

## The Ordeals of an Orderly.

By ONE OF THEM.

SOME men are born lucky; but the ordinary orderly is not of that favoured class.

Many people imagine that an orderly's lot is cast in pleasant places, but these misguided folk cannot probe beyond the surface of things. They see only the glamour of a "soft job"; they know but little of the constant call upon the patience and energy of this much-abused class. "Pariah-dogs," we undoubtedly are, from a "front-liner's" viewpoint, but of the outward show we present there is a solid foundation of utility. Our polished buttons are but a thin overlay of regimental respectability; constant proximity to the Orderly Room and its occupants demands that we "keep up appearances."

From the foregoing, it can be inferred that orderlies occasionally have to perform certain functions. In brief, they have to do certain work, for which, like you, O Reader, they are paid the magnificent sum of a-dollar-ten a day. (This statement as to our having to work will probably come as a thunderbolt to "front-liners." It is nevertheless true.)

The functions of a cycle orderly are multifarious in character. They range from carrying a verbal message from the Orderly Room "lancejack," to bearing important communications from the Battalion O.C. to Brigade Headquarters during a general engagement. As general engagements are necessarily few in the present style of trench warfare, the usefulness of the cycle orderly in this respect is generally lost sight of by his critics.

And when the Battalion is "resting"—which admittedly is very seldom—the "C.O." (cycle orderly) still "carries on." This again is frequently overlooked by the ranker whose duties are with his Company. The "C.O." is at the beck and call of every



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occupant of the Battalion Orderly Room, so that, when the thing is argued to a logical conclusion, it will be found that he hasn't a minute he can truthfully call his own. He pedals (or trudges) through the slush and the mud, acting as a mobile "connecting file" between the O.R. and O.C.'s of companies if the latter should be scattered and the signallers' phones are not in operation—which double event has an extremely awkward habit of recurring, particularly in wet weather!

Again, the orderly's "mount" may be unsatisfactory. It is really extraordinary how much is expected of a "wheel" which in civilian life would be consigned, without second thoughts, to the scrap-heap! An orderly's "wheel" usually consists of a frame and a pair of tyres; the accessories are generally conspicuous by their absence. Lacking the materials to mend a puncture,

the "C.O." who is unlucky enough to meet a "snag" of this sort has to push his mount through the mud—(there is *always* mud in this country!)—and his machine thus becomes in very truth a "push-bike."

The highways and byways of Flanders were not *especially* built for cycling. That is the opinion held by every "C.O." I have met, whether he happened to run a "wheel" or an auto-cycle. The stickiness of the roads is a great aid to side-slips—and lucky is the individual who has never "bit the mud" in that fashion. Cycling under such conditions is neither a pleasure nor a "joke."

If the work is bad enough in daytime—"Brother, what of the night?" After dark, the ordinary difficulties of the road are



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intensified, and the "C.O." has to keep his eyes skinned lest he adds to the day's casualties by inadvertently running into a lone wagon or other solid and unfriendly obstruction. Also, he may be misdirected and thus lose his way, getting off the beaten track and into some such difficulty as the *Gazette* artist has attempted to show in the accompanying sketch.

Innumerable instances could be cited showing that a cycle orderly's job is not "all that it is cracked up to be," but the average "front-liner" is notoriously hard to convince, and so I give up my present attempt to "convert" him to my own way of thinking.

## Words from "An Old Warrior."

POINTS TO BE OBSERVED IN CHANGING TRENCH POSITIONS.

1. Parapets are bullet proof.
2. Distance from the enemy.
3. Sniping from one particular spot is dangerous; change your position constantly, even at night.
4. The blacker and stormier the night, the more vigilance is required of the sentry.
5. When open stretches are to be crossed, avoid beaten paths if possible, especially in daylight. Short zigzag rushes are best.
6. When moving along a road open to machine gun fire, avoid centre of road; notice which side affords most cover.
7. In open country, standing erect offers the smallest target to overhead bursting shrapnel, and lying down to shrapnel bursting on contact with the ground.
8. At all times, never cease to slacken vigilance. The most unlikely time—to you—is usually the moment seized by an alert enemy.

Lieut. L. F. Hay, of the Black Watch, is probably the tallest officer in the present European War. He is 6 ft. 10 ins. in height.

## Our Thirst for Knowledge

WANTED TO KNOW.

WHO is the officer in the First Canadian Division who lately received a parcel from home containing a bundle of hem-stitched sandbags for his personal use?

Who was the Private in 16 Platoon who, sick of the state of the trenches last winter, telegraphed home to Canada for a Motor Boat Catalogue?

Does the Editor give the position away when he is bareheaded?

Who was responsible for losing the machine gun section in the graveyard?

Who is the C.S.M. who acts as tonsorial artist to the N.C.O.'s of his Company? And do the latter altogether appreciate his efforts in the haircutting line?

If the headquarters batmen have ordered their trench canoes for next winter's campaign?

Which member of the Grenadier Section "did away" with the Sergeant's rum issue?

How does the chief cook of the Bombers manage to keep so clean when discharging his onerous duties?

Who is the member of 6 Platoon who once asked his pal how to "milk steers"? And does he ever expect to be able to "prove up" on his homestead—that is, if the Canadian Government trusts him with the usual 160 acres?

Which officer of "Ours" told an officer of the R.C.R.'s that the men of the Fourth Battalion cleaned their rifles ten times a day?

If a decent barber wouldn't make his fortune in the front line trenches?

The name of the unfortunate individual in 14 Platoon who narrowly escaped death by drowning whilst being taken for a trip in the "Sedan Chair" (sometimes called a wheelbarrow)?

Why is it that "Detonator Dan" has quit carrying detonators in his pockets?

If the cogwheel "silencer" issued to the Grenadier Section does not take us back to the Stone Age by a short cut?

What is the strict condition imposed on each member of 16 Platoon who goes on leave? And is it true that the penalty for non-compliance with this condition is that the culprit's rum issue is stopped for two weeks?

To what use did "Halky" and "Malky" put the cuspidor they found in a certain ruined village?

The name of the Battalion sentry who "walked into a bucket of water" when the shell exploded?

Who is the Battalion Bomber who takes an early morning walk to look for "mushrooms"?