

Entanglements of Barb Wire Cruel War Device

Of all the devices of modern warfare the barb-wire entanglement is perhaps the most cruel and devilish. Wire entanglements vary in character. The advance of cavalry is impeded by planting stout stakes into the ground, and weaving a network of the wires around and between them, about twelve inches above the ground, and weaving a network of trap are rendered useless because the animals flounder, plunge and kick among the pronged meshes maddened with pain from the jabbing barbs. They can neither advance nor retreat, while the wire is too stout to be broken down by kicking. Caught in such a trap the troops may be annihilated practically at leisure by antagonistic rifle and artillery fire.

The entanglements intended to disperse the advance of infantry are more substantially woven, and indeed constitute a formidable barricade. Stout posts, about four or five feet in height, are planted, and wire is passed around and between these in an intricately and complicated pattern, and possibly in five or six successive layers. Under these circumstances it is impossible either to break through the protection or to crawl under it. The wire, moreover, is left slightly slack so that it cannot be readily cut.

Wire entanglement speedily became recognized as one of the most effective impeding obstacles it is possible to contrive, with the result that considerable ingenuity has been expended in devising ways and means to break it down. In the early days it was extensively adopted to dispute advance along the high roads, but this effort was nullified by providing heavy motor-cars with fixed rigid sharp blades of steel. The cars were driven full tilt into the obstacles, and the pressure of the hardened knife or ser-

rated edges enabled paths to be cut without undue effort. This antidote was rendered impossible by breaking up the surface of the road, thereby bringing the wheels of the vehicles face to face with an obstruction which in itself sufficed to render the passage of wheeled traffic impossible.

For the destruction of entanglements disperse before trenches other novel methods have been contrived. There is the type of rocket, similar to that used for life-saving, which hurls a length of rope attached to a grappling hook. The grapple falls among the wires which are torn away by soldiers grabbing the end of the rope and indulging in a spirited tug-of-war.

The French and Russian armies have contrived devices, the express object in each instance being the demolition of the obstruction by explosion.

Blasting Not Always Effective

Such blasting methods, however, are not completely efficacious. Often a stretch of wire escapes destruction, and is not detected until the subsequent charge, when the men fouling it are held up. At the same time any of these destructive methods are preferable to the means which have been adopted for scaling the obstacle such as ladders, boards, and mattresses laid upon the top of the network of posts. The objection to the latter system is the time occupied in bridging the obstruction combined with the severely limited number of men who are enabled to pass over at a time.

Recently these entanglement-destroying methods have been superseded by artillery fire which, when concentrated and properly directed, invariably results in tearing the protecting wire to shreds and completely demolishing the posts.

It isn't every man who can reap his reward without cutting his fingers.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

French Girl Displays Bravery

A recent list of those mentioned for distinguished service in an army report from Paris contained:

"Mlle. Emilienne Moreau, aged 17½, living at Loos (Nord), during the capture of Loos, by the British, on September 25, 1915, organized a first aid post in her house, worked all day and the following night carrying wounded men there and gave them every attention, putting all her resources at her disposal and refusing any payment. She did not hesitate to go out, armed with a revolver, and succeeded, with the aid of some British nurses (male) in putting two German soldiers in a condition so that they could no longer do any injury, they having been firing on the post from hidden positions in a neighboring house."

Mlle. Moreau, who will be able, thanks to this citation, to wear a War Cross, was living at Loos when the war broke out, with her parents and a brother aged 10. She was studying to become a school teacher. The Germans occupied the village in October, 1914, and remained there nearly a year. Her father, during his time, died from grief and want of proper care. There was no carpenter to make a coffin, nor even any wood. Emilienne went among the German lines and hunted until she found sufficient wood, then with the help of her young brother, made a coffin.

Then last September a rumor was spread that the British were coming and that the famous Highlander were going to attack the village. One day for the first time since the war, Emilienne neglected the children entrusted to her charge by the German authorities and went up in the garret of her house, from which she could see the whole battle-field. She passed three whole days there, lying flat on the floor, gazing on the terrible scene.

Shells burst around her house. Walls trembled and roofs were torn away. Cries from wounded reached her, and at last shouts of victory as the British won their way into the town. She recognized the famous Highlanders by their costume and went among the wounded, giving them something to drink, bandaging their wounds and dragging them into positions of some ease.

As the British entered the village in force they sang "God Save the King!" and Mlle. Moreau, as soon as the National Hymn ended raised the "Marseillaise" in which the Highlanders joined, their long service in France having made it known to them. In the capturing of the village Mlle. Moreau slew five Germans with her own hands, three with grenades as they hid in a cellar and fired on the first aid post, refusing to come out; two with a regulation revolver belonging to an English officer as they advanced toward her with fixed bayonets. She allowed them to come quite close before firing, so close that in another few seconds their bayonets would have reached her body.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

THE NICKEL THEATRE.

NOTE---"The Exploits of Elaine" will not be shown this week owing to the late hours at the stores.

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Gallant Deeds On Gallipoli

Private Richardson of the Seventeenth Manchesters Held a Trench For Two Days Against the Turks Till Help Came

LONDON, Eng.—Deeds of heroism which have never been excelled in any war are recorded almost daily in the official London Gazette and are becoming so frequent that little attention is being paid to them. Wonderful and courageous feats performed by the British troops at the front are related in a few lines and are becoming so numerous that they pass unnoticed. A recent issue of the Gazette contains a long list of awards of the distinguished conduct medal, and each of the gallant achievements described would be sufficient for a story in itself.

One of the most remarkable examples of courage ever known was displayed by Private M. Richardson of the Seventeenth Manchesters, who, alone, held a trench for two days against the enemy in Gallipoli and held the Turks at bay until reinforcements arrived. Again, the feat performed by Private J. Watkinson of the Second Rifle Brigade is possibly without parallel. Standing in his trench he caught three German bombs in his bare hands and threw them back at the enemy before they had time to explode. He was less fortunate with the fourth bomb, which exploded in his hand. This courageous deed is related in four cold lines in the Gazette.

War Brings Many Changes

Letters that came from the Old Country lately say that many changes have occurred there since the war broke out, but of none so great as have taken place in the last three months. Lord Derby's scheme for voluntary enlistment has been wonderful in its results. Even in the smallest and most distant villages the call to arms has been peremptorily felt. The power of public opinion, always a factor that is magical in the denser populations of the three kingdoms, has been used to the fullest, and a young man who is not now in uniform, without a good cause for being out of it, is likely to carry a stain on his reputation—like that of some of those who crossed the border from the United States into New Brunswick in the Civil War—for the remainder of his natural life. This has been more powerful than conscription.

The feeling, too, has been growing against the enlistment of married men before the last of the single men has been accepted. The unfairness of that form of volunteering is pressing home to everyone there, and comparisons which were never before heard in England, with the military service of married men in the continental powers, are often made. The result of these newer ideas is marvellous. Nearly all the young men appear to be taking up the work of common defence.

In the letters, too, the rise in the price of foods is mentioned, but the chief increases seem to be in those things, like raisins and currants that come from the Balkans and Greece. Bread is still low; butter shows a marked upward turn, but is still only 38 cents; while good beef is below 20 cents a pound. The relative increase in the cost of living in Great Britain is still far below what has taken place in the Colonies since war broke out.

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