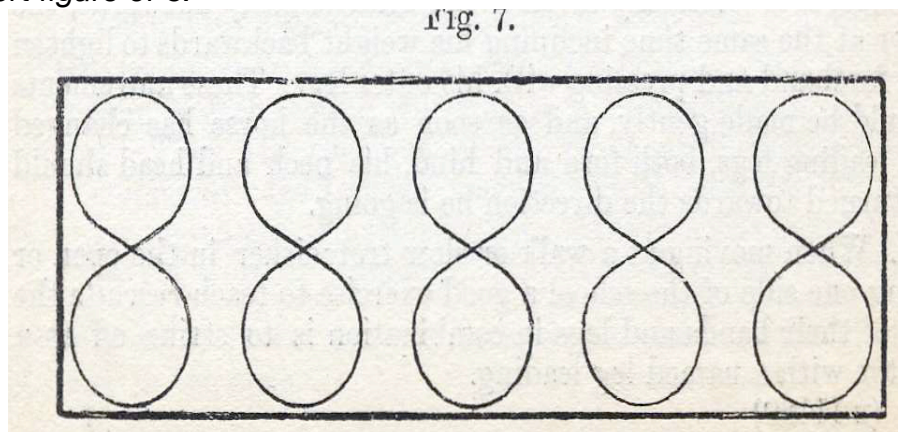


Continue Chapter IV - Part II ...

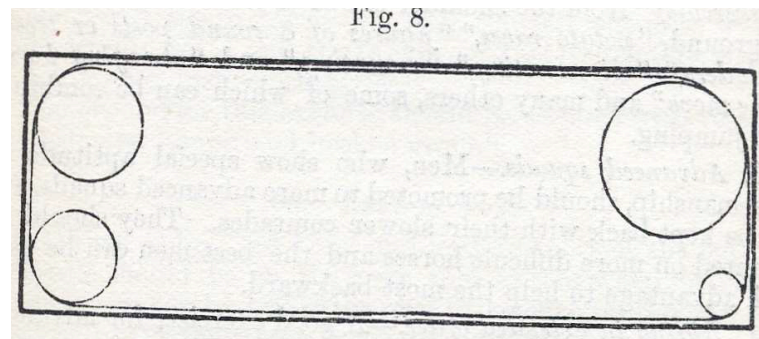
6. *The Short figure of 8.*



This figure can be done by eight or more men in line; if more than eight men, the circles can either overlap or be reduced in size.

The change of rein and leading leg is made as near the centre of the school or manege as possible.

7. *Circling of the Corners.*



The circles should be made first at a walk, and then at a trot, on both reins before being made at a canter. When cantering it should not be attempted to make the horse do a small circle till he is fairly perfect at a big one. The circle should be gradually reduced in size till the horse makes such a small figure that he almost turns about on his haunches. A horse should be able to do this small circle in every corner at a collected canter on both reins, but it is a difficult figure, and only a well-balanced animal will do it. The horse should be made to go right into the corner, and make almost a square turn of it, but care must be taken to prevent him making these turns on his fore hand.

8. *Ladies' Chain*. The leading file turns, about, and rides a slightly zig-zag course through the remainder of the ride, who will be eight or ten yards distant from each other, passing on their right and left hands alternately. When each man in succession has done this, the rear file, at increased pace, will zig-zag through the ride from the rear, and the remainder will follow in succession.

9. *Games on horseback*. Progress depends so much on the interest taken by the men, that games on horseback should be encouraged. Among the games which can be played are "*follow my leader*," "*throwing and catching balls*," "*wrestling on horseback*," "*jumping matches*," "*bending races*," "*plucking the handkerchief*" from the shoulder of one of their number or from the ground, "*potato races*," "*figures of 8 round posts or trees*," "*rounder*," "*dismounting*," "*mounting*," and "*changing horses on the move*" and many others, some of which can be combined with jumping.

10. *Advanced squads*. Men, who show special aptitude in horsemanship, should be promoted to more advanced squads, and not be kept back with their slower comrades. They should be mounted on more difficult horses and the best men can be used with advantage to help the most backward.

11. *Riding in extended order*. A good exercise, for advanced squads of men who can ride fairly well, is for three or four squads of eight men, led by their own instructors, to be grouped under an officer, who should work them together.

The officer can put them over jumps by squads, and can work them in close or extended order. Supposing he is working them at 3 yards interval, in a column of squads at 10 yards distance with No. 1 squad in front, by the word of command "No. 1 right-about turn," he can turn the squad in front about so that the men must ride their horses to meet the squads following, and passing between the files, or by increasing the pace of the rear squad he can make it overtake and ride through those in front. Such exercises can be varied to any extent.

12. *Pursuing exercise*. The following exercise will be carried out first at a trot and then at a gallop.

The instructor will prescribe boundaries within which the pursued man may ride; if he crosses beyond them to avoid the pursuer, the pursuit ceases in favour of the latter and both men return to the squad or troop.

The instructor designates two men, one as the pursued or No. 1, and the other as the pursuer or No. 2; he indicates a point towards which No. 1 will march until the pursuit is ordered. The instructor commands "*Move out*". No. 1 leaves the squad and marches at a walk in the direction indicated, followed by No. 2 at a distance of about 15 yards. At any times after they have moved off and before reaching the designated point, the instructor commands "PURSUE - TROT OR GALLOP".

No. 2 will try to touch No. 1 on the left shoulder with his right hand. No. 1 will try to prevent this by turning, circling, bending over, dismounting, &c.

The ground for this exercise should be selected with reference to obstacles, jumps, and broken ground.

59. *Leading horses.*

1. When riding one horse and leading another, the led horse as a rule should be on the near side, so that when meeting or being overtaken by traffic the man by keeping on the left of the road will have the ridden horse between the led horse and the traffic. The men should be taught to lead on the off as well as on the near side.

When leading two horses on should be on each side.

When leading three horses one should be on the near side and two on the off side. Of the latter, the outer one should be securely tied by the reins or head rope to the head collar of the inner horse.

2. If the led horse is fresh, the bridoon or check-rein should be held short, about a foot from his head, the end of this rein should be kept in the right hand, crossing the reins of the ride horse. If the led horse tries to break away, the man should circle the two horses to the left.

3. When a horse refuses to be led or driven, as may happen when entraining, the Commanche bridle may sometimes prove effective.

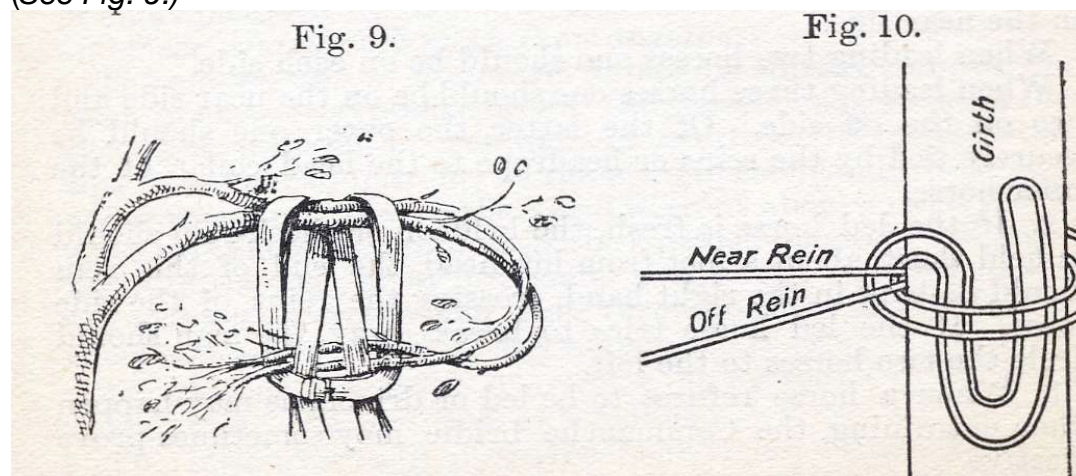
Put a loop round the neck fastened by a knot that will not slip; the knot rests on the right side of the gullet; pass the end of the rope through the mouth from the right side to the left, and then through the near side of the loop, which is round the neck; take hold of the end of the rope, and walk away without looking round.

60. *Methods of securing horses.*

1. *Tying up a horse to a bush.*

The knot used should be capable of being quickly tied and untied and should not become unfastened if the horse become restive.

The following is a useful method for securing a horse to a bush or small tree. (See Fig. 9.)



Take a suitable branch or bunch of branches, place the loop of the reins under and round it, then double back the end of the branch, breaking it if necessary, and pass

it through the reins as shown below and tighten up. A separate piece of stick will answer the same purpose.

The more the horse pulls the tighter will the knot become, whereas the man can unfasten it very rapidly by simply pulling back the doubled end of the branch or piece of stick through the loop in the reins.

2. Single horses can be kept stationary in the open:

i. By being trained to stand still whenever the reins are taken over the head and placed on the ground, but at the best this is an uncertain method. (See. Sec. 69.)

ii. By being hobbled above the knee by a rope or leather thong tied round in such a way as to prevent the horse moving one foot in advance of the other. The correct knot for this is a clove hitch, fairly tight, with a keeper knot (half hitch) round the rope to prevent it from coming loose. The end should then be carried to the head collar and so secured that the horse cannot tread on it. The rope should be from 1 foot to 1 foot 6 inches from knee to lower ring of back strap of head-collar.

iii. By securing the bit to the stirrup iron by means of the rein or strap.

iv. By securing the bridoon rein to the girth on the near side; this is done by taking the bridoon reins over in the usual way and passing them under the girth from front to rear. They should then be drawn sufficiently tight to bend the horse's head to the left and fastened by a single hitch, but without drawing the slip end through. When mounting in haste the rider can easily loosen the slip knot after mounting, and then pull the reins clear and pass them over the horse's head. (See. Fig. 10.)

3. *Coupling horses.* Horses can be securely coupled by turning them head to tail and tying each with the bridoon rein to the off back-strap or arch of the saddle of the other, taking care that the reins, when tied, are not more than 6 to 8 inches long.

With three horses one can be tied to the head collar of either of the two horses so coupled. Four horses are secured by tying a horse to each of the two originally coupled. No horse should have more than a foot length of rein, and the best knot to be used in a slip knot round the rein itself.

4. *To link horses.* The head ropes are brought over the horse's head clear of the reins, without unfastening the coil or knot. Each man facing his horse hands his rope to the man on his right, who passes through the upper ring of his own horse's head collar, and ties it with two half-hitches.

61. *Mounting restive horses.*

When a horse will not stand still, the most effective way of mounting is as follows:

Gather the reins up loosely in the left hand, then take hold of the cheek piece of the head collar, the forefinger above the brow band, hold the stirrup iron in the right hand, allowing the horse to walk round. Place the left foot in the stirrup, and transfer the right hand to the pommel, off-side waist, or other part of the saddle. It will then be found the horse can only revolve in a small circle of which the right toe of the rider is the centre, and he can mount, at any time without difficulty.

At the first opportunity such horses should be trained systematically to stand still.

62. Mounting and dismounting with the rifle when equipped with rifle bucket
Mark IV.

1. Pass one end of the web sling through the upper band swivel, or piling swivel, of the rifle, and fasten it with this end of the sling as close to the swivel as possible. (The object of this is that the stiff brass hooks at this end of the sling may be as close to the swivel as possible, and may prevent the sling from being pulled through the gap in the piling swivel as is otherwise very likely to happen.)

Pass the other end of the web sling through the lower band swivel (or in the case of rifles which have no lower band swivel, through the swivel in front of the magazine), and fasten the brass hooks on this end of the sling, so that the length of the sling from swivel to swivel is from 30 to 36 inches, according to the width of the man's chest and length of his back.

Shorten the supporting straps of the rifle bucket till the top of the bucket hangs as close as possible to the saddle, on the off side.

Sling the rifle over the left shoulder.

2. To mount:

From the near side: Lay the butt of the rifle on the seat of the saddle, or carry it over with the right leg.

From the off side: No handling of the rifle is necessary.

When mounted, place the butt of the rifle in the rifle bucket. It can then be seen if the sling has been adjusted to the right length to suit the length of the man's back and the width of his chest. It should be sufficiently tight to sit close and steady to his back, and not give too much play at all paces of the horse.

3. To dismount:

On either side: First draw the rifle from the bucket.

On the near side: Carry it over with the right hand.

On the off side: No handling of the rifle is necessary.

The rifle will remain slung on the man, both mounted and dismounted, except when he unslings it for dismounted work. It will be unslung immediately after dismounting as the man doubles to take up a position, and slung again as he doubles to his horse to mount.

63. Mounting and dismounting with the rifle when equipped with the cavalry rifle bucket.

1. To mount - by numbers.

"PREPARE TO MOUNT" Take hold of the barrel of the rifle with the left hand, about 3 inches below the muzzle, butt downwards, and prepare to mount as I Sec. 51 but with the rifle held in the left hand on the off side of the horse.

"MOUNT" Mount as usual, raise the rifle with the left hand, seize it with the right hand in front of the magazine, and place it in the bucket.

Yeomanry & Mounted Rifles Training - Part I & II - 1912(1915)

He should stand still to be mounted, go quietly and at even paces in the ranks, stand fire, and lead readily.

2. *To dismount - by numbers.*

“PREPARE TO DISMOUNT”. Seize the rifle with the right hand by the small of the butt.

Draw the rifle out of the bucket far enough to allow the hand to re-grasp it just in front of the magazine; raise it muzzle upwards so as to clear the front of the saddle.

“TWO” Lower the butt under the bridle hand, and hold the barrel with the left hand about 3 inches below the muzzle.

“THREE” Take a lock of the mane in the right hand and twist it round the thumb of the left, place the right hand in front of the saddle, and quit the right stirrup.

“DISMOUNT” Dismount as usual, bringing the rifle to the position of the *order* in the left hand, and hold the bridle with the right hand.

3. In mounting and dismounting on the off side the method will be the same as when mounting and dismounting on the near side.

64. *Riding with the rifle.*

1. *The Advance.*

“DRAW ARMS.” Grasp the rifle just in front of the magazine and bring it to the *advance*. At the *advance* the man holds his rifle with his right hand in front of the magazine, resting it on the upper part of the right thigh, thumb and fingers round the rifle, muzzle pointing to the left front, just clear of the horse’s near ear, trigger guard to the front.

2. “RETURN ARMS.” This is done in one motion.

3. “CARRY ARMS.” (From the *advance*) Without moving the right hand from its grasp of the rifle, place the butt on the upper part of the right thigh, the muzzle leaning to the front and in line with the right eye, trigger guard to the left, back of the hand down, arm slightly bent, elbow close to the side.

4. “SLING ARMS.” Raise the rifle above the head, and with a left circular movement from the head between the rifle and sling, lower the weight on to the left shoulder with the sling in front and the rifle behind the body, muzzle uppermost; at the same time slip the right arm between the sling and the rifle.

5. “UNSLING ARMS” Bend the right arm, slip the elbow under the rifle, and with it give the rifle a cant forward until it is hanging on the neck; then seize it with the right hand at the balance, and by an upward circular motion disengage and bring it to the *advance*.

65. *Paying compliments mounted without arms.*

When riding with hands on the reins a soldier passing an officer turns his head and eyes in the direction of the officer without moving his hands. When holding the reins in one hand only he should drop the right hand to the full extent of the arm behind the right thigh, fingers half closed, back of the hand to the right and turn his head in the direction of the officer.

TRAINING THE HORSE

(Complete instructions for training the horse are given in "Cavalry Training.")

66. General principles.

The training of the horse is a matter of great importance to the efficiency of all mounted troops.

He should stand still to be mounted, go quietly and at even paces in the ranks, stand fire, and lead readily.

67. Handling horses.

1. The untrained horse must be gradually accustomed to the rifle, military exercises, and firing. Being naturally timid, he must be treated with patience and gentleness. Finding that unusual sights and sounds do him no injury, and are not accompanied by punishment, he will soon gain confidence. One minute's loss of temper or violence by the rider may throw the horse's training back for a month.

2. Suddenness of movement should be avoided in all practices with arms, and everything should be done smoothly and quietly.

3. To accustom the horse to firing, blank cartridges should be fired near him, and a little corn given to him afterwards.

4. Horses showing any tendency to acquire the trick of refusing to leave the ranks should be specially schooled.

68. Leading when mounted and dismounted.

Every horse must be taught to lead well, and should be frequently exercised over bad ground, the man leading by the rein taken over the horse's head. The Nos. 3 mounted will be frequently practised in leading the other 3 horses of their sections.

If a horse will not lead at first, he should be followed by another man with a whip.

The horses should also be practised in being led by the men dismounted, each man taking his rein over and placing his left arm through it. Blank ammunition should occasionally be fired when horses are being led.

69. Teaching a horse to stand still without being held.

A horse can be trained to stand still with the reins over his head and without being held in the following manner.

Substitute a strong piece of rope for the bridoon rein, throw the rope rein over the animal's head, and fasten a sack to the end of it. If the horse then moves forward he will tread on the sack, and give himself a severe jerk in the mouth. After a few lessons it will be found that the horse will not move when the reins are thrown over his head.