

# CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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# CAVALRY INSTRUCTION.

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## *COURSE OF LECTURES*

*Ordered by General Order 30, dated 1st of March, 1884,  
for Instruction of Cavalry, Yeomanry, &c., &c.*

BY

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1885.

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# CAVALRY INSTRUCTION.

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*Horse Guards' G.O. 30, dated 1st March, 1884 — Military Training of Soldiers.*

THE Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief desires to express his satisfaction with the manner in which General officers commanding, commanding officers, and officers of all grades have assisted in giving effect to the military training of soldiers prescribed by G.O. 50 of 1883.

Great interest has been generally evinced by all ranks in the company training, and considerable progress made; but much remains to be done.

The following instructions will regulate the training from the 1st March next:—

- I. The course will be limited to one month.
- II. It will be conducted between the 1st March and 31st October.
- III. A Syllabus of the course of instruction has been approved (Appendix A), and will be furnished to all concerned.
- IV. This course will be generally adhered to; but where special circumstances, such as the absence of proper training ground, necessitate a deviation from it, General officers will make such alterations as may appear expedient, taking care that the whole period of instruction is fully utilized.
- V. Considerable scope is left to commanding officers in arranging details, to which their careful attention is directed. In making their arrangements, the principle will be followed that each elementary subject must be in turn completely mastered before another is proceeded with. When mastered, it will afterwards be only incidentally reverted to in combination with more advanced subjects.
- VI. During inclement weather, and where no special accommodation or drill shed is available, instruction will be given in the barrack room by means of lectures, explanations, and questioning.
- VII. Every available officer, non-commissioned officer, and man will be present with his company, and relieved of all other duties while under instruction, with the exception only of bandsmen and such as are exempted from the Annual Course of Musketry (see Rifle Exercises and Musketry Instruction).
- VIII. Men in hospital, prison, &c., who are unable to attend with their companies will, as soon as available, join the next company struck off training.
- IX. When recruits join the headquarters of a battalion from the dépôt the company first to receive recruits will be completed up to its full establishment, any surplus being posted to the company next in order, and so on.
- X. To ensure every man being properly accounted for, returns on Army Form B 214 (see Appendix B) will be forwarded to the General officer commanding, on the completion of the training of each company.
- XI. Where battalions are broken up in consequence of companies being detached from headquarters, or where the nature of the duties will not allow of one company per battalion being struck off for training without reducing the number of nights in bed for men of other companies below three, General officers commanding will make the best arrangements in their power for carrying out the spirit of these regulations.
- XII. To enable officers to give instruction of real value, each day's work should be carefully prepared previously by company commanders, and an outline of it given to the other officers and non-commissioned officers of the company.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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XIII. Each practice in field training will be based on a definite supposition and object, and will be carried on, as far as possible, under the conditions of actual warfare.

XIV. Explanation will in all cases precede practice on the ground, and should form an important part of the instructions.

XV. Instruction will extend over at least four or five hours daily, and for practical work on the ground short parades should be avoided, a period of from two to three consecutive hours being generally desirable.

XVI. Blank ammunition will be used in practising the more advanced exercises.

XVII. Whenever practicable, General officers will personally supervise the troops under training, and test the merits of the instruction imparted, by exercising the companies of different battalions against one another.

XVIII. It is anticipated that the tents and tools whose issue is already authorized (Equipment Regulations, para. 365, and Clause 89, Army Circulars 1883), will, under ordinary circumstances, be sufficient for the instruction laid down in the Syllabus. Should any increased issue be required, a special application should be made through the General officer commanding the district.

XIX. Any provisions of G.O. 50 of 1883, inconsistent with this order, are hereby cancelled.

### *Horse Guards' Memorandum, dated 4th March, 1884.*

As a corollary to G.O. 30 of this year, each squadron of Cavalry will be annually put through a course of instruction by its own officers. The following instructions will regulate the training which will take place between the 1st of March and the 30th of June, and which will include only trained soldiers and first-class recruits:—

I. The course will be limited to one month.

II. Only one squadron of each regiment will at a time be under instruction.

III. A Syllabus of the course of instruction is annexed and will be furnished to all concerned.

IV. This course will be generally adhered to; but where special circumstances, such as the absence of proper training ground, necessitate a deviation from it, General officers will make such alterations as may appear expedient, taking care that the whole period of instruction is fully utilized.

V. Considerable scope is left to commanding officers in arranging details, to which their careful attention is directed. In making their arrangements, the principle will be followed that each elementary subject must be in turn completely mastered before another is proceeded with. When mastered, it will afterwards be only incidentally reverted to in combination with more advanced subjects.

VI. During inclement weather and where no special accommodation or drill shed is available, instruction will be given in the barrack room by means of lectures, explanations, and questioning.

VII. Every available officer, non-commissioned officer, and man will be present with his squadron and relieved of all other duties while under instruction, with the exception only of bandsmen, one servant for each officer, and such non-commissioned officers as are exempted from the Annual Course of Musketry (see Rifle Exercises and Musketry Instruction), and men of over 17 years' service. No leave or furlough whatever is to be granted, except in peculiar cases of emergency, to any one belonging to the squadron when struck off for duty.

VIII. Men in hospital, prison, &c., who are unable to attend with their troops, will, as soon as available, join, mounted on their own horses, the next squadron struck off for training.

IX. To ensure every man and horse being properly accounted for, the daily statement (Appendix B) will be kept, and forwarded to the General officer commanding on the completion of the training of each squadron.

X. Where regiments are broken up in consequence of squadrons being detached from headquarters, or where the nature of the duties will not allow of one squadron per regiment being struck off for training without reducing the number of nights in bed for men of other squadrons below three, General officers commanding will make the best arrangements in their power for carrying out the spirit of these regulations.

XI. To enable officers to give instruction of real value, each day's work should be carefully prepared previously by the squadron commander, and an outline of it given to the other officers and non-commissioned officers of the squadron.

The squadron commander will allot to the officers under him the various branches of instruction in such manner as he may consider most conducive to the effective training of the squadron.

XII. Each practice in field training will be based on a definite supposition and object, and will be carried on, as far as possible, under the conditions of actual warfare.

XIII. Explanation will in all cases precede practice on the ground, and should form an important part of the instruction.

XIV. Instruction will extend over at least four to five hours daily, and for practical work on the ground short parades should be avoided, a period of from two to three consecutive hours being generally desirable.

XV. It is anticipated that the tents and tools whose issue is already authorized (Equipment Regulations, para. 365, and Clause 89, Army Circulars 1883), will, under ordinary circumstances, be sufficient for the instruction laid down in the Syllabus. Should any increased issue be required, a special application should be made through the General officer commanding the district.

XVI. Blank ammunition will be used in practising dismounted service.

XVII. Whenever practicable, General officers will personally supervise the troops under training, and test the merits of the instruction imparted, by exercising squadrons against one another.

XVIII. At the end of the month's course, the officer commanding the regiment will put the squadron through a searching examination, testing the knowledge of all ranks with the drill and duties in which they have been instructed during the training.

XIX. In order that the greatest benefit may be derived from this course of instruction, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men should remain permanently in the squadron to which their troop belongs; and the troops composing a squadron should be changed only on the promotion of a captain to the permanent command of another squadron.

APPENDIX A.

CAVALRY SYLLABUS.

*1st Week.*

Instruction of the squadron mounted.

Preparation for the attack.

Execution of the attack: Cavalry *v.* Cavalry, Cavalry *v.* Artillery, Cavalry *v.* Infantry (Cavalry Regulations, Part II, Secs. VIII and IX of Part III).

Escorts to guns and convoys (Part IV, Cavalry Regulations).

Field trumpet and bugle sounds.

*2nd Week.*

Dismounted service.

Elements of defence of posts, explained on the ground where facilities exist, comprising improvised obstacles, the principles of the defence of banks, hedges, ditches, and walls (Sec. V, paras. 1 to 15, Manual of Elementary Field Engineering).

Marches (Part IV, Sec. X, Cavalry Regulations).

Duty of covering a body of troops on the march.

Advanced guard: its formation and conduct on a road, a plain, entering a village, and approaching a defile.

Flanking parties: collisions with the enemy.

Rear guard: its formation, object, and conduct in advance and retreat.

(Instructions for Cavalry Advance and Rear Guards, Chap. I.)

*3rd Week.*

Reconnoitring, its object: ordinary patrols, by day and night, in close and open country; reconnoitring a defile, wood, village, and river; flanking, patrols (Chap. III, Instructions for Cavalry Advance and Rear Guard).

Outposts, general principles, division of squadron; advance line of vedettes, their posting, orders, visiting and relief; detached posts; picquets, their object, position, strength, and telling off; patrols; supports; protection of flanks and connection between several units; procedure on attack; preparation of picquet for defence; withdrawal and retreat. Disposition at night, when understood, to be practised after dark (Chap. II, Instructions for Cavalry Advance and Rear Guards).

*4th Week.*

Camping:— To unpack, pitch, strike, and pack tents; telling of and exercise of cooking, latrine, water, ration, and wood parties (Regulations for Encampment).

Construction of field kitchens and latrines, trenching of camp, and water supply (Paras. 1 and 2, Sec. XVIII, Manual of Elementary Field Engineering).

Bivouacs and their protection (*Idem*, para. 15).

# CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

Picketing.

Wherever ground and transport is available, after sufficient instruction has been given in the details, the squadron will march from its quarters one morning soon after daylight with camp equipment, fuel, and uncooked rations for the day's consumption, proceed with military precautions to the ground selected for the day.

The examination by the commanding officer will ordinarily take place during the last day or two of the course. The following books are recommended:—

“Minor Tactics,” by Lieut-Colonel Clery, and “Elements of Modern Tactics,” by Major Wilkinson Shaw.

## APPENDIX B.

### DAILY STATEMENT OF PARADES FOR INSTRUCTION FOR THE MONTH'S COURSE.

Dates.	On Parade.						Time.	Subjects of Instruction.	Prisoners and Defaulters.		Remarks.					
1884.	Morning or Afternoon.	Major or Captain.	Subalterns.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Drummers.	Rank and File.	Horses.		When commenced.	When dismissed.		In arrest or Guard Room.	Under any punishment.			
												Sergeants.	Trumpeters or Drummers.	Rank and File.	Trumpeters or Drummers.	Rank and File.
Jan. 1st	{ Morning. Afternoon. Morning. Afternoon.															
Jan. 2nd																



# CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

## APPENDIX C.

*Squadron*

*Regiment.*

*Company*

DIARY OF ATTENDANCE of each man during the month's course, commenced \_\_\_\_\_,  
concluded \_\_\_\_\_ 18 .

\_\_\_\_\_ Station. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Regimental No.	Nominal Roll of Squadron or Company																							

*N.B.*— This roll will include the name of every soldier borne on the strength of the Squadron, or Company, no matter how employed, detached or otherwise absent. The cause of absence of *every man* not present at instruction to be duly recorded.

*By order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India,*

G. R. GREAVES, *Major-General,*

*Adjutant-General in India.*

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTIONS

### SYLLABUS OF FOUR WEEKS' COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

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#### FIRST WEEK.

MONDAY.

*Morning.*

[Instruction by Troop Leaders under superintendence of Squadron Commander.]

Men form up, mounted, in squads, single rank, at open files.

Saddlery and accoutrements are inspected and adjusted (Cav. Reg., Part I, Secs. 9, 10, 11).

Troops form up in single rank, dress (Part I, Sec. 4). Advance by single file, circle. Men's positions and riding are corrected at various paces (Part I, Secs. 13, 19, 21, 22), and in riding with swords (Part I, Sec. 24).

Practise mounting and dismounting with and without carbines (Part I, Secs. 22, 25).

Form up in single rank and practise marching in line (Part I, Sec. 5), inclining (Sec. 6), passaging and reining back (Sec. 7), wheeling (Sec. 8).

Form and tell off by troops (Part II, Sec. 10).

Practise movements by fours (Part II, Sec. 13), positions of broken sections (Part II, Sec. 13, para. 7).

Practise marches to front, flank, and rear (Part II, Sec. 14).

Practise formations to front, flank, and rear (Part II, Sec. 15).

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Drill."]

Particulars of the course of instruction.

Reasons for drill.

Composition of squadron.

Riding.

Dressing.

Wheeling.

Pace.

Formations.

Distances and intervals.

Parade movements.

March past.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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TUESDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of first Lecture in the Field.]

Troop leaders form up, inspect, and tell off their troops.

Form and tell off squadron (Part II, Sec. 11).

Movements by fours, double rank (Part II, Sec. 13).

Marches to front, flank, and rear (Part II, Sec. 14).

Formations to front, flank, and rear (Sec. 15).

Counter-march (Sec. 16).

Increase and diminish front (Sec. 17).

Practise the squadron advancing in line and in column, and in wheeling at the different paces, in open as well as close order (Part II, Sec. 18).

Advance at open and extended files.

Parade movements and march past (Part III, Sec. 10).

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Field Movements."]

Fifty questions on previous lecture and instruction.

Object of field movements.

Change of front.

Change of position.

Echelon.

Retirements in succession and alternately.

Small columns.

Open formation.

Close columns.

Rallying.

Trumpet sounds.

Signals.

Squadron scouts.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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WEDNESDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]

Practise advancing in line and wheeling at various paces, working by trumpet sound and signals.

Send out squadron scouts with their orders.

Change front in line (III, 12), and in squadron columns.

Change position in line (III, No. 12), and in squadron column.

Form direct echelon and oblique echelon. (The latter should be much practised.) Part III, 12, No. 13.

Retire in succession and by alternate troops (Part III, 12, No. 14).

Advance and retire by fours from flank (III, 12, Nos. 15 and 16), and by double sections from centre.

Advance at extended files; disperse and rally to front on the move.

Advance at extended files, turn about and disperse in retreat rally to front.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Cavalry Tactics."]

Questions on previous instruction.

Cavalry in action.

The three lines.

First line.

Support.

Receive.

Advancing to attack.

Cavalry v. Cavalry.

Cavalry v. Artillery.

Cavalry v. Infantry.

Preparation for attack.

The charge.

Pursuit.

Rally.

Use of weapon.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Leader; apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]

Practise advances and changes of front at fast pace.

Advancing in oblique echelon.

Manœuvre with one troop as first line, the other conforming and acting as support.

Form two single rank squadrons, one to represent enemy. Each squadron to form in two lines (first line and support), and manœuvre to gain the other's flank, &c., and attack.

Practise attack on artillery, one troop making converging attack from extended files. The front rank of the other acting as support. The rear rank to be posted to represent battery in action.

Practise fast advance, and charge. First line disperse and rally to form support to second line which extends in pursuit.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Escorts."]

Questions on previous instruction.

On cavalry escorts.

Escort to artillery.

Escort to convoy or prisoners.

Composition.

Marching.

Halting.

Camping.

Repelling attack.

Dismounted escorts.

Use of lasso.

State escorts.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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FRIDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]

(A few squadron carts or waggon can be used in this exercise to represent guns, baggage waggons, state carriages, &c.)

Practise moving with battery, with scouts out (Part IV, Sec. 2), take up position for coming into action.

Tell off, form up and move off an escort on a convoy of waggons, with advanced and rear guards, and flankers (Part IV, Sec. 6).

Halt of convoy. Make a laager, and post outposts.

Instruct and practise lasso detachment (Instructions for use of Lasso, Cav. Reg., page 483).

Form up, tell off, and give instructions to state escorts. "Field officer's," "captains with standard," and "without standard," "Prince of Wales' escort," "travelling escort" (Part IV, Sec. 3). Move off, march and reform.

Relieve Royal travelling escort on the move (Part IV, Sec. 3, para. 36) and at the halt.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Transport by Rail and Sea."]

Questions on previous instruction.

Transport of cavalry by rail.

Preparation of train.

Loading.

Packing saddles.

Stoppages.

Embarkation on ships, alongside wharf.

When not alongside.

Swimming horses.

Slinging horses.

Care on board ship.

Disembarkations:

Alongside a wharf.

In flats.

By swimming ashore.

SATURDAY.

*Morning.*

[Examination of Squadron by Squadron Commander and Troop Commanders in subjects of the past week's instruction.]

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SECOND WEEK

MONDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Leader; apply Instructions given in Friday's Lecture.]

(N.B. — Arrangements should be made with railway authorities for use of trucks and platform, and if possible for use of crane or derrick with tackles and slings.)

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture of Squadron Commander on "Marches."]

Questions on morning's instruction.

March in friendly country:

Rules for march.

Care of horses.

Sore backs.

Marches on Service.

Night marches.

Crossing rivers —

1. By bridges.
2. By ferries.
3. By towing.
4. By swimming.
5. By fords.
6. By ice.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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TUESDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under squadron Leader; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Parade in full marching order.

Close inspection of saddlery, kit, and accoutrements.

March out (observing rules, and showing evils of straggling and hurried closing up).

If possible practise crossing rivers.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Advanced Guards.”]

Questions on previous instruction.

Advanced guards.

Parade advanced guard.

Service       ”       ”

Duties in enemy’s country, of

Advanced party.

Support.

Reserve.

Encounters with enemy.



## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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WEDNESDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Leader; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Tell off and form *parade advanced* guard. Troop leaders give their instructions to advanced parties.  
Practise moving off and relieving on the move (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 5).

Tell off *Service advanced* guard, and go for a march across country. Advanced party and scouts to report every trivial circumstance; *e.g.*, a herd of cattle, waggon approaching, &c.; examine woods, defiles, villages, &c., with all precautions (Instructions for Cavalry Outposts, Chap. I).

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Rear Guards."]

Questions on previous instruction.

Rear Guards.

Parade Rear Guard.

Service " "

Formation.

Flanking parties.

Demolitions and repairs.

Ambuscades.

Duties of rear guard to a retreating force.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Leader; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Tell off and form “*parade*” rear guard (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 5).

Tell off “*service*” rear guard.

Practice moving off. March across country. Rear party and flankers sending in frequent reports.

Reinforce rear party. Defend a defile.

Form flanking party and move with all precautions.

Select position and post ambuscade.

Send out a troop to form ambuscade near a road, and march the other troop along the road.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Dismounted Service.”]

Dismounted service.

Temporary service duties —

Skirmishing.

Permanent duties —

Defence of village, &c.

” ” wood.

” ” bridge.

Principles of shooting —

Position — aiming.

Sighting — firing at.

Moving objects.

Attacking a position on foot.

Working as Mounted Infantry.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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FRIDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Leader; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Practise dismounting by odd or even numbers, in line, in forms, &c. (Cav. Reg., Part II, 23).

Dismounting by sections (Sq. Col. Drill, 1883).

Mounted Infantry Regulations (Sec. XIII, para. 7).

Linking horses (Cav. Reg., Part II, 22).

Skirmishing (Cav. Reg., Part IV, 1).

Attacking in extended sections (*vide* Appendix).

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Leader on “Defence of Posts.”]

Objects of fortifying places.

Method of       ”       ”

Shelter pit.

Shelter trench.

Walls.

Hedges.

Houses.

Obstacles.

Demolitions.

Railway.

Bridge.

Ford.

Telegraph.

Engines.

Trucks.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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SATURDAY.

*Morning.*

[Examination of Squadron by Squadron Commander and Troop Commanders in subjects of the past week's instruction.]

*Afternoon.*

Nil.

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## THIRD WEEK

MONDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander. Squadron parades dismounted in fatigue dress to carry out instructions of Friday's Lecture.]

(Squadron should be provided with picks, shovels, crowbars, axes, bill-hooks, mallets, wire, &c.)

Every two men to make a shelter pit with a sod or stone loophole (Manual of Field Engineering, Sec. III, paras. 2 and 8).

If available, a house with surrounding fences or garden walls should be placed at disposal of the squadron. The general idea of defence to be adopted should be explained to the squadron, the position of the first line pointed out, and how the house itself would be utilized for second defence. How the ground to the front would be cleared. Loophole high walls, notch medium ones, and excavate behind low ones. Prepare hedges, abattis, and entanglements (Sec. IV, 3,4, and 6).

Post men for internal defence of house, and show where to barricade, loophole mask with bedding, &c.

Go to railway and teach the men how to demolish telegraph wire, rails, trucks, engines, tanks, telegraphic apparatus, signals, &c.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Reconnaissance.]"

Objects of reconnaissance.

How carried out —

When main body is marching.

When main body is halted.

Patrols; their formation and duties.

Scouts.

Method of scouting.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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TUESDAY.

*Morning.*

Practise patrolling formation.

Dispose the various parties in their places at the halt first, explain the direction to be taken, their duties, &c.

Practise the same on the move.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander in "Sketching and Reporting."]

Information required.

Reports.

Map reading.

Conventional signs.

Drawing rough sketches.

Road report and sketch.

Field ditto.

Position ditto.

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WEDNESDAY.

*Morning.*

Troop leaders and trained non-commissioned officers take out parties.

Test paces of horses; teach how to measure heights and distances.

Point out what military features; teach how they are roughly sketched and reported upon.

Sketch and report on road or position, &c.; making the men collect information for them.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Patrolling and Scouting."]

Rules for scouts.

Scouting by day.

Scouting by night.

Sketching from memory.

Riding.

Care of horse.

Meeting with and reconnoitring the enemy.

(Illustrating with a sketch map on the blackboard, give an account of the proceedings of a reconnoitring party, from the time of its being sent out to its finding the enemy and returning with the information collected.)

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Squadron proceeds in patrolling for motion across country. Scouts and patrols sending in frequent information, such as arrival at any town, river, railway, &c.

Patrol leaders or certain men will be told off to furnish sketches or reports on certain of these features.

Patrols to halt at a previously fixed upon hour or place and return.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Outposts."]

Outposts, their object.

Disposition for different forces.

Support and reserve.

Picquets: their formation, position, and duties.

Vedettes: position and duties.

Telling off and posting a squadron for outpost duty.

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FRIDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of previous Lecture.]

Squadron advances to a position for outposts with covering files thrown out.

Squadron is told off and takes up its position.

Picquets are posted and shown how to strengthen their position.

Signallers posted.

Vedettes get their particular orders and are questioned on them.

Advantages or defects of the position of the whole line, or of certain picquets or vedettes pointed out to the non-commissioned officers.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Outposts."]

Patrols for the outposts.

Detached posts.

Examining parties.

Relief of outposts.

Attack on outposts.

Retirement of outposts.

} Duties, formation, position, &c.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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SATURDAY.

*Morning.*

[Examination of Squadron by Squadron Commander and Troop Commanders in subjects of the past week's instruction.]

*Afternoon.*

Nil.

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## FOURTH WEEK

MONDAY.

*Morning.*

[Under Squadron Commander, &c.]

Squadron again to be disposed into outposts complete with detached posts, examining parties, signallers, patrols, &c.

Outposts to be relieved.

Plans and preparations to be made for defence or picquets.

Reinforcing line of vedettes.

Retiring as a line of skirmishers.

The same may be practised at night, a few good men being sent out to represent enemy's scouts and endeavour to gain information as to where picquets and supports, &c., are posted.

Practise night alarm, reinforcement, defence, and retirement of picquet.

*Afternoon.*

[Lecture by Squadron Leader on "Camping."]

Camps.

Marking out and selecting ground.

Formation of camp.

Pitching tents.

Water supply.

Cooking.

Bivouacs.

Alarm post.

Defence of camp.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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TUESDAY.

*Morning.*

Select and make out site for camp.  
Pitch tents.  
Picket horses.  
Tell off wood, water, ration parties.  
Make kitchen and water supply.  
Strike and pack up tents.  
Prepare a bivouac.

*Afternoon.*

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WEDNESDAY.

March out with tents, camp equipment, food and forage for men and horses. On the march, practise advanced guard and reconnoitring patrols.  
Form camp or bivouac for the night.  
Dispose the outposts.  
Send out party to represent enemy reconnoitring outposts.  
Prepare the camp for defence on the "Alarm."

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THURSDAY.

Strike camp.  
March back to barracks with rear guard checking imaginary advanced guard of the enemy — by holding defiles, posts, &c.  
Troop leaders send in full reports of the march with road sketches, compiled from sketches and reports made by scouts of their troops.

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## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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FRIDAY.

[Examination of the Squadron by the Commanding Officer.]

*(In the Field.)*

Practice of field movements:

Dismounted Service.

Holding posts.

Reconnoitring.

Outposts.

Skirmishing.

Advanced and rear guards.

*(Oral Examination.)*

Questions on the course of instruction (as per Appendix).

Inspection of tent-pitching, making kitchens, &c.

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SATURDAY.

[Inspection by Commanding Officer in the Field.]

Field movements.

March past.

WEEK I.

MONDAY MORNING.

*[Instruction by Troop Leaders under superintendence of the Squadron Commander.]*

Men form up mounted, in squads, single rank, at open files. Saddlery and accoutrements are inspected and fitted (Cav. Reg., Part I, Secs. 9, 10, 11). Troops form in single rank. Dress (Part II, Sec. 4). Advance by single file and circle. Men's positions are corrected at the different paces (Part I, Secs. 13, 19, 21, 22), and riding with swords (Part I, Sec. 24). Practise dismounting and mounting with and without carbines (Part I, Secs. 22, 25). Form up in single rank. Practise marching in line (Part II, Sec. 5). Inclining (Part II, Sec. 6) Passaging and reining back (Part II, Sec. 7). Wheeling (Part II, Sec. 8). Form and tell off troops (Part II, Sec. 10). Movements by fours (Part II, Sec. 13, para. 7). March to front, flank, and rear (Part II, Sec. 14). Formations to front, flank, and rear (Part II, Sec. 15).

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Drill."]*

The course of instruction you are now commencing will last four weeks. Each afternoon I shall give you a lecture of instruction on different drills and movements, and shall show you the object of doing them, and the best way of carrying them out. Then the following morning we shall do these same drills in the field, when you will see for yourselves how they are done, and can put in practice the instructions given to you.

Every Saturday morning you will be questioned on the different subjects in which you have received instruction during the week, and at the end of the four weeks the Colonel will examine every man in what he had been taught during the whole course.

Men can generally work better if they understand what is the object and aim of their work, and in these lectures in barracks I shall endeavour to show you the objects of the various drills and exercises, and in pointing out the best ways of executing them, will warn you of what faults you are likely to fall into.

I shall not try to teach you things that would be hard to understand, but just what would be most useful to you to know, and if you will try and carry these instructions in your minds you will find that when you come to apply them at drills or on service, they will be of great use to you.

Any man who likes can take notes in his pocket book of any points of importance that I may explain in the course of my lectures, and he will thus be able to refresh his memory previous to the examination, or even later — on service.

If any one of you takes a liking for any subject which is explained in the course of instruction, such as Reconnaissance, pioneering, &c., he can put down his name for further instruction in that subject later on.

I want the course to be as light for you as possible, and it depends on yourselves to make it so. As, if inattention is shown by any man the whole ground will have to be gone over again for his benefit and to the delay of the rest. But in saying this I only want to impress on each one of you the necessity of paying close attention to what is taught. And I do not want to deter men from asking for information when they want it. If at any time a man does not clearly understand what I am driving at, let him say so at once, and I will try and make myself more clear.

*Drill.*— In the first place it is necessary that every man should be perfect in those little details of drill that we were practising this morning in the field. It is no use slurring over them to get on to bigger matters. The proverb says, "Look after your pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves." Look

after the little details of your drill — see that you have them at your fingers' ends, and get yourselves into the habit of carrying them out in full on all occasions, and then the general smartness and efficiency of the squadron will follow as a natural result.

*The Squadron.*— The squadron is made up of two troops in double rank. Each troop has its leader, who is responsible to the squadron leader for the working of his troop. A squadron guide is appointed who, when the squadron is in line, is responsible to the squadron leader that the proper rate of movement and proper direction are maintained by the squadron on the move. The centre man of the front rank (the right hand man of the left troop) is to keep one horse's length in rear of the squadron guide, to follow exactly in his line, and maintain the same pace. The front rank all dress by the centre man and regulate their pace by him. The centre man of the rear flank follows exactly the line of his front rank man at a horse's length distance, the remainder of the rear rank dress and regulate their pace by him, taking care at the same time to cover their front rank men. The senefiles are posted in rear of the rear rank, not for ornament as many of them seem to think, but for the very important duty of seeing that the rear rank pay attention, carry out their instructions, do not overrun the front rank, and do not open out. If every man in the squadron is keeping his attention on what the squadron is doing, and is riding his horse properly, the squadron is bound to work well. A squadron that has not got into the way of always working well on parade will be of no use at all on service.

*Riding.*— Of course the first and most important qualification for a cavalry soldier is that he should be a good rider, and by that I do not mean only that he should be able to stick on a horse, but also that he should sit in a smart and good position, and should have got a confidence in, and an understanding with, his horse that will enable him to make it work to his will without any extra effort or thought on his part. When once he had accomplished this, if it comes to fighting he will be able to give all his attention to using his sword, while he makes his horse do what he wants it to almost without thinking of it. A good rider will always get the best of it in a hand-to-hand encounter. But this qualification of being a good rider does not come to men who sit down and wait for it. Many a man lags along through his drill, saying to himself, "These other chaps become good riders, I suppose it will come to me some day," "I am a bad shot, but other men seem to become good shots, I suppose I shall too, one of these days" but he never will unless he tries from the first to learn to carry out all the details of the instruction that is given him in that particular line. If he tries hard at first, no matter in what branch of instruction it is, he will find it comes quite natural to him to carry out these details, and he will soon discover that he has become good at what he was hoping to improve in. When in the ranks you should be "riding" your horse the whole time you are on his back — that is, when moving, don't let him carry you about, and be jostled and shoved into our out of his proper place, but make him go at once in his proper place as you want him; don't allow him to push forward or drop back, or to move at the wrong pace. If he should be trotting, make him trot, and so on. If a horse once begins to jog when he should be walking, or canter when he should be trotting, and is allowed to have his way for a few times, it will be very hard indeed to break him of the habit later on.

At a halt, particularly when being inspected, hold your horse together, using your legs and hands to keep him erect and square to his front without making him rein back, and not allowing him to droop his head and go to sleep.

*Dressing.*— On all occasions, whether you are one of the regiment in line, or only one of a half-section, whether on the move or halted, remember to keep your dressing. The loss of dressing does not only mean a temporary bad appearance of a squadron, but it also means loss of order, and if moving fast, and in action, the squadron in a few seconds would be little better than a confused mob, useless for fighting purposes. At all drills remember to keep your eye to the dressing hand see the lower part of the face of the second man from you, keeping your proper interval from knee to knee of 6 inches from the next man to you. The dressing of the squadron or troop in line is usually to the centre man. In marching past the dressing is to the flank on which the inspecting officer is posted; in this case each man should turn his head square to that hand. In *quarter column* the dressing is generally to the right. In column of fours, sections, half-sections, it is to the inner hand, that is, the one on which the troop leaders are posted.

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*In column of double sections* the dressing is to the right hand man of the left section. *In countermarching*, after wheeling “fours right and left” the dressing of the front rank is to the left, that of the rear rank to the right. *In retiring* by fours about, the dressing is to the same point as it was before going about — that is, after wheeling fours about when in line, the dressing will be by the centre of the rear rank; after doing so in quarter column the dressing will be to that hand on which the squadron leaders are. *In forming to the front flank*, or rear, the dressing is to the flank on which the formation commenced. While the dressing is being carried out, it is the duty of every man to keep his eyes and ears open, and to help in getting it completed as quickly and smartly as possible. When you have got your dressing correctly don’t allow yourself or horse to shift out of position again — particularly guard against having too heavy a hand on the bit, or he will very probably rein back step by step.

*Wheeling.*— In wheeling the dressing is to the outward or wheeling flank, and the interval of 6 inches from knee to knee is taken up from the pivot flank. The pivot man circles his horse on his forefeet, remaining on his ground and gradually pointing him round into the new direction. In wheels upon the move of a quarter of a circle and upwards the pivot man halts, turns his horse during the wheel, and resumes his former pace on the word “forward.”

The flank man on the outward or wheeling flank looks inwards and regulates the pace of the wheel, which, for his flank, will be one half faster than the rate at which the body was advancing to the wheeling point.

The men on the outward half of the troop or squadron must be careful to keep only their proper interval from knee to knee — from the pivot flank — as they are very apt to fly out while on the wheel to greater intervals, particularly when moving at a fast pace. The files near the pivot flank should be careful not to come round too quickly, but to look carefully to the wheeling flank for their dressing. On the wheel pressure from the outward hand should be given way too. The rear rank in wheeling must keep its distance from the front rank, and must avoid all crowding and shoving sideways; each man must incline to the outward, and point his horse’s head for the man in the front rank next but one to his own front rank man and come gradually round, looking both to his dressing and interval from knee to knee. On the word “forward” he should at once square his horse, cover his front rank man, and move straight to his front.

The command “forward” should be given by the leader just before the wheeling flank comes square to the new direction, as otherwise the men on that flank would get the word too late and would have probably overwheeled.

In approaching the spot where a wheel is to be made the troop or squadron should march square up to it, neither checking the pace on the pivot flank, nor hurrying forward on the wheeling flank until the command is given to wheel.

A wheel on a moving pivot is ordered by the command “right (or left) shoulders,” on which the inner flank moves on at the same pace, and gradually circles round into the new direction, while the outward flank conforms by describing a larger circle at an increased rate of speed.

All wheels from the halt are performed at a trot.

When a change of direction is ordered for a column of fours or sections the wheel is made by each four by right (or left) shoulders on a moving pivot; the rear sections should avoid the common error of increasing their pace and of anticipating the wheel by coming forward on the wheeling flank: they should advance steadily at the proper pace, and perfectly square, up to the wheeling point.

*Pace.*— The rate of the walk is not to exceed 4 miles an hour.

”	”	trot	”	”	8	”	”
”	”	gallop	”	”	12	”	”
”	”	charge	”	”	the pace of the slowest horse.		

When any change of pace is ordered, such change should be made at the same moment, as nearly as possible, by every man in the squadron.

If halted, when the word “march” is given, every man should at once put his horse in motion, and not wait for the movement to start elsewhere and allow his horse to wander on when it begins to see that the rest are in motion; and when on the move the command “halt” is given, each man should at once halt his horse and remain perfectly steady, without looking about and without shifting to correct any bad dressing or loss of interval, until he receives the order to do so.

In moving from line in fours, sections, half-section, or files, especially at a rapid pace, the leading sections should check their pace slightly until the whole column is formed; the rear sections at the same should take care to move off in good time as it comes to their turn, and not to lose distance. The head of a column should always lead at a steady, unvarying pace, as any little change in pace on the part of the leading portion is magnified to double by the time it has been taken up by the rear portion. If when proceeding at a trot the leading section suddenly “trots out,” the rear sections will immediately after be galloping, and should the leaders try to correct it by suddenly checking the pace, the probable result would be that the rear would have to walk or even halt for a few seconds.

The leading portions of column should also bear this in mind, and quietly check the pace after crossing any obstacle or bad piece of ground, which may cause the rear portions to lose a little distance, to enable them to close up again without undue rushing.

*Formations from Fours.*— In forming line from fours or sections to the front, flank, or rear, the rear portions of the column should note where their place will be in line and march for that spot without wandering away, as they are apt to do, and then finding that they have to pass to sidle into their proper place.

They should also be careful to halt in good time on coming to their place in line, and not to overrun the alignment. It is easier to get the dressing by having to “dress up” than by having to “rein back.” The dressing on these occasions of forming line from fours or sections, is to the hand on which the front portion of the column has already formed into line. In forming line to the front from column of double sections that have advanced from the centre of the squadron the rear portions of the column should be particularly careful, in advancing to their places in line, not to fly out or wander away too far to either flank.

*Distances and Intervals.*— The interval is the space between men or bodies of men sideways, from knee to knee. The distance is the space between men or bodies of men from front to rear, nose to croup.

The interval between men from knee to knee in line is 6 inches.

The interval between men from knee to knee at half open files, 18 inches.

The interval between men from knee to knee at open files, 1 yard.

The interval between men from knee to knee at half extended files, 4 yards.

The interval between men from knee to knee at extended files, 8 yards.

The interval between front and rear rank in fours, 4 feet.

The interval between flanks and squadrons in line, 12 yards.

The interval between men in filing to front from right of fours, 9 feet.

The interval between men in ranking past by sections, 8 feet.

The distance from head to croup, front to rear rank in line, is one horse’s length.

The distance from head to croup, front to rear rank at order, 3 horses’ length.

The distance from head in column of fours is  $\frac{1}{2}$  horse’s length.

The distance between squadrons in column of fours,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  horses’ length.

The distance between squadrons in column of sections,  $\frac{1}{2}$  horse’s length.

A horse’s length is 8 feet.

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You should take special pains to keep your proper interval from knee to knee when moving at a rapid pace. Many men appear to get into a way of losing their heads when moving at a fast pace. When the "gallop" sounds they think of nothing but how to pull their horse in, they don't look wither to dressing or interval, and they don't consider that the horse has no idea of running away until it is put into his head by the hauling on the bit, which gives him so much pain. If each man is riding his horse properly, and keeping his proper interval of 6 inches at the gallop, the dressing should be quite as easy as at any other pace. The rear rank must also remember to keep their distance of one horse's length from the front rank, and not to overrun them.

*Marching past.*— The excellence of a regiment in dressing, training of horses, riding, and setting up of the men, is shown on the march past and parade movements.

For a march past, the ground is divided into the "*parade*" line and the "*passing*" line.

The parade line is the ground on which the squadrons form in line to receive the inspecting officer.

The passing line is marked by markers numbered from the left as A, B, C, and D, and is the track which the squadron proceeds along when marching past.

The squadron, after being inspected on the parade line, is wheeled into column of troops to the right, and changes direction to the left on arriving opposite the flank marker A.

Troop leaders must be on the look-out to wheel their troops in time; they should give the order to wheel just before they themselves arrive opposite the A marker, and then as soon as the troop has wheeled square lead centre exactly on A marker. Rear troops must cover the leading troops exactly and also keep their right distance. If the rear troop does not wheel at the same point as the leading troop did, but overshoots it as is very often the case, the result will be when the squadron wheels into line on the passing line that the left troop will be behind the dressing. The right hand man of the squadron has a responsible position during the march past. He has to move straight along the line of the markers at 6 inches from their horses' heads, he also has to lead at such a pace as will cause the centre of the squadron to be one horse's length in rear of the squadron leader.

The remainder of the squadron dress by the right on him, every man turning his head as well as his eyes well to the right in passing.

The files near the right flank must be particularly careful to keep exactly dressed and square to the front, as, if they are wrong in dressing or pace, their fault will be repeated and carried out in a larger scale on the left flank. The common fault is that the files near the right flank hang back a few inches, and consequently the left flank hangs back several feet. After wheeling off the passing, you should remember to keep your dressing (which will then be by the centre) as exact as when marching past, as when proceeding along the parade line you again pass in front of the reviewing officer.

*In ranking past* by single file, which is done from quarter column at B marker, each man must be ready to move off directly it comes to his turn, and must be careful not to lose his distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  horse's length from the man in front of him, and at the same time to cover him exactly. The leading files must be careful to keep straight along the line of markers, and not incline either inwards or outwards as they are very apt to do.

Each man in passing should keep his head square to the right, and look the inspecting officer in the face, and not go sneaking by watching his horse's ears.

*In ranking past by sections* from quarter column at B marker, when the order is given, "Advance by sections from the right," the whole squadron wheels fours right except the right hand sections, which advance (front and rear rank) 4 horses' length and extend from the right to a horse's length from knee to knee and a distance of a horse's length from croup to nose. Each section dresses to the right and covers to the front.

Numbers 1 must be careful, 1st to cover to their front; 2ndly, to lead straight along the line of markers; 3rdly, to keep their horse's length distance from the man in front of them. It is also most important for

No. 2 to keep level in line with No. 1, as Nos. 3 and 4 have to dress on 2 and 1, and if No. 2 hangs back at all, he throws 3 and 4 still further back.

*Galloping past by troops* is usually performed from the left of the parade line, by entering the passing line at D marker. A very steady pace should be maintained at first starting, particularly by the leading troop, dressing by the left. On wheeling off the passing line at A the pass should at once be changed to a trot.

*In advancing in review order* dressing is by the centre.

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TUESDAY MORNING.

*Apply Instructions of first Lecture in the Field.*

Troop leaders form up, inspect, and tell off troops. Form and tell off squadron (Part II, Sec. 11). Perfect movements by fours; marches to flanks and rear; increasing and diminishing front (Part II, Sec. 17). Countermarching (Part II, Sec. 16). Practise the squadron in line and column, and in wheeling, at the different paces, at open as well as close order (Part II, 18). Advance at extended and open files. Parade movements and march past (Part III, Sec. 10).

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

*Questions on the first Lecture.*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

\* What has squadron guide to do leading a squadron on the move?

What is the duty of the centre man of the front rank?

What is the duty of the centre man of the rear rank?

How do the rear rank men dress?

\* What are the duties of the senefiles?

Why is it necessary for a Dragoon to be a good rider?

How do you get your dressing in the ranks?

Which hand do you dress to in marching past?

In column of fours, which hand do you dress to?

In countermarching, which hand do you dress to if you are in the front rank?

In countermarching, which hand do you dress to if you are in the rear rank?

In retiring by "fours about," which is the dressing hand?

In forming up to front or a flank, which hand do you dress to?

In wheeling, which hand do you dress to?

Who is the pivot man in a wheel?

How does he move during the wheel?

Which is the outer flank of a troop wheeling?

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What are the duties of the man on the wheeling or outer flank?

What pressure should be given way to on the wheel?

What is the use of march past and parade movements?

What is the parade line, and what the passing line?

What are the duties of the right hand man in marching past?

Why should the files near the right flank of the squadron in marching past be extra particular about their dressing and pace?

Is it necessary to keep accurately dressed as soon as you have wheeled off the passing line?

What is the position of a man's head in marching past?

\* In preparing to rank past by sections, when the command is given "Advance by sections from the right," what movement takes place in the squadron?

How does each section cover and dress in "ranking past by sections"?

What is the duty of No. 1 in "ranking past by sections"? and of Nos. 2? and of Nos. 3 and 4?

In wheeling, how does a rear rank man gain his proper place?

\* Why should command "Forward" be given just before a wheel is completed?

On approaching the place for wheeling, should the troop prepare for the wheel by inclining, or checking the pace on the pivot flank?

On the command "Right shoulders," what does the left hand man do?

At what pace do you move when ordered to wheel from the halt?

When leading four of a column of fours gets the word "Leading fours right wheel," what does the right hand man of the four do?

What is the rate of the walk? the trot? the gallop?

When a change of pace is ordered, why should every man carry out this, if possible, at the same moment?

Why is it necessary that the head of a column should move at a steady and uniform pace?

Why should the head of a column slack its pace after crossing an obstacle or bad bit of ground?

What is the "head" of a column?

In forming up, why is it better to halt a little short of the dressing, than in advance of it?

What is meant by "interval" between men?

What is meant by the "distance" between men?

(Question on all the intervals and distances.)

*Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Field Movements."*

*Field Movements.*— Although, of course, it is impossible to foretell what movements a squadron will be called on to perform when in action, still, we know that there are only a limited number of formations or movements that a squadron can make, and consequently the best way of performing all these is learnt in peace time, so that when the necessity arises for the use of any one of them on service it may come quite familiar to all ranks, and so be carried out all the more easily and efficiently.

The best ways of carrying out the most useful movements and formations are laid down in the Cavalry Regulations, and these are what we practise at drills and field days. If these are carried out invariably in good order at drill we may trust ourselves to be able to do them in fairly good order in action.

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The chief object of these movements and formations is to bring the squadron up, in good order and in fresh condition, into the best position for delivering an attack on the enemy. The movements should therefore be carried out without hurry or confusion — smoothly and like clockwork; and this can only be effected by constant practice at them.

The squadron is therefore taught to change its front or its position to meet an enemy in a new direction. To move rapidly to a flank in a handy formation. To close up into a small space to gain cover fire or concealment from view. To open out for crossing bad ground, or moving through an enemy's fire. To advance at steady and fast pace, and finally deliver its charge in good time and good order.

In line, squadrons are numbered from the right; in column, from the front.

*Change of Front.*— A change of front of a line is much the same as a wheel of a smaller body. The pivot flank does not move off its own ground. The line merely wheels round and faces in a new direction.

A change of front can, however, also be made by the wheeling flank dressing back till it faces in the new direction.

*Change of Position.*— A change of position of a line is like a wheel on a moveable pivot: the whole line moves off its original ground, and forms facing in a new direction on new ground. In the same way as in a change of front, a flank may either be brought forward or thrown back till the line faces the new direction.

*Column of Troops.*— In advancing in a column of troops from line the named troop advances, the remainder wheel towards it and follow in their turn. In advancing in column of troops from the right or left of squadrons the named troop advances, and the other inclines to get in rear of it. These small columns are used for crossing over bad ground, or for passing through a line of other troops by the intervals in it.

*Echelon.*— An echelon is formed by the various portions of a line advancing one after another—not covering as in column, but keeping opposite the place they would occupy in line: for instance, if the squadron were ordered to advance in echelon of troops, the right troop would advance straight to its front; the left troop would wait till the right troop had gone about the breadth of a troop to its front, and would then advance straight to own front, and so keep on the left rear of the right troop.

*Retirement.*—In retiring before an enemy one part of the retiring force should stand its ground to check the enemy's advance while the other part retires. Then this retiring portion, having gone back a certain distance, forms up to check the enemy in its turn, while the first portion retires.

A retirement can be carried out either by alternate bodies, or in succession of bodies.

Supposing that the squadron were ordered *to retire in succession of troops*, the right troop would retire for 80 or 100 yards, and reform, facing the enemy, to check him. The left troop would then retire till it came to where the right troop was posted, and would there reform, to check the enemy, while the right troop again retired.

If the squadron were ordered to retire by alternate troops, the left troop would retire by fours about for 80 or 100 yards, and there form up. The right troop would then retire at a trot until it came to the left troop, when it would proceed at a walk 80 or 100 yards further to the rear, and there form up to protect the left troop's retirement.

*Small Columns.*— For passing over bad ground, or through intervals in the lines of our own infantry, a cavalry regiment would move in squadron columns of troops, or columns of double sections, or fours, or in single file from the right of fours.

*Open Formation.*— In advancing or moving under fire, the squadron would move in extended or open files in line, or in single file from the right of fours.

*Close Columns.*— To gather a regiment or brigade into a small space, and so enable it to take advantage of the cover of a mound, buildings, woods, &c., to protect it from fire, or conceal it from view, the regiment would be formed into quarter column or double column.

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*Squadron Columns.*— In squadron column formation the left troop always follows the right troop, at such a distance only that the squadron can at any moment be formed into line to either hand by both troops being wheeled to that hand at the same time. This formation is found to be the best for manœuvring and for action. It is particularly handy, as the whole squadron is under the squadron leader's eye and voice; line can be very rapidly formed to either hand; the squadron can be moved with very little loss of time or good order to either flank, by fours. Bad ground can be passed over, intervals between obstacles can be passed through, advantage can be taken of cover, and the squadron is but a small object for the enemy to fire at, when in this formation.

In squadron columns the right troop always leads, so that when the squadron is ordered to form line to the front, the rear troop moves up on to left of the leading troop.

If “front form” sounds when the squadron column is not working in line with other squadron columns, the rear troop moves up on the left of the leading troop.

If the whole line is to be formed, “front form” is sounded twice over.

To change front when in squadron columns, the leading troop wheels to the hand named, while the rear troop breaks into fours to the opposite hand, and moves round to its place in rear of the leading troop.

*Rallying.*— You are taught at drill to disperse and to rally again, because in action, after a charge, whether you have been successful or been beaten, your ranks are sure to be broken and confused, and it is then most important that you should look out and rally together again as soon as possible. Your enemy will be just as much broken up as you are, and if you are able to rally into a formed body at once and attack him again while he is still in confusion you are bound to beat him.

If you have beaten the enemy, and are pursuing him, when the “rally” sounds, you should close in and reform your squadron as you go along following the retreating enemy. If you are retreating after a charge and the “rally” sounds, you close and reform the squadron facing the enemy. If this is done quickly and well, you may catch the enemy while he is still broken up, and turn your defeat into a victory. In either case you must not be carried away to pursue the enemy too far, or to make too ready a bolt of it, but keep your eyes and ears open, and see where and when the rally is to be, and join in it at once.

*Trumpet Sounds.*— On all occasions in the field the greatest attention should be paid to trumpet calls, and they should be obeyed at once. And the same of course applies to words of command and signals from the squadron and troop leaders. When “March” only is sounded, it means that the trot is to be the pace, and every horse ought to be started at once, and at that pace. On the “halt” sounding, every man should pull up his horse and then remain perfectly steady.

*Signals.*— Squadron leaders in the field will often use signals instead of words of command when they would not be heard on account of noise of guns, wind, distance, &c. These signals should be looked out for and promptly obeyed.

The sword extended to the front means “March—forward.” Waved horizontally to the right or left it means, “Troops right (or left) wheel.” Extended upwards and waved in a circle round above the head in the intended direction it means, “Troops right (or left) about wheel.” Held straight up above the head it means, “Halt.”

Men employed on detached duties at a short distance from the main body, such as scouts, skirmishers, flankers, &c., should be particularly careful to look out for, and carry out, trumpet calls and signals.

*Squadron Scouts.*— In action it is most necessary that the ground should be carefully examined before the squadron advances over it, in order that it may not come to grief in some unseen ravine or other trap. It is for this purpose that squadron scouts are told off.

In the battle of Mars-la-Tour, in the Franco-Prussian War, the French cavalry were ordered to attack some German infantry. The cavalry advanced at a hard gallop in three lines, but without any scouts out. When they arrived within a short distance of their enemy the first line came suddenly upon a hidden nullah, which a number fell into, and the rest in trying to avoid broke up in great confusion and threw the

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second line, which was then coming up in support, also into confusion. While in this state the infantry poured volleys into them, and they had to retreat as best they could, having lost a large portion of their numbers. This would all have been avoided had the cavalry only sent a few squadron scouts out ahead of them to examine the ground as they went along.

Two scouts from each squadron, if they are sharp intelligent men, will generally be enough to do the work of examining the ground. Their place while in the ranks is in the outward sections of the rear rank. On the trumpet sounding "scouts out," they will move out at double the pace at which the squadron is proceeding to a distance of 200 to 500 yards to the front. They will go out without either swords or carbines drawn, as they are not intended to fight, and they will thus have both hands free for the management of their horses. Men acting on detached duties, such as scouting, patrolling, carrying despatches, &c., especially if traversing bad ground or enclosed country, should ride their horses on the bridoon rein as well as the bit—as the horse will then have his head freer to look out for himself where he is putting his feet. Squadron scouts will only draw their swords to signal to the main body with. Their first duty is to give warning of any bad ground or obstacle which lies in the path of the squadron, and to point out the best passage through by halting at that point, facing the squadron, and holding up the sword perpendicularly; or if they consider it necessary for the squadron to go round the bad ground instead of across it, they will wave the sword in the direction of the best line to take. Their second duty is to search every hollow, clump of tree, building, &c., that comes near their line of advance, to see if it conceals any enemy. If they see the enemy they will signal his presence by circling to the right to show he is cavalry, to left for infantry, and figure of eight for mixed force. Occasionally it may be necessary for one scout to ride in with information, but the other should still remain watching the enemy.

If the regiment is in column of squadrons when the "scouts out" sounds, only the scouts of the leading squadron will go out to the front. Those of the other squadrons will move out to the flanks of their squadrons.

All scouts should continually keep an eye on the main body, and carry out at once any change that it makes in its pace or direction. When the squadron advances to the attack, the scouts should keep out in their places in front examining the ground; they can generally go close up to the enemy with impunity, as he is not likely to waste any shots or men at such a time on single men.

But directly the "charge" sounds, every scout must at once gallop away to a flank and clear out of the way of the advancing squadron or line. It was considered so important that they should do this in the Russian cavalry that squadron leaders were allowed to cut down with their swords any scout who got in the way of the squadron charging, even at drills.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

*[Under Squadron Commander apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]*

Practise advancing in line and wheeling at various paces, working but trumpet sound and signals.

Send out squadron scouts with their orders. Change front in line (Part III, Sec. 12), and in squadron columns.

Change position in line (III, 12), and in squadron columns.

Form direct echelon and oblique echelon (the latter should be much practised (III, 12, No. 13).

Retire in succession of and by alternate troops (III, Sec. 12, No. 14).

Advance and retire by fours from a flank and by double sections from the centre (III, 12, Nos. 15 and 16).

Advance at extended files, disperse, and rally to the front on the move.

Advance at extended files, turn about and disperse in retreat—rally to the front.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Instruction.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

\* What is the use of practising field movements as laid down in the regulations?

In line which is the second squadron?

\* What is a “change of front”? what a “change of position”?

What is an “echelon”?

\* How does a body of troops retire in “succession”?

\* How is a retirement carried out by “alternate bodies”?

What formations are used for crossing over bad ground?

In advancing under heavy fire what is the best formation for a squadron to move in? Why?

What are close columns used for?

What is a “squadron column”? Which troop leads?

\* What good points has the “squadron column” formation?

What is “rallying”? What is the use of practising it at drill?

How do you rally to the front?

Why is it a good thing to be able to rally quickly?

Supposing in the field your squadron or troop leader extends his sword to the front, what does the signal mean?

If he waves it to the left? If he holds it straight up above his head? If he waves it round his head?

What is a squadron scout used for? Why is it necessary that the ground should be examined even when you are advancing to attack an enemy? How far should scouts be in advance of their squadron? Do they draw arms when they go out? Why not? Why should they ride with the bridoon?

When the squadron is advancing to the attack, when should the squadron scouts leave their places and clear the front?

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Cavalry Tactics."]

It was supposed by many people that when the modern long range firearms were introduced into the armies of the different countries, cavalry would become a very insignificant arm of the service, and would never be called upon to take part in general engagements, as of old, but would be merely used for reconnoitring purposes, outposts, and occasional fights of cavalry against cavalry.

But in the greatest war we have had in late times, that is, the Franco-Prussian War, cavalry soon showed that it was able to hold its own with the other branches, for not only were there several engagements during that war between bodies of cavalry, but also on many occasions infantry and artillery were successfully attacked in spite of the improved weapons they were armed with, and in no war has cavalry proved itself more useful than in the campaign in Egypt in 1881-2; and in hostilities with uncivilized nations inhabiting practicable countries like Zululand, it is the most powerful arm of the service; and in fighting a civilized enemy, if cavalry are well trained and ready to act on foot, they can tire his infantry down by manœuvring mounted, and then by dismounting and bringing their fire to bear on him with sudden effect from unexpected quarters, can inflict heavy losses on him.

So that, taken all round, cavalry is still the best and most useful branch of the service. For though infantry, artillery, and engineers have been fitted out with the latest improvements and inventions in arms and equipment, cavalry have gained increased efficiency by the more thorough system of drill now practised in time of peace, which brings the men and horses up to the attack in a steady, compact body, fresh for work; by the greater attention paid to the fighting and lightening of saddles and accoutrements, and from the fact of the men themselves being better riders and of a more intelligent class than formerly. Moreover, fitted out as they are now with accurate breech-loading carbines, cavalry can act when occasion requires, dismounted, with most powerful effect.

*The three Lines.*— Bodies of cavalry, from a division to a regiment, are now taught in our service that the best formation in which to manœuvre and attack, is one of three lines. The first in front is the fighting line; the second the supporting line; the third the reserve.

*First Line.*— For instance, supposing a brigade of three cavalry regiments were working, one regiment would form the first line, and would move chiefly in line of squadron columns, which is the best formation when near the enemy, as line can be formed very quickly from it, the men can be kept better in hand, and it is not so likely to be interfered with by broken ground, &c., as when in line of squadrons.

*Second Line.*— The second regiment would be the second or the supporting line, and should be about 200 yards in rear of the first line, and to one flank of it at about 100 yards interval; it would usually move in echelon of wings: it conforms to changes of front, position, &c., of the first line, and holds itself ready to make or repel a flank attack.

*The Reserve.*—The third regiment, in reserve, is posted 400 yards in rear of the first line, and echeloned to one flank of it, usually the inner flank; and moves in double column, which is a handy formation for obtaining cover and will not interfere with the movements of other troops.

This system of three lines would hold good for a smaller body, such as a regiment attacking, where one squadron would form the first line, another posted on its flank and to the rear would be the support, and the third squadron would be the reserve still further to the rear from the first line, and on the opposite flank of it from the second line. In the case of single squadron attacking, one troop would form the first line and the other the support, and no reserve would be employed.

*Cavalry v. Cavalry.*— One thing that simplifies cavalry tactics is, that cavalry never acts on the defensive, it always attacks; when attacked it replies with an attack—like an Irishman's answer: if asked a question, he answers it by asking one in return.

In attacking a body of enemy's cavalry the great thing is to charge his flank: it has twice the effect of a charge directly on to his front. It is a saying that one man attacking a flank is worth ten attacking in front;

but of course with an enemy who knows this and is watchful it is hard to gain his flank unless he manœuvres more slowly than you, and doesn't change his front quick enough, and that is where superiority in drill tells; if a regiment can suddenly change its position and deliver a charge all in good order before the opposite side is well aware of what it is at, and is still manœuvring to change its front, it is bound to smash him up. If, however, you find your enemy can change front as quickly as you the only thing is to attack him in front with your first line and let your support attack his flank at the same time.

Then in the charge the side that is moving at the greatest speed and in the best order is bound to win. And that is why it is always being impressed on you at drills to keep closed in, particularly when moving at a fast pace. If you open out in the charge, your attack will be of no use against a good enemy, the rear rank will be rushing up through the front, horses will be bolting when they lose connection with those on each side of them, and will be ready to turn round or sheer off when they see a solid line in front of them, and you will be no more formidable than a crowd of cockneys out for a ride on Hampstead Heath.

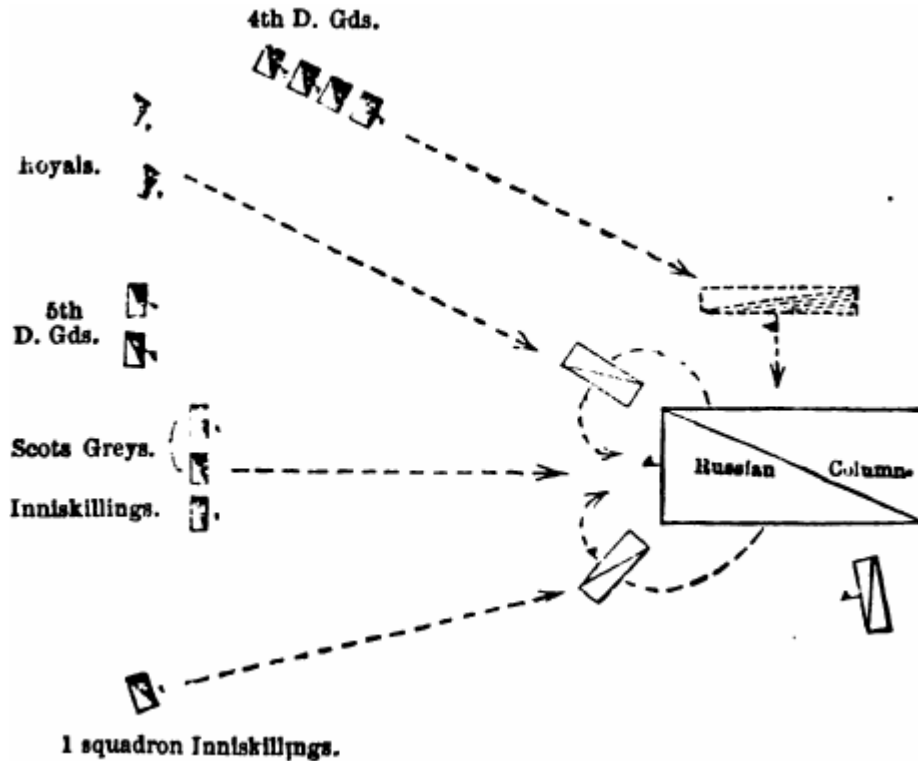
But it would be just as fatal if your leader, mistrusting your power of keeping together, were to decide to receive the enemy's charge at a halt or a slow pace. The enemy would roll you over by the force of his rush.

A force that halts or moves slowly to meet an attack is bound to be beaten if the attacking party keeps together, and moves at a faster pace.

In the charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava this fact was very clearly proved. General Scarlett was moving along with eight squadrons of heavy cavalry. Suddenly a strong column of Russian cavalry appeared coming over a low hill on his left flank about 700 or 800 yards away. The General immediately wheeled his eight squadrons to attack, although they only numbered between 400 and 500 men, while the Russian force consisted of close on 3,000, a difference of 6 to 1. When he formed his line he had two squadrons of the Scots Greys and one of the Inniskillings in his front line, two squadrons of the 5th Dragoon Guards in support on their left rear, and one squadron of the Inniskillings on their right rear. The 4th Dragoon Guards and two squadrons of the Royals, which were some distance off, were sent for to form the 3rd line. When the Russians saw this small force coming to attack them, they halted and commenced deploying, but the first line of the British charged straight into their centre before they could do so. The Russians then wheeled up regiments from both flanks in order to close in on the rear of our first line, but the Royals who had come up, together with the 5th Dragoon Guards, charged their right wing while it was on the wheel, and smashed it up, and at the same time the supporting squadron of the Inniskillings charged the Russian left wing while it was wheeling, and threw it into confusion.

The third line of the British force, viz., the 4th Dragoon Guards, now came up past the right flank of the Russian column, and there wheeled into line and charged straight into the flank. The remainder of the Russian column then broke up and fled.

This action shows that, 1st, if a force stands still to be attacked, even though it is six times as strong as the attacking force, it will be beaten; 2ndly, that no force should try manœuvring when the enemy is on the point of attacking. The two wings of the Russians wheeling round in the presence of our second line were caught on the wheel and smashed up. 3rdly, an attack on the flank is the most effective; our third line attacking the enemy's column in flank put the whole force to flight. 4thly, that pluck, determination, and good riding are "half the battle," was shown by the small British force going straight at the enemy, six times its strength, without reckoning the difference in numbers, and overthrowing him.



*Cavalry v. Artillery.*—A battery of artillery in position is not such a hard thing to take as it looks at first; if possible it should be attacked in flank, but where that is found impossible a front attack should be made, the men being extended to open files. At about 300 yards from the guns you would probably be met with a discharge of the grape, but as the modern guns do not throw grape well, and you being in the open formation, your loss would be small, and this would probably be the only fire you would meet with from the battery, as the gunners would not have time to reload and aim again before you would be among them. The ranks would then gradually close in and ride for the guns, the support coming up and tackling the escort to the guns.

In 1866, at the battle of Tobitschau, a Prussian cavalry regiment made a front attack on 20 Austrian guns in position, and took 18 of them and 168 gunners, losing only 10 men in doing so.

Sir Baker Russell's Cavalry Brigade in Egypt charged a battery and took the guns and broke up the force of infantry defending them.

Again, in the Peninsular War, at Aroya Motinos, a squadron of the 13th Light Dragoons, under Captain Bowers, was ordered to attack a battery in front, which it did in a most determined way and captured three guns and several waggons with their teams and drivers. The easiest way of taking a battery, of course, is to catch it when on the move and to hamstring the horses.

This was done with great success by the Scots Greys at Waterloo when they were ordered to attack the enemy in front of Packe's brigade of Highland regiments—that was the occasion on which infantry took part in a cavalry charge, for as the Scots Greys came to the front through the ranks of the 42nd and 92nd, shouting "Scotland for ever!" the men of these regiments rushed forward with them, hanging on to their stirrup leathers: thus they dashed into the French infantry and smashed them up, taking 2,000 prisoners. The Greys then went on and caught up the French artillery retreating. They sabred the gunners, hamstrung the horses, and rendered useless 40 guns.

To hamstring a horse cut hard into the back of his leg 3 or 4 inches above the point of the hock, so as to cut the tendons there; one of the middle horses of a team should be cut.

*Cavalry v. Infantry.*— Cavalry attacking good infantry formed up to receive them cannot do much without help from artillery or infantry. As a rule, however, they would never be required to do so, but only to attack when they find an opportunity of surprising the enemy in a mist, darkness, &c., or when he is not in proper formation, as when issuing from a defile or skirmishing in extended order, &c.

In conjunction with artillery, cavalry would threaten infantry in extended order and make them form squares to receive it; these squares would then be good objects for the fire of the artillery, and as soon as the guns had smashed them up somewhat the cavalry would charge in and finish off the business.

In attacking infantry the flank should be charged if possible, and the attack should be made by one body after another hauling itself on to the same part of the enemy's line. If you have choice in the matter choose the right flank of a line for your point of attack, as the rest of the line will not be able to fire so effectively to their right as they could to the left. A square should be attacked at the corner. A charge is a matter of opportunity, especially when directed against infantry; if there is a chance of reaching infantry unprepared for you, the charge must be made at once without hesitating to see if the enemy will not give you a better chance, or to see if your supports are well up, &c., as such a pause would just give the enemy time to get ready for you. Often the sight of cavalry coming down on them will disorganize infantry in the act of forming up to receive him.

The 44th at Quatre Bras were just caught as they were forming a square by the French lancers, and were cut to pieces.

*The Charge.*— When all manœuvring is ended, and you are opposite the point you are to attack, a steady gallop should be the pace: this pace will enable you to keep well together and will not blow the horses. Swords will only be drawn as you are advancing to the attack, as by doing so then each man will have had both hands available for guiding his horse, his sword arm will not be tied, and the effect on the enemy is often very great when they see the line coming towards them suddenly show that it means business, and it also perhaps gives you additional feeling of strength at that moment. At 50 yards from the enemy the horses should be sent along as hard as they can go, the ranks well closed in; you must then think not only of using your swords, but especially of rushing straight at the opposing line and sending it flying over with the force of the shock, and once in amongst the rear rank of the enemy give points in preference to cuts with the sword. A good instance of effecting a successful charge was that of an officer in the Balaclava Charge, who, letting his sword hang from his wrist rode his horse with both hands at the Russian line as if riding at a fence. He gave a loud Tally ho! and went straight for a Russian officer, who, however, dodged out of his way, so the full force of his rush came on the front rank man, who was sent flying over backwards, horse and all, on top of his rear rank man, upsetting him too, the officer getting clean through both ranks without a scratch or fall.

*Rally.*— After a charge, whether it has been successful or not, every man must look out for any rally being made by his squadron, and directly he sees that there is to be one he should at once join in forming up. It is often a sure way of saving a force that has been beaten in a charge, and if carried out smartly may turn the enemy's victory into a defeat for him after all, especially if in pursuing you he has allowed his men to run away and get out of hand. And for this reason, when you have defeated your enemy you must take care not to be carried away with the excitement of the pursuit, and so losing all connection with your comrades, but you must be prepared at once to close in and be disposed as a formed support, with an extended line of single swordsmen to its front who will ride down and cut down all individual fugitives, while the support will be ready to break down any party they find forming up to oppose them.

*Use of Weapons.*— In delivering a thrust with a lance, or a cut or a point with the sword, when moving fast, no extra exertion should be made to send it home, because the impetus of your rush will do that fast enough if you only direct your point straight, and also because in doing so you are apt to lose your



balance somewhat, particularly if you miss your object, in which case you would be for a few seconds perhaps almost defenceless.

Always do your best to attack your adversary on his weakest quarter—thus, when attacking a lancer, try and get on his right rear, where he will not be able to get at you or defend himself easily. Get at a swordsman on his left rear for the same reasons. You must at the same time prevent your adversary doing the same to you: if he is attacking your left rear, either halt suddenly, allow him to pass you, and then dash on after him on his left rear, or else turn sharply to the left about, and so present your weapon hand to his. If you are unable to do either, close in as close as you can up against him, so that your cuts will be able to reach him as well as his reaching you.

In meeting an adversary on your left front, turn sharply to the left on your own ground, which enables you to act against his left front with your sword arm. In meeting him on your right front, press your horse on, and turn sharp to the right in rear of him and come upon his left rear to attack. If you are being pursued, keep your enemy on your right rear, where you will generally be able to keep him in check with right rear points and cuts at his horse, if the man himself is out of reach of you. If attacked by two at once—one on each side of you—close in on the one on your left and try to keep the one on your right at a little distance.

In attacking a lancer in front, get the most advantageous position you can, and then “rush him,” *i.e.*, fend off his point and close with him, you will then have him at your mercy. If armed with a lance you should attack with the greatest confidence, but your object is to keep well away from your adversary, while his, if he is armed with a sword, is to close with you and get inside your point. A few stabs into his horse, given as opportunity offers, will frighten it from facing you, and once you succeed in getting him to turn away he is at your mercy.

In attacking infantry, the third guard to the right, or fourth to the left, should be used in attacking, as they are a good engaging guard, and capable of being changed into a point or cut up if suddenly required. Cuts 3 and 4 on the right are also good protection against an infantry man. You should therefore, if possible, keep him on your right, and he will not be able to use his bayonet so well to his right as to his left. The bayonet should be struck with the sword in guarding, and not the rifle.

The great thing in any of these encounters is to have a good knowledge of, and confidence in, your weapon, and these are only gained by constantly practising with it. A man who enters on a fight with confidence in his weapon, and in his power of riding his horse well, and who goes in with a determination to win, is pretty sure to succeed in doing so, while he who at the last moment begins to wish he had learnt more about how to use his lance or sword during the many opportunities he had in peace time, and who wishes himself well out of the fray, will probably find himself pinked before very long.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY MORNING.

*[Questions by Squadron Commander on Instructions of previous day's Lecture.]*

\*(Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

\* In what disposition does a body of cavalry advance to attack?

\* What is the position of the support with regard to the first line?

What is the object of the support?

How does a party of cavalry defend itself against a similar party attacking it in the open?

What part of the enemy's force should you try to direct your charge at?

If attacked by enemy's cavalry, is it a good thing to close in your ranks and stand ready to receive him? Why not?

Why is it necessary to keep closed in, knee to knee, in the charge?

Why do you go as fast as you can in the charge?

\* Give a short account of the "Heavy" charge at Balaclava, and explain how it was the Russians were defeated.

How is a battery of artillery attacked in front?

\* How would cavalry combine with artillery in attacking infantry in extended order?

What part of an infantry square should be attacked?

Why should the pace not be hurried in advancing to the charge?

What is the object of not drawing swords till just before you charge?

Why must you look out for the signal to rally, and carry it out quickly, after a charge?

Why should you not exert much force in delivering a point with your sword or lance when going fast?

From which direction is it easiest to attack a lancer?

From which direction is it easiest to attack a swordsman? If armed with the sword, you find your opponent attacking you on your left rear, how do you get rid of him from that quarter?

If armed with a sword, and attacking a lancer, what should you endeavour to do?

If armed with a sword, and attacking infantry, how should you attack?

If armed with the lance, attacking a swordsman, what will be your method of attack?

If attacked on your right rear, how do you act when armed with lance?

What use must be made of the legs in delivering points or thrusts?

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander.*]

*Escorts.*— One duty that falls to the lot of cavalry on service is that of protecting artillery, convoys of stores, ammunition, and prisoners of war, against attack and capture by the enemy.

*Escorts to Guns.*— In action, artillery is always to be guarded by a force of cavalry attached to it for that purpose and no other. A battery of artillery would, as a rule, have a troop of cavalry told off to it as an escort. This troop will remain with the guns, never leaving them throughout the day. When guns gallop to take up a position for opening fire, the escort will follow them at a trot, and when the battery comes into action, will halt between 100 and 200 yards to the rear of it on the exposed flank. An escort should never halt in rear of a battery in action, because it would there get the benefit of the enemy's shots aimed at the battery. The escort should be halted under cover from fire if possible. The officer commanding the escort will post some vedettes on the exposed flank and towards the rear, at a distance of at least mile from the guns. These vedettes will look out for and signal any approach of the enemy in the usual way. When the battery moves from its position, the vedettes will not come in to the main body of the escort, but taking their direction and pace from that of the battery they will act as scouts, moving in front of and on the flanks of the battery. They will give warning of the existence of bad ground and of the appearance of the enemy. They will also examine any position about to be occupied by the guns to see if it is clear of enemy, and commands a view of him.

When a battery is in retreat, the escort follows in rear of it and on its exposed flank. Scouts are then thrown out to the front to examine the ground, and others to the flank and rear to give warning of any near approach of the enemy. And these must look out and get out of the line of fire if the battery "comes into action," that is, commences firing again.

*Escorts on Convoys.*— In a friendly country it will generally be enough to detail a small advanced and rear guard, each of say six or eight men and two non-commissioned officers, a few men in front of the leading and in rear of the rear waggons. A man will march on each side of every waggon, unless they contain prisoners, when two or three will be posted on each side. Escorts move in half-sections and at the rate of the waggons, which, as a rule, is a walk.

Escorts with ammunition or prisoners always march at "attention" with drawn swords, and no smoking is allowed within any distance of the powder.

*Starting.*— Previous to starting, the waggons will be drawn up side by side in line. The escort will be formed up in rear of them. The advanced and rear guards and the guards for each waggon will then be told off. Then when the start is made, these parties will move off with the waggons they have been told off to as it comes to their turn.

*In an Enemy's Country.*— When marching in an enemy's country, advanced guards, rear guards, and flanking parties should be thrown out, of considerable strength, and, if necessary, extra men will be told off to each waggon.

A small body of the escort is generally placed near the head of the convoy and a second in rear, and in long convoys, or when the enemy may be expected from *any* quarter, a reserve body is stationed somewhere in the centre of the column, so that they can promptly attend at whatever point their assistance may be required.

*Marching.*— When marching over level, open country the guards can march on the country alongside the road, and so escape the dust, checks, and crowding. The convoy itself may be formed on such ground into a double string of waggons, or into three or four strings if composed of pack animals only, as the shorter the column is, the faster it gets along, and the easier it is to place in a state of defence.

In going up hills every effort should be made to prevent the distance between the carts becoming increased. Extra horses or lassoes should be brought into requisition when the hill causes much check.

Every man told off to waggon should carefully examine his waggon at every halt, and report any defect he finds. He will also, in the event of an attack, see that the driver, if a hired servant, carries out the orders given him, and does not attempt to bolt. If in charge of prisoners he will at once strongly check any attempt at insubordination, and will report the same.

*Halt of Convoy.*— For purpose of halting to feed and rest, a spot should be selected which could be easily defended, and in which the convoy would be concealed from view, and protected from fire of an enemy. The column should close up to close distance and the escort be formed outside it as outposts, with vedettes and patrols out to guard against surprise. If a convoy encamp for the night in an enemy's country, it should be drawn up in a "laager" or square. The horses and cattle picketed inside with guards on them. Picquets and vedettes will be posted outside the "laager." In the case of a convoy of mules or camels, the animals will all be picketed in close order, and a low breastwork made of their saddles. The escort would camp or bivouac all round the animals in a square, with outposts thrown out. If in a village or buildings, picquets and vedettes will be posted all round. Sentries placed over the animals, baggage, and prisoners. Prisoners should be placed inside a building, with sentries *inside* as well as outside. An alarm post, to which the reserve are to repair in silence should the enemy attack, should be fixed upon, and pointed out to all.

*Attacks.*— If an enemy in small numbers tries to hold a road or defile in order to seize the convoy, he should be vigorously attacked by the escort. If the escort succeeds in beating him off it should not go after him in pursuit, but should remain at hand with the convoy in case of another body of the enemy turning up in some new direction. The waggons should be closed up to close interval, but in position to keep on marching.

If the convoy is attacked on the march by a superior force and no chance of escape presents itself, the waggons must be formed into "laager," with horses and cattle linked inside. If there are prisoners they are to be made to lie down and keep quiet, and they may be told that at any sign of disobedience the perpetrator will be shot. Dismounted men with carbines line the laager, and a body of mounted men is kept ready under cover, to make a sortie and diversion. If the enemy proves to be the stronger, the most valuable waggons should be lightened as much as possible, and extra horses should be harnessed into them; the remaining waggons should be set fire to. The escort with the more valuable wagons, and dismounted men mounted on spare cart horses, will then make the best of their way out of the action.

*Dismounted Escort.*— An escort of dismounted men is often used for the baggage of a regiment marching in the ordinary way in a friendly country.

In this case the party is formed as follows:— Eight men and a corporal march in sections in front of the leading waggon. One man marches on each side of each waggon to give assistance in applying the skid, scotching the wheels. The remainder, under a non-commissioned officer, march immediately in rear of the convoy. At every halt, the men attached to a waggon should examine it and the horse's harness, and report any defects. No convoy is allowed to halt near a public-house.

*Lasso Equipment.*— Escorts to waggons or artillery will always have a number of horses among them fitted with lassoes, so that whenever necessity arises help may be at hand to pull the guns or carts over bad bits of ground, such as rivers, deep roads, ravines, steep hills, &c. For assisting a gun, the short traces are hooked into the spare links of the leader's traces, the front rank short trace into those of the riding horse, the rear rank into those of the off horse. The long traces hook into the ends of the splinter bar.

The start should commence after due warning at a "walk." The ropes should have first been drawn tight by moving the horses up to their limit; on the word "march," all should move off together at a steady pace and without a jerk, as, if the detachment start hurriedly, and not together, the gun or waggon will very likely not be moved, and some of the lasso fittings or saddlery may be dragged away.

In turning, the horses on the wheeling flank do all the pulling while those on the pivot flank or side to which the turn is made are merely kept moving sufficiently to prevent their ropes trailing under their legs or under the wheels, and in readiness to begin pulling again when the word “forward” is given.

*State Escorts.*— An escort told off to accompany a member of the Royal Family, either on State processions or ceremonies or when travelling, should be thoroughly well instructed in its duties beforehand, and every man should know what is going to be done, and how he is to do his share of it. In this way there will be no confusion or delay.

The escort will be formed up opposite the spot where the Royal carriage is in waiting, in double rank if it is a strong escort, in single rank if a weak one. Swords to be drawn and at the slope. The different parties of the escort are told off, so that when the word is given to march, they can at once start off in their proper places.

*State Escorts* are generally divided into a small advanced party, two men and a non-commissioned officer, and a party immediately in front of the Royal carriage, and another immediately in rear with a small rear guard in rear of that again.

*Travelling Escorts* usually have an advanced party of two men, a support of four, and the remainder immediately in rear of the Royal carriage.

The pace of all escorts is regulated by that of the Royal carriage, for which there are only two paces, the “walk” and the “trot”; no horse should be allowed to break into a canter.

Escorts ride with their swords at the “carry,” except the two leading and two rear men of the advanced and rear guards respectively, who have their carbines at the “carry.”

The distance to be kept between the parties of the advanced and rear guards of the escort is 50 yards.

The party immediately in front of the Royal carriage should be three horses’ lengths in front of the leaders’ heads. The party in rear of the Royal carriage, at one horse’s length in rear of it.

When the escort is small and in half-sections, as in travelling escorts, the files will open out with an interval from knee to knee equal to the width of the carriage.

On arrival at its destination, the escort forms up as it was formed before starting, facing the Royal carriage in line with carried swords.

*Relief of Travelling Escorts.*— When a member of the Royal Family is travelling a long distance, the escort has frequently to be relieved. This may be done sometimes when the carriage halts to change horses, but it will also often have to be done while the carriage is on the move.

*In this case* the relieving escort is formed up in line alongside the road. When the advanced party of the escort to the carriage comes up, it falls out to the same side of the road as, and just short of, the new escort. The advanced party of the new escort at the same moment moves off and takes its place, and so on with each portion of the escort as it comes up, the old escort forming bit by bit at the roadside, the new escort moving off bit by bit as it comes to their turn. Occasionally it may happen that the road is too narrow to admit of the relieving escort forming up at the roadside, in which case the new escort must post itself on the road in the order of parties in which it will move off, and with the main body opened out to sufficient interval from knee to knee to admit of the passage of the Royal carriage through it. As the advanced party of the old escort comes up to the rear of the new escort it halts, opening out to let the carriage pass. The advanced party of the new escort moves forward at the set pace; and so on with each portion of the escort in turn.

When the Royal carriage stops to change horses, the escort will form up on the side of the road and facing the carriage. The march is resumed in the same manner as at first starting.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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### FRIDAY MORNING.

*[Under Squadron Commander, apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]*

(N.B.— A few squadron carts or transport waggons can be used in this exercise to represent guns, baggage waggons, state carriages, &c.)

Practise morning escort with a battery, with scouts out (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 2), and take up positions for coming into action.

Tell off, form up, and move off an escort for a convoy of waggons, with advanced and rear guards and flankers (Part IV, Sec. 6).

Halt of convoy for rest or defence. Form a laager. Post outposts, or defenders.

One troop leader instruct and practise lasso detachment (Cav. Reg., p. 483).

Form up, tell off, and give detailed instructions to state escorts, "Field Officers," "Captains with Standard," and "without Standard," "Prince of Wales" and "Travelling" escorts. Move off, march and reform (Part IV, Sec. 3).

Relieve travelling escort on the move and at the halt (Part IV, Sec. 3, para. 36).

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is an escort of any kind?

What position does the escort to a battery occupy when the guns are in action?

Why should the escort to guns not form up in rear of them when they come into action?

What use is made of scouts or vedettes by an escort to guns?

\* How is an escort to a convoy disposed for a march?

\* How do you tell off and start a convoy and its escort?

\* How is the escort disposed when marching in an enemy's country?

What are the duties of a man who has charge of a waggon, first, at every halt; second, in the case of an attack?

How does a convoy of waggons and its escort form up for the night?

And how a convoy of pack animals?

If a small force of the enemy makes an attack on a convoy, what should the escort do? and the convoy?

And what if a large force attacks?

\* How is a dismounted escort on regimental baggage disposed when marching in a friendly country?

What are the duties of each man who is told off to march with a waggon?

What is the object of the lasso equipment?

How should the lasso detachment start moving when they have hooked on to a waggon?

How is a wheel made by a detachment pulling a waggon?

\* What is a “state escort,” and how made up?

\* What is a “travelling” escort, and how made up?

At what pace do escorts move?

What distance is to be kept between the different parties of an escort?

What distance should the party immediately in front of the Royal carriage keep ahead of it?

And what distance the party in rear?

When the Royal carriage halts, what does the escort do?

\* How is the relief of a travelling escort carried out on the move?

How is this done if the road is too narrow to admit of the relieving escort forming up at the roadside?

Are swords drawn by an escort? are they sloped or carried?

When does the escort march at ease?

In bad weather do the escort wear cloaks?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Transport by Rail and Sea.”*]

*Transport by Rail.*— Now that railways are so general in every part of the world, a regiment when ordered on service is almost certain to be sent at least part of the way to the front by train. For this reason we should accustom ourselves to embarking and disembarking horses in trains, so that when called upon to do it on service it can be carried out without hitch or accident.

*Preparation of Train.*— To convey a squadron of 120 horses and men, a train of about 30 carriages and trucks would be required. If horse boxes are not to be got in sufficient numbers cattle trucks will be used.

Before the horses are put into the train the trucks will be numbered on the outside, from the front. The flooring of each truck should be carefully examined to see that there are no rotten or loose planks in it that would let a horse’s leg through.

The floor should be well sprinkled with sand to prevent the horses from slipping. Straw should not be used for fear of fire.

*Loading Train.*— On arrival at the station the squadron will form up in single rank on the platform, facing the train. It will then be told off from one flank into sections of six or eight, according to the number of horses that each truck will hold. Each section will be told its number, such as “No. 1 section,” “No. 2,” and so on, and will occupy the truck which has that number chalked on it.

After being told off, the men dismount with their carbines, and while half hold the horses, the remainder take off their swords, head-dresses, accoutrements, gloves, &c.

If going on a short journey the saddles will be left on the horses, and their stirrups will be crossed, girths, cruppers, and breastplates slackened, and bead-ropes uncoiled. Stable rubbers should be tied with string over the horses’ tails, or the tails should be plaited with straw or bound round with straw rope, to save them from getting rubbed.

The horses will then be marched into the trucks from the right of sections, a steady one, if possible, leading the way. Any horse shy of going in should be kept till the rest of the section is in, and with more room and more men available he can either be backed in, or hauled in with a breeching of surcingle round his quarters, and if these means are not good enough a few good men can always shoulder him in, however bad he is. For a long journey buckets of water should be put into the trucks, and feeds ready in the nosebags.

In loading, the horses should be packed with their heads away from the second line of rails, so that they will not be frightened by passing trains on the journey.

When the truck is full it will at once be shut up with two men left inside to travel with the horses. The kits and arms of these men will be carried in one of the troop carriages.

The men will then return quietly to their kits, fall in, and be told off to their carriages.

*Packing Saddles.*— If going on a long journey, or if the doors of the trucks are too low to admit the horses with their saddles on, the saddles and bits will be taken off previous to the horses being placed in the train, only the bridoon, head-collar, and head-rope being left on the horse. The bit, breastplate, stirrups, surcingle, crupper, and girth will be rolled up in the numnah and placed inside the saddle, which will then be packed in the corn sack, and put opposite the van told off for the saddlery. One non-commissioned officer and two men will then pack the corn sacks into the van, laying them along the floor and packing them in tiers, not standing them up.

*Stoppages.*— On the train stopping, no man except the guard sentries is to get out of the train until “dismount” sounds, and then only on the proper platform side of the train.

*Embarkation on Board Ships.*

*When Ship is alongside Wharf.*— When the ship can be brought alongside a wharf, the work of embarking horses is very easy. But at the same time it should be done in a quiet, regular manner, without confusion; and in order to do this, every man should know what his duties are.

The squadron is first formed up, as it arrives on the wharf, facing the ship. The men dismount and link horses. Then strip the saddles of carbines, cloaks, valises, mess tins, and any articles that will be required on the voyage. (Horse brushes and currycombs can be packed away, as others are provided by the ship’s people for the voyage.) These kits are then taken on board and stowed away, the men change into fatigue dress, and return ashore. They then take off the saddles and pack the saddlery into the corn sacks, leaving only the head-collar, bridoon, and head-rope on each horse. They take the corn sacks containing the saddlery on board, and receive a ship’s head-collar each and return again ashore with it. The horses are next unlinked, and the ship’s head-collars put on underneath the horse’s own head-collar. The men will then lead the horses on board in single file from one flank. In his stall the horse is fastened up by the ship’s head-collar, not with the regimental one.

*When the Ship is not alongside a Wharf.*— In this case the horses must be taken out from the shore to the ship in barges or rafts; but if these are not available they must be swum out. In either case all the saddlery is taken off the horse first, with the exception of the head-collar, bridoon, and headrope, and the men take off their belts, swords, and other accoutrements.

*Transport in Flats.*— If there is no wharf for the flats to come alongside of; a gangway must be rigged from the beach, or shallow water, or if this cannot be done the flat must be inclined over and the horse led into the water and made to jump in over the side. A quiet horse should be selected to lead the way, and the rest should be brought on in single file in quick succession after him. Straw, sand, or cinders should be laid down on the floor of the flat to prevent the horses from slipping. The men to stand at their horses’ heads during the passage to the ship. On arrival alongside the horses will be slung on board.

*Swimming.*— When the horses have to be swum from the shore to the ship on account of there being no big boats available, they are first prepared for the water by having their saddles and bits taken off. Each horse then has a sling put on him, and the breast rope and breeching of it securely fastened, as he will have to be hoisted out of the water by it immediately on arrival alongside the ship. A rope about 8 yards long is passed round his neck and securely fastened with an overhand knot so that it will neither tighten up and throttle him, nor get loose and slip over his head. The bridoon is taken off and a rope fastened to the lower ring of the head-collar under the horse’s chin. This rope is to keep his mouth above water when held by a man in the boat. The horse is now led into the water towards the boat that is to tow him out. A good man must be stationed in the stern of the boat; this man takes the neck-rope in his right hand, and the chin-rope in his left. For better purchase he should pass the neck-rope through a ring, or



block if there is one in the stern of the boat. The boat should then be rowed quietly away and the horse will follow until he is swimming. If a horse is unwilling to go, water should be splashed on him from behind. When fairly afloat the neck-rope should be shortened up. The boat should be rowed very slowly, not faster than the horse can swim. All struggles and plunges on the part of the horse should be very quietly controlled by the neck-rope. On arrival alongside the ship, the hook of the hoisting tackle must be quickly hooked into the loop of the sling, and he will then be hoisted on board.

*To sling a Horse.*— The sling is a broad strip of canvas with a stout batten at each end of it, and a strong loop at the centre of each batten. The sling is taken under the horse's belly, and the battens meet over his back, one loop is passed through the other, and the hook of the hoisting tackle hooked on to it. There is a breast-rope and a breeching that have to be fastened up after the horse has been put into the sling, to save him from slipping out at either end when in mid-air.

For slinging a horse five men should be told off. No. 1 holds the horse's head and fastens to the head-collar a guy-rope with which the horse can be guided while being slung. Nos. 2 and 3 are posted on each side of the horse. No. 2 passes the end of the sling under the belly to No. 3, who takes it over the horse's back and passes his loop through that of No. 2, who then hooks on the hoisting tackle. No. 4 in front of the horse brings the breast-rope round the horse's chest and makes it fast, while No. 5 brings the breeching round the horse's rump, low down, and makes it fast. When all is ready the officer superintending gives the word "Hoist away," and the horse is slung over, and lowered into the required spot; where it is necessary that some good men should be stationed to receive him, and unsling him, as he is very apt to kick and plunge on first feeling his legs again.

*Treatment on board Ship.*— Horses should stand on board as nearly as possible in the same order as that in which they have been accustomed to stand in their stables. Kickers and vicious horses should be placed in end stalls. Every twentieth stall should be left vacant, so that horses can be changed from their stalls occasionally, for the purpose of having it thoroughly cleaned out.

On reaching the stable deck the horses will be led straight into their stalls, filling up the far end ones first. Their hammocks will then be hung loosely under them, and the partition bars put up.

The hammock should be slung under the horse's belly loosely, not so tight as to raise him. The breast band and breeching should be securely fastened, but not tightly.

The object of the sling hammock is to enable the horse to rest himself without actually lying down; but this should only be permitted in fine, calm weather. When the ship is rolling, the hammock should hang quite loose below the horse, so that he will not throw his weight into it, because if he did so he would swing about with every motion of the ship, and so get bruised and chafed. The object of leaving the hammock under him at all in bad weather is to save him falling to the ground if his legs slip from under him; for this reason the fastenings of the suspending ropes of the hammock should be very secure.

In bad weather ashes should be spread over the flooring of the stall to save the horse from slipping. If a horse falls he is very apt to trip up the horse in the next stall with his legs, and one may pass this on to another till a whole number are down.

Should a horse fall, planks, which should always be placed in readiness when bad weather begins, should be run in along both sides of his stall to box him in, and prevent his legs from getting into the next stall.

The men should stand by their horses' heads in rough weather, as the horses will not then be so frightened.

The stalls should be thoroughly cleaned out every day.

The lips, nostrils, docks, and mangers should frequently be sponged over with vinegar, which will be provided for the purpose.

*Disembarkation.*— Disembarkation is carried out in the same way as the embarkation in reverse order.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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*Alongside a Wharf.*— If alongside a wharf, the corn sacks containing saddlery will first be landed, then the men's kits, and laid out on the wharf. The horses are then either led ashore over the gangway, or slung over the ship's side, formed up on the wharf, and saddled.

*When the Ship is not alongside.*— When the ship is not alongside a wharf, the horses have to be slung into flats. In which case each man goes ashore in the same boat with his horse, taking all his saddlery, kits, arms, &c., with him, but not wearing any accoutrements.

*Swimming Horses ashore.*— If no flats are available, the horses have to be towed ashore by boats. In this case the neck and chin ropes are put on in the same way as for swimming out from the shore. But the breeching and breast band of the sling should not be fastened, so that when the horse is slung over the side into the water, as soon as he is afloat the tackle is unhooked, and the sling opens and is slipped from under the horse, who is then towed ashore. The first horses to land should be kept on the beach, as the remainder will swim better if they can see the others safely landed.

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### SATURDAY MORNING.

*[Questions on the Instruction given during the week will be put  
to the Squadron by the Squadron Commander.]*

SECOND WEEK.

MONDAY MORNING.

*[Instruction by the Squadron Commander in carrying out the directions of Friday's Lecture.]*

N.B.— Arrangements should be made with the railway authorities for the use of platform, trucks, and vans, and if possible of a derrick or crane with slings and tackle.

Form up, and embark horses in the train (Cav. Reg., Part V, Sec. 8, para. 38), pack saddles in van, and place men in the train. Disembark men, saddles, and horses (*vide* Q. R., Sec. XVI, paras. 49-62).

Tell off parties of five to sling and unsling horses (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 9, para. 9), and practise doing so (*vide* Q. R., Sec. XVII, Parts I, II, para. 129).

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Lecture by Squadron Commander.]*

*Questions on Friday's Lecture.*

How many trucks and carriages will be required for transport by rail of a squadron of 120 horses and men?

Why should flooring of the horse boxes be examined previous to horses being put into the train? Why should sand and not straw be littered on the floor of the horse trucks? Should the saddles ever be left on the horses in the train? How are the horses' tails saved from being rubbed on a journey?

Why should horses be packed in a truck with their heads away from the second line? How is the saddlery prepared for being stowed in the saddle van? How is it stowed? When the train stops, what are the orders about the men getting out?

\* Which is the easiest way of getting a horse on board ship? How is saddlery kept on board ship? What is the ship's head-collar used for?

If the ship cannot get alongside the wharf how are horses taken on board? If a horse has to swim out to the ship how do you prepare him for the swim before starting? How is he towed? Describe a horse sling? How many men should be told off to sling a horse? What are the duties of No. 1? No. 2? No. 3? No. 4? No. 5? Why should good men be selected to receive and unsling a horse?

In what order should horses stand in the stalls on board ship? Where are vicious horses put? Why should a stall every here and there be left empty? What is the object of a slung hammock? How should it be fitted in fine weather? How should it be fitted in rough weather?

Why is it dangerous for a horse to slip down in his stall in bad weather? How is a fallen horse prevented from kicking or tripping the next horse's legs from under him? Why should the men be at their horses' heads in very bad weather?

When disembarking alongside a wharf, in what order are the saddlery, kits, and horses landed?

Before slinging a horse over the side to swim him ashore, how is the sling put on?

Why should horses that have been swum ashore be kept down on the beach while others are being swum?

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Marches." ]

*Marches in Friendly Country.*— The orders lay down that in going on a march extra care and attention is to be paid to the feeding and grooming of the horses. The object of this is to bring the horses to their final destination, or to the scene of action, in the best state of health and strength possible. If horses are properly cared for, the march will do them good, and will put them into good hard muscular condition; but then, on the other hand, if they are not specially well looked after, they will lose flesh and become weak, broken down, and unfit for work after a few long marches.

If a body of cavalry is marching by itself and not with artillery or infantry, it will usually start early in the morning, only giving the men time to saddle and lightly feed their horses and to get some breakfast themselves. In this way the march is got over during the cool part of the day, and in time to allow the horses getting two good groomings and a good rest during the afternoon; 15 or 20 miles should be the ordinary march for cavalry, and should be got over in from three to four hours, that is, the rate of at least five miles an hour.

*With other Arms.*— If marching in conjunction with either artillery or infantry, the cavalry will usually march on another separate road, if there is one leading in the same direction, or if the country is open near the road and not much fenced in with walls and hedges, &c., the cavalry will march alongside the road.

If, however, it is obliged to go on the same road as infantry it should not start from camp till a good time after the infantry have started. It is most tiring to a horse to be made walk slow on a march because infantry are marching along just in front. To avoid this it is usual to allow the infantry to get an hour or two's start along the road, and so leave it clear for the cavalry to come along at their own pace.

*In Friendly Country.*— In marching in friendly countries and in time of peace, advanced and rear guards will always be used by any body of troops, however small.

The object of this is to train troops into the way of never marching without these precautions, so that on service there will never be any chance of their leaving them undone by mistake or forgetfulness. And again it is not always quite clear to a body of troops whether they are in a friendly country or at peace.

The 94th Regiment, in December, 1880, was marching through Transvaal in South Africa. Just at that time the Boers inhabiting the Transvaal country were quarrelling with the British Government, and on the 20th December they declared war. The 94th Regiment on this day was doing its usual daily march, not having heard of the declaration of war, and therefore, thinking it was marching through a friendly country, had not even a parade advanced guard out, but was simply marching along with the band playing at its head. Suddenly a number of armed Boers were seen lying hid to the front and flanks of the regiment, and one came forward to say that the regiment was not to move beyond that spot. The Colonel replied that he was going to march on. The messenger retired and the Boers immediately began to take up better positions for firing. Directly the Colonel saw this he ordered his men to extend into skirmishing order, but before they could do so the Boers fired a volley into them, and in ten minutes more had killed and wounded 120 out of 250 men and taken the remainder prisoners; all the officers being killed or wounded.

This defeat might have been avoided had a proper advanced guard preceded the regiment, and given warning of the presence of the Boers near the road.

On marching off, passing through towns, and arriving at its destination, a party on the march will draw swords and march at attention. A party should as a rule march in half-sections, on the left side of the road. Led horses to be led on the near side.

It is best to get the march over as quickly as possible without pressing and hurrying the horses, as the length of time for which he has the weight on his back soon tells on the horse's condition. Also, if the men are kept too long in the saddle the feebler and more lazy ones among them get slack and lounge about in their saddles. This sitting badly in the saddle makes it wobble about, or brings undue pressure on some portion of the horse's back, and the consequence is that a sore back or a bad rub is soon started. The

party should therefore frequently move along at a trot, the files at the head of the column being instructed to move at a very steady, uniform pace—not trotting out one minute and trotting slow the next—because every little change made by the leaders is repeated and passed on down the column, increasing as it goes, until it throws out the rear files considerably.

At a trot each man should ride his horse properly and not allow it to go slopping along in its own way and running on to the horse in front of it. The man should continually look out to his front and keep his proper distance of 4 feet. If he sees check to the column impending from the front he should prepare for it by reducing his pace, and not have to pull “all standing” on his leader’s heels. He should also look out for moving on again in good time after a check, or when “march” sounds after a halt, so that he will not have to rush on to make up lost distance. These faults of pulling up suddenly and rushing forward, which are the results of bad riding, are the greatest sources of fatigue to the horse, and of cuts and treads on the heels of the horse in front of him. A man should not check in the ranks to do up a buckle or get out a pipe, &c., but should move out to the side of the road for the purpose. If he wants to fall out for any time he should ask leave and get a non-commissioned officer to go with him, and then should not hurry up again to get to his proper place in the ranks, but should wait to do so till the next halt.

Horses will generally walk much faster if their bits are taken off and hung on the cantle and they are ridden on the bridoon. At a trot it is a relief to the horse if the rider rises in his stirrups.

When going up hills the men should dismount and lead their horses. This relieves the horses greatly and saves the men from getting stiff on a long march. On hot and dusty days the files should be opened out to each side of the road, also when halting, leaving the centre of the road clear for traffic.

Frequent halts will be made, and during these it is the duty of each man to look carefully round his saddlery to see that there are no breakages, and that it is fitting properly and not rubbing or galling the horse anywhere. He should particularly examine the horse under the off shoe case, in front of the girth; and under the near shoe case when the sword is slung from the saddle; also he should examine the legs and feet for strains, cuts, swellings, broken shoes, stones in the hoof, &c.

The horses should be brought in at the end of the march as cool as possible, and should therefore only be walked for the last mile or two. If any horse is fidgety and keeps himself in a sweat on the march, his rider should dismount and lead him in the last mile or two, as he will then walk more quietly.

*Treatment after a March.*— As soon as the horses are brought into their stables the bridles should be taken off, breastplates and girths loosened, cruppers and stirrups taken up, and saddles stripped. A little water should be given, say half a bucket. The feet are picked out and legs thoroughly dried. (Cracked heels come from the heels getting wetted and not being thoroughly dried after.) The eyes and nostrils are then sponged out, and another half bucket of water is given. Some hay is then left with the horse, and the men go and change their clothes.

On return to stables the saddles are taken off. The back should be carefully examined for any rub or swelling, which if found should be at once reported. The horses are then watered, thoroughly groomed, fed with corn, and their bedding is put down and they are left to themselves.

When a horse is cold or weak, a good hand rubbing particularly of his legs, is the best thing to set his blood going, and if it is thoroughly carried out every day his condition and appearance are bound to improve.

*Sore Backs.*— After a saddle has been properly fitted to a horse a sore back can only be produced by the fault of the rider, either by his sitting in a bad position and lounging or swaying his body about, or else by his allowing his numnah or pannels to get hard from not properly brushing and drying them. If it is too wet to dry them out of doors they should be placed near a fire but not too close to it. If a horse’s back is inclined to be tender or to swell, nothing is so likely to bring it out as exposing the back, while still hot after the march, to cold air. It is for this reason that the saddle, or at least the numnah, is left on for some time after the horse comes in.

*Billeting.*— A billeting party of one non-commissioned officer and one man from each troop proceeds a day in advance of the party on the march, to make arrangements with the billet master for quarters, stables, rations, and forage. Men of a troop are billeted together as much as possible, and not mixed up with those of other troops, and they are quartered as near as possible to their horses' stables. An "alarm post," or place of assembly in case of a sudden turn out being ordered, will always be fixed upon and shown to everybody. It is generally the place where the party formed up on first arrival, for being told off to their billets. Every man should know the way to the "alarm post" from his quarters. It is the duty of every man when quartered in a new town not only always to be smartly dressed and sober when walking out in the streets, but also to keep his comrades up to the mark in that respect, especially the young soldiers. The character of a regiment is generally judged by the appearance and behaviour of its men in the streets.

On service in Europe men would often be billeted on the inhabitants of a place, and would be distributed thus: in rooms 15 feet wide or under, one man to every yard of length; for rooms over 15 feet wide but under 25 feet, two men to every yard; for rooms 25 feet wide, three men to every yard of length. If the rooms are only to be occupied for one night they can be more crowded. A few rooms on the upper story should be left for the people of the house to live in. Stable accommodation in sheds, barns, &c., is calculated at 5 feet of length for every horse.

*Marching on Active Service.*— In marching on service the same rules as to riding and care of horses are to be observed as in marching in peace time. The work for both men and horses is of course much heavier. After the march, instead of going into billets the men have to pitch camp, lay down horse lines, draw rations and forage, and cook their food in addition to grooming their horses. Besides which double marches and night marches have to be performed, and at times rations are scarce and tents not to be got.

It is under these circumstances that every good soldier's qualities show themselves. And if all hands buckle to and pull cheerfully together, not thinking of the present difficulties but looking forward to the main object and end of their troubles, the work will come much lighter.

When marching on service it is more than ever important that each man should look after his horse most carefully, and see that he is watered frequently and fed on every fitting opportunity, and that he is groomed, blanketed, and sheltered as well as circumstances will allow. Immediate report should be made of any swelling, sprain, girthgall, lameness, or any other ailment, however slight; because it may, if not properly treated at the very first, become a very bad case; and a man should not wait for a non-commissioned officer or officer to notice the injury, but should look for it himself and report it at once. Because a man's saddlery fits his horse at starting, he should not think that it will therefore fit as well after a few days' hard work have been got through, and does not require further examination. On long marches the horse changes his shape day by day, all the fat and flesh that he has picked up in barracks falls away, while his muscles develop and grow large, and thus the sit of the saddle on his back is continually changing, and must be carefully looked to, and, if necessary, corrected by more or less stuffing—or, if a blanket is worn in place of a numnah, by altering the folding of it to suit the new shape of his back. A man whose horse gets knocked up on service is worse than useless, as there may very likely be no spare horse to mount him on, and so he cannot do his duty as a cavalry soldier, and yet has to be fed; and all the fun he gets by it is, having to do his marching on foot, and seeing none of the fighting when there is any.

A soldier on service should keep *himself*, as well as his horse, in good condition by taking exercise, keeping temperate habits, and getting rest and a wash on every available opportunity. If a man is in fat condition he is sure to get tired and slack after a little exertion, and on the march this means lolling about in his saddle in a way which soon gives a horse a sore back. And when he gets into camp at the end of a march he does not, like a man in good condition, feel ready to buckle to and give his horse a good grooming before he takes any food or rest himself. A man in good condition can stand a fall or a wound with very much better success than a man who is fat, or who has undermined his constitution with rum.

Many a man has lost his life in action by getting too blown and exhausted to defend himself at the critical moment against a better trained enemy; and very often a careless groom has lived to regret his want of care of his horse when he has found it giving in under him in action, from weakness brought on by his own neglect.

*Night Marches.*— A night march is often necessary on service, and if smartly carried out is often of the greatest value in the neighbourhood of the enemy. A night march is generally a much slower business than one by day, especially if the men who are making it are a poor lot and not up to their work. On a night march is *not* the time to go to sleep, but on the contrary it is the time when every man should have his eyes and ears open, to catch the first sound of the enemy, and to look out that he does not get off the right road. Men will be constantly dropped behind and others sent on ahead to keep up communications with the other parties of the force, and to learn or inform of any change in the direction of the march. In the Peninsular War the leading party of the army, which was making a night march, was conducted by native guides, and threw down whisks of straw to show the parties following them which was the right road, but a high wind got up and blew the straw away, and, as no men were sent back from the advanced party to the main body to tell them, the army lost its way, and the advanced party went away miles before they found they had no one to support them.

A great assistance in keeping to the proper direction at night is a pocket compass; the direction to be taken having been given out by the commanding officer, it is easily followed by frequently comparing your line with the compass; or a certain star may be pointed out in the sky towards which the march should be directed. This was done in the night march that brought the British army up to Tel-el-Kebir, in Egypt, where there were no landmarks to guide the force marching across the desert.

*Crossing Rivers: 1. By Bridges.*— In crossing over a temporary or pontoon bridge, the party should move in half-sections or by single file, at a walk. No horse should be led across by hand, it will always be safer for the dragoon to ride him across, however shy he may be.

*2. By Boats.*— If no bridge is available, ferry boats or rafts must be used. The flooring should previously be well sprinkled with sand, to prevent the horses from slipping. Every man should remain at his horse's head during the passage over.

*By Towing.*— If the boats are too small to carry the horses across an unbridged river, the men should go in the boats with their kits and arms, and, if circumstances permit, with their saddlery. The horses are towed by the bridoon reins and head-rope.

*3. By Swimming.*— If boats are not available, the horses will have to be swum across with their riders. The bit reins should be knotted and left hanging on the horse's neck, and the bridoon should only be held very lightly, as a slight pull on the horse's mouth is apt to bring him over backwards, when swimming. The stirrups should be taken up and crossed. The sword hooked up, or even taken off and slung on the back from the man's neck. The party should enter the water in line, if not larger than a troop, but only one rank at a time. When afloat the rider should lean well forward and draw his legs back, and hang on by grasping the horse's mane half-way up. A man, especially if he has taken off his kit, even if he does not know how to swim, may safely let himself float in the water alongside his horse, and grasping the mane securely, let himself be towed by him. If the river is not very wide, but is swift, it may at times be a good thing to send the end of a line (made of lasso ropes, &c.) across by one of the first men to cross, and have this line stretched across from one bank to the other, a few yards down stream from the crossing place, so that if any man gets washed away he may have the rope to catch and hang on to.

*4. By Fords.*— Fords can generally be found by noticing where tracks or paths lead into the water on one side of the stream, and out again on the other bank. It often happens that a ford does not run straight across the river, but goes in a zigzag course; this is particularly common in Indian and other rivers with wide sandy beds. If a ford is found to be of this kind, the advanced party should find out exactly the direction and turns in it, and should carefully mark them by means of posts or sticks stuck up in the sand, or at night by means of men posted with lanterns or torches. The remainder of the party when crossing

should be most careful to follow the line of these beacons most carefully. One is very apt in crossing a rapid stream not to go quite straight, but rather in a slanting direction down stream. This is caused by the eye being deceived by the running water. To avoid this you should note some point opposite you on the other bank, and then make straight for this point while crossing.

The 10th Hussars in crossing a river by a ford in the Afghan War, lost a number of men by their not following the head of the column exactly along the line of the ford. The leaders got across safely enough, but the men in rear gradually edged away down stream without noticing the fact, and finally found themselves in quicksands and deep water.

*By Ice.*— Occasionally a river may be frozen over sufficiently for a party to march across on the ice. The ice should be not less than 3 inches thick. Ice may be thickened in a few hours of frost by spreading straw on it and flooding water over it.

The best formation for crossing it would usually be in single file from the right of fours.

*Foraging.*— Forage will usually be obtained by purchasing or requisitioning it from the inhabitants. If this cannot be done, it will be necessary to send out a foraging party. Scouts will first be sent out to discover whereabouts any forage exists. They will then return and lead the foraging party to the place. The party will, on arrival at the spot, be divided into two, one to gather the forage, the other to form outposts and escort for protection against an attack of the enemy. The foraging must be carried out during daylight. Labourers and waggons, &c., should be pressed into the service, but no soldier is allowed to go and help himself to provisions. No inhabitants or passers-by should be allowed to leave the place till the foraging is over, otherwise they might give information to the enemy. An “alarm post” should be established, to which every man should repair on the “alarm” sounding, leaving the forage behind. If the “recall” only sounds, men will bring in the forage. Crops can be cut by a line of men with scythes, reaping-hooks, or bill-hooks, or swords, &c., a second line in rear of them binding up the cut corn into sheaves. Provisions should only be taken from the inhabitants by order of the officer commanding as a last resource, when the people refuse to sell them. No individual foraging or plundering is to be allowed of any kind. An acre of ground (70 yards square) yields from 1 to 3 tons or loads of hay, 50 to 60 bushels, 1,750 lbs. of oats, with about 3,000 lbs. of its straw, and 8 to 10 tons of potatoes. An ox gives 300 rations, a sheep 45. A waggon carries 600 lbs. for every horse pulling it, on average roads. An African mule waggon, 2,500 lbs. If waggons cannot be obtained to carry away the forage, it must be made into double bundles of 200 lbs. in hay-nets, or with head-ropes, and slung over the saddle of each man's horse, and loaded so as to ride high up, not lower than the bottom of the flap. Small provisions can be placed in sacks or boxes and baskets, and similarly carried. The men then lead their horses back to camp, with mounted flankers and guards protecting their march.



## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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### TUESDAY MORNING.

Parade in marching order. Feeds, hay and rations to be carried. Close examination and inspection of saddlery, accoutrements, &c. Explain where rubs and galls are likely to form (*e.g.*, under shoe case, namaqua bucket, &c.).

March out. Show results of unsteady pace at head of column. Make men rise in stirrups at the “trot.” If possible, practise crossing rivers by the means explained in lecture, particularly swimming. Tell off foraging party at a village or farm, post outposts, let non-commissioned officers compute amount of forage to be obtained.

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

#### *[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

Why should particular care be taken of the horses on a march? At what rate should cavalry march? What distance ought it to march per day, with good transport? When does a party on the march in a peaceful country draw swords? In what formation does a party march? On which side of the road? Why is it best to get the march over as quickly as possible without over-hurrying?

How can a man give his horse a sore back?

Why is it necessary that the leading sections of a column on the march should maintain a very steady, unvarying pace?

Why is it that horses get their heels cut and bruised on a march?

What is the rule about a man falling out?

How does he regain his place in the ranks?

Should you rise in your stirrups when trotting?

What is the object of dismounting the men to walk occasionally?

What should every man do at each halt?

On first arrival in camp or billets, what saddlery should be taken off the horse?

What grooming does he get on first arrival?

Why is hand rubbing good for a horse?

How are sore backs produced?

Why is the saddle left on the horse for some time after arrival?

When foraging, may you take provisions for yourself?

\* What measures are taken for the protection of a party foraging?

What is an “alarm post”?

Why must extra care be taken of the horse on active service?

Why must the fitting of the saddle on the horse’s back be looked to every day?

Why should a man keep himself in good condition?

What are the difficulties of making a march by night?

How are these counteracted?

How is a temporary bridge crossed by cavalry?

How is a timid or shy horse taken over a bridge?

If ordered to swim your horse across a river, what preparations do you make?

Why are the bridoon reins to be held very lightly only?

How can you make your horse tow you?

How is a ford found?

Do all fords run straight across a river?

How should fords be marked out by day? by night? and why?

Why are men liable not to ride straight across a ford?

How thick must ice be to be of use to a party wishing to cross a river?

How can it be made thicker?

\* How is a party told off to forage?

What do you do if the “recall” sounds when you are foraging?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Advanced Guards.”*]

*Advanced Guards.*— When a force is on the march, precautions must always be taken to secure its safety and ease. This is done by sending out portions of the force to act as guards in advance, in rear, and on the flanks of it. Of these guards the advanced guard is usually the most important. It is divided into three parts, increasing in strength as they are nearer to the main body. The leading party called the advanced party is the weakest in numbers; it is followed and backed up by the support, a small, formed body; the support again is followed by the reserve, a strong body equal in strength to the advanced party and support put together.

The actual strength of the advanced guard will depend on the size of the force that is has to protect, and the duties it is wanted to carry out, but will always be formed in the same way, of advanced party, support and reserve. In the case of strong advanced guards, constant communication will be kept between its various parts, and with the main body, by means of connecting files and patrols.

For drill purposes there are two kinds of advanced guards:

1st. The “parade” advanced guard, which is only used for drill purposes or for marching through streets, or in England.

2nd. The “service” advanced guard, which is that usually employed on service.

*Parade Advanced Guard.*— A “parade” advanced guard is only used when a party is marching through a town, or along roads in a friendly country, for the purpose of clearing the road, and finding and pointing out the way for the main body. For a regiment marching, one troop is generally detailed for advanced guard, the advanced party consisting of one sergeant and two men; the support, of ten men and one sergeant; and the reserve, under an officer, of twenty men. The parties march at 50 yards’ distance from each other, in half-sections, with drawn swords, excepting the two men of the advanced party, who march with carbines at the “advance.”

The sergeant in charge of the advanced party marches immediately in rear of it, except in the case of state escorts and processions, when he marches at 50 yards’ distance. He is responsible that the right road is followed by the advanced party, and is duly pointed out to the party in rear of him. At cross roads he must make careful inquiries as to which is the correct road; and if there is any uncertainty, or if there is any considerable obstruction on the road, he will send back one of his two men to the officer with the reserve. The support will send up a man to take the place of the one sent back, and the reserve will send on a man to complete the support, while the man from the advanced party who has brought in the message will fall in with the reserve.

One non-commissioned officer and two men are sufficient advanced guard for a squadron marching by itself along streets.

The troop detailed for advanced guard is told off into its various parts before starting. On command "Form the advanced guard," it moves off in half-sections, at a trot (if the regiment is at a walk), but moves off as a complete troop, without making any intervals between the advanced party and support, or between the support and reserve. When it has gone 50 yards the reserve walks, and after another 50 yards the support gets the order to walk, and 50 yards further the advanced party.

*Service Advanced Guards.*— On service a stronger advanced guard is required in proportion to the size of the force it protects.

*Strength.*— The officer commanding the force will decide whether the advanced guard should be stronger than the rear guard, or otherwise, according as he expects to find the enemy in his front or rear. If the enemy is in front, as will usually be the case, especially on entering his country, the advanced guard will be the strongest, but at the same time there will still have to be some sort of a guard in rear and on the flanks, to give protection in case a party of the enemy were sent round to make a sudden attack on the flank or rear of the main body. Advanced, rear, and flanking guards together will usually amount to one-fourth the main body.

*Distances.*— No rule can be laid down to show how far a service advanced guard should be in front of the main body, as that depends so much on what sort of country you are going through, and also on the size of the main body. If the main body is in a long column it will take more time to get into formation for fighting than a short one would, consequently it would want a longer warning of the approach of the enemy, and therefore the advanced guard should be sent well on in front, so as to gain very early information of the enemy's presence. But for an advanced guard for one regiment (which will generally be a squadron) the distances between the different parties of it would be about 500 yards under ordinary circumstances.

*Duties.*— The duties of an advanced guard are to look out for any signs of the enemy, to give warning of any threatened attack, to check the enemy's scouts from gaining information about the main body, to note peculiarities of the country, and also to find out as much as possible of the enemy's strength, position, and doings.

In the case of a single regiment, one squadron will form the advanced guard, and is divided thus. The men who have had training as scouts and reconnoiters are put on the right flank, as they will form the advanced party. The squadron, supposing it consists of sixty non-commissioned officers and men, is then numbered from the right into its parties, the first six men on the right and a non-commissioned officer forming the advanced party, seventeen non-commissioned officers and men the support, thirty-six non-commissioned officers and men the reserve. The reserve should amount to from one-half to one-third of the strength of the whole squadron.

If the advanced guard has to be told off in haste, it is often convenient to give the command "Nos. 1 to 3, advanced party—remainder of right troop, support—left troop, reserve." The advanced guard draws swords, except the advanced party, who draw arms. On the command "Form the advanced guard," the squadron moves off in fours or sections, AS A SQUADRON COMPLETE, at a trot (if the main body is at a walk). On getting a distance of 500 yards the reserve drops into a walk, the leading troop, which comprises the support and advanced party, trots on *as a troop* for another 500 yards, when the support receives the order to walk, and leaves the advanced party to trot on until it has got its distance of 500 yards more.

*Connecting Files.*—The "reserve" drops back two men to act as connecting files between it and the main body, and sends out a pair of men to each of its flanks, and a pair to each flank of the main body. These men trot out with swords drawn; on arriving at their proper distance from the main body (usually 500 yards, or within sight by day, within hearing by night) they return swords and draw arms.

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The “support” drops back a pair of men as connecting files between it and the reserve, and sends on a pair to keep up communication with the advanced party.

In close country, where it is difficult for men to get along if not on the road, the advance party will march as a body, but with a pair of advanced scouts 100 yards ahead of it. Patrols of one or two men should be sent out to the flanks whenever there is an opportunity.

*Advanced Party.*— In open country, where cavalry can move over the neighbouring ground without being obliged to stick to the road, the advanced party will be broken up into groups of two men, or even into a line of single scouts. There is no interval laid which these scouts should keep from one another, but they should always be within seeing distance of each other by day—that is, near enough to see when the man next them is making signals, and at night they should keep within hearing distance of each other.

These men have one of the most important duties to perform that can fall to a cavalry soldier, for on their sharpness and intelligence the safety of the force in a great measure depends. As a scout in an enemy’s country you must keep continually on the look-out for him, question the country people you see, look for signs of camps or bivouacs, look out from every hill for clouds of dust or the glitter of arms, and tracks of horses and guns on the ground.

On first discovering the enemy, don’t be in too great a hurry to ride in with the news. To tell the officer commanding the advanced guard that “the enemy is in sight” is not much information to him, he will want also to know in what numbers, whether posted in a position, or marching, and his exact position, particulars of his uniforms, &c. Therefore on sighting the enemy you should make every effort to find out all particulars you can, and as quickly as possible, whether he is cavalry, infantry, or artillery, or a mixed force, what uniforms the men are wearing—as this will often show the officer commanding which of the enemy’s regiments or divisions he has come upon—where the enemy’s main body is, and what it is doing; as soon as any important point of this kind is discovered, one of the pair of scouts will ride in to the officer commanding the advanced guard while the other remains to gain further information; both scouts should never ride in at the same time. You should as a rule keep silence and signal to each other when to halt, to move on, or when you see the enemy, &c. Keep as much concealed as possible from the enemy, and never give way to him, only retire when and as long as he follows you with a party. As soon as he halts you should halt too, and continue your observation of him.

Never fire unless it is absolutely necessary to warn your own people of the sudden presence of the enemy close at hand, and then only when you are sure that the enemy has seen you.

When scouting on a night march you should often halt to listen for any sound of the enemy, and don’t be alarmed when you do hear it, but go boldly and cautiously forward and find out what it is, as in the darkness you can always get away again without much risk, and if you bring back good information of the enemy’s numbers and whereabouts, it may be the means of your own force surrounding him and surprising him in the darkness.

In marching in a hostile country, every coppice, ravine, or building that could conceal a single enemy should be carefully examined by any scout passing near to it, as, if there were even only one of the enemy’s scouts lying hid there, he might, if allowed to remain there undiscovered, gain some valuable information about the disposition, movements, or numbers of the main body. And later on when opportunity offered he might get away with the news to his own people.

*Entering a Village.*— On coming to a village or town two men of the advanced party should go round the outsides of it, and if they see nothing suspicious post themselves in a good position for seeing, on the far side. Two other scouts should then ride quickly through the main street, one behind the other at a distance of about 30 yards. They must keep a sharp look-out to both sides for signs of the enemy, and if they see any, return and report it. If they come across the enemy, one man should fire a shot as a signal, and then if the enemy retires follow him up, but if he is strong in numbers the scouts should retreat. If, however, there are no signs of the enemy in the village, the scouts proceed straight through and post themselves in the best positions on the far side for seeing both the village and the country beyond it. The

remainder of the advanced guard, assisted if necessary by some of the support, proceed in pairs to examine by-streets, buildings, &c.

After entering a village the first duty of the advanced guard is to seize the telegraph office to prevent the townspeople from sending any messages, as they may give warning to the enemy of what is going on. The telegraph office can be found by noticing and following the course of telegraph wires to the house where they stop. The railway station should also be seized, and trains and engines all detained.

*Entering a Defile.*— On coming to a defile or road running between hills or high cliffs, a scout should if possible make his way over the high ground on each side and signal from a high point whether he can see the enemy. If he cannot, two men will ride rapidly through the pass as through a village, and take up position as vedettes on the far side; all side roads, valleys, and ravines are then searched out by the remainder of the advanced party.

*Entering a Wood.*— On entering a wood, two men should ride rapidly through it by the road, if there is one—one 30 yards behind the other. The remainder of the advanced party enter it at different points and carefully examine it, keeping up communication with each other the whole time. All roads and paths should be followed up for some distance, and any buildings should be carefully examined. If the enemy is seen, a shot should be fired to warn the other scouts, who then stand steady or advance cautiously as they get the signal. If any man leaves his place in the line of scouts either to make a report or to examine some particular spot, he should tell the man on each side of him, so that they will then keep up communication with each other.

*The Support.*— The support will generally march in a formed body along the road that will be followed by the main body. If, however, the advanced party is much extended, in very open country, the support will be broken into three groups, the centre one following the road, the other one on each side of it at such an interval as will post them in the best position for supporting the men of the advanced party in front of them.

The centre party of the support is responsible that the right road is followed. If any guides are supplied, or can be captured, they march with the support. When any change of direction occurs in a road, or a cross road is met with, a man will be left at the turning to point it out to the reserve when they come up. He then rejoins the support, and the reserve drops a man in his place to show the way to the main body.

A scout coming in with information to the support is sent on back to the reserve, while a man is sent forward from the support to take his place. The support will keep up constant communication with the reserve, and with the advanced party, by means of patrols and connecting files.

The support should move on the broadest front that it can get, and always be in readiness at a moment's notice to act in support of the scouts against an enemy.

*The Reserve.*— The reserve will march on the broadest front that the width of the road will allow at attention, always ready to move quickly to front or flank as its services are required.

The reserve will always send out flanking patrols (generally of two men each) to patrol on its own flanks and on those of the main body, to examine copses, ravines, houses, &c., lying back some distance from the road.

These flankers should not follow exactly in the line of those who have gone before them, and waste their time examining cover that has already been searched, but they should move at rather a greater distance out from the main body. If the flankers of the advanced party mark every copse or building with "blaze" from an axe when they have examined it, it will show the flankers of the main body that no further searching of that place is required, and they will then be able to turn their attention elsewhere.

*Connecting Files.*— Connecting files marching between the advanced party and support, and between the support and the main body, must never lose sight of the party in front of them, and will repeat all signals regarding change of pace or direction. They must continually look back to the party behind them

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to see that it follows the right road, and should they see that the party in rear has changed its pace, or halted, or gone by another road, they should at once inform the party in front. They must pass on smartly all communications coming from front to rear, or from rear to front.

*Halts.*— When the main body halts on the march the advanced guard will immediately post itself in the way best suited for preventing the enemy from suddenly attacking the main body without any warning. Patrols will be sent out for some distance along all roads to front and flanks, and there will be halted and posted as outposts if possible on hills whence they can get a good view of the surrounding country.

*Encounters with the Enemy.*— In advancing through a country occupied by the enemy the advanced guard will be continually meeting with scouts and patrols of the enemy. These must not be allowed to carry away information as to the nearness, size, or movements of the main body. If the advanced party come across the enemy in superior numbers or strongly posted, they will halt for the support to come up, and will then drive him back. If, however, the advanced party is overpowered, it should not retreat straight on the support, but away to one flank, so that if the enemy follows, the support coming up to the rescue will catch him in flank, and should he turn to meet the support the advanced party will turn to the attack and catch him in flank. [Illustrate on blackboard.]

If, on the march, noise of firing is heard to a flank, or in rear of the column, the advanced guard will halt and send back to ask for information and orders.

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

[*Under Squadron Leader, apply Instructions of previous day's Lecture in the Field.*]

Tell off and form *parade* advanced guard, and move off, relieve the advanced guard on the move. Troop leaders to give their instructions to advanced parties (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 5).

Tell off a *service* advanced guard and go for march across country. Advanced party and flankers to report every trivial circumstance, *e.g.*, a herd of cattle, waggon approaching, &c.; examine woods, defiles, villages with all precautions (Instructions for Cavalry Outposts, Chap. I).

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

[*Questions on previous Lecture.*]

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is an advanced guard?

What parties does it consist of?

What are connecting files for?

What two kinds of advanced guard are there? Why should an advanced guard *always* be formed?

When is a *parade* advanced guard used, and what for?

\* What is the strength of a parade advanced guard for a regiment?

What is the strength of a parade advanced guard for a single squadron?

What distance is kept between the parties of a parade advanced guard?

\* What are the duties of sergeant in charge of the advanced party?

\* How is the advanced guard told off, and how does it move off?

What is a *service* advanced guard?

When is it weaker than the rear guard?

\* What does its strength depend on? and its distances?

What are the duties of the advanced guard on service?

\* How is a squadron divided for, a service advanced guard?

How does it move off?

What are “flankers”? What are their duties? how far are they from the main body by day? by night?

In what formation does the advanced party march in open country?

What interval do the pairs, or single scouts, keep from each other?

What are the duties of the scouts of the advanced party?

What particulars of the enemy should he try to find out?

What is the rule about a scout firing shots?

How is scouting carried out on a night march?

Why should every building, or copse near the road, be searched on the march?

How is a town entered by the advanced party?

What is done if the enemy is discovered in the village?

What is done if he is not discovered there?

Why are the telegraph office and railway station to be seized?

What is a defile?

How is it examined by the advanced party?

What is a ravine?

How is a wood examined by the advanced party?

\* In what formations does the support march?

At a cross road how is the right turning shown by the support to the main body?

What is the use of the reserve?

What are connecting files?

What are their duties?

Why must they look to what the party in rear of them is doing, as well as to the one in front?

\* How does the advanced guard dispose itself if the force halts?

What is the duty of the advanced guard on meeting enemy's patrols?

What if the advanced guard meets him strongly posted, or in force?

How does advanced guard retire if overpowered?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander, "Rear Guards."*]

A rear guard is generally formed on the same principle as an advanced guard, but in reversed order. That is to say, it is divided into reserve, support, and rear party, but the reserve marches in rear of the main body, followed by the support, which is again followed by the rear party.

*Parade Rear Guards.*— Parade rear guards are formed on the same principle as parade advanced guards, in reversed order. But, as a rule, a rear guard is not required to be so strong as an advanced. A rear guard on the march has only to prevent men from straggling from the main body and from being left behind, so that for ordinary purposes a support of one non-commissioned officer and six men, and a rear party of a sergeant and two men are sufficient, without any reserve. On occasions of state processions it may sometimes be necessary to have a stronger rear guard to keep back the crowd, in which case it would be formed in the same way as a "parade" advanced guard reversed, viz., a reserve of twenty men at 50 yards' distance in rear of the main body, a support of ten men and a non-commissioned officer at 50 yards in rear of the reserve, and a rear party of a sergeant and two men at 50 yards in rear of the support.

A rear guard is told off in the same way that an advanced guard is told, but from the opposite flank to that from which the main body will march off, *e.g.*, if the main body is to move off from the right the rear guard will be told off from the left, rear party on the left, reserve on the right of the troop. When the main body moves off, the rear guard remains halted until the main body has gone 50 yards, when the reserve will follow it in half-sections; when that has gone 50 yards the support will follow, and so on.

For a single squadron marching by itself a rear guard of one non-commissioned officer and two men will be sufficient. A rear guard always marches with drawn swords except the two men of the rear party, who have their carbines at the advance.

*Service Rear Guard.*— A service rear guard's strength depends, like that of the advanced guard, on whether the enemy is likely to approach the rear of the main body. If the enemy is expected to be in front, a strong advanced guard would be formed and only a weak rear guard merely sufficient to prevent stragglers from dropping behind, to check thieves getting at the baggage, and to give warning should any party of the enemy come round with the intention of falling on the rear of the main body and surprising it.

If, however, the main body is in retreat before an enemy, the rear guard will be made particularly strong. Its duties are then hard and most important. It has to watch for and resist every attack of the pursuing enemy, so as to enable the main body - to get along and the baggage to continue its march, without having to halt and form up to fight every now and then. It has to check the enemy's advance as much as possible by putting obstacles in his road, and by destroying all supplies that would be of use to him, such as forage and crops in fields and farms. While resisting the enemy's advance, the rear guard must take care not to drop too far behind the main body, as by doing so it might be cut off by other parties of the enemy coming between it and the main body.

It will often have to take up a position as if to repel the enemy, and thereby cause him to make preparations and form up for attack. Having caused him this amount of bother and delay, the rear guard will continue its retreat. If in an encounter the rear guard should beat the enemy back, it should be content



with that and not attempt to pursue him, as it will only be getting farther and farther away from its own main body. If the rear guard is overcome by the enemy, it must only retire slowly, fighting every inch of the way, and, like the advanced guard, must not retire direct on the main body, but rather to one flank, as then the party coming up to assist it will be able to catch the enemy in flank. If this is well done, and the rear guard retiring to a flank keeps the enemy closely engaged, the reinforcement from the main body is almost sure to catch the enemy in flank and beat him; whereas, if the rear guard, instead of sticking to it, gives way and makes a rush, it falls on top of the main body and throws that and itself into confusion, and consequently at the mercy of the enemy.

*Passing a Defile.*— When the rear guard comes to a defile or pass, it should form up outside it until intimation is received that the whole of the main body has got safely through. If the enemy is pressing close up at the time, the rear guard should make a sudden dash at him and while he is still in confusion from it, should turn and get through the pass as quickly as possible. This will be done all the more successfully if dismounted men have in the meantime been posted in good positions on each side of the defile where they can with safety use their carbines on the enemy as soon as he enters the defile and while he is getting through. If the defile is a long one the rear guard should retire slowly through it, checking the enemy with fire of dismounted men from every bit of available cover.

As soon as the rear guard has got through the defile, it should form up on the far side, as it will then be an easy matter for it to hold the enemy in check, and even inflict heavy loss on him when he is endeavouring to come out. For he would not be able to pass through in fighting formation, but in a column of some sort; he should therefore be attacked as soon as enough of his force has come out on to the open ground to make it worth while, and before there are enough out to be too numerous.

Woods and villages that have to be passed through by the enemy should be defended for a time by the fire of dismounted men: bridges should be barricaded or thrown down, and every means should be looked out for and employed for checking the enemy and delaying his advance.

*Ambuscades.*— If the enemy is pressing on after a rear guard, hurriedly and without taking sufficient precautions of examining the country, it will at times be a good thing to post a party in an ambuscade. Putting a party in ambuscade means leaving it in some concealed position near which the enemy will pass. The party remains hid till the enemy is nearly past, and it comes out unexpectedly and makes a dash on his flank, inflicting as much loss and confusion on him as possible, and then gets away again as fast as it can, before the enemy's supports come up. If the attack is well planned and boldly carried out, it is reckoned that fifty men in ambush can throw a column of ten times their number into confusion and get away again without suffering much loss.

A wood, ravine, or buildings usually offer cover for an ambuscade. In selecting a hiding place, the following points must be taken into consideration:—

1. It should be as near as possible to the road that the enemy will follow.
2. It should, if possible, be a place that the enemy's scouts will not examine.
3. It should have open ground to the front for attacking over, and open ground to the rear to retire over.
4. It should afford concealment in every direction.

The "surprise" party should move into the ambuscade by by-roads, not allowing itself to be seen even by the country people, and should if possible tread down its footprints or brush them out with branches of trees. The attention of the enemy should then be distracted from the spot where the ambuscade is by the rear guard dropping scouts and patrols to tempt the enemy's scouts and patrols on after them, and away from the ambuscade which waits for the support or reserve to come by before making its attack. A surprise of this kind is most easily effected at night or in rainy, snowy, or misty weather. At night you can tell pretty nearly what extent of ground will be examined by the enemy's scouts, and can select a place for your ambuscade which will not be visited by them. Knowing the ground, you will be able to make your attack and get away again too fast for the enemy to follow or damage you in any way. In a night attack

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each man of the party should wear a white badge, or should be told a password, so that they will not get fighting each other in the darkness.

Wet and snowy weather will help to conceal you, and will also probably bring the enemy into action cloaked and unprepared for fighting.

Before leaving their hiding place, the men of the surprise party should be told of some spot at which they are to rally when they have made their attack, or if they are discovered in their hiding place. For if they are discovered, or if they are attacked by a stronger party of the enemy, they should at once disperse, and make for the spot pointed out, and there rally again.

In 1814 a French force was being closely pursued by a Prussian division, and in passing through the suburbs of a town the Prussians overtook the rear guard and proceeded to smash it up, taking two guns that were marching with it. One troop of French lancers hearing what was going on in rear, turned down a by-street and concealed themselves in a garden near the road. When the Prussian advanced guard came by, the troop charged out on to it and smashed it up, retaking the two guns that had been lost.

*Scouts of Rear Guards.*— The rear party, especially in open country, will be broken up into pairs, or into a line of single scouts. With an enemy in pursuit, these scouts will have most important duties to perform, and if they do their work smartly and intelligently will often be the means of saving a number of their comrades' lives. They must watch every movement of the enemy, and particularly those of any parties he may send away to come round on to the flanks of the main body with a view to attacking it there. A pursuing enemy will generally endeavour to send parties to attack the flanks of your main body, but if the main body has timely warning of these, it can make proper preparations, and the trouble and labour undertaken by the enemy will all have been in vain. If the enemy's scouts are seen to be doing their work in a slack manner, it should be reported to the officer of the rear guard, who may then like to post an ambush for the enemy to walk into. It may often be a useful thing for the line of scouts to advance towards the approaching enemy, even though their main body and reserve are still continuing the retreat. The enemy will think that the retreating force has thought better of it, and is coming back to attack him. He will therefore form up and prepare for action. The scouts having thus delayed him and got a sight of his forces will continue their retreat.

*Flanking Parties.*— When marching on service and expecting the enemy to be in front or rear, a party will march with a strong advanced or rear guard as the case may require; but in either case it will have patrols or scouts out to both flanks to give warning if any of the enemy's parties appear intending an attack or surprise. Occasionally it may be necessary for a force to march straight across the front of the enemy, in which case a strong party will march along between the flank of the main body and the enemy, to protect it. A flanking guard of this kind would be formed on the same principle as a "service" advanced or rear guard, that is, it would be made up of reserve, support, and flanking scouts. The reserve moves along in the same direction and abreast of the main body, at about one-third of a mile from it, and the support in the same position with the reserve with the scouts moving in a long string in the same direction some 500 yards nearer the enemy. The support maybe divided into three small parties or patrols, moving one behind the other. Each scout should not march exactly in his leader's tracks, but should move on a line that will take him to copses, ravines, buildings, &c., that have not been previously examined. The leading and rear scouts should march nearer to the main body than those in the centre of the chain, who are abreast of the main body. Scouts should be continually on the look-out in the direction of the enemy for any signs of his approach, and should make use of every hill, tower, &c., for getting good view.

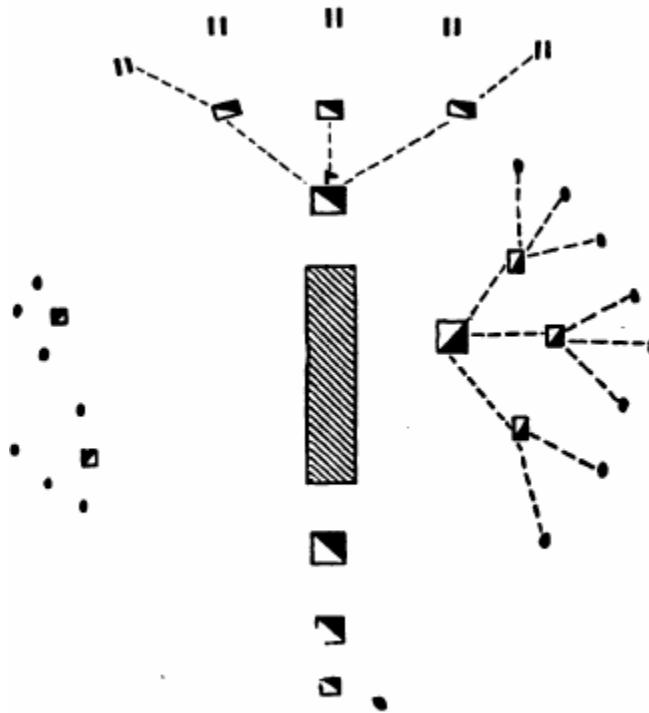
*Halting.*— When a force moving away from or across the front of an enemy has occasion to halt, the rear guard or flanking guard as the case may be becomes a stationary guard or outpost. The scouts are then made into pairs and posted in good positions for seeing the country round. Patrols are sent out for some distance along roads and into the country to flanks or rear. And the support and reserve are posted in good position for assisting the vedettes and for their own defence.

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## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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(Draw sketch on blackboard of disposition of advanced, rear, and flanking guards with regard to main body.)



THURSDAY MORNING.

[*Apply Instructions of Squadron Leader in the Field.*]

Form "parade" rear guard (Cav. Reg., Part IV, Sec. 5).

Form "service" rear guard (Regulations for Cavalry Advanced and Rear Guards). Practise passing and defending defile, holding posts temporarily and withdrawing from.

Reinforcing rear party into a line of skirmishers, &c.

Post rear guard as outposts for a halt.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is a rear guard?

How is it formed?

What kinds of rear guard are there?

What are the duties of a parade rear guard?

What is its usual strength and disposition?

On what occasions is it strengthened, and to what strength? and how disposed?

\* How is rear guard told off? and how does it move off?

What is sufficient rear guard for a single squadron?

On what does the strength of a *service* rear guard depend?

What are the duties of a service rear guard when the enemy is in front of the main body?

What are its duties when enemy is following it in rear?

What is the object of destroying crops and taking cattle?

What danger is there in a rear guard staying behind to fight?

If a rear guard is much weaker than the enemy what is the use of it forming up as if to fight him?

Why should the rear guard not pursue the enemy if it beats him?

If the rear guard is overcome by the enemy, how should it retreat?

\* How does a rear guard pass through a defile?

How does it tackle the enemy coming out of a defile?

How can the enemy be checked at a bridge?

What is an ambuscade?

What is the object of it?

\* What points should be taken into consideration when selecting a spot for ambuscade?

Why should the surprise party avoid being seen by country people?

Why and how should it obliterate its footmarks?

How and why is the attention of enemy's scouts distracted from the ambuscade?

In what formations can the rear party move?

What are the duties of the rear scouts?

Why should they watch how the enemy's scouts are doing their work?

What would be the object of the line of rear scouts turning round and advancing on the enemy?

When is a strong flanking guard necessary?

How is it disposed?

Where does it march, and at what interval from main body?

How do the flanking scouts move?

When a force halts, how is the rear guard disposed?

[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Dismounted Service."]

It may often happen on service that a party of cavalry will be called on to act dismounted. For instance, they may find themselves close to a body of the enemy, but in country over which they cannot manoeuvre on account of walls, hedges, or other obstacles. In such a case the fire of dismounted men, if brought to bear suddenly and with precision on the enemy might do all the damage they could wish. Or the party might be in an open but *undulating* country, that is, a country made up of dips and rises of the ground and small hills. Here they might be able to move quickly into a position, keep their horses under cover in the low ground, and line the high ground with dismounted men. Or again, a party may take up positions with dismounted men in front of a bridge, or along the sides of a ravine, from which they can pour their fire into the enemy when he attempts to pass. Or the party may occupy a building or a wood which has open ground to its front for the enemy to advance over to the attack.

In any case the men should, if possible, only be dismounted—

1st. Where there is cover for their horses.

2nd. Where they are not liable to be attacked by the enemy's cavalry.

3rd. Where they will be pretty near to their horses.

Whenever any men are dismounted for action, a portion of the squadron should be kept mounted and ready to go at the enemy's cavalry should it attempt an attack on the led horses or dismounted men.

Vedettes should also be posted to the flanks and rear of the party to guard against surprise from any quarter.

Dismounted service is divided into two kinds: 1st, Temporary; and 2nd, Permanent action.

*Temporary Dismounted Service.*— In temporary dismounted action a few men dismount, the odd or even numbers, or a few named men of the squadron, and their horses are held by the men who remain mounted. They then act against the enemy's scouts, keeping them back, and not allowing them to obtain any information as to numbers and movements of their own force. Again, three-fourths of the troop or squadron may be dismounted to fire on an enemy in close country, or to defend a post or a defile for a short time, or when escort to guns to check the attack of the enemy on them. And again, the reserve may often dismount a number of men to fire a few volleys into the enemy to open the way for a charge by their first line.

In temporary action the men cannot be too quick in dismounting and getting into their position for firing, but this should be done without flurry, quickly but coolly; it is no good for a man to be blowing and shaky just when he is wanted to deliver a steady, well-aimed fire. And the chance of success in this kind of action will, in very many cases, lie in bringing a steady and accurate fire to bear on the enemy suddenly, before he has time to get under cover or form up for returning it.

The engagement of the 94th Regiment at Bronkhurst Spruit (that I mentioned to you when speaking of advanced guards) shows what an effect can be produced by a sudden, well-aimed fire. The regiment had marched up to a spot where the Boers were lying in ambush, without expecting to meet an enemy. A Boer messenger brought a note to the Colonel which said he was to halt the regiment there. The Colonel replied that he was going to march on to Pretoria, and seeing the Boers preparing for action he ordered his men to extend into skirmishing order, but before they could open out to more than loose files, the Boers fired a volley into them, and then continued from good cover to pick off every man they could see. In ten minutes the engagement was over and 120 men were killed or wounded and 8 officers, out of 240 men and 8 officers composing the column.

The regulation way of dismounting (with the carbine passed into the left hand) is as quick as any. As soon as the men are dismounted, if they are wearing swords on their persons they must first hook them up, then double out to their place in line. Carbines always at the "trail." The line will be shown where to get into position for opening fire, when each man will take care to get the best available cover at an

average of 2 yards' distance from man next him. The men should be posted for firing to one flank or the other of the led horses and not directly in front of them, as if they are in front of them shots intended for the dismounted men will often go over their heads and knock over their horses behind them. Manœuvring on foot should not take place more than is absolutely necessary.

*Skirmishing.*— Skirmishers are mounted men sent out in an extended line to conceal the movements of their own main body by keeping the enemy's scouts at a distance, or to attract the enemy's attention while troops for a real attack on him are going round to another flank, or for harassing an enemy when he is on the march.

Skirmishers must always be prepared to dismount and act on foot with their carbines, if required to, and also must be ready, on the other hand, to close in and form a compact mounted body at short notice.

When a squadron is ordered to skirmish, one troop will be told off to extend and form a line of skirmishers, and the other will act as a support to the front line.

On the command "Skirmishers out" the troop leader of the skirmishing troop will advance at a gallop to a spot opposite the centre of the line, followed by the centre man. The remainder of the men extend to 20 yards, from knee to knee, in single rank, dressing by their centre as they go: rear rank men moving up on to left of their front rank men. The centre should move at a very steady gallop while the flank men are extending to their places. The whole squadron goes out with drawn swords. The skirmishing troop on arrival on its ground returns swords, and halts or proceeds at a walk in accordance with the pace of the main body. The supporting troop follows the skirmishing troop, and keeps in position, half-way between the centre of the line of skirmishers and the main body, usually at about a quarter of a mile or 400 yards from the main body.

Every skirmisher must keep a sharp look-out to his front, glancing frequently to the troop leader (in the centre of the line) to see if he is making any signals. All orders to be passed on rapidly from man to man down the line.

If the skirmishers are under much fire they should occasionally change their ground so as not to give the enemy too steady a target to aim at. On the command "Dismount," rear rank men will at once close in, at a trot, on their front rank men, and hold their horses while the front rank men dismount and open fire from any convenient spot close by. If the ammunition of a front rank man becomes expended, he will change places with his rear rank man. If a man lets go a led horse he must take its rider up on his own horse before retiring.

If the "advance" sounds while the men are dismounted, those on foot will advance, steadily firing every now and then, and taking advantage of every bit of cover. Their horses should be led after them, and also be kept as much as possible under cover.

When "skirmishers in" sounds, skirmishers will clear the front of the main body at a rapid pace, by retiring round both flanks and forming up in rear. The support will also move off to a flank, and form up again in rear of the main body. As soon as it is reformed the skirmishing squadron draws swords and moves up to its proper place in line.

*Dismounting when in Line.*— When odd or even numbers only are ordered to dismount with carbines, the named numbers move up one horse's length, dismount, hand over their reins to the other numbers (who move up to receive them), hook up their swords, and double out three horses' lengths to the front with arms at the trail, where they form up in single rank, his rear rank on the left of each front rank man.

*When in Column of Route.*— If, when in column of fours or sections, the squadron is ordered to dismount, some men to act to the front, the leading troop will remain mounted, and the rear troop will provide the dismounted men. If in fours, odd or even numbers will be dismounted, the men of each four passing their horses outwards to give room for the named numbers to dismount. If in sections, Nos. 1 and 4 will dismount, Nos. 2 and 3 holding their horses. If in half-sections, the left hand men dismount, as the near side of their horses is clear for the purpose.

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In forming up to the front, the left hand man of sections will form the left half of the line, and the right hand men the right half.

If, when in column of route, men are required to act dismounted to a flank, the right or left files are dismounted, and remain near their horses till they receive the order where to post themselves for firing.

*Dismounting by Sections.*— When it is required to dismount more than half a troop or squadron for temporary dismounted service, the order is given to dismount “by sections.” This will cause Nos. 1, 2, and 4 of every section, front and rear rank, to dismount. No. 3 remaining mounted to hold the horses. On the command being given, the odd numbers of both ranks advance one horse's length, and the whole dismount, except Nos. 3. The even numbers then move up in line with the odd. Nos. 1, 2, and 4 take their bridoon reins over their horses' heads and hand them up to No. 3, No. 1 passing his through the ring of No. 2 head-collar before doing so. The dismounted men then form up to the front, three horses' lengths in front of the line of officers; rear rank men on the left of their own front rank men, with swords hooked up and carbines at the trail. The led horses to be placed in the best available cover within about 400 yards.

*Permanent Dismounted Service.*— For “permanent” action the whole squadron would be dismounted with carbines. The horses being linked and left under the care of a few men, and under good cover from fire. As a rule one-fourth of the squadron should remain mounted or ready to act mounted.

Permanent dismounted action would usually occur in the defence of a village or fortified outpost, or in rare cases of cavalry having to attack and storm a position on foot.

A position to be suitable for defence must have—

1. Good cover for the defenders.
2. Open ground to the front, over which the enemy will approach.
3. A clear line of retreat for the defenders in case of their having to retire.

In manning the position, the probable line of the enemy's advance should be noted, and, if possible, a “cross-fire” brought to bear upon it. A cross-fire is a fire that comes into the enemy from two directions at once, and is therefore twice as destructive as a “direct” fire which only meets him from the front. The Light Brigade in the Balaclava Charge lost so many men from being under a cross-fire, as, in addition to the guns they were charging, there were batteries on both flanks of them pouring a cross-fire into their ranks.

The first line of defence having been selected, such as the walls, &c., surrounding a building, which the enemy would first come to, they would be manned and prepared for defence. A second position of defence would then be selected in rear of the first line into which the defenders of the first line could retire if worsted.

For defence of walls, one man to every yard is the usual proportion. A support should be kept in some central position in rear of the line of defence, ready to go and assist at any point where the first line of defenders requires reinforcing.

In defending a village it will generally be advantageous to block up any streets or lands by which the enemy might enter, with barricades made of stores, earth, furniture, carts, barrels, or any material that comes handy. They should, if possible, be erected where the enemy will be under fire from houses, &c., on both sides of the street, when he endeavours to take or get past them.

When holding a bridge or defile, the defender's position would, as a rule, be in rear of it, so that he will be able to extend over a wide front, and thus be able to pour an extensive fire into the narrow but deep front of the enemy. It will also often be advantageous to barricade the bridge.

A wood would be defended on much the same principle as a village. The edges of it would be manned and roads leading into it barricaded with felled trees, brushwood, &c. And a second position for rallying in and defending would be selected in case of the first line of defence having to be vacated.

*Linking Horses.*— To link horses, when the men have all dismounted and formed their horses in line, each man takes a pace to the front and turns about, unfastens his head-rope, passes it down between the reins, and then, from right to left, passes it up between the reins of the horse next to him, and after passing it through the collar ring of this horse, knots the end of it in the collar ring of his own horse with “fisherman’s bend” knot. The horses’ heads should not be more than a yard apart. A few men should be told off to look after the linked horses, and vedettes or patrols should be sent out to guard against the enemy making an unexpected dash at the horses.

*Attacking on Foot.*— If it should become necessary for a squadron to attack a post held by the enemy, the men would be dismounted in some sheltered spot, either “by sections,” or the whole troop or squadron bodily. In either case sufficient men must be left for the care and protection of the horses. The dismounted party is then told off by fours, in single rank. A good man will be selected as No. 1 of each four, to command that four.

The method of attacking will of course depend on circumstances of the ground, position, numbers of enemy, &c., and will be pointed out by the squadron leader at the time. But in any case the attack should be carried out with boldness and dash from start to finish. In advancing under fire the men should extend from the centre (of the line) to 5 or 10 yards, and take advantage of all cover that comes near their path, but they must be prepared to rally at any time on the centre, and look to their Nos. 1 for all orders and signals. The Nos. 1 will look to the troop leaders for orders and signals. They will also check any wild firing in their fours, give them the proper sighting, and keep them in the general alignment, and bring them in smartly when a rally is called for.

An example of what cavalry can do in holding a position occurred in the Franco-Prussian War at the battle of Spicheren. Two squadrons of French dragoons held the town of Forbach for a long time against a whole division of Prussian infantry, and when they found themselves being surrounded they quietly mounted and retired to another position which they proceeded to hold in the same way. And about the same time occurred a case of cavalry attacking a position on foot. The village of Coincy was strongly held by Prussian infantry, but a regiment of French dragoons dismounted and advanced against it. After a short attack they took the place by storm, and after that held it successfully through several small attacks until their own infantry came up.

*Principles of Shooting to be attended to.*— In firing in action men are naturally apt to hurry and fire their rounds as fast as possible. Aim, elevation, and allowance for the movement of the object fired at, are all forgotten by four out of five men, although so much depends on these points being attended to, as you can see so well when firing on the range.

A good shooting and cool-headed soldier or non-commissioned officer can be of the greatest use in dismounted action by checking the men on either side of him who are firing wildly, and by telling them where to aim.

Every front rank man should fire alternately with his rear rank man, first one, then the other, each firing coolly and taking steady deliberate aim for each shot. If men get flurried when they find shots being fired back at them, and loose off trusting to luck for their shots to take effect, they will get worse when the enemy gets closer, and their firing will then do more harm than good.

The noise does not frighten the enemy, and when he finds that the bullets merely fly over his head without touching him it will put a lot of extra courage into him. But a slow sure fire that keeps dropping his men steadily is what worries and frightens him.

The sights must be kept low. It is better to hit the horse than miss over the top of the rider’s head, and ricochets do almost as much damage as direct hits, and the worst shot can always make a ricochet. And the sights must be lowered as the enemy gets nearer. In aiming always select a certain man or horse to bring down. If cavalry or mounted infantry or guns are opposed to you, let their led horses have a few volleys if they are not under cover.



If once men get into the way of firing coolly and collectedly in action they will always be able to keep it up, and will be certain of success.

In the Franco-Prussian War a Prussian regiment of Hussars was detailed to reconnoitre in the enemy's country. In the course of their expedition they managed to get hold of a number of infantry rifles with which they armed themselves, as their own carbines were of an old and bad pattern. With these rifles they used to bring such a deadly fire to bear on any parties sent out against them that they were able to go about pretty much as they liked in the enemy's country, and were always able to defend themselves and get safely away when they met with any hostile force.

But the ability to shoot well will not come to you in action of its own accord. You must practise and perfect yourself in the art of shooting in peace time, for which purpose the musketry course is held every year.

Good shooting is made up of a number of little apparently insignificant points, and if only one or two of these are neglected they will spoil the effect of the others. All those little points, such as position of head of the finger, method of taking correct aim, making allowance for wind or for a moving object, keeping the sights upright, and all those little items should be learnt at drills and carefully carried out; and if this is done well they will come quite naturally to you when firing in action.

A striking example of good individual shooting occurred in the American War of Secession when on one occasion a party of General Sheridan's cavalry rode along the bank of a river fighting one of the enemy's gunboats. The men would gallop along the bank ahead of the steamer, dismount and fire shots at her as she came up. They kept up such an accurate fire that the crew after a little while dared not show themselves on deck, and when after the steersman was shot, the steamer ran on a sand-bank, they were obliged to surrender.

This same detachment then went on to show that good cavalry can adapt themselves to any circumstances, by taking possession of the gunboat and embarking their horses on board her. They then cruised about, and eventually had an encounter with another of the enemy's gunboats. After a hard set to, the cavalry ship got the worst of it, whereupon they ran her ashore, disembarked their horses, blew up the ship, and rode away.

But the example that comes home to us most strongly, and which shows above all others how important it is that cavalry should know how to work on foot, and how well they can do it if they use their wits and try, is that afforded to us by the cavalry employed in the Soudan last winter, where, after marching hundreds of miles on camels, they fought two battles as infantry in squares, and in the battle at Metammeh a detachment of the Life Guards and Scots Greys held a small detached post against hordes of the enemy, during an attack lasting two hours, and by their steady and well-aimed fire were of the greatest help to the defenders of the breastwork close by; and in the end repelled the enemy with very heavy losses.

APPENDIX I.

APPENDIX TO LECTURE OF THURSDAY IN THE SECOND WEEK.

For advancing previous to an attack on foot, in broken ground, thick bush, or under fire, the attacking troop will “extend by sections.”

*Extending by Sections.*— On the command “Extend by sections from the centre (or right or left) to — yards interval,” the section (a complete four front and rear rank) from which the extension is to be taken up will advance straight to its front, led by a non-commissioned officer or old soldier, specially detailed by and working under superintendence of the troop leader. This non-commissioned officer will carry a flag which he will display occasionally to regulate dressing while on the move and lower at the halt. (Each troop to have a flag of a different colour.) Each section front and rear rank, keeping together, will incline away from the directing section, which will move very slowly at first; on reaching its proper interval, usually 12 yards from the one next to it, each section will move straight to the front and take its place in the general alignment.

*Duties of Section Leaders.*— No. 1 of the front rank of each section will be a specially selected man to command that section. His duties will be to keep his section at its proper interval from the next one to it, and to keep it in its dressing in the line. He will look out for all signals and orders from the troop leader, will see that section carries them out, and will pass them on to the leader of the sections next him. When the section is dismounted for action, he will control and direct the movements, firing and sighting, of the five men under him.

*Dismounting.*— When the troop arrives within range of the enemy, the order will be given, “by sections, with carbines dismount,” Nos. 1, 2, and 4 of both ranks thereupon dismount, each man takes his reins over his horse’s head and hands them up to No. 3, who remains mounted, No. 1 passing his bridoon rein through the ring of the head-collar of No. 2 before handing them up to No. 1. Each section then forms up in single rank with swords hooked up, and carbines at the trail, rear rank men on the left of their front rank men. The section then moves under direction of its No. 1, taking advantage of all cover, extending to a few paces interval to do so when necessary.

*Firing.*—No man is to commence firing until ordered to do so by his section leader, and must be ready to obey his order to cease firing at any moment. Ammunition is not to be wasted during the early part of the advance, occasional shots only should be fired by each man until the line has arrived within 200 or 300 yards of the enemy, when every round will be required. The sights must be lowered in proportion as the line approaches nearer and nearer to the enemy. In firing volleys by sections, the section leader will point out the particular group to be fired at, will give its distance and see that the men adjust their sights accordingly, and will give the cautions and command to fire. In “rapid” independent firing, about six shots a minute should be fired, without hurry, and with a low aim.

Should the ammunition of a section run short, one man will be directed to go back to the led horses and bring up more. For this purpose, Nos. 3 front and rear rank will carry an additional amount of sixty rounds.

*Led Horses.*— The led horses will be in charge of an officer or senior non-commissioned officer. They will continue in sections in line at extended order, at about 200 yards in rear of the line of dismounted men, and as much as possible under cover. On the trumpet sounding “Mount” the led horses will be quickly brought up to the dismounted men, under cover if possible.

*Rallying.*— On the trumpet sounding “Rally” the men of each section will rally and form on their No. 1, who will post himself in the general alignment with the other sections at the proper interval, as nearly as the nature of the ground and cover will permit. On the sound “Rally” being repeated, all the sections will close in to the centre one, forming up as a troop in single rank, rear rank men on the left of their front rank men.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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*Retiring.*— On “Retire” sounding when sections are at extended order, the led horses will turn about on their own ground, and retire quickly, keeping about 200 yards in front of the dismounted men retiring. The dismounted men will turn about and retire slowly, each section halting occasionally, say at every 50 yards, under orders of its leader, to turn and deliver a volley, and then doubling up to its place in the retiring line. Sections should, if possible, halt alternately to fire.

Sir Baker Russell says the cavalry soldier should always be able to adapt himself to every kind of circumstance on service, and, if necessary, he should be able and ready to act on foot just as well as the best infantry.

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### FRIDAY MORNING.

*[Apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]*

Practise dismounting by odd or even numbers in line, in fours, sections, half-sections (Cav. Reg., Part II, 23), and by sections (Squadron Column Drill, 1883; Mounted Infantry Regulations, Sec. XIII, para. 7).

Link horses (Cav. Reg., Part II, 22).

Practise skirmishing (Cav. Reg., Part IV, 1).

Man a position defending defile or bridge, or dispose squadron for defence of a building or wood. Practise firing with blank cartridge and keeping it under control by directing certain sections to fire volleys, alteration of aiming, &c.

Practise attack on a position, Nos. 1 having charge of each four. Advance in extended order, taking advantage of cover, control firing, rally, &c.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is dismounted service?

On what occasions would it be necessary for cavalry to act on foot?

\* What points should be taken into consideration with regard to the led horses when selecting a place for dismounting your men for action?

What is the object in keeping a portion of your party mounted when the rest are fighting on foot?

Why are vedettes posted during a fight on foot?

Under what circumstances would three-fourths of the troop or squadron be dismounted?

Under what circumstances would horses be linked and the whole party dismounted?

Why is it necessary that men should be particularly quick about dismounting?

In what position are carbines to be carried by men acting on foot?

If odd numbers are ordered to dismount with carbines, how do they do it?

How do the men form up after dismounting?

How far should men be when extended to fire?

Why should the led horses not be posted directly in rear of the dismounted men?

\* In going along a road in fours the order is given for one troop to dismount its odd numbers to act to the front which troop carries out the order?

How do the men get room to dismount?

If the squadron is in sections, which men dismount?

If in half-sections?

When the men have dismounted from columns of fours, sections, &c., how do they form up to the front of the column?

If they are required to act to a flank of the column, how do they form?

How does a troop dismount "by sections"?

\* What are the requisites of a position for defence?

What is a "cross" fire? What is a "direct" fire?

\* Supposing you have a wall 40 yards long, how many men would you post along it to defend it?

What is a "barricade," and what is the use of it?

How do you link horses? How far apart should the horses' heads be when they are linked?

Is it ever necessary for cavalry to attack a place on foot?

How is a party told off for doing it?

What is the object in having a good man as No. 1 of each four?

What are his duties?

How does the party proceed under heavy fire?

Why is it best to aim low when firing?

What is the object of the Annual Course of Musketry?

Is it any use firing at the enemy if you miss him every shot?

What are skirmishers? What are they for?

How are they sent out?

How do they act if ordered to fire?

How do they retire fighting? How, when recalled?

*[Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Defence of Posts. "]*

Cavalry would very seldom be called on to make much of a fortification, but it may often happen on service that they will be required to hold a position such as a farmhouse, a wood, or ground near a bridge or defile. In such a case, if they have time before the enemy comes up, they should make their position stronger by fortifying it as much as their means and time allow.

The objects of a fortification of any kind are—

1. To make up for want of numbers in the defending force by placing it out of easy reach of the enemy.
  2. To provide cover from enemy's fire.
  3. To enable the defenders to deliver their fire in a most advantageous manner.
  4. To expose the enemy to the defender's fire as much as possible, during his advance to attack.
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Every man should know how to set about putting a place in a state of defence—in the simplest way. If a man knows what he ought to do, ten minutes will enable him in most places to erect a protection for himself.

*Clearing Ground.*— In the first place, in selecting a place for defence a position with open ground to the front should be chosen, and if the ground is not perfectly open, but has fences, trees, or other cover on it that would be useful to the enemy in affording to him concealment or protection from your fire, these bits of cover should be levelled or removed.

Trees or bushes should be cut down and burnt or removed. Large trunks of trees should be felled in such a way that when lying on the ground they will lie end on to the position and not across its front, as in this case they would still give cover to small lines of enemy.

To cut a tree down it should first be cut into with the axe on the side to which it is intended to fall until the cut has reached well to the middle of the trunk. The cutter should then change round and cut into the opposite side at a point a few inches higher on the trunk than the former cut, and continue cutting till the tree falls. The work will be done quicker if rope is attached to the upper part of the tree and hauled in the direction in which the tree is wanted to fall.

Walls can be knocked down by parties of men using trunks of trees, saplings, railway rails, &c., as battering rams. The ruins must then be levelled over the ground so as not to give any cover to the enemy.

Tall grass or crops should be burnt, or if too green or damp, should be cut down with swords or trampled down under foot by parties of men working in line.

Ditches should be filled in with rubbish, earth, &c.

*Erecting Cover.*— If a position is being defended by a strong force there should be two lines of defence, an outer line and an inner line. The outer line is the line of walls, edge of wood or other general alignment along which the defenders are first posted to resist the enemy's attack. The inner or second line of defence is a stronger position within or in rear of the outer line, into which the defenders can retire if driven back from their first position.

In the case of farm buildings the walls of gardens and yards would form the first line of defence, the house itself the second. In the same way in a village, the outer houses and garden walls would form the first line of defence, and the church or other large, substantial, and easily defensible building would be the inner position.

In this way several villages were held in the Franco-Prussian War. The defenders when driven in by superior numbers from their first position would shut themselves into the church and there defend themselves till reinforcements came to their aid.

*Defence of Walls.*— For defending first line the men should have a knowledge of how to place walls, &c., in a state of defence.

A wall 4 or 5 feet high is already a defence of itself, and only wants cover for the men's heads to be made to protect them when firing over the top. This cover is made by means of loopholes made of sods, stones, or sand-bags. A sod loophole is made thus: two thick sods are laid side by side on the top of the wall at 3 inches apart at the front, but 10 inches apart at the end nearest the firer. A thick sod or two is then laid across the top. The firer pushes his rifle through the opening between the two lower sods, resting it on the wall, and thus gets a good rest for his rifle and good cover for his head.

*If the wall is lower than 4 feet* a ditch may be dug behind it in which the defenders can stand and be under cover.

*If the wall is between 5 and 6 feet high* notches of about a foot or a foot and a half deep can be cut in the top of it with picks, through which the defenders can fire. The upper part of these notches should be filled in again with sods or boulders to protect the firers' heads.

*If the wall is over 6 feet high*, either a bank must be made inside it for the defenders to stand on and fire over the top, or else the wall must be pierced with loopholes. These are rough holes made with a pick

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or crowbar at about 4 feet 6 inches from the ground. The work should be done from inside the wall. The hole should be 10 inches wide on the inside, and 3 inches wide on the outside of the wall. The object of having it of these dimensions is that the enemy's bullets will have a very small hole to come in by and the larger opening on the inside enables the man firing to move the butt end of his rifle and so alter his aim to either side, or up or down. The inside sides of the hole should not be smoothed, but left rough, as then any bullets that may come in strike the side of the loophole will not glance off, but will probably smash up and stick against the side.

To prepare a hedge for defence a ditch should be dug behind it, and the earth thrown against the hedge to form a protection against bullets. If there is already a ditch on the enemy's side of the hedge it should be deepened and widened, so that it will check the enemy if he makes a charge to drive you out from behind it.

The trunks of big trees with sod loopholes placed along the top of them afford good protection. Also rocks and boulders with big stones piled up to form loopholes on the top of them. At Majuba Hill our men made such loopholes, but the stones they used were too small, and one shot would knock away the whole thing, and the next gathered the defender.

*Shelter Pit.*— If obliged to maintain your position in the open, where there is no natural cover, no walls, ditches, or hedges, it is a good thing to make a "shelter pit." A shelter pit is merely a shallow "form" scraped out of the ground just deep enough and large enough for a man to lie down in end on to the enemy. The earth that is dug up is piled up in front to form a protection for the defender's head and shoulders. A mound 1 foot 6 inches high and 3 feet across is big enough to protect a man, and if it is 2 feet thick it will stop a bullet.

*Shelter Trench.*— A shelter trench is a shallow ditch with the earth dug out of it formed into a mound in front. It is intended to give cover to a number of men lying down in line.

Cavalry will seldom be required to dig shelter trenches, but every man should know how to make a loophole, as it will generally be used when a position is being held by dismounted men.

If a second line of defence is to be prepared within the first line it should be strongly fortified, as if driven into it the defenders will have to defend it to the last.

In preparing a house for defence the inhabitants should first be removed. Buckets or tubs of water and heaps of earth should be placed in each room for use in case of fire breaking out. Doors and windows on the ground floor should be blocked up with furniture, beds, and flooring. Glass should be knocked out of all the windows, and mattresses and bedding should be hung up in them. Loop-holes should be made in shutters, walls, doors, and in the roof if it slopes sufficiently to enable the defenders to fire from the garrets.

In manning a house for defence, two men would be told off to each window, each loophole, and each door. The remainder would be kept in some central part of the house ready to relieve the firers, or to assist in putting out a fire, or if necessary to make a rush out at the enemy.

*Obstacles.*— If there is still time, after the ground in front of the position has been cleared, the first line of defence prepared, and the second line fortified, measures may be taken to delay the enemy's advance, and keep him exposed to your fire. This is done by placing obstacles in his path.

A good obstacle and one easy to make is an "abattis." It consists of limbs of trees cut down and laid in lines on the ground with the smaller branches pointed towards the enemy. These limbs are fixed in their places with stakes and rope, and the ends of the smaller branches are sharpened and pointed. If made fairly thick and wide, an abattis will stop an enemy or at least keep him checked for a good time under your fire.

Every obstacle should, if possible, be made in such a way that it is near enough to your position to hold the enemy under fire at a short range, and that it does not afford him any cover or protection. And it

is all the more effective if it is hidden from his view till he gets close to it, and he comes to it unprepared to try any other line of advance.

If much telegraph wire is to be got, a good obstacle may be made with it by stretching lengths of it about in all directions from stakes, pegs, tree stumps, &c., in a kind of rough network spread over the ground at a height of 2 or 3 feet. It should be at least 10 or 12 yards wide.

If it is desired to stop an enemy coming along a defile, a road with high banks on each side, a street, or a bridge, a barricade can be made to block up the roadway at the required point. A barricade is simply a pile of earth, stones, waggons, furniture, ruins of houses thrown down, felled trees, or any other material that may come handy, and built up across the road. For defending such a barricade, in addition to the men firing from behind the barricade itself, supporting parties would be posted in houses or in positions on both sides of the road, from which they could fire on the enemy as he approaches the obstacle.

*Demolitions.* — It may often happen that when acting as rear guard to a retreating force, it may be advisable for you to check the enemy's advance in every way, or when holding a position to prevent him from approaching it by certain paths. In such cases it will be useful for you to know how to break down a bridge, block up a road or ford, tear up a railway, destroy a telegraph wire, &c.

*Bridge.* — A masonry or iron bridge will require gunpowder or guncotton for its destruction. A trench across the roadway should be dug one-fourth of the way across the arch that is to be broken, another similar trench one-fourth of the way across the arch from its other side. A charge is laid in each trench and exploded. The whole of the centre of the arch then falls in. If there is not time to dig trenches, the charge should be placed over the centre of the arch in a hole in the roadway, and "tamped" or weighed down with rammed earth, big stones, &c.

A wooden bridge should have its supports cut away (in the same manner as given for cutting down trees), or should be burnt with help of paraffin, petroleum, &c., if they are available.

*Fords.* — When a bridge is destroyed, all material that would help the enemy to repair it should also be destroyed, such as timber, beams in buildings, iron rails, &c.; and also any fords in the neighbourhood should be sought out and rendered impassable. This may be done by laying down harrows, points upwards, in the bed of the river, or tangled wire, felled trees with their branches on.

*Roads.* — In blocking up a road, a spot should be selected where it would be hard for enemy to get along if he left the road and tried to pass round the obstacle. The nature of the obstacle would depend entirely on the material available, and the nature of the place to be blocked. As a rule, waggons broken down strengthened with earth and boulders thrown up would be available, or trees felled, houses blown down, trenches and pits dug or blown up, &c.

*Railroad.* — To disable a railway line temporarily a rail or two should be removed: the best to take being the outside rail at a curve in the line. To take up a rail you must first disconnect from the rails at each end of it, to which it is attached by a "fish plate." The fish plate is fastened to each rail by two screw bolts, these have to be unscrewed with a spanner. If a spanner is not available, a good substitute may be made from one of the screw bolts. To unscrew the nut in the first instance, a stone or hilt of sword will have to be used. Two nuts will then be screwed on to the bolt, and kept about two inches apart, and the instrument thus formed used as a spanner. When the rail is disconnected, it can be prized up with crowbars or lifted by a line of men lifting together.

A fire of sleepers should be lighted, and the rails laid across it;—as the rail gets red hot it will bend, and can be further bent and twisted if a pick or crowbar is inserted in the bolt hole at each end and turned over in opposite directions. A rail once twisted, has to be remade before it can be used. A portion of a tunnel or of a cutting may be blown down on to the line, or a small bridge or culvert over which the line runs may be destroyed.

*Telegraph Line.* — To destroy a telegraph cut down a few posts (throwing a rope over the lines to haul on and assist a speedy fall), or if they are of iron, swarm up and cut the wires, smash the insulators (the

porcelain or earthenware supports of the wire on the posts). The ends of the wires should be cut short by a few feet and twisted up together.

Telegraph lines may also be rendered useless by cutting the wire in two places and reaffixing the cut wire to the posts in such a way that, although it looks as if still untouched, it is disconnected and so will not transmit messages. It will take the enemy some time to find the faulty place if neatly done.

Telegraph lines are often laid along under ground, and are then hard to find. As a rule, their course is marked by blocks of wood or stone let into the ground at every 100 yards or so; when found, the wires should be dug up, pieces cut out, and taken away. The wire should then be reburied, and the place made to look as if it had never been disturbed.

The instruments in a telegraph office can easily be destroyed; but in no case should a telegraph wire be damaged without express orders from the officer in command of the force, unless a party has made its way well into the enemy's country and comes on his lines of telegraph leading to the rear.

In the same way no bridge, or railway, or engine, or ford should be made impassable without orders, as it might be required again by your own side.

*Locomotives.*—To break down a railway engine, break the glass tubes of the gauges and the dial, or drop a large nail down the funnel.

*Trucks.*—Trucks and carriages may be burnt, or the brasses of their axle-boxes knocked out.



THIRD WEEK.

MONDAY MORNING.

*[Under Squadron Commander: squadron equipment of pioneering tools should be supplemented with a number of picks, shovels, crowbars, axes, bill-hooks, mallets, wire, &c. (carried in squadron cart).]*

Men in pairs make shelter pits. Add sod or stone loopholes (Manual Field Engineering, Sec. III, paras. 2 and 8).

If available, a house with surrounding fences or garden wall should be placed at the disposal of the squadron. A general idea of the plan of defence to be adopted should be explained to the men; the position of the first line pointed out, and how the house itself would be utilized for second defence; and how the ground in front would be cleared. Loophole high walls, notch medium ones, and excavate for low ones to suit local circumstances. Prepare hedges for defence, and lay down abattis and wire entanglements (Sec. IV, paras. 3, 4, and 6). Post men for internal defence of the house, and point out where and how to erect barricades, to make loopholes, to hang screens of bedding, &c.

In communication with railway authorities show how to take up and twist a rail, destroy a telegraph wire, damage trucks, engines, tanks, telegraph apparatus, signals, &c.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers).

What is the object of a fortification of any kind?

Why should a cavalry soldier know how to fortify a place?

What is the first point to be attended to in making a fortification?

Supposing that when clearing ground in front of the position you have to cut down big trees, in what direction should you make them fall? and why?

How do you set about cutting a tree down?

How can a wall be knocked down?

How do you remove tall grass or crops?

\* What is meant by a first line of defence? and what is the second line of defence?

Supposing you had a farmhouse with outbuildings and yards to defend, where would your first line of defence be? and where the second?

How do you prepare a wall for defence of 4 feet high?

What are the dimensions of a loophole?

Why is it made this shape?

What materials may a loophole be made of?

How do you prepare a very low wall for defence?

How do you prepare a wall between 5 and 6 feet high for defence?

How do you prepare a wall over 6 feet high for defence?

How should a hedge be prepared for defence?

What is a shelter pit? What is a shelter trench?

Why are heaps of earth placed in the rooms of a house that is to be defended?

How are lower doors and windows defended?

How are the upper doors and windows defended?

\* How many men are required to garrison a house?

What is an "obstacle"? What is its object?

How do you make an obstacle with limbs of trees?

\* Where should an obstacle be erected, with regard to your own position?

And where with regard to the enemy's advance?

What obstacle may be made with telegraph wire?

Of what height and breadth should an entanglement be?

What is a "barricade"?

How is it made?

When might it be of use to you to break down a bridge, or pull up a railway line?

How would a masonry bridge be destroyed?

How a wooden one?

In addition to the bridge itself what else in the neighbourhood should be destroyed also? and why?

How is a ford made impassable?

How do you get up a rail of a railway line?

How do you make a spanner if you have not one?

How do you damage a rail?

\* What place on a line should you choose for pulling up a rail?

How do you destroy a telegraph line?

What is the object of cutting the wire and then putting it up to look as if it were all right?

How do you find an underground wire?

How do you damage a railway engine?

How a train in the station?

Why should you never break a telegraph line, a railway, or a bridge without orders?

*[Lecture by Squadron Commander.]*

*"Reconnaissance."*

Reconnaissance means gaining a knowledge of the country over which operations are likely to be carried on, and also of the numbers, position, and intentions of the enemy.

To have a knowledge of a country you must know what sort of general surface the country has, that is to say, whether it is flat, hilly, or mountainous, whether it is desert, cultivated, or wild and wooded, what sorts of roads, rivers, towns, are to be found, whether supplies of food or forage can be obtained, whether the people are civilized and friendly or not.

All these particulars, and those about the enemy, are found out by small patrols, and even single men, called "reconnoitrers" or "scouts," who are sent out in front of the main body of the force for that purpose.

*Reconnoitring by a Force on the move.*— When an army is marching into an enemy's country a body of cavalry is thrown well in advance of it, in extended order, to reconnoitre the country and search for the enemy. A brigade of cavalry thus extended to reconnoitre would move from 20 to 30 miles in advance of the army it was covering. This was done by the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War. By going two days ahead of their army the cavalry were able to give it plenty of time for preparation after the enemy had once been found, and by the time the main body had come up the cavalry scouts and patrols had found out all particulars of the French force, so that their own Generals knew at once where and how to set about attacking. The French all the time could find out nothing as to the strength or intentions of the German main body.

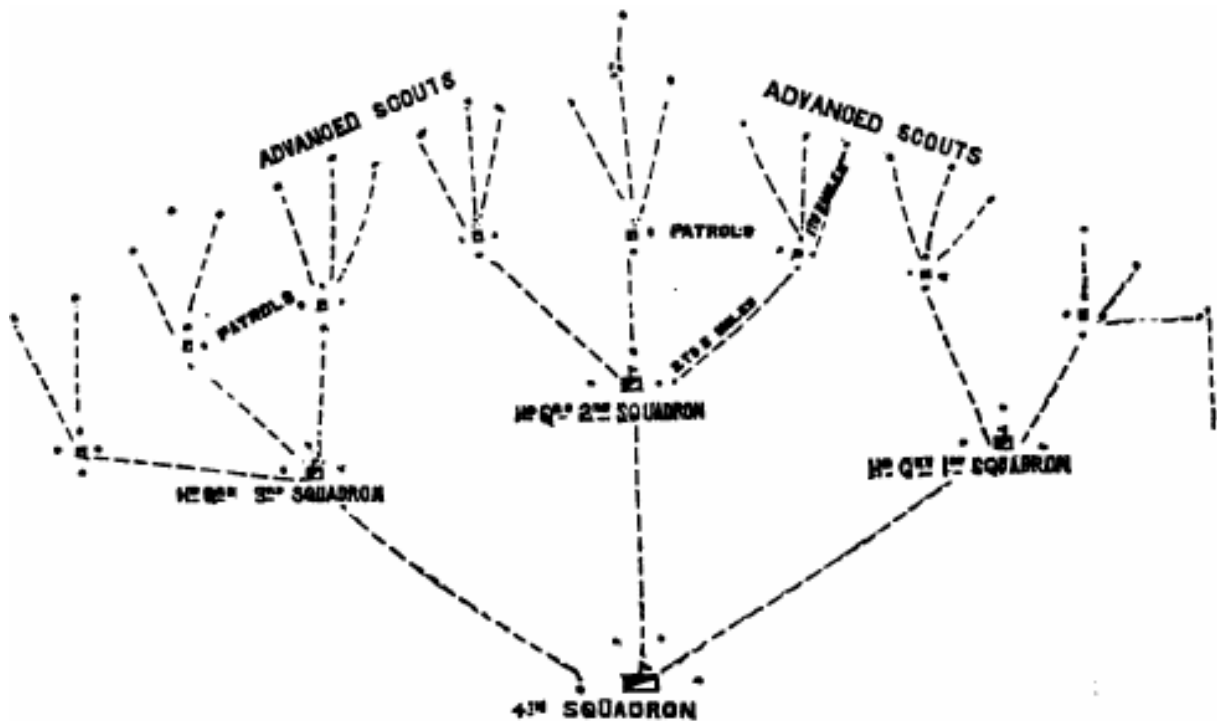
In a smaller force, where a single regiment of cavalry is sufficient for reconnoitring, the regiment would march from ten to fifteen miles in advance of the main body.

One squadron would be sent some four or five miles farther to the front along the road to be followed by the main body. Two other squadrons would be sent out four or five miles to the right and left fronts, while the fourth would remain on the road in reserve.

Each of the three advanced squadrons would be broken up thus: one troop would move along the central route appointed for that squadron (called the headquarters of the squadron), and the other would be divided into two, three, or four patrols. These patrols move on the right, left, and central fronts of the headquarters troop, and at a distance of from two to five miles in advance of it. These patrols again send out small scouting parties of two or three men, or single scouts; these may go to a distance of three miles in advance of their patrols.

(Illustrate by plan on the board).

REGIMENT DISPOSED FOR RECONNOITRING.



The whole arrangement thus takes the form of a fan, somewhat on the principle of an advanced guard, but with this difference, that no regular connection is kept up between the various parties. They do not keep within sight of each other, nor do they keep up connecting files.

Previous to starting, the officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of each support or patrol receives his orders as to what road or line he is to follow, which is either pointed out to him on a map or explained to him with the compass. This route he follows with his patrol, sending out scouts and small patrols to examine the country to his front, and that which lies between his own and the next patrol on each side of him.

In telling off a squadron for reconnoitring in this manner, men who have had training as reconnoiters will be ordered to fall out. One troop will be told off to form headquarters of the squadron, and the route that it is to follow will be pointed out to its leader. The other troop is then divided into two, three, or four patrols as may be required, and a few trained scouts are told off to each patrol. Each patrol is shown the line it is to follow, and is then sent out to its place, from two to five miles away from the squadron headquarters. The trained scouts march in front of their patrols from one to three miles from them.

As soon as the scouts get a sight of the enemy, the patrols and squadron headquarters will move up to within easy distance for supporting them, and will reinforce their line to watch the enemy and to screen from him the movements of their own main body coming up.

*Reconnoitring for a Force halting.*— The army having come up, the General in command will want to know, previous to attacking, what the enemy's strength is, and how he is posted: he will therefore order a reconnaissance to be carried out, but in a different form from that used when only looking for the enemy. There are four ways of reconnoitring an enemy by a force desirous of attacking him.

*The first* is by a "Reconnaissance in Force," in which a strong force of cavalry, artillery, and infantry is sent to attack and drive in the enemy's outposts and to get in as near as it can to the enemy's main position, making him turn out in force to resist it. In this way information as to his exact position and strength is obtained.

*The second* is a "Reconnaissance by a mixed column," in which a small mixed force of cavalry and infantry with one or two guns is sent to make a dash at the outposts and surprise a few pickets and carry off prisoners, and so obtain information as to the disposition of the enemy's outposts and the probable strength and position of his main body.

*The third* is a "Reconnaissance by a small body of Cavalry," in which a troop is sent out with a number of trained scouts to examine the ground over which operations are likely to be carried on, and to find out all it can of the position of the enemy's outposts, &c.

*The fourth* is "Reconnaissance by patrols or scouts," who are sent out to pick up all the information they can right amongst the enemy's outposts, to find out exactly where the outposts are stationed, and to notice the best points for their own side to attack at, by reason of the nature of the ground and the position of the enemy.

In all these reconnaissances, sketches of the ground would be made showing the position of the enemy's outposts, and reports would be made. Staff officers would make them in the case of reconnaissances in force; but in reconnaissance by a troop, or by patrols, the scouts would be required to send in reports and sketches.

It is in the last kind of reconnaissance, and as an advanced scout to a moving force, that an individual soldier has such a good chance of distinguishing himself. Any man who is a good rider, and has good eyesight, and who is intelligent, with a dash of pluck in him, is fitted for a scout. He only wants to be taught what is the kind of information he will be expected to pick up, and in what way he is to note down and give in his information when found. This can be taught to any man in a very few lessons; there is nothing difficult about it, and it is well worth any man's while to spend a few days in being instructed in reconnaissance sketching and reporting, in time of peace.

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For when a regiment goes on service all those men who have been thus trained will be picked out to perform all reconnoitring duties, and will thus drop into good chances of distinguishing themselves.

As an advanced scout of a force reconnoitring, or of an advanced guard, your duty would generally be only to look out sharply for any signs of the enemy, and to report what you find out, by word of mouth, to the officer in command. But as a reconnoitrer, sent out on a special mission, you will have definite orders given you before starting as to what points you are to collect information on. For instance, the officer commanding may want to know if a certain village is occupied by the enemy or not, and if it is, in what position is the enemy posted, and what are his numbers, and what sort of ground there is round his position for troops to work over; or you may be sent to examine a road for a few miles, and find out what villages there are along it, and what supplies of food, forage, or transport they may have, &c. In any of these cases you would have to note down your information as soon as you get it, in your note-book. These notes copied out would be your report, and in most cases a sketch of the ground examined would be a great help to the officer in understanding your report. And in the fortnight's course of reconnaissance instruction you are simply taught how to make a sketch, what information you would as a rule be expected to get, and how to put your information down in your report.

On first being sent out to reconnoitre any particular place, take down your orders in writing in your note-book from the officer sending you, and then there can be no mistake about what information you are to bring in.

Notice, by your compass (with which, as a scout, you would be supplied) the direction you start in. Also, in case of accident to your compass, notice your direction by the position of the sun or stars, or by the "lay" of the hills, direction of a river current, or of the wind. A scout who has lost his way is quite useless. When once you have started, in an enemy's country, keep yourself as much concealed as possible—taking advantage of all cover like sunk roads, hedges, ridges of hills, &c., and avoiding public roads, villages, &c., so the country people may not see you, and report your presence to the enemy's patrols.

Nothing should escape your notice. Observe all roads, rivers, woods, and towns that you may come near, and look out far and near for the enemy—looking afar for his dust or glistening of his arms, and near for his footmarks and tracks in soft ground. Make use of every hill near you to get a view from, but be careful not to stand on the hill top; halt near the top and merely look over and you will see without being seen.

Notice, too, small signs and landmarks by which you will be able to find your way back by the way you came: such marks as a broken gate, a peculiar tree or stone, and oddly shaped hill, &c., all will be sure guides in getting back, to a man who has noticed them as he came along; and, moreover, if any others of his side want to take the same path, he can give them a list of these landmarks by which they will be able to find their way with ease.

After crossing a bad nullah or ravine, thick wood, or bad fence, or any obstacle that can only be passed at one or two places, look back and get to know the appearance of the place for crossing, so that, if pursued by a patrol of the enemy you will at once know the point to make for instead of being helplessly stopped.

Houdin, the great conjuror, trained his son to be a conjuror too, by teaching him when walking in the streets to notice at one glance every article in a shop window, and to carry them all in his mind; the boy after a little practice got to do it as a matter of habit almost without thinking of it. In the same way, a man, to be a good scout, should get himself into the way of noticing every peculiar point of the bit of country he is passing through. If you practise this every time you are out on the march, or particularly when on detached duty across country at a field day, you will find that in a short time you will so readily notice and remember the different features of the ground that not only will you be able to find your way back with ease, but will also be able to jot a sketch of the country down on paper on return to barracks.

(“Features” of a country are hills, streams, fences, woods, or any other points by which you could recognize it again.)

The German scouts are said to have got quite a serious cast of countenance from gazing constantly at the country over which they pass. Well, I don't suppose the consequences would be quite so bad with any of you, but at the same time it shows how they practise this most useful art. A scout should, as it were, have eyes at the back of his head, and see trifling things, both near as well as in the far distance, that would escape an ordinary man's eye; and from little insignificant signs he should be able to “put this and that together” and find out important particulars.

For instance, you may suspect that an enemy's scout has lately gone down a certain road; you see a countryman sitting there who must have seen him had he gone. The man says that no man or horse has gone along the road for the last four hours; just then you see the hoof-print of a horse in a puddle with the water still muddy in the print, and when the man persists in saying no horse has passed along there, you can be pretty sure he is lying, and for some good reason.

Country people, even if friendly to the enemy, will often let out important information as to his whereabouts if asked in a roundabout way. Children are the best to question, as they are not up to telling lies and then sticking to them.

It is best to tell such people lies about the strength and position of your own force, as they will probably pass them on to the enemy. A good deal is to be learnt from the behaviour of the country people, as, if anxious and nervous, their troops are probably distant; if excited or insolent their troops are probably close at hand.

Wheel-marks and footmarks will always afford a deal of information as to the numbers, composition, and direction of a force, and if you have practised noting foot-tracks you will be able to tell how long ago they were made, and consequently how far off the force is.

Places where the enemy has camped or bivouacked should be carefully examined to see if the camping and cooking arrangements were carried out in a regular or in a hurried and disorderly manner; and whether much food, any baggage, accoutrements, or sick animals were left behind, or many men were buried.

Cavalry, when marching, raise a high light cloud of dust, getting thin at the top; infantry raise a lower, thicker one; artillery and waggons a thicker one than infantry, and more broken.

The glitter of arms you can see when the men bearing them are too far off to be seen with the naked eye. If the rays of light shine from left to right downwards it shows that the force is moving to your right; if straight up and down it is coming towards you; if shimmering in the same spot the force is halted; if a ray only appears now and then the force is probably moving away from you.

On seeing the enemy's vedettes or scouts, try and get as close as you can to them, and make out, if possible, the position of the line of vedettes, and the whereabouts of the picquets, and, if you are not seen, see how far you can penetrate within their line. It is always easier to get out again than to get in. Get particulars of the uniforms of the men, and notice if patrols go round only at certain hours, and if so at what hours. If you are discovered don't be in a hurry to retire until driven to it, and then remember not to retire directly on your patrol, but go by a roundabout way, and only go as long as you are pursued.

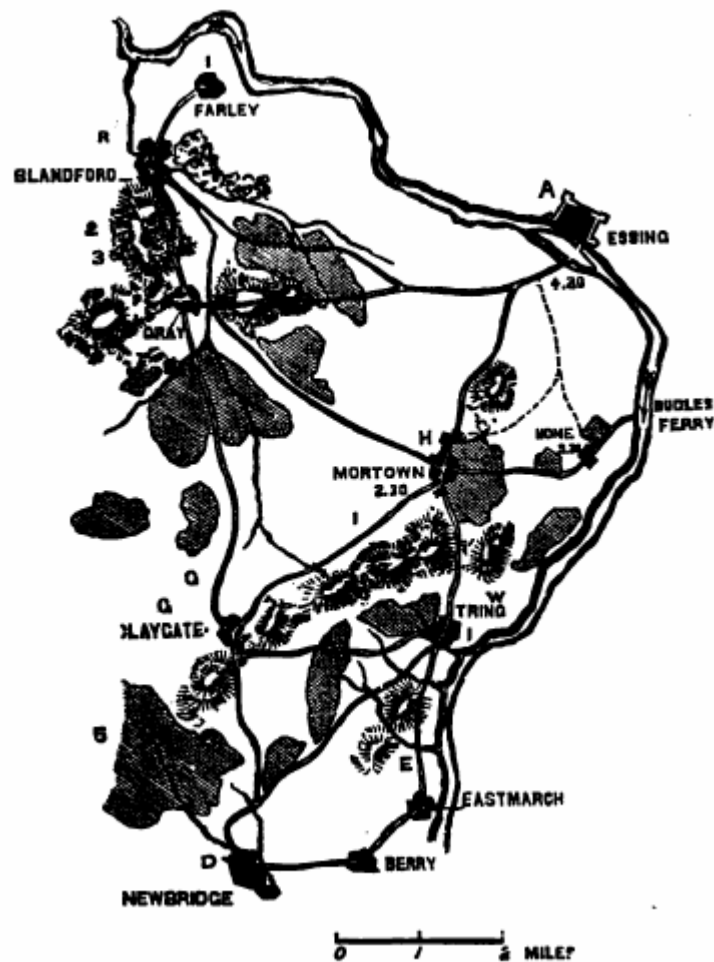
Directly they stop following you, you should halt and resume your observation of the enemy's position. If you find yourself being surrounded, make a bold dash for the weakest place, but as soon as you are clear pull up and continue your reconnoitring. The confident and bold behaviour of a few scouts in this way will often put a real feeling of fear into the enemy that the remainder of your force is equally plucky and must be close at hand to give you so much confidence; in the same way that if, when you are reconnoitring, the enemy's scouts give way to you and bolt directly they see one of your patrols, you at once set them down as a very poor, timid lot.

If you find you cannot get into the line of vedettes, notice the peculiarities of the ground in their neighbourhood, and look out for hedges, ditches, hollow roads, &c., leading from their front into their lines by which you might creep in unseen at night. Come back to the place at dusk and notice where the enemy posts his vedettes for the night (probably nearer in to the picquets than in the daytime) and then creep in amongst them. For this work it is best to hand your horse over to a comrade to hold when you start to get into the enemy's line. Once there get a good position, where you can see and hear, without being discovered, such as up in a thick tree, or in a bush, &c. Notice the position and numbers of his camp fires. For bivouacs there is one fire to ten men. If you can see the smoke as well as the flame of the fire, it is within half-a-mile of you. Notice where the picquets are posted and in what strength. Get particulars of patrols and if possible overhear the password and countersign.

## APPENDIX II.

### RECONNAISSANCE.

#### *Patrol.*



*Movements of a Patrol.*— Suppose that the regiment has arrived at Newbridge. The Colonel wishes to reconnoitre the country contained in the angle of the River Slush, between Essing, Blandford, and Claygate. He wishes in particular to know if any of the enemy are in that tract of country, and whether the bridge at Easing is still standing. Lieutenant Farquhar and thirty men are sent out on this duty. The regiment will remain at Newbridge. At midday the patrol starts for Claygate. Troop Sergeant-Major Reardon, with five men, is detached to go and reconnoitre Tring *viâ* Berry and Eastmarsh.

The officer's party proceed parallel to the road with an advanced guard of a sergeant and five men. A few scouts are sent in front through the wood. The advanced guard halts short of Claygate, the party behind the hill with a vedette on the top, till the advanced guard sends in to say that Claygate is all clear. The officer moves on Claygate, and from the head man of the village learns that "the evening before a detachment of the enemy's cavalry, with lances, red plumes, and collars, passed through Claygate and moved on to Essing. The bridge at Essing being still standing." Mr. Farquhar sends in an orderly to the Colonel with this news. He then sends away two patrols. One of five men under Troop Sergeant-Major Sargeant to go to Farley, rid Gray and Blandford, to obtain any information he can of the enemy, and then return to Claygate. Troop Sergeant-Major Sargeant moves off with two scouts in front, one on each side and one in rear of him; on reaching the wood, the advanced scouts trot through it, one in rear of the other, but so as to keep him in sight; they only see two woodcutters, who inform them there are no enemy in the wood nor in Gray. One rides back to Troop Sergeant-Major Sargeant with this report, who then trots his party through at 100 yards interval and distance. The advanced scouts ride through Gray and find no signs of the enemy, and report so to the sergeant-major, who, posting a flanker on each of the two hills to right and left of village, proceeds to question the head man; getting no news of the enemy, he moves on to Blandford through the hills. The two advanced scouts find no sign of the enemy, the head man states no enemy have been there. Soon after leaving the town, one of the scouts notices marks in the dust by the roadside of a man wearing a sword having walked a few paces, and a little further on a ball cartridge, but not the same pattern as ours. The party at once returns to the village: the head man cannot be found; proceed to the post office, warn the clerk against sending any telegraphic message, and seize the whole household; questioning them singly whether any enemy have been seen, finds that three of the enemy's dragoons passed through the town only two hours previous from Farley, and took the road towards Easing, saying that they should return in a couple of hours, and that if in the meantime any of the townspeople gave information of their presence, they would shoot the head man and burn the place. They were dressed in blue tunics with long gloves and brass helmets with black plumes. Had told the head man to have food ready for them when they came back, as they would still have a long way to march before they got back to their support, which was on the other side of the river.

Sergeant-Major Sargeant then takes his party, and finding the Easing road enters Blandford by a narrow lane with high walls to it and a sharp turn in it about 200 yards along the lane, conceals his men in a garden near the entrance to the lane, four of them mounted, the fifth dismounted with a loaded carbine. He goes himself and stops a waggon that is coming in from Essing a short distance beyond the bend in the lane; he then gets another from the town to come in the opposite direction, and makes it get its wheels locked with the first waggon, so as to block up the lane; he conceals himself and awaits the enemy's patrol returning.

Shortly after, the advanced scout of the enemy trots up, but finds his road stopped by the two carts; he waits for them to get disentangled when in the meantime the centre man of the patrol trots up, not having seen his advanced scout stop, owing to the bend in the road; he is shortly followed by the third, and just when they are collected there the sergeant-major follows them up the lane with his four men at a gallop, and makes them prisoners, while disarming them, however, one manages to break away and gallops off back down the lane. But the dismounted man is ready for him there, and as he gallops up, puts a bullet into his horse at close distance. The rider gets stunned in the fall, and so the whole three are taken.

One of the prisoners says that the squadron to which he belongs is at Farley; the other being questioned separately says his troop is five miles the other side of the river. The injured prisoner is put on

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one horse, the other two are to take it in turns to march on foot; the reins are taken off their bits and the horses led by their head-ropes by two of the patrol; the remaining two proceed, one in advance with the dismounted prisoner, the other in rear, both with drawn carbines loaded, and take the road back towards Newbridge.

The troop sergeant-major and the other man proceed towards Farley: they notice that the telegraph wire from Blandford goes alongside the road to Farley. To prevent their movements being published to the enemy, hearing a woodman at work in the woods to the right of the road, they call him up and make him cut into one side of a telegraph post.

Two heel-ropes knotted together, thrown over the telegraph wires, the ends joined and pulled, causes the post to fall over after a few cuts; the wires are then cut in two places so that about a foot of each wire is taken and carried away by the patrol to be thrown away some distance off.

People they meet inform them that no enemy are in Farley, but that the patrol of three passed through that morning going to Blandford, and this they find to be correct. Proceeding a short distance beyond, towards the river, they find that the enemy's patrol crossed the river by a ford 3 feet deep. Here seeing the telegraph line continued from Farley towards the enemy's country, the scout with the sergeant-major manages with the butt of his carbine, from the back of his horse, to reach and break the porcelain insulators on the top of one of the posts. After this they retire in the direction of Claygate, overtaking the rest of the patrol with their prisoners near Gray; off the right of the road they halt in a small thick copse with a hill close to it on which is posted a vedette and another on the bank of the stream, here they water and feed their horses. From here the sergeant-major sends in a report of his doings by an orderly to Lieutenant Farquhar. When the party have fed, they resume their march, but finding the dismounted prisoner walking very slowly from galled feet, the sergeant-major takes a horse from a farm near the road, giving the farmer a written receipt for it, and telling him to come to Claygate for it, and mounts the prisoner, and so marches to Claygate, half-a-mile short of which Lieutenant Farquhar's orderlies overtake him, and tell him to go on to Newbridge; he does so, and reports himself, and then writes out a report of the road he has traversed from the notes he has made, giving particulars of the villages, woods, hills, rivers, &c., that he has come across.

At the same time that Sergeant-Major Sergeaunt was sent on his expedition, Corporal Mills with four men was sent out from Claygate to go and reconnoitre Mortown, passing through Tring in doing so. About half-an-hour after Corporal Mills's party has started, Lieutenant Farquhar takes party along the road leading direct to Mortown, leaving three orderlies at Claygate to take on reports to and from Newbridge.

Corporal Mills's advanced scout, on reaching Tring, sees Troop Sergeant-Major Reardon's patrol there, reports to Corporal Mills, who then joins Sergeant-Major Reardon with his party. They learn that about a hundred of the enemy's lancers are posted in the wood close to the road between Tring and Mortown. Corporal Mills gets on to the hill on the left of the road to reconnoitre, and sees the enemy with a patrol out in front moving towards Tring. He sends an orderly to Lieutenant Farquhar on the Mortown and Claygate road to inform him. Lieutenant Farquhar joins Corporal Mills on the hill, and sees the enemy himself near the road from Mortown to Budles Ferry; but the patrol that was moving on Tring is now retiring. An orderly is sent to Newbridge, with a report of all that has been seen, to the Colonel. Lieutenant Farquhar remains on the hill watching. Single scouts having been shown where the enemy are, go out to watch their movements. They soon send in to say that the whole body, amounting to 120 lancers in blue tunics with red collars and facings and plumes, are retiring in several detachments towards Hone. Lieutenant Farquhar, feeling satisfied that the enemy is actually in retreat, sends another orderly in to Newbridge to say so, and to inform the Colonel that he is about to follow close on the enemy's track.

He therefore moves his party up to Mortown, where he learns that the enemy had only arrived a short time before, *viâ* the ford at Budles Ferry. He sends scouts out through Mortown wood, which they find clear of enemy; he then proceeds to Hone wood, where he conceals his party until his scouts report the

enemy to have crossed the Slush by the ford at Budles Ferry. He then moves up to Hone, and detaches a sergeant and six men to watch the ferry. This party is posted in a plantation close to Hone with a vedette overlooking the ford. Lieutenant Farquhar then moves with his party on the footpath towards Essing, and halts them just before reaching the Gray and Essing road. He proceeds himself close up to the Easing bridge and finds it intact, notices that the river is fordable a quarter of a mile above the bridge. He returns to his party and sends two men down the road to Gray to find Troop Sergeant-Major Sargeant and tell him, to return to Newbridge as soon as he has completed his reconnaissance. He sends another orderly to the sergeant at Hone, telling him to withdraw his party and rejoin the main patrol at Mortown. He himself takes his party, *viâ* Mortown, Tring, Eastmarah, and Berry, back to Newbridge.

[Explain the report sent in by a patrol leader, in detail.] (*Vide* "Reconnaissance and Scouting," Plate VII.)

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TUESDAY MORNING.

[*Under Squadron Commander; apply Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.*]

Practise reconnoitring formation. Dispose the various supports, patrols, scouts, &c., in their relative places, at the halt, and on a small scale, *i.e.*, at very reduced distances, 200 yards representing a mile.

Explain the directions to be taken, and the duties of the various parties.

Practise the same on the move.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

[*Questions on Lecture of previous day.*]

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is reconnaissance?

To have a "knowledge of a country" what must you know about it?

What is a scout or reconnoitrer?

\* Supposing a regiment of cavalry is ordered to reconnoiter in front of an army advancing into an enemy's country, how far ahead of the army would it move?

\* How is a squadron divided for reconnoitring?

\* What connection has to be kept up between the different parts of a squadron reconnoitring?

\* How does the leader of a patrol know what direction he is to go in with his patrol?

Why are trained reconnoitrers ordered to fall out when the squadron is being told off for reconnoitering?

\* How far may a patrol go from its headquarters of squadron?

How far from their patrols may scouts go?

\* What is a "Reconnaissance in force"?

- What are the objects of reconnaissance by patrols or scouts?
- How do you know what direction to keep in when sent out as a single scout?
- Supposing your compass gets broken, how should you still know your proper direction?
- Why should you take down your orders in your note-book on first being sent out by the officer in charge of scouts?
- How do you keep yourself concealed in moving across country?
- Why should you avoid villages and country people?
- How should you look out from a hill?
- Why should you notice particularly little marks along your path, such as broken gate, queer-looking stones?
- When you have got through a difficult place, why should you examine it again from the other side?
- What are the “features” of a country?
- Why are children to be questioned by scouts?
- Why should you not tell the truth about your own force to villagers?
- How can you guess from the behaviour of villagers whether the enemy is near or far off?
- What points should you notice in examining an old camping ground of the enemy?
- What sort of dust does cavalry raise when on the move? ditto artillery?
- Why is the glitter of arms to be looked out for?
- How can you tell from the glitter of his arms when the enemy is halted? When moving to a flank? When moving towards you? When going away?
- What is the object in getting, if possible, within the line of the enemy’s vedettes?
- Supposing you are pursued by the enemy’s patrol, should you retire at once to your own patrol?
- For how far should you retreat?
- If you are being surrounded, what course should you take?
- If you intend to reconnoitre among the enemy’s outposts at night, what preparation should you make during the day?
- Why should you be there just as night comes on?
- Why should you count the number of camp fires in the enemy’s bivouac?
- What particulars would you try to find out if you got inside the enemy’s outposts at night?

*Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Reports and Sketches.”*

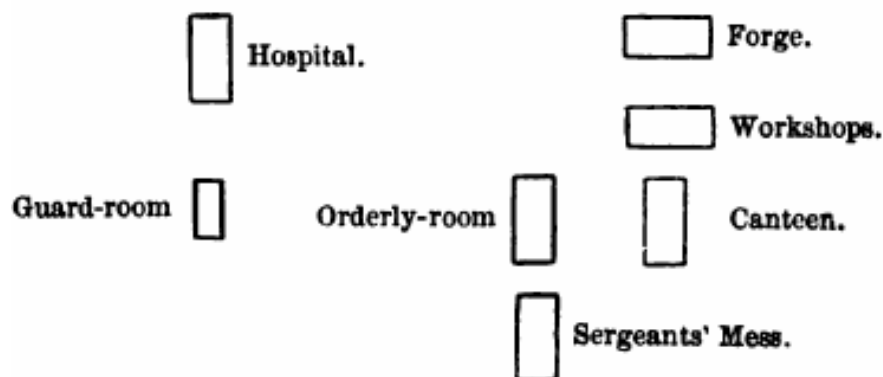
A “report” is the statement of the information you have picked up while out reconnoitring.

It may be either “verbal,” that is, a statement made by mouth (which will be usually required when the scout is sent out hurriedly), or it may be “written” if there is time, in which case you write down all your information on paper to give to the officer commanding.

Either kind of report is made much clearer to any one receiving it if a sketch of the bit of country referred accompanies it. Every light cavalry soldier should know how to make a report, and should therefore also know exactly on what points to pick up information; then he should also be able to draw a rough sketch on paper, or even in the sand, to illustrate and explain his report.

For instance, supposing you had to make a report on these barracks we are in, to an officer who had never seen them— in your report you would say, “from the orderly room, 200 yards to the N.E., stand the

regimental workshops, 200 yards to E. is the canteen, 250 yards to the N.W. is the hospital, the sergeants' mess is due south about 100 yards, &c. But how simple it would be to explain, and for the officer to understand, if you sketched them down roughly, thus: (draw sketch on blackboard) and then explained the particulars of each in your report.



In making a written report, only write down the actual particulars that are required and any other important points that you think would be of use to the officer commanding, but don't wander off into high-flown descriptions. Don't be vague, *e.g.*, don't say "the road is wide," but say "the road is 15 feet wide"—because one man's idea of simply a wide road may be different from another's.

(For information required in reports, see Lesson II, and Appendix p. 51 of “Reconnaissance and Scouting.”)

92

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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### WEDNESDAY MORNING.

*[Small parties under troop leaders and previously trained non-commissioned officers, or good men.]*

Instruct measuring paces of horses, measuring heights and distances (“Reconnaissance and Scouting,” Lecture IV).

Instructors make simple sketches and report of villages, positions, or roads, showing and explaining every step to their men, and using them for obtaining information as to accommodation, supplies, heights, distances, &c. (“What to Observe and how to Report it.”)

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on Lecture of previous day.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is a sketch?

What is a “verbal” report?

What rules should you keep to in making a verbal report?

What are the chief rules in making a written report?

\* If ordered to report on the “general features” of a bit of country, what points would you report on?

If ordered to report on a “road,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “building,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “river,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “wood,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “mountain,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “bridge,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “railway,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “railway station,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “ferry,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “ford,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “marsh,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on a “lake,” what points would you notice?

If ordered to report on “the enemy,” what points would you notice?

How do you know where the North is, supposing you have no compass?

Which is the “right” side of a river?

Why is it wrong to talk of the left or right side of a road or railway?

What does this sign mean on a sketch? (Draw on blackboard conventional signs for bridge, marsh, church, village heath, trees, wood, ford impassable to artillery, embanked road; railway, hill impassable for cavalry.)

\* How do you draw a road sketch and report on paper?

What is “undulating” country?

- \* What two kinds of position are you likely to have to report on?
  - \* With regard to a position to be held by your own people, information is required on three points; what are they?
  - \* What three points are to be found out with regard to the enemy's position?
- (Ask questions to test the ability of the men in map reading. A map of a tract of country having been previously prepared on the blackboard for illustration of the following lecture.)

*[Lecture by Squadron Commander.]*

*"Patrols."*

A patrol is a collection of a few men, from two to a dozen, sent out to reconnoitre or to afford support to single scouts. Reconnoitrers in an enemy's country will as a rule be sent out as a patrol. When the patrol leader requires information on any particular point one or two scouts will be sent out from the patrol to find it out and return; or the patrol may agree to continue along a certain route and scouts will go out to move in a similar direction, finding out all they can, far and near, and to send in news to the patrol every now and then when they discover anything important.

A patrol in moving through an enemy's country should march as secretly as possible, and the men composing it should not move all together in a body, but should be scattered in some open formation is such a way as be able to see and signal to each other, without incurring the danger of being all cut off by a surprise party of the enemy.

If five men form a patrol they should be disposed in the "cross" formation: that is, in the shape of a cross. The non-commissioned officer or man in charge marches in the centre with one man out to each flank and one in front and one in rear of him.

The leading file should be about 100 yards in advance, but the two flankers and the rear file need only be from 20 to 30 yards away from the patrol leader.

Whatever the size of the patrol the patrol leader will march in the centre, and however small the patrol may be one man should always be sent to the front as advanced file. Each man will keep a sharp look-out in the direction to which he is posted; for instance, the right flank man will look out to the right flank, and the rear file will continually turn round and look out to the rear. Supposing that a patrol of three men were moving along a road they would proceed in this order, viz.: advanced file along the right hand side of the road, followed at 100 yards' distance by the patrol leader, who moves along the left side of the road, behind him again at 20 yards' distance comes the rear file in the middle of the road. If four men compose the patrol two advanced files would be employed, moving about 30 yards apart and 100 yards to front of the patrol leader.

Men of a patrol conform to signals of the patrol leader, and the movements of the advanced file. If the leading file halts, they halt. If he turns to the right, they bring up their left shoulders and keep their proper relative positions moving in the new direction.

If any one of the patrol wishes to speak to the patrol leader he will hold out his right hand. The patrol, before starting, should be thoroughly instructed in the meaning of the signals that the patrol leader will use.

In the daytime he will usually signal by waving his hand; at night by whistling, either the usual trumpet calls or some simpler calls of his own.

Patrols can be particularly of use in reconnoitring villages, woods, and defiles, and in making prisoners of and questioning country people and the enemy's scouts.

*Woods.*— In examining a wood, if it is small, one or two men should go round the sides while the rest of the patrol proceed through it. If it is large the patrol should enter it more opened-out in formation than usual, keeping up constant communication by whistled signals. All paths and roads in the wood should be examined for a good distance. As the party gets near the end of the wood the advanced files should carefully look out for the enemy to the front before emerging on to the open ground.

*Villages.*— On approaching a village, if you do not know whether the enemy is occupying it or not, or what the feelings of the inhabitants may be towards you, some house standing by itself away from the village should be surrounded quietly and the inhabitants questioned one by one and out of each other's hearing.

One or two men should then ride through the town looking out for signs of the enemy, one other man going round each side of the place. If the enemy is come upon suddenly a shot should be fired to warn the rest of the patrol. As soon as the village is found to be clear of enemy the rest of the patrol enter and examine it. The head man or some responsible person should be kept a prisoner as a surety for the safety of the party. The telegraph station and post office should be seized, and no correspondence should be allowed to proceed. All official letters should be taken possession of.

The patrol should not stay longer in the village than is necessary for obtaining information, food, and forage. Such supplies should either be paid for, or written receipts for them given.

*Guides.*— Guides should always be made use of if they can be obtained, and they should be treated well while with a patrol. They should, if possible, be taken from among people who are likely to know the country well, such as pedlars, gamekeepers, or drovers, and not from shopkeepers or others whose employment keeps them at home.

The guide should be made to ride alongside the patrol leader, as he will not then be able to escape easily.

*Marching.*— Every man of a patrol should keep continually on the look-out for signs of the enemy, and also should try and learn the road he is proceeding along, so that should he be sent back with a message he will have no difficulty in finding his way to the headquarters of his squadron.

For this purpose marks should be made, especially at cross roads, by "blazing" or cutting a slip of bark off a tree with an axe or a bill-hook, or by breaking down a branch, or by piling a few stones up, to show which is the right road to follow. One man at least in every patrol should carry an axe or bill-hook, and the patrol leader should have a dark lantern.

Patrols should move as secretly as possible, always keeping hidden under cover of hedges, woods, sunk roads, &c., and avoiding all villages and people that they do not want to examine.

*Halting.*— A halt should never be made in an open spot. A wood or valley, or other secluded place, should be selected for it, and sentries posted to prevent the party from being surprised by the enemy. Only one-half of the horses should be unbridled at one time for feeding purposes.

A halt for the night should never be made in a town or village, but in some well-sheltered and concealed spot. When, towards dusk, such a spot has been found for the bivouac, it should be passed by and not occupied till after dark, and even then the rear files should take care that they are not followed and watched to their halting place. In that way the country people will not know where the patrol is sleeping, and so will not be able to guide the enemy to the spot in the night.

A rallying place about a mile from the bivouac will be fixed on and made known to everybody, so that if the enemy attack during the night and the patrol has to disperse, the men will know where to make for.

A password and countersign should be agreed upon for the night, so that in the event of a fight in the dark the men may not get fighting with each other.

*Night Attack.*— A night attack of the enemy will fail if the attacked party keeps cool, knows what it has to do, and especially if the men keep silence.

For this reason on bivouacking for the night, the patrol leader should explain to the men what they are to do in case of an attack. If possible, there should only be one place by which the enemy could enter the bivouac. The sentry would give warning of his approach. The patrol would then take up their positions for defending the entrance, and a well-delivered volley as he approaches close will generally send the attacker away when he has reckoned on catching you asleep. But even if he does surprise a patrol, if every man keeps cool and quiet, fighting any enemy he meets, hiding and getting his horse away, and then makes off to the rallying point, the patrol will be none the worse for it.

All signs of the enemy's presence, such as footmarks, wheel tracks, clouds of dust, glitter of arms, or at night the glare or sparkle of camp fires, pipe-lights of his scouts, rumble of wheels, or jingling of accoutrements, must be looked out or listened for continually by patrols.

Directly the enemy is found he should not be lost sight of again: as much information as possible should be gained at once of his force, position, or movements, and one man should be sent back with the information while the remainder continue to watch and gain further information. The general line of his outposts and their position should be found out and sketched, if he is halted, and the sketch and report sent in to the officer commanding the squadron.

If the enemy is on the move the patrol will follow him and try and find out where he is going, what is his strength, and particulars of the uniforms of his force. If the patrol moves far from the spot where it first sighted the enemy, before the patrol leader receives an answer to his first report, he should leave a man on a hill, or other good position for seeing, who will see the orderly or probably the officer coming from the squadron headquarters, and will then show him which road the patrol has taken in order to keep its watch on the enemy.

If the enemy sends out parties to drive the patrol away it should only retire as long as it is followed, and then as soon as the enemy's parties stop and return, it should stop also and follow them back. But under these circumstances the patrol must always be on the look-out to see that the enemy is not trying to get it into an ambush, or to surround and cut it off. If the enemy should succeed in surrounding it the patrol must make a bold dash and cut its way out, or disperse and rally again at some previously appointed spot.

It is only by boldness and coolness that a patrol will be successful in the neighbourhood of an enemy, and then it can do most useful work.

It is most necessary that when on patrol duty every man should take the greatest care of his horse. It is on this kind of duty that the horse gets twice as much work as on any other kind, and at the same time does not get so regularly fed or groomed. A scout can never tell when, not only his one life, but those of his comrades too, may not depend on the speed and amount of "go" left in his horse. He should therefore avoid overriding him, that is, galloping him about when there is no necessity for it. He should, as often as possible, dismount, and give him a rest; let him drink a little as often as he can, and give him plenty of food at every convenient opportunity, such as corn of any kind, beans, chopped straw, young green barley, grass and leaves, and even thatch off a house is better than nothing. Water should not be given after a feed of corn, nor should it be given in large quantities while the horse is still hot from work; a few gulps at a time only should then be allowed him, otherwise he may very likely get colic. Look out carefully for saddle galls and chafes and alter the fitting of your saddlery accordingly—*e.g.*, if the bottom of the shoe case is rubbing his side, tighten up the shoe case strap by two or three holes, &c. Look to his feet every now and then to see that no stone has got wedged into his foot and that his shoes are all right. If a shoe becomes loosened it should be refixed by hammering in the nails with a stone, and clinching their projecting points by hammering them over with another stone (the first stone being held against the head of the nail to keep it home).

Slight rubs, where the skin has not been broken, may be cured by a cloth wet with salt and water being laid on them. If the skin is broken a cloth wetted in water only should be applied. If a horse's legs become



hot and swollen with work they should be bandaged with strips of linen soaked in cold water, or the horse may be stood in a running stream when the patrol is bivouacked or resting.

[The Instructor should have prepared on the blackboard a sketch map of a tract of country on a large scale. He may then explain in a narrative form how this piece of country would be reconnoitred by a patrol: introducing for the instruction of his class the various ways by which information may be obtained, incidents of a reconnaissance, such as seizing and questioning country people, requisitioning, halting, finding enemy, capturing his scouts, &c.; and at the same time teaching the men map-reading by pointing out the course taken by patrols and by their detached scouts, &c.]

## APPENDIX III.

### QUESTIONS ON SQUADRON INSTRUCTION.

(Those marked \* are applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

How do you keep your dressing in the ranks?— By looking towards the dressing hand and seeing the lower part of the face of the man next but one to me.

How do you dress, on the “wheel”?— By looking towards the wheeling flank and keeping closed in towards the pivot flank.

If you are in the rear rank how do you keep in your proper place for covering, when on the wheel?— By directing my horses for the man next but one to my front rank man, towards the wheeling flank.

Why should the command “Forward” be given just before a wheel is completed?— It enables the men on the pivot flank to move their horses just as the wheeling flank comes square, and prevents it overwheeling.

What is the rate of the “walk”?— Four miles an hour.

What is the rate of the “trot”?— Eight miles an hour, except in the School, then six.

\* What is meant by “distance,” and what by “interval”?— Distance is space from nose to croup. Interval is space from knee to knee.

What is the proper interval between men at close order in line?— 6 inches from knee to knee.

What is the interval between men at open files?— 1 yard from knee to knee.

What is the interval between men at half extended files?— 4 yards.

What is an average horse’s length in feet?— 8 feet.

What is the distance between front and rear rank in line?— One horse’s length.

What is the distance between men in column of fours?— Half a horse’s length.

What is the distance between the head of a column of fours of one squadron, and the rear of the squadron in front of it also in fours?— 4 horses’ lengths or 12 yards.

What will the distance be if the squadrons are in column of sections?— Half a horse’s length.

\* What is the object of a march past?— It shows the excellence of a regiment in dressing, training of horses, riding and setting up of the men.

What is the “passing” line, and how is it shown?— It is the line that the squadron proceed along when marching past. The inspecting officer is posted at the centre of it, and it is shown by four markers dressing along the alignment of it.

How should the right hand man of the squadron lead when marching past?— He proceeds straight along the line of markers at 6 inches from their horses’ heads.

\* What are the duties of a serrefile?— To see that the rear rank are aiding properly and are paying attention to the orders, and they do not overrun the front rank nor fly out.

Supposing that the squadron is advancing fours from the right, and receives the command “Advance by half-sections,” you are No. 3 front rank, how do you and No. 4 get into your new places?— We wait till Nos. 1 and 2 have advanced, and Nos. 1 and 2 of the rear rank have inclined to their left and followed them; we then incline to our right and follow Nos. 1 and 2 of the rear rank.

Supposing you are advancing in single file from the right and the word is given “Form fours,” you are No. 1 of the rear rank, how do you get to your new place?— My front rank man advances straight to his front. I incline and move up on to his right, but at sufficient interval to allow Nos. 2, 3, and 4 of the rear rank to come up between him and myself, on my left.

\* What is a “change of front” from a halt?— It is like a wheel. The pivot flank remains on its own ground. The line merely wheels round and faces in a new direction.

\* What is a “change of position”?— It is like a wheel on moveable pivot. The whole line moves off its original ground, and forms facing in a new direction on new ground.

What is the object of retiring by alternate bodies, or in succession of bodies?— By retiring in this way part of the retiring force is always facing the enemy to hold him in check, and save the part that is retiring from attack.

Why is it necessary to practise “rallying” at drills?— Because after a charge a squadron becomes broken up, and should then know how to rally quickly.

Why should the “rally” be carried out quickly in action?— In order to enable the squadron to attack the enemy again before he can rally.

What are “squadron scouts” used for?— To examine the ground over which the squadron is going to advance, and to give warning of any bad places and point out the best way over or round them. Their place is from 200 to 500 yards in front of the squadron.

\* What is the object of always having a second line in support when you advance to charge?— The second line can charge the enemy while he is in confusion from the charge of the first line; or it can attack the enemy's second line if he has one, coming to his rescue.

Why, in the charge, should you keep closed in to the centre, and go at top speed?— Because the force that comes up in the best order and the fastest pace, will overthrow the other.

How would you proceed to attack a battery in action from the front?— Advance in line at extended files, gradually closing in as the troop gets near the guns.

What are “reconnoitring scouts” used for?— For obtaining information as to position, numbers, and movements of the enemy; or for obtaining information on certain points, such as the accommodation, supplies, &c., obtainable in a certain village; or for sketching and reporting on a road, &c. A reconnoitring scout may go away from his patrol to a distance of three miles, if necessary.

\* When escorting artillery why should the escort not form up immediately in rear of the guns when they come into action?— Because in that position it would be under the fire that may be directed against the guns.

\* How is the escort to a convoy of waggons distributed for a march?— An advanced and rear guard precede and follow the convoy. A small party of men in half-sections at the head of the column and another party in rear. Two men march with every waggon, one on each side of it. If the convoy is a long one a reserve party will march near the centre.

What is a “State” escort?— Is an escort told off to accompany the carriage of a member of the Royal Family on state occasions, &c.

At what pace does a “State” escort march?— Always at the same pace as the Royal carriage, and never faster than a trot.

\* What is a “travelling” escort, and how is it formed?— It accompanies the carriage of a Royal personage when travelling. It is distributed thus:— two men as advanced party, four men in support, the remainder of the party in rear of the Royal carriage.

What points should you notice in reconnoitring and reporting on a bridge?— Its length, width, height of arch above the water or ground, number of supports, material of which made, what the bridge crosses (river, road, or ravine), materials for repair obtainable in the neighbourhood, character of approaches.

Is it possible for a man to give his horse a sore back on the march, if his saddle has been previously properly fitted to the horse?— Yes, by lounging in his saddle, sitting in a bad position, or swaying his body about.

Why must the fitting of the saddle on the horse’s back be carefully looked to every day on the march?— Because as the horse gets thinner from hard work the shape of his back alters, and saddle gradually ceases to fit.

Why are sore backs considered a disgrace to the troop in which they occur?— Because they show that either the saddles are badly fitted, or that the men are bad riders and inattentive.

Why should special care be taken in the grooming and feeding of horses on the march?— Because they are doing extra hard work and are exposed to the weather, and probably getting no more grooming or forage than in barracks to counterbalance it.

Should the saddles be taken off directly the horses come in from a march? Why not?— No. They should be left on till the backs have cooled down a little. Otherwise there would be a risk of the back becoming tender and sore and “chapped” with cold air.

Why must the leading sections of a column on the march be particular to keep their proper distances and to maintain a very steady pace?— Because any fault in these respects on the part of the leading sections becomes repeated and passed on down the column, increasing as it goes: so that the sections in rear have to be continually increasing their pace to keep closed up.

What parts of his horse should a man examine at every halt, and what for?— Its sides, under the shoe cases, and at the girth, and under the panels for rubs; and the legs and feet for strains, cuts, swellings, broken shoes, stones in the hoof, &c.

\* What is the object of an advanced guard, and what parts is it made up of?— It is used to look out for and give notice of the appearance of an enemy in front of a force on the march, to check his scouts from gaining information, to find the way and best line of country for its main body, and to obtain information about the enemy. It is made up of a reserve, support, and advanced party, with scouts thrown out to the front or flanks, and connecting files, posted as found requisite.

\* How does a squadron, after being told off, gain its place in front of the column disposed as an advanced guard?— On the command “Form advanced guard” the whole squadron advances in fours or sections, as a squadron complete, at a trot (if the main body is at a walk). As soon as it has gone 500 yards, the reserve drops into a walk. The support and advanced party still continue to trot on for another 500 yards, when the support walks. The advanced party does the same when it has gone 500 yards further.

If you are sent out as a flanker, how far from the main body should you go? What weapon do you carry ready to use?— From 400 to 800 yards by day; within hearing distance by night. Carbine at the advance.

How should a village be examined by an advanced party?— Scouts should be sent round each side of the village, and two men should ride rapidly through the main street, one at 20 or 30 yards distance in rear of the other. They must keep a sharp look-out, and if they see any signs of the enemy should retire; if they come suddenly upon the enemy they should fire a shot and then retire; if they find all clear should take up positions as vedettes to the front of the village, while the remainder of the advanced party enters and searches the village.

\* On what principle is a rear guard formed?— On that of an advanced guard, but reversed; *i.e.*, the reserve leads the way next in rear of the main body, the support comes in rear of the reserve, and the rear party in rear of the support.

What are the duties of a rear guard?— To protect the rear of a force from attacks of a pursuing enemy; to bring on baggage and stragglers; to check the enemy's advance.

What are connecting files, and what are their duties?— They are men either single or pairs marching half-way between the different parties of advanced or rear guards, to pass on any orders from front to rear, and any change of pace by the main body, or any change of direction in the route followed.

If the squadron is in line and is ordered to dismount its odd numbers with carbines—you are an odd number in the rear rank—how do you dismount and get to your place ready for dismounted work?— On the command "Dismount," I move up one horse's length, draw arms, dismount with my carbine, hand over my horse to my even number, hook up my sword, double out round the flank of the troop, and form up three horses' lengths in front of the line of officers on the left of my front man, with carbine at the trail.

\* Why should dismounted men not be posted in front of the led horses to open fire?— Because the fire that would reply to them would probably take effect on the led horses.

Supposing your troop is ordered to extend for skirmishing, from which hand do you take your interval and dressing, what is the interval, and in what order do you form?— I look to the centre of the troop for dressing and take up my interval from the centre, 20 yards from the man next me towards the centre, form into single rank, rear rank men on left of front rank.

\* Supposing you are ordered to dismount three-fourths of your men, what word of command do you use, and how is it carried out?— "By sections, with carbines, dismount." The odd numbers of both ranks advance one horse's length. The whole dismount except Nos. 3. The even numbers move up into line with the odd. Nos. 1, 2, and 4 take their reins over their horses' heads and hand them up to Nos. 3. No 1 before doing so passes his reins through the ring of No. 2 headcollar.

\* How does a squadron form for reconnoitering?— One troop remains in support, the other is divided into two, three, or four patrols, each of which sends out advanced scouts.

How far may you go from your patrol if you are a scout?— One to three miles, but must always know my way back to the patrol.

If you come across the outposts of an enemy, what information do you try to obtain about him?— Find out the general line and position of the outposts, the position of the main body, and its composition, and details of the uniforms, facings, &c., of the men seen.

How should you look out in an enemy's country when you get on a hill?— Dismount near the top and look over the crest, without going on to the extreme top and showing myself against the sky line.

If you are pursued by an enemy's patrol, how far should you retire?— Only as long as I am followed by the patrol. When it halts, I pull up and continue to watch and pick up information.

What is a report, and in what two ways can it be made?— A statement of the information collected. By word of mouth or in writing.

What is a sketch, and what for?— A plan of the ground, used to illustrate a report.

\* How do you make a road sketch and report on one sheet of paper?— Draw the road up the centre of the paper, with notes on the features in it, up each side of the paper.

If you were ordered to report on a river, what points would you notice?— The width, depth, direction, and force of current (1 mile an hour "sluggish," 2 miles "swift," 3 miles "rapid," 6 miles "torrent"), bridges, fords (cavalry up to 4 feet 4 inches, infantry 3 feet, artillery 2 feet 6 inches).

\* What measures does a patrol take for its protection when marching in an enemy's country?— Always moves with an advanced file or two at 100 yards' distance ahead, and with flanking and rear files at 20 to 50 yards' distance.

\* What points should a position that you wish to defend possess?— It should afford good cover and view for the defenders, it should have open ground to the front over which the enemy must advance to attack, and it should have an open line of retreat to the rear. Water and, if possible, fuel should be obtainable.

What is a “loophole,” and what are its dimensions?— A hole made in a wall, or left in a small breastwork of sods or stones, through which a rifle can be fired by a man protected by the wall. It should be 10 inches wide on the inside and 3 inches outside.

What is a shelter pit?— A shallow hole dug out of the ground just large enough for a man to lie in. The earth dug out is piled up in front to give protection to his head and shoulders.

How do you take up and destroy a railway line?— Unscrew the bolts of the “fish” plate at each end of the rail and disconnect it. Prize it up with crowbars. Make a fire with sleepers and lay the rail across the fire. When red hot, bend and twist it.

What are outposts, and what are their duties?— They are parties of men posted round a force when it is halted, at different distances from it to give warning to the main body of the approach of an enemy, to prevent his scouts from obtaining information, to delay the enemy’s attack till the main body is ready for him, and to pick up information by sending out patrols.

What distance should a picquet be from its support?— 800 to 1,000 yards.

What distance should a vedette be from his picquet?— 300 to 600 yards.

What signs of the enemy should a vedette look out for and report?— By day—clouds of dust, glitter of arms. By night—lights, rumbling of wheels, jingling of accoutrements.

How does a double vedette report the approach of the enemy, and how a single vedette?— A double vedette sends one man in to the picquet to report. A single vedette circles his horse to the right for cavalry, left for infantry, figure of eight for a mixed force.

\* What points should be taken into consideration in selecting a position for a picquet?— It should if possible command the route by which the enemy will approach, and be in rear of the centre of its line of vedettes; it should be well concealed, but with open ground to its front, and with a clear line of retreat open to the rear.

What is an examining party?— A non-commissioned officer and four men with a vedette thrown out to the front. Posted on the road by which only strangers are to enter the line. Examines and gives or refuses permission to strangers to pass in.

Describe the steps taken by a party of six and a noncommissioned officer for pitching a bell tent?— After the tent bag has been opened and No. 1 of the squad has been dressed on to the spot where the pole is to be planted, he will drive a peg in to mark the place; No. 2 joins the parts of the pole, 3 and 4 distribute pegs, 5 and 6 unpack the tent. The non-commissioned officer sees that the door is uppermost to face the front, with fly fastened. No. 1 then places the end of the pole between his heels where it is to stand; No. 2 fits the cap on to the pole; 3, 4, 5, and 6 hold the red or guy ropes. When the order is given to “raise” tents, Nos. 1 and 2 raise the pole, No. 1 going inside to hold it steady. The remainder drive in pegs and fasten the ropes, commencing with the guy ropes.

## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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THURSDAY MORNING.

[*Under Squadron Commander.*]

Squadron proceeds in patrolling formation across country, or patrols are sent out along different roads, to collect and send in frequent information, such as their arrival at any town, river, railway.

Patrol leaders to send in sketches and reports on certain roads or positions, the detailed information for which is obtained by scouts sent out from their patrols.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

[*Questions on previous Lecture.*]

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What is a patrol?

In moving through an enemy's country, in what formation should a patrol march?

What is the object of marching in such open formation?

What is the "cross" formation?

How would a patrol of three men be disposed in marching on a road?

How does the patrol leader give his orders to the rest of the patrol when near the enemy by day? the same by night?

What particular points can patrols obtain information on which single scouts could not?

How is a wood examined by a patrol?

How is a village examined by a patrol?

What is the object of at once seizing the telegraph station and post office on entering a village?

What is the use of a guide taken from amongst the people of a country?

What class of man should you select for a guide?

Why should every man in the patrol particularly notice the peculiarities of the road as he marches along it?

What means may be used of assisting the memory for finding the way back?

How does a patrol march "secretly."?

Why should it avoid villages and people except when it wants to obtain information from them?

In what kind of place should a patrol halt for rest and feeding?

\* What precautions should be taken in occupying a place for a bivouac for the night?

What rallying place should be made known to the men when bivouacing, and why?

And why should a password and countersign be given out?

\* What orders will a patrol leader give to his patrol on bivouacing, with regard to a night attack by the enemy?

What are the main points for the men to observe in the case of a night attack?

What signs of the enemy should be looked for by day? by night?

\* What are the duties of a patrol on first finding the enemy?

\* What are its next duties if the enemy is halted? if on the move?

How does a patrol act with regard to enemy's patrols?

Why is the care of horses so important a duty when patrolling?

When should the horse be watered, and when not?

How are rubs on the horse's back treated?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Outposts."*]

*Object.*— Outposts are parties of men posted round a force when it is halted, and at some distance from it.

The object of these outposts is, 1st, to give warning to the main body of the approach of an enemy to attack it; 2nd, to prevent the enemy's reconnoiters from obtaining information with regard to the main body's force or position; 3rdly, to delay an enemy's attack so that the main body will have time to turn out in good order to resist it; 4thly, to obtain what information they can by means of patrols of the enemy's force, position, and intentions.

*Disposition of the different Parties.*— The distance at which the different parties of the outposts will be stationed from the main body, and the number of men they will comprise, will depend on the size of the main body, the nature of the country, and the strength and nearness of the enemy.

But in most cases the number and general arrangement of the parties will be the same, though the parties themselves will be weak or strong, and posted near or far, as circumstances require.

The outpost parties are of three kinds:

1. The Reserve.
2. The Supports.
3. The Picquets.

The *Reserve* is posted nearest to the main body, and about a mile from it. In strength it consists of from one-third to one-half of the men told off for outposts. Its duties are to assist the supports.

The *Supports* are smaller bodies posted to the front of the Reserve, whose duty it is to support the picquets. Each support, as a rule, has two or three picquets to look after. In strength it will be equal to that of its picquets put together. It would be posted at a distance of from 800 to 1,000 yards from the reserve.

The *Picquets* are posted in the best positions for checking the enemy's attempts at reconnoitring or approaching in force, about 800 to 1,000 yards in front of the supports. They find vedettes, or pairs of mounted sentries, who, posted in a line out to the front; keep on the look-out, and give warning of every movement of the enemy. The picquets also send out patrols to examine the ground, and to gain information as to the enemy's force, position, movements, &c.

[Sketch disposition on the blackboard.]

This disposition of the outposts would be employed by all large bodies of troops; but a smaller body, such as a regiment, need not send out a reserve. It will act as reserve itself, and send out a squadron to form picquets.

And in the case of a squadron placing outposts for its own protection only, a guard only will be told off, with a few vedettes out.

*Posting Outposts.*— When a force halts after a march to camp or bivouac, the advanced guard, rear guard, and flanking guards at once take up positions for watching the country round, and guarding against surprise by the enemy. Thus, at first, they form the outposts. Fresh troops are, however, then told off from the main body to come and relieve them, and these are posted in selected positions chosen out according

to the nature of the country as being best for purposes of observation, cover, and defence; such as the crest of a ridge, the banks of a river, important roads, &c.

*Picquet.*— The picquets are the most important parties of the whole of the outposts, because they furnish the vedettes, patrols, and detached parties that are in immediate contact with the enemy, and they themselves are in the front line, and are the first to receive any attack of the enemy.

*Strength.*— The strength of the picquet depends on the number of vedettes it has to find; and the number of vedettes depends on the nature of the ground and state of the weather. But a picquet must have six men for every double vedette, and three men for every dismounted sentry, and three or four extra men for patrolling. As a general rule twenty-five to thirty men are sufficient for a picquet, so that if three double vedettes had to be found, eighteen men would be told off for them and their reliefs, three men for dismounted sentry, that comes to twenty-one men, and the remaining four to nine men would be available for patrols, examining parties, detached posts, and orderlies.

Picquets are numbered consecutively from the right of the line, as “No. 1 picquet,” “No. 2,” and so on.

When the picquets are sent out to take up their places they all move out at the same time, and with scouts thrown out to the front and flanks. These scouts remain out in front after the picquet has halted until the vedettes are posted, when they return to the picquet.

*Position.*— Each picquet should be posted in a position commanding the route by which the enemy would be likely to advance to attack, and in the rear of the centre of the line of its vedettes. It should be well concealed, but with open ground to its front, so that the enemy approaching it would not see the picquet while it could see him and be able to fire or charge into him unexpectedly, as seemed best.

A picquet should for purposes of concealment be hidden behind a clump of trees, a hill, or in a hollow of the ground or behind a village; but it should not occupy any place that it would have the slightest difficulty in getting out of. Nor should it be posted in front of bridge or other defile, as if driven back it will not be able to retreat in good fighting order. If a bridge has to be held, the picquet should be posted 50 to 100 yards in rear of it, so that it can fire on the enemy when he is moving over it in column and can attack him as he comes out on to the open and before he can form up to receive the attack. Each picquet should have free communication with, and should know the positions of, the picquets on each side of it, and the support in rear.

*Duties.*— Only one-third of the picquet may be unprepared for action at the same time,—never more than this. Two-thirds of the men and horses must be ready to turn out at once. Cooking, eating, watering, and feeding may only be done by one-third of the picquet at a time.

No compliments need be paid by a picquet. If a superior officer visits the posts, the officer in charge merely reports to him.

The horses are never to be unsaddled. Girths may be slackened, saddles shifted, and backs examined, but only of a few horses at a time.

The bits should only be taken off while the horses are being watered and fed. The men must keep their swords and belts either on their persons or securely fixed on to their saddles, as in the event of a sudden turn-out they are difficult to put on in the confusion.

If possible a fire should not be used by the picquet, particularly at night, as it will often betray its position to the enemy. When a fire is found to be necessary it should be concealed as much as possible. The men of the picquet may be allowed to smoke so long as they are not on duty as vedettes or patrols.

No loud talking, laughing, or singing is to be allowed; and country people and strangers are not to be permitted to come near the picquet or converse with the men, as they may be spies searching for information. No man may go away from the picquet without orders. Only a very few men at a time should be allowed away to fetch water, forage, &c.

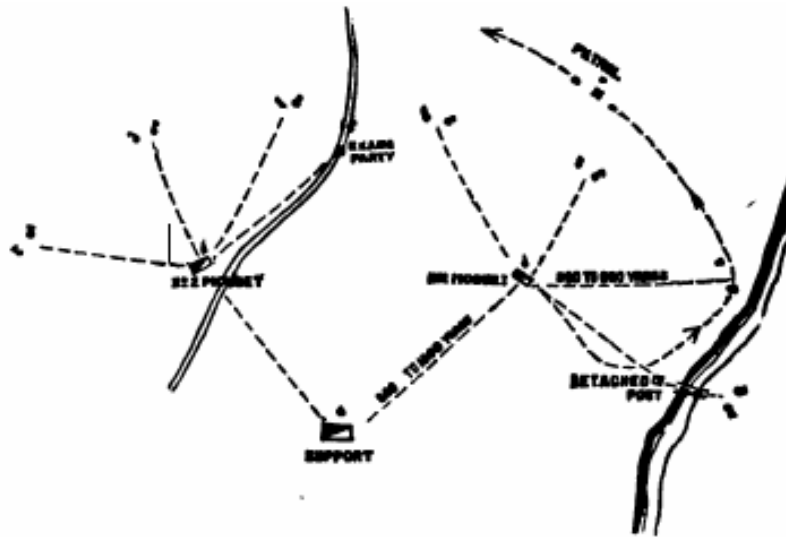


Every man should know the general position of the enemy and his outposts. He should also know where each of the vedettes of his picquet are posted, and the position of the neighbouring picquets and of the support.

Each picquet should have two signallers attached to it, if possible. These men will be posted in some position where they can see the signallers of the support, and also if possible those of the neighbouring picquets, but where their signals would not be visible to the enemy. They can by communicating orders and information relieve their comrades and the horses from a large amount of communicating patrol and orderly work, and leave them available for patrolling the more efficiently out to the front.

The picquet must be ready at a moment's notice to go to the support of its vedettes, or to hold its position against any attack of the enemy. To render this more easy the position occupied by the picquet should be placed in a state of defence as far as circumstances will allow; for instance, erecting obstacles such as "abattis," felled trees, &c., across the enemy's probable line of advance. And in devising an organized system of defence that should be carried out directly the enemy appears. If every man knows what he is to do when the picquet is attacked there will be no confusion, and consequently the defence will be carried out all the more efficiently.

*Posting Vedettes.*— When the picquet, in first being posted, arrives at the spot it is to occupy, the officer commanding forms it up in line; he then removes all unsteady, neighing, and grey horses from the right, as well as any deaf, stupid or short-sighted men or non-commissioned officers in the ranks, and places them on the left of the picquet.



**TWO SQUADRONS DISPOSED AS OUTPOSTS.**

He then tells off from the right, "Nos. 1 to 3 front and rear rank, vedettes," "Nos. 4 to 6, First Relief," "Nos. 7 to 9, Second Relief," "No. 11 and his coverer, and No. 12 of the front rank, dismounted sentry and reliefs." The remainder patrols, detached posts, and orderlies. The officer then moves out to the front with the first six men for vedettes, leaving the remainder, under the next senior officer or non-commissioned officer, mounted and ready for orders.

He will ride to the nearest hill in front of his picquet, and from there will see what will be the best general line along which to post his vedettes, so that they will be able to see the enemy and each other, and will be concealed from the enemy though visible to the picquet.

He first posts the centre vedette. Then takes two men and posts them as the right vedette, and returns to the centre, picks up the remaining two men and moves them to the left and there posts them as the left

vedette. The right and left vedettes will be posted so that they can see the vedettes of the next picquet on their outward hands. He then returns to the picquet, dismounts it, posts the dismounted sentry, tells off patrols, &c., and arranges the defences of his post.

*Vedettes* are mounted sentries, and are generally posted in pairs. They are posted in positions which either give them a good view of the neighbouring country or of some particular spot that is to be watched, such as a bridge, road, &c. They should not, if it can be avoided, be posted near running water, a mill, or trees that whistle much with the wind, as at night the noise which might be the only warning given by the enemy of his approach would probably be drowned by these nearer noises.

In daytime a vedette should be posted on a rising ground, though not upon the top of it. He should stand behind it near enough just to see over the crest. On a sunny day, if he stands in the shade of a tree (not necessarily on the side of it away from the enemy), he will be very hard to see, or behind a closed gate through which he can see, but does not appear very distinctly.

At night the position of the vedettes would be changed; they will be brought in nearer to the picquet and posted on lower ground so that they can see anybody coming over the high ground against the sky.

A vedette is posted from 300 to 600 yards to the front of its picquet, and if possible in sight of the dismounted sentry on the picquet. If this cannot be arranged owing to trees, buildings, &c., intervening, another vedette or a detached post is placed between vedette and the picquet in a place where he can be seen by both—to repeat all signals. The men of a double vedette are posted from 20 to 30 yards apart, so that they can communicate, but not get talking together, and if necessary one can go into the picquet to report anything very important while the other continues to watch. They stand with their horses facing at an angle away from each other, so that the right hand man looks over the country from the next vedette on his right to some spot straight out to the front of his own post; the left hand man watches the country between the next vedette on his left and the same spot opposite his post that is the limit of his comrade's watch.

A man can only watch *thoroughly* for any length of time as much ground as he can see without having to turn his head about.

Vedettes should have their carbines drawn and loaded, and kept at the advance. They pay no compliments to officers approaching their post, which means they do not carry arms, nor turn their horses round to face the officer. When on outpost duty, but especially when a vedette, you should know the general position of the outposts of your own force and particularly of the vedettes and picquets next you on each side. In stormy or cold and windy weather horses are very much inclined to edge round until they have got their quarters to the wind; to ensure your not missing the proper direction in which to look under these circumstances, it is a good thing to make a mark in the ground, or plant two sticks in line, or notice two objects, aligned in the direction in which your horse's head should be kept. Take care that you are watching the country up to the point to the front of your post, where your comrade leaves off watching.

Every smallest sign of the enemy must be looked and listened for, such as clouds of dust, glitter of arms, rumble of wheels, distant firing, &c. They should be reported as soon as noticed. If anything suspicious occurs near the post of a double vedette, and neither man can make it out from where he stands, one should go forward and find out about it while the other remains in his proper place. Both men should never leave the post at the same time, and a single vedette should never move, even temporarily, from his post without orders. Vedettes need not challenge patrols, reliefs, or officers whom they know belong to their own side, and in challenging strangers they should do so clearly, but not so loudly as to betray their position to any of the enemy's scouts who may be lurking about.

A stranger should, after being challenged, be sent to the nearest examining post, or kept till a patrol comes round. Vedettes must report at once when the enemy appears; in the case of double vedettes this is done by one man riding into the picquet. If it is a single vedette who sees the enemy he will signal the fact by circling his horse, to the right to show cavalry, to the left infantry, and a figure of eight for a mixed force. If the enemy is coming on fast or in force he will increase his pace. If a single vedette wants to

repeat anything he holds up his helmet or busby on his carbine, when the officer or non-commissioned officer from the picquet will ride out to him. If the enemy comes suddenly on a vedette he must fire a shot to warn the other vedettes and then retire as slowly as he can under the circumstances towards the rear of his picquet. He must never shoot at enemy's scouts, &c., merely to drive them away.

Only those vedettes that are actually driven back by the enemy should retire, all others should remain at their posts until orders are given for the whole line to retire, or they find that they are being cut off. But as a rule the line of vedettes would be strengthened from the picquets and supports when the enemy approached, and would only retire slowly before him, as a line of skirmishers.

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FRIDAY MORNING.

*[Under Squadron Commander.]*

The squadron advances to a position for outposts with coverers thrown out. Is told off into two picquets, each finding three double vedettes, and posted picquets strengthen their position; receive instruction in their duties, and orders in case of attack, from officers commanding. Vedettes are likewise instructed in their duties, general and particular. Men questioned in their orders by the squadron commander, who takes the officers and non-commissioned officers round with him, pointing out advantages or defects of the positions taken up as he goes.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

What are the outposts?

What are they for? (Four objects.)

What are the parties of which a group of outposts is made up?

\* What is the position and strength of the reserve?

\* What is the position and strength of the support?

\* Why are the picquets the most important parties of the outposts?

\* How are the duties of outposts carried out temporarily on first arrival of a force at its halting place after a march?

\* What points are taken into consideration in selecting the position for the outposts?

\* How is the strength of a picquet regulated?

Supposing you were told to go with a message to "No. 3 picquet," where would you look for it?

\* What points should a position for a picquet possess?

How many men or horses may be unprepared for immediate action at a time?

Are the saddles to be taken off the horses of a picquet? Why not?

What are the orders about smoking on picquet?

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What is the object of putting up obstacles, &c., round the position occupied by the picquet?

\* How do you proceed to tell off a picquet for vedettes, reliefs, &c.?

What is a “vedette”?

Should a vedette keep concealed when on his post? How?

Should he be able to see the vedettes on each side of him? Why?

What precaution should he take in stormy weather to ensure his horse looking in the proper direction?

What signs of the enemy may be looked for by day? by night?

What are the rules for a vedette about challenging patrols, reliefs, and strangers approaching his post?

How does a vedette signal the enemy approaching?

If a vedette holds up his head-dress on his carbine, what does the signal mean?

When only may a vedette fire a shot?

If a vedette sees the vedettes on his flank retiring, should he therefore retire too?

In what position do the two men of a double vedette stand with regard to each other? and why?

What extent of country should each man of a double vedette watch?

What is a good position for a vedette by day? and why?

What by night? and why?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander on “Outposts.”*]

Yesterday I explained to you the general arrangement and uses of outposts, but there are still some farther details to be pointed out with regard to them. In the first place I told you that the actual watching of the enemy is done by the vedettes, who are posted in the best positions for that purpose.

*Picquet Patrols.*— But it may happen from the nature of the country that a good position for a vedette cannot be found, where he can see far such as in a forest, or amongst a number of wooded ravines, high edges, &c., and more particularly at night, and in misty or thick weather. On such occasions the work of finding out the enemy, and giving warning of his movements, will be done by patrols sent out from the picquets, though the vedettes will be posted just the same to give warning of the close approach of the enemy.

Picquet patrols are generally made up of two men under a non-commissioned officer or trained scout.

If the men in a patrol are plucky and intelligent, and carry out their duty thoroughly, they can be of the very greatest use to the officer commanding the outposts. But a patrol should not go out with the sole idea of getting over its tour of duty as quickly as possible; it should carry out its assigned work carefully and thoroughly.

A patrol’s duties would be either—

1. To visit its own vedettes, or the neighbouring picquets, or the support, to see if all is well with them, and that no enemy has got into the ground between them.
2. To move out to the front of the line of vedettes, and examine the country and the enemy’s outposts if they are there.

It is usual, however, for a patrol to combine these duties by going out from one flank of the line of its vedettes and examining the country across the front, returning to the other flank of the vedettes, and then proceeding along them, or *vice versâ*. During their beat, nothing, however trifling, should escape their notice. Trained scouts, if they are available, and the most intelligent men should be employed on this duty.

Patrols should not always go out by the same path, nor should they start at regular hours on their rounds, as a watchful enemy would soon get to know their movements, and will time his own accordingly, and probably lay an ambush to capture the patrol.

A patrol should always move slowly, noting everything as it goes, and as silently and secretly as possible. Keeping along under cover of hedges, hollow roads, &c. Accoutrements, such as sword rings, must be fastened or bound with rags, straw, &c. to prevent their rattling; all polished articles should be dulled so as not to glitter in the sun; the horses should be walked on soft ground as much as possible, or their feet wrapped in cloth, or sheepskin boots.

The men should not talk nor smoke.

They should march with drawn swords or lances at the trail, and in the extended patrol formation, that is, with one advanced file at 50 to 100 yards ahead, and the remainder distributed as flanking and rear files according to their number, the non-commissioned officer always marching in the centre.

This formation is used to ensure the whole party not being cut off by the enemy, and to ensure the country passed over being more thoroughly examined than would be the case if all rode together, where the saying "What is everybody's business is nobody's business" would probably come true, whereas, if each man is working on his own line he is bound to keep a look-out, and notice the ground, &c., in his direction. If a patrol or party of the enemy is met with it should not be attacked. A patrol can do much more in the way of picking up information by keeping quiet and unnoticed, than by pushing its way by force, and so attracting attention of stronger parties. A patrol should only fight when surrounded or cut off by the enemy, and then only if there is no other way of escape open to it. Men on patrol at night should notice their horses' behaviour, as a horse will often smell other horses and people, and will prick up his ears, and, probably, if let alone, will walk towards them. In the Russian army they have tried dogs on outpost duty, which are posted with the vedettes, and trained to growl when any enemy approaches.

Patrols may often have to proceed some miles away from their line of outposts, so that each man should particularly notice the road and such marks and features near it as will enable him to find his way back if necessary.

A patrol should never be deterred by any difficulty or danger from attempting to gain information. It should delight in carrying out its work in a good and successful manner in the face of the greatest difficulties and dangers. If even only one man of a patrol succeeds in getting alive with the information obtained, the object of the patrol has been gained. Lord Wolseley says, that "no British cavalry soldier should be taken prisoner as long as he and his horse are unwounded."

*Detached Post.*— It may often happen that a vedette will be required rather out of the general line of vedettes, and at a distance of over 800 yards from the picquet. In this case a small party is stationed 200 to 300 yards in rear of it. This party is called a "detached post," and usually consists of the two reliefs to the vedette under a non-commissioned officer or good soldier.

A detached post must be always ready to act at a moment's notice; the horses should not be unbridled, and though it is not always necessary to post a dismounted sentry, yet one of the party should always be watching the vedettes to see at once when they make any signals. The men should be told off to do this in turn, relieving each other at short intervals of half-an-hour or so.

*Examining Party.*— Another kind of party that will generally be employed by outposts is an "examining party." This consists of a non-commissioned officer and four men, who are the reliefs of a vedette posted to their front.

When the outposts have been posted, a road or path leading from the front through the line of vedettes will be selected as one by which alone all strangers will be allowed to pass into the line, so that when any stranger comes to a vedette, and says he wants to enter the line, the vedette will not allow him to do so at his post, but will direct him where to find this road. On reaching the road the stranger will find the vedette of the examining party. This vedette will ask him where he wants to go, and takes him to the examining

party, which is posted on the road about 150 yards farther back. The non-commissioned officer in charge of the examining party then questions the stranger as to his starting-place and destination, his business, &c. If the man's answers are satisfactory he may be allowed to pass; if there is any doubt about his character he should be detained at the post while a report is sent to the support about him. The greatest care must be taken by the examining non-commissioned officer in not admitting spies to the lines. Women are frequently employed as spies and pedlars, fruit sellers, &c.

If a number of people come to the vedette at the same time asking to be passed in, they should be ordered to halt at some distance, and only be allowed to approach one by one, and sent to the examining party one by one.

The examining party will also closely examine all people passing out, and will not allow them to do so under any excuse unless they can show passes signed by the officer commanding the force.

If a deserter or messenger from the enemy comes to the examining party, a report will be sent in to the officer in command of the picquet or support, the man being detained at the post in the meantime.

The men of the party must not be allowed to converse with any person detained in this way, as in the course of conversation they might let slip some important information to a man who is perhaps after all a spy. When the officer of the support sends back to say a deserter or messenger may be passed in, the man should be blindfolded and led in by a roundabout way to the support.

*Position by Night or in Foggy Weather.*— At night or in foggy weather the positions of picquets and vedettes will be changed from those which they held in the daytime. The vedettes will be brought in closer to the picquets, as their signals would not be seen by the dismounted sentry, and one of the vedette would have to ride in with information of anything unusual. The vedettes, instead of being posted on high ground as in the daytime, would be stationed on roads and paths, and on low ground. This would be done because if the enemy wanted to attack in the night he would be sure to approach by roads or paths, otherwise he would lose his way; and at night a man posted in low-lying ground behind a hill is in deep darkness himself, but can see any one coming over the brow of the rising ground looming up against the sky and stars. For this reason it will often be a good thing for one man of a vedette to dismount to watch a certain point, and to be able to hear the steps of an enemy approaching by placing his ear to the ground.

The picquets at night will also be posted close to roads, so that they will be in position to check the enemy's advance, or if they are required to move forward or to retire; the road will be handy for their movement.

Patrols will be the real safeguard of the outposts, and will be sent out very frequently during the whole night.

*Relief of Outposts.*— At dawn the picquets and vedettes will be relieved. The relief is carried out at that time because it would as a rule be the hour at which an enemy would commence an attack on the outposts, and on coming up to do so he would find not only the old outposts there but the fresh ones just coming on duty, and the whole lot particularly on the alert, mounted, and ready to move.

In relieving a picquet, the new one forms up on the flank of the old one. Both carry swords or lances. The officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of the old picquet tells the commander of the new picquet what vedettes, sentries, detached posts, &c., he has to find. These with their reliefs are then told off in the new picquet. A patrol made up from both picquets will explore the front of the position while the vedettes are being relieved, the men of the old patrol pointing out useful landmarks and other items to those of the new one. Officers or non-commissioned officers from both picquets go round with reliefs to the vedettes. The vedettes coming off duty, giving over their orders and all information to those coming on. For every vedette while on his post should have gathered some further information since he was posted that he can hand over to his successor, such as, for instance, a cloud of dust rising near the enemy's camp moving in a certain direction, and returning soon after at certain hours of the day, showing when and where his horses go to water, &c.

When the vedettes have been changed, the dismounted sentries will be relieved, those coming off mounting at once and taking their places in the ranks.

After the commander of the old picquet has given over all information he possesses about his post and explained his plan of defence of his picquet to the relieving officer or non-commissioned officer, he will march his party away, and the new picquet will move on to its ground and dismount.

*Collision with the Enemy.*— The outposts, and particularly patrols, should avoid fighting the enemy on ordinary occasions as much as they can. It is no good going and attacking the enemy's picquets with a patrol, or firing away at his patrols without good cause, as such action only leads to the supports being sent up to help, and the reserves moving up more supports, thus causing a lot of bother for no adequate reason. The main object of outposts is to give the force that they are guarding plenty of rest, with the consciousness of being well guarded while it takes it. Whereas, if the outposts are continually getting up little skirmishes, and thus occasioning false alarms, the main body will be continually getting under arms to no purpose.

When, however, the enemy does make an attack, the outposts must set to and do their best to delay him and check him, thus giving the main body plenty of time to turn out and make ready to receive him.

The picquets will in open country reinforce their line of vedettes with men extended to divide the distances between them, and thus form a line of skirmishers, who will hold the enemy in check as long as possible, and when compelled to retire will do so slowly, dismounting frequently and firing a shot or two as they go. The supports will move up and dispose themselves as supports to the skirmishers.

In close country the picquets will occupy and hold every good position they can find, only retiring slowly, when forced to do so, and then by alternate picquets.

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SATURDAY MORNING.

*[Examination by Squadron and Troop Commanders in the instruction of the previous week.]*

FOURTH WEEK.

MONDAY MORNING.

*[Under Squadron Commander carry out Instructions of previous Lecture in the Field.]*

Squadron again to be disposed in outposts, complete with detached posts, signallers, examining parties, and patrols, &c. Outposts to be relieved by the supporting troop.

Plans and preparations should be made for defence of their posts by officers or non-commissioned officers commanding picquets. Resistance to and retiring before an enemy to be practised, either by strengthening vedettes into a line of skirmishers, or by picquets retiring in communication with each other alternately, and with skirmishers thrown out between them to keep up communication.

The same might be practised by night.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions on Friday's Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

In what conditions of weather or country does the use of vedettes become very limited?

How is the work of gaining intelligence carried out under these circumstances?

How many men are sufficient to form an ordinary picquet patrol?

What two kinds of duties may fall to a patrol?

Why should patrols not always go by the same path, nor start at certain fixed hours on their rounds?

Why should a patrol move slowly?

What measures should be taken for enabling a patrol to move secretly?

In what formation should a patrol move? and why?

How can his horse assist a man patrolling?

Why should each man of a patrol notice the ground and surroundings of the route as he goes along?

What is a "detached post," and how composed?

\* Where is an "examining party" posted, and how is it composed?

\* What are its duties?

If you are a vedette to an examining party, and a stranger comes and asks to be passed into the lines, what do you do?

If a crowd of people present themselves what do you do?

What precautions are taken with a deserter or messenger from the enemy?

Why are such precautions necessary?

What class of people are often spies?

What change is made in the position of vedettes at night? and why?

Is any change made in their position on a foggy day?

What alteration is made in the position of a picquet at night? and why?

When is the relief of the outposts carried out? and why then?



\* How is the relief of a picquet carried out?

What patrol is employed during the relief, and for what purpose?

\* Should you, when patrolling, make an attack on an enemy's picquet if you get a chance? Why not?

In the case of a real attack by a large force of the enemy—why should the outposts do their best to hold him in check although they know they will be driven in?

Should the vedettes retreat to the picquet when the enemy advances in open country? Why not?

\* How does a picquet resist the enemy in open country?

\* How in close country?

[*Lecture by Squadron Commander on "Camping."*]

Camps are formed of huts or tents or rough shelters of brushwood, blankets, &c.

*Standing Camp.*— Those formed of huts are generally employed when the troops are likely to be stationed on the spot for a long time, as in the case of a force besieging a town, or of forming a dépôt on line of communications. This kind of camp would be called a "standing camp."

*Field Camp.*— An ordinary field camp, such as used by troops campaigning or marching with their baggage, is formed of tents.

*Bivouac.*— Troops acting on lightly-equipped flying columns where no baggage is taken, or on temporary detached duties, live in "bivouacs," in which they only make use of such materials for their shelter as they can lay hands on on the spot.

*Site for a Camp.*— In selecting a spot on which to camp, these points would be taken into consideration. It should be in good position for defence, not too exposed to wind and rain. Water, fuel, and forage should be obtainable close to it. The soil should be dry, such as gravel or sand, and for this reason the side or top of a hill is to be preferred to ground at its base, which will probably become soppy with a little rain. Grass is always healthy to camp on. Newly ploughed ground, dead leaves, &c., should not be camped on as they are unhealthy.

*Arrival on Camping Ground.*— When the regiment arrives at the place where it intends to camp, with a "field" camp, it will form up in column of troops, and each troop will be ordered to file into its lines and form up at one foot interval from knee to knee. The men will then dismount with carbines, as they stand, without any reining back. The horses will then be linked facing the tent lines. The men will take off their belts, and strip their saddles, and lay the whole kit, rolled up, between the horses' lines and the lines where the tents will be pitched. The head pegs will then be driven in, or, if picketing to a single line, the head-ropes will be made fast to it, 4 feet apart. The horses will then be unbitted. The following parties will be told off:—

Three men per troop for stable ground.

Two men per troop for cooks.

One non-commissioned officer and two men per troop to draw rations.

Another similar party for forage.

Defaulters, under provost to dig latrines.

One non-commissioned officer and two men to get and cut wood.

One non-commissioned officer and two men, water party.

One non-commissioned officer and six men for every tent to be pitched.

*Pitching Tents.*—Each tent-pitching party draws its tent, and brings it to the lines. No. 1 of each party is the pole man. The pole men will be dressed in a line opposite the horses' heads, and at 8 yards from them, at about 16 paces apart. When dressed, No. 1 will drive in a peg to mark the spot. The tent will be

unpacked. No. 2 joins the two pieces of the pole and hands them to No. 1. Nos. 3 and 4 place the pegs round on the ground. Nos. 5 and 6 lay out the tent, door upwards facing towards the horses.

Then No. 1 places the end of the pole between his heels at the spot marked by the peg as the position for the pole. No. 2 places the cap on the pole. Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 get hold of the guy or red ropes, and station themselves for holding it up when raised. When the order is given to "raise," Nos. 1 and 2 hoist the pole, No. 1 getting inside the tent to do so. Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 then drive in the pegs, 5 yards from the pole, and make fast the guy ropes, and then drive in the remainder of the pegs, and make fast all the ropes. The noncommissioned officer in charge is responsible for each man carrying out his portion of the work correctly and promptly, and also particularly for the door of the tent being made to face exactly in the proper direction, and the tent being so pitched that the door can be shut if necessary. This latter point is ensured by having the fly hooked shut when the tent is being pitched.

Or, if only a few men are available for pitching tents, two men per tent instead of six may be detailed. In this case No. 1 is pole man and No. 2 tent man. No. 1 has the pole in his left hand, and a mallet and five pegs in his right when dressed on to the spot which his tent is to occupy. No. 2 is five paces in rear of him with the tent. No. 1 will then drive in a peg to mark the spot where the pole is to stand, laying the pole down to his front in doing so; he will then take  $3\frac{1}{2}$  paces to his front, towards the horse lines, and drive in a "front" peg there. Then returning to the centre peg will pace  $3\frac{1}{2}$  steps to the rear, and there plant the rear peg, and in the same manner plant pegs to the right and left. No. 2 during this time will take the tent out of its bag, and will spread it on the ground, door upwards, and top to the rear, unroll the ropes and unhook the door; and will then distribute the pegs on the ground about where they will be planted. Each man will then take the second rope from the door on each side of it, and draw the tent to the ground it is to occupy. They make these two ropes fast, at full length, to the "front" peg; they then take the fourth rope from the former ones, on each side of the tent, and attach them at full length to the two side pegs. No. 2 will then take the fifth rope from the last he fastened and attach it to the rear peg, No. 1 meanwhile taking the pole, but end to the front, and fitting the top of it into the cap of the tent, which No. 2 drives on with the mallet. No. 1, getting in under the door, will then raise the pole by hauling the butt end in under the tent and raising the point, till the pole is upright. He will then double out and drive in more pegs, and fasten ropes to them. While the tent is being raised by No. 1, No. 2 should tighten up the five ropes already attached to the four pegs, and will then proceed to drive in more pegs, and fasten ropes till the whole are done, and the tent properly stretched. Each peg should be planted on the line of each seam of the tent.

In sandy soil, large stones or branches buried in the sand can be used instead of tent pegs, and a board or large stone placed under the foot of the pole. When the tents have been pitched, the men will return to the horses and unsaddle them when their backs are cool and take them to water, after which groom and feed them.

Drains should be cut round all the tents to keep the water that runs down the aides of the tents in a shower of rain from flooding the floor of the tent. A straight cut down should be made with the spade close to the curtain of the tent, all round. Then at a distance of a foot cut towards the curtain at about 10 inches below the surface, and lift out the spadeful of earth and place it on the ground just outside the trench. The curtain of the tent should then be down to the straight side of the trench, not to the floor of the tent, and in this way the drainings of the roof and sides of the tent will be led into the trench.

The ropes of a tent always shrink when they get damp from dew or rain; therefore at night they should be slackened up, otherwise the pegs will be dragged out or the pole broken. A simple way of doing this is to dig a shallow hole in the ground just alongside the foot of the pole. When it is necessary to slack the ropes the foot of the pole can be shifted into the hole, thereby slackening all the ropes at once. This is also a quick means of dropping a tent on the occasion of a night alarm. The men all clear out except the poleman, who pulls the foot of the pole towards the door along the ground and so brings the tent down.

The flies of the tent should be rolled up every morning to allow the air to circulate in the tent. If the day is stormy the fly need only be rolled upon the leeward side of the tent, *i.e.*, the side away from the wind.

Beds should never be made of grass or leaves, they are unhealthy. Straw mats are good things to lie on in tents and are easily made: the straw should be twisted into ropes. Two rows of tent pegs are driven into the ground parallel to each other, and about 2 feet apart, and the ropes passed round the pegs to form the web. Other straw ropes are interlaced so as to form the roof. Each man should have two small mats, one for his shoulders, the other for his legs. Four men can make the mats for one tent in a day, two twisting ropes and two weaving.

When sleeping on the ground a hole should be scraped for the hip to rest in.

*Water Supply.*— The water for a camp is generally obtained from streams, ponds, or wells. The great thing is to keep the water as clean as possible for its different purposes. For this reason, when the supply for a camp is obtained from a stream, great care will be taken that part of the stream is set apart for obtaining drinking and cooking water from; all watering of animals, washing of clothes, and bathing must be carried on below and not above this point.

If the stream is shallow a hole should be dug and a barrel sunk in the bed of the stream into which buckets, &c., can be dipped without stirring up the mud. Such a stream should be deepened by damming up to form a watering place for horses or baggage animals, as they will drink more readily in water about 6 inches deep than they will where it is shallower.

The banks of a stream should be shelved away to form a watering place, and if the bottom is muddy, hurdles, brushwood, or stones may be put down to save the horses sinking in the mud.

*Camp Police.*— Camp police will be told off to stop all traffic along the front of or through the camp. Waggons and horses should only pass through the intervals between camps or proceed along the rear. A certain spot will be set apart for a market, and no dealers are to offer their wares for sale except at this place.

*Cooking.*— Eight men in every troop ought to know how to cook, how to cut up meat, and how to dig a kitchen.

When the regiment is only encamped for the night a cooking trench should be made for each troop measuring 6 feet long, 9 inches wide, 18 inches deep at the mouth, continuing this depth for 18 inches into the trench, and then gradually sloping up to 4 inches in depth at the back. The deep end should open out towards the wind, and a chimney 2 feet high, made of the sods cut out of the trench, will give a draught to the fire.

The troops are divided into messes and the number of men in a mess depends on the size of cooking kettle used. If the Flanders' kettle is used, eight men form a mess; if the Torrens' kettle, five men. A 6-foot trench will accommodate six Flanders' or nine Torrens' kettles.

The cooks should be accustomed to lighting fires, as it is not always an easy matter to accomplish on service. Small chips of dry wood should be used to start a fire with, which if necessary should be carried from one camp to the next for the purpose by the cooks. When the chips are lighted larger pieces should be gradually introduced into the fire until regular sticks and blocks take fire readily. The kettles should then be placed on the fires, and, within an hour, and never later than an hour and a half, afterwards the dinners should be ready.

If there is no time to dig a cooking trench, the kettles can be placed in two rows, about 10 inches apart, and the fire laid along and ignited between them, the heat thus getting at the contents of the kettles through their sides.

If the kitchen has to be made on damp ground a trench may be built up. Two walls of sods may be built parallel to each other about 2 feet high for Flanders, and 18 inches for Torrens' kettles. They should be 2 feet 6 inches apart, and 6 feet long. Sticks should be laid along the bottom of this trench, and the fire

lighted on the top of them. The kettles will be suspended across the trench by sticks put through their handles and rested on the wall at each side. This trench will accommodate 10 Flanders or 20 Torrens' kettles, and will cook for 100 men.

Two felled trees laid alongside each other will answer the purpose of the walls.

If the troops remain long in a camp the best kitchen to make is the "broad arrow." It is so called because it is formed by three trenches coming together in that shape, all joining at one chimney. This chimney is 5 feet high made of sods. The position of the trenches is first marked out with pegs. One is driven in to mark the spot for the centre of the chimney and a square of 3 feet is drawn round it for the base of the chimney. The main trench, 26 feet long and 9 inches wide, is they marked with a peg planted at 14 feet along it from the chimney. Two other trenches are marked out, of the same dimensions, converging the head of the centre trench with their outer ends 5 feet from the centre one. Each trench has a splay mouth 2 feet wide and 2 feet long. A transverse trench, 18 feet long and 2 feet wide and 21 inches deep, connects their outer ends. Each trench is 18 inches deep at the mouth, and continues at this depth for 18 inches inwards, when it commences to shelve upwards till it is only 6 inches deep at the flue. The flue is 14 feet long, 9 inches wide, and 6 inches deep. The flue is covered closely over with sods. The trenches will be covered with sods and clay. A "broad arrow" kitchen takes one non-commissioned officer and five men four hours to make.

*Field Oven.*— A very good oven may be made thus: Lay a barrel on its side with the end knocked out. Scoop out the ground a little to make a bed for it. Cover the barrel over with a coating of clay 6 or 8 inches thick except at the open end, and leaving a small opening of 6 inches in diameter at the top of the other end. Add another 6 inches of earth or sods over the clay. Make a flat floor inside the barrel, of clay. Light a fire on it and let it burn till the barrel is burnt away, and the clay covering has hardened into a good oven. Whenever it is required to heat the oven, a fire will be lighted inside it, and when there is sufficient heat the aperture at the far end is closed with a brick or sod, and the floor swept clean inside to make room for the loaves to be put. The front is then shut up with boards, sides of biscuits boxes, &c.

All long grass in the close neighbourhood of the kitchen should be cut down. A small pit in which to bury refuse should be dug near the kitchen.

*Striking Tents.*— To strike a bell tent with six men, No. 1 goes inside, No. 2 fastens the door shut, Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 pull up the pegs except the four angle doors. On the order to "strike" tents, No. 1 lowers the pole, putting the bottom of it towards the door, No. 2 takes the pole to pieces, and Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 fold the tent and pack it into the bag.

To fold the tent for packing, it should be spread out flat with cap to the rear and door upwards; the sides should then be folded to meet in the centre and again folded, and the tent is of the breadth equal to the depth of the bag. The tent will then be rolled carefully and closely from the cap to the bottom, and then dropped into its bag.

In striking a tent with only two men, they will take off all the ropes except the four angle ones from the pegs. No. 1 gets inside the tent, and on the command "Strike tents," runs the foot of the pole out at the door. No. 2 takes up all the pegs and puts them with the mallet into the peg bag. Both men then roll up all the ropes and tie them close to the canvas. They then roll and pack the tent as described above.

*Bivouacs.*— For a "bivouac" where the men have no tents, a spot should be selected if possible well sheltered from wind, and within reach of wood and water. If the spot is open and exposed the men must make temporary shelters for themselves. A ridge of earth or low wall, the trunk of a fallen tree, all will shelter a man, but he should be careful to select one which does not cause an eddy of wind under it. Two forked sticks may be planted in the ground with a pole resting on them, branches of bushes should be laid against this ridge pole, leaves downwards, and thickened with ferns, grass, &c., or a hurdle or blanket may be fastened to the ridge pole in the same way. Two blankets or waterproof sheets laced together laid over the ridge pole and pegged down to the ground on both sides make a very fair little tent. Men should club their blankets so that they can always have one to lie on and another to cover them.

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## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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The horses would as a rule be picketed in open column of squadrons or troops, and the men would sleep near their horses' heads.

In sleeping near a fire the men should lie in a circle round it, with their feet towards it.

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### TUESDAY MORNING.

Select and mark out site for a camp for a regiment of cavalry (Regulations for Encampments, para. 2). Pitch tents (paras. 11 and 15). Picket horses. Tell off wood, water, ration, forage parties, and stable guards (para. 10). Make a kitchen (para. 19). Arrange water supply (para. 17). Strike and pack up tents (para. 16). Prepare a bivouac (para. 14).

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

*[Questions by Squadron Commander on previous Lecture.]*

(\* Applicable to non-commissioned officers.)

How many kinds of camps are there?

What is a "standing" camp?

What is a "field" or "flying" camp?

What is a "bivouac"?

What points should be taken into consideration in choosing a spot for a camp?

Why is newly ploughed ground not to be camped on if it can be avoided?

\* What fatigue parties will be told off after arrival on your camping ground?

How does a party of six and a corporal pitch a bell tent?

How do two men pitch one?

Supposing the soil is all stones and rocks, and tent pegs cannot be driven into the ground, what substitute do you use for pegs?

And what in case of loose sandy ground?

How do you cut a drain round a tent?

Why must tent ropes be slackened when it rains?

Why should this be done at night whether it is raining or not?

How is a stream divided into different places for obtaining water?

How is a stream with steep banks and a muddy bottom made suitable for watering horses in?

What is the simplest trench kitchen? In what direction should it be dug?

If the ground is very wet, what kind of kitchen should be made?

How can the trunks of small trees be made into a kitchen?

What is a "broad arrow" kitchen?

How can a simple oven be made?

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\* How does a party of six men strike a bell tent?

How do two men do it?

\* What points should if possible be looked to in selecting a spot for a bivouac?

How would men and horses be formed in a bivouac?

What shelter can be made with branches of trees?

What shelter with two waterproof sheets and some poles?

*[Questions on the whole course of instruction of the past month.]*

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WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The squadron parades in marching order, with tents, camp equipment, uncooked rations, and forage. Hay in hay nets. March out some miles with reconnoitring patrols well out to the front, advanced and baggage guards posted.

Form camp or bivouac for the night.

Prepare the camp for defence, and give orders as to what action is to be taken in the event of an alarm.

Send out a party of scouts and sharp men to represent enemy's scouts or patrols reconnoitring, and let them try to get in as far as they can through the line of vedettes without being seen.

Practise an "alarm" during the night to see that men carry out their orders for the plan of defence.

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THURSDAY MORNING.

Relieve the outposts.

Breakfast.

Strike camp.

Imaginary attack of enemy on the outposts: the outposts to make a slow retirement.

The squadron will then march back to quarters with rear guard checking the enemy's advance, holding defiles, &c.

Sketches and reports of the road taken marching out, of that taken in returning, of the position of the camp, and of the outposts, to be sent in by troop commanders and noncommissioned officers, or scouts previously detailed to prepare them.

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## CAVALRY INSTRUCTION

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### FRIDAY MORNING.

The squadron parade in drill order for inspection by the commanding officer, in practice, in the field,  
of

Dismounted service.

Holding positions.

Pitching camp.

Outposts.

Skirmishing.

Field firing.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

*Vivâ voce examination of the squadron by the Commanding Officer in the subjects of the month's course. (See Appendix for examples of questions.)*

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### SATURDAY MORNING.

The squadron parades in review order for inspection by the commanding officer in—

Mounted drill.

Advanced and rear guards.

Field movements.

Escorts.

Marching past.