

men, with your claims that your officers and men are good riders to hounds in England. Don't you realize that all countries are not laid out in fields divided only by hedges, ditches, stone-walls, or banks less than four feet high? My God! Don't you ever expect to campaign anywhere but in England?"

As pointed out by the Marquis Calabrinì, the result of this training—so often derisively referred to by members of defeated teams, and by their apologists as "Circus" riding—is seen in the field. The mobility of the French, and more especially of the Belgian Cavalry and Horse Artillery is truly remarkable; for it must be pointed out that although the French originated the system and are its chief exponents, and although the Italians have brought some branches (more especially as regards the training of the Officers), to the highest state of perfection, still, in their comparatively small army, the Belgians have brought their officers and men considered as a unit to a standard of average training and efficiency under the French System, even higher than that obtained by either the French themselves or the Italians.

As an example, I cannot do better than describe a cavalry operation, which I was once fortunate enough to witness. I hope you will forgive a rather lengthy departure from my immediate subject, as it is necessary to describe the ground more or less in detail in order that you may appreciate to the full what I saw.

Some two years ago, just at the time of the Morocco trouble, I happened to be visiting some officers of the First Belgian Lancers at their barracks at Namur. Namur, as those of you who are familiar with European military geography know, is looked upon by many as the key to the Franco-German Frontier. It lies at the confluence of the two rivers, the Meuse and the Sambre, in the apex of that triangular piece of Belgian territory which runs up between Germany and France. It is only about 125 miles in a straight line from Paris and commands the main road to that City. The Belgians believe (and the Belgian Officers openly state the belief), that, on account of the location of this piece of territory, Belgium could never avoid being drawn into any conflict which might occur between France and Germany, because it would be practically impossible for those two