

“Enormously the largest circulation of any Daily or Weekly Military Paper published in Canada!”



A Weekly Newspaper, sanctioned by the Officer Commanding, and published by and for the Men of the E. T. D., St. Johns, Quebec, Canada.

Vol. 1. No. 33.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1918

5 Cents The Copy

The Use of Trench Signs in Modern Warfare.

TRENCH SIGNS.

By Lieut. E. T. Adney, C.E.

It would be impossible to “carry on” a warfare which depends on the intricate “trench system”, without not only accurate mapping, but also without a suitable means for marking the trenches, and all the important elements accessory thereto. The latter is done chiefly by means of name boards, direction posts, notice boards, direction marks, etc., though certain well understood flags are also used. The signs usually consist of small boards painted white with black letters. The preparation and affixing of these, is the work of the Engineers under direction of the Divisional officer. Not that the “high command” always designates the names, for in many cases the soldiers give to the trenches various names which seem appropriate. Such names may be suggested by loyalty, or by recollections of their home town far away, and may often contain some humorous allusion. The names are indicated on the trench maps, and correspond with the sign boards as placed in the trenches.

The first and most important de-

signations, however, are the frontal subdivisions of the battle line, and these are chosen by the high command. These are of the “sectors”, which correspond to the frontage occupied by the Division. They are known by numbers, letters, or combination of both, and are in series, sequences running from right hand to left always. Thus the general knows at all times exactly where the divisions are that compose his army in line. These sectors vary in width according to Divisional frontage, which depends greatly on how strongly the particular frontage needs to be defended. Sectors in the proper sense, are not those wide frontages held by, say, the Canadian or British armies, nor do they necessarily correspond to natural localities or “positions”, which receive geographical names from nearby villages, although important hills will receive numbers, as, for example, “Hill 60”. This is not necessarily a sector. Such a position might be covered by a single sector, or by many. The lateral boundaries of a sector may consist of natural geographical features such as a stream, of points upon the roads of the country, or even of a communication trench. In a given sector, the sector num-

ber, or letter, is given to the first, second and third trenches which parallel the front. These being

traversed fire trenches, the “bays” are numbered, consecutively, also from right to left. Thus the first



(K. R. & O. No. 1193. “Presentation at a Foreign Court.”—An officer who wishes to be presented at a foreign court, will make application to His Majesty’s representative at the court.)

OFFICER:—“Is Sir Sophtsope de Niggers at home?”
BLACK:—“Ya-a-s suh, hear he am!”

We would respectfully ask that, in making purchases, you “patronize those who patronize us.”