

Any wire however scanty will give the men a far greater sense of security, and where the enemy trenches are close and conditions are acute, a little wire between the trenches will be the only reason that men can stand the nervous strain for as long a "period of relief" as is necessary and essential for economy in man power which is required.

Again I would say that without front line wire, there would probably be hand to hand nearly every night, and under these conditions such fighting occurs on an average front about once per every six months. Surely this is a consideration. There is still another reason, which is that it is just possible that the enemy do not wish to advertise their attack by wire cutting and trust that the weight of their barrage fire will look after the wire. It probably will not and it is just possible that light and atmosphere conditions are such that observation is impossible, and the wire is not touched. In this case, it is very convenient to have and should be 40 yards in front of the trench it is built for. 40 yards because an average man can throw a bomb 25 to 30 and from the remote side of our obstacle cannot reach our trench.

Farther back in our defensive area, wire, in my opinion, is of greater value to stop an offensive. In the first place, the enemy has been unable to register and as time is the great factor with an offensive to get through our system of defences, it delays him very materially to find our range, as he advances his guns to new positions. Remember he has been ranging or registering probably for months at all targets in the forward area.

In the rear area then the condition is very different and great stretches of wire entanglements covered by machine gun positions are most effective without trenches. Wire and machine guns mentioned separately suggest each other, as machine gun positions are usually chosen so that an enfilade fire can be produced on the forward side of entanglements and entanglements are built to guide attacking troops into the paths of machine gun bullets.

In the forward area low wire, so that direct hits may not be observed, wire in bushes, in hollows, or trenches, along hedges, etc., are most valuable as hinderances to the enemy.

The nature of entanglements and method and difficulties of erection will be discussed in a later edition.

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WE'VE MET 'EM TOO DOC.

Capt. Simpson, C.A.D.C., tells the following story:—

In the first year of my dental career, I worked for a dentist who existed in a small country town in a French settlement. The French have a saying 'There is no liar like a dentist' and this story goes to show that they are not far wrong, at least as far as this particular member of the faculty is concerned.

The dentist in question was a typical Vermonter and was never happy unless parading around in a hunting suit—high laced boots, corduroy jacket, etc. He would depart on a hunting trip and return sans game but with vivid descriptions. One day however he returned with a bag of six deer and a black bear. These he proudly laid out on the verandah, and in full hunting costume stood by to describe how he shot the bear. Old and young alike were entertained with the description of how his guide had been attacked and he had come up and at close quarters shot the bear, illustrating his remarks by putting his finger in the hole made by the bullet. Bye and bye his audience grew so small that he made up his mind to go away; and I was to open his mail and attend to business in his absence.

The only mail I had was one letter:—

Dear Sir,

If you not pay me for the bear you took out of my trap I will sue you.

The local papers somehow obtained this letter and I suddenly had a call to another part of the country.

ALL FOR NOTHING.

A woman entered a Chicago savings bank and placed \$50 in front of the teller. He pushed out the book for her signature and said: "Sign on this line, please."

"Me whole name?"

"Yes, ma'em."

"Before Oi was married?"

"No, just as it is now."

"An' me husband's name too? May the saints rist him in glory!"

"You should sign your name Mrs., followed by your husband's name; or Mrs., your Christian name and then your husband's name; or Mrs., and your husband's full name; or, you might simply sign your Christian name and your husband's surname. Write it as you are in the habit of signing it."

"Oi can't write."

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