

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

The War Office requests Officers Commanding Units to submit Photographs and Films suitable for conversion into Lantern Slides.—WAR OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

The Officer Commanding wishes to notify N.C.O.'s and men in possession of Cameras that all reasonable facilities will be given them for the purpose of securing Photographs portraying Army Life.—“B” COMPANY'S ORDERS.

“IT appears,” explained Private Smith, “that they want to advertise the Army with a magic lantern.

“They've got a bit tired of showin' a picture of a soldier in marchin' order, an' callin' it 'the advantages of the Army.'”

"We was talkin' about it the other night down in the '*Ole in the Wall*, me an' Nobby Clark an' a new chap of 'A'—I forget his right name for the minute, but we call 'im Smiler—an' Spud Murphy an' 'Appy Johnson.

"'Wot's the idea, Nobby?' sez Spud, who's been gettin' on friendly terms with me an' Nobby lately; 'wot do they want our photos for?'

"'I don't know,' sez Nobby, 'but me an' Smithy are goin' in for it—ain't we, Smithy?'

"'No,' I sez.

"'Me an' Smithy's got a camera,' sez Nobby, takin' no notice of wot I said, 'an' to-morrer we are goin' round barracks to see what we can do in the photo line.'

"I thought old Nobby was coddin', but 'e wasn't, for up 'e comes next mornin' with one of them concertina machines that pull in an' out, an'

at ten o'clock up goes Nobby to the Orderly Room an' asks to see the old man.

" 'Well, Clark,' sez the Colonel, ' what do you want ? '

" 'Beg par'don, sir,' sez Nobby, ' but me an' Smithy's got a camera, an' we'd like to take a few photos for the War Office.'

" The old man was as pleased as Punch. ' Very good ; very good indeed,' sez 'e. ' Sergeant-Major, see that Smith an' Clark are excused all parades for a week,' 'e sez. ' Is that what you want ? ' ' Yes, sir,' sez Nobby.

" So me an' Nobby walked about for the rest of the week doin' nothin', an' the other chaps was very wild.

" We used to go an' watch 'em on parade an' pretend to take snapshots of 'em.

" Nobby caused a bit of unpleasantness by sayin' to the Adjutant that 'e'd like to take a photograph of the regiment on parade in full marchin' order.

" 'You ought to know better,' sez Spud Murphy, very fierce. 'I'm surprised at you, Nobby. There ain't another marchin' order parade for a month, an' 'ere you've been an' got orders put in for one to-morrer!'

"All the chaps in the room who was busy cleanin' their straps an' packin' their valises said, "'Ear, 'ear,' but me an' Nobby sat on a bed cot doin' nothin'.

" 'You wait till you see yourselves in a magic lantern,' sez Nobby. 'An' besides,' 'e sez, 'I'm goin' to take a lot' of you chaps by yourselves to-morrow.'

" 'Free?' sez Spud eagerly.

" 'Don't be a miser,' sez Nobby sternly; 'don't be a miser, Spud. A tanner won't break you, will it? It costs me that.'

" 'Ow do you do it, Nobby?' sez Smiler.

" 'It's as simple as drinkin',' sez Nobby, gettin' down 'is camera. 'I

point it at you, push this cut-off, an' you're took in a minute.'

" Well, Nobby kept the regiment standing half an hour on parade next mornin' waitin' for the sun to come out.

" Me an' him was in the corner of the parade ground, him 'oldin' 'is camera, me waggin' my 'ead backward an' forward, tryin' to look as if I knew all about it, an' the battalion standin' stiff to attention.

" Bimeby the Adjutant sings out :

• " 'Ave you taken it ?'

" ' No, sir,' sings out Nobby.

" ' Well, 'urry up,' sez the Adjutant ; an' Nobby obeys orders an' pushes the button.

" ' I want to see the picture to-morrer,' sez the Adjutant.

" ' Yessir,' sez Nobby.

" Some'ow old Nobby was a bit depressed all that day. After tea 'e sez to me :

" 'Smithy, come for a walk in town ; I want to 'ave a bit of a chin wag.'

" 'Smithy,' 'e sez when we got out that night, 'do you know anything about photos?'

" 'No,' I sez.

" 'No more don't I,' 'e sez with a sort of sigh.

" 'What!' I sez.

" 'No,' 'e sez, 'I don't know a bloomin' thing about it. I bought this camera from a chap down the 'Igh Street. 'E sold it cheap, bein' sligh'ly damaged. It 'adn't got one of its parts. I forget which. Any'ow, the chap said it didn't matter.'

" 'Look 'ere, Nobby,' I sez, stoppin' in the street, 'ave you got the monkey box with you?'

" 'Yes,' 'e sez, 'I never let it out of my sight,' an' 'e pulls it out of his overcoat pocket.

" 'We'll take it in to that chap that

takes photos, an' see what's wrong with it.'

"So we took it into the photo shop, an' Nobby tells the chap all about it. The chap looks at the camera for a bit, an' me an' Nobby looks at 'im very anxious.

"'What do you want me to do?' 'e sez.

"'Take out the photos we've took,' sez Nobby.

"'You've took, Nobby; not me,' I sez.

"'We're both in, Smithy,' sez Nobby.

"'There ain't no photos,' sez the photo chap.

"'No photos!' sez me an' Nobby together, an' Nobby went pale.

"'No,' sez the photo chap, 'there ain't no films.'

"'Hey?' sez Nobby.

"'Nor no lens neither,' sez the photo chap.

"'Does that make any difference?' sez Nobby.

" 'You've done it!' I sez, an' I told the photo chap all about 'ow Nobby took the picture o' the regiment on parade, an' 'ow the Adjutant sez 'e wanted a copy of the photo to-morrow.

" 'Where was it took?' sez the photo chap.

" 'On parade,' I sez.

" 'I've got a photo of a regiment at 'ome took on that very parade,' sez the photo chap. 'I'll tell you what I'll do when I get 'ome to-night; I'll send it on to you. You can say you took it, an' it'll be all right.'

" Old Nobby brightens up wonderful.

" 'Is it our regiment?' 'e sez.

" 'No,' sez the photo chap; 'but it's so small you can't tell what regiment it is.'

" 'That'll do,' sez Nobby. 'Send it straight to the Adjutant,' an' we both went back to barracks 'ighly satisfied.

“Next mornin’ we was sent for to the orderly room.

“ ‘Good-mornin’, Clark ; good-mornin’, Smith,’ sez the Adjutant, when ’e saw us. ‘Nice photograph that you sent us.’

“ ‘Yes, sir,’ sez Nobby ; but I said nothin’.

“ ‘Took it yourself ? ’ sez the Adjutant.

“ ‘Yes, sir,’ sez Nobby.

“ ‘Ah,’ sez the Adjutant very affable, ‘the Colonel is very interested in it.’

“ ‘Very glad to ’ear that, sir,’ sez Nobby.

“The Adjutant took the photo from ’is pocket an’ ’anded it to Nobby.

“Nobby looks at it ; so did I. Then we saluted an’ went back to the barrack-room.

“Nobby didn’t speak for a long time. When ’e did, ’e said somethin’ about the photo chap, an’ then——

“ ‘Was there anything I said to the photo chap last night that’d make ’im think we was ’Ighlanders, Smithy ? ’ ”