

nations to engage in a campaign along their mutual border to the south, and still respect the neutrality and territorial integrity of this particular part of Belgium.

For these reasons Namur is very strongly fortified and garrisoned. The fortifications consist of a line of strongly entrenched positions some 14 in number lying in a circle about 12 miles in diameter surrounding the old town. Each position is on an elevated point and is garrisoned by about 1,500 men, mostly infantry, heavy artillery and engineers—defended, in other words, by the comparatively immobile section of the garrison. In reserve, in the town itself, ready to proceed to and support any one of the positions which should happen to be particularly in need of strengthening, is the more mobile division of the garrison, consisting of five regiments of cavalry, each of a full war strength of 1,000 men, and eight batteries of horse artillery.

The surrounding country is very broken and hilly, and cut up with ditches, stone walls, hedges, dikes, etc. They have also deliberately left each position semi-isolated with no good straight road from it to the town or to the other positions. Thus in case one of them should be taken by an attacking force, the way would not be wide open for them to advance at once into the town without hindrance, or to easily attack the other positions in flank or rear.

At the time I speak of, while the tension was at its highest, the garrison was of course being put through every species of training. One morning orders were received by the First Lancers to proceed at once to one of the outlying redoubts. It was about six miles away as the crow flies, and about ten miles by the narrow winding road. I was mounted by one of the officers, and going with them was astonished to see the head of the column leave the road after having gone about two miles, and cut straight across country at a gallop. Mounted on a big bay Irish hunter, the Colonel, without pause or detour, and riding at a good hunting gallop, headed straight for the redoubt and his men followed, trying as best they could to keep some semblance of their original formation of column of fours (5). Up and down hill they went, over ditches, stone walls, and hedges. They reached their destina-

---

(5.) This operation had no doubt been frequently practised by the Regt. No. jumps here.