

**REMARKS ON THE PROPOSED
REGULATIONS FOR THE
INSTRUCTION, FORMATIONS &
MOVEMENTS OF THE CAVALRY**

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Remarks on the proposed regulations for the instruction, formations & movements of the cavalry by Anonymous

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REMARKS
ON THE
PROPOSED REGULATIONS
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION, FORMATIONS & MOVEMENTS
OF THE
CAVALRY ;
TOGETHER WITH
Some Observations on the Service of Cavalry Generally,
AND UPON
THE YEOMANRY CAVALRY,
ADDED TO WHICH
AN APPENDIX
SHOWING WHEN ALTERATIONS OF ANY KIND HAVE BEEN MADE UPON THE SYSTEM
OF SIR DAVID DUNDAS,
BY THE
INVENTOR OF THE MILITARY FIGURES,
FOR THE
ELUCIDATION OF CAVALRY MOVEMENTS.

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1832.

32. 888.



1584

REMARKS, &c.

A Board of Cavalry Officers was lately assembled by the King's command, for the purpose of revising the regulations for the exercise and movements of the Cavalry. The system of SIR DAVID DUNDAS was to be their guide, and they were instructed not to depart from his principles; but they were at the same time requested to suggest any alterations in the detail of formation and movement which might appear necessary, and to take into their consideration, various observations and comments which would be submitted for their judgment, more particularly, a plan of formation and manœuvre, which had been drawn up by the late Inspector General

of Cavalry, Lt. General SIR HUSSEY VIVIAN, and which for the last two years, had been the system in use, throughout the British Cavalry.

In accordance with these instructions, the Board commenced their labours, and after patient investigation of the matter brought before them, they drew up a code of instructions for the use of the Cavalry, which has lately been published, and which does not differ materially from that, which had been previously compiled by SIR H. VIVIAN.

The whole of our Cavalry Regiments have been busily employed, during the last few months, in putting into practice these new instructions, and the General Commanding in Chief, appearing to consider that the proposed movements have now received a sufficient trial in the field to be enabled to judge of their efficiency, has called upon Lt. Cols. commanding Regiments of Cavalry, to offer their opinions upon the subject, with a view to their being brought under the consideration of the Board, which he has also directed to re-assemble.

Upon the conclusions to which the Officers composing it may be led, the future system of our Cavalry movements will depend; their decision will be final, and what new instructions they may now issue in regard to the exercise, formation and movements of Cavalry, must in future be adhered to; a book will be printed,

and its contents must be our Laws.—If the system laid down in it is good, it may tend to place us in as proud a position as that held by the Cavalry of PRUSSIA, in the days of KING FREDERICK the 2nd. who was indebted to its aid, for the achievement of many, and of his most brilliant victories*—but if it be an imperfect one, ill calculated to form Officers, and not turning to its utmost advantage, the vast powers, and wonderful rapidity of the English horse, we shall then remain in a state of mediocrity, and deserve the reproach cast upon us by Buonaparte, when he observed, that the English Cavalry was inferior to the Infantry, in every thing but *appearance*.

We do not however wish it to be understood that we anticipate this dismal result, on the contrary, we consider that every thing may be expected from the ability and experience of the Officers who compose the Board, and in venturing to offer the comments which we are now about to make, upon the two books of instructions that have been lately promulgated by them, we trust that it will be discovered,

*His Majesty declared that under the eye of a Seidlitz (who was considered as the Father of Cavalry) that this species of force was irresistible and invaluable, but he also added, that a General of Cavalry was not born once in an hundred years.

that we are not actuated by any spirit of contradiction, or by presumptuous motives, but by a sincere desire to advance the honour and utility of that branch of our service, which when its powers are properly applied, may be said to be almost irresistible.

As it is probable, that many of our readers more particularly those Officers of Yeomanry who may favour these remarks with a perusal, may not have been aware, that the instructions for Cavalry movements, were again about to be revised, we have thought it necessary to make these introductory remarks, and shall now proceed to the subject in question.

We are happy to have it in our power to commence by stating, that as far as we have been enabled to judge, from constant practice in the field, the proposed *alterations* are generally speaking *Improvements* upon the instructions of SIR DAVID DUNDAS, and although there are many inaccuracies which we could if necessary point out, that still our Cavalry service has gained much by the exertions of the Board, and that it is particularly indebted to SIR HUSSEY VIVIAN, and as we have reason to believe, to Lt. COL. the Hon. W. DE ROOS, the Brigade Major to the Cavalry.

There are however points, upon which we differ from the views taken by the Board, and which appear to us, to be in opposition not only

to the spirit of the system of DUNDAS, but absolutely incompatible with the well-being and efficiency of the Cavalry, when employed on actual service, and in presence of an enemy; we allude more particularly to the instructions for the movements of troops in the three following situations :—viz.

1st.—The retiring in line.

2nd.—The formation of column for the purpose of assembly.

3rd.—Deployments.

Having considered the above movements, we shall then proceed to comment upon some other of the proposed alterations, which although not differing in principle, do not appear to us, to be improvements upon the system of DUNDAS,—viz.

1st.—Abolishing the word “March” for the wheel of Three’s.

2nd.—Omitting the wheel by Two’s.

3rd.—Increasing front from files to Three’s.

4th.—Omitting the preparatory wheels in the formations from line of open and close columns.

5th.—Shortening the words of command.

We then propose to conclude our remarks by making such observations upon this particular system, and upon the subject of Cavalry generally, as may suggest themselves, and shall finish our undertaking, by adding an Appen-