

When I Join the Ranks



**WHAT TO DO
AND
HOW TO DO IT**

BY
The Major

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WHEN I JOIN THE RANKS.

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST DAY.*

THE summons has come, and for the first time the recruit realises that he is at last really and truly a soldier. As a matter of fact he has been *de jure*, if not *de facto*, a soldier ever since he was enlisted, but up till now he has been only on the reserve, and it is only when he comes within the barracks for the first time that he realises that his life as a soldier has really and truly commenced.

There is perhaps no day in a soldier's life, time that is so full of strange happenings and so big with fate as the first day in barracks. Whether he is fresh from the city or from the plough, his new surroundings are absolutely different to those to which he has been accustomed, and there are very few recruits

* "Hints to Young Soldiers," 1 ice 6d., from Gale & Polden Ltd.: A little budget of sound, good, wholesome advice, in plain language.

W. J. R.

who appear to advantage on the opening day of their military career.

At the very outset of his military life he makes the acquaintance, most probably, of what might almost be called the two most important men in the regiment, namely, the adjutant and the sergeant-major, and here, for the first time, he becomes acquainted with the very hub of regimental life, namely, the orderly-room. With the passing of its threshold he bids farewell for a season to civilian life, and enters into the new and untried world of military life, a life full of possibilities, and one which, in the main, appeals to all.

The character of the reception which will meet the new recruit is largely regulated by his general conduct and bearing. If he be willing and good natured, and with no attempt to "swank," he will be quickly taken in hand by those who have had longer service than himself, and thus will avoid the many pitfalls which lie in the path of the newcomer. In such a new world the novice is at a great disadvantage, and it is pretty certain that if he renders himself obnoxious to his comrades his path will be none of the smoothest.

The recruit who responds to the call at once can be medically examined, attested, and forthwith appointed to any corps that is open for enlistment, becoming at once a soldier in training, but if he enlists under the Group system he will be enlisted for one day with the Colours, and then transferred to the Army Reserve without pay and allowances, with the exception that he receives one day's pay at infantry rates for the day of attestation. He is then allowed to return home until the Group in which he is placed is called up for service. The "calling up" of any Group is effected by means of a general Proclamation, giving one month's notice, but each individual soldier also receives a notice by post actually summoning him and giving him a fortnight in which to settle his affairs. No person can join any particular branch of the service, such as Special Reserve or Territorials, under the Group system, nor can he join for home service only, or for any particular regiment, but any preference he may have will be noted by the recruiting officer, and his wishes carried out as far as possible. On being called up, the recruit will be drafted to the depot of the regiment which he joins, where he will be clothed, equipped, and sent to the reserve battalion for training.

If posted to a Territorial unit, he passes to the administrative centre, thence to the third line unit.

After formally reporting at the orderly-room of the depot or administrative centre, where he will be allotted a number, the new Tommy will be taken in hand by a non-commissioned officer and hurried away to the medical inspection room, where he will be once more weighed and measured, and all particulars as regards the colour of his eyes and hair, scars, moles, and other distinguishing marks taken by the doctor for entry in the "Descriptive Return." After this, he will be hustled off to the quartermaster's stores, where he will be provided with his kit and equipment, which will be stamped with the number by which he will in future be known, and here, for perhaps many a long day, he bids good-bye to his civilian garb. He is then told off to a particular company, and to a particular barrack-room, and, as a rule, is given the rest of the day in which to settle down. His first impressions of life in the barrack-room and of his comrades may not be too favourable, but he must remember that at the same time they are forming their impressions of him, and there is an old saying that first impressions go a long way. Com-

radeships are formed more quickly in the army than in civil life, because here men are brought more closely in connection, but perhaps, under no circumstances, are they so true or lasting. Throughout his future career much will depend upon the comradeships which have been formed in the early days of his soldiering, and it is even more true of military than of civil life that a man is known by the company he keeps. The man who clings to the company of untidy soldiers, or soldiers of doubtful character, cannot expect his officers or anyone else to have a very high opinion of him.

WHERE I SHALL LIVE.

If joining in the summer time there is a possibility that the recruit may be sent very soon under canvas, but it is more probable that the first portion of his time will be passed in a permanent barracks, probably the depot of the regiment which he has joined. It cannot be said that, as a general rule, English barracks are picturesque buildings, but, on the other hand, they are usually placed in very healthy positions, and are conspicuous for the amount of their open space; a health-giving change to many of the recruits who have up to now lived their life in overcrowded small houses in back streets. The barrack rooms, too, are, on first appearance, not at all inviting, presenting a most bare appearance to those who have been accustomed to the little comforts and luxuries that mean so much, and that go to make up home life. Everything in the room speaks of mathematical precision. Down each side are arranged the beds or bed-cots, all turned up

during the day to form a seat, with blankets folded in the same regulation manner. Overhead is a shelf, which also contains only certain portions of each man's equipment, while other articles hang from little hooks on the shelf. A lock-up box under the bed is the sole depository for each man's private property. There is no deviation from the standard pattern in the whole room, and were it not for its position and the numbers painted on the kit, it would be impossible to tell which was each man's particular property. Here and there attempts have been made by men to ornament the walls in the neighbourhood of the bed-cots according to the man's own particular fancy, the principal articles of decoration usually being picture postcards and cigarette pictures, and it is almost needless to say that the photograph of the particular lady friend or friends (for Tommy is a versatile lover) is also present. Down the centre of the room run the plain but well scrubbed barrack tables, and this, with the exception of the coal-box, completes the furnishing of the room. It does not perhaps sound inviting, but it is wonderful how bright and homelike some of these rooms are made by a good and cheery lot of men.

The modern barrack-room is built on the

one-storey or bungalow principle, but in the older cavalry barracks the men's quarters are usually over the stables, in order both to economise space and that the men may be near their own particular charges. To each barrack-room is attached an ablution-room for washing, while in many cases special rooms are set aside for meals, known as messing rooms, but at the present time consideration of space does not always admit of this.

In the neighbourhood of the men's lines will be found the canteen, the grocery bar, and the coffee bar, in the first-named of which alcoholic refreshment can be obtained at a price considerably less than that which prevails in the outside world, and to which is often attached a small theatre, where variety artists give nightly performances. In the grocery bar also, which is usually run by some well-known civilian firm, and whose maximum prices are fixed by the War Office, almost any article can be obtained that may be required to supplement the daily menu. The coffee bar might almost be described as the club of the regiment, and here supper may be procured at a more or less nominal rate. In peace times the recreation-room enters largely into army life, but with the

huge increase in our Army, without the corresponding increase in accommodation, it has often been found necessary to turn the recreation-room into the more useful purpose of a lecture-room, store, or even an additional barrack-room, though, where they still exist, they usually cater for all kinds of indoor recreation, including billiards.

It is scarcely necessary to say much about the officers' and sergeants' messes. They are usually some distance removed from the men's quarters, and contain, in addition to the dining-room and ante-room, generally a billiard-room. The sergeants' mess is, of course, the exclusive preserve of the sergeants, and the standard of comfort obtainable here is far in excess of that to be obtained in the barrack-room. In addition to this, frequent dances and smoking concerts are given by the mess, and few can disperse hospitality with more grace than the sergeants of the British Army.

Where troops are under canvas splendid work is now being done by the Y.M.C.A., who, in every large camp, have erected a huge marquee, where not only can refreshments be obtained at a very small price, but there are also usually provided games, magazines,

writing paper, and concerts without any extra charge. The work done by this organisation during the present war for the soldier both at home and at the Front cannot be too highly extolled.

Coming to what we may call the business side of the barracks, we have, first of all, the orderly-room, where the whole of the business of the regiment is carried on. It is here that the recruit makes his first entry into the regiment, and it is probably the last room that he leaves when he obtains his discharge. Here all orders are given out, and here are dispensed both rewards and punishments. Next in importance is the quartermaster's stores, which might almost be called the regimental shop, for it is from it that all clothing, kit, and equipment is issued to the men of the regiment. Besides this, there are the shoemakers', tailors', and barbers' shops, none of which require explanation, and in mounted units there are also the establishments of the farriers, wheelers, and saddlers. To anyone who is entering a barracks for the first time, it cannot but come as a matter of surprise what an almost self-contained little town an English barracks is. Indeed, it is practically unnecessary for a man to go out-

side of his own barracks to obtain anything that he may require.

When under canvas life is much the same as in barracks. In addition to the little bell tents, which contain from eight to twelve men each, according to circumstances, and are laid out in strictly mathematical lines, there are special marquees for the canteen, the grocery bar, the officers' and sergeants' messes, orderly-room, and quartermaster's stores, and there is perhaps no more pleasing sight than a well-laid-out camp in some pleasant valley.

There are few to whom the life under canvas does not appeal. There is connected with it a certain amount of romance which is fascinating to the young soldier, and during the time he spends there he feels stronger and healthier than he has ever done before, for though physically tired out in the evening he seems to wake each morning fit for anything, and with none of that feeling of lassitude that so often accompanies a night's rest in a small and badly ventilated room. Besides, in camps Tommy need never want for society; the very sight of canvas soon brings in the inhabitants of the country-side, who are only too glad to spend a few hours with the lads

who follow the flag. Visit any camp after the day's work is done, and you will find more real enjoyment there than can be met with in a town with ten times its inhabitants.

HOW I SHALL BE PAID, FED, CLOTHED, AND EQUIPPED.

The rates of pay vary somewhat in the British Army, being lowest in the infantry and highest in the departmental corps. As a general rule, pay at home is issued weekly by the company officer, and it is safe to say that pay parade is the most popular parade of the week. In the field the procedure is somewhat different. There are less possibilities of spending money, and the exigencies of the Service too often do not admit of a regular pay day, and accordingly, very often the man obtains his pay at more or less irregular intervals. On leaving for active service every man is issued with a pay book, and any amounts which he may draw are entered in this book, a duplicate of the roll of the men's pay being sent each week to the regimental paymasters. As a rule, only small sums are advanced, and thus, at the conclusion of a war, there is very often

a large balance standing to the man's credit, which comes in very useful at a time when he is again seeking to take his place in the labour market. In the Army Service Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Army Veterinary Corps, and the Army Ordnance Corps, corps pay is also issued, and in the Royal Engineers engineer pay, ranging from 3d. to 1s. 8d. per day, this pay being granted to certain skilled men and tradesmen. Men of the artillery, cavalry, and infantry also, who are serving on a long engagement, as distinct from service for the war only, can earn proficiency pay of 3d. to 6d. per day. This is granted to men who are physically capable of performing the duties of the rank in the arm of the Service to which they belong, and are also in possession of a third-class certificate of education. Good conduct pay is also issued, under certain conditions, to men under the rank of corporal or bombardier who have obtained good conduct badges; 1d. is granted for each badge, and a badge can be obtained after two years' service without a regimental entry.

Every soldier has a free daily ration of 1 lb. of bread and $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of meat (when under

canvas, 1 lb.), with certain groceries, and a messing allowance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per day. This $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. is spent, under the superintendence of the quartermaster, on the improvement of the feeding, and it is safe to say that the menu of the soldier is superior to that which is in vogue among the working classes. Diet sheets containing the menu for the week are posted in certain places in barracks, in order that every man may see what he will get, and the whole is administered by a committee, on which the men's representatives serve.

Each recruit on joining the army is presented with a free outfit, together with an allowance of 2d.* a day for the upkeep of his kit. Once a month an examination is made by the commanding officer, and each man's kit is laid out according to an authorised pattern, so that it may be seen at a glance if any article is missing. Many are the tricks which are resorted to by old soldiers to hide the loss of some particular article which they have not replaced.

The standard arm of the British Army is the short Lee-Enfield rifle, which has a total

* At present the rate is 2d. for soldiers of the Territorial Force.

length of 3 ft. $8\frac{1}{2}$ in., and carries a bayonet of 1 ft. 5 in. These rifles are sighted for every 25 yards from 200 to 2,800 yards, and the extreme range to which they will carry is roughly two miles. The rifle can be used both as a single loader or a magazine rifle, the cartridges being placed in by means of two clips, which hold five cartridges. This rifle has a barrel completely encased in wood to enable it to be freely handled when the barrel has been heated by rapid fire. The sword is not at present carried on service except in the cavalry, but warrant officers and staff sergeants carry a revolver. Pipers have a dirk and revolver. Machine guns are also attached to each battalion. This weapon has been of the very greatest use in the present war, and, although the smallest, is not the least useful of the gun family. It has a nominal rate of fire of 450 rounds per minute, and is fed by means of belts of cartridges, each containing 250 rounds. The barrel is surrounded by a water jacket in order to keep it cool, but when the maximum rate of fire is kept up it requires to be refilled after about 2,000 rounds have been fired. The machine gun section, who are specially selected men, have done magnificent work during the present war.

The following is a table of the pay drawn by the principal ranks and appointments:—

	Household Cavalry.	Cavalry and M.M. Police.	R.H.A.	R.F.A.	R.G.A.	R.E.	Foot Guards	Infantry and M.F. Police.	A.S.C.	R.A.M.C.	A.O.C.	A.P.C.
Boy till 18	-6	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8
Gunner, Driver, Sapper or Pte...	1/9	1/2	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Trumpeter, Rugler, or Drummer	1/11	1/4	2/-	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Shoemaker	2/3	1/6	1/9	1/7	1/7	1/6	1/4	1/3	1/5	1/5	1/5	1/5
Lance-Corporal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acting Bombardier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2nd Corporal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corporal	2/8	2/-	2/5	2/6	2/6	2/6	1/9	1/8	2/7	2/7	2/7	2/7
Lance-Sergeant	3/4	2/10	3/9	3/7	3/7	3/7	2/2	2/2	2/3	2/4	2/3	2/3
Farrier-Sergeant	3/2	2/8	3/4	3/2	3/2	3/2	2/6	2/4	2/7	2/8	2/7	2/7
Sergeant-Typr. or Sergt.-Drumr.	3/-	2/8	3/4	3/2	3/2	3/2	2/6	2/4	—	—	—	—
Sergeant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colour-Sergeant, or 2nd Class Staff-Sergeant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Squadron, Battery or Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	3/6	3/4	4/4	4/2	3/9	3/9	3/8	3/6	3/9	4/3	3/9	4/-
Squadron, Battery, or Company Sergeant-Major	4/6	4/4	4/4	4/2	4/-	3/9	4/2	4/-	4/3	—	—	—
Quartermaster-Sergeant, or 1st Class Staff-Sergeant	4/6	4/4	4/2	4/2	4/2	4/6	4/2	4/-	—	—	—	—
Bandmaster	5/6	5/6	6/-	5/10	5/10	6/-	5/2	5/-	5/6	5/6	4/3	4/6
Sergeant-Major	5/10	5/9	6/-	5/10	5/10	6/-	5/2	5/-	5/6	5/6	5/6	5/6

ENGINEER AND CORPS PAY.

Engineer pay is granted to non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Engineers when effective and at their duty, after being dismissed recruit's drill. It is not issued for Sunday.

Corps pay is granted to non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Army Ordnance Corps, below the rank of staff-sergeant, when effective and at their duty. The rates are:—

	Engineer Pay.	A.S.C.	Corps Pay. R.A.M.C.	A.O.C.
1st Rate	2/-	1/8	1/-	1/2
2nd „	1/8	1/4	-/8	-/11
3rd „	1/4	1/2	-/6	-/8
4th „	1/-	1/-	-/4	-/6
5th „	-/8	-/11	—	-/3
6th „	-/6	-/8	—	—
7th „	-/4	-/6	—	—
8th „	—	-/3	—	—

Engineer or corps pay is not issued to any soldier in the following cases:—

1. When on the sick list, in hospital or quarters.
2. When absent, with or without leave,

3. On any day when ordinary pay is forfeited.
4. When under arrest or detention, unless acquitted.
5. When confined to barracks.
6. When employed as officer's servant, or in the officers' or sergeants' mess, canteen, recreation room, tailors' or shoemakers' shop.

During the war the State pays allowances to maintain the wives and children of soldiers while they are separated from them.

A soldier serving abroad must contribute from his pay the amount shown as allotment. A soldier serving at home must contribute the same amount if his wife has no means or earnings of her own; but, if she has, he may claim to pay only so much (if anything) as, with the separation allowance, will bring her income up to the full amount shown in the table below. Provision is also made whereby dependants of an unmarried soldier may receive certain weekly allowances similar to the separation allowances for married soldiers' wives and children. This, of course, only

applies in cases in which the soldier has supported these dependants up to the time of enlistment, and no allowance is given unless the soldier makes an allotment from his pay for their benefit.

The contribution required from the soldier is now in all cases limited to the allotment for a wife, and if the soldier wishes to make a larger allotment than 3s. 6d. (or 5s. 10d. in the case of higher ranks) the extra allotment will be added to the weekly payment made to the wife.

Where soldiers are not separated from their families a family allowance is issued, which takes the place of all other allowances (lodging, fuel and light, ration, and separation allowance). This amount ranges roughly from 36s. 8d. for a warrant officer with a wife and four children, to 20s. 5d. in the case of a private with a wife only. Full particulars are given on Army Form B 218p, which can be obtained at any recruiting office. Where a soldier, although living at his own home, necessarily messes away from his home on duty, he will draw the usual ration allowance (now 1s. 9d. a day), and in respect of his family he will draw family allowance at the rates shown for separation allowance.

HOW I PLAY.

It is doubtful whether there is any walk in life which provides such great facilities for recreation as the army, and indeed the amusements it offers are many and varied. Each battalion, and generally each company, possesses its own cricket and football teams, while fives, hockey, and athletic clubs are to be met with everywhere. In the army one finds sport in its purest form, as, of necessity, professionalism there is entirely absent, and it is surprising what amount of excitement there is even in an inter-company match. When the men of "B" and "C" Companies of, let us say, the Loamshire regiment meet each other in the field there is more excitement in the unit than perhaps there is displayed in one of the great League struggles at the Crystal Palace. A striking feature of sport in the British Army is the intermingling between officers and men, and this, far from being subversive of discipline, tends to bring all ranks closer together. Of

all games, football takes first place with the rank and file, although cricket runs it a very close second. Sport is encouraged in every way, and it is not at all an infrequent thing for men of a regimental team to be granted leave from parade, either for practice or to admit of their playing a match. Another popular game at the large garrisons is fives, where courts have been made for the purpose. Beyond the purchase of a ball the game involves very little expense, and it is a splendid form of recreation, bringing all the muscles into play.

In many regiments, bicycles are provided out of an amusement fund, these machines being the property of the company and let out to the men. Where there is a river near, company boats are often provided on the same principle.

Of indoor recreations there is a great variety. To each canteen there is attached a room where variety entertainments are given, generally by professional artistes, and it may be said that they are as clean, if not cleaner, than the average music-hall entertainment. These shows are very popular with the soldier, for the reason that to go to them he need not go in anything else but fatigue

dress, and can buy his liquid refreshment at a more reasonable rate than he can in the town.

In addition to the canteen, as before-mentioned, there are regimental coffee bars, recreation rooms, and libraries. The first retails all kinds of non-intoxicating liquors and eatables. The recreation room is for billiards, bagatelle, dominoes, and entertainments of various kinds, while the library is usually well-stocked with standard literature and newspapers.

In addition to these amusements, many regiments run what may be described as outside shows, such as dramatic clubs and nigger minstrel troupes. More than one artiste now earning a big salary on the variety stage has received his first lessons in dramatic art through this channel.

It is somewhat outside the limit of this small work, but reference should be made to the soldiers' homes in many garrison towns, in which places soldiers may pass the time in the pleasantest manner. These in themselves are excellent institutions, but the average Tommy fights a little shy of them, perhaps owing to their connection with

religious bodies, but with the modern tendency to make them partake more of the nature of a club, this is fast dying away.

Among the amusements of a garrison or regiment mention should be made of the band, which in the summer is a huge asset. During the long summer evenings, the regimental band usually plays outside the officers' mess, and here, together with congenial female company, Tommy assembles and under the influence of the sweet strains tells the everlasting old story.

In the stress of war training leave cannot be obtained quite so freely as in times of peace, but, realising the sacrifices which the men have made, every reasonable opportunity is given to men to visit their family and relatives. In fact, at Christmas time six days' leave is sometimes granted, together with a free railway pass to whatever part of the country a soldier may wish to go. It is safe to say that a soldier obtains even under present conditions more holidays than he would do as a member of the working classes. Week-end leave is not difficult to obtain, and this usually embraces from mid-day on Saturday until réveillée Monday morning.

CHAPTER IX.

MILITARY LAW—HOSPITALS.

For the proper carrying out of the duties of the Army it is necessary to have a code of laws to a certain extent distinct from the civil code. This is due to the fact that many things which in civil life would either be no crime at all, or, at any rate, merely a breach of contract, must in military life be looked upon very severely. For instance, to refuse to carry out an order would, in the first case, only entail dismissal, but in the case of the Army it might result in the loss of many lives, and, consequently, the penalty for it must be severe. In the same way, to sleep upon one's post in ordinary life would simply cause a man to be looked upon as lazy, but on active service, where the safety of a whole army is concerned, it is met with the death penalty. The military law therefore by which the Army is ruled is based upon the Army Act and King's Regulations, and this gives to officers more or less judicial power. In the case of minor offences, such as being

dirty on parade, slackness at drill, etc., they are dealt with by the Company Commander, who sees the recruit at the company orderly-room, and deals out the punishment according to the heinousness of the offence. These punishments include extra guards and piquets, confinement to barracks, and fines for drunkenness. More serious cases are referred to the Commanding Officer, who holds orderly-room every morning except Sunday, and this officer has the power to punish up to the extent of 28 days' detention, though where a question of forfeiture of pay is concerned the accused man has the right, if he so wishes, to be tried by district court-martial. If the offence is too serious to be dealt with by the commanding officer, or if for any reason he may consider it desirable, the offender is tried before what is known as a District Court-Martial. This consists of not less than three officers, whose ranks and terms of service have to fulfil certain qualifications. This court has the power to punish a man up to two years' imprisonment. The procedure is much the same as in a civil court. The witnesses for the prosecution are first heard, and can be cross-examined by the accused or by his counsel. Witnesses for the defence are afterwards heard, and the ac-

cused can, if he wishes, give evidence on his own behalf. The finding "guilty" or "not guilty" is decided by the majority of the votes of the court, and so is the sentence. It is safe to say that the court-martial is perhaps the fairest court in the world, as even the prosecutor, who is generally the adjutant of the regiment, unlike the prosecuting lawyer in civil life, has not to endeavour to obtain a conviction, but has to place all the evidence, whether for or against, before the court. All evidence is taken down and read over to the accused, and he has also the right to object to any member of the court.

A higher court than this, known as a General Court-Martial, is assembled for the trial of an officer or for the trial of a non-commissioned officer or man when the charge is of the most serious description. In England it consists of nine members, abroad of five, and its members are of higher rank and have longer service than is the case of those on a district court-martial.

So far as is possible in England, offences which can be dealt with by a civil court, that is, offences which are against the civil law of the country, are left in the hands of the civil

authorities, and courts-martial are only assembled to deal with offences of a more or less purely military character. In the field, all offences are tried by what is known as a Field General Court-Martial. This, as a rule, consists of three members, and the procedure is almost identical with that of district and general court-martials except that owing to the exigencies of the service it is done in a briefer manner. Such a court will deal not only with offences of a military character, but also any against the law of England or against the civil law of the country in which the troops are operating.

HOSPITALS.

The greatest care is taken in the Army to keep the soldier in health, but when he does fall sick he receives, perhaps, even greater care than he would in civil life, and the modern military hospitals are magnificently conducted institutions, and, unwilling as Mr. Thomas Atkins is to enter them, once he has got there he is very often loath to come out. The nurses of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, with their gray cloaks and scarlet facings, are a familiar figure in every large garrison town. These ladies, after passing a course of hospital nursing, are admitted into the Army, and there have to undergo another probationary

period. At the present time their work is being largely supplemented by the work of the various voluntary aid detachments, composed of ladies who are giving up their time to nursing the wounded soldier.

Sick parade in the Army is held early each morning, when those who are able are marched under the orderly-corporal to the doctor, and are marked according to their ailments or non-ailments, as (1) duty, (2) light duty, (3) no duty, (4) hospital.

An important part of the training of a soldier is sanitation and the prevention of disease, and this is a subject on which he is being constantly lectured by the R.A.M.C. officers. It must be remembered that the sick soldier is not only of no use to the country, but he is also what is known as "a useless mouth," and consequently it is up to him to keep himself as fit as he possibly can.

HINTS ON FIRST AID.*

A few hints on first aid and on sanitation might perhaps be found useful by the young soldier:—

Always send for a medical officer at once; in the meantime, the following will be useful:—

* For further information see "How to Keep Fit," price 4d., by Major H. Waite, R.A.M.C. (T.), from Gale & Polden Ltd.

Cuts should be kept clean, washed in clean cold water, and bandaged with clean rag. Never put anything dirty on the wound, such as greasy rags or tobacco. If there is much bleeding from the wound, put a pad on it and bandage tightly. Tie a cord or something round the limb tightly to stop the flow of blood, or the patient may bleed to death; if the bleeding is from an artery this should be done between the wound and the heart; if it is from a vein the ligature should be put on the side of the wound farthest from the heart. Blood from an artery is bright red and spurts out; blood from a vein is dark and flows evenly.

Bites from snakes or animals.—Squeeze the part on the side next the heart and tie a cord or something tightly round it to stop the circulation of the blood, and prevent the poison being carried into the system; make the wound bleed freely; suck out the poison; dash the place with plenty of water; if the animal is known to be dangerous, burn the wound with a match or place gunpowder in it. Don't let the patient go to sleep; if he seems drowsy keep him walking about.

Broken Limbs should be bandaged with a splint. Anything will do, sticks, a rifle, a sword scabbard, etc. Pad the splint on

the inside with something soft, and take care the knots of the bandages are on the outside of the splint, so as not to cut into the flesh.

Burns and Scalds. — Keep out the air, cover the burn with flour or lint steeped in oil.

Frost Bite. — Rub with snow or cold water, *Never use hot water*, and don't let the patient go near a fire or into a warm room till the part affected has thawed.

Sunstroke. — Place the patient in the shade and loosen all tight clothing; apply ice or cold water to the head, which should be well raised. Give no stimulants.

HINTS ON SANITATION.

In camp, when the weather permits, tent flies should be rolled up the first thing in the morning.

All ground should be kept scrupulously clean.

Food should always be covered.

Empty jam pots should never be allowed to lie about.

Blankets should be aired, as often as possible.

Strict bodily cleanliness should be observed.

Slop water should always be thrown in the appointed place.

GENERAL INFORMATION.*

Perhaps it will not be out of place here to give a few hints to the young soldier on matters which do not come exactly within the previous chapters.

Perhaps the most important duty on which the youngster can be placed is that of sentry. In this case it is well to commit to memory the following rules:—

1. No man must ever quit his guard without the permission of the guard commander.
2. No man must take off any article of equipment or clothing.
3. When on guard he must be ready at all times to turn out at a moment's notice.
4. A sentry will turn out the guard to the King and any member of the Royal Family; general officers in uniform, and all armed corps passing his post.

* "Compliments paid by Guards and Sentries," price 2d.
"On Guard—What to do and how to do it," price 6d., from
Gale & Polden Ltd.

5. Also when visited by the field officer on duty, and once a day to the officer commanding the unit.

6. A sentry must walk about his beat in a smart and soldierlike manner.

7. He must never quit his arms or converse with passers-by.

8. He must never stand in the sentry box except in inclement weather.

9. He must take charge of all public property in view of his post.

10. In case of fire or other unusual occurrence he must alarm the guard.

11. He must pay proper compliments to all officers and parties according to rank.

MAKING COMPLAINTS.

It is not permissible in the Army for a man to approach an officer direct with the idea of making a complaint or a request. This is not due to the fact that the officer is a high and mighty individual who must not be approached, but an adherence to the rule that there is a proper time and place for everything, and if the officer's time had to be taken up by listening to every trivial com-

plaint that a man brought forward, how and when he pleased, he would have little time left for the more serious side of his profession. Consequently the man who wishes, as aforesaid, to make a request or complaint, makes his application first of all through his section sergeant, who passes it on, and in due time the man is brought before his company officer in the orderly-room. Every opportunity must be given to a man in this respect, and if he fails to obtain satisfaction from his company officer, he has the right to appear before the Commanding Officer of the regiment. Nor is this all, for he has a further right of complaining to the inspecting officer when the regiment undergoes its annual inspection.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Non-commissioned officers and men should never address a letter to an officer personally, but by his official title, such as "Officer Commanding 'D' Company, 1st Blankshire Regiment." A letter should commence with "Sir," and conclude "I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. H. Smith, 'D' Company, 1st Blankshire Regiment," and giving his regimental number.



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