CLOSE UP - MORNING - LONE SOLDIER

260

One of those evading capture makes his way from the jungle undergrowth towards the camera. He is bushed, dirty, clothes ^{ratted}, a bit bloody. He looks into the morning sun, elated, totally successful. Though worn after fighting the jungle and the enemy for some 15 hours, he appears happy, yet is peering from the effects of a long night. (NOTE: Shallow depth of field.)

CUT TO:

SOLDIER - EARLY MORNING - FORT SHERMAN

261

This same soldier is seen from another angle, but closely as in scene #260. His position has been changed to a spot next to the JOC building which has a sign above its door which states, "We Train The Best In The World In Jungle Warfare". From the soldier, the camera pans slowly to the sign, holding on it.....(NOTE: Shallow depth of field).....as we.....

FADE OUT:

FADE IN: TITLE

262

"THE END"

FADE OUT