

any way, they will take up the best position they can from which to keep up a continuous fire on the enemy, and the line, either in whole or in part, will be brought into action. 3. If there appears any likelihood of forcing the enemy by a front attack, the half battalions, if still in column, will deploy (if possible under cover) and advance in line, passing through the skirmishers.—If the enemy's fire is heavy and but little cover is attainable, and if there is room to the flanks, the line may advance with files opened to one pace from each other.—If the fire is very severe, the line may come up in a succession of rushes. When it is being brought up in this manner, it is not necessary that the half battalions should be halted in an exact alignment with each other at the end of each rush. On the contrary, their commanders should take advantage of any folds of ground, &c., which may occur to get their men under cover. In case of having to halt in the open, the men will be ordered to lie down. Movements must, however, invariably be regulated by the half battalion of direction, on which it should be possible at any moment to reform line.—When the line is clear of the skirmishers it will open fire, advancing as opportunity offers, either in a general line, by alternate half battalions in echelon, or in such other formations as may be ordered.—The skirmishers, &c., will, as soon as the line passes over them, unite in half battalion and take post (under cover if possible) as a reserve, either in rear of the centre, or what will usually be better, behind the *outer* flank of the advancing line.—If there appears little change of the enemy's position being carried by a front attack, it will be advisable, instead of passing the line over the skirmishers, to try and gain his flank by pushing the half battalion columns in succession around the *outer* flank of the skirmishing line. These half battalion columns will usually adopt the formation laid down for a battalion attacking singly (No. 1, above). If more than two battalions are thus used to prolong the line and envelop the enemy's flank, one battalion should follow in second line as support.—When an attack of this kind—which must always weaken the centre of the original line—is being attempted, care must be taken to bring up one or more battalions from the reserve to the rear of the weakened part, to meet the contingency of a counter-attack there.—It will generally be found that a combination of the two preceding forms of attack will be the most effective. In this case it is advisable not to push home the front attack until the flank attack is ready to be developed. 5. When a flank attack with a wider sweep and on a more extended scale than the preceding is designed, the reserve brigades, in whole or in part, should be employed to carry it out. And if this attack is resolved on from the first, the troops intended for it should usually be brought up supporting in echelon on the flank from which it is to be made. 3. When there is any expectation of receiving a flank attack, the division will advance with a brigade or battalion supporting in echelon on that flank. Should an attack by the enemy be developed, such brigade or battalion will at once change front to meet it, throwing out skirmishing and supports in the usual way. The old skirmishing battalions will hold the enemy in check on the original front, and the reserve will be at once brought up to extend or strengthen the flank threatened. Any battalion disposable from the opposite flank of the original line will be immediately got together, and brought

to the rear of the centre to constitute a new reserve.

*Cavalry and Artillery.*—7. When dispositions are made to meet a flank attack, the cavalry on the threatened flank, with its reserve, will advance with the object of attacking the enemy's flank as he throws it forward or opposing such of his cavalry as may be sent to support the movement.—The cavalry on the other flank will advance, remaining ready to operate as opportunity offers, towards the original front, or on the flank which is thrown forward, after the change of front has been effected. 8. As the services of the batteries already in action may be required to their original front, the reserve artillery should advance towards the threatened flank, and take up a position so as to operate on the enemy's flank, leaving the batteries already engaged free to sustain a continuous fire. When the change of front has been completed, the latter can conform to and support the movements of the infantry. 9. Guns should be so placed as to be able from a distance to bring a concentrated fire on the point where the attack is to be made, and this fire should be kept up until the last moment possible. The batteries may, when specially ordered, fire over the heads of the infantry; but the practice is attended with risk, and should only be resorted to in cases of great emergency. 10. Considerable use may often be made of a few troops or squadrons of cavalry, if they can be brought forward under cover of woods or irregularities of ground. A sudden rush by a small body of horse on a line of skirmishers will probably force them at once to run into rallying squares, and when in that formation they present themselves as targets to their opponents. The cavalry must, however, be careful to fall back the moment their charge by forcing the enemy into square, has produced its intended effect.

*GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.*—In conducting an attack, much will depend upon the readiness shown by majors in command of half battalions to adapt their movements to the nature of the ground and the exigencies of the moment. They must clearly understand that it is their duty to profit by any opening which may occur, without waiting for orders.—Officers commanding brigades and divisions must clearly understand that the "formations for attack" laid down are not intended to be adhered to, unless the features of the ground and the numbers and dispositions of the enemy suit. In every case they must exercise their own judgment in adopting the formation best adapted to the actual circumstances.—As the formations are only to be practised experimentally, and may probably require modification after having been reported on, minute detail has been avoided. General officers, in furnishing their reports, will be pleased to state the manner in which they recommend that any detail not mentioned should be carried out.

#### *Appendix on the formation of half battalion quarter columns of double companies, &c.*

—1. Battalions will usually be first formed in eight companies. When in line, they will be told off into four double companies as follows.—Nos. 1 and 2 companies, 1st double company; 3 and 4—2nd double company; and so on. 2. As a general rule column of doubles companies will be formed in rear of one of the flank double companies. One half battalion will, thus be the front, and the other the rear half of the column. 3. When battalions are so weak that they cannot be formed into eight companies, they will be told off into

six. In this case, double companies should seldom be formed—when it is considered necessary to adopt that formation, one double company of each half battalion will be in front, with the remaining company of the half battalion in rear of its directing company. 4. When a brigade in line of battalion double company columns is ordered to deploy into line of half battalion double company columns at deploying intervals, to the left, the leading half battalion of the right column will stand fast, the remainder will form "four's left" and march off; and each half battalion will take up its proper position in the alignment.—When a line of battalion quarter columns is ordered to deploy into line of half battalion double company quarter columns, at deploying intervals, it will be done as follows:—The leading half battalion of each battalion will deploy into double companies, and the rear double company will then close to quarter distance, the rear half battalion will move to its position in the alignment, forming double companies on the march in the same way as for marching past. Each half battalion will take the word from the major commanding it. 6. The adjutants will in each case, as usual, give the points when the outer flanks of their respective battalions will rest. 7. There will be the usual interval of thirty paces between battalions, but only deploying intervals between half battalions unless it is intended that the latter should go on acting independently when deployed, in which case twelve paces' interval in addition will be ordered. 8. Officers commanding half battalions will generally judge their own intervals; but when great accuracy is necessary, foot points for each half battalion column will be given by its base markers (in the same way as for a line of battalion columns at less than deploying intervals). 9. Half battalion double columns deploy into line to a flank, unless otherwise specially ordered. 10. When half battalions deploy into line and no interval between them has been ordered, the lieutenant-colonel will resume the command, and they will become one battalion. But if twelve paces, in addition to deploying interval, has been ordered, the majors will still continue in command of their respective half battalions, under the orders of the lieutenant-colonel. 11. When a single battalion is moving in line of half battalion quarter columns at deploying intervals, the half battalions will march by their right or left, and the right or left half battalion will direct according as the columns were formed on the right or left of half battalions. The major of the directing half battalion will superintend its direction; the major of the other half battalion will look to its intervals, the adjutant moving at its deploying interval from its outer flank. 12. When half battalions are formed, the Queen's colour, with the sergeant covering it and the front-rank centre sergeant, will go with the right half battalion, the remainder of the colour-party with the left. The colour-party of each half battalion will be placed in rear of the usual files from the inner flank (i.e., the flank nearer the centre of the battalion when deployed) of its rear company or double company. When in brigade the half battalions are formed at deploying interval plus twelve paces, the colour-party of each half battalion will be in its centre when deployed.—*Broad Arrow.*

The strength of the Italian army amounts to 10,414, officers of every rank, 194,513 non-commissioned officers, corporals, and soldiers; in total, 204,827 men, and 30,669 horses,