

CHAPTER IV.
EQUITATION. (See also "Animal Management")

41. The standard required.

The efficiency of mounted troops depends in great measure on the riding of the men and the condition of the horses.

The man must be capable of:

- i. Controlling his horse at all paces.
- ii. Riding over all kinds of ground at speed, if necessary leading another horse.
- iii. Mounting and dismounting with arms with rapidity.
- iv. Looking after his horse efficiently in the field.

42. Horsemastership.

1. General principles. The importance of being a good horsemaster should be impressed upon every mounted rifleman. He should be taught to look upon his horse as his best friend, and to take a pride in its appearance.

The recruit should receive instruction in the prevention and cure of the minor ailments of a horse; in feeding and watering; and in the treatment of a horse on the march, in the field, in camp, and in quarters.

2. Watering and feeding. Men should be taught to water and feed their horses whenever an opportunity occurs, particularly on hot days. Many a horse has died on service through his rider neglecting what proved to be his only chance of watering his horse during a long day. Horses accustomed to be watered from buckets drink slowly at a shallow stream, and consequently should be given plenty of time. They never suffer ill-effects from being watered when heated, unless they are put to fast work immediately, or are left to stand and get chilled.

If they are required for fast work very soon after being watered, they should not be allowed to drink more than 6 to 10 swallows.

Opportunities for giving the horses a small feed at frequent intervals and for giving them grazing, even a few mouthfuls, should never be neglected.

3. Weight off the back. A rifleman in marching order rides at least 17 stones; every minute that part of that weight is removed from the horse's back is a refreshing period of relief. The relief to the horse is similar to that experienced by a man putting down his rifle and ammunition for a few moments rest when on the march. When the men are working independently during long days, they should be taught to dismount whenever possible. Instructors should impress on recruits the necessity for dismounting whenever possible by making them dismount frequently for a few minutes at a time.

When dismounting the rider should always take the rifle with him.

The best long-distance marches by mounted troops have been carried out by men who frequently relieved their horses of their rider's weight. Horses can easily be taught to lead well at a walk, and it is by no means difficult to train them to move at the

rate of four miles an hour, though this is too fast a pace for the men to maintain for long.

It should hardly ever be necessary for a man to sit on his horse at the halt. He should be accustomed to dismount at every opportunity, and if his horse is at all blown to turn its head towards the wind except in wet or cold weather.

After a long day, it is a good plan to make the men walk and lead their horses with loosened girths the last half mile of their journey.

4. *Off saddling.* The two most frequent causes of sore backs are:

- i. Continued friction at one place.
- ii. The stoppage of the circulation at one place due to continued pressure.

Either of these is liable to occur if the saddle is left on for several hours without the girths being slackened.

Even when there is not time to off saddle, the action of loosening the girths and moving the saddle eases the horse greatly; it has the same effect that the removal of a tight boot for a few moments has on a man. The off saddle can be effected very rapidly if it is regularly practised. It is advisable in warm weather to off saddle once a day on the drill ground, or in the open country, whenever the horses are absent from their stables for any length of time. When the saddles are removed, the backs should be immediately slapped, or hand-rubbed with the flat of the hand for a few minutes in order to restore circulation. In cold weather, the girths should only be slackened, and the saddle moved, as taking the saddle off may cause a chill.

5. *Shoeing.* Men should be taught to pay special attention, both at stables and in the field to their horses' shoes. The least sign of a shoe loose, or clinches broken or knocked up, should be reported without delay.

43. *The paces of the horse.*

1. The following are the regulation paces for the drill and manoeuvre of mounted troops. Troops mounted on horses smaller than those supplied to the regular cavalry must modify their paces accordingly.

Walk 4 miles an hour, at which rate 117 yards are passed over in one minute, or 1/4 mile in 3 minutes 45 seconds.

Trot 8 miles an hour, at which rate 235 yards are passed over in 1 minute or 1/4 mile in 1 minute 52 seconds.

Gallop 15 miles an hour, at which rate 440 yards (1/4 mile) are passed over in 1 minute.

2. The canter, about nine miles an hour, and the jog or slow trot, 6 miles an hour, should be employed constantly, both in teaching recruits to ride and in training young horses. At the walk, however, horses should always be made to maintain the regulation pace of 4 miles per hour.

3. In marching, especially along a road, and when men are riding singly or in small groups not a drill, a slower trot than the regulation drill or manoeuvre trot of 8 miles an hour should be used. Trotting at a rate faster than 8 miles an hour should seldom be permitted.

SADDLERY (see also "*Animal Management*")

44. Fitting a saddle.

The following are the chief points of importance in fitting a saddle:

- i. The withers must not be pinched nor pressed upon.
- ii. There must be no pressure upon the horse's spine.
- iii. The shoulder-blade bones must have free and uncontrolled movement.
- iv. The weight must not be put on the loins but upon the muscles covering the ribs.

45. Saddling.

1. The front of the *saddle* should be sufficiently far back to insure that it does not interfere with the play of the shoulder. The panels of the saddle should lie flat on the top of the horse's ribs, the weight of the rider being borne by the part between the front and back arches. The front arch should clear the withers to the breadth of not less than two fingers when the rider is in the saddle.

2. The *blanket* should be raised well off the withers by putting the hand under it.

It can be folded in several ways. With a horse of normal shape and condition the following method is recommended. The blanket is folded lengthways in three equal folds, one end is then turned over 24 inches, and the other turned into the pockets formed by the folds; the blanket thus folded is placed on the horse's back with the thick part near the withers. Size when folded 2'0" x 1'7", when unfolded 5'5" x 4'8". The folding of the blanket may be modified to suit special horses and to meet alteration in shape consequent upon falling away in condition. In the case of a horse which has fallen away in condition, and for certain shapes of back, a useful method is the "Channel fold." The blanket is folded lengthways in three equal parts, each end is then turned over and folded towards the centre (two or three folds may be taken as required to suit the horse's back), leaving a channel in the centre.

3. The *girth* should be sufficiently tight to keep the saddle in its place and no tighter. It must be tightened gradually, and not with violence, care being taken that the skin is not wrinkled. It is recommended that the girths of all except young and growing horses should be fitted with the buckle in the second or third hole from the free end of the tab.

4. The *surcingle* should lie flat over the girth, and be no tighter than it.

5. *Adjustment of the "V" attachment.* The V attachment admits of limited adjustment to suit the conformation of the horse.

The front strap of the V attachment, Marks II or III, should not be buckled and unbuckled daily when girthing, nor utilised for shortening or lengthening the girth.

The normal position of the attachment is with the buckle in the centre hole of the three - 6 1/2 inches from the rivet - this position will suit a very large number of horses; the upper and lower holes are provided for the adjustment; additional holes are not to be punched, If the saddle has a tendency to work forward, this strap should be shortened by buckling it in the lower hole.

The front strap holds the saddle in place and should be nearly in a straight line with the girth. The rear strap is intended to balance and steady the hinder part of the saddle.

In no case is the attachment to be worn with the front and rear straps of equal length, as this would depress the hinder part of the saddle and cause other difficulties.

Care should be taken in all cases to buckle the near and off straps in corresponding holes.

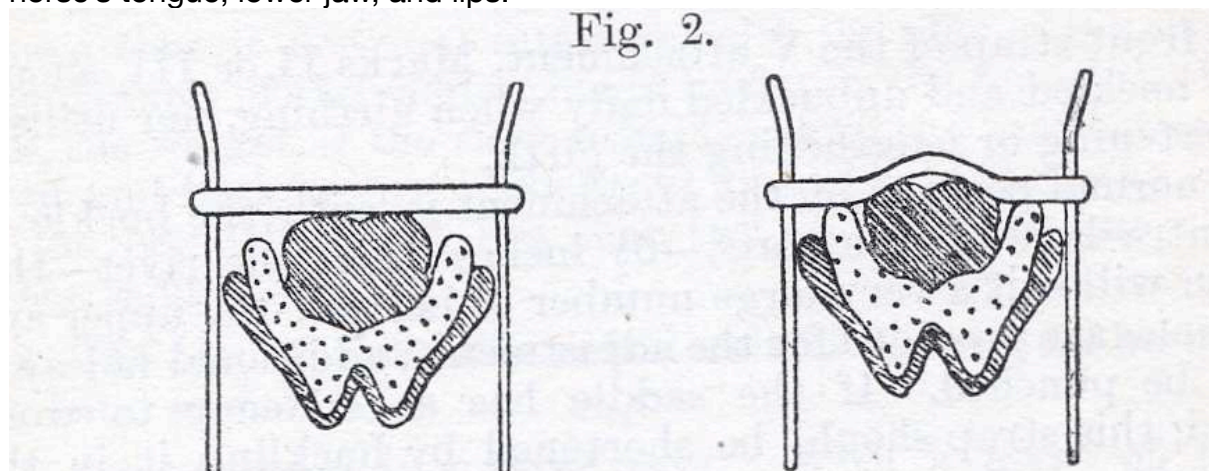
46. *Bridling.*

1. The *bridoon* should touch the corners of the mouth, but should hang low enough not to wrinkle the lips.

2. The *bit* should be adjusted so that its mouth-piece, when there is no pressure on the reins, rests on the bars of the mouth about two inches above the corner tooth, the smooth side of the mouth-piece being next the horse's tongue.

These instructions are given as a general guide; no definite rule can be laid down as so much depends on the shape and sensitiveness of the horse's mouth and on his temper.

3. The following figure represents bits with and without a port with a section of the horse's tongue, lower jaw, and lips.



The tongue is less sensitive than the bars of the mouth. A straight mouth-piece rests on both the tongue and the bars. When the reins are pulled the tongue is able to

take a great part of the pressure. A mouth-piece with a port rests chiefly on the bars. When the reins are pulled the tongue slips into the port and is unable to relieve the bars of the greater part of the pressure. A bit with a straight mouth-piece is therefore less severe than one with a port.

4. Care should be taken to fit each horse with a bit of the correct size. A narrow bit pinches the horse's lips, and a wide bit moves from side to side and bruises them.

5. The *curb chain* should be laid in the chin-groove, and be so adjusted that when the bit is pulled back to its greatest extent the angle which the bit forms with the mouth should never exceed 45 degree even with the lightest-mouthed horse, and should vary between that and 30 degrees according to the degree of hardness of the mouth. The curb chain should be fixed permanently on to the off curb-hook. The adjustment to the near hook should be made by twisting the chain to the right until its is quite flat, putting the last link on to the near curb-hook, and then taking up as many more links as may be necessary. The curb-chain should be fitted to suit the horse as a rough rule, it should always be loose enough to admit two fingers easily between it and the jawbone.

6. The *head-stall* should be parallel to and behind the cheek-bone.

7. The *nose-band* should be two finger-breadths below the cheek-bone and should admit two fingers between it and the nose.

8. The *throat lash* should fit loosely, being only sufficiently tight to prevent the head-stall slipping over the horse's ears.

9. The reins should be of such a length that, when held by the middle, in the full of the left hand, with a light feeling of the horse's mouth, they will touch the rider's waist.

47. Method of putting on the breastplate, martingale and equipment.

1. The *breastplate*, which should be so fitted that the upper edge of the rosette or leather is three finger-breadths above the sharp breast bone, should admit the breadth of the hand between it and the flat of the shoulder.

2. The *martingale*, which should only be used for exceptional horses and which may be either running or standing, according to which is found to suit the horse best, should be fitted so long that it will not interfere with the horse until he gets his head above the proper position. If shorter than this it will tend to make him set his head and neck, and lean against it.

If a running martingale is used on reins other than those sewn to the bit or bridoon, they should be fitted with stops to prevent the rings of the martingale being caught by the buckles or studs which fasten the reins to the bit or bridoon.

Running martingales should, as a rule, be put on the bit reins and sufficiently loose to have not bearing on the reins till the horse attempts to raise his head.

The standing martingale should, as a rule, be fastened to the nose-band, but under exceptional circumstances it may be fastened to the bridoon or cheek of the port-mouth bit.

3. Equipment. No hard and fast rule as to the method of carrying equipment can be laid down owing to the differences in equipment used in various parts of the world.

Articles required in marching order may be carried as follows:

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i. *In front of saddle.*

Great-coat rolled 36 inches, and fastened with two baggage straps and centre cloak strap, the buckles of which should be towards the front.

ii. *On saddle.*

Near Side

Picketing peg.

Picketing rope.

Heel peg.

Heel rope.

Nose bag.

Mess tin.

off side

Rifle bucket.

48. *Care of saddlery.*

1. The leather work of all saddlery should be kept soft. The seats and flaps of the saddles and handled parts of the reins should not be polished. Leather girths, girth attachments, and sweat flaps should be kept supple with grease.

2. A troop commander is responsible that his saddlery is in good condition. Minor defects should be remedied at once.

Stirrup leathers should occasionally be shortened one inch at the buckle ends, to bring the wear on fresh holes.

The girth tabs require special attention and must be renewed from time to time as the holes wear.

3. All leather work, whether new or old, should be greased before being put away in store, and especially in hot or damp climates, should be overhauled from time to time.

4. All saddlery and harness should be taken to pieces from time to time and carefully inspected. Once a year all leather work should be dubbed, the leather having first been moistened with a sponge and in cold weather the dubbing warmed; after few days the dubbing should be rubbed off with a dry brush or a rubber.

Soft soap should be used sparingly as it contains an excess of alkali, which tends to damage the leather.

Leather must not be washed with soda or soaked in water; very hot water destroys its vitality at once. Washing in lukewarm with soap, quickly and without soaking, will do the least harm if the precaution is taken to apply oil, dubbing, or good saddle soap whilst the leather is still slightly damp.

The dirt should always be removed from leather before fresh dressing is applied.

5. Stitching should be tested periodically, for the life of thread is shorter than that of leather.

RIDING.

49. *General principles.*

1. The instruction will be divided into two stages:

i. *First stage.* During which the main object will be to teach the man to sit his horse with confidence, both in an enclosed space and in the open, at a walk, trot and canter, and when jumping very small obstacles.

ii. *Second stage.* He should then be taught the aids (Sec. 55), and how to ride with the rifle. He should be given more practice in jumping and in riding at fast paces in the open country.

2. The instructor should usually be mounted. When possible practical illustrations should accompany verbal descriptions. A recruit who may have great difficulty in learning his work by mere verbal instruction, will learn quickly by copying a good horseman.

3. From the first, recruits must be carefully taught how to put on and fit their saddles and bridles. The ill effects resulting from badly fitting saddlery should be explained to them. Instructors should show the recruits examples of horses badly saddled and bridled.

Concurrently with his instruction in riding the recruit should be taught the care of saddlery and the points of the horse and should be given other elementary instruction connected with horses and stables.

4. All instructional work should be quiet; the instructor should never shout and must always keep his temper. He must endeavour from the first to create a spirit of emulation amongst his pupils, and avoid delaying the more forward amongst them for the sake of the more backward. The first lessons should be of less than an hour's duration.

5. Instructors should make their lessons progressive and as interesting as possible. In order to give recruits confidence, they may be allowed occasionally to amuse themselves in the riding school with their horses, by doing anything they like provided that it is sensible and that the horses are not ill-treated.

When men are working in the open they should occasionally be made to ride about independently, and as they improve, should be accustomed to riding under as varied conditions as possible.

6. The confidence of the recruit should be encouraged from the first. If he has never ridden before he should be given a quiet well trained horse. He should be allowed a saddle and stirrups for the first few days, after which some of his work each day should be without stirrups. He should only use a snaffle at this early stage, or if this is not possible, the port-mouth bit with single rein attached to the cheek and without a curb chain.

Falls should be avoided, as they tend to spoil the beginner's nerve and thus retard his progress. To avoid them the recruit's stirrups should be connected in the initial stages by a strap passing under the horse's belly, of such a length that the man's knees are not drawn away from the saddle. The strap saves falls because it prevents the rider's belly, of such a length that the man's knees are not drawn away from the saddle. The strap saves falls because it prevents the rider's leg from flying out far in

any direction and the confidence it engenders enables him to acquire balance more quickly. It should not be used when jumping obstacles over two feet high.

7. The first portion of the early training can be carried out more easily in an enclosed space than in the open. The horses are under better control, and the nervousness natural to beginners and usually felt by recruits is greatly lessened, for they know that the horse cannot run away. There is nothing in a riding school to distract the attention of men or horses from their work.

Recruits should not, however, be kept long at preliminary riding instruction in the riding school or manege. As soon as they have attained a fair degree of confidence and steadiness of seat they should be taken into the open, where the more advanced training must always be carried out in order to develop the intelligence of the recruit and give him confidence.

8. More horses are spoilt from being jerked in the mouth than from any other cause; this is particularly the case when jumping; hence the importance of teaching the men from the first to leave their horse's heads alone except for the purpose of control and for applying particular aids.

Men should be taught to ride with their reins long.

9. Men should be practised in jumping all kinds of natural obstacles, and in clambering up and down steep places, in and out of ravines, or V-shaped ditches. They should be taught to ride over all kinds of rough country with a loose rein.

10. Advantage should be taken of every opportunity during field drills, and on all mounted parades, of teaching the men the correct principles of riding and handling their horses.

On the march they should be taught to make their horses go up to their bits at a walk or trot, and they should never be allowed to sit on their horses in a slovenly manner.

50. *First lessons*

1. Squads should not if possible exceed 8 in number. The men should parade in line, leading their horses.

“STAND TO YOUR HORSES.” The man stands at *attention* as in Sec 17 on the near side of the horse, his toes in line with the horse's fore feet, the reins, if taken over the horse's head, are held with the right hand near the ring of the bit, little finger between the reins, back of the hand up; the right arm bent, the hand as high as the shoulder; the end of the reins in the left hand, which hangs down by his side without constraint.

This is the position of *attention* when the man is leading his horse.

When the horse is about to be ridden, the position will be the same as above, except that the reins will not be taken over the horse's head, but will be held by the right hand only near the bit.

“STAND- AT EASE” The right hand slides down the reins to the full extent of the arm, the end of the reins being retained in the left hand. The position of the man's legs and feet are the same as at foot drill (Sec. 18).

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If the reins have not been taken over the horse's head the near rein will be held in the right hand, the left arm hanging without constraint by the man's side.

"ATTENTION." "IN FRONT OF YOUR HORSES." As above.

Each man will take a full pace forward with the right foot, turn to the right-about, and take one rein in each hand near the rings, still holding the end of them in the left hand, if the reins are over the horse's head; hands and elbows to be as high as the shoulders.

This is the position in which a man should stand when showing a horse to an officer.

"STAND TO YOUR HORSES." Each man will take a full step forward with the right foot to the horse's near side, and turn left-about.

"QUICK - MARCH" Each man will move off holding the reins above.

"SINGLE FILES RIGHT OR (LEFT)" "QUICK MARCH"

Each man will move off in succession, one horse-length from the file in front of him.

2. When leading through a narrow gate or doorway, the man should move slowly, taking care that the horse's hips clear the posts of the door. He should walk backwards holding his horse with both hands, one on either side of its head.

In passing an officer the soldier when leading a horse will look towards the officer.

3. *How to pick up a horse's foot.* The recruit should be taught that in picking up a horse's foot, he should face the rear and run the hand lightly down the leg from the shoulder or quarter along the back of the knee or hock before attempting to lift the foot from the ground.

When picked up the foot should be held by the hoof and not be the fetlock.

4. *How to run a horse in hand.* The reins should be held as described above in *stand to your horses* and the horse led off. As soon as he breaks into a steady trot the man should release the reins with the hand nearest the horse, and only hold the end of the reins in his outer hand. In turning a horse when in hand, the man should move round the horse and not swing the horse round himself. In leading a horse past an officer for inspection, the man should place himself on the side of the horse nearest the officer.

51. *Mounting and dismounting.*

1. *Without stirrups.* The reins hanging evenly on the horse's neck, the command will be given:

"PREPARE TO MOUNT" On this caution each man will turn to the right, and step 6 inches to the right.

Taking the reins in the left hand properly separated for riding, he will place the left hand on the front of the saddle, grasping a lock of the man if the horse has one.

Though the reins should be short enough to check any forward movement of the horse, they should be of such a length that his mouth is not interfered with when he is being mounted. The right hand will grip the back of the saddle.

“MOUNT” The man will spring up, assisting himself by straightening his arms, pass his right leg over the horse, and lower himself into his seat.

When mounting without a saddle the left hand will be placed in front of the horse’s withers, and the right arm on the horse’s loins, forearms well to the off side, fingers closed.

“PREPARE TO DISMOUNT” On this caution, the man will place both his hands, with a rein or reins in each, on the front of the saddle, and raise himself from the horse’s back by straightening his arms.

“DISMOUNT” He will vault lightly to the ground and assume the position of *stand to your horses*.

When dismounting on the off side, which is carried out in the same manner as on the near side, should be practised frequently.

2. *With stirrups.*

“PREPARE TO MOUNT” Turn to the right-about.

Take the reins in the left hand properly separated as for riding, and with a light and equal feeling on the horse’s mouth. Place the left hand on the horse’s withers, grasping his mane if he has one, otherwise seize hold of the front of the saddle.

Place the left foot in the stirrup, steadying it with the right hand, then place the right hand on the back of the saddle.

“MOUNT” spring quietly into the saddle, placing the right foot in the stirrup without looking down; assume the position of *attention*. (See Sec. 54)

Mounting on the off side will be taught in the same manner.

“PREPARE TO DISMOUNT” Shorten the reins and grasp the mane with the left hand, place the right hand on the front part of the saddle and take the right foot out of the stirrup.

“DISMOUNT” Carry the right leg over the horse’s back and lower the right foot gently to the ground; place the left foot in line with the horse’s fore-feet, turn to the left and come to the position of *stand to your horses*.

Whenever the men are dismounted, with or without arms, and have been allowed to *stand easy* from the position of *stand at ease*, they will be recalled to *attention* by the command “STAND TO YOUR HORSES.”

3. Mounting and dismounting on the off side should also be practised. They are carried out on the commands “OFF SIDE PREPARE TO MOUNT,” ETC., and “OFF SIDE PREPARE TO DISMOUNT”, ETC. The method is as described above for mounting and dismounting on the near side if right is substituted for left and left for right.

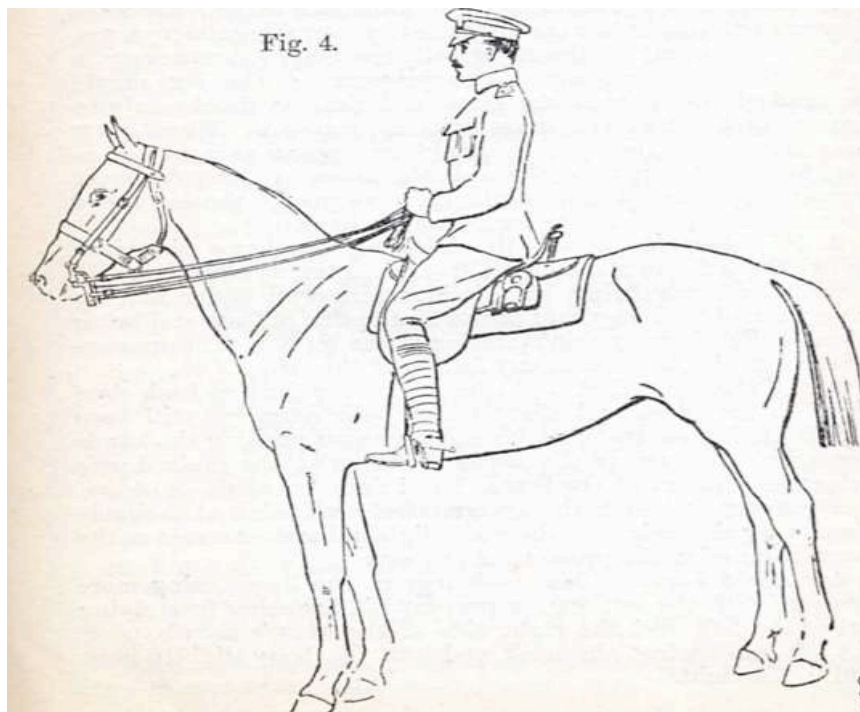
4. The cautions “PREPARE TO MOUNT” or “PREPARE TO DISMOUNT” are only given for instructional and ceremonial purposes; with trained men there is only one word of command in each case, namely, “MOUNT” OR “DIS-MOUNT”. Recruits must be taught on these commands to mount quickly, or to jump off their horses as the case may be.

52. The seat (See Fig. 4)

The recruit must be made to sit evenly on his seat well down in the saddle, and not on his fork; the flat of the thigh and the inside of the knee pressed against the horse, but not so tightly that the man rides on his thighs, as the weight of the body should rest principally on the seat. Below the knee the leg should hang free. In the early stages much attention need not be paid to the position of the body though from the first the recruit should be taught to get his seat well under him and to avoid any tendency to stiffness.

Great care should be taken to fit the stirrups to the length suitable to the build of the rider. If a man standing in his stirrups can just clear the pommel with his fork the stirrups are about the right length. The man should be made to place himself in the saddle with his knees at the most suitable height. The stirrups should then be adjusted so that the bars are in line with the soles of his boots. A man with a short thick leg, however, requires his stirrups shorter in proportion than a man of equal height, but with a flat thigh and thin leg. The stirrups are intended to be an aid and convenience to the rider; if they are too long he will lose his seat by leaning forward in his endeavour to retain them; if they are too short the seat becomes cramped and the rider prevented from using the lower part of the leg correctly.

In ceremonial work the stirrups should be kept on the ball of the foot, but at other times the feet should always be pushed right home in the stirrups.



53. How to hold the reins.

1. The reins should normally be held in both hands. The hands should be low and close in front of the body. Thumbs uppermost, wrists rounded, and backs of the hand

to the front. Play should be allowed to movements of the horse from the wrists, elbows, and if necessary the shoulders Elbows should be kept close to the body.

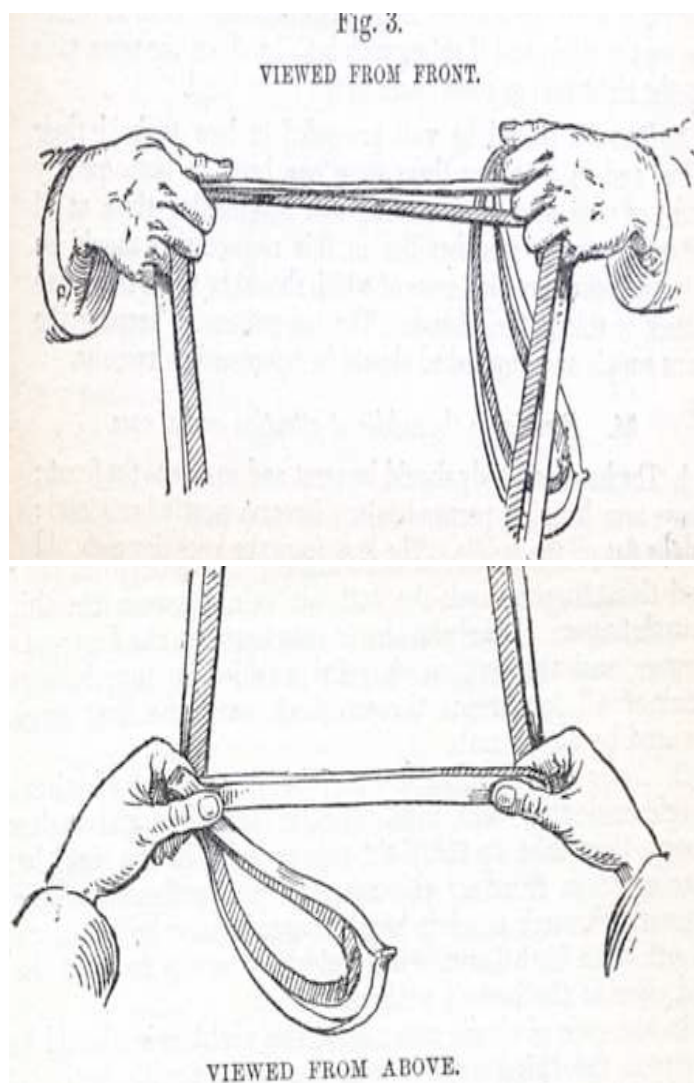
2. Reins in left hand.

i. Check reins only. - Take the two reins in the left hand, the right rein between the first and second fingers and the left rein outside the fourth finger, slack passed across the palm and secured between the thumb and the first finger.

ii. All four reins. Place the right bit rein between the second and third fingers, and the left bit rein between the third and fourth fingers. The right cheek rein between the first and second fingers, and the left cheek rein outside the fourth finger, the slack of all four reins thrown back over the first finger and secured by the thumb.

3. Reins in both hands. - In the first place, whether using single or double reins, take them in the left hand as described above, then take up the right rein or reins in the right hand by placing it in front of the left, and pull sufficient of the slack forward through the left hand to obtain an even bearing on the mouth with both hands when held low, just in front of the body and close to the horse's withers.

In the case of single reins only, the right rein should be held between the third and fourth fingers, and with both bit and cheek the two right reins should be separated by the third finger. In each case the right hand should hold only the right rein or reins, the slack of these being secured between the right thumb and forefinger and thence passed back into the left hand which will hold both the left and right reins, whether the two hands are used or only one.



4. *To lengthen the reins.* Allow sufficient rein to slip gently through the fingers.
5. *To shorten the reins.* Keep the reins in the left hand but drop the slack from between the thumb and forefinger, and take hold of this in the right hand behind the left, slide the left hand forwards until the desired length is obtained. Then as before secure the slack, and if riding with both hands on the reins, take up the right rein or reins again in the right hand.
6. Recruits should be well grounded in how to hold their reins, and in changing them from one hand to both quickly and *vice versa*, also in shortening and lengthening them at all paces. To make men handier to this respect they should be given constant practice, some of which should be when they have a stick or rifle in their hands. The importance of keeping the reins supple and unpolished should be impressed on recruits.

54. Position in the saddle at attention and at ease.

1. The head and body should be erect and square to the front; upper arm hanging perpendicular; forearm nearly horizontal; thighs flat on the saddle. The legs from the knee down should be almost vertical; the toes pointing towards the front; feet practically horizontal and pressed down into the stirrups. The heels should be sunk lower than the toes and the feet pressed down into the stirrups (as in Figure 4).
2. On the command "SIT AT EASE" the reins should be relaxed by dropping the left hand on the front of the saddle. The right hand should rest on the left, back up.

55. The aids.

1. The aids are signs used by the rider to assist him in controlling and directing his horse. These signs are made by means of reins, legs, spurs, moving the weight of the body, whip and voice. For instance, the reins can be used to bend, raise, lower, or turn the head to one side, and to make the horse decrease his speed, halt, or rein back.
2. The pressure of both legs is an indication to the horse to go forward; the indication is emphasised by increasing the pressure, only in the event of the horse still resisting is it necessary to apply the heel or spurs. The pressure of the leg should be applied just behind the girth and the leg should only be drawn back when the horse fails to respond. When it is necessary to use the spur it should be applied as described in Sec. 57. When applying the aids the knees of the rider must remain close against the saddle, the pressure of the leg being obtained by the use of the leg below the knee.
3. *To collect the horse.* - In collecting the horse the rider causes the horse to stand, walk, trot or canter, at attention. He makes the horse bring his hindquarters well under him by a pressure of both legs, and causes him to flex his jaw and bring his nose slightly in by a light feeling of the bit rein. The pressure of the legs should precede any feeling of the reins.
4. *"Walk" or "trot".* - Without drawing the legs back close them to the horse and slightly ease both reins, but still keep a light feeling on the horse's mouth without pushing the hands forward. As soon as the horse advances at the desired pace relax the pressure of the legs and feel the reins again as before.
5. *"Halt".* - Close both legs and feel both reins, at the same time bring the weight of the body slightly back. As soon as the horse halts relax the pressure of the legs.
6. *"Right Turn".* - Close both legs to the horse, using more pressure with the left leg to prevent his haunches from flying out to the left, feel the right side of the horse's mouth, press the left rein against the neck, and lean the body slightly back and to the right.
7. *"Right about Turn."* (Note trained horses should never be allowed to turn in any other way than on their haunches.) The same as "right turn", except that the rider should lean his body more back and as required apply more continued pressure on the right rein and close both legs, using firmer pressure with the drawn back left leg to compel the horse to turn on his haunches.
8. *To rein back.* - On the command "REIN BACK" the rider will collect his horse, then feel the horse's mouth as an indication for the horse to step backwards; the rider must

never have a dead pull on the horse's mouth, but when the horse has taken a step back should ease the reins and then feel them again. The horse should be kept up to his bit by a pressure of both legs.

The trained horse should rein back collectedly, with head carried fairly high, and the body balanced on all four legs. He must move in a straight line, and must not be allowed to run back out of hand, but must make each movement in obedience to the properly applied indication of the rider. Nor should he be allowed to halt in an uncollected position.

9. i. *To canter, off fore and off hind leading.* - Collect the horse, feel the left rein gently, and by a strong pressure of the drawn back left leg make him strike off into a canter. Prevent him from turning his quarters to the right by a supporting pressure of the right leg as required. When cantering the horse's body, head and neck should be kept in the direction in which he is moving; his head and neck should not be bent away from the leading leg. The horse must always be aide to canter true and united.

ii. *To canter, near fore and near hind leading.* - Reverse the above aids.

10. Methods of telling if a horse is cantering true:

i. Look at his shoulders and fore feet: the shoulder and foot of the leading leg should be the most advanced.

ii. Look at his hind legs. The leading one of these should be on the same side as the leading fore leg.

If disunited, the movement felt in the seat will be a jolting and twisting motion.

11. *Change from off fore and off hind to near fore and near hind at the canter.* - Close both legs to the horse, turn his head slightly to the right, prevent him from turning his body to the left by the pressure of the left leg, move the weight of the body slightly backwards and cause him to change by a stronger pressure of the drawn back right leg.

Change from near fore and near hind to off fore and off hind at the canter. - Reverse the above aids.

12. i. *Circle right at canter (from the halt, walk or trot).* - Apply the aids described for the "*Canter, off fore and off hind leading,*" guide the horse round to the right.

ii. *Circle right at the canter.* -Apply the aids described for the "*Canter, near fore and near hind leading,*" and guide the horse round to the left.

56. *Teaching the recruit how to ride his horse over a fence.*

1. Jumping, when carried out with discretion, both as to the amount of practice given and the state of the ground, is an excellent training for men and horses. Constant practice throughout the recruits training will enable the man to acquire and afterwards to maintain, a firm seat, whilst, at the same time, the muscles of the horse's back and thighs are developed and strengthened.

2. The men trotting round the school with suitable intervals between horses should be made to jump a bar lying on the ground.

As the training advances the height of the bar should be increased, but so gradually that the men never lose confidence.

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

The recruit should at first either hold the end of the rein in the flat of one hand or drop it altogether. His arms should be folded across the chest, or he may be ordered to grasp his breeches at the thigh. Stirrups should be allowed until the instructor considers it advisable for the beginner to jump without them. In the first jumping lessons the recruits may be allowed to hold the mane, head rope, or front of the saddle in one hand and the reins loosely in the other. With this assistance they will be found to get confidence, attain their proper balance in a short time, and be in a position to control their horses without jerking their mouths.

3. As the horse takes off, the pupil should be instructed to lean forward and to tighten his leg grip if he is successful in this his body will soon swing in harmony with the movement of the horse. The movements of the body from the hips upwards when riding over a jump vary so much with different horses and different fences, that it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule. Balance must be combined with leg grip. The horse should be eased up gently after a jump, on no account should his pace be checked suddenly.

4. The pupil should be gradually trained to handle the reins when jumping, and the greatest care must be exercised to avoid ill-treatment of the horse's mouth during the process. If the man's shoulder-joints are given free play when the horse requires more rein all jerky movements of the arms and wrists will be avoided as the hands go forward. Reins must be held long, and allowed to come freely forward as the horse is descending.

57. Spurs. (On no account should spurs with sharp rowels be used.)

1. When the recruit has learned to preserve his proper seat and balance he may ride with spurs. In applying them he must not open his thighs or move his body forward; the leg from the knee downwards only should move.

2. The spur should be used as little as possible, but when it is necessary the horse must be made to feel it. A continual light touch with the spur will either make the horse kick or cause him to become insensible to it; a jogging motion of the leg, with the heel drawn up, should therefore never be allowed.

58. Various exercises.

1. *General principles.* The recruit's course should proceed by degrees according to the progress made, and any or all of the following exercises may be found useful.

Other which suggest themselves to the instructor may be added. Each exercise or game, however, should have some definite object in view, and should be looked on merely as a means to an end.

2. *The circle.* The ride being told off by sections, "Nos. 1 OF EACH SECTION CIRCLE RIGHT (OR LEFT)." Each No. 1 will ride his horse in a circle and fall-in in the rear of his section; Nos. 2,3, and 4 doing the same when ordered by the instructor. "ODD (OR EVEN) NUMBERS CIRCLE RIGHT (OR LEFT)". Each odd (or even) number will ride in a small circle and fall-in behind the even (or odd) number immediately behind him.

“HEADS OF SECTION CIRCLE RIGHT (OR LEFT)”. The leading man of each section will ride in a circle followed by 2, 3, 4. They will continue in the circle until they get the command “GO LARGE”, when they will cease circling and resume their original formation; or the rein may be changed by the word of command “HEAD OF SECTIONS - CHANGE”.

3. *Figure of 8.* It may be carried out either in the riding school or in the open.

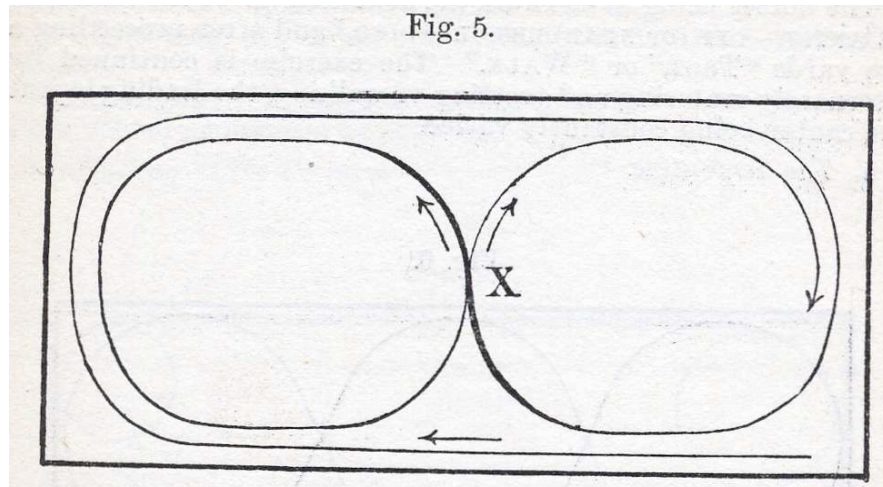
For the preliminary training in this movement the horse should be cantered quietly on a large circle or an oblong of about the same length as the school.

The change of rein and leading legs should be made as soon as the new circle is commenced at X. (See *Fig. 5.*)

In changing the bend, exaggerated movement of the rider's body, or the jerking of the horse's head across from one side to the other, should not be allowed; to compel the horse to change his legs, it is necessary to turn his head slightly outwards, the rider at the same time inclining his weight backwards to lighten the forehand and pressing with his outer leg. These movements should be made gently, and as soon as the horse has changed the leading legs, both fore and hind, his neck and head should be turned towards the direction he is going.

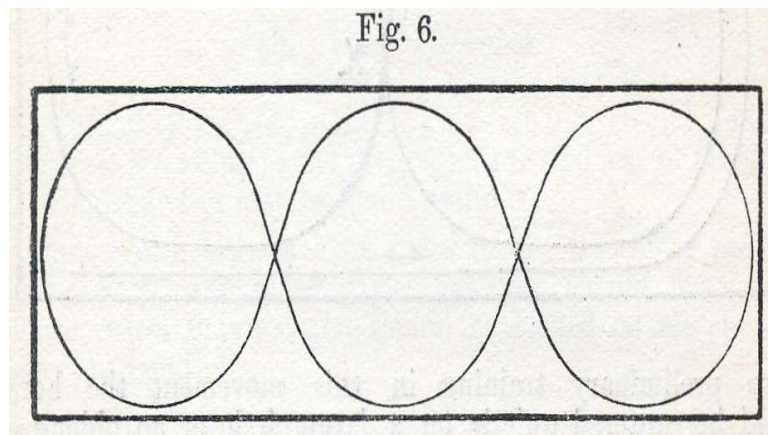
4. When moving at a walk or slow trot either in the open or along the one side of the school a good exercise to teach recruits the use of their hands and legs in combination is to strike off at a canter with a named leg leading.

Fig. 5.



The horses being at the walk the instructor gives the command “CANTER - OFF (OR NEAR) LEGS LEADING”, and after proceeding a few yards, “TROT” or “WALK”. The exercise is contained by alternately cantering and trotting or walking, the leading legs at the canter being constantly varied.

5. *The Serpentine.*



The changes of rein and leading legs to be made as soon as each new circle is commenced in the centre of the school or manege.

Continue to Chapter IV Part II ...