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**ARTILLERY CAMOUFLAGE
ON THE WEST FRONT.**

(Continued from Page 1)

elements of imprecision, no two shots falling in the same place, although every human and scientific precaution has been taken in the aim and the charge employed. Hence it often takes 600 shots to destroy a position, because apparently they are delivered blindly. But there are laws from which the proportion of true hits can be estimated. Given the proper amount of ammunition, regardless of expense, and our French artillery officers can guarantee any results required.

If a trench, which has been properly concealed, is entered by a slanting hole, the shadow shows up in a photograph. But if the entrance is constructed in the perpendicular plane it is less evident in the picture. An observation post often is marked in the photograph by a conspicuous shadow at the window, where the observer is posted. But this shadow can be dispelled or broken up by a coarse network of wire. The network does not hinder the observer, but it renders the aperture invisible at a great distance.

Photographs taken of a disguised position in a wood, compared with previous photographs, show an effect of something having grown quickly. Hence the advisability of taking photographs constantly. They are the eyes of the artillery officer and reveal almost every movement of any consequence.

The paths used permanently should never show the true direction of the post or position. A path should not have a perpendicular approach. It should be oblique and go beyond its object. Often a cable can be rigged to carry ammunition, provisions, etc.

Sometimes disguising, carried too far, is evident in the photograph. Those who know German psychology say that frequently a frank display of positions fools the boches, and that they get less of their share of bombarding than some of the disguised positions, because the Germans think them only a pretense.

One has to study the German plan of offense and defense to understand or anticipate where mitrailleuses might be found in the photographs. There are logical positions which Germans would hold, and experience shows that a bombardment of these positions is often effective on general principles.

Telephones and stations with optical apparatus are good objectives. Paths, spots showing in

the photographs, shadows which do not belong there, all make good targets. Openings in the countless barriers of barbed wire must be disguised against the all-seeing camera.

If there is a circulation of soldiers about a depot of munitions it is shown by a photograph. Railroads are fair targets. Wherever a switch is shown by the photograph it is fair to assume that that spot is important to the enemy. Hence a good dose of shell.

The French do not scatter shots on general principles. A systematic scheme of placing one shot after another until possibly sixty have fallen on or about one spot assures complete destruction of the work in evidence. We do nothing half way. Stations for provisions, stations where troops are disembarked, parallel lines, and narrow-gauge lines leading to ammunition stores, have characteristic black and white marks on the photograph.

So, on the Directing Map, the range is projected and calculated at distances where the eye alone is useless.

Aerial observation of necessity must be rapid, because of the many obvious perils. Taking photographs today has become the rule for every machine. They are rapidly developed and studied by experts at headquarters. Then, when the results have been reconstituted, copies are sent wherever appropriate. The object of the artillery is to destroy enemy positions. An airplane is a tremendous aid in regulating fire. The fact that the target cannot be seen by the range finder is not so important, because the military map drawn up from day to day gives accurate measurements of distance and direction.

When once the airplane observer perceives how shots are falling he can send in directions. Owing to his great height it is not absolutely necessary to be in a vertical plane of observation, so time and safety are assured. The essential for the observer is to obtain the proportion between the shots which fall long and those which fall short, fired in one series on one angle. Then the commanding officer can regulate the change of angle of fire and direction, according to rules carefully worked out.

Communications from the airplane is by wireless. The "antennae" of the receiver on earth should be far from any crest or cover of earth which would intercept the waves from the aerial apparatus.

The battery communicates with the airplane by means of signals displayed. Squares of white cloth,

several yards long, are handled by trained men. To the observer at two or three thousand yards of altitude, these squares look to be a matter of inches. Evidently these must be placed on a dark background to be seen clearly. Some officers have made the mistake of placing them just below the crest of a hill, so that they could not be observed by the enemy. But in that case they are equally hidden from the allied observer, who must spend twenty minutes sometimes in flying back to gain an angle where he can see his own signals on the earth. The best place is in the middle of a field not near any conspicuous object which could be used by the enemy to regulate fire.

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