

Position of the Hand and Arm when Riding and Method of Holding the Reins
(Regulations & Field Service Manual for Mounted Infantry, 1889)

1. The bridoon rein will be placed over the full of the hand apart from the bit rein, the bit rein divided by the third finger, and drawn up by the right hand until a gentle feeling of the horse's mouth is obtained. The upper part of the arm to hang straight from the shoulder, left elbow touching the hip, wrist rounded outwards, back of the hand to the front, hand opposite the centre of the body, and 3 to 6 inches from the body.

Take hold of the bridoon rein at the joint with the right hand, and draw it through the left hand until a steady feeling is obtained, placing at the same time the first finger over the off (or right) bridoon rein; there will then be a rein between each finger, the bridoon reins being the two outside reins.



Equitation (*Drill Regulations for the North-West Mounted Police, 1889*)

1. All riding drills must be carried on according to the general principles embodied in *Military Equitation, Cavalry Regulations*. Menages are to be marked out wherever a division of Mounted Police are stationed, and the men and horses drilled therein at every available opportunity, an officer superintending all drills in the menage or on the square when possible.

2. Riding drills are to be simplified as much as possible to suit the requirements of the force. As, for instance: The four motions of preparing to mount, are to be combined; the three for mounting, also, and the detail given as two separate motions. The same in preparing to dismount and dismounting, substituting the words "horn" of the saddle for "pommel."

3. Great attention is to be paid by instructors in teaching the men the proper method of saddling their horses, also, in instructing them as to the manner saddles, head-collars and bits should be fitted, explaining and naming to them the different parts of the saddlery and of their horses.

Great attention and care must also be paid to the breaking in of horses to stand fire; blank ammunitions should be drawn from the quartermasters store for that purpose, and used in the manege at all drills.

4. In saddling remount bronchos great care must be observed. They must first be brought out of their stalls into the centre of the stable, a spare man standing by their heads holding the halter shank and bridoon reins, blankets and numnahs are then carefully placed on, in the centre of the horses' backs; the men will then take hold of the saddle, the left hand under the pommel, his right grasping the cantle (off leggadero and cinches first being placed over the seat of the saddle), and place it squarely on blanket or numnah, placing his left hand under the blanket or numnah, and raising it up off the horse's withers into the fork of the saddle; he will then go to the off side and lift down the cinches and leggadero carefully, coming to the near side to cinch up, the cinch straps to be tightened gradually, and not with violence. Knee or foot are on no account to be placed against the horses side in cinching up. Stable halters can be left on the first few days, if horses are fidgety about the head, halter shanks being fastened to the horn of the saddle. Head-collars as a rule can be placed on horses in stalls before bringing out to saddle, care being taken that the bridoon is not gagging the horse, and that the throat lash is not too tight. The bridoon should touch the corners of the horse's mouth without wrinkling it.

5. If any remount should happen to be a "buck-jumper," it must first be longed on the circle for half an hour before being backed.

A very good way to mount a young horse for the first few days is to take hold of the cheek-strap and near rein with the left hand, near the ring of the bridoon; draw the off rein over the neck, but not too tight, and place it also in the left hand; grasp the whole firmly, place the left foot in the stirrup, take hold of the horn with the right hand, give a smart spring up, leaning well over the horse's neck in doing so; throw the right leg smartly over the horse's croup, taking up off stirrup

