

The Great General Staff is subdivided into (a) the General Staff proper, consisting of 3 chiefs of division, 6 field officers and 15 captains; (d) the Secondary General Staff, whose officers are intended for purely scientific purposes, and consists of 1 chief of division, 5 field officers, and 12 captains.

The first of these two categories is divided into three divisions, or "theatres of war," each under a chief, as follows:

1. The First Division, which occupies itself with all countries east of Germany, including Austria and Scandinavia.

2. The Second Division, with Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.

3. The Third Division, with all countries to the west of the Second Division.

In respect of the countries to which it is assigned, each division must always possess full information in regard to the organization, strength, and state of preparation of the armies, and all important military considerations, peculiarities as a theatre of war, etc., so that immediately upon the breaking out of a war a complete basis for a plan of operations may be ready.

The second category is organized in four divisions, each under a chief, viz.

4. The Division of Military History, which is occupied in working up the details of past campaigns, so as to make their experience available in the present and future.

5. The Division of Geography and Statistics, with the collection of maps.

6. The Topographical Division, for the survey of the country.

7. The Railway Division.

The number of the general staff officers at the head quarters of commands varies in peace and war. In war the number assigned to each army corps is as follows. 1 chief of staff, 1 field officer, 2 captains, 1 field officer or captain with each division.

The number and rank of those assigned to the head quarters of armies, and with the great general head quarters, vary according to circumstances.

The duties of the officers attached to head quarters are, on the one hand, to assist their generals in drawing up and carrying out orders, and on the other, to perform certain office duties.

In addition to the officers proper of the general staff corps, every year some forty officers of the line are detailed for one or two years' service with the staff corps, in order to fit them for the performance of duty as aids de camp with the generals.

We can not fully explain the manner in which the candidates for the general staff corps are selected without first alluding to that admirable institution, the War Academy at Berlin. Any lieutenant in the army who has served three years with his regiment as a commissioned officer may present himself as a candidate for admission into the academy. About one hundred and fifty annually offer themselves as candidates, and of this number about fifty are admitted, after a very searching examination. This academy is undoubtedly the best institution of the kind in the world, and is intended to give officers of marked ability and ambition the most thorough instruction in all the higher branches of their profession, and thus fit them for service in the staff corps as aids de camp and as generals. Among the branches taught are tactics, strategy, military history, fortification, attack, and defence, topography, the duties of the administrative branches, staff service; and in connection with, or preparatory for, these subjects, pure mathematics, mechanics, chemistry, geology, natural philosophy, general history and literature,

and the Russian, French and English languages. The course lasts three years.

In each year the lectures continue from the beginning of October to the end of June. During the vacations at the close of the first and second years the students return to their regiments to take part in the autumn manoeuvres. Toward the end of the second year's course they have several weeks' exercise in practical surveying. At the close of the third year's course they take part with the professors in a "general staff tour," the object of which is to give them practice in making reconnaissances, executing topographical sketches, selecting sites for encampments, positions for troops, etc. They are now all returned to their regiments. From among the graduates some twelve or fifteen of the most able and industrious are usually selected candidates for the general staff corps. During the year succeeding their exit from the War Academy these do duty for about eight months with arms of service different from that to which they originally belonged. Those of the number who acquit themselves satisfactorily under this further test are now ordered to the head quarters of the staff corps at Berlin, where they remain for some two years longer, under the immediate orders and instruction of Von Moltke. During this time they are constantly being taught not only the current duties of the various divisions into which the head-quarters are separated, but they receive lectures from the chief himself, are required to prepare for him reports on various subjects, and accompany him on annual tours for field practice—in short they still remain at school. They are now again sent back to their regiments, and it is only after the lapse of some months that those finally selected by Von Moltke are definitely appointed captains in the general staff corps, and become members thereof, entitled to wear its uniform. These captains are now assigned to various duties, according to the wants of the service and their respective peculiar qualifications. Most of them are sent to the head quarters of troops; others go to Berlin. They serve about two and a half years as captains in the staff, and are then returned to duty with the line, receiving command of a battery, squadron, or company, but never with their old regiments. They serve in this way about two years longer, always varying the arm of service. When they are promoted by selection to the rank of major in the staff corps, and resume the duties and uniform thereof. Should any of these staff corps captains during these two years' service with the line manifest any lack of zeal, or in any manner show that the original estimate formed of them was too high, they are quietly left in the line, and lose all opportunity of further employment on the staff. When a major in the staff corps is about to become entitled to his promotion as lieutenant colonel, before receiving it he must serve at least one year in command of a complete battalion, or of several squadrons, or of several batteries. So, also, before he can be promoted as colonel in the staff, he must command an entire regiment for at least one year.

In addition to the means just described for securing competent officers for the staff, still another method is pursued. The commanders of regiments report to the chief of the general staff whenever they have under their command any subalterns of such superior zeal and intelligence as to render them promising candidates for the general staff corps. To the

officers thus indicated the chief of general staff sends military questions and problems to be worked out, and if the replies are such as to indicate that they really possess the requisite qualifications, they are ordered to report at Berlin, and are there placed on probation. If satisfied of their ability and acquirements, he appoints them on the staff, if otherwise, they return to their regiments. The duties assigned to the officers of the general staff corps are not general, all such work being to the greatest possible extent performed by non-commissioned officers and soldiers. In addition to their current and ordinary duties, military questions are constantly given them to study, and every year the staff of each army corps performs a staff "tour" under the direction of its own chief, to keep them in constant practice, and to increase their knowledge of their profession. The officers of the corps at Berlin also make every year, under the personal supervision of the chief himself, a tour of some weeks in the different provinces of the Empire. From among the officers of the general staff corps, but more generally from among the other graduates of the War Academy, and from among those who are detailed every year for staff instruction, are selected the aids de camp of the generals.

It is difficult to imagine a system which will more effectually carry out the great object in view, which is to select for the staff the very best and most highly instructed of all the officers of the army; and the uniform testimony of those who have enjoyed the opportunities of judging is to the effect that in the Prussian army this object has been most fully accomplished.

We are now ready to describe the composition of the divisions, army corps, etc., but before doing so it is proper to allude to—1st, the four field railway divisions, which are made up to a great extent from the pioneers, and consist each of 1 officer, 230 men, 16 horses, and 2 wagons; these are formed when the army is mobilized for war, and their chief purpose is to repair promptly such railways as may have been rendered impassible in the course of operations; 2nd, the four field telegraph divisions, which are also chiefly made up from the pioneers and train soldiers, and consist each of 4 officers, 143 men, 72 horses, and 13 wagons; each division carries some twenty miles of wire, and can prepare for use about one mile of telegraph per hour. The duty of these divisions, aided by other smaller divisions, is to connect the important head quarters with each other, with important positions, and with the existing telegraph lines, as well as to repair broken lines.

THE BRIGADE.

As heretofore stated, the Prussian infantry brigade consists of two regiments, or six battalions. It is commanded by a major-general or colonel, with a lieutenant as aid de camp and adjutant general. The full war strength of the brigade is 140 officers, 624 non-commissioned officers and men, 250 horses, and 34 wagons. The rifle battalions are not usually brigaded, but are attached to the army corps, under the direct orders of the corps commander, although sometimes attached to one of the divisions. The cavalry brigade usually consists of three regiments, one of which in time of war is assigned to an infantry division. The brigade staff is the same as for the infantry brigade. In time of peace the artillery brigade consists of the regiment of field artillery and the regiment of fortress artillery.