

**CHAPTER XI.  
THE TACTICAL ACTION OF MOUNTED RIFLES.**

145. *General principles.*

1. Mounted rifles have the power to move with rapidity and cover long distances in a comparatively short time. This enables them to combine fire and manoeuvre to the best advantage. They are not trained in mounted shock tactics. They depend on the rifle, the power of which they are enabled to develop to the utmost by their ability to seize favourable fire positions rapidly.

2. The functions of mounted troops comprise both fighting and reconnaissance, whether they are employed to cover the advance of an army or to co-operate with other arms on the battlefield. By virtue of their mobility they can be pushed forward to gain information of the enemy and to compel him to display his strength and dispositions.

3. The rapidity with which an attack can be developed by mounted rifles and the facilities which they possess for effecting a surprise, enables them to co-operate effectively in the defeat of the enemy especially on the battlefield, where the absorption of the contest, the exhaustion entailed by the continued strain of battle and the severe nervous tension to which infantry and artillery are subjected, combine to render them peculiarly susceptible to sudden and unforeseen attack.

4. The tactical methods of mounted rifles and infantry differ, firstly, because the former are much more mobile than the latter and can combine rapid movement with fire action; secondly, because mounted rifles, having to detach a proportion of men to take charge of the led horses, have relatively less fire power than a body of infantry of the same size.

5. A guiding principle in the action of mounted rifles is that they should employ their mobility to develop their fire power to the utmost. This mobility enables them to act suddenly from any direction and to open fire from close formations more quickly than infantry can. Consequently they are able to deal blows at the enemy's flanks and rear before he has time to meet them, or can overwhelm the heads of his columns with fire before he can deploy.

6. It follows then, that surprise and rapidity of action are very important factors in dismounted action, and that mounted rifles should usually develop their full strength as soon as surprise has been achieved.

This principle applies equally whether the enemy is mounted or dismounted. Mounted rifles who can deploy a strong firing line before cavalry has been able to charge home have little to fear from direct mounted attack. (See Sec. 158.) Similarly if a mounted enemy who has recourse to dismounted action is met, the chief object is to develop fire action more rapidly than the opponent. When the enemy is mounted it may be anticipated that he will himself endeavour to strike at the flanks and rear of mounted rifles in action, and measures to meet this contingency should be taken (see para. 9 below.)

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7. The power of rapid deployment which enables mounted rifles to attack quickly on an extended front, also makes it difficult for a slower moving enemy to turn their flanks. This enables them to seize opportunities for deceiving an enemy as to the nature and strength of the force by which he is opposed, and endows them, when skilfully handled, with great delaying power.

8. "The constant maintenance of communication between the various parts of an army is of urgent importance; it is on this to a great extent that the possibility of co-operation depends." ("Field Service Regulations, Part I," Sec. 8.)

This principle is of special importance to mounted rifles, for if they are to make the fullest use of their mobility it is necessary that the commander should possess the power of breaking off a fight rapidly and resuming it, if required, from some more effective direction.

For this reason, as well as to ensure mutual support, a complete system of communication between the commander and all his subordinates as well as with neighbouring units must be arranged.

9. "Every commander is responsible for the protection of his command against surprise." ("F.S.Regns, Part I," Sec. 64.)

When in action special precautions must be taken to safeguard the flanks, for the nature of their duties exposes mounted rifles to the possibility of a sudden attack by cavalry. Flank protection can usually be obtained by holding localities on the flanks and by using protective patrols to watch for the enemy's approach.

It is the duty of the flank men of a firing line to watch any patrols protecting the flank and to keep the commander informed of their movements and signals.

### 146. *Principles of fire action.*

1. However skilful individual men may be, the greatest effect can be produced by fire only when it is efficiently directed and controlled by commanders of fire units. The normal fire unit is the troop, though if the troops are much scattered, it may be the section.

The value of a fire unit commander depends upon his ability to apply the fire of his unit at the right time and in the right volume to the right target.

2. The duties of a fire unit commander in controlling and directing fire consist in:
- i. Carrying out such orders as he may receive from his superior commander; and using his own judgement in default of definite orders.
  - ii. Indicating targets.
  - iii. Issuing orders for sighting, elevation and deflection.
  - iv. Insuring the correct adjustment of sights.
  - v. Regulating the volume of fire.
  - vi. Checking the expenditure of ammunition and arranging for its replenishment.

(See also "Musketry Regulations, Part I," Chapter IV.)

3. The squadron leader regulates the employment and co-operation of the several troops and exercises constant care in maintaining communication with them and with his immediate commander. He orders the opening of fire, subject to such orders as he

may receive from the regimental commander, issues general instructions as to the targets, and the distribution of the fire, and observes the effect.

In other respects he leaves fire control to the troop leaders and interferes only when he desires to combine the fire effect of several troops at a certain moment, or over a certain space, or if he observes circumstances which have escaped the troop leader's notice. During the fight he will see to the timely replenishment of ammunition.

4. A high standard of fire discipline in the men is not less important than skilful control and direction of fire by the leaders. Fire discipline means strict attention to the signals and orders of the commander, combined with intelligent observation of the enemy. It ensures the careful adjustment of the sight, deliberate aim, economy of ammunition, and prompt cessation of fire when the target disappears.

5. Mounted rifles should rarely engage in a protracted fire fight, more particularly at close range, as this involves loss of mobility. In order to develop the greatest effect, from the moment when the leader decides to open fire, rapid bursts and concentration of fire from as large a number of rifles as possible should usually be employed, when favourable targets present themselves, rather than a slow continuous fire distributed against the whole of the enemy's front.

6. Economy of ammunition is of importance; this should be effected, not limited fire when needed, but by judiciously timing its use. The delivery of sudden bursts of fire, followed by pauses, will usually be found to be the most effective method of regulating the expenditure of ammunition. Pauses of this nature, if skilfully timed, have also great moral effect and have the advantage of deceiving and confusing the enemy.

Commanders of all units should keep themselves informed of the amount of ammunition in hand, so that a deficiency at critical moments may be avoided.

7. Every available means should be used to obtain the correct ranges. When reconnoitring preparatory to dismounted action, the squadron commander should be accompanied by the squadron range-takers. Their estimates should be communicated to the troop and section commanders, who should lose no opportunity of supplementing them by the estimates of their best judges of distance and by enquiry from other troops already engaged.

#### *147. The use of ground.*

1. The wise employment of every feature of the ground is of great importance both when mounted and dismounted.

Leaders must make a point of studying the ground at all times. When halting in the neighbourhood of the enemy a commander should at once make himself acquainted with the ground in his immediate vicinity. This is best done by personal observation, but it will generally be necessary, when contact with an enemy is first obtained to supplement this by sending out one or two officers to reconnoitre. Reconnaissance of the ground in all circumstances should be as complete as possible. Information is required not only as to features of tactical importance, but as to the possibility of concealment, and also as to obstacles to the free movement of mounted troops.

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2. In the case of concealed movements care must be exercised that the reconnoitring officers, and such troops as may be required for protection against surprise, do not betray the movements to the enemy.

3. It will usually be discovered by reconnaissance that certain portions of the ground offer greater facilities for concealed approach than others. These may be utilised to effect a surprise. Again, features of tactical importance exist in almost any area and, when found, may be secured by the advanced troops either to screen the movements of the main body from observation or to facilitate its deployment. The movements of the advanced troops when in the neighbourhood of the enemy will usually consist of a series of forward movements or bounds from tactical point to tactical point, favourable positions being secured at each halt to cover and assist the main body. The line of advance from each position should be reconnoitre as fully as time permits so that the best use may be made of the ground.

4. It will frequently be necessary to move mounted over areas of ground swept by the enemy's fire. Such areas will usually be interspersed with dead ground, which may be used to reorganise and prepare for the next advance.

5. When advancing dismounted the principles governing the use of ground are generally similar to the above. Here again certain avenues of approach will usually be discovered by reconnaissance to offer better cover or facilities for mutual support than others. Mounted rifles should make use of such avenues to secure localities from which they can help on the troops on their flanks, each step forward being prepared by reconnaissance so that every advantage which the ground may offer for obtaining mutual support may be secured. When closely engaged such reconnaissance may have to be limited to personal observation from the position held, but whenever possible, personal observation should be supplemented by the reports of ground scouts and patrols.

6. The most important requirement in cover for the individual man when firing is that he can use his rifle to the best advantage. In endeavouring to do so the man should expose as small a portion of himself as possible to the enemy's fire, but if he first seeks safety and neglects thereby to make full use of his rifle he will fail in his duty.

7. Cover, whether from fire or from view, should not provide a good aiming or ranging mark for the enemy.

Moving objects catch the eye quicker than those that are still. Men lying still in grass or on ground which is similar in colour to their uniform make a more difficult mark at which to aim than a clearly defined line of cover.

Cover from view, which does not also offer cover from fire, may become a dangerous trap if men crowd behind it and the enemy now that they are there. It may therefore sometimes be better to lie still in the open than to take cover behind

hedgerows, or bushes which are not bullet proof, if the enemy is likely to see that such cover has been occupied. When lying in the open, all but the necessary movements to load and fire must be avoided, as any moment of an individual may attract the attention of the enemy to the position occupied by the whole unit. It is an advantage if fire positions in the open can be so chosen that the men do not show up against the sky.

The edges of woods, hedges and banks, which are clearly defined and run parallel to the enemy's fire position, prominent trees and other landmarks, all present favourable targets to artillery fire and are dangerous if they do not afford cover from fire and if the enemy knows that they are occupied and can bring a heavy fire to bear on them.

8. If an equally good view of the enemy can be obtained, it is better to fire round the side of cover than over it, because the firer is then less visible.

9. When firing from behind cover, the eyes must be kept on the enemy between each shot, otherwise the man may lose sight of his target and this may result in his shooting without looking over the sights.

148. *The movement mounted to the first fire position.*

1. The commander of a body of mounted rifles, who intends to act dismounted, should decide, after personal reconnaissance if possible, on his plan of action, the place at which he intends to dismount, and the position of his led horses. He should then assemble his subordinate commanders at some point where the ground over which he intends to act can be seen, explain his plans, and issue his orders. It is important that the latter should be clear and complete, in order to ensure rapidity of action and to avoid confusion. Only exceptional circumstances, such as the seizing of a very favourable and fleeting opportunity, can justify the omission of these preliminary steps.

The commander of a force about to act dismounted should, whenever circumstances permit, be well ahead of his main body, in order to have time to reconnoitre.

2. In order to take full advantage of their mobility mounted rifles should advance mounted as close as possible to the position at which they are to open fire, subject to the necessity for concealment and cover for the led horses. The commander of the force will lead his men by a concealed route to the place at which he wishes to deploy, subordinate commanders will then either lead their commands concentrated to places where they are to dismount, or, if necessary, will order a further deployment.

3. It may happen, however, that the mounted advance should usually consist of a series of rushes from shelter to shelter, each as rapid as possible; advantage being taken of the positions of shelter to steady the ranks, to arrange for the next bound forward, and to give the horses a momentary breathing space.

4. The formations to be adopted during the advances will usually depend on the facilities for concealment offered by the ground and the effect of the enemy's fire.

5. Against artillery fire small shallow columns, such as troop columns, are least vulnerable. These columns should be on an irregular front, so that the range from the

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enemy's guns to each column is different. The intervals between such columns should not normally be less than fifty yards and the distance from one column to another moving behind it should be greater than that covered by the bullets of a shrapnel, that is to say, it should be over two hundred yards.

Small columns are also less vulnerable to long range infantry fire than are lines of men in extended order at moderately close intervals. They are also more easily controlled than extended lines.

When within effective range of the enemy's infantry and exposed to its fire troops should usually move in extended order.

### 149. *Dismounting.* (See also Sec. 108.)

1. The position chosen for dismounting will usually be the place nearest to the firing position where concealment is possible.

2. The method of dismounting will depend upon the tactical situation. The normal method will be that carried out on the command FOR ACTION FRONT (RIGHT OR LEFT) - DISMOUNT, as by this method the greatest number of rifles is put into the firing line compatible with the mobility of the led horses.

3. When great speed in mounting and dismounting is required, or when the troops are in half sections, one man out of each half section is dismounted.

4. When the mobility of the led horses is not essential the maximum number of men may be deployed in the firing line by coupling or linking the led horses.

Linking horses takes more time than coupling them, but is preferable if the fire position is to be occupied for a considerable time, or when it is advisable to keep the horses close together. Coupling horses is often suitable when the fire position is very extended.

5. If the men have dismounted in the normal manner and it is desired to reinforce the firing line, the horse-holder in every alternate section should be ordered to hand over his horses to the horse-holder of the section next to his own and to join the firing line.

### 150. *Led horses.*

1. When a force consisting of a squadron or more dismounts at one place for fire action, an officer or non-commissioned officer should be left in charge of the led horses.

If no commander is detailed the senior present must take command of his own accord.

His duties will be:

i. To keep in constant touch with the commander in the firing line, so that he will know the moment the led horses are required, or, if the firing line is advancing, when he may be required to move the led horses to another position.

For this reason he should, if necessary, detail one man to place himself where he can observe the firing line and communicate what is going on.

ii. To safeguard the led horses from surprise. To this end he must arrange for a sharp look-out to be kept.

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iii. To ensure that none of the led horses are exposed.

2. The following are the chief considerations when deciding on the position of the led horses.

- i. They must be under cover.
- ii. They must be as close to the firing line as circumstances will permit.

The position should not be immediately in rear of the firing line if in such a position the horses are liable to losses caused by unaimed fire. It may often be necessary, therefore, to move the horses as soon as the men have dismounted.

The commander of the unit will usually choose the positions of the led horses and give orders for any change.

If, however, the commander of the led horses finds it advisable to change their position without orders he will notify the commander of the unit, so that the latter may always know where his led horses are.

### 151. *Movement on foot to fire position.*

1. The commander of a unit dismounting, after giving the necessary orders regarding the position of the led horses, the protection of the flank, and the amount of ammunition to be taken from the horse-holders, either leads the force forward himself or gives directions to his subordinates as to the positions that he wishes them to take up.

2. It will generally be necessary to occupy the fire position as rapidly as possible, but this necessity should never create a disregard for concealment. The enemy should not know until the opening of fire that the position has been occupied; if all movements are well concealed it will sometimes be possible to deceive the enemy as to the actual position that has been taken up.

3. The units extend as they move forward. Each section leader, subject to the general control of the troop leader, will determine the method of advance, and see that the general direction is maintained and that there is no crowding. Section commanders are responsible that the troop leader's signals and orders are quickly and correctly passed along the line and obeyed promptly.

### 152. *The combination of dismounted action with movement mounted in attack.*

1. The power of developing fire effect rapidly from any direction enables mounted rifles to draw a ring of fire round an unprepared or slower moving enemy. Enveloping or converging fire has great moral and material effect. Enveloping or converging fire has great moral and material effect, mounted rifles should therefore be always on the look out for opportunities for enveloping an enemy. When approaching an enemy mounted rifles should move in a formation which will facilitate the rapid detachment of units to one or both flanks.

2. An enemy may often be deceived as to the direction of an attack if use is made of dead ground or cover during the approach to change the direction of the advance. The

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chances of the success of such a manoeuvre will usually be much increased if part of the force can be employed to engage the enemy on the original line, while the remainder move under cover to attack him elsewhere.

3. On encountering an enemy a portion of the force should usually be employed to hold him to his ground, while the remainder endeavours to rapidly bring fire to bear against his flanks or rear. One or both flanks of a firing line can generally be extended by pushing troops or squadrons to successive positions on the enemy's flanks, each mounted movement being covered by the fire of some or all of the squadrons already in action. The employment of machine guns to develop covering fire on such occasions may be most effective.

4. In carrying out an attack every opportunity should be taken of securing important tactical points, from which rifle and machine gun fire may be developed to cover further progress either mounted or dismounted.

5. A direct attack will usually take the form of a rapid advance by one portion of the command, mounted as long as possible, covered by the fire of the remainder. In order that each advance may be covered by a timely outburst of fire from all troops in the vicinity leaders must always be on the look-out for opportunities to assist the advancing neighbouring units by fire. Commanders of units should, whenever possible, inform neighbouring units of their intention to advance.

6. Direct advances under effective fire will usually entail long advances on foot which should be avoided, whenever possible, as they sacrifice the mobility, which is the chief characteristic of mounted rifles. Surprise and rapidity of action can usually be best attained by a combination of frontal attack with rapid out-flanking movements in the manner described above.

7. When leaving a position to advance mounted great care should be taken to prevent the enemy from discovering the intention of the commander. If the firing has been in bursts with intervals of silence, the fact that there is no firing will not indicate the evacuation of the position. For this reason men should move back to their horses immediately after a burst.

8. It may often be advisable to withdraw part of the force from the position, while those remaining continue the bursts of fire until it is time for them to move, which will usually be when the first portion has occupied the new fire position.

9. When men leave the firing line to get back to their horses they will be careful to avoid any movement which might attract the attention of the enemy. They should usually move in the prone position until they are well hidden from view. If there is a possibility of the enemy occupying the position as soon as it is evacuated the last men to leave should mount and move away rapidly.

10. On occasions, as for example, when small parties of an enemy are holding an extended position, it may be advisable for the attackers to open out and gallop suddenly in a determined manner close up to an enemy's position. They should then dismount and attack on foot at close quarters.

Whenever it is possible to do so without serious danger to the attack such an advance should be covered by fire from the rear or flanks or from both.



153. *The deliberate attack.*

1. Occasions will arise when mounted rifles will have to driven home a determined attack on foot, e.g., when a party of the enemy, behind good cover from artillery fire, hold a position which cannot conveniently be turned and denies the use of the most suitable line of advance.

2. On such occasions mounted rifles must be formed for dismounted attack in depth. The firing line, which may be preceded by scouts and sub-divided into firing line and supports, being followed by a reserve in the hands of the commands.

3. The object then is to establish the firing line in a fire position as close as possible to the enemy and to obtain superiority of fire over him. This will entail the gradual reinforcement of the firing line from the rear and may necessitate a long advance on foot and a protracted fire fight.

The firing line will usually move in extended order, the supports and reserve following in such formations as are best suited to take advantage of the ground. Such formations may be small shallow columns, each on a narrow front, such as troops in sections, half-sections, or if the ground is open and swept by rifle fire, supports and reserves may also move in extended order. At ranges of over 1,000 yards small columns, such as have been described above, are least vulnerable to artillery fire. They should be on an irregular front at intervals of not less than 50 yards, the distance between each being greater than that covered by the bullets of a shrapnel, i.e., about 200 yards.

4. The guiding principle in an attack of this nature is mutual support by fire. Fire should be employed to make movement possible and to enable the firing line to close with the enemy. The various parts of the firing line must help each other forward. Similarly supports, if formed, must seek opportunities to use covering and supporting fire to help forward the firing line.

5. The object of each advance and the method of carrying it out must be clearly determined before it is begun.

When the advance of the firing line is checked by the enemy's fire, further progress must usually take the form of rushes, which, according to circumstances, may be made by the whole line simultaneously or by portions of it alternately. No hard and fast rules can be laid down as to the conduct of such an advance, which should be governed by the following general principles.

A considerable proportion of casualties usually occurs when men are getting up to advance, and when about to lie down after an advance. Casualties should be reduced by making these movements suddenly and simultaneously.

At close infantry ranges, under heavy fire, advances should be made very rapidly and should usually be very limited in duration.

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The length of rushes must depend primarily upon the extent to which the fire of those troops, who are not advancing, is able to keep down the enemy's fire. It will also depend upon the nature of the ground, and the physical condition of the troops. If a fire position offers good cover, behind which men can rest, it may be advisable to make a rush of some length across open ground in order to reach it. On the other hand, long rushes made without adequate object may fatigue the troops and make their fire unsteady, besides affording the enemy a relatively easy target.

6. In advancing by rushes within close infantry range, the particular portions of the line to move first and the strength of each such portion will depend on various considerations. The facilities for advance offered by the ground will rarely be the same everywhere. Where the ground favours movement parts of the firing line will be able to work forward into fire positions whence they can assist the progress of those parts which are less favourably placed. The extent of such fire positions and the facilities for approaching them will often determine the extent of frontage of the parts of the line to advance simultaneously. Creeping, crawling and advancing man by man check the rate of progress very considerably and are to be regarded as exceptional methods, only to be employed when it is not possible to gain ground in other ways.

7. The action of machine guns in attack is given in Sec. 162.

### 154. *The defence.*

1. Mounted rifles will often be called upon temporarily to occupy localities for defence. When so employed they should take full advantage of their mobility, and as a general rule by attacking the enemy while he is still at a distance cause him to deploy prematurely and delay his advance. In the defence as in the attack, concealment and surprise are of importance, but the paramount consideration must always be to bring an effective fire to bear on the enemy. Whenever time and means permit, the position should be put in a state of defence.

2. During the initial stages of a defensive engagement the commander should employ the minimum number of men, retaining the remainder in readiness to act as circumstances may demand, when the enemy has disclosed his dispositions. It will then be possible to take immediate advantage of any opportunity that the enemy may offer for a successful counter-attack.

3. The value of enfilade fire is as great when acting in defence as in the attack, and occasions will constantly occur when a small party, favourably situated on a flank, may effectively harass, the enemy's advance, particularly if assisted by machine guns.

4. When the object of the operation is merely to delay the enemy, it will usually be advisable to open fire at long range, in order that he may be forced to deploy at some distance from the position; but when there is a chance of gaining a surprise the defeat

of an enemy may often be attained by allowing hi to advance to within decisive range before opening fire.

5. The action of machine guns in defence is given in Sec. 162.

155. *Covering a retirement.*

1. When covering a retirement time may often be gained by assuming an offensive attitude.

2. Deception may be used to mislead and impose upon the enemy. He may, for example, be beguiled into over-confidence if he finds one or two positions relinquished somewhat hastily, and thus may fall into an ambush left at the next position.

The leader should endeavour to make an enemy believe that a position is strongly guarded when it is held only by a few men, and that is only weakly occupied or not occupied at all, when in reality it is held in strength. In this way to an enemy may be induced to deploy to attack unnecessarily or to advance recklessly into an ambush.

3. Should the commander decide to vacate the position he may be holding, he should endeavour to do so without disclosing the fact to the enemy.

In retiring under fire men should move from cover to cover rapidly; portions of the line will retire alternately, on the principles which have been described in Sec. 152 for the evacuation of a position during an attack, affording each other mutual support by taking up successive fire positions from which they can develop heavy covering fire. When it is intended to occupy a position in rear, an officer should be sent back to select the most suitable ground and to direct detached units where to go.

156. *Pursuit.*

1. Throughout an action the possibility of being called upon to carry out a sustained pursuit must never be lost sight of. This may be of two kinds, direct or flanking. Both will usually be carried out simultaneously.

If the enemy is not surrounded it is only by an energetic pursuit that the fruits of victory can be gathered; it must be undertaken with every available man, and must be continued until the enemy is completely scattered. The utmost endeavour must be made to press his demoralised columns and turn his defeat into a rout; the pursuit must be kept up with vigour by day and night without regard to men or horses.

2. Mounted troops, when pursuing, should normally move by several parallel or converging routes and not in one body. In this way if the head of one portion is checked by the enemy the latter's flanks can rapidly be turned by the neighbouring portions of the pursuers.

If possible the pursuit should aim at one or both of the enemy's flanks.

3. Whether the enemy's rear guard is to be made the main objective or whether the mounted troops should avoid this and attack the enemy's main body is a matter which depends on the state of the enemy, the force of mounted troops available, and the possibility of support by the other arms. If the main body is attacked with success

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great results will probably be reaped; on the other hand, if the attack fails the attackers may be cut off and severely handled before supports can arrive.

Attacks on the rear guard will be carried out much more easily and without such risks of being cut off, but the same results cannot be reaped; though by continued attacks the enemy's resistance and moral can be much weakened.

4. When pursuing a retreating enemy who is still capable of resistance it will often be found that the best method of advancing will be by alternate portions of the force. Thus, one portion will gallop forward covered by the fire of the remainder. On reaching a suitable position they dismount, open fire, and cover the advance of the portion in the rear, and so on. The mutual support thus established should be thoroughly understood by all ranks, and any portion of the force in position should maintain the position until the other portion is securely established.

### *157. The combination of fire action and a cavalry charge.*

1. As mounted riflemen may be employed in close co-operation with cavalry on service, they understand the principles of combining their fire action with the shock action of cavalry.

2. In this work two factors are important:

i. The correct timing of the combined attacks, so that the enemy will not be allowed to deal separately, first with one and then with the other.

ii. That the two portions of the attack, i.e., the mounted attack and the fire attack, do not interfere with each other, or, in other words, that the fire is not masked until the collision takes place.

3. The mounted attack should therefore be separated from the co-operating fire attack, each acting in a direction at such an angle to the other that one or other will take the enemy in flank and the fire can be continued up to the last minute without interfering with the charge.

This principle generally holds good whether the enemy is fighting mounted or dismounted.

### *158. Action if attacked by cavalry mounted.*

1. Mounted rifles rely on the rifle for repelling mounted attacks by the enemy's cavalry.

2. If they are mounted and an attack is threatened, they should move behind some obstacle or on to broken ground and come into action there; but if owing to faulty reconnaissance they have not time to prepare to meet the attack in this way, they should close up, dismount, and form rapidly on the threatened flank, opening fire independently.

3. If attacked when in the act of mounting or dismounting, they should not usually attempt to retire mounted, but should open fire as soon as possible.

### *159. Artillery employed with mounted rifles.*

1. As a rule the best method of employing the artillery to assisted mounted rifles is to disperse it at points where the guns may be specially required.

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2. The commander of the artillery should ride near the commander of the force and keep in touch with his plans until the guns are launched on a definite mission. Subsequently he must be prepared to act on his own initiative and be ready to seize any opportunities that offer of effective action against the enemy.

3. Artillery in conjunction with mounted troops may delay hostile columns of all arms on the march, by bringing long range fire to bear on them and thus compelling them to deploy. If fire can be brought from a flank it may compel the enemy to change direction. The presence of artillery with a small force or detachment of mounted troops may deceive the enemy as to its strength.

4. When artillery is working in close proximity to a force of mounted troops no special escort is necessary. Should the guns, however, be detached, an escort will be required, and if none is provided, it is the duty of the artillery commander to call on the nearest unit for an escort.

The principal duties of the escort are:

i. To warn the artillery commander of all attempts of the enemy to approach within effective rifle range of the guns or ammunition wagons.

ii. To keep hostile bodies beyond effective rifle range of the guns.

All ground within rifle range which might afford concealment to an enemy should either be occupied by an escort or be under its effective fire.

5. The escort commander should place himself where he can best superintend his command and see what is going on; in order to ensure that he has early information as to intended movements by the guns he should detail an officer or reliable non-commissioned officer to remain near the artillery commander.