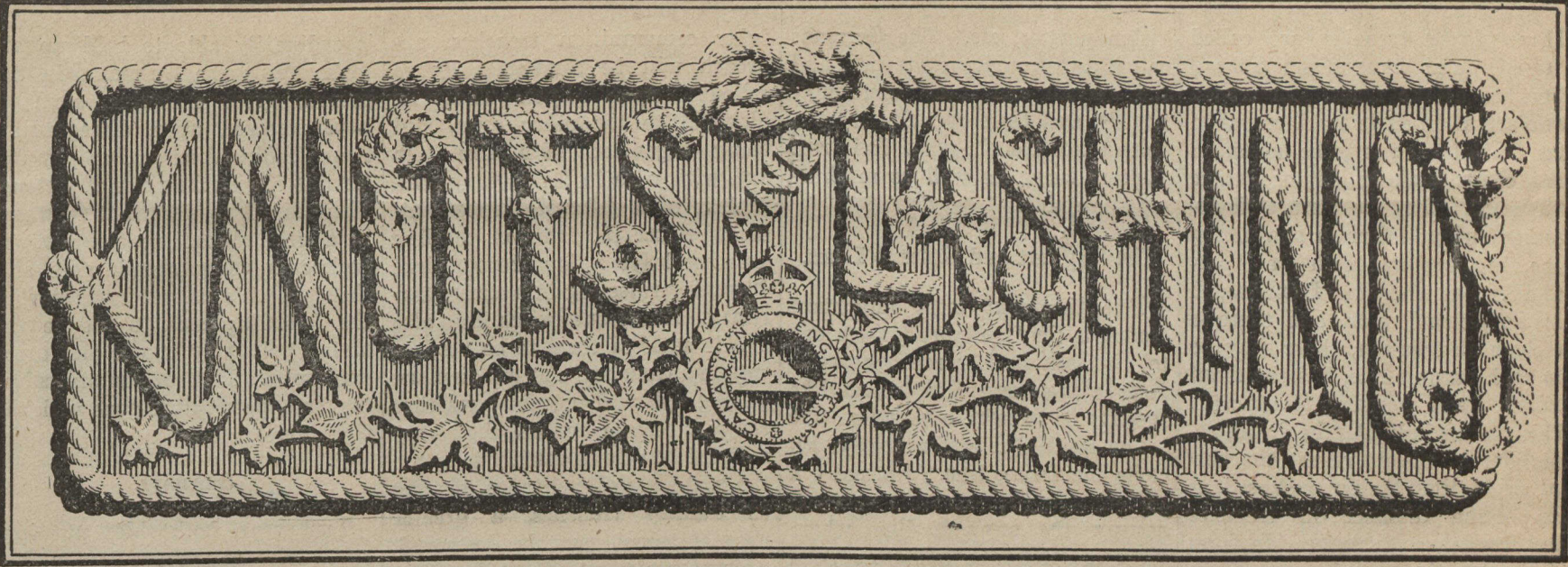


*I had kept the whole damn thing out myself. My contributions are checked off -
at 1400 copies. Our regular edition is 500.*

When I got back here Monday night I found that every one connected with the paper had gone to Quebec



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Development of Defences in Forward Areas.

GET THE FACTS NOW : YOU MAY SOON NEED THEM!!

FIELD DEFENSES.

By Lt. E. T. Adney, C.E.

Conditions of Modern Warfare.

When two hostile armies face each other, with no flanks, and of nearly equal strength, there is no "general offensive" by either along the entire front, but attacks are directed against one or more strategic points, the real objectives concealed by simultaneous attack along wider front. The real objective will be taken by frontal attack, or turning it by breaking through a weaker place in the defenses. Another class of attack is what is called a "raid"—penetration of a small sector of the enemy lines to take prisoners and secure information. In the less important sectors, raids may be also for the purpose of keeping nervous pressure upon divisions which have been sent from fighting sectors to rest.

General Plan.

Field defenses, therefore, must be organized to deal effectively with all these conditions, and at the same time enable a counter attack to be made, as well as one's own advance. The shape of the terrain, the existence or lack of natural cover, will make the actual design vary from sector to sector. The proportions of the mutually supporting artillery, infantry, etc., will also affect the plan as a whole. After the best plan possible has been thought out, there still remains the question, how much can

be carried out, which will depend upon labor, materials and time, all of which are subject to battle conditions.

Fundamental Idea Not New.

It is natural for a man to protect himself by every means possible while getting and keeping near enough to his enemy to strike. We might develop this idea by showing how the savage, fighting behind a tree with bow and arrow, the mediaeval knight with coat of mail and battle axe, and the modern soldier in his "trench" with the modern high power rifle and all the multitudinous accessories of his military equipment, fight in the same way, with the same theory of war. It is needless, however, to dilate upon this point, so obvious. Nor shall we attempt

the impossible task of indicating what are or would be the nature of defenses for particular and endlessly varying localities (General Haig being a somewhat better authority!) but will only attempt to give the ordinary elements of a system of field defenses in "position warfare".

Zones of Defense.

The line of defense is a zone, having depth from front to rear, measured in yards, or in miles. This zone is elastic. In this it differs from the fortress. The forward fringe, and even considerable portions of the defense zone may be given up under enemy pressure, yet more elements remain in rear, the defense may remain as strong as ever, and possibly in ever better position to wear down the enemy's

strength. We have shown in a preceding article that the front defense system consists first, of "centers of resistance", being those natural localities giving best concealment for machine guns and deep dugout entrances, these being the "frame-work" of the infantry defense. The trenches proper serve (in defense) as a means of (1) defending these centers, (2) affording concealed communication from one to another sideways, and (3) retreat to the rearward bases.

Outposts and the Firing Line.

The first element, in point of nearness to the enemy, is the "outpost" line. This may be posts at the ends of zigzag trenches leading out from the first continuous trench or "firing line" proper.



Off for the Easter week-end at Quebec City.