

TOP SECRET - FOR YOUR EYES ONLY!

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM

Date: December 1899

To: Scouts seeking to volunteer for Special Assignment

Fr : Lieutenant Colonel Baden-Powell

Topic: Boar War Assignment

You are assigned the task of scouting for enemy positions in the South African Desert. Intelligence has reported a number of enemy positions whose accuracy you will determine. In addition, you need to verify that a critical water source is indeed available as reported by intelligence reports. Once each location has been verified, you will signal to our secret agents the position and accuracy of the location via signal flag and code the leaders have already been trained for.

Once you have reached your final destination on Sunday, you will send the appropriate "Extraction Required" message to our agent, using the same signal flag, and code along with your location and number of troops to be extracted.

Our local agent, who will meet you in the Desert, will supply you with maps and the latest intelligence; you are responsible for all other supplies, including signaling device flag, food, water, compass, and perhaps a bit more. (See list below).

As a volunteer, on Special Assignment, please exercise extreme caution and do not reveal yourself or your troops to the enemy or even to the locals. We do not understand the customs of the locals; they act in very strange ways. Most importantly, we are unsure whether the locals are loyal to us, to our enemy, or only themselves. This is a top-secret intelligence task to which you are being assigned. Therefore, official uniforms are not to be worn by you or your troops. The "Class B" is most acceptable. Please keep in mind, this being 1899, only technology devices of the era will be along on this Special Assignment.

Important Days and Costs:

\$15 / \$10covers 1 trail dinner and 2 trail breakfasts, + \$10 for the "Air Drop" fuel. The personal trail lunches and trail snacks will be the responsibility of each scout. Please bring \$25 check/cash (drivers TBD) to the troop meeting on Monday, December 12TH, with the standard permission slip, which can be found on the website. Troop packs that need to be borrowed will be assigned out at this meeting.

Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 PM - our standard mandatory final "bag check" will be held at the church at 7pm, Meeting Hall, where we will also distribute the backpacking food, stoves, fuel, maps and tents, enabling hikers to finish loading their packs for final weigh-in.

Friday, December 16th at 7:00 PM - Church parking lot. Please arrive promptly before departure for a quick visual pack inspection and vehicle loading.

Sunday, December 17th, at approximately 4:00 PM, back at Church Parking Lot. Please do not depart for home until all troop gear is accounted for and your SPL has dismissed you.

Equipment: As a minimum, the following items should be packed in a **BackPack** NO black duffel bags

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Lunch for Saturday " Trail Snacks " Appropriate clothing (Day 50 to 60's/Night 30's) " Brim Hat (daytime) & warm (nighttime) " Warm Jacket " Hiking boots, extra socks " Poncho/Rain Gear " Gloves/mittens " Pocket Knife " First Aid Kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Compass " Whistle " Matches or Flint " Flashlight (small is best) " water bottle: minimum 2 liters ("camelbak" not recommended) " Rope - 10 Feet " Sunglasses " Pencils, Pens, Notebook " Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug) " Warm Sleeping Bag and Pad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Ground Cloth " Sunscreen and Chapstick " Small baggy of Handy Wipes, Toothbrush & paste " Toilet paper & trowel " 2 Small towels " Money for Sunday lunch <p><u>Group/Team Gear to share</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> " Tent " Stove/Windscreen/Pad " Cookset
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Important Notes:

1) You will be hiking in the high desert (2000-4000 ft). December temperatures can be warm in the daytime (mid-60's is common) but cold at night (30's and even 20's is possible). Those who have canoed the December Colorado River are familiar with these temperature ranges. Our location is quite similar. It is even common to have light snow once or twice a year in this location, typically in January and February. As your experience will tell, wind is a constant in the desert so wind protection in the form of a windbreaker is crucial. Be prepared for both ends of the temperature spectrum with clothing in layers for easy, quick temperature adjustments and winter sleeping bag.

2) Please keep in mind that a full backpack should be no more than one-fourth the weight of the scout carrying it. Remember to plan for your share of food and troop gear distributed Thursday. Expect to hike, with all your gear, some 10 - 15 miles over moderate terrain. Water requirements will need to be determined by each participant. Guidelines will be announced during training prep at the Troop meeting or food pick up.

3) You will arrive Friday evening at set up camp at the location where the cars drop you off. This is a speedy drop off in the middle of open country, and your assignment, as outlined above, begins immediately. ...These cars will be sent away very quickly upon arrival, so be prepared, because these drivers will not be camping with you. In fact, they will be going far, far away. Hiking will commence on Saturday morning. You will select the route, by group decision, to the oasis destination you select that is most likely to have water for your Saturday night stay and your Sunday hike to the Extraction Point. Be prepared to determine your present location throughout the hike and proceed to the best oasis marked on the map. If you select an incorrect oasis, camp will be a dry version.

4) Backpacking will continue on Sunday as you make your way to the Extraction Point, as revealed to you during some portion of the hike, by the Desert Agent, John Douglas. Due to security and secrecy required to protect our troops, these locations will not be revealed except on a need-to-know basis.

5) Upon your arrival at the Extraction Point, you will load up and return to the relative safety of Long Beach, your assigned base. A stop for lunch on the way home will follow standard protocol. Boy Volunteers that perform especially well with these scouting assignments will receive special recognition awards.

Good Luck, Lieutenant Colonel Baden-Powell