

water. During our first trip I had expected a rather tense atmosphere, but there was nothing of the kind, everywhere cheerfulness abounded, and everyone seemed well contented. The sentries were on the alert, continually looking through the indispensable periscope, while behind were our men talking and cracking jokes with one another, although at the same time working hard filling sandbags with earth of a particularly heavy nature. These are used to improve the parapet, or to make dug-outs more shell-proof. Some thousands of bags were filled by the boys during our short stay of eight days. Hard work was cheerfully undertaken by every man, and after a few days, helped by fine weather, the trenches had a very different appearance, and where was originally 2 ft. of water now one was able to walk on dry land, and waders could in these spots be dispensed with. And then the dug-outs. I wish I could describe them adequately. Some of them were surprisingly comfortable, with table, home-made chairs, a stove made from a biscuit tin, and even a cot, but the majority were very small and the men much crowded.

Even if the accommodation was better there is so much work of every kind to be done that it is next to impossible for the men to get sufficient sleep. To these disadvantages must be added the fact that the enemy are not idle, and daily some part of the trench has to be put in shape after bombardment. Living in comfort at Battalion Headquarters, I could not help but admire all the men, right through their morale was splendid, their only complaint being that the Germans would not attack. Two things largely brought about this satisfactory result—the excellence of the food, bacon, fresh beef, bread, butter, potatoes, tea, and the daily issue of rum—let the temperance people talk as they will, this rum is vitally necessary to the men, as they are for hours standing in water inches deep, and then at night sleep in damp dug-outs. In many respects life goes on just as usual. You see men warming water over a little fire and having their daily shave. Letters are written and sent away, and there is the regular delivery of mail from home, and how eagerly it is awaited and how disappointed are those who get none.

You may wonder what the Chaplain can do up there. True, not much. But one tries

to make life appear as natural as possible by wandering around and chatting with the men; knowing that friends and relatives are always anxious, he, therefore, urges them to write every day, and offers to take their mail out and expedite its departure.

There is the more sombre side of this life that I have not touched upon, and after much time spent in the dressing-station I know that our M.O. and his assistants skilfully tend every case and send them on down the line with cheery words. A few of our comrades we have left behind; they lie buried in the little soldiers' cemeteries dotted over the country. In thinking of them the old Latin proverb comes to my mind, which may perchance comfort those who mourn, "Dulce et decorum est pro patriâ mori."

W. A. R. B.

REGULATIONS FOR THE TRENCHES.

Extract from Daily Orders, part 77, subsection 129 X.Z.V., paragraph 33, quarter section 19, range 56, meridian 23 W.

1. It is to be distinctly understood that on no account is anyone to swim in the trenches unless clothed in the regulation bathing-dress.
2. Boots, gum, thigh, when issued for the purpose of keeping mud off the uniform are to be used as such, and on no account is one allowed to pull his feet from them and leave the boot in the trench.
3. Real estate in "Nomans ground" is placed there for the express purpose of allowing one to dig for souvenirs, and on no account is one allowed to use it for any other purpose.
4. Special precautions should be taken to avoid all traps, dead-falls, snares, etc., and should covers of opera-glasses be seen lying about a party of twenty men should at once be detailed to remove same.
5. Constitutionals after dark are on no account to be indulged in. Officers will please take special note.
6. Should a shell fall short of the trench and cause no casualties, a signal to that effect should at once be communicated to the