

supplies, and the general comfort of the troops.

"With reference to the 'Regulations for the Summer Drills,' published in General Order 47 of June last, it was a matter of considerable surprise to His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to find, on the occasion of visiting the camp of the 2nd Army Corps at Coldingly, that the order regarding officers' mess tents had not been strictly carried out.

"In reviewing generally the operations carried out during the summer drills, his royal highness has desired me to convey to you the following observations in regard to the action of the various branches of the Service:—

"*Cavalry*.—In consequence of the transport having only been sufficient to move one Army Corps at a time, the opposing forces were scarcely ever at any period of the operations encamped at such a distance from each other as to allow much scope for the use of the cavalry on an extended scale.

"As regards the performance by the cavalry of duties connected with reconnoitring and obtaining intelligence, there is still room for considerable improvement, although at the same time his royal highness is happy to observe that in this particular great progress has been made by the cavalry service as a body during the last few years. One point which struck his royal highness very forcibly, is the great tendency on the part of the officers commanding bodies of cavalry to employ too large a force on the outer line when engaged in reconnoitring operations, a tendency which is probably to be attributed to the chain of responsibility not being allowed to descend sufficiently to the lower grades. Far more information is generally to be obtained by small parties of two or three men, with an officer, or intelligent non-commissioned officer, than by the employment of a larger force. This being the case, as few men as possible should be absorbed in the outer advanced line; and, in order to allow of a cavalry force being thus economised, the rallying points for the advanced reconnoitring parties in reference to the position or the line of advance of the supports and reserves, should be clearly defined beforehand. With this in view it would appear desirable that cavalry should be instructed to cover a large extent of country with as small a force as possible; and in order to do this effectually, and at the same time to keep up the keenness of those in the junior grades, it is most important that the chain of responsibility should be passed down into these ranks.

"The question of working signalling in connection with the reconnoitring parties in a more practical manner than heretofore is now under consideration, and it is hoped that on the occasion of the next manoeuvres more advantage may be derived from this means of communicating intelligence.

"In the tactical handling of cavalry in combination with the other arms during an engagement, it appears to his royal highness that there is at present rather a tendency to encourage undue caution on the part of cavalry officers, and that there is some want of dash and enterprise in making sudden and unexpected attacks on opposing troops. It is doubtless most important that cavalry should never be unnecessarily exposed in masses to the fire of artillery or infantry; but at the same time cavalry officers should bear in mind that in order to afford effectual support to the other arm, cavalry must at times run risks, provided the object to be gained is sufficiently important to justify the risk incurred. Occasions will also frequently

occur when, by rapidly seizing a favorable opportunity, a sudden dash of a small body of cavalry on unprepared or broken troops may achieve the most decisive results with but little comparative risk to the cavalry making attack.

"*Artillery*.—A large portion of artillery was employed than on occasions of former manoeuvres, and corps artillery was organized in addition to the three batteries attached to each division. The object of this was to give the officers commanding the artillery the opportunity of bringing a powerful fire to bear on any particular point, by either massing the guns or otherwise concentrating their fire so as to produce great results. His royal highness considers that great stress should invariably be laid on this point, in the manoeuvring of artillery in action.

"It cannot be too strongly impressed on artillery officers how imperative it is on them to avoid an unnecessary expenditure of ammunition by firing in an objectless manner, and without the range being known and the gun laid accordingly. With this in view it would appear to be desirable that range-finders should be more generally introduced into our Service.

"*Reserve Ammunition Column*.—This was the first occasion on which Army Corps and divisional reserve ammunition columns have been organised for the manoeuvres, batteries of artillery and regiments of infantry being directed to draw on the divisional reserve, and the latter on the Army Corps reserve. Hitherto no other means of supply of ammunition in the field than that from the regimental reserve had been employed; and want of experience with the new system of organization may perhaps account for the reserve ammunition columns not having been worked to the extent they should have been.

"*Supply of Ammunition in the Field*.—His royal highness considers it most important that careful attention should be paid to the subject of the supply of ammunition in the field to troops engaged in action. At manoeuvres the ammunition served out at first both for small arms and guns should be reduced to a minimum, so as to render it absolutely necessary that further ammunition should be supplied during each engagement. The duties connected with this supply should also be carried out in a systematic and methodical manner, and the arrangements should be such as would be possible on active service in the field.

"*Royal Engineers*.—All the arrangements made by the Royal Engineers in regard to bridging, entrenching positions, and the supply of water were carried out to his royal highness's entire satisfaction. There were, it is true, but few opportunities afforded of testing the efficiency of the men in the construction of bridges; but whatever they were called upon to do was executed well, and with expedition.

"The telegraphic communication, on the whole, worked fairly well, although communication was occasionally interrupted. This latter circumstance may to a certain extent be attributed to the imperfect state of the wire, which allowed of the insulation being affected by the wet weather.

"*Infantry*.—With reference to the manner in which the infantry were handled, his royal highness need scarcely point out that (while fully appreciating the absolute necessity of infantry when advancing to the attack taking advantage of every description of cover, however small, and of moving across the zone of fire in loose and open order) cohesion is, nevertheless, imperative at the moment of assault against a determined enemy, and to insure this it is more than ever necessary

to have the men thoroughly in hand. To bring about this object the utmost precision should be enforced in all ordinary drill and in parade movements, and therefore on occasion when such movements are executed it is impossible to be too strict in requiring the most perfect accuracy on the part of both officers and men.

"His royal highness observed that there was on the part of general officers commanding a strong inclination, both in attack and defence, to absorb the whole of their troops in the front line, quite ignoring the value to be attached to reserves; this may to a certain extent be attributed to the umpires not attaching sufficient importance to the maintenance of a reserve, which in real war is so essential to ensure success.

"Moreover, in the defence of positions, previous to the real attack developing itself, the troops were not kept sufficiently concentrated in a central position; in fact, as a rule, too great an extent of ground was occupied from the first, which resulted in no reserve being available when required.

"A line of outposts in front of a position should usually be maintained, with the view, as far as possible, of compelling the enemy to show his hand by developing his real attack, and of thus allowing the troops for the defence to be brought up to that point.

"There appeared to his royal highness to be often a great want of enterprise on the part of general officers commanding, when defending positions, in not assuming the offensive when an opportunity offered; a counter-attack delivered at the right moment might often change the result of the day, and in case of retreat might save an army.

"His royal highness also observed that on several occasions general officers commanding seemed to ignore the necessity of preserving a line of communications, their one sole object being to make out flanking movements, an operation often attended with great risk in presence of a vigilant enemy.

"*Control*.—The arrangements made by the Control Department, both in regard to transport and to the supply of the troops, appear to have been satisfactory; but, of course, comparatively little pressure was put upon the transport, owing to the short distance apart at which the opposing forces were.

"*Conduct of Troops*.—His royal highness is much gratified by the exemplary conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men engaged in the manoeuvres; the general behaviour of the troops and the cheerful manner in which they endured the discomfort occasioned by the wet weather reflect the greatest credit on all, and tend to show the highly efficient state of the army.

"In conclusion, I am directed to express to yourself personally his royal highness's high appreciation of the able manner in which you, together with the general officers under your command, carried out all the arrangements in connection with the summer drills."

The Austrian, Russian and German Ambassadors communicated Andrássy's note verbally to the Porte on the 1st inst. The Ambassadors of the other Powers, at the same time, declared their Governments saw nothing in Count Andrássy's proposals contrary to the Treaty of Paris. The Porte promised to examine the scheme, and acquaint the Powers with his decision.