

APPENDICES.



APPENDIX A.

COLONEL JENYNS' NON-PIVOT DRILL.

HAVING applied to Colonel Jenyns, C.B., 13th Hussars, for the details of the system of drill in use in his regiment, he has kindly complied with my request, and his reply is inserted as follows:—

SYSTEM OF 'NON-PIVOT' DRILL AS ADAPTED TO THE PRESENT ENGLISH CAVALRY DRILL BOOK.

The drill laid down in the present 'Cavalry Regulations' is not altered in any respect as to the formation or 'telling off' of a Regiment, Squadron, Troop, or Division, with these exceptions:—

1. Troop leaders ride opposite the centre of their troop on *all* occasions.
2. Squadron markers (if any, and I consider them useless) and squadron serrefiles ride in rear of their leading troops when in column, thus leaving both flanks clear.
3. The dressing is to that flank on which the squadron leaders are posted, and they always follow the commanding

officer's movements in this respect, viz. if the regiment is advancing in column of troops, and the commanding officer shifts from the right to the left flank. The squadron leaders do the same, merely giving the caution (in a well-drilled regiment unnecessary), 'eyes left' or 'eyes right.'

Trumpet Sounds.

The only alteration necessary is the addition of one 'G,' or two 'Gs,' before the 'wheel into line;' one 'G' meaning 'right,' and two 'Gs' 'left wheel into line.'

Advantages of the Non-Pivot System.

The great advantages of the 'non-pivot' system are these :—

A regiment advancing or retiring in column of troops or squadrons can at once wheel into line to either flank.

All inverted manœuvres are totally unnecessary.

All reverse flank formations are also useless.

A regiment in column of squadrons at quarter-distance can reverse its front by simply wheeling the troops right or left about. A regiment in line, in order to face to its rear, need not countermarch on its centre, but simply wheel by troops right or left about, as this movement in retiring is almost as quick as 'fours about.' Officers are enabled always to be in *front*, whether advancing or retiring, and it is well known that many accidents have occurred in action, owing to the simple word of command (on the pivot system perhaps necessary), 'threes' or 'fours about,' when the men have perhaps only one or two officers, or non-commissioned officers as serrefiles to lead them.

In column, a regiment can form line to its front or rear, on the *right* or *left* of its leading or rear troop.

In quarter-distance or close column it is never necessary to advance to the front from the rear squadron in order to be left or right in front; the command is simply, 'advance in column of troops' from the 'right' or 'left' of the leading squadron (the same thing).

A detached squadron sent out to reconnoitre or skirmish can rally (when recalled) at *once*, either on the right or left of a regiment in line, or in rear of a column irrespective of the former position it held in line or column.

In fact a regiment can never be 'clubbed' as it is termed, and a commanding officer is enabled *at once* to form one or two lines to his front, rear, right, or left, whether the regiment is in line, quarter-distance, or open column.

The simple rules to remember are these:—

When in *line* the right squadron is the 'first,' the next the 'second,' and so on.

When in *column* the *leading* squadron is 'first,' the next the 'second,' and so on.

So that at any moment if a squadron is named 'first,' 'second,' 'third,' or 'fourth' (as squadrons never retain their same position in line), a squadron leader has merely to think where he stands at the moment, either from the right in line, or the front in column.

In forming close or quarter-distance column of squadrons, the squadrons on the left in line form in rear, and those on the right in front of the same squadron (unless otherwise ordered).

In deployments, the squadrons in rear of the named squadron form on the left, and those in front on the right of that squadron. The same rule applies to troops in open column formations.

In fact in column a regiment is always *supposed* to be right in front (according to the pivot drill system).

The present Field Movements according to the Non-pivot System.

Showing that all can be performed in the same way if necessary, but that very many, and those the most complicated, are totally useless.

The movements are laid down according to the order observed in the present 'Cavalry Regulations,' dated January 1, 1865.

Parade Movements, as at present laid down in the 'Cavalry Regulations.'

Remarks.

If, however, as is often the case, the ground is limited, after marching past by squadrons, instead of each squadron wheeling at D marker, the word may be given '*Troops* left wheel,' and the head of the column wheeling again immediately, the regiment can pass close to the rear of the band, however strong it is.

Also after ranking past by 'fours' or 'files,' and a close column has been formed, the word may be given, 'Take ground to the left in column of troops,' each squadron wheeling by troops to the left in succession from the first squadron.

Movements from Line.

No. 1. As at present, p. 162.

No. 2. As at present, or 'advance in column of troops from the right,' and 'right wheel into line.'

No. 3. As at present.

No. 4. As at present, or 'retire in column of troops from the left,' and 'left wheel into line.'

No. 5. As at present.

No. 6. Ditto.

No. 7. Ditto.

No. 8. Ditto.

No. 9. Ditto.

No. 10. Ditto.

No. 11. Ditto.

No. 12. Ditto.

No. 13. Ditto.

No. 14. Ditto.

No. 15. Ditto.

Here the caution 'right in front' is unnecessary.

No. 16. Useless and complicated. 'Troops right or left about wheel.'

No. 17. Useless and complicated. 'Troops right or left about wheel.'

No. 18. As at present: a line can however be formed to the right or left at once, by wheeling the squadrons, or to the rear on any squadron by 'troops right' or 'left about wheel.'

No. 19. As at present.

No. 20. Ditto.

No. 21. Ditto.

A regiment, however, if retiring by fours from the right or left, can front form line to its original rear (if such a thing should ever be necessary) equally as well as it could form line to its front when advancing.

Movements from Quarter-distance Column.

No. 1. As at present. If necessary 'deploy on the *right* of the leading squadron.'

No. 2. As at present. If necessary, 'deploy on the *left* of the third squadron.'

No. 3. As at present. But if necessary, a line in the same manner can be formed 'to the *right* on the third squadron,' or 'advance in column of troops from the *left*,' and 'left wheel into line.'

No. 4. As at present.

No. 5. Useless and complicated. If a close column, 'squadrons will countermarch,' if a quarter-distance column, 'troops right or left about wheel.'

No. 6. As at present. If in quarter-distance column, 'troops right or left about wheel' is simpler.

The Open Column.

No. 1. As at present, or '*right* wheel into line.'

No. 2. As at present, or 'line to the front,' 'to the *right* of the leading troop.'

No. 3. As at present, or 'line to the front on the *left* of the rear troop.'

No. 4. As at present.

No. 5. As at present, or 'line to the rear on the *right* of the leading troop,' or wheel the head of the column to the right, and when in column 'right wheel into line.'

No. 6. As at present, or 'line to the rear on the *left* of the rear troop'—or, 'troops right (or left about wheel' and 'line to the front on the right (or left) of leading troop.'

No. 7. As at present.

No. 8. Ditto.

No. 9. As at present.

No. 10. Unnecessary. 'Advance,' and 'right wheel into line.'

No. 11. Unnecessary. 'Advance,' and 'right wheel into line.'

No. 12. As at present, 'line to the front on the right of the leading troop,' or 'wheel the head of the column to the right,' and 'left wheel into line.'

No. 13. Unnecessary. 'Advance,' and 'left wheel into line.'

No. 14. Unnecessary. It does not signify which troop or squadron leads.

No. 15. As at present, or 'to the right of the leading troop.'

From Double Column.

No. 16. As at present, or, in a regiment of four squadrons 'two lines to the front,' two lines to the right or left (by each wing wheeling into line, *a most effective movement*), or troops 'right about wheel,' and one or two lines to the original rear.

No. 17. As at present, or if four squadrons, the left column passes on, and 'right wheel into line.'

Skirmishing.

The non-pivot system obviously gives great pliability in skirmishing. A flank or central squadron can be sent out, and if driven in, it can rally anywhere in the line without creating confusion.

Conclusion.

There are, as any Commanding officer drilling his regiment on the non-pivot system will find, very many useful formations from line and column, which can be immediately made, as circumstances require; both in the advance and retreat. A left *wing* of a regiment can support and pass through the right wing and immediately form one line to the left, or a supporting wing can form up either on the right or left of its leading wing.

In retiring from both flanks by column of troops after attacking, to allow guns to fire, or a supporting regiment to attack in succession (in a regiment of four squadrons), in order to reform the head of each wing merely wheels inwards, and the whole are wheeled into line by the commanding officer. Distances are thus ensured.

The great advantage is that it is almost impossible for a regiment drilling on the 'non-pivot' system to be taken on the flank, as it can *always* wheel and *act* to either flank *without confusion*, which is always the case if a regiment on the pivot system finds itself 'inverted.' What regiment was ever known in action in the moment previous to attack to attempt an inverted or reverse flank formation? or any of the complicated manœuvres in the drill book which by the 'non-pivot' system are rendered obsolete?

The antagonists of the 'non-pivot' system urge an objection that in some formations when troops are wheeled about (instead of, for instance, a line countermarching on its centre), the line will not *exactly* occupy the same ground. Of course it will not by the breadth of a troop.

But as all drill is only an instruction for the moment of action in the field; which, in the above instance, would

any cavalry officer prefer, when he finds it necessary to retire in line *under fire*? going 'threes about' or fours about'—a movement that has caused more disaster than any other?

Wheeling the troops about, thus retiring in line, officers leading?

Or, in order to preserve this exact mathematical distance, countermarching on the centre, which until the movement is completed, renders a regiment helpless, and *then* retiring with no way of fronting again to attack, perhaps an advancing enemy, without going through the same complicated operation?

Oh! say some, I would then at once wheel about and attack. Then, *why* not make it the usual drill?

What can be the use of movements (in these days of breechloading firearms with immense range) that take some minutes to execute, and when done leave you inverted, or, to those not drilled on the 'non-pivot' system, as good as 'clubbed'?

In these days, pace, quickness in formations, and pliability must be obtained in order to render cavalry efficient. Let the exactness required as to distances, &c., in order to instruct officers and men for parade movements, be enforced to the *greatest degree*, as without it men will never ride or drill decently; but it should not be carried too far in fighting manœuvres, it should never interfere with the far more requisite instruction of riding, quickness, and pliability in the field.

I know from experience that a regiment can march past and rank past as correctly and as exactly on the non-pivot as on the pivot system. In fact it can do every movement

laid down in the Cavalry Regulations, exactly as specified if necessary. But the 'non-pivot' system gives immense additional powers, and it only teaches officers and men to do what they must under some circumstances do in actual combat.

I have said to officers who adhere to the old system, Suppose you were, when in column, attacked or suddenly threatened on your reverse flank, what would you do?

'*Then*, of course, I should at once wheel into line to that hand.'

Then I say why not teach your men always to do so if necessary? Would it add to the men's confidence at the moment of attack to find themselves suddenly 'clubbed,' as they have always been taught to consider it? A contingency they have always been warned carefully to avoid.

Everyone that has been engaged in actual operations in the field when cavalry meet cavalry, knows that the instant opposing bodies *meet*, formations are at once destroyed, officers and men are personally engaged; the successful regiment pursues in all probability, and the great difficulty in all cavalry history has been to prevent success leading to ultimate disaster, from the difficulty of rallying in anything like order. With the non-pivot system as long as squadrons or even troops rally, it does not signify in what part of the line they form up. Men and officers get so accustomed to continually changing their place in column and line, that they know they are not 'clubbed' or in confusion wherever they may be placed, and it gives all ranks great confidence.