



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. V.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1871.

No. 11.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY

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From the U. S. Army and Navy Journal.

IX.—MOBILIZATION.

A PRINTED instruction, issued from the War Department, and called "Plan of Mobilization" (*Mobilmachungs Plan*), is in the hands of all officers concerned in the business exclusively. As the regulations contained therein would give the enemy valuable information, the book is not permitted to appear for public sale. Any changes resolved upon are carefully inserted, and the whole contents often altogether revised. This instruction, in the first place, contains the standing orders, prescribing what is to be done each day, counting from the date of issue of the order of mobilization as the first, and runs about in this manner:

First day—Issue of order of mobilization.

Second day—Receipt of order at all stations; despatch of orders for reserves to report at headquarters of Landwehr battalion on the fifth day—for Landwehr on a specified later day; departure of all details for cavalry and artillery horses; despatch of orders for calling in horses of county (circle).

Third day—Horses of circle arrive at Landwehr battalion headquarters.

Fourth day—Meeting of board for approving and appraising horses; arrival of details of cavalry in East Prussia and other provinces for receiving horses.

Fifth day—Starting of horses for different garrisons: arrival of reserves at Landwehr battalion headquarters.

Sixth day—Horses from Landwehr battalion reach troops; departure of reserves from Landwehr battalion headquarters for different garrisons.

Seventh day—Arrival of horses from further provinces; reserves arrive at their battalion garrisons.

Eighth day—Equipment of reserves and formation of depot battalions; arrival of Landwehr at Landwehr battalion headquarters.

Ninth day—Starting of field army for post of concentration or embarkation by rail.

Tenth day—Arrival of recruits at Landwehr battalion headquarters.

Eleventh day—Examination and assignment.

Twelfth day—Departure to join depot battalion, etc.

We are, of course, unable to vouch for the correctness of these dates, which are merely given as an illustration.

The field battalion of infantry, corresponding to the Landwehr battalion, being 400 men in peace, receives from the latter the next six years' reserves (133 per year), say 800 men. Of these, 600 increase the field battalion to its proper number of 1000; the remaining 200 form, with 400 of the two other battalions of the regiment, the depot battalion of the regiment, which, after a few days, is increased to 1200 by the arrival of 400 recruits. These are the men due on the 1st of October next, called in at once. The selections for the depot battalion are made in the following manner: In the first place, all men are taken who are temporarily sick or unfit for field service; next, men who happen to have just now urgent applications for exemption pending, which it has not yet been possible to decide upon; and ultimately the oldest men. This battalion gets organized in six companies, 200 each; and besides the drilling of recruits, it has to do garrison duty in such fortress as it has been designated for. The officers are assigned every year according to roster; that is to say, on the 1st of October the officers are assigned who will have to join the depot battalion in case of war occurring, until the 1st of October next; and changes are made only in case of accidental temporary sickness. The arrangement is made in order to prevent the arising of bad feeling, which any partiality in regard to this detested detail would produce. The rule besides is general. Every officer of the line, of the reserve, and Landwehr, has been assigned beforehand; and only the generals who command armies, their staff, and the changes resulting therefrom, are made without having been ordered beforehand. By means of these depot battalions the army is kept in its original strength. Losses in battle are replaced from the depot battalion, upon which the regiment draws for reinforcements when needed. These reinforcements go to the front again according to age, fully equipped, and with some officers. Sick and convalescent wounded officers and men join the depot battalion. Each battalion of sharpshooters forms its own depot company; each regiment of cavalry, one depot squadron of 200 horses; the artillery three depot battalions per army corps. On a certain day the field army is ready in all its battalions, regiments of cavalry, and batteries, and on the same date all administrative trains are ready to embark for the point of concentration; and then travel in pursuance

of a time table fixed long before for a given date, and on the line assigned.

In case of a surprise it would be possible to let a part of the army, especially the infantry, start at once, and to send their reserves and horses after them. The disadvantages, however, resulting from such an arrangement are so great that the government last July did not resort to this expedient, preferring even to expose the Rhenish provinces to a momentary invasion, which Napoleon omitted to undertake for reasons which up to this time have not yet become public.

Be it remarked on this occasion that every officer and soldier actually in the field receives, under all circumstances, more pay than any one who is not yet in active service.

The Landwehr is not always in all provinces and at once called out. Of course, on the 1st of July, 1870, all the Landwehr in the western provinces were called out, the fortresses on that frontier needing their full garrisons at once. Likewise the Landwehr of the provinces near the German ocean and the Baltic were ordered out at once; but the rest were called out later, when wanted for securing the communications of the advancing field army. Landwehr artillery and engineers get plenty of employment in fortresses and at sieges.

It is obvious that, by anticipating the recruits for one year, by taking them at nineteen years of age for filling up the depot battalions, and by falling back upon men between the ages of thirty-five and forty for the Landwehr, the reinforcements could be increased to a great extent; but those measures would only be resorted to in case of a very disastrous campaign.

It may be permitted now to give the "Ordre de Bataille" of a Prussian army corps, and the number of depot and Landwehr troops pertaining to it:

General commanding, general.

Chief of staff, colonel of general staff.

Major of general staff; captain of cavalry, aide-de-camp.

Captain of general staff; captain of infantry, aide-de-camp.

Commandant of headquarters, captain or lieutenant of cavalry.

Staff guard detachment of infantry and cavalry.

Chief of artillery (commander of the artillery of the corps in peace).

Adjutant, lieutenant of artillery.

Chief of engineers, colonel of engineers.

One major and one captain of engineers.

Medical director with assistant surgeon.

Intendent of corps with several officers of his corps.