

[The following exquisite poem is from the pen of the famous "Stonewall" Jackson, written while he was with the United States army in Mexico, of which he was then a brave and efficient officer.]

The tattoo beats—the lights are gone,
The camp around in slumber lies;
The night with solemn pace moves on,
The shadows thicken o'er the skies;
But sleep my weary eyes hath flown,
And sad, uneasy thoughts arise.
I think of thee, O dearest one,
Whose love my earthly life had blest—
Of thee and him—our baby son—
Who slumbers on thy gentle breast;
God of the tender, frail and lone,
Oh, guard the gentle sleeper's rest.
And hover, gently hover near,
To her whose watchful eye is wet—
To mother, wife—the doubly dear—
In whose young heart have freshly met,
Two streams of love so deep and clear—
And hear her drooping spirits yet.
Now, while she kneels before thy Throne,
Oh, teach her Ruler of the skies,
That while by thy behest alone
Earth's mightiest powers fall or rise,
No tear is wept to thee unknown,
No hair is lost, no sparrow dies.
That Thou can't stay the ruthless hands
Of dark disease and soothe its pain;
That only by thy stern commands
The battle's lost, the soldier's slain—
That from the distant sea or land
Thou bringest the wanderer home again.
And when upon her pillow lone
Her tear-wet cheek is sadly pressed,
May happier visions beam upon
The brighter current of her breast—
No frowning look or angry tone
Disturb the Sabbath of her rest.
Whatever fate those forms may show,
Loved with passion almost wild—
By day—by night—in joy or woe—
By tears oppressed, or hopes beguiled,
From every danger, every foe,
O God! protect my wife and child

FRENCH OPINIONS ON ARTILLERY FIELD ORGANISATION.

VII.—The proposed composition of the Artillery Staff has already been partly given. It may be enumerated in full, thus:—

Artillery Staff for each Corps d'Armée of Infantry—1 general of brigade, in command; one captain, as aide-de-camp; 1 lieutenant-colonel, as chief of the staff; 2 captains, as adjutants; 1 *garde d'artillerie*; 2 clerks; and the requisite portion of orderlies.

Artillery Staff for each Corps d'Armée of Cavalry—1 colonel, in command; 1 *chef d'escadron* as chief of the staff; 1 captain, as adjutant; 1 *garde d'artillerie*; clerks, orderlies.

Artillery Staff for each Army, constituted as above.—1 general of division, commanding artillery; 1 captain aide-de-camp; 1 colonel, as chief of the staff; 1 *chef d'escadron*, as assistant ditto; 3 captains, as adjutants; 2 *gardes d'artillerie*, 3 clerks; orderlies in proportion. The total artillery staff of an Army composed of 3 *corps d'armée* of infantry, and 1 *corps d'armée* of cavalry, with 83 guns, will therefore appear as follows:—1 general of division; 4 generals of brigade; 6 colonels; 14 lieutenant-colonels; 43 *chefs d'escadrons*, 67 captains, 7 *gardes d'artillerie*, 68 clerks.

The combatant strength of the batteries will stand thus:—

	No. of Batteries.	First Captain.	Second Captain.	First Lieutenant.	Second Lieutenant.	N.O. and Men.	Horses.
Field Batteries of 4 & 6	35	35	35	35	35	6288	930
Ditto of mitrailleuses	6	6	6	6	6	888	156
Ditto of 7 and 12	18	18	18	18	18	3474	468
Batteries (Troops) of Horse Artillery	20	20	20	20	20	3100	1680
Do. with mitrailleuses	3	3	3	3	3	465	252
Total	92	92	92	92	92	12255	3162

11,338

VIII.—As already explained, it is recommended that the wagons containing the divisional reserves of infantry ammunition, together with one extra ammunition wagon for each field gun in the division, should be formed into a divisional park. The divisional park to be under the orders of an artillery officer, and to have a suitable proportion of artillery train and of clerks and orderlies attached to it. All battery carriages in excess of the fighting strength above laid down to be detached from the divisional batteries before an engagement, and kept as a sort of divisional reserve in the park of the division.

The park of each *corps d'armée* to be kept altogether distinct from its reserve artillery.

So, also, the general field park of each Army is to be kept distinct from its general artillery reserve.

b. Park of a *corps d'armée* of infantry.

Gun Ammunition.—Spare ammunition should be carried in this park to the extent of 300 rounds for each light field gun, and 250 rounds for each heavy gun. The park of a *corps d'armée* of infantry will therefore comprise—1 extra ammunition-wagon for each light field piece; 2 extra ammunition wagons for each heavy field-piece.

Small arm Ammunition.—The proportion at present carried in the park of each *corps d'armée*—20 rounds per man—appears insufficient, but the limits within which it may be increased for the infantry are not very clearly indicated. The proportion prescribed by the regulations for the small arms of the cavalry, engineers, artillery, and administrative troops, may be retained.

Wheel Carriages.—The park should comprise the following carriages:—1 spare gun carriage for every eight guns in *corps d'armée*; 2 battery carts for every 100 horses in *corps d'armée*; 5 tool-forges—i.e., 2 for the light batteries; 2 for the heavy batteries; and 1 for the mitrailleuse batteries; 6 battery carts for general purposes.

Personnel.—Should be as follows:—1 colonel, or lieutenant-colonel, as director of the park; 1 *chef d'escadron*, as assistant director of the park; *chef d'escadron*, in command of the artillery train; 2 captains, as adjutants; 3 *gardes d'artillerie*; 1 chief laboratory worker; 2 *ouvriers d'état*.

In view of the necessity of having a large number of hands available in each park, some officers propose that a whole company of foot artillery should be attached to each park in place of the detachments of 1 officer and 60 men each, as at present.

The proportion of artificers, 1 officer and 40 men, as at present, is generally sufficient.

It is useless to attach armourers to the park of a *corps d'armée*, as the only repairs likely to be there requisite will not need their services. Those of the regimental armourers will suffice for all wants.

The present proportion of laboratory workers—twelve—is too small. The number should be increased to one fourth or one third of a company.

The proportion of artillery train must be determined by the number of wheel carriages. Each company has 130 to 150 men, and 230 to 250 horses.

c. Park of a *corps d'armée* of cavalry.

Ammunition Wheel Carriages, &c.—The park of a cavalry *corps d'armée*, should carry 100 rounds of spare ammunition for each field gun, 250 rounds for each mitrailleuse, and 20 rounds per man of small arm ammunition.

It should comprise: 1 spare gun carriage for every 6 guns in the *corps d'armée*, 1 battery cart for every 100 horses, 1 shoeing forge for

every 250 horses; also 1 tool-forge for ordinary repairs; and 3 or 1 battery carts for general purposes.

Personnel.—Should consist of:—1 *chef d'escadron*, as director of the park; 1 captain, as adjutant; 1 *garde d'artillerie*; 1 chief laboratory worker. A detachment of about three fourths of a company of foot artillerymen will be sufficient.

Armourers are not required.

Detachments of artificers and laboratory workers—about 5 or 6 men in each—should be attached to the park. Artillery train in proportion to number of wheel carriages.

d. *Materiel and personnel* of the general field park of an army composed as above stated.

Ammunition.—In the general field park of the army 400 rounds of spare ammunition should be carried for every field gun in the army. Also 35 rounds of small arm ammunition for each man of the infantry, in place of the proportion prescribed by the regulations of 1867. The proportion of small arm ammunition for the other arms is not clearly indicated.

Wheel Carriages.—As laid down in the *aide-memoire*, with the addition of two battery carts carrying entrenching tools, and one ditto, with sandbags.

Personnel.—One general of brigade, as director of the general field park of the army; 1 captain, as aide-de-camp; 1 lieutenant-colonel, as assistant director of the park; 3 *chefs d'escadron*, 4 captains, as adjutants, 7 *gardes d'artillerie*, 2 *ouvriers d'état*, 1 chief armourer.

Also 1 *chef d'escadron*, of inspector of the artillery train attached to the army.

Also 1 company of laboratory workers, 1 company of artificers, and a detachment of armourers, equal to one fourth or one third of a company.

Besides companies of artillery train, as above, in proportion to the transport required.

THE ITALIAN ARMY.

The *Fahrbucher für die Deutsches Armée u Marine*, for June, furnishes the annexed items of Italian military intelligence:—

On the 1st January of the current year, the strength of the Italian Regular Army was 149,193 of all ranks. The number on the rolls on the Reserve was 295,933. The total strength of the Italian Army would therefore appear as 445,175 of all ranks. This is exclusive of the National Guards, who as at present constituted, number 191,738, and of 20,400 gendarmes. Twenty years ago the strength of the Sardinian Army was 58,500 men.

The upper military schools have at present 472 students, including officers from all arms of the Service.

The Militia number 1008 officers of infantry, 120 ditto of bersaglieri (sharpshooters), 120 of artillery, and 21 of engineers—making in all 1269 Militia officers, in place of 1822, the number during the preceding year. An order of the Ministry of War has provided for the exercise of the greater portion of the provincial Militia, in company and field exercises during the present year.

Arrangements have been made for the conduct of field manoeuvres on an extended scale during the months of July and August. A division will be assembled for that purpose, at Castiglione, under General Poninski; another at Somma, under Lieutenant-General Ferrero, and a third at Santa Maurizio, under Lieutenant-General Franzini. It is also proposed, in the course of the year to assemble two or three