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### THE AUTUMNAL MANOUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. IV.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH.

According to the official programme, the officer commanding the defending force (1st Division) having got information of the position and estimated strength of the enemy's advanced corps (2nd Division) breaks up his camp at Chobham to-day, and advancing to Chobham Ridges, threatens its communications, throwing out cavalry to Frimley, Franborough, and across the canal to Pirbright. Whilst the enemy (2nd Division) ascertaining this, move by his scouts, falls back across the Basingstoke Canal, and takes up a position near Caesar's Camp, sending information of the advance of the defending force to the main body (3rd Division) at Woolmer, which moves to his support and encamps at Woolmer.

So completely had the military authorities kept their own secret, that it was not until the arrival late yesterday afternoon of the general sketch of manoeuvres issued from the Headquarters Army Corps at Aldershot, that the 2nd Division were made aware of the important movement which had been arranged for to-day. While the division of course held itself in readiness to march on the shortest notice, a very general impression prevailed that no move would be made until to-morrow. The general sketch of the manoeuvres issued from headquarters, and given above, had the effect, however, of making the Hartford Bridge Camp more than usually active, in anticipation of, and preparations for, the operations of the morrow. Without any definite notion having been vouchsafed to it of what might be on the cards, the division was now aware that it was coming to close quarters, and some amount of excitement was only natural under the circumstances. But the news, despite that it was sudden, and to a certain extent a surprise, could not, of course, be allowed to interfere in any way with the regular duties of the camp, and these were carried out, by regulars and Volunteers alike, with all the alacrity, zeal, and true military precision which have characterised them from the moment tents were pitched at Hartford Bridge. On Wednesday night about 300 men of the 6th Provisional Volunteer Battalion, 2nd Brigade, under the command of Colonel Ives, again went out for piquet duty. They left the camp about six o'clock, returning about the same hour this morning, having thus been out twelve hours. As tents had to be struck at seven, the duties of these men, it will be

seen, were of no light kind. The striking of tents was performed in an incredibly short time, the various Volunteer regiments being not a bit behind the regulars in their movements, though it was noticeable that the Militia encampment presented a scene of more noise and confusion than were warranted by strict military discipline. The two brigades formed up in mass of columns at the cross roads at nine o'clock, the brigades then marching towards Aldershot by different roads. The Second Brigade formed up in the following order.—Advance guard—the 15th Regiment, 9th Battery of Royal Artillery, 99th Regiment, 5th Battalion Volunteers, 6th Battalion Volunteers, rear guard—the 27th Regiment. They marched by Fleet Mill, west of Fleet Pond, and so on to the Long Valley, the baggage wagons coming with the brigade. The 1st Brigade skirmishers were sent out to scour the woods all along the line of march, the vanguard maintaining continual communication with the squadron in the rear. Both brigades reached their new position here about the same time, namely, one o'clock, and commenced immediately to pitch their tents all along the valley. The Prince of Wales, at the head of the 10th Hussars, 7th Dragoon Guards, the Royal Horse Artillery, and the 12th Lancers, left Bramshill at nine o'clock, taking the route by Hawley, Frimley Road, and Farnborough, which latter place His Royal Highness passed through about eleven o'clock, reaching his camping ground behind Cocked Hat Wood shortly after noon. Nothing of an eventful character occurred during the march, and no accidents are reported. The Commissariat Department, it would appear, was again hardly equal to the occasion, for the Volunteers of the Battalion (2nd Division) complain that the beef was allowed to lie in the sun for hours, there being neither choppers to cut it nor scales to weigh it. The result was that the men had no dinner up to seven o'clock this evening, and had not touched food since six in the morning. The troops are to remain in their present position only for the night, continuing their retreat to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, the destination being Frensham, where it will effect a junction with its main body, the 3rd Division, which was to leave Woolmer this morning. Meanwhile, the 1st Division, or the defending force now commanded by Lysons—Sir Hope Grant taking command of the combined divisions, 2nd and 3rd—will continue to advance and encamp at Pirbright, three miles to the north of Aldershot. The general operations will, it is expected, commence on Saturday, the opposing forces being then in contact.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH.

This morning Sir Hope Grant began his march on Pirbright Common, where he was to encamp to-day (Saturday). He will move the Hog's Back, and should the 2nd Division oppose him he proposes to carry it, and to remain there both to-day and to-morrow (Sunday).

As briefly stated in our last impression, Sir Hope Grant commanding the defending force (1st Division), marched this morning on Pirbright Common, with the view of intercepting the enemy's advanced corps (2nd Division), and preventing his junction with the main body. It was understood that he would make a stand on the western side of the Hog's Back to-morrow, when the tactical movements of attack and defence really commence. Hitherto, as the *Times* correspondent expresses it, "the sketch of preliminary operations given in Major-General Egerton's memorandum has been filled in and coloured. The 2nd and 3rd Divisions unlucky enough to represent an enemy invading their own country, have reached Hartford Bridge Flats and Woolmer, and the 1st Division, still more unfortunately, in being a British Army forced to retire, has fallen back on Chobham from Aldershot. There reinforced, perhaps satisfied, that the 2nd Division at Hartford Bridge Flats is not so strong but that it may be attacked and cut off from the 3rd Division at Woolmer, Lysons makes a forward movement from Chobham, (or Staple's Hill), but Carey falls back across the Blackwater towards Bourley, and occupies the line of the Basingstoke Canal, while Staveley, informed of the advance of the defensive forces, moves out from Woolmer and encamps at Frensham, the communication of the two corps being thus secured by way of Farnham. Such was the situation last night. Lyson's cavalry found the enemy had retired, and contented themselves with guarding and securing the whole country, from the line of the Blackwater on the right round to Frimley on the left, securing all the bridges and patrolling all round on the slopes of Chobham Ridges, in a very creditable manner. But it was mimic war—no holiday work. The officers and men of Marshall's brigade on outpost duty, the Blues and 2nd Life Guards, were from twelve to fifteen hours in the saddle, and had to work over terrible ground, and the infantry covered by them were busy in entrenching the position or restoring the old works near Staple's Hill, as if they meant to make a stand there in case of repulse in their attack on Carey. The day's work done, it will be understood that on Thursday night Lysons stood fast at Chobham, and called in his cavalry at nightfall with the in-