

CAVALRY NOTES.

THE LONG DISTANCE RIDE.

To the Editor of THE ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE :

SIR,—It is reported that both Gen. V. Edelsheim, in Austria-Hungary, and Gen. Von Rosenberg, in Germany, two of the finest cavalry soldiers in Europe, have expressed their opinion that the recent long distance ride between Vienna and Berlin, which has created so great a sensation, has been of no practical value from a military point of view. I think both these officers would approve of a comparatively short distance ride, carried out under service conditions, by an officer's patrol of English cavalry, a description of which I beg to enclose. I am, sir, &c.,

A GENERAL OF CAVALRY.

October 27.

Distance Ride and Reconnaissance by Officer's Patrol, 14th Hussars, from Strensall Camp to Barmston, Bridlington Bay, Yorkshire. On Wednesday, 28th, at 6.15 a.m., the following was brought to Lieut. P——, accompanied by a map, from the officer commanding 14th Hussars. "Take an officer's patrol at once and report on the suitability of the coast line of defence against a landing between Freisthorpe Sands, three miles south of Bridlington Quay, and the coast-guard station, three miles further south.

General Description of March.—On receipt of the above order Lieut. P—— got up and ordered his horse, and sent word to the party detailed to get ready and turn out at once; the men had their breakfasts and fell in, properly equipped at five minutes past seven. They left the camp at Strensall at 7.15 a.m. and reached their destination, Barmston, at 12.50 p.m., after covering 39 miles, for although the direct road is 37 miles, they went two miles out of the way in a difficult part of the road. On arrival the horses were put into a shed, and twenty minutes after being watered and fed, the saddles were removed and the backs carefully examined. The saddles were removed altogether, as a halt of two hours or more was possible. Lieut. P—— gave the party into the charge of the senior N.C.O., and having seen the spare horse watered and fed, he changed on to him, as his own horse had done more work than any of the others, since he had to find the road for the party; at times having to drop behind, at others have to canter on to a cross-road and find the right way, for the main party had to move at a steady pace, and lose no time in halting or increasing their pace to his. The lieutenant was almost immediately to begin his sketch and report, which was finished in two hours, and at 3.15 the party saddled and started for camp. They got in at 9.15 p.m., taking six hours over the return journey of 37 miles. The total distance covered was 76 miles. There were no sore backs or galls, none of the horses lame, they fed well that same night, and except for being tired they were in no way any the worse for their journey. Average weight carried 16 st. 9 lb. Halts—The first small halt took place twenty minutes after starting; then saddlery was very carefully examined, and feet examined. Besides this, there were only two other small halts in the ride to Bramston, but to make up for the small amount of halting, the men were frequently dismounted and led the horses, thereby easing and resting themselves and their horses, and making progress instead of stopping. On the journey the horses were only given a very little water, sufficient to rinse their mouths out, but on arrival they were well watered and fed. None of them appeared at all rired, and fed as usual. The following are the ages of the eight horses ridden: seven, nine, eight, twelve, ten, eight, fourteen and eleven years. Road—The road was generally good, and for the most part pretty level, but for five miles crossing the hills, roads were so steep that it was impossible to go out of a walk, and that distance was done partly dismounted. Time—Journey there, 39 miles, 5 48-60 hours. Journey back, 37 miles, in 6 hours. Sketch and Report—The report and sketch of the coast-line took about two hours, the extent of coast was about three miles in length, and the sketch embraced the country for about two or three years, inland. The complete sketch and report was handed in by Lieut. — at 8.30 a.m. the following morning.

— The Army and Navy Gazette.

CAVALRY WITH THE OTHER ARMS.

The officer who writes the remarkable series of letters which have lately been appearing in the *Revue de Cavalerie*, publishes his sixth letter in the present number, and discusses the subject of cavalry in combination with the other arms. He says that the organization of this branch of the service should be adapted to, and dependent upon, its tactical duties, all organic arrangements being made with a view to the requirements of war. The force which has the best independent organization will be the best able to act in concert with other branches. "There is, therefore, no such thing, essentially and permanently, as one cavalry for independent work and another for working in combination. There is, of course, a portion of the force which, provisionally, and as occasion arises, is sent out to explore, and which consequently enjoys a comparative independence proportioned to the nature of its mission; and there is another portion (it may be the same) which is attached to the infantry, and is therefore bound to act within the sphere of the latter, and in conformity with its movements. But there is combination in both of these cases, and the question is only one of proportion and degree." The same body may be called upon to act in both capacities, and the writer believes that those who advocate a distinct force for each duty miss the true aim of cavalry, which should be the performance of both with equal readiness and efficiency.

Russia has tried an experiment with aluminium shoes for cavalry horses, which will no doubt prove interesting. A few horses in the Finland dragoons were shod with one aluminium shoe and three iron shoes each, the former being on the fore foot in some cases and on the hind foot in others. The experiments lasted six weeks, and showed that the aluminium shoes lasted longer and preserved the foot better than the iron ones. No aluminium shoes broke, and they were used over again for reshoeing the horses. Moreover, they were worked over hard and very stony ground. The most important fact of all is that aluminium horseshoes are only one-third to one-fourth the weight of iron shoes.

THE OLD "FORTY-TWA."

The following figures illustrate to what extent the 65 members present at the recent "Black Watch" celebration in Glasgow were veterans. On their breasts were pinned 95 medals, 16 stars, and 126 clasps, allocated as follows:—Number present with medals for Indian mutiny, 22; Ashantee campaign, 21; Egyptian war, 15; Crimean war, 13; Turkish medals, 13; long service and good conduct, 6; distinguished conduct in the field, 2; Afghan war, 1; Abyssinian war, 1; North-West Frontier (India), 1. Stars—Egyptian, 15; Afghanistan, 1. Orders—Companion of the Bath, 2; Cross of the Legion of Honour, 1; Order of the Mejidieh, 1; Commander of St. Michael and St. George, 1. Clasps—Lucknow, 20; Coomasie, 20; Tel-el-Kebir, 15; Alma, 13; Sebastopol, 13; Balaklava, 12; Suakim, 9; El-Teb and Tamaal—two engagements one clasp—6; El-Teb, 3; the Nile, 5; Kirbekan, 5; Central India, 1; Mepleh, 1; Charasiah, 1; Cabul, 1; Kandahar, 1. Eight were without war decorations. The remaining 57 represented 14 battles.

THE ARMY THAT CAN MARCH BEST WILL WIN.

General Lewal, in the *Journal des Sciences Militaire*, discourses on the great importance of teaching soldiers to march in the most perfect manner possible. He says that this is an indispensable condition of success in combined movements. The army that can march best will win, if other things are equal. "War is a struggle not only against men but also against the land, the climate, hunger, fatigue, sickness, and the inclemency of weather." All these have to be faced and overcome by the soldier, and he cannot do this better than by keeping himself in pedestrian training. The originators of the recent march in Surrey, and those who are following their enlightened example, are doing much to promote the efficiency of our army, and they are, in principle, quite at one with the distinguished general who writes this paper.