

was quite inconsistent with a proper support of the fighting line and could not be tolerated, hence with the advancement of more humanitarian views it] became evident that some special arrangement for the care of the wounded was necessary in order both to save life and to improve the morale of the men when in action. To-day an English army in the field has every facility for the removal of the wounded and their after care and treatment, by a separate and distinct branch of the service called the Royal Army Medical Corps. To trace the successive improvements that have been made in the organization and equipment of this corps is not the object of this paper.

I propose giving you somewhat in detail the organization as it exists to-day and showing you how complete and perfect are now the arrangements for looking after the sick and wounded and how much more thoroughly the work is done than formerly, not only in the prompt attention to the wounded on the field and their hasty removal from the scene of conflict but also as to the surgical care of wounds and the sanitary supervision exercised at ports of entrance of the forces and on the tented field. By referring to the diagram before you, you will see at a glance the constitution of an army corps and its medical equipment. An English army corps comprises from 40,000 men upwards. It consists of three divisions of infantry with divisional details and a cavalry division. In addition to these, there are at the command of the General Officer Commanding the "corps troops," which comprise a representation of each branch of the service.

A division consists of two brigades of infantry, the brigades being each composed of four battalions, which have 1,000 bayonets, i. e., eight companies of 125 men each. In rear of these are the divisional details consisting of three batteries of field artillery; one company of Royal engineers; one ammunition column, and one squadron of cavalry. There are three companies of the army service corps, one with each brigade and one with the divisional details, also a bearer company and a field hospital with each brigade and a reserve field hospital on the Divisional Staff.

The cavalry division consists of two brigades of three regiments, each regiment being composed of 666 sabres and is further divided into four squadrons. The divisional details with a cavalry division consist of:—one battalion of mounted infantry, two batteries of royal horse artillery, one ammunition column, and three companies of the army service corps—one with each brigade and one with the divisional details together with two bearer companies and three field hospitals, one of the latter being with the Divisional Staff.

The "corps troops" consist of:—one regiment of cavalry, one battalion of infantry, one ammunition column, two batteries of royal horse artillery, three batteries of field artillery and two companies of royal engineers (one being a pontoon and railway troop and the other a balloon and telegraph corps). With the corps troops there are also three companies of the army service corps, two of which are bakery companies, and one reserve field hospital.