

PART I. - TRAINING

CHAPTER 1. ORGANIZATION, DEFINITIONS, SIGNALS, &c.

1. Definition of mounted troops, yeomanry, mounted rifles and mounted infantry.

1. The term mounted troops in this manual is to be understood to include cavalry, yeomanry, mounted rifles, and mounted infantry.

Yeomanry and mounted rifles are cavalry soldiers, enlisted or enrolled as such, who are trained to use the rifle as their principal offensive or defensive weapon. Their training is to be directed, in the first instance, solely to the subject dealt with in Parts I and II of this manual, and until they have been fully trained in these subjects they are not to be permitted to receive instruction in the elements of shock action mounted. Such action in the case of yeomanry and mounted rifles, even when time permits of their receiving instruction in it, is to be considered as for use on special emergencies only, and altogether secondary to fire action, which is the dominant method of fighting for these troops.

By mounted infantry is meant fully trained infantry, mounted solely for purposes of locomotion. Such troops are not to be regarded as horse-soldiers, but as infantry possessing special mobility. They fight on foot only, and are not armed or trained for mounted shock action, which they are not intended to employ.

2. This manual applies to the training and employment as mounted riflemen of yeomanry, mounted rifles and mounted infantry, but to avoid repetition, the term mounted rifles only is used. (Mounted infantry being organized in battalions sub-divided into companies, throughout this manual the term regiment is to be taken as meaning battalion and the term squadron as meaning company, as regards mounted infantry or other mounted rifles using infantry terms.)

Instructions for mounted shock tactics, including the use of the sword, are given in Part III of this manual.

2. Organization

1. Mounted rifles are usually organized in regiments sub-divided into squadrons. The details of the above organization are given in "War Establishments," Part I for the Expeditionary Force and Part II for the Territorial Force.

Regiments of mounted rifles are organized in mounted brigades which in the case of the Expeditionary Force are usually composed partly of cavalry and partly of mounted infantry, and in the case of the Territorial Force are composed of yeomanry.

2. The squadron is divided into four troops.* (The term troop is also used in mounted infantry to signify a quarter of a company.)

3. The troop is divided into three or more sections, the exact number of sections depending upon the number of men available.

4. Each section consists of four men, one of whom acts as section leader. Non-commissioned officers of, and above, the rank of sergeant are not included in sections.

5. As far as possible sections and troops should be composed of men coming from the same locality, or of men who have some other association in common.

Men and horses should seldom be transferred from their original troops or sections and should, when possible, maintain their relative positions in the ranks.

3. Other definitions.

Alignment. - Any straight line on which a body of troops is formed or is to form.

Centre Guide. - The man in the centre of each troop detailed to follow the troop leader when the troop is in line.

Covering. - The act of a body placing itself correctly in rear of another.

Deployment. - The formation of line from column.

Depth. - The space occupied by a body of troops from front to rear.

Directing Body. - The body on which the direction, pace, and alignment or relative positions of the several parts of a formation depend.

Distance. - The space between men or bodies of troops from front to rear.

Dressing. - The act of taking up an alignment correctly.

File. - One man.

Flank:

i. Inner Flank. - The flank which serves as a pivot when a body is changing direction.

ii. Outer Flank. - The flank opposite the inner flank.

Frontage. - The extent of ground covered laterally by troops.

Horse-length. - A term of measurement (8 feet).

Incline. - The movement by which ground is gained to the front and flank simultaneously.

Interval. - The lateral space between men or units, measured from flank to flank.

Deploying Interval. - The interval between columns necessary to enable them to form line to the front.

Markers. - Men employed in certain cases to mark points on which to march or form.

Order:

i. - Extended Order. - A line of men extended at intervals of 4 yards from each other, or at such other intervals as may be directed.

ii. - Close Order. - The ordinary interval between files in line or column.

Pace. - A measurement of distance on foot (30 inches).

Patrol. - A few men under a leader detached to reconnoitre. Speaking generally, the term patrol implies a force less than a troop.

Point. - The man or men riding immediately in advance of a patrol, advanced party, or similar detachment.

Ground Scouts. - Men employed to ascertain whether the grounding the immediate vicinity is passable for mounted men.

Section. - One of the divisions of a troop. It consists of four men (See Sec. 1.)

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Half Section. - Two men of a section, either the Nos. 1 or 2, or the Nos. 3 and 4.

A section of artillery consists of two guns with their detachments and ammunition wagons.

Serrefiles.- Such N.C. officers and men of a troop who are not part of a section, or are not troop leaders.

Shouldering. - See Sec. 75

Squad. - A small number of men formed for drill or for work.

Wheel. - See Sec. 75.

4. Distances and intervals.

1. Distances. - Distances between mounted troops are measured from the tail of a horse to the head of the one behind it. Between dismounted troops they are measured from heel to heel.

Distance	Mounted	On foot
<i>Line</i> - i. Troop leaders in front of troops	1 horse-length	3 paces.
<i>Line</i> - ii. Serrefiles in rear of troops	1/2 horse-length	3 paces.
<i>Close Column</i> , between troops or squadrons.	1 horse-length	3 paces
<i>Open Column</i> , between units	Wheeling distance plus interval in line	Wheeling distance plus interval in line

2. Intervals (the normal intervals may be reduced when sufficient space is not available.) Intervals between mounted troops are measured from knee to knee.

Intervals	Mounted	On foot
<i>Line</i> . Between men	6 inches *	Each man occupies a lateral space of 30 inches.
<i>Line</i> . Between squadrons	8 yards	There are no intervals.
<i>Line</i> . Between regiments, or brigades	16 yards	8 yards 16 yards
<i>Line of squadron columns</i> , between squadrons	Deploying intervals plus 8 yards	Deploying intervals plus 8 yards
<i>Mass</i> , between squadrons	8 yards.	8 paces.
<i>Any line of columns</i> between regiments or brigades	Deploying interval plus 16 yards	Deploying intervals plus 16 yards

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*Including intervals between files each horse in the ranks occupies approximately a frontage of 1 yard.

5. *Signals.* (no special signals devised to supplement or improve on the above are to be used.)

1. The following signals will be used; it is important that they should be made distinctly (see also Sec. 77): -

Signal	To Indicate
Arm swung from rear to front below the shoulder, finishing with the hand pointing to the front.	<i>“Advance” or “Forward”</i>
Arm circled at its full extent above the head, finishing up by pointing in the direction in which the regiment is to be made.	<i>“Retire.”</i>
Open hand raised in line with the shoulder, elbow bent and close to the side	<i>“Walk” or “Quick time”</i>
Clenched hand moved up and down between thigh and shoulder, forearm pointing in such a direction that the movement can be seen by those for whom the signal is intended.	<i>“Trot” or “Double”</i>
Circular movement of hand below the shoulder as in turning the handle of a small grinding machine	<i>“Gallop”</i>
Arm raised at full extent above the head	<i>“Halt”</i>
Body or horse turned in the required direction and arm extended in a line with the shoulder.	<i>“Incline”</i>
Slow circular movement of the extended arm in line with the shoulder in the required direction.	<i>“Shoulders”</i>
Arm waved from above the head to a position in line with the shoulder, pointing in the required direction.	<i>Troops half right. Troops right wheel. Troops half left. Troops left wheel.</i>

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<p>Arm waved horizontally from right to left and back again as though cutting with a sword, finishing with the delivery of a point to the front</p>	<p>1. <i>Form line of squadron columns</i> (from line, mass, column, or echelon of squadron columns). 2. <i>Form Line:</i> from squadron column, or from line of squadron columns.</p>
<p>Arm held extended above the head as for halt and hand at once moved rapidly right and left.</p>	<p><i>“Rally” or “Mass”</i> if at close order, or <i>“Close on the centre”</i> if at extended order, or dispersed.</p>
<p>Two or three slight movements of open hand towards the ground (palm downwards).</p>	<p><i>“Dismount” or “Lie down”</i></p>
<p>Two or three slight movements of the open hand upwards (palm upper-most).</p>	<p><i>“Mount”</i></p>
<p>Arm raised as for halt, and then pointed to the ground</p>	<p><i>“For action, dismount.”</i></p>
<p>Arm raised at full extent above the head and waved a few times slowly from side to side, bringing the arm down at each wave on a level with the shoulder. NOTE: This signal denotes extension from the centre of four yards between files unless other wise ordered. If the extension is to be made to the right, finish the signal by pointing to the right. If the extension is to be made to the left, finish the signal by pointing to the left. If a greater or less extension is required the distance will be given by word of mouth.</p>	<p><i>“Extend”</i></p>
<p>The right (or left) hand, fist clenched, brought to the shoulder, elbow down, and then extended to the right (or left) in line with the shoulder. Motions repeated a few times.</p>	<p><i>“Sections right (or left)”</i> or when in extended order <i>“right (or left) take ground.”</i></p>
<p>Arm swung from rear to front above the shoulder</p>	<p><i>“Reinforce”</i></p>
<p>Weapon held up above, and as if guarding the head.</p>	<p><i>“Enemy in sight in small numbers”</i></p>
<p>As above, but weapon raised and lowered frequently</p>	<p><i>“Enemy insight in large numbers”</i></p>

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Weapon held up at full extent of arm, point or muzzle uppermost.	"No enemy in sight"
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Signals such as "*Halt*" or "*Incline*" should be maintained. Signals of movement, such as "*Advance*" or "*Shoulder*" should be repeated until it is clear that they are understood.

2. The following signals are to be used by ground scouts: *Impassable ground*. Halt and raise the right arm perpendicularly; then ride towards whatever point appears practicable, pointing towards it with the hand. If the ground within view in front and on either side is quite impracticable, a scout will raise his right arm, and ride back to report.

3. The whistle will be used -

- i. To draw attention to a signal about to be made - "a short blast."
- ii. To denote "bring up the lead horses" - "two long blasts."
- iii. To denote "rally" - "a succession of short blasts."

6. Field calls.

1. The following field calls may be used if required: -

"Forward" or Advance"	"Change direction, right"
"Walk"	"change direction, left"
"Trot"	"Pursue"
"Gallop"	"Rally"
"March"	"Attention"
"Halt"	"March" or "Sit at ease"
"Annul" or "As you were"	"Mount"
"Retire"	"Dismount"

2. It must be remembered, however, that the sounding of field calls serves to advertise the intentions of the commander to the enemy. Signals should be employed therefore instead of field calls as far as possible, and the latter should only be resorted to in case of necessity.

3. With the exception of the regimental call no special calls devised to supplement or improve on the above are to be used.