

were forbidden by orders of the General Staff (see "Instructions on Wiring", issued by the General Staff, August, 1917) to use any others without previous sanction. These four patterns adopted are (a) Standard "French" Wire (Emergency) Obstacle; (b) Standard Barbed Wire Concertina; (c) Standard Double Apron Fence; (d) Standard Low Wire (or Knee High) Wire Entanglement.

**Standard French Wire.**

"French Wire" is a spring coil of plain, sometimes slightly barbed, wire, which springs out in form of a cylinder about three and a half feet in diameter. It is laid in two belts a yard apart, and supported on horizontal barbed wire stretched along the tops of a row of pickets or posts. A trip wire is windlassed a foot from the ground along the front edge, and coils of loose wire thrown between the belts. This wire can be erected most rapidly, is only used in emergency, and should be replaced by other and better wire, as soon as practicable.

**Standard Concertina Wire.**

About one hundred yards of barbed wire, wound spirally around nine vertical stakes set in a circle, is bound together by wire, so that, when removed from the form and pulled out, it resembles a cylindrical fish net. It is also set up in two belts, secured to a horizontal stretched above a similar row of posts. The wire is made up at the rear, takes some time to prepare, but forms a good obstacle.

**Standard Double Apron Fence.**

This is sometimes called "South African Fence". As now standardized, the posts are set nine feet apart, and carry four rows of vertical wire. The apron stay wires, instead of being carried from post top to ground picket singly, are carried diagonally and continuously. Each apron carries three horizontal strands, and the whole belt is twelve feet wide. Wider belts are made of several rows, and loose coiled wire, or gooseberries, are thrown in between to make it more effective. The new drill directs that the horizontal wires shall be tied to the apron stays by pieces of binding wire. But this has the disadvantage that the man carrying the binding wire, may be lost in the dark. It is therefore desirable to also learn the method of securing, by taking a bight in the running wire and bringing under and up around the apron wire. This requires a little more wire, and is slower, but it

ensures that the fence will be built as fast as the wire is paid out.

**Standard Low Wire.**

This type is not considered so effective as "high wire", but has the great value that it is inconspicuous. It may be concealed entirely in grass, and in shallow pits or borrow pits, where it will not be easily destroyed by the enemy artillery. It is sometimes called "trip" wire. The necessary equipment is standardized and consists of three rows of "two-eye" screw posts, a horizontal upon the top of each row of posts, and diagonal wire between the rows, with loose wire thrown into it. The wire should not be too tight, nor yet too loose.

**"Loose Wire"**

Loose wire, when prepared for use in entanglements, consists of barbed wire wound in a flat oval three feet one way, by eighteen inches the other. It is prepared on a frame of four stakes, set into the ground. Loose wire is valuable for filling in the spaces of fixed entanglements. When held in place by low stakes, it is useful to fill shell craters, ditches, or other places that an enemy might occupy, close to one's own defenses.

The Germans have another form of obstacle, a wide coarse net of barbed wire, carried in a roll. This is unrolled on the ground, and at the same time men crawl under, setting up short iron shears for it to rest upon. It is known as the "Lochmann Rapid Wire" entanglement. It is 13 feet wide.

The moral effect of having a good obstacle up in front of one in the front line trench, or out farther, in a solitary outpost, is great. Without anything, and knowing the enemy to be only a few yards away, the nerves of soldiers will be strained to the point that they will require relief every twenty four hours. On the other hand, even a slight obstacle gives a feeling of security against a surprise, against an unknown danger waiting and ready to leap upon one without the slightest warning.

Extract from Daily Orders, Part I:—A Court of Inquiry will meet at a time and place to be decided on by the President to inquire into the illness of Spr. Green. The President, Lt. McCaul, respectfully suggests "that little room" at the Windsor.

Musketry.—Sapper, sighting for triangle of error:—"To the left a little! Up a hair! Down a hair." Instructor:—"Same hair?"

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