



this area? What are they in front of us, Saxons or Prussians"? etc., etc. All posts, sentries, etc. relieved, the new troops settle themselves down to their new quarters and get their "bearings." First thing to be done is to relieve himself of his pack and get on a light rifle or battle order; rifle, ammunition, gas masks, in fact skeleton dress. Troops must ever be in readiness to resist the enemy should he attempt a surprise attack. We must not be caught napping. if, however, there is unusually heavy shelling there is a general "stand to." Much depends on the temper and disposition of the enemy. A sortie is to be made into no man's land and an officer with a few men crawl out from a sap head or part of the trench made for the purpose, generally the men volunteer for this work. No man's land is a very difficult place to manoeuvre in. Many obstacles are encountered such as barbed wire, shell holes, small mines which explode when one touches a stick or other obstacle, trip wires, tin cans placed in such a position so that one unconsciously touches it, causing it to rattle and create an alarm. Flares are thrown into no man's land and illuminate the ground for several yards; this is the most critical time, for one has to remain perfectly still and if possible hide in a shell hole or other place to conceal himself. Our troops in the front line trench are always notified of the going out and coming in of our patrols. Of course there have been times when a sad incident through carelessness has occurred and caused the loss of a brave comrade. Happily such cases are few.

The men on returning are given an allowance of rum and retire to sleep, the officer meanwhile tenders his report to headquarters. Needless to say the patrol presents a sorry sight on returning, especially if the night has



PATROL IN NO MAN'S LAND

been wet; mud covering them from head to foot.

At one hour before dawn all troops stand to arms, this being a precautionary measure against an "attack at dawn." Every man is warned to be at his post, very few exceptions are made. When the anxious period is over,