

## C. O.'s I HAVE MET.

(By an Old Hand. From the Broad Arrow.)

## I. THE RIGHT SORT.

THE C. O. of the "right sort" is liked and esteemed both by officers and men; he is popular with all. He began his soldiering as an ensign, when that rank had not been improved (?) out of the Army, and he looked forward to the distant day when he would command his regiment. As a subaltern he had made himself a favourite, and was liked by all ranks, for he was always ready for any piece of fun that was going but never neglecting his duty, so that when he came to command he could and did make allowances for young and boyish spirits, without in any way impairing his authority. He is a man who can be thoroughly depended upon. He is strictly just and impartial, and not only knows how to give an order, but how to see it carried out. He knows his work in the orderly room as well as on parade, consequently his regiment is not only smart and well-drilled, but well-behaved and popular wherever it is quartered. Everyone, from the youngest drummer boy to the senior major, feels it a pleasure to serve under him. When a youngster joins, the C. O. tries, and generally succeeds, in gaining the boy's confidence; he makes him feel that the regiment is to be his home and the C. O. his father; he must not be afraid of the C. O., but must feel that in him he has a friend so long as he does his duty, behaves as a gentleman, and does nothing to disgrace his corps or bring discredit on the uniform it is his proud privilege to wear. In this C. O.'s regiment there are no "cliques," all pull well together, all are ready to help one another.

Then our C. O. is a thorough sportsman, and takes interest in the men's sports as well as in the officers', and provided an officer does his duty well, he will never refuse him a day's leave, either for hunting, shooting, or cricket. He will himself join, and most likely make a good score in a regimental match; he quite believes in and acts up to the opinion of the old motto as to "all work and no play," so he does everything he can to encourage all manly sports.

He always dresses well and neatly, both in uniform and in "mufti," and likes to see his officers do the same; he approves of a certain amount of swagger when his men are out walking. Now let us see how he acts when his regiment is ordered, perhaps suddenly, to move its quarters: there is no fussiness about him, his orders are quietly and promptly given, and as quietly and promptly carried out; everyone knows exactly what he has to do, and does it; the C. O. does not rush about worrying himself or his officers to see that each and every one is doing his work, for he knows that all will do their best, and they also know that any slip on their part will be spotted; the consequence is that the move is accomplished with the minimum of discomfort to all concerned.

Now let us look at him at the most trying time for a C. O.; he is about to lead his regiment into action; he gives his orders just as quietly as if on an ordinary parade, he is just as cool as if he were taking part in a sham fight, and his men know it, and are ready, aye, anxious, to show their eagerness to follow him wherever he may lead, to show what confidence they have in him; to show that what he has taught them in the barrack square has not been forgotten by them; and be the result of the battle what it may, of one thing we may be sure—the C. O. will be proud of his corps, and the corps will be proud of their C. O. When the battle is over how anxious he is that the wounded are properly cared for! Nothing is forgotten, no pains on his part are spared to see that all that can be done is done; he will go round, and his cheery voice gladden the heart of the poor sufferer, telling him, and making him feel, that he has had no small share in the glory of the day.

This is the C. O. in whose regiment it is a pleasure and an honour to serve, and this is the C. O. whose regiment is a credit to the British Army and a terror to its enemies.

## II. THE WRONG SORT.

A very different C. O. this from the last I described. As a subaltern, he was never popular either with officers or with men. He never did another man's duty if he could help it. He always seemed to be on the look-out to find fault with his men, so that, as *he* thought, he might show his authority; and now that he has got the command, matters have not improved. Let us look at him when his corps is to be inspected by the general. For weeks before he is in a state of excitement, his adjutant, his quartermaster, and in fact all his officers are worried almost beyond endurance. He gives an order to-day and cancels it to-morrow, so that no one knows what is wanted or what to do. After giving orders he trusts no one to carry them out, but fusses and worries one and all, and thinks no one but himself can see that his orders are effectually carried out, and not himself being either smart or "up to" his work—and all know it—the chances are that nothing goes right, and that the inspection is got through somehow is more by good luck than good management.

He is not a sportsman; even in his younger days he never joined in the amusements of his brother officers, and consequently now, when he is asked for leave for a day's hunting,

SGT.-MAJOR MUNRO'S

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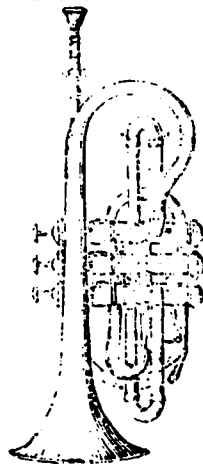
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