

## Theatre Royal

For Friday and Saturday, March 22nd and 23rd, Madame Petrova, in Exil, in 5 parts.

For Sunday and Monday, March 24th and 25th, Madame Who, in 7 reels.

Every week the following series:—Tuesday and Wednesday, Red Ace; Thursday and Friday, Bull's Eye.

For Saturday and Sunday, March 23rd and 24th, Charley Chaplin, in Adventures.

Matinees every Saturday and Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

10 and 15 cents. No War Tax.

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attack at that weak place. But, on the other hand, since all parts of the battle front are not equally strong or defensible in themselves, but some elements are weaker while some are stronger (and that is a fact which cannot be concealed from the enemy) resort is had to camouflage to deceive him as to where the weaker and the stronger places, or "centers of resistance" are located. It is not enough simply to "conceal", for we know the enemy will reason out that such and such positions would be, by reason of some natural cover there, the ones you would naturally choose to fortify, to make your strongest defenses. The best natural situations for observation, field of fire, and location of deep dugouts, may for this reason be out of the question, and some other places, not so well able to be defended from the artillery fire he will place upon suspected places, will have to be chosen. This measurable ability of the enemy, by his own observation, aeroplane photographs, etc., and by his mastery of certain theories of war, that are your own also, to mark down the places where the frame work of your defenses would be, theoretically, obliges you to select, to some extent, other places less capable of being organized for actual protection from fire, and more difficult of "concealment". Natural objects, such as woods, ravines, etc., not now affording protection, "camouflage" steps in with devices for blending in the new works with surroundings, making them "invisible"; and where works may continue under natural cover, to artificially blend in those works with the natural surroundings.

Camouflage does its work under two clear limitations—

(a) In the first instance, except on rare occasions, and on certain few sectors of very great strategic importance, the enemy does not attempt to destroy all the field works which he has before him accurately located, nor does he turn his fire continuously on any. He must reserve his ammunition for moments of observation and hours when he is informed certain trenches will be in use.

(b) All parts of the zone of defense are not equally important. Certain elements, such as machine gun positions, trench mortar emplacements, batteries of artillery, etc., are the vital parts, the trenches being for the most part only communications between.

Trenches in general, at least those which form part of a defensive system, cannot be concealed, except where advantage is taken of natural cover well to the rear beyond the enemy's direct observation. Hence from the camouflage standpoint they are not important. But where these obviously lead into the "centers of resistance" proper, whether it be an extensive fortified position or a mere deep dug-out for a pair of machine guns and crew, or a command post, or ammunition store, the enemy will search with microscopic care almost, the little tell-tale "branch-off" or other evidence of something important; and artillery or trench mortars immediately bombard that place. Engineer dumps when discovered draw the same fire.

Since everything cannot be concealed from view, the working rule is—"Camouflage" whatever is important; and in the trenches system, all unusual members.

The unusual members must merely be made to lose their identity amid the usual, hence less important surroundings. But that is not all. It may be sufficient to leave a thing just as it is. Examples of which are as follows:—

i—Actual guns, in the open, mistaken by the Germans for dummy guns, and left alone.

ii—T-head entrances to deep dugouts resemble T-head latrines. Under the French latrine system, aeroplane maps of French sectors long occupied

showed many latrine T-heads. The Germans left these alone, dugout entrances as well.

iii—M.G. emplacements in rear, or artificial shell craters. British and German.

iv—Transversal trenches organized with wire all about and deep dugouts into "strong points", instead of the usual form of an enclosed redoubt.

In all these cases, important defensive elements were made "invisible" in their true nature, though of course not actually so, by being made to resemble less important surroundings.

Enemy observation being now from overhead by photographs which can be magnified and studied with great care, as well as horizontal in the old way, the concealment of important works has become an art. The best French artists have been at work on the problems ever since the war started. The United States have organized a "Camouflage Section" of the Engineers, and the British are training men especially in this work. Prepared camouflage materials for gun and trench covering are now a part of regular stores.

In the study of camouflage much can be and has been learned. Nature's protective coloration of birds, animals, insects has given us valuable tips. The mottled eggs of the sandpiper cannot be distinguished a few feet away from the beach pebbles on which they lie. The young of ruffed grouse, and many beach birds, are lost to sight, and it takes a practiced eye to find them unless they move.

A fish or bird, dark above and white below becomes in its native haunt less visible than if of a uniform neutral color, as the light from overhead lightens the dark upper part, while at the same time throws the under part into shadow. The result is flatness, the fish loses its form. On the other hand, any neutral color all over would stand out strongly in light and shadow. Of course, moving things will not always be viewed where they thus merge into their surroundings. And inanimate things will, in like manner, appear differently, as the light of the sun throws them from light into shadow. The most that can be done, and it is all that Nature ever does, is to strike a sort of balance.

Modern service uniforms are themselves "camouflage".—The British "khaki", olive drab; the French "horizon blue"; the German "field gray", are chosen to give "low visibility", causing them to merge into the tone of common natural surroundings. For snow, white uniforms have been tried, and blackening the face and hands is often done for night patrol work.

### CARD OF THANKS

Mrs. J. S. Dickson, wife of the late Sapper Dickson, C.E., desires to express her heartfelt thanks to the many friends in the Engineer Training Depot as well as in the city of St. Johns for all the kindness shown to herself and her daughter, Miss Helen Dickson, during the illness of her late husband, and for the many kind expressions of sympathy which have been sent to her since his lamented death.

Offering editorial apologies to Lt. E. T. Adney, C.E., for the unintentional omission of his "title", (meaning of course his military rank) from his article in last week's "Knots and Lashings".

Reply—"Is that so? I only noticed the omission of the 'Sub'-title."

## Thutoscope City Hall,

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Blue Ribbon Feature  
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