



TRENCH TERMS AND THEIR MEANINGS.



(Continued from previous issue.)

Strays.

Little homeless bullets which, having been forcibly ejected from their homes, wander disconsolately through the night trying to find some kind person who will take them in. Should they find such a person, their melancholy whinny immediately changes to a happy "phut."

Strafe.

A deliberate effort to annoy and inconvenience the other people by firing guns, rifles, trench-mortars, machine-guns, or any old thing at all. A wiggling: a correction: a reproof for wrong-doing. In fact, will cover doing anything to annoy someone else.



JUST OUT: "What's that bag up in the sky?"
 OLD TIMER: "A canteen for Aeroplanes."

Soft Job.

Any work, however hard and menial, that involves a lesser degree of danger than the front line.

- Privates pray for one.
- Corporals crawl for one.
- Sergeants scheme for one.
- Officers often get one.

Salvage.

The gathering up of the remnants of an army, such as old equipment, boots, bombs, bottles, guns, gas-

masks, etc. Cordially detested by the private, a source of constant worry to the officers, and imperiously insisted on by the higher command. Your old business of rag and bone man revived on a grand scale, even to the toy balloons in the background—only you musn't give away the balloons in exchange for salvage; the R.F.C. might object.

Trench Crawl.

A term used to denote the pace *going into* the trenches. On the word, "Quick—march!" No. 1 advances the left foot smartly, hesitates while he counts five, pulls it back, and then finally puts it forward in front of him where he originally intended it to go, and repeats this performance *ad nauseam* until the trenches are reached. The remainder follow in file, taking care not to pass No. 1. The last three men of the party mark time the whole way. To add to the merriment, No. 1 murmurs in a monotonous undertone the formula: "Wire overhead; wire underfoot; shell-hole on right; shell-hole on left; one step up; two steps down. . ." This, with variations, is kept up the whole way, each member of the party repeating it in turn down the line, with the natural result that everybody is mixed, and Private Smith invariably ducks his head when it is "Wire underfoot," and lifts his feet well up when it is "Two steps down."

Tin Hat.

Known in official parlance as "Helmet, shrapnel, steel"; is used for washing in, cooking the mulligan, baling out the trench, drawing loose rations, such as tea or sugar; and occasionally as protection for the head during bombardments. When inverted, it makes a comfortable, dry seat on muddy ground. The most useful article of equipment issued to the soldier.

Trench Foot.

A condition arrived at by dint of hard dodging of whale-oil parades and by having lots of water to stand in. The symptoms are a marked disinclination of the feet to move in the direction of the trenches. Used to be good for Blighty, but is only a source of trouble to the owner now. Is often cured by just one glance from the battalion Medical Officer who refuses to recognise it as a disease authorised for issue to the troops.

Wiring.

The gentle art of farming in No Man's Land. A man must be built on the quick-flop system to make a successful wirer. A good crop is best assured by complete darkness. Moonlight and flarelight have an injurious effect and result in a poor crop. Wire will not grow at all in the daylight.

Whizz-Bang.

A dark, elongated insect that flies through the air at a terrific pace and carries a vicious sting. Sometimes collides with a trench and causes annoyance and trouble to the inhabitants. Its bark is worse than its bite, but most men refuse to believe this.

Z. or Zero.

The exact minute of the exact hour of the exact day that you go over the top (with or without the best of luck). Is so named because of its connection with the temperature of one's pedal extremities on an occasion of this nature.

IDDY UMPY.