

BEN BOBSTAY.

A NAUTICAL BALLAD.

Ben Bobstay he was a Mariner bold,
Or he might have been (if truth be told),
Provided he'd gone to sea,
No, history declares
He staid on land instead,
And he mended umbrellas and cane bottomed
chairs.
Like - an Admiral of the Red.

His trousers were wide and made of duck,
And his hat it was tarpaullin,
Like a seaman bold to his post he stuck
Whenever he was a squall in,
But he never was a squall in,
Which was I understand
To this fact mainly due,
He religiously preferred dry land
Like - an Admiral of the Blue

On the top of his head he always bore
A man of war three deeked,
And a couple of wooden legs he wore,
For he lost his when he was wrecked;
But he was not exactly wrecked,
His accident came thus:
One day when he was tight
He fell under the wheels of a two penny bus
Like - an Admiral of the White.

So that was the way he became a tar
And talked in a nautical way,
He called each wooden member a spar,
And cried: Shiver my timbers belay!
But he didn't know how to belay.
And now so well he fares,
He's abedant umbrellars
And cane bottomed chairs,
Like - regular old Importer.

ARMY ORGANIZATION.

(By General George B. McClellan.)

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It has been already explained that each battery is provided with its own baggage and supply waggon; but, in addition to this, it is upon the artillery that the transportation and supply of ammunition for guns devolves, as well as for the infantry, beyond the amount carried by the men themselves (50 rounds per man), and that carried in the battalion ammunition wagons (about 25 rounds per man for the line regiments, and about 33 rounds per man for the rifle battalions). There is a regiment of field artillery for each army corps, and when the troops are placed on the war footing, each artillery regiment in addition to its three divisions of foot artillery and one of horse artillery, forms an ammunition division for the care and transportation of ammunition. This division consists of four infantry ammunition columns, and of five artillery ammunition columns, the whole division counting 20 officers, 1583 men, 1580 horses, 229 wagons. The amount of infantry ammunition carried by the ammunition columns is about 90 rounds per man. The artillery ammunition carried by the columns is about 220 rounds per gun, in addition to the 140 carried in the limbers and caissons of the batteries.

PIONEER TRAINS.

	Officers.	Men.	Horses.	Wagons.
The three field companies of each line, rifle battalions on the war footing	15	750	51	9
The light bridge train	2	51	57	14
Intrenching tool column	1	1	20	6
Total with each army corps	17	758	108	28

The administration of the army corps on the war footing consists of -

1. The intendency, made up of (a) the corps intendency, 24 persons, 25 horses, 3

wagons; (b) four divisional intendancies, one for each infantry division, one for the corps artillery, and one for the cavalry division, each consisting of 14 persons, 15 horses, 2 wagons.

2. The corps military chest.
3. The subsistence service, made up of (a) the corps subsistence administration, (b) four divisional administrations of subsistence, (c) the administration of the field bakery.

4. The corps medical administration.
5. Twelve field hospitals, each capable of taking care of 200 sick or wounded.

6. Reserve of hospital attendants, etc.*

7. Reserve hospital depot.*

8. The field post service.

9. The auditoriat, consisting of (a) the corps judge advocate (b) the divisional judge advocates and assistants.

10. The corps and divisional chaplains and assistants.

The total strength of the administration of an army corps, of course exclusive of the train battalion, is 12 officers, 1055 men, 548 horses, 104 wagons.

THE GENERAL STAFF CORPS.

There is no question that the Prussian general staff corps is the best in the world. It has been for many years under the absolute control of Von Moltke, who has had in his hands, entirely untrammelled its organization, the selection, instruction, and promotion of its members, and has brought it to its present perfection. To this perfection are due in no small degree the Prussian successes in recent years. To the relative inferiority of their general staff corps their antagonists may to a great extent attribute the disasters they have experienced. In our own last war infinite difficulty, not only in the organization, but also in the subsequent handling of the armies, arose from our lack of such a body of men. So absolutely certain is it that such a corps is of the first and most vital importance in modern war that we must, even if at some length, explain its organization, its duties, and the manner in which its members are selected and instructed. As promotions are practically made, it often happens that general officers, while possessing many of the essential qualifications for command, such as courage, energy, the ability to govern and inspire men, lack other equally important qualities of a more scientific nature, as well as the trained intellectual power necessary to enable them to determine what is best to be done in an emergency, and how to do it. One purpose of the set of men with whom we are now concerned is to supply this want. Again, even when a general possesses all the requisite qualifications for his post, he can not be every where at once, see every thing with his own eyes, or give every order in person, and he requires the assistance of his highly instructed corps to increase his powers of action, for he can see with their eyes, trust to their reports, and commit safely to them not only the delivery of his orders, but also the watching over their proper execution. To such men also he can often safely intrust the power of modifying his orders as circumstances change. Sometimes, also, it happens that a general has served in only one of the arms of service, and has only a general knowledge of the powers and necessities of the others. Here, too, the general staff corps comes to his aid.

It ought to follow from this, and in practice it often does, that the more perfect the general staff corps, the more frequently will general orders be selected from among their

number. In the Prussian army the great majority of the generals have passed through the admirable War Academy, and fully three fourths have served on the staff; but in most other armies a very large proportion of the generals come from the line of the army. In time of peace the duties of such a corps are twofold: First, to collect and keep in a perfectly convenient shape for immediate use all the information in the way of topography and statistics that, in the event of war, can be useful in arranging plans of campaign and conducting operations. Secondly, to train the members of the corps for the proper performance of the duties in war. The information referred to is so varied and extensive that we can only indicate a few of its main features by way of illustration. One of the most important points is the collection of the best possible maps of one's own and of all other countries where it is possible that campaigns may have to be conducted. These maps should go into every detail, and give ample information on all points that can affect the movements of troops, and must be supplemented by full information - obtained through reconnaissances or otherwise - as to the nature of roads, streams, forests, etc.; the geology of the country, its practicability at all seasons and in all weathers; the capacity of the towns and villages for defence, shelter, supplies, etc.; the nature and location of the defensive positions, and their approaches; similar information in relation to the permanent defences, the railways, etc., etc. Full information must also be procured in regard to the military resources of all possible antagonists; the organization and strength of their armies; their arrangements for recruiting, etc.; the nature and qualities of their weapons; the character and qualities of their different generals, etc. In regard to the other part of the work in peace, the first step is to select the members from among the most intelligent, active, energetic, ambitious, and high toned of the entire body of the officers of the army, to institute preliminary examinations into their qualifications, and unhesitatingly to remove from the corps any who at any subsequent period of their service prove to be in any way unsuited to the duties required of them. Next, in regard to their instruction, not only must this embrace all the higher scientific branches of the theory of war, but they must also have constant practice in the performance of their special duties, and serve so often and so long with troops of all arms of the service as never to lose the habit of command, the knowledge of the necessities and capacities of the men, the details of service with troops, and, more than all, never to cease to identify themselves in thought and feeling with the line of the army, nor become antagonistic to it, and mere office soldiers. It will now appear how under the master hand of the chief of staff of the German armies, all these conditions, and more, have been entirely fulfilled. First, let us say that the organization of the Prussian general is entirely flexible; its numbers are fixed by no rule - simply by the demands of the service; and its distribution is regulated by the nature of the duties at the moment. The body in question is divided into two portions:

1. The great General Staff, at Berlin.
2. The General Staff officers serving at the head quarters of armies, corps, divisions, and with the general inspection of the artillery

The whole are under the field marshal Von Moltke.