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Ingenious Inventiveness Invariably Hoaxes Hun

Lieut. Adney Continues His Series
Of Instructive Articles.

"CAMOUFLAGE"

CAMOUFLET means, in Military Science, a small counter-mine to break up an attacker's galleries, the powder charge not being sufficient to blow out a crater; in which respect it differs from a mine proper. The word came from the Latin, "camera", a chamber. (Compare, "chamber" of a mine, gun, etc.). The purpose of the camouflet is to "baffle" the enemy's mining operations, while in modern French we have the word used in the sense of "a puff of smoke", whence the secondary idea of puffing smoke into another's eyes to give an "affront". In the form of a verb, CAMOUFLER, it passed into the speech of the Paris underworld, meaning, according to the French Slang Dictionary of Napoleon Hayard, the celebrated "King of the Camelots"—"to fool, to change one's appearance, to paint one's face." Somehow, out of all this, has sprung the French military word, CAMOUFLAGE, used as a noun. In English, we have added a verb, "To camouflage".

"Camouflage" is a military term. It has proved so understandable a word, so rich in suggestion, that in popular use it is taking the place of a number of different words. It has robbed the word "ruse" and the word "strategy" of some of their meaning. Certainly no one English word is its equivalent. It may be defined as giving to a thing the appearance of some other thing, with a definite defensive or offensive purpose. It also signifies the means or instrument by which that purpose is expressed. In its strictest, as well as fullest military sense, "camouflage" takes note of all those elements both fixed and mobile which protect against the offensive weapons of a hostile force in the field, at sea and in the air, by misleading him.

It is obvious that conditions which vary with time and place and immediate object will decide what means are employed. Weakness for instance is counterfeited for objects such as these:—

i—to get within striking distance, a man-of-war disguises as a merchant vessel, by concealing guns and port-holes, piling merchandise on deck, letting rigging go slack, etc.

ii—to invite attack; to invite attack at some particular place. At sea, or in trench warfare.

Strength is simulated, on the other hand, in cases such as these:—

i—Dummy cannon, to draw enemy fire away from the actual gun positions.

ii—Dummy cannon, to stave off attack, so successfully employed in many historic instances of sieges.

iii—A merchant vessel, imitation portholes painted, dummy guns mounted, to simulate a strongly armed vessel.

iv—Dummy trenches, to draw enemy fire and thus cause him to waste ammunition.

v—Dummy battle fleet, the famous British North Sea wooden fleet. The individual ships in this fleet reproduced the well known forms of particular real battle ships. Successfully used to deceive the Germans as to the location of the real vessels lying in wait.

In its practical application, the keynote of Camouflage is "invisibility". There are cases where time and place are unfavorable for receiving an

attack, and then whatever will successfully mislead the enemy to overestimate one's strength will often cause him to delay or abandon the attack. Merchant vessels disguised as men-of-war, wooden cannon on forts, etc., are historic examples of camouflage of that sort.

But in modern Position Warfare, the appearance of strength must be given, as in portions of trench lines that are difficult if not actually impossible to properly man. By extending the trenches whether they are occupied or not, may serve to prevent



Reading the proclamation from the steps at the base of the Tower of David, which was standing when Christ was in Jerusalem.

—Photo by Courtesy of C. P. R.