

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

Continue Chapter 5 - part VII

FURTHER PRELIMINARY TRAINING.

108. *Dismounting for action.*

1. Each troop will usually be in close order when ordered to dismount for action. If, however, it is desired to dismount when extended, the signal for dismount will be given and each section will close on its centre and dismount independently.

2. The following are the methods of dismounting:

i. *First method.*

“FOR ACTION FRONT (RIGHT OR LEFT) DISMOUNT.” When the troops are in *line* odd numbers advance one horse-length, and all except the Nos. 3 dismount as rapidly as possible; the even numbers bring their horses in line with the remainder, and the men of each section pass their reins over, and hand them to the No. 3, their reins over, and hand them to the No. 3, No. 1 first passing his reins inside the gullet piece of the head collar of No. 2’s horse. When the troops are in *column of sections*, No. 1 turns his horse to the right and dismounts, No. 2 dismounts on the off side, No. 3 takes over the horses of section as previously detailed No. 4 dismounts on the near side.

ii. *Second method.*

“RIGHT (OR LEFT) OR ODD (OR EVEN) NUMBERS, - FOR ACTION FRONT (RIGHT OR LEFT) DISMOUNT.” If the troops are in *line* the men ordered to dismount advance one horse-length and dismount. The numbers not ordered to dismount then move up into the intervals and take the reins of the men who have dismounted. The reins should not be passed over the horses’ heads.

If the troops are in *column of half sections* and the right files are ordered to dismount, the latter will dismount on the off side.

iii. *Third method.*

“WITH LINKED HORSES- FOR ACTION FRONT (RIGHT OR LEFT) DISMOUNT.”

The whole dismount as in the first method and the even numbers bring their horses up into line, closing in towards the right; the men take one pace to the front, and turn about and link their horses as described in Sec. 60, 4. The horses of troop leaders and serrefiles will be linked on the flanks of their troops.

iv. *Fourth method.*

“WITH COUPLED HORSES - FOR ACTION - FRONT (RIGHT OR LEFT) DISMOUNT.”

The odd numbers advance one horse-length. The whole dismount and the odd numbers turn about with their horses. The odd and even numbers then close towards each other, off side to off side, and exchange reins over the saddle, making them fast as described in Sec. 60, 3. The horses can then only circle round and can be left with no guard. The odd or even numbers, or the Nos. 3, can at any time be sent back to get the horses ready for the remainder, or to move them if necessary.

3. After giving the command to dismount squadron and troop leaders move at once to the front or to the flank ordered, so that the dismounted men can see at once where to fall in. When forming to the front the squadron will form up in line, if that was the formation of the squadron

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when the order to dismount was given, or in column of troops if column was the previous formation. When forming to a flank the squadron will form up in line.

The dismounted men, as soon as they have handed over their horses, double out as quickly as possible and without any noise, and form up in close order behind their troop leaders.

Whenever possible the men left in charge of the led horses should be ordered to dismount.

4. *To mount.* On the command "MOUNT" the men will run as rapidly as possible to their horses, slinging their rifles as they go, if slings are used, and walking when they get near their horses to avoid frightening them. Each man will take his horse and, if they are coupled, undo his *own* reins. If the troop is in line the odd numbers will lead their horses forward one horse-length to give the even numbers room to mount; all then mount independently and take their places in the ranks. Nos. 3, if already mounted, will assist the men of their sections to mount any horses that are restive. If the troop is formed in sections or files, Nos. 1 turn their horses to the right; all then mount, Nos. 1 and 4 on the near side and No. 2 on the off side; in this case they must not move them up, as they might thereby delay the mounting of the men in front.

If the command "STAND TO YOUR HORSES" is given to men on dismounted duty, they double to their horses and stand to their heads.

109. *Laying out a camp or bivouac.*

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

1. The shape and size of a camp or bivouac will generally be determined by the ground.

Units should not be cramped for space more than is absolutely necessary. On the other hand the dimensions of a camp or bivouac must not be increased unduly, as a straggling camp entails extra fatigue duties and delay in circulating orders.

2. The usual interval between regiments and squadrons is ten yards; in certain circumstances it may be necessary to reduce this interval.

3. Latrines, urinals, and refuse pits, which must be dug immediately after the arrival of the force, should when possible be situated at least 100 yards from, and when possible to the leeward of, the water supply and kitchens.

Plate V gives a plan of a minimum sized camp for a regiment. When necessary, this may be modified to suit the requirements of the ground.

