

Russia follows the lead of Germany, France, Italy, and England in the establishment of a balloon detachment for active service. The institution includes an instructional park, over which an Engineer officer presides as commandant. To him are entrusted the formation of his staff and training of attached officers, the conduct of experiments and testing of inventions, the creation and maintenance of the material of the park. He will also establish fortress balloon detachments, one being created this year, the other as occasion may demand and the provision of material may admit. A field balloon detachment will be created for active service in case of war only. The personnel of both fortress and field detachments, as well as the necessary material, will be provided and maintained under the supervision of the Commandant of the Instructional Park. Eight officers, four of them Engineers and four of the troops forming permanent garrisons, will annually undergo ten months' instruction at the school. The balloon corps will belong to the Engineer establishment, and will be specially under the control of the electricity detachment of the Engineers. The Commandant and Staff of the School of Exercise will belong to the Engineers.

The Adjutant-General has notified that military decorations and medals are to be worn with the tunic or dress-jacket only, and on the left breast, in order of the dates of the campaigns for which they have been conferred, the first decoration or medal obtained being placed farthest from the left shoulder. The following is the order of arrangement: 1, English decorations; 2, English medals; 3, foreign decorations; 4, foreign medals. The Queen's Jubilee medal will be worn after English decorations; the badges of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in England, will be worn after English medals; the Victoria Cross, when suspended from the bar, will come immediately after the badge of the Order of the Indian Empire. On all occasions when the Sovereign is present, or her representative on the parade, in celebration of the birthday of the Sovereign, and on all State occasions, including levées, drawing-rooms, and balls, officers

of the Army who are Knights Grand Cross of the Bath, Knights Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, will, when in full-dress uniform, wear the riband of the Orders to which they belong over the right shoulder and under the sash or belt. Knights Commanders will wear the ribands of the Orders inside the collar of the tunic, the badge being suspended two inches below the lower edge of the collar. These regulations extend to officers who have retired from the service or from the Indian Army, provided that under the regulations they be allowed to wear uniform.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

Our esteemed contemporary the *Revista Cientifico-Militar* (Madrid) calls attention to the speech of General Azcaraga, War Minister, at one of the recent sittings of the Senate, where this officer explained that the Special Commission, charged to examine and report upon different patterns of rifles, had selected ten weapons of small calibre, with which they propose to carry out experiments of an exhaustive nature and upon a large scale. For this purpose ten rifles of each model submitted will be tried with one thousand cartridges per rifle, and should one of these prove satisfactory, it is settled that its manufacture shall be entrusted, partly to the managers of the government factory at Oviedo, and partly to private firms, so as to obviate delay.

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