MILITARY MANPOWER; PSYCHOLOGY AS APPLIED TO THE TRAINING OF MEN AND THE INCREASE OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

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LINCOLN C. ANDREWS & ROBERT M. DANFORD

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Military Manpower

PSYCHOLOGY AS APPLIED TO THE TRAINING OF MEN AND THE INCREASE OF THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

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PREFACE

At the request of the Commandant I have prepared this book for use at the United States Military Academy, and designed it for use in informal discussions rather than in recitations. We believe that excellence in the art of handling men is a prime requirement for army officers; and that it can be had only from an intimate personal understanding of the principles involved, not from blindly following rules. A good leader of men is one whose impulses are right; and these impulses come from a genuine acceptance of principles, from one's own beliefs, feelings, and experiences.

We believe this capacity may be best reached through personal thought and experience brought out by informal discussion. Blank pages have been inserted to give instructors and students opportunity to make any notes which may be of peculiar personal value.

The late war has again proved that machines and cold science cannot win alone. They may test man's endurance almost to the limit, but in the end superior manpower wins. It is the fiber of our manpower that counts. And this fiber is the peculiar care of the psychological part of soldiering—of leadership. It is generally accepted that "a knowledge of human nature is half the art of war,"—that the psychologic elements are

vital considerations for an army leader. Yet these elements have not heretofore been made a matter of required study for the military student, and the young officer has had to learn them only through long and often bitter experience.

The life of an army officer, by common repute, is narrow and narrowing. In reality it should be as broad as human nature. In no other profession does the human equation play a more important part. Army discipline, also by common repute, is narrowing, opposed to the modern idea of individualism, and altogether a relic of the Dark Ages. In reality the discipline demanded by the requirements of modern war is quite the opposite of this reputed old time subserviency. It calls for the highest development of the individual soldier, and comes only with his increased manliness. It is our ambition to bring to the young officers of the Service an appreciation of the broad field before them, and an ability to engage in its activities with a fair comprehension of its psychologic requirements and opportunities.

We therefore treat on broad lines the psychologic aspects of the military profession. They fall naturally into three parts: first, an analysis and explanation of the various psychologic elements, with conclusions as to their requirements; second, a consideration of the principles which enable the student to make himself a good leader; and last a consideration of those elements in training which enable the leader to make his men good soldiers.

Lincoln C. Andrews.

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