

## **Dismounted Duty** (*Drill Regulations for the North-West Mounted Police, 1889*)

### **General Rules**

1. It must be distinctly recognized that the Mounted Police, when required to fight, does so on foot, and that their horses are intended as a means of placing them across the prairie with rapidity in some chosen or desired position, whence they can use their carbines to advantage.
2. Horses must be taught to lead well, and this should be taught on all exercise parades, by changing lead horses from "near" to "off" side every other day. If a horse at first will not lead, he can easily be taught, if a non-commissioned officer follows with a whip.
3. In advancing to seize a position, or to come into action, men should dismount, if possible, under cover. If this is not possible, horse must be sent "about" to obtain cover.
4. The officer or non-commissioned officer in command of the horses must take every precaution to guard against surprise, and must keep up constant communication with the fighting line. If the horses are at all isolated and unsupported, care must be taken that a sufficient guard is left with them, and that precautions are taken against surprise. In such a case a reserve of from one-third to one-half of the men engaged should be kept in hand.
5. The officer or non-commissioned officer must take care that the horses of different sections do not get mixed, but that the sections are kept distinct, with the horses' heads toward the front; that No. 3 of each section is on the alert, ready to bring up the horses on the command or bugle sound "Horses Up."
6. If one man is left with the horses of each section there is no difficulty in moving the horses with rapidity from one position to another. If it is certain not to be necessary to move the horses, and if they can be placed in a secure position, all men in the division may be dismounted, and a small number of dismounted men may be left as horse guards; the horses being linked or otherwise fastened.
7. **To Dismount.**- (as per 1882 Troop/Division Organization)  
On the command "**For Dismounted Duty-Dismount,**" when in line, the odd numbers will advance one horse's length; Nos. 3 will return arms at once; Nos. 1, 2 and 4, will dismount with the greatest rapidity and take their reins over their horses' heads, and hand them to No. 3 who will be ready to receive the reins of Nos. 1 and 2 on the "off" side, and No. 4 on the "near" side.

