

For some months past the cuirassier regiments quartered in Paris have had Lebel repeater rifled carbines supplied to their flank horsemen, carried in leather cases on the right saddle flap under the thigh. It is affirmed that the fire experiments were sufficiently conclusive to recommend the innovation of arming the French heavy cavalry with carbines, like the dragoons with lances. It is not the first time that French cuirassiers have carried fire-arms similarly with the British Life and Horse Guards of the present day. Already in 1812, the cuirassiers of the Grand Army of Napoleon the First, when invading Russia, were provided with a bell-mouthed brass musketoon (the vulgar "blunderbuss") which was carried on the right thigh, the butt being inserted into a sort of shoe that was fixed to a strap round the chest of the horse. These peculiar fire-arms were nearly all left behind in the retreat from Moscow, along with their bearers, but remained in vogue many years afterwards in England, where they were much affected by the guards of the Royal Mails on the highways and by residents in outlying rural districts.

The following examples, taken from military history, show the effects of infantry fire: Frederick the Great defeated the Austrians at the battle of Czaslau, 17th May, 1732, and out of every 357 shots fired by the Prussians only one Austrian was killed or wounded. In the campaigns of 1805 and 1806, when the Great Napoleon was victorious everywhere, only one man was killed or wounded out of every 3,000 shots; and in 1813 and 1814, 10,000 shots were fired to kill or wound one man. Bautzen was an exception, for there 714 balls were fired for one man *hors de combat*. At the battle of Victoria, Wellington's army fired 500 shots for one man killed or wounded. In 1849, at Kolding, the Prussian infantry fired 77,248 cartridges, and put 473 Danes *hors de combat*—that is one hit out of every 163 shots fired. In 1859, Napoleon III. defeated the Austrian army at the great battle of Solferino. The Austrians fired 8,400,000 cartridges, and only killed and wounded 12,000 French soldiers, or one man out of every 700 shots. In the campaigns of 1864 and 1866 the average was about 66 shots for one man *hors de combat*. In the battles of 1870-71, 250 shots were fired for every man killed or wounded.

Much discussion has been caused by the lengthy letter recently addressed to the *Times* by "A Commanding Officer" upon the subject of England's Cavalry. He ascribes the existing condition to the two following evils—the deficiency of able and experienced officers, and the absence of a system of sound organization. As regards the first, most are in accord with him that, to induce the best officers to enter the Cavalry service, the expense of serving must be brought within the means of the great majority of those young gentlemen who officer the army. There is, however, greater difference of opinion as to the means by which he proposes to gain this end. These are, that Government should give to each young officer upon joining two remounts, suitable as first and second chargers; that each officer should receive £25 per annum, or, if he so elect, a remount free every two years; that regimental drags should be abolished; that inter-regimental polo should be discontinued (as is about to be done in India); that a rigid economy in the mess should be enforced; and that a suitable working dress, devoid of gold lace, should be instituted, and the present amount of ridiculous and expensive uniform be curtailed. It would be no small gain, it is felt, if unsuitable Cavalry officers should be transferred to Infantry and suitable Infantry officers transferred in like manner to Cavalry. Most Cavalry officers who take any strong interest in their profession are at one with "A Commanding Officer" in desiring to see the authorities enforce the introduction of the squadron system.

William Ehrensport, who represented the New York Shuetzen Verein at the Berlin Bundesfest last summer, gives the following description of the new magazine military gun which has superseded the Mowser as the national arm of Germany. Mr. Ehrensport explained that he was not permitted to handle or even to examine the rifle except at long range, and that his description is only a general one. "It is composed," he said, "of two barrels, one inserted within the other, fitted very loosely, but held by bands or rivets, thus allowing a free circulation of air all around the inside one and precluding the barrel from getting red hot and falling to pieces. The magazine contains five shots, which are inserted in the slot altogether in a little box just in front of the trigger. By pushing the lever down, as on the Winchester, the empty shell flies out, and when the fifth shot has been fired the empty frame and shell are automatically thrown away. It is as simple and durable as our Springfield, about as heavy, and of thirty-two caliber, although the bullet is probably a little longer."

INFORMATION WANTED

AS to the whereabouts of JOHN TONSTILL or Tonstell, who served in Co. B, No. 64, New York Volunteers, under Capt. Hildreth, during the late American war, and who afterwards joined some of the battalions of the Canadian Militia, and was in Thorold during the Review after the Fenian raid. Information to be sent to WM. MONRO, Captain No. 2 Company, 44th Battalion, Thorold, Ontario.

To Rifle Officers.

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