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THE AUTUMNAL MANŒUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. II.—(Continued.)

(From the Broad Arrow.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

The whole of the troops that are to take an active part in the manœuvres have now arrived at Aldershot. One hundred rounds of blank ammunition per man will be allowed during the manœuvres. Each man will receive five rounds every morning, which supply will be replenished, if required during the day from the regimental ammunition carts, one of which will follow each battalion. These carts will convey rather more than twenty-five rounds per man for a battalion of six hundred men, and they will turn out each day and follow in rear and within such convenient distance of their respective battalions as may be considered necessary. Any ammunition which may be taken from them during the day will be replenished in the evening from the standing depot of the division, which will be in charge of the Divisional Controllers, to be kept in such safe place and under such shelter as may be considered necessary.

General officers commanding divisions have been instructed to detail as many non-commissioned officers and privates as they may deem necessary to be attached to all volunteer corps joining their division to assist the Quartermasters in their duties. A sufficient number of cooks to assist in cooking, and instruct the men until they are able to take up the duties themselves, are to be furnished.

A message had been received from the Duke of Cambridge yesterday, that he would be down early that morning to inspect the Militia, but the day dawned gloomily, and soon settled into a pelting rain. For some hours no one stirred out of doors who could help it, and the great-coated cooks tending their dankly smoking fires looked scarcely less wretched than the horses standing with drooped heads at the picket-ropes. No one thought the Duke would come, but the rain broke, and the news soon spread that His Royal Highness had arrived, contrary even to the expectation of the Staff officers, who were busy at their desks. Messages were despatched ordering the Militia of the several brigades to march to the parade in front of the Secretary of State's hut, where the Duke, who had arrived at Aldershot between twelve and one o'clock, waited till the first regiments arrived and formed up ready for a march past. The ten regiments were formed into three brigades, under the command respectively of the Major-Generals commanding the several bri-

gades comprising the Aldershot division previous to the formation of the Army Corps. The Militia contingent of the 3rd Brigade was first on the general parade-ground where as the Duke of Cambridge was waiting at the saluting point; and, under the command of Major-General Maxwell, C. B., it formed up for His Royal Highness's inspection, formed in line of quarter columns of battalions. The Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by Prince Arthur, General Sir Hope Grant, General Sir Charles Staveland, and a numerous staff, made a close and critical inspection of the ranks; after which the brigade (as it may be called) marched past in open column of companies, and counter-marching, returned past the saluting point at quarter column interval. General Maxwell's command consisted of the 1st Tower Hamlets, 3rd Surrey, and 3rd Middlesex. The Militia contingent of the 2nd Brigade, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Surrey, and the 5th Middlesex, under the command of Major-General Carey, C. B., performed the same operations which were again repeated, with the exception of the preliminary inspection, by the contingent of the 1st Brigade, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Middlesex, the 2nd Tower Hamlets, and the Royal London. The correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"Taking everything into consideration, it was surprising with how close an approach to correct dressing and distance the several regiments executed the march past. They are unquestionably ugly soldiers, these militiamen; a large proportion would shine as military Aunt Sallies. The absence of setting up is very marked when you see either single men or a formation close at hand. They owe a grudge to their tailors, for their clothes are mostly atrociously cut. Some of the regiments are decidedly weak, stunted, and generally hungry and shrivelled in the matter of *physique*—so much so as to occasion grave doubts as to practical efficiency in the case of any urgent and continuous strain. There were in several of the regiments far too much talking in the ranks, and I overheard an officer of the 2nd Surrey give the remarkable order, "Go on forward." But there was such an unmistakable air of genuine enthusiasm and willingness to do their best on their being under the critical eyes of a large assemblage of regulars, both officers and men, so much real intelligence in packing up dropt skeins and in saving and correcting blunders, such an evident *esprit de corps*, and such a thorough giving to the marching past tune, that he would be a sour churlish critic who would refrain from speaking well of the appearance made by the Militia to day, under circumstances so calculated to impair

the organization of raw troops. There can be no question, without invidiousness, that the best corps, both in point of *physique* and training, is the 2nd Middlesex, or Edmonton Regiment of Rifles. The manner in which this regiment marched past would have done no discredit to a corps of regulars, and their conduct was so conspicuous, both in the march past and in the subsequent trying wheels, that the Duke left the saluting point, and riding to the head of the regiment, expressed himself in terms of warm commendation respecting its performance. The Militia as a whole have much to learn—it could not be otherwise, looking at the shortness of their training—but that they will learn much before the time comes for their disembodiment, is obvious to any one who cares to note their zeal, aptness, and sound grounding in the rudiments of their profession."

The Duke returned to town this evening. The correspondent of the *Times* says:—"It is rather difficult to understand what is to be the exact nature of his command. He and his Staff will I suppose, decide upon the general plan of the manœuvres, and then draw off and act as umpire while the Generals carry them out. I am sure the Duke is too much a good soldier to interfere with the details when once the manœuvres have begun, or to hamper the Generals by making or letting them feel the presence among them of a greater than themselves. It is believed in camp, though whether it be true or not I cannot say, that Sir Hope Grant had prepared a plan showing the first positions to be taken up and the general scheme of the manœuvres, and that this plan does not altogether satisfy the Duke, and is being set aside or altered in favour of one more thoroughly framed upon the Prussian model. So far as is known this evening, to-morrow will be a quiet day, except on Cove Common, The Life Guards, and the several regiments of Cavalry encamped there, are to test their mobility by striking and packing their tents. The Wilts Yeomanry have just telegraphed to say they cannot come."

The following are the exact official numbers of the combatant forces which will take the field. Without descending to units, which may vary between to-day and Friday, it will amount to in all about 36,000 men, divided as follows:—Regulars, 23,000; Militia, 8,450; Yeomanry, 550; Volunteers 3,300. 5080 horses belonging to the combatant force will go out, and the Army service Corps, will number 1530 men, and nearly double as many horses. The above force comprises twenty-three battalions of Line Infantry, averaging 830 men, and ten Militia regiments averaging 615 men each.