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

(From the Broad Arrow.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.

The following general sketch of manoeuvres was issued to-day from the headquarters, Aldershot:—

"The enemy having effected a landing on the south coast of England, has refused the direct roads upon London, and is endeavoring to turn the strong positions between Reigate, Dorking, and the Hog's Back, and so as to gain the valley of the Thames, and march upon London.

"His advanced corps (the 2nd division) has reached Hartford Bridge Flats, and the main body (the 3rd Division) is at Woolmer.

"A defending force (the 1st Division) has been collected in the vicinity of London, and has moved to Chobham

"Such is the position this day.

"Thursday, 14th.—The officer commanding defending force, having got information of the position and estimated strength of the enemy's advanced corps, breaks up his camp at Chobham, and advancing to Chobham ridges threatens its communications, throwing out cavalry to Frinley, Farnborough, and across the canal to Pirbright.

"The enemy (the 2nd Division), ascertaining this movement by his scouts, falls back across the Basingstoke Canal, and takes up a position near Caesar's Camp, sending information of the advance of defending force to the main body, which moves to his support, and camps at Frensham.

"Friday 15th.—The enemy's advance corps continues its retreat and effect a junction, with its main body near Frensham.

"The defending force continues to advance and encamps at Pirbright throwing out advanced posts to occupy the commanding ridge of the Hog's Back.

"Saturday 16th.—The opposing forces being now in contact the general operations will commence.

"(Signed) E. R. EGERTON, Major-General. Deputy-Adjutant General."

In pursuance of the above programme, Sir Hope Grant to-day continued his retreat until he was able to take up a tolerably good position on the high ground commanding the junction of the roads to Guilford, Cherssey, and Woking, not far from the original lines of the old camp, at Chobham in 1853, to which it fell back, fighting noislessly, from its camp at Coldingley, below Chobham ridges. Up to this time the three corps may be regarded as Armies of observation preparing for hostilities, but not en-

gaged in open war. If a pretext were wanting for an outbreak it might be found in some overt acts on the part of Baker's Hussars of the Prince of Wales's Cavalry Brigade who have taken prisoners certain troopers of the Household Cavalry, "engaged in innocent and lawful business," to the considerable irritation of the regiments experimented upon. Sir Hope Grant, however, has not authorized reprisals, and has not declared war, which will not be formally began till Friday. Having retreated from Aldershot with his Division, and safely placed it with its flanks covered by the old field works, Sir Hope Grant is going off boldly to the enemy, and will take supreme command to-morrow of the 2nd and 3rd Divisions at Hartford Bridge Flats and at Woolmer, leaving the First Division to fight its battles, against their united forces, operating in two lines under the orders of Lysons who takes over the command to-night.

The work of the Woolmer Division to-day consisted of a sham fight, one brigade against the other, and is admirably described by the correspondent of the *Daily News*. Each brigade for the day was taken as consisting of a division, divided into two brigades. The idea of the day's work, as devised before its commencement, was this. The second brigade, working as a division, represented a force marching from the coast upon London. It was commanded by Colonel Stephenson, who took charge of one of the brigades into which for the day it was considered to be divided. The other brigade was commanded by Colonel Watson of the 82nd. The Cavalry Brigade was subdivided for the day into two brigades, that with the attacking force consisting of the 9th Lancers, half of the 7th Hussars, and half a battery of Horse Artillery; the brigadier being Colonel Fiennes, of the 9th Lancers. The first brigade also representing a division for the day, was supposed to march from Woolmer Camp, where it had spent the night, and oppose the advance of the invading force, protect the camp, prevent the invader's union with reinforcements which were supposed to be converging upon him, having landed on a point on the coast further west, and take effort to dispossess him of the lines of advance in the shape of practicable roads which he was supposed to have been possessed of at the beginning of the day's work. General Brownrigg commanded the defending division; the right brigade was entrusted to Colonel Hawley, of the 60th Rifles; the left to Colonel Spurgin of the 102nd. The Cavalry Brigade attached to the defending division consisted of the Bays, of half the 7th Hussars, and of a half battery of Horse Artillery, the Brigadier

being Colonel Seymour, of the Bays. The umpires of the day's work were Sir Charles Staveley, Sir Thomas MacMahon, Sir Garnet Wolsely, Colonel Lennox, Royal Engineers, Colonel Ord, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant-Colonel Clive, Assistant Quartermaster-General, each attended by two orderly officers, the whole of the umpire staff being distinguished by white pocket handkerchiefs tied round the right arm above the elbow. The Duke of Cambridge was present on the ground. Among the visitors were the Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse and the majority of the distinguished military foreigners now resident at the Queen's Hotel Aldershot. On a field day on an eminence which commanded a capital view of the culminating scene of the manoeuvres were assembled a large park of carriages belonging to the county gentry, whose interest in military operations now being conducted in their midst, seems very great.

As early as half-past five in the morning Major Harvey, and Captain Knowles, the brigade-majors of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, were out making a military survey of the country to be utilized, accompanied by the orderly officers of the brigades, and they were able by eight o'clock to supply to their chiefs sketches of the most accurate kind, displaying great proficiency in military topography. The 2nd Division—let it be noted that we here speak of what was a brigade yesterday as a division, and of what was a demi-brigade yesterday as a brigade—quitted the camp soon after eight o'clock, and marched out to the lower portion of Weaver Down, whence it was to operate in advance, in the direction of the camp, it having command of the main road leading from Petersfield to Farnham, through the heart of the camp. In its front was Longmore Wood, which was soon filled with its outposts and advanced troops; to the right, and still nearer the camp, extended the broken wooded ground and ridge of Brimstone Wood, which was also filled by the forces of the attack. The defending force marched later, taking for its advance the main road to Petersfield, as far as the Prince of Wales public house. Here the main body turned to the left, and took up what had been directed in its initiatory position, around the southern shoulder of Whitehill, and looking over the intermediate ground, at Brimstone Wood. The Bays, leading the advance, continued advancing on the main road straight to the front for a considerable distance, accompanied by a battery of field artillery, till they were nearly parallel with, but to the right of, the projecting end of Brimstone wood, when they turned off the road to the left, and halted in a dip in the