



Tough soldiers in the making

Chinese military scougo through fire and water to ake it

Coming out of the jungle.

By YU NAN
China Daily staff

As 50 soldiers with painted red and black faces scramble out of the forest, it is difficult to tell one from the other.

They are all from a scouting group in the Hainan Military Area and have been strictly trained in mountain, forest and sea combat under the cruel sunshine in Hainan Province, where they have undergone training for six months.

"We all look like we've just come out of a jungle in Africa," said 33-year-old group commander, Liu Fei, who is the oldest in the group. Most of his soldiers are around 20 years old.

The soldiers have to study and learn seven subjects during their stay, which include scouting and anti-scouting land operations, conquering obstacles, passing through swamps while carrying logs, passing through fire, diving and combating under water. All of these activities that require great stamina are selected from a noted international military contest called "Ernaretk," which was initiated by Estonian Military in 1992.

The summer and autumn months in Hainan are hot and wet and are similar to a tropical rainforest climate, a rare climate in most of China.

Passing through the fire ring is the most difficult task out of all of the activities that the soldiers must take on. During the entire movement, both the soldier's head and the gun he is holding must both be directly ahead and he must shoot continuously. The fire usually singes their skin.

The intensely difficult training has managed to toughen up the group quite considerably. Yang Tongxiao and Yang Fan, both 21, came in as runner-ups in the China "Ernaretk" Contest held in Guangzhou Military Area in 2000.

"I am confident that the soldiers in our group are some of the most excellent ones in the world," said Liu Fei, who has been awarded third-grade medals on five occasions. "And we will continue to work hard."

China was invited to join the "Ernaretk" contest in 1998. Until this year, all four contests had Chinese army men in winning positions and they were highly praised by their rivals from European countries.



China Daily photos by HUANG YIMING
Passing through a fire ring.



Target practice

Wrestling in water.

China Daily graphics by WANG YAN

TODAY'S TELEVISION

CCTV-1 Channel 2 19:00 News; Weather 20:06 28-part serial: The Judge (28) 21:25 Special reports of the 9th National Games	CCTV-4 Channel 32 08:00 News 60 Minutes 09:05 Serial: Paper Kite (3) 11:20 Traveller 12:30 China Report 18:30 Focus Today 21:00 China News
CCTV-2 Channel 8 17:35 Oriental Horizon 19:35 China Financial Report 22:05 Stock Market Today	CCTV-6 Channel 18 14:17 US movie 19:40 Chinese movie 21:10 Profile of Film Market 21:31 Argentine movie
CCTV-3 Channel 15 08:00 China Music TV 15:45 Arts Scope 18:30 Elementary Art 19:30 Symphony World 20:33 Performance Arena 21:35 Music Bridge	CCTV-8 Channel 29 11:05 Animal World 19:00 Around the World 19:35 Studio Express 21:48 Everyday Jiayi

BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

There have been some depressing statements made about the differences between men and women. Do you agree with this one from Pauline Frederick, a stage and screen actress who died in 1938? "When a man gets up to speak, people listen, then look. When a woman gets up, people look; then, if they like what they see, they listen."

When you are defending and the dummy comes down, assume it is female — take a very long look. In particular, count her points. Then, add yours and those you expect declarer to have. Finally, calculate how many points partner holds.

In this deal, as you are sitting East, survey only the North and East hands.

South opens one no-trump, showing 15-17 points. North uses Stayman, then jumps to three no-trump when South denies a four-card major. West leads the spade nine. After winning with the king, declarer runs the club queen to your king. What would you do at trick three?

Start by counting the points. Dummy has 12, you have eight, and declarer announced 15-17. So, West holds 3-5. What might they be?

West was careful to start with a top-

of-nothing spade-nine to deny an honor in the suit. (Only lead fourth-highest when having at least one honor in an unbid suit — this is mega important.) And West has no points in clubs. So he holds a red-suit ace. The diamond ace is useless — the contract must succeed. However, the heart ace would be great. You should switch to the heart two.

Here, you listen for partner's glowing compliments.

North
♠ J 5
♥ J 9 6 5
♦ K Q J 10
♣ A 6 3

East
♠ 10 6 2
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K 2

South
♠ A K Q
♥ 8 7 3
♦ A 9 5
♣ Q J 10 9

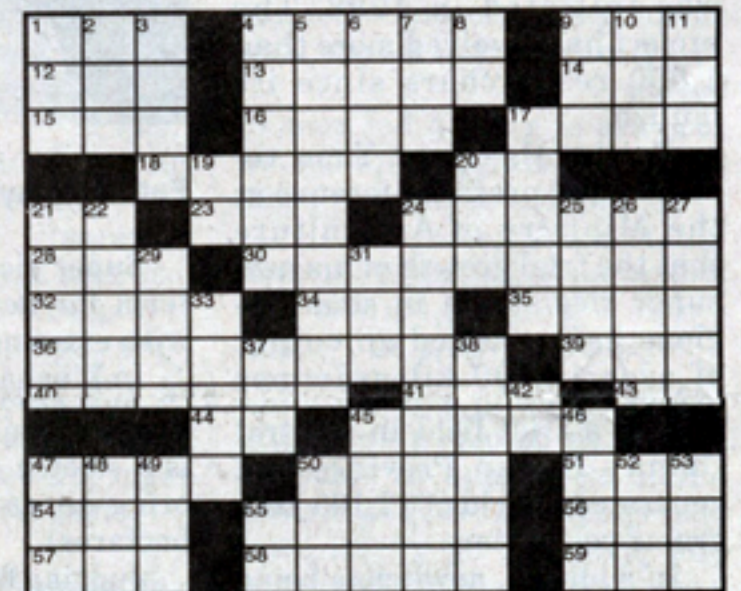
Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 9

CROSSWORD (No 6446)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enthusiasm
 - 4 Doctorate exams
 - 9 House pet
 - 12 Great Lakes cargo
 - 13 "Robinson Crusoe" author
 - 14 Have — —
 - 15 Major conflict
 - 16 Birthright seller
 - 17 Sideless cart
 - 18 Cap brim
 - 20 Ozarks St.
 - 21 — nausea
 - 23 Columbus sch.
 - 24 Pick
 - 28 Hot beverage
 - 30 Celestial attendant
 - 32 Young lady
 - 34 Actor's prompt
 - 35 Osprey relative
 - 36 Pilot's instrument
 - 39 Untold
 - 40 Centuries
 - 41 Crushes grapes
 - 43 Nile sun god
 - 44 Surprised exclamation
 - 45 Sarcastic remarks
 - 47 Every now and —
 - 50 Cad
 - 51 Aunts and cousins
 - 54 Help out



- 55 Humiliate
- 56 — out (make ends meet)
- 57 Some, to Yvette
- 58 Waterfront cities
- 59 Place to surf
- one of myth
- 22 Passed out the cards
- 24 Happiest
- 25 Man-eating monster
- 26 Hombre's address
- 27 Jimmy Dorsey hit "Maria —"
- 29 Concerning (2 wds.)
- 31 Drop from the team
- 33 Playwright Neil
- 37 Hwy. letters
- 38 Ivan's cash
- 42 Tao — Ching
- 45 Machine part direction
- 46 Distort
- 47 Youngster
- 48 Go quickly
- 49 Bradley and McBain
- 50 Cinemax rival
- 52 Eisenhower nickname
- 53 Kan.
- 55 News agcy.

Solution to No 6445

B	A	B	E	S	O	D	A	T	I	N		
U	T	I	L	I	R	A	Q	H	O	E		
D	E	C	A	N	M	U	R	I	T	E		
	S	I	A	M	A	H	E	A	D			
V	E	T	E	R	A	N	G	A				
M	A	G	I	C	W	A	D	D	O	E		
E	M	C	E	E	Y	A	P	A	L			
N	P	R	S	T	I	C	B	L	I	F		
	O	K		N	U	M	B	E	R	S		
K	A	P	P	A		B	A	L	D			
A	S	T	R	V		L	E	G	A	C	Y	
R	E	N		C	I	N	E		E	R	I	E
L	A	G		H	A	M	S		D	E	A	N

WHAT'S ON

STAGE

Zhang's ballet: "Raise the Red Lantern," a Chinese ballet based on Zhang Yimou's prize-winning movie of the same name, will be staged again in Beijing before its global tour next year.

The ballet focuses on the tragic love between a Peking Opera actor and a concubine. In this stunning portrayal, Peking Opera has been transformed into a motif that permeates the whole story in the ballet.

Time: 7:30 pm, December 21-25
Place: Poly Theatre
Tel: 6561-0651/52/53/54/55/57

Keep it in the air: The Chaoyang Theatre is one of the Beijing theatres to present acrobatics all year round.

Top acrobatic artists from the Sichuan Deyang Acrobatic Troupe perform for Chinese and foreign tourists. The programme features trick cycling, leaping through hoops and Chinese magic tricks. Some of the artists have won prizes in international competitions.

Time: 7:15 pm, daily
Place: 36, Dongsanhuan Bellu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6507-2421, 6507-1818

Authentic Viennese operetta:

"The Merry Widow" in a production of the Operettenbuehne Wien, one of the best reputed operetta stages in Europe, will come to China again. You will enjoy the well-known and original Viennese operetta in Beijing — two acts, staged by 45 accomplished artists including the famous artistic conductor, Heinz Hellberg and the major soloists from Vienna Opera Houses.

Elisabeth Flechl will play the young, pretty and rich Hanna Glawari.

Time: 7:30 pm, December 1, 2
Place: Beijing 21st Century Theatre
Tel: 6463-6572, 6463-6628

EXHIBITIONS

Oils and inks: The Wanfung Art Gallery features two exhibitions. The first one is oil paintings by five artists, involving Yin kun, Xiao Se, Lao Dao, Xin Yi and Li Chunyao. The other is Chinese traditional works by a number of famed artists such as Huang Youwei and Zhang Zhenhua.

Time: 9 am-5 pm, daily until December 5
Place: 136, Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6523-3320