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that. There are three methods of getting nearer to the enemy without undue exposure. One is by driving planting mige charges of explosives planting huge charges of explosives ward, then consolidating the mine ward, then consolidating the mine crater into our own system by a trench
around the forward or the rear 'lip' around the forward or the rear 'lip.
Another way, is by sapping out ahead, Another way, is by sapping out ahead,
deep enough for fairly heavy timbered cover-a 'Russian sap' so called. But a better way is to blast a trench right across the front to be attacked.

All these "jumping off" trenches, to be of use, must be opened up quickly at the last moment. In blasting a trench, charges of ammonal are placed in holes bored at intervals, which when exploded leave a row of craters 16 to 18 feet in diameter and 7 feet deep, which can rapidly be connected up. Again, a line of shell holes will be selected, and pipes of ammonal laid along the spaces between, and presto! A deep fine trench results.
At one time communication trenches were needed at certain important places. A series of holes were bored by Calyx borers across 'No Man's Land' and charged with high explosive. Only two of these were actually needed, so only two were exploded. The two resulting trenches were of the following dimensions: 68 yards long, 25 feet wide at top, 14 feet deep; long, 25 feet wide at top, 14 feet deep;
58 yards long, 25 feet at surface, 15 58 yards long, 25 feet at surface, 15
feet deep. I suppose this trench blowing apparatus is something like an artesian well borer, working horizontally instead of straight down. It is sure some improvement on pick and shovel.
But most wonderful of all are the underground routes from the rear to the forward area. Subways they are termed. Of the details of their construction, it is enough to say that they are deep down, beyond the effect of the heaviest shell fire. I heard a general officer last year, returned from France, speaking of the under ground work he had seen, declare "There aren't any more trenches; everything is under ground." He could compare them to nothing else than the streets of a town. Of course, for a long time we have been constructing deep mined dugouts having twenty feet and even more of earth head cover; and some British plans of January, 1917, show clusters of underground galleries and rooms with living accommodation, in one case for 600 men, Brigade Headquarters, with spaces for all the living rooms of officers and men, offices, dining officers and men, offices, drining
rooms, kitchens, advanced dressing stations, battle headquarters, and other important arrangements, advanced well into the front shell zone. What more natural that these should be connected up with each other, and with the rear.
These underground passage ways become routes of communication used during bombardments. They have proved so valuable that they are now part of the preparations for the advance. Exits lead out, of course, at the successive trench lines under Which they pass, including the front into itself, and are even pushed out
ino Man's Land'. From these exits the Man's Land'. From these
troops can quickly take up their positions in the jumping off trenches, (the connections being opened up at night) taking up their positions without coming under enemy fire. Subways may be electrically lighted, and carry the water mains the communication cables. A few or ful "towns" have dug-outs to hold large numbers of infantry, Brigade Battle Headquarters, Battalion Headcuarters, Trench Mortar ammunition stores and emplacements. Forward dressing stations, Signal stations, Water filling points, Cookhouses, Latrines, Tramways for carrying ammunition and stores, Electric light and power stations.

It would not be surprising next to hear of double tubes, one for the ex-
press traipls to the firing line, the press traips to the firing line, the
other stopping at the way istations for local trapfic.
THAXK GOD IT WAS ONLY A

Lights out had long since sounded. Downstairs the fascinating, yet elusive, chips no longer gave forth their subdued music, as the fickle goddess shifted them about the green cloth. That throbbing music emitted by the trained quartette, painful in its haunting mystery, had at last died away. Throughout the mess darkness and quiet reigned, broken only by the sounds of weary war worn warriors of the Fighting 34th sunk in heavy slumber. A lonely clandestine $17 / 8$ c.p. lamp alone faintly illumined the gloom.
Suddenly in one of the "steamheated apartments" a piercing cry rang through the midnight stillness. The cry was promptly hushed by a comrade from an adjoining 'twin bed" laying a soothing hand on the troubled brow of the dreamer,-via a well directed boot.
Mutual explanations followed. "I dreamed," said the awakened victim of the night mare, "that we were leading into the Riding School; and ah! it was all so natural. There stood the terrible Laird and there also our dear, dear, Sergeant Major. Yes! yes! They both had their whips. And just as we passed the barrier, the fenee that hangs up aloft began slowly to descend! and just then I-
A tremor ran through the other as he piously crossed himself. "Ah, my poor dear comrade, say no more. Just pass me back my boot.

And once more quiet reigned.
DRAFTS 29 AND 30 ARRIVE IN ENGLAND.

Ottawa, March 12.-Official announcement is made through the Chief Press Censor's office that troops have safely arrived in England as follows: Royal Flying Corps Pilots, Toronto; Infantry, British Columbia; Engineers, St. Johns, Que.; Artillery, Toronto; Forestry Drafts Railway Construction troops, Hamilton; and Serbian tronps.

## Conscientious Scruples.

Draft official-On what ground do you claim exemption from military service?

Rastus, Esq.-Dis wah am bein fit to mek de worl' safe fo' demockasy, am it not?

Draft official-Yes; sure.
Rastus, Esq.-Wal, Ise a 'pub-lican.-Judge.


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