OUTPOSTS
AND
ADVANCED, FLANK
AND
REAR GUARDS
INCLUDING
DISPOSITION OF A SMALL ADVANCED GUARD
TELLING OFF AN ADVANCED GUARD
DUTIES OF THE COMMANDER OF THE VANGUARD
DISPOSITION OF A FLANK GUARD
DUTIES OF AN OUTPOST COMPANY COMMANDER
DISTRIBUTION OF THE OUTPOSTS
TRAINING A COMPANY IN OUTPOST DUTIES
DUTIES OF THE COMMANDER OF A PIQUET
TELLING OFF AND POSTING A PIQUET

BY
LIEUTENANT R. STUPART
Author of "The Infantry Pocket Book," "Guard and Sentry Duties," "Aiming and Firing," etc.

SECOND EDITION
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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

I have endeavoured in the following pages to amplify and explain in detail those aspects of Outposts and Advanced, Flank and Rear Guards which directly concern the junior regimental officers and non-commissioned officers.

I have not dealt in any way with those aspects which concern the senior officers only, excepting to include the official instruction bearing on them, so that it will be possible for those studying this work to form a clear idea of the whole of the procedure in the solution of a problem in the “Service of Security.”

My object has rather been to assist the junior officers and non-commissioned officers in carrying out their duties, by outlining in detail the work which would probably be allotted to them when on duty with a protective detachment.

It must be recognized, however, that this detail can only deal with general principles, and should not be taken as a specific guide for any particular problem. The solution of such problems must depend entirely upon the military situation and the nature of the country, and therefore no set plan can be followed.

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PROTECTION
OR
THE SERVICE OF SECURITY.

The Service of Security embraces all those measures taken by a military force to protect itself against surprise, annoyance, or observation by the enemy. On the march, that portion of a command thrown out to provide this security is called an Advanced, Flank, or Rear Guard, depending on whether it is in front, on a flank, or in rear of the main command; in camp or bivouac it is called the Outpost.

The arrangements or formations of all detachments thrown out from the main force to provide security against the enemy are very flexible, varying with every military situation and every different kind of country. The commander of such a detachment must, therefore, avoid blindly arranging his men according to some fixed plan and at certain fixed distances. Acquire a general understanding of the principles of the service of security, and then, with these principles as a foundation, use common sense in disposing troops for this duty.
GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Every commander is responsible for the protection of his command against surprise. A force can only be regarded as secure from surprise when protection is furnished in every direction from which attack is possible.

The strength, composition, and disposition of forces detailed for protective duty must depend on circumstances, such as the nature of the country, the proximity, strength and characteristics of the enemy; also on whether the duty is to be carried out in clear weather, or in fog or darkness. The objects to be attained are, firstly, to obtain timely warning of any threatened attack, and, secondly, to ensure to the force protected sufficient time to prepare to meet the attack. Subject to the attainment of these objects no greater force than is really necessary should be employed on this harassing duty.

The commander of a body of protective troops, whether large or small, and wherever situated, must keep his command in such readiness for action as the circumstances require.

In the absence of special orders, a protective detachment is responsible for the maintenance of connection with the force protected; but the commander of the force covered is not relieved of responsi-
bility for taking such steps as may be necessary to ensure connection being maintained.

In the event of attack, a protective detachment must, at all risks and at any sacrifice, gain time for the body which it protects to prepare to meet the attack.

An enterprising enemy, especially if he be strong in mounted troops, may find opportunities of evading or breaking through a protective screen and of attacking the columns in the rear. The existence of such a screen cannot, therefore, be considered as affording absolute protection, and it does not absolve the commanders of forces, moving or halted in rear of it, from responsibility for providing such local protection of their commands as the situation may render advisable.

At the end of a march, the troops that have covered the march remain responsible for the protection of the main body while at rest, unless and until other arrangements are made by the commander of the force; and, vice versa, when the march recommences, outposts must not be withdrawn till the troops detailed for the protection of the march are in position.

In the following pages, the protection of a force of all arms is chiefly considered. The principles laid down are of general application, and hold good
for mounted troops or infantry acting independently of the other arms.

**GENERAL PROTECTIVE DUTIES.**

**Employment of Mounted Troops.**

The protection of a force, which marches from day to day, makes heavy demands upon the mobility of the troops engaged upon it, consequently mounted troops are especially fitted for this service. The duties of mounted troops, which include, amongst others, the service of protection, may be considered conveniently under three heads, viz.:—

i. Divisional duties.

ii. General protective duties.

iii. Special missions.

The mounted troops allotted to divisional duties usually form a permanent part of the division to which they belong. They are known as "divisional mounted troops." Their duties in connection with protection are detailed in the sections which follow.

As a general principle it is not possible for one body of troops to carry out efficiently both general protective duties and a special mission at the same time. Consequently a different body of troops should usually be detailed for each of these duties. This separation is not, however, to be regarded as a permanent arrangement, the principle governing
the distribution of mounted troops being that the commander-in-chief must group his units according to requirements, varying the grouping from time to time as the situation may demand.

Mounted troops, made temporarily independent of the remainder of a force, in order that they may carry out a special mission, are designated, while so employed, "the independent cavalry," those employed on general protective duties being known for the time being as "the protective mounted troops."

Although thus temporarily detailed for different duties these bodies must ever be ready to co-operate with each other when this can be done with advantage and with due regard to the particular mission of each. As the situation develops it may become advisable to alter the original grouping at any time by reinforcing the independent cavalry from the protective mounted troops, or vice versa.

In distributing the mounted troops as may be required from time to time, it is to be noted that fully trained cavalry, while not less capable than other mounted troops of carrying out protective duties, are especially suitable for employment on special independent missions. Either cavalry or other mounted troops, or both together, may be detailed for either work, however, as the situation may demand.
When the opposing forces are at a distance the duties of the protective mounted troops are:—

i. To afford the commander of the force it may be covering timely information regarding the enemy’s movements and the front which he is covering.

ii. To furnish information regarding tactical features, resources, and roads of the country in advance of the main body.

iii. To oppose hostile enterprises and prevent the enemy obtaining information regarding the movements of the columns in rear.

The protective mounted troops may also be employed to seize and hold positions in front of the slower moving infantry and deny their occupation to the enemy until the main body arrives.

These functions of the protective mounted troops will entail principally defensive action, and will necessitate extension over a considerable front, but the commander must dispose his force in sufficient depth to enable it, with the assistance of the advance guards of the columns in rear, to check any attempt to break through and surprise the main body.

When the opposing forces are within striking distance of each other, it becomes the duty of the
cavalry to clear up the tactical situation. This will usually involve offensive action and be the work of the protective mounted troops, assisted by the independent cavalry, if available, and by such other advanced troops as the general situation permits. The protective mounted troops best assure the safety of the force they cover by keeping the enemy continuously under observation when contact with him has once been gained.

When it is desired to cover the movement of a number of columns by something stronger than a protective screen of mounted troops, the latter may be reinforced by other arms, the whole forming a general advanced guard under one command, its composition and duties being determined by the authority responsible for its formation.

It may be advisable to form a general advanced guard at any time or for any special purpose. Usually when at a distance from the enemy a force is divided into a number of columns for convenience of maintenance. It is then generally convenient for each column to furnish such protection as may be required in addition to any that may be provided by the protective mounted troops. When approaching the enemy unity of action becomes important; the force then usually moves on a narrow front, and a single advanced guard covering the whole force and acting under the direct
orders of the commander of the force may be required.

THE TACTICAL ADVANCED GUARD.

An advanced guard is a detachment of a column on the march thrown out in advance to protect the main body from being surprised, and to prevent its march from being delayed or interrupted. The latter duty is generally forgotten, and many irritating short halts result, which wear out, or greatly fatigue, the main body, the strength of which the advanced guard is supposed to conserve.

In detail, the duties of the advanced guard are:—

1. To guard against surprise and furnish information by reconnoitring to the front.
2. To push back small parties of the enemy, and prevent their observing, firing upon, or delaying the main body.
3. To check the enemy's advance in force long enough to permit the main body to prepare for action.
4. When the enemy is met on the defensive, to seize a good position, and locate his dispositions, care being taken not to bring on a general engagement, unless the advanced guard commander is authorised to do so.
5. To remove obstacles, repair the road, and favour in every way possible the steady march of the column.
COMPOSITION OF AN ADVANCED GUARD.

To carry out these duties efficiently an advanced guard should be composed of all three arms, with a small body of engineers to repair roads and bridges, and to remove obstacles. Mounted troops are required for reconnoitring. Even on close country they can perform this duty better than any of the other arms.

Small parties of horsemen can generally ride across country that is practicable for infantry, and the use of a few mounted patrols will often save a considerable amount of fatigue and delay. Artillery possesses great retarding power, as it compels the enemy to deploy at a distance. Guns are, therefore, necessary to delay the enemy, and also to make him display his strength. But as mounted troops and artillery cannot sustain an action by themselves against a force composed of three arms, the bulk of an advanced guard is usually composed of infantry.

STRENGTH OF AN ADVANCED GUARD.

The strength of a tactical advanced guard will depend upon the situation and upon the nature of the general protective screen which may be provided in front of it. The strength of the tactical advanced guard of a force which is marching in-
dependently, or is covered by mounted troops only, may vary from a fourth to an eighth of the whole force, but should be sufficient to enable the advanced guard to carry out its duties.

No absolute rule for the strength of the advanced guard can therefore be given, but it varies with the size of the main body, the object of the march, the topography of the country and the nature of the enemy. In a close, rugged country and against an enemy inferior in numbers and morale, it should be less than in an open country against a strong, aggressive enemy, or when the intention is to bring on a decisive engagement. It must be remembered that if it is too weak it cannot fulfil its proper functions; if too strong there will be a waste of energy, for service with the advanced guard is much more fatiguing and exhausting than marching with the main column.

ADVANCED GUARD COMMANDER.

The advanced guard commander, on taking over his duties, should be informed of what is known of the enemy, of the strength and composition of the advanced guard, and of the intentions of the commander. He should receive clear instructions as to engaging the enemy, if he is met in any force.

On receipt of his instructions, the advanced guard commander will issue his orders. In these he will explain the general situation, the route to
be followed, the composition of the van guard and main guard, the order of march, and the hour of starting.

He will take steps to ensure that connection is maintained between the different parts of the advanced guard, and also with the main body.

The qualities required of the commander of the advanced guard are—courage, self-reliance and good judgment. A timid officer in command of an advanced guard would allow the main column to be delayed by small parties of the enemy; a rash one would plunge into battle, and might thus impose upon his superior a course of action at total variance with his plans. He should continually consider the measures necessary for the security of the march, and for rapidly gaining reliable information of the enemy. He should carefully observe the ground, and consider the tactical use that might be made of it, and should have a clear idea as to what he intends to do in case the enemy is encountered.

ACTION OF AN ADVANCED GUARD TO A FORCE ADVANCING.

The advanced guard must protect the main body from the moment the march of the latter begins. The advanced guard commander will therefore decide the hour at which the advanced
guard will clear the starting point, and the distance at which it will precede the main body. This distance will vary with the nature of the country and the tactical situation. It should be sufficient to enable the main body to deploy should the enemy be met in force, and to admit of minor opposition being overcome without checking the main column.

It is most important that, when an enemy is met, the commander of the force should have the information on which to base his plans and time to put them into execution when they are formed. The first troops to be met will be the enemy's advanced troops, and until these have been driven back it is rarely possible to obtain detailed information as to the enemy's dispositions. It is the duty of the advanced guards to assist the mounted troops, when necessary, in driving in the enemy's covering troops.

If the commander of the force has decided on offensive action the advanced guard commander should secure any tactical points which may assist the development of the attack of the main body. To effect this it is justifiable for him to deploy on a broader front than would be advisable for a force of the same size entering on a decisive action, for every moment brings the main body closer. Should the commander of the force wish to avoid
being drawn into a decisive engagement, the advanced guard commander will use all means at his disposal, short of committing the main body, to delay and hamper the enemy and to discover his dispositions. If the advanced guard commander is in any doubt as to the intentions of the commander of the force, he must act on his own initiative, remembering that by driving in the enemy's advanced troops at once he will usually assist the commander of the force in coming to a decision, and that this will rarely interfere with the latter's liberty of action, while hesitation and delay might do so by allowing the enemy to seize the initiative.

The van guard is responsible for protecting the main guard against surprise. In open country mounted patrols should seldom be less than four or five miles in front of the main body. In any case all ground within effective field artillery range must be searched. The advanced guard mounted troops should always keep in communication with the protective cavalry, and with columns moving on parallel roads. If constant connection between two columns is difficult to maintain, arrangements should be made between them for communicating at stated places or intervals of time during the march.
DISTRIBUTION OF THE ADVANCED GUARD.

An advanced guard is first divided into a vanguard and a main guard. As it has to reconnoitre and fight, it will usually be composed of all arms. The proportion of each arm will depend chiefly on the character of the country. In an open country, the proportion of mounted troops and guns may be much greater than in a close or mountainous country.

The special duty of the vanguard is reconnaissance. It will, therefore, generally be composed of the advanced guard mounted troops, with or without a body of infantry as a support. By day, when the country is open and the advanced guard is strong in mounted troops, infantry will not, as a rule, form part of the vanguard. Field artillery will seldom accompany it, but a party of engineers should usually be added.

The main guard comprises the troops of the advanced guard not allotted to the vanguard.

The advanced guard therefore consists of a series of detachments increasing progressively in size from front to rear, each being charged with the duty of protecting from surprise the body immediately following, and gaining time for it to prepare for action.
The Vanguard.

The vanguard should next be divided into the advanced party and the support.

The vanguard as thus constituted provides safety from surprise, concealment of the march, and information about the enemy. Its business is reconnoitring. Should the enemy be met with in superior force, or should his main body be suddenly encountered, then the Main Guard is at hand to give support. Its business is fighting.

The Advanced Party.

The advanced party is usually organized into a screen of small patrols some hundreds of yards to the front and to the flanks, with connecting files as required. A patrol should consist of either two or four men with a leader, who directs, disposes and moves it as his intelligence and training suggests.

The point is the patrol directly in front of the column, and is responsible for maintaining the correct direction. From the Point all other parts of the advanced party maintain touch and direction, and it also regulates the average pace of the patrols in conformity with the movement of the main guard.

The flanking patrols should march at varying distances from the main road, ranging from 100 to 600
yards, carefully reconnoitring all the ground which might afford cover for the enemy, within range of the main line of march.

It will sometimes happen that these patrols will be delayed through having to examine some difficult ground, and will fall gradually behind. They should then be replaced, and should join the support, if unable to rejoin the advanced party without excessive fatigue.

The number of patrols required depends entirely upon the nature of the country. In a close country where movement off the road is difficult, the flanking patrols may be omitted, but the Point should always be used. In open country, there should be a patrol for every road or track parallel to the line of advance of the main body.

The advanced party may also be organized into a line of single scouts, but such a formation is somewhat weak in all those points which make up good reconnoitring work, viz., keeping touch, observation, and communication.

The duty of the advanced party is to ensure that the line of march and its neighbourhood is clear of the enemy. For this purpose all ground that would afford shelter, such as woods, townships, etc., should be carefully examined. The different patrols should maintain a general connection between each other
and the support. Anything observed about the enemy should be immediately reported to the commander of the vanguard, whose position should therefore be previously signified to each patrol.

The Support.

The support marches in column of route at a distance varying from 200 to 600 yards in rear of the advanced party, and from 400 to 800 yards in front of the main guard, and should be ready to support any one of the patrols. It should also send out small flanking patrols to protect its own flanks.

The support replaces any men of the advanced party who may be relieved or disabled. When a scout of the advanced party brings in important information, he should, if practicable, be sent to the commander of the advanced guard. His place with the advanced party should be at once supplied from the support. He should be retained with the main guard, from which another man should be sent forward to the support. The number of men with the point and flanking patrols should, if possible, remain unchanged, but they should be relieved frequently, as the duty is very fatiguing. When there are particular reasons for sending a man back to his former post the man who relieved him should be returned.
The Main Guard.

The main guard marches in column of route at a distance varying from 400 to 800 yards in rear of the support, and from 800 to 1200 yards in front of the head of the main body. Flanking patrols should be sent out from the main guard to march from 100 to 600 yards from the main line of march to prevent small bodies of the enemy, who may have got through the vanguard, from harassing or observing the main body from the flanks.

Connecting Files must be provided to ensure that communication is maintained between the main guard and the main body, and between the several groups into which the advanced guard is sub-divided.

Distances.

The distances between the different parts of the advanced guard depend upon their strength and the nature of the country, but they should never be so far apart that one body could not properly support the one ahead.

The distance of the advanced guard from the main body depends upon the nature of the country, the character and strength of the enemy, and upon our own strength and intentions. If it is intended to push
on, and engage the enemy, it should not be far in front, as the commander would act more boldly if he had support close at hand. If it is merely to guard against surprise it should be further ahead, but it should be remembered that if the distance is too great the advanced guard might be forced into a heavy engagement while beyond the assistance of the main body, and might even be cut up by an attack upon its flank and rear. If, on the other hand, the distance were not great enough, time could not be afforded the main body to prepare for action. It should, therefore, be sufficient, if the enemy is met with in force, to permit of his being delayed long enough, and sufficiently far to the front to allow the main body ample time to make the necessary dispositions to meet him, and if minor opposition only is encountered to overcome it without delaying the march of the main body.

Distances should always be maintained from rear to front, that is, the main body should regulate the pace, and the advanced guard should conform to it. The connecting file put out by the main body should keep the required distance in front of it, the main guard should keep the required distance in front of its connecting file, and so on up to the advanced party. Of course, if a check is met with in front, then the halt should be signalled from front to rear.
Duties of the Commander of the Vanguard.

The vanguard should always be commanded by an officer, who should be furnished with a map of the district through which the force is marching. He should usually march with the support, but should go to any part of the vanguard where his presence may be necessary. He may take immediate command of the advanced party, if it seems advisable to do so, leaving the support under the immediate command of the officer or non-commissioned officer next in rank.

His main duties are:

1. To see that the proper road is taken by the point.
2. To see that connecting files are left at cross roads, townships, etc., to direct the main guard.
3. To send out special patrols to examine all ground that might afford shelter to the enemy, such as woods, farmhouses, etc.
4. To send out special patrols to watch and oppose any hostile patrols that may be seen, or whose presence may be suspected.
5. To cause necessary repairs to be made to roads, bridges, approaches to fords, etc.
6. To transmit promptly to the advanced guard commander all information that he may gain about the enemy, first testing its accuracy, as far as possible.
7. To see that the march of the column is not, under any circumstances, unnecessarily delayed.
THE FORMATION OF A PATROL.

Formations of patrols should be guided by certain principles and not by any fixed rules. The formation should provide for—

- Observation
- Communication
- Keeping Touch
- Concealment

and for the safety at least of some of the scouts.

In open country the patrol should have the general formation of main body, advanced guard, rear guard, and flankers, even when each can only be represented by one man. If the patrol consists of less than five men, the rear guard, or one or both flankers, may be dispensed with, but the advanced guard should always be retained. It is generally better to do without one, or even both, the flankers, than without the rear guard man, whose vigilance prevents the patrol from being attacked in rear. On nearing the enemy the patrol should generally extend in line to facilitate observation. In woods, it should be extended in line, and the flanks seen to when possible. When on roads, or traversing hollows, gullies, etc., a file should be in front, followed by the commander, with a file in rear, about 100 yards.

The only definite rule, however, that can be laid down is the following:—The patrol must always be
so formed as to facilitate the gaining of observation, and to ensure, if possible, the escape of at least one man, if the patrol should be cut off.

The distances and intervals depend upon circumstances. They should be rarely less than 25 yards or more than 100 yards. The men should be close enough to see and hear each other’s signals, and for mutual support. On the other hand, they should not so crowd together that the patrol could not see more than a single man could—a fault men are prone to through fear of being cut off. The commander should not lose sight of the point, and the other members should keep the same man in view, or in the case of a large patrol, or one on an extended front, each man should endeavour to keep in sight the man next towards the point. The point should, when practicable, consist of two men, in order that one may scout vigilantly towards the enemy, while the other watches for signals from the men on the right and left and from the commander. The signals from the other members of the patrol are generally transmitted to the commander through the point. To assemble the patrol, the commander signals to the point to halt, and moves up to it, followed by the rear guard man. The other men at once close in on the point, conforming their pace to that of the commander.
CONNECTING FILES.

It should be remembered that between the advanced guard and the main body, and between the several groups into which the advanced guard is subdivided, connecting files should be placed so as to furnish a means of communicating, generally by signals, between the elements (groups) of the column. There should be a connecting file for at least every 300 yards. It is generally wiser to use two men together instead of one, because this leaves one man free to watch for signals from the front, while the other watches the rear body. In small commands it may not always be possible to detail two men, as the extra man could not be spared, but it should be remembered that a single connecting file is not of much use when the two bodies are separated by more than 500 yards.

HALTS.

Halts should only be ordered by the officer commanding the main body. When the column halts, all approaches should be carefully reconnoitred, and a patrol should be sent out to get an extended view from the highest available ground. If the halt is a short one, the disposition of the advanced guard would remain practically unchanged, but if the halt
is prolonged, the advanced guard commander should establish piquet, seek good defensive positions, and otherwise dispose of his advanced guard as an outpost.

TELLING OFF A COMPANY AS AN ADVANCED GUARD.

The company should stand at ease while the commander divides it into two parts, viz., The Van Guard, Nos. 1 and 2 sections, and the Main Guard, Nos. 3 and 4 sections. The commander will then give the following commands:

Two files on the right—quick march, and name the non-commissioned officer to take charge (the point.)

Four files on the right—quick march (flankers), and name the non-commissioned officer to take charge of each.

These will be ordered to move to the right and left of the point. These patrols will constitute the advanced party.

One file on the right—Connecting file.

When the point has reached a distance of about 200 yards—

Remainder of the van guard, quick march. (The support.)
When the support is about 300\(^*\) yards ahead—
Right file of main guard, quick march. This will be the connecting file.

When the connecting file is about 150\(^*\) yards ahead—
Stand fast the left file; remainder, quick march. This will be the main guard, the left file following the main guard at about 200\(^*\) yards, acting as a connecting file between it and the main body.

**THE DISPOSITION OF A SMALL ADVANCED GUARD.**

*(See Map on page 34.)*

You are the officer commanding “A” Company of No. 2 Battalion which is encamped about the township of West Dean. At 1:20 p.m. orders are issued that the battalion is to parade at once, and that the commanding officer wishes to see company commanders at battalion headquarters. You leave your subalterns to parade the company and go to the commanding officer, who gives the following verbal orders to the assembled company commanders:

“It seems that the light horse, supported by artillery and a battalion of infantry are trying to

* These distances are approximate only, and depend entirely upon the nature of the country.
force a passage over the river at Kim Bridge, with a view to reconnoitring to the east, but the enemy's mounted troops have crossed the river by the bridge between King's Somborne and Houghton, driving off our scouts, and are coming down by Mottisfont, on the left flank of our attack at Kim Bridge. The battalion is to march to Dunbridge Station as rapidly as possible to help the light horse and infantry engaged there.

The head of the battalion will pass the starting point—the grocer's shop—1.45 p.m., order of march just as the companies are now along the road. 'A' Company will form the advanced guard, and must get out quickly. We need not worry about anything to the south of the road, but the enemy may come down by Broughton and East Tytherly or Lockerley, so I want a small party from the advanced guard pushed up that road to secure it until the battalion is past. I am going to send a couple of cyclists forward to get into touch with the officer commanding the light horse. Half of the rear company will move in rear of the first line transport and form a rear guard. As soon as the battalion is on the move I shall ride with the main guard of the advanced guard."

(A) The following explains the disposition of the advanced guard when the battalion is on the march,
before the party to block the side road has been sent off, showing clearly:—

(1) The strength of each portion.
(2) The distances between the various portions of the advanced guard, and between the rear of the main guard and the head of the main body.
(3) The position of the officers of the company, and how communication is maintained throughout the advanced guard.

(B) What the strength of the party detailed to piquet the East Tytherly-Lockerley road should be, and the orders which should be given to the commander of this party.

The first point to be noted is the nature of the verbal orders given by the officer commanding the battalion which had been detailed to assist the troops engaged near Dunbridge. The orders are verbal, but it will be seen that the various points are dealt with in exactly the same sequence as they would have been in a written operation order. The general situation is dealt with first, then definite orders to the troops, and finally, information as to where the commanding officer himself will be.

Having received his orders, the officer commanding "A" Company would, while walking back to his company, decide in his own mind on the disposition of the company, and if he had not already noticed the
general nature of the country, he would look around him very carefully. It would be observed that the Dunbridge road runs through a valley, the northern side of which is a ridge between 400 and 600 yards from the road. The whole country is very much enclosed, much wooded, and movement of troops off the road would appear to be very slow and difficult. This being the case, the use of flankers moving across country would probably mean that the column could not march very fast. But in the circumstances given, it is essential that the battalion should march rapidly, because it is required to reinforce troops who are being hampered in the attainment of their object by an unexpected attack. Moreover, the fact that friendly troops have already proceeded along the road to Dunbridge makes it probable that there are no enemy directly to the front, an impression that would certainly be strengthened by the commanding officer’s explanation of the situation, for the enemy’s advance appears to be restricted to the Tytherly-Lockerley road, unless it comes by Dunbridge Station, in which case the officer commanding “A” Company may well consider that the hostile advance will be reported by the troops already in the front. Flankers, then, are not essential, and the company may well be disposed as shown in the diagram on following page.
Distances. Point.

120 yards. Point, 1 non-commissioned officer and 4 men.


Subaltern. Vanguard, 1 section less point and connecting file.

250 yards. Piquet to block side road, 1 section under an officer.

Main guard. Connecting files from main guard.

Main guard. Main guard, ½ company under subaltern.

500 yards. Connecting files from main guard.

Connecting files from main body.

Main body. Head of main body.
Each portion of the advanced guard would move off at a very rapid pace until it had gained the necessary distance, for it is evident that time presses. As for the position of the officers, it would certainly be well to detail an officer to command the piquet which is to block the side road. The company commander himself would be best placed with the vanguard, for here he would be in a position to get early information of anything that was happening, and would be able to dispose of the main guard as soon as it arrived. The remaining subaltern should be with his half company which forms the main guard.

Communication throughout would be maintained by connecting files. As for distances, those shown should make it quite certain that the main body does not come under fire unexpectedly, as the point is half a mile in front of the main body, and in very much enclosed country, such a distance would usually be ample where small forces are concerned.

Dealing now with the party to block the side road, the strength of which is shown in the diagram as a section. The principle governing the detachment of bodies of troops to block approaches on the flank of a moving body, when the advance of the enemy is restricted to a few definite approaches is, that the party should be strong enough to maintain its position for just that space of time during which the column it is covering will be passing the dangerous point.
This time can generally be calculated. In the present instance the party will have to prevent the approach of any enemy by the Lockerley-Tytherly road, while the whole battalion from and including the main guard up to the rear guard, is passing the road junction in Lockerley. The length of this column may be calculated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Distance (yards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length of main guard</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from the main guard to head of main body</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battalion, less advanced and rear guards</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ Cos. = 12 yards</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For rear guard and $\frac{1}{2}$ Co. allow</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,375</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As this length of column would take rather less than 15 minutes to pass a given point, the party detached must be strong enough to hold its own for 15 minutes.

The next point to consider is the distance from the main road at which it must be placed. This will, of course, depend entirely on the ground. The company commander has noticed that the crest of the ridge, north of the road, appears to run consistently at from 400 to 600 yards from it; he may reasonably judge that the country being close, and movement in the main restricted to the roads, it will suffice if the
party is placed just over the ridge. A section of infantry (a very common strength for a piquet on outpost duty) ought certainly to be able to hold its ground for 15 minutes, and if the party marches with the vanguard, and moves rapidly up into position after leaving the main road, it will certainly be well established by the time the main body reaches the dangerous point.

The orders for this detachment would be included in those given by the company commander before his company moved off. He should call out his subaltern and non-commissioned officers in front of the company, and then give his orders in a voice loud enough for all the men to hear. After explaining what was known of the situation and detailing the disposition of the company, he might say:—

“We have to block the road running north through Lockerley; I want you, Mr. Z.” (turning to the subaltern of the leading half company) “to take a section, march with the vanguard, and push on up that road only just as far as is necessary to prevent an enemy advancing by it interfering with the battalion. Just over the ridge would probably do. Drop a couple of men where you turn off to let you know when the tail of the battalion passes, then come in and close up on the rear guard. I am giving you a couple of signallers to help you in picking up communication, but the country is so
thick that you may have to use some of your men as connecting files."

**ADVANCED GUARD IN A RETREAT.**

It is always advisable to have a small advanced guard to a retreating force. Its special duty is to clear away obstacles that would delay the march. But it should observe all precautions against surprise, and should be invariably accompanied by some mounted men for scouting purposes. A party of engineers should be attached for the removal of obstacles, or the preparation of bridges, etc., for demolition after the rear guard has passed.

Should it be possible for the enemy to intercept the head of the retreating column, a strong advanced guard of all arms will be required.

**THE FLANK GUARD.**

**General Principles.**

If there is any possibility of a column on the march being attacked in flank, flank guards should be detailed. They will usually be furnished by the main body, but may sometimes be dropped by the advanced guard.

The strength, composition, and disposition of a flank guard and its distance from the main body are governed by the principles which apply to all
protecting detachments. The flank guard may either move parallel to the main body, or take up a position on the threatened flank. A flank guard may be required to hold its own without support until the main body and transport have passed.

Should the main body change direction so that the march becomes a flank march (i.e., a march across the enemy's front), it will generally be advisable to use the old advanced guard as a flank guard, and to form a new advanced guard from the main body.

THE DISPOSITION OF A FLANK GUARD.

The force to which you belong is attacking an enemy who are reported to be holding a low gorse-covered ridge about two miles away, and the country for about 600 to 700 yards in front of this ridge is reported open.

Your battalion is on the extreme right of the line and is halted on a road which runs towards the enemy's position.

The country in the immediate vicinity is flat, the fields (about 10 acres in extent) fenced by hedges varying from 10 to 4 feet in height.

The general effect is, that a man can generally be seen two fields (say 500 yards) away.

The commanding officer informs the company commanders that the battalion is about to advance.
The main body of the battalion is to move along the road till it is found necessary to deploy—

"A" Company is to form the advanced guard.

"B" Company the right flank guard.

The following describes how this flank guard might be sent out.

The officer commanding "B" Company, after having received his instructions from the commanding officer of the battalion, goes back to his company. On the way he thinks over the points which have been told to him, and makes up his mind as to the course of action that he intends to adopt.

How will he detail his company?—

(1) To move parallel to the main body; or

(2) To take up a position on the exposed flank.

The nature of the country, which is enclosed and flat, and the information he has received, would probably lead him to decide on adopting (1).

Next he thinks of the manner in which he can best distribute his company to carry out its duty of protection.

Again the nature of the country, and the fact that a man is generally visible about 500 yards away enables him to fix the distance between the extreme flanking section, or sections, and the main guard. There is, however, some further information required before he can decide on the distance to which he should send out his protective bodies. He ought to
know how his commanding officer expects him to act on coming into contact with the enemy. If he has received no instructions on the point, then he must act on his own initiative, "remembering that by driving in the enemy's advanced troops at once he will usually assist the commander of the force in coming to a decision, and that this will rarely interfere with the latter's liberty of action, while hesitation and delay may do so by allowing the enemy to seize the initiative."—"Field Service Regulations," part I., section 68, paragraph 2.

He then calculates that if he sends his main guard out to the line of hedge, about 400 yards from the road, and his extreme flanking section, or sections, to the next hedge, about 200 yards further out, and that this party sends out a man in advance, and flankers about 200 yards further still, that no enemy can approach within 1,300 yards without being seen. That is sufficient.

The enemy could not possibly drive the flank guard in 800 yards and open fire on the main body in less time than it would take the main body to make arrangements to meet the attack.

Shall he send one or two sections to the extreme flank? He would ask himself how long it would take his main guard to get ready. "Right turn and two paces extend," would not require more than one minute. The duty of the flanking party is to pro-
tect the main guard from surprise. Very little time is required in this case. He would, therefore, decide that one section would be sufficient to provide the necessary men in advance and flanks, and afford him security. The next point to decide is: In what direction should the flank guard be sent out—

(1) To the flank direct.

(2) Half right to the flank.

As the battalion is about to advance he would decide that it is better to send his flank guard out half right, so that it may get into position in the quickest possible time, and not delay the advance of the main body. This direction will also enable him to keep in touch with the flankers of the advanced guard, which would also be moving off at once. His decision would be arrived at before he reaches his company. When he gets to his company he would issue his orders and give instructions as follows:

The enemy are holding a low ridge about two miles ahead (pointing out the direction). In front of this ridge there is about 600 to 700 yards of open ground. Our battalion is to the right of the line, and is about to advance. “B” Company will form the right flank guard, and will act vigorously if the enemy is met with and endeavour to drive him back. No. 4 Section will be the right flanking section, and will throw out a flanker to keep in touch with right flanker of advanced guard and will also secure its own flank.
It will march about 600 yards to the right of the main road (pointing out a direction half right).

Sections 1, 2, and 3 will form the main guard, and will march in file under cover of a hedge (pointing it out), keeping about 400 yards from the road.

The main guard will march parallel to, and will be 200 yards further back than No. 4 Section.

All messages to be sent to main guard of flank guard.

"Move."—The distances suggested above are not fixed, and many may think they are too small, others too great. Nothing definite can be laid down. They are sufficient to secure the main body against surprise.

Formation.—The extreme section would act on its commander's orders, but it should not extend until necessary. It would send out men in advance, and flankers (or scouts, if available) at once. The main guard would move in file or fours. All formed bodies would take advantage of the cover afforded by the hedges. It must always be remembered that formations must be adapted to the ground; it is impossible to use a "sealed pattern" formation to suit all cases.

THE REAR GUARD.

Duties, Composition, and Strength of the Rear Guard to a Retreating Force.

The first requirement of a defeated force is to be relieved from the pressure of pursuit. This is
effected by detaching a portion of the force, the strength of which will depend on the situation, as a rear guard to impede the enemy’s advance. The remainder of the force is thus enabled to move in comparative safety, and to recover order and morale.

A rear guard to a force retreating is essentially a fighting force of all arms. It should be strong in artillery and mounted troops. Artillery, by reason of its long range, is able to force the enemy to deploy at a distance, whilst mounted troops, on account of their mobility, can hold a position considerably longer than infantry, and prevent the flanks from being turned. A rear guard should be lightly equipped, and should usually be accompanied by a strong detachment of engineers provided with demolition equipment. The troops detailed for the rear guard will, as a rule, be those which have been least severely engaged.

The commander of a rear guard is appointed by the commander of the force to be protected. He should receive instructions as to what extent he is at liberty to break down bridges, burn villages, and destroy railways, with a view to impeding the enemy’s progress.

When the pursuit is not close, the disposition of a rear guard on the line of march will resemble that of an advanced guard reversed; a rear party, usually composed of mounted men, having been
formed, the remainder of the troops, when not engaged, generally move as a main guard, in the order in which they can most readily come into action.

Action of a Rear Guard to a Retreating Force.

The conduct of a rear guard, more perhaps than any other operation in war, depends for its success on the skill and energy of the commander.

A rear guard carries out its mission best by compelling the enemy's troops to halt and deploy for attack as frequently, and at as great a distance, as possible. It can usually effect this by taking up a succession of defensive positions which the enemy must attack or turn. When the enemy's dispositions are nearly complete, the rear guard moves off by successive retirements, each party as it falls back covering the retirement of the next by its fire. This action is repeated on the next favourable ground. All this consumes time, and time is what is most needed by a retreating force. A rear guard may also effectively check an enemy by attacking his advanced troops as they emerge from a defile or from difficult country.

In occupying rear guard positions it is important (i.) to show as strong a front as possible to the enemy; (ii.) to make sure of good lines of retreat.
The manner of occupying a rear guard position differs from that of occupying a position meant to be resolutely defended, in that the greater part of the force should be in the fighting line from the outset, a proportionately small part being retained in reserve, and as great a display of force as possible being made.

Mounted troops should usually be employed wide on the flanks, so as to watch the country by which the enemy might advance, and to be able to forestall any attempt to pass between the rear guard and the main body.

The first consideration in selecting a position for the artillery is, that it shall be able to open fire on an enemy at long range, and thus compel his infantry to assume an extended formation at the greatest possible distance. The second is that it should be possible to withdraw without difficulty.

A point of great importance to the commander of a rear guard is to judge accurately the proper time to retire. He must constantly bear in mind the difficulty of withdrawing infantry that has once become engaged. If he retires too soon he is only partly carrying out the work required from the rear guard; on the other hand, if he falls into the error of trying to dispute every inch of ground he may become seriously involved and run the risk
of being cut off from the main body, or oblige the latter to halt and reinforce him.

When a rear guard halts to fight, every moment separates it further from the main body, whereas with a pursuing force every moment brings its reinforcements closer; therefore in regulating the distance of the main guard from the main body the chance of the enemy interposing between the two must be considered. The distance, however, must be sufficient to prevent the main body being shelled by the enemy. This is specially important during the passage of a defile.

The commander of the main body should periodically keep the commander of the rear guard informed of his progress, and vice versa.

It is always advisable to send an officer to the rear to note the next favourable position for defence on the line of retreat. The lines of retreat from position to position should not converge.

The positions should be sufficiently far apart to induce the enemy, after seizing one, to re-form column of route before advancing against the next.

Before withdrawing from a position, arrangements, should be made to cover the retirement of the portion of the rear guard which is still engaged, by the disposition of the troops that have already retired.
Expedients for Delaying an Enemy's Advance.

With a view to delaying the enemy's advance, the following expedients may be resorted to:—

i. Narrow roads, etc., can be blocked by locking together several waggons and removing one or more of the wheels, or by felling trees across the roads.

ii. Fords may be rendered impassable by throwing in ploughs, harrows, etc.

iii. Boats may be removed to the side of the river further from the enemy and sunk or burnt.

iv. Villages, woods, heather, scrub, etc., if the circumstances demand it, may be set on fire by the rear party, so as to conceal the movements of the rear guard and impede the enemy's advance.

v. Skilfully laid ambushes will cause the enemy to move with caution in pursuit.

Rear Guard to a Force Advancing.

If there is any chance of the rear of an advancing column being exposed to the enemy's attacks, the rear guard may be composed of all arms and must be sufficiently strong to meet all emergencies.
If it is to be employed only in collecting stragglers and keeping off marauders, it is usually composed of infantry, with sometimes a few mounted troops added for watching the flanks.

If the main body and the train march without any considerable distance between them, one rear guard will usually suffice for the whole: but if for any reason there is a considerable distance, the rear guard will follow the main body, and special arrangements will be made for the protection of the transport.
OUTPOSTS.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Outposts are covering detachments thrown out from a force when halted, for the purpose of protecting it from surprise, and to ensure its unbroken rest.

The duties of outposts are:

(1) To observe towards the front and flanks by patrols and sentries, to locate the enemy's whereabouts, and learn promptly, of his movements, if near.

(2) To protect the main body from being observed or disturbed.

(3) In case of attack, to check the enemy long enough to enable the main body to make the necessary dispositions.

If an enemy is so continuously watched that he can make no movement without being observed, surprise will be impossible. The first duty, therefore, of the outposts is reconnaissance.

Should the enemy attack, he must be delayed until the commander of the main body has had time to make the preparations necessary to enable him to carry out his plan of action, and the enemy's troops must be prevented from approaching within effective field artillery range of the
ground on which the main body will deploy if attacked. The second duty therefore is resistance. Outpost duty is most exhausting. Not a man or horse more than is absolutely needed should be employed.

To see without being seen is one of the first maxims of outpost duty. The more an enemy is kept in ignorance of the strength and position of the outpost troops the greater will be his uncertainty, and uncertainty is the most fruitful cause of mistakes and rashness. All troops on outpost, should, therefore, be carefully concealed.

No compliment will be paid and no bugle or trumpet call is to be sounded, but individual soldiers on this duty, as on all others, will salute when addressing or addressed by a superior officer.

Detachments in close proximity to the enemy must be careful to avoid useless collisions. Attempts to carry off detached posts, sentries, etc., unless with some special object in view, are to be avoided, as they serve no good end, give rise to reprisals, and tend to disturb the main body.

All bodies of troops on outpost must observe the rules laid down for the sanitation of camps and bivouacs. Latrines and refuse pits must be prepared. The extent of the sanitary arrangements will depend on the time the outpost position is likely to be occupied.
BATTLE OUTPOSTS.

If the enemy is close at hand and battle imminent, or if the battle ceases only at nightfall, to be renewed next day, the whole of the troops must be in complete readiness for action. There may not even be room for outposts, and the troops will have to bivouac in their battle positions, protected only by patrols and sentries. In such cases, the firing line practically takes the place of the outposts.

It will often occur, under these conditions, that no orders can be issued as to measures of protection by superior authority; and, in any case, nothing can relieve the commanders of the advanced battalions and companies of the responsibility of securing themselves from surprise, and, unless circumstances forbid, of keeping touch with the enemy by means of patrols.

POSITION OF THE OUTPOSTS.

When there is any possibility of a force coming in conflict with an enemy, its commander, when halting for the night, should first decide upon his dispositions in case of attack, and then arrange the quartering of his command and the position of the outposts accordingly.
When a force is on the march the troops for outpost duty should be detailed before the march is completed.

It is an advantage if an outpost position includes commanding ground from which a wide extent of country can, in clear weather, be kept under observation by day. Facilities for observation, however, are of less importance than facilities for protracted resistance, provided the ground in front is well patrolled. The distance of the outpost position from the main body is regulated by the time which the main body requires to prepare for action, and by the necessity of preventing the enemy’s artillery from interfering with the freedom of movement of the main body. Commanding ground is advantageous, but by no means essential.

Command, co-operation, and intercommunication will be facilitated by placing the piquets along well-defined natural features, such as ridges, streams, the outer edges of woods, etc., or in the vicinity of roads, but this must not be allowed to outweigh the necessity for making the best tactical dispositions possible.

In enclosed country and at night, the movements of troops are generally confined to the roads and tracks, which should be carefully watched.
If the outpost position is extensive, it may be divided into sections, each section being allotted to a certain number of companies, sections being numbered from the right. The extent of a section depends upon the amount of ground which can be supervised conveniently by one commander.

The extent of frontage to be allotted to each company will depend on the defensive capabilities of the outpost position; and, where they exist, on the number of approaches to be guarded.

The outpost position should invariably be strengthened and communications improved where necessary. Piquets and supports will do this without waiting for definite orders.

COMPOSITION OF THE OUTPOSTS.

In the case of large forces, or when a force is scattered, the outposts are usually furnished from each division or brigade in the front line. The commander of the force divides the ground to be covered between his subordinate commanders, each of whom details the commander of the outposts and the outpost troops for his section. Under other circumstances the commander of the force may decide to detail the whole of the outpost troops, in which case he will also detail the commander of the outposts.
The outposts of a force of all arms consist of outpost mounted troops, outpost companies, and, when necessary, the reserve. Machine guns will generally be included, and sometimes artillery.

Outpost mounted troops are usually provided by the divisional mounted troops and may be attached to sections of the outposts or to outpost companies for reconnoitring purposes, and to keep touch with the protective cavalry by day; but economy must be exercised in employing mounted troops for outpost duties.

When stationary, the duty of local protection by night will fall almost entirely on the infantry; most of the outpost mounted troops being withdrawn, their place in this case being with the reserve; if there be one. In certain cases, however, standing mounted patrols may be left out at night with advantage.

Artillery may be usefully employed with outposts if they occupy the ground which the main body is to hold in case of attack; if there is limited ground over which the enemy must pass; or if it is important to prevent the enemy from occupying artillery positions within close field artillery range of the outposts. Except when the outposts occupy the battle position more guns should not be employed than can be easily and rapidly withdrawn.
Artillery should be withdrawn at night, except when with the reserve.

Machine guns with the outposts may be employed to sweep approaches, and to cover ground which an enemy in advancing may be compelled to pass or occupy.

THE OUTPOST COMMANDER.

The outpost commander should be told, before the force has halted, what is known of the enemy, and of other bodies of our own troops; the intentions of the commander who appoints him, if the enemy attacks; where the force to be covered will halt; the general position to be occupied by the outposts; whether there are other outpost troops on his flanks; the composition of the outposts, and the hour at which they will be relieved.

As soon as he has received his instructions he will give out either verbally or in writing such orders as are immediately necessary for the occupation of the outpost line. He will supplement these by detailed orders on the following points as soon as possible.

i. Information of the enemy and of our own troops so far as they affect the outposts.
ii. General positions to be occupied by the outpost; division into sections, if necessary; frontage, or number of roads allotted to each outpost company, or to each section; and situation of the reserve.

iii. Disposition of the outpost mounted troops.

iv. Dispositions in case of attack. Generally the line of resistance, and the degree of resistance to be offered.

v. Special arrangements by night.

vi. Smoking, lighting fires, and cooking.

vii. The hour at which the outposts will be relieved.

viii. His own position.

As soon as the outposts are in position he will inform the commander who appointed him, and furnish him with a rough sketch showing his dispositions.

The outpost commander should assign a definite part of the outpost position to each outpost company. Should it be necessary to divide the outpost position into sections, the commander of the outposts will appoint commanders of sec-

* In the following pages companies only are referred to. The principles are equally applicable to outpost squadrons, if squadrons have to do the work laid down for outpost companies, as would happen with mounted troops acting independently, or employed in front of the main outpost position.
tions, who will, in that case, divide their sections among their outpost companies. The limits of ground allotted to sections of the outposts or to outpost companies should be marked by some distinctive feature, such as trees, cottages, streams, etc.

In allotting ground to outpost companies it is necessary to be precise as to the limits for which each is responsible. These limits should be marked by means of some distinctive feature, such as a clump of trees, a cottage, stream, etc. If a road is given as a boundary, the words “exclusive” or “inclusive” should invariably be added, this will prevent misunderstanding as to what company is responsible for guarding it.

The line of resistance of the outposts should be selected with a view to obtaining sufficient time for the commander of the main body to put his plan of action into execution. Its position must, therefore, depend on the intention of the commander of the main body, upon the size of the main body, and the nature and position of its quarters, upon the character and proximity of the enemy, and also upon the ground.

In selecting the line of resistance for an outpost line it must be remembered that retirements of advanced troops on to a supporting line, especially at night, are generally dangerous, and, therefore, it will
usually be preferable to select the piquet line, rather than the line of supports, as the line of resistance, and to arrange the disposition of the outposts accordingly.

THE RESERVE, OR INLYING PIQUET.

It lies primarily with the commander who details the force to be employed on outpost duty to decide whether the strength of the force so detailed should be sufficient to provide a reserve. The necessity, or otherwise, for the provision of a reserve depends on circumstances, such as the size of the force to be covered, the proximity of the enemy, the probability of attack, the time required by the main body to come into action in case of attack, the distance of the outposts from the main body, and the nature of the ground. Even when troops have not been detailed specially as a reserve, however, the commander of the outposts may find it unnecessary to employ all the troops placed at his disposal as piquets and supports, in which case it would lie within his discretion to retain any surplus in reserve. When a reserve is specially detailed by the commander of the force, its composition will be decided by him. It may often be advisable to include mounted troops and guns. The troops detailed should, as far as possible, be composed of complete units.
It may often be advisable to divide the reserve into two, or even more parts, when, for instance, the outpost position is very extensive or the country intersected or difficult.

If no reserve is specially detailed, an inlying piquet of the necessary strength will be found by the command which furnishes the outpost troops.

**TRAFFIC THROUGH THE OUTPOSTS.**

No one other than troops on duty, prisoners, deserters, and flags of truce will be allowed to pass through the outposts either from within or from without, except with the authority of the commander who details the outposts, or of the commander-in-chief. Inhabitants with information will be blindfolded and detained at the nearest piquet pending instructions, and their information sent to the commander of the outposts.

No one, other than troops on duty, prisoners, deserters, and flags of truce, will be allowed to pass post line except the commanders of the nearest piquet and outpost company, who should confine their conversation to what is essential, and the commander of the outposts. Prisoners and deserters will be sent at once, under escort, through the commander of the outpost company, to the commander of the outposts.

In civilized countries, when, for tactical reasons, no piquet is posted on a main line of traffic, a
detached post should be posted specially to deal with traffic through the outposts. Such detached posts will be detailed by the commander of the outpost company in whose section the main line of traffic lies.

FLAGS OF TRUCE.

On the approach of a flag of truce, one sentry, or more if at hand, will advance and halt it at such distance as to prevent any of the party who compose it overlooking the posts; he will detain the flag of truce until instructions are received from the commander of the outpost company.

If permission is given for it to pass the outposts, the individuals bearing it must first be blindfolded, and then led under escort to the commander of the outposts. No conversation except by his permission is to be allowed on any subject, under any pretense, with the persons bearing the flag of truce.

If the flag of truce is merely the bearer of a letter or parcel, the commander of the outpost company must receive it, and instantly forward it to headquarters. The flag of truce, having taken a receipt, will be required forthwith to depart, and no one must be allowed to hold any conversation with the party.
INTERCOMMUNICATION.

Communication must be maintained at all times between all parts of an outpost position, and between the outposts and the main body. Communication may be by signal or by orderly.

The commander of the outposts is responsible for communication with the main body; supports will keep up communication with their piquets, with the supports on either flank and with the reserve. Piquets or detached posts will maintain communication with the piquets or posts on either flank. Commanders of piquets will satisfy themselves that sentries are alert and understand their duties, but should limit, as much as possible, any movements in the line of sentries which might be visible to an enemy.

READINESS FOR ACTION.

The commander of the outposts will decide whether the reserve is to occupy quarters or to bivouac, and whether the supports or reserves may take off accoutrements, off-saddle, unhook and unharness teams, etc.

Piquets will invariably be ready for action. The men must never lay aside their accoutrements. Mounted men attached to infantry should, whenever possible, off-saddle; but one man should always be ready for instant action.
Not more than a few men should be allowed to leave the piquet at one time for any purpose. They should never be allowed to move about in, or in front of, the sentry line when seeking water, fuel, forage, etc.

The outposts will stand to arms one hour before sunrise, and remain under arms until the patrols, which should be sent out at that time, report that there is no sign of an immediate attack. Care should be taken that these patrols remain out till after daybreak. When the outposts are relieved in the morning, the relief should reach the outposts half an hour before sunrise. The troops relieved will not return to camp until the patrols report all clear.

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE OUTPOSTS.**

As in the case of an advanced guard, the outposts are subdivided into a number of groups or elements, gradually increasing in size from front to rear. In case of sudden attack, each group is charged with holding the enemy in check until the larger group next in rear has had time to deploy and prepare for action.

The outpost commander in the first place divides the main outpost line into sections, if the line is extensive, each of which would, in small commands, be occupied by an outpost company.
The troops detailed for the outposts of a force of all arms usually consists of:

1. Outpost Mounted Troops.
2. Outpost Companies.
3. Inlying Piquet, or
4. Reserves, when necessary.
5. Artillery and Machine Guns.

The distribution of the outposts should be such that there will be a line of observation and a line of resistance. The principal object is to observe the enemy, to prevent his harassing the main body by reconnaissance and hostile demonstrations, or if he advances in force, to oppose his approach until the main body can make its dispositions to meet him. That disposition which best permits of such observation and resistance is the correct one.

The outpost mounted troops reconnoitre well in front, towards the enemy, to cover the force, but most of them are withdrawn at night, and fall back on the main body.

The outpost company is allotted to a section of the outpost line, and is divided into—

1. Support, or supports.
2. Detached post (if required).
3. Piquets, which furnish sentry groups, reconnoitring patrols, sentry over the piquet, remainder of the piquet.
The sentry groups occupy the line of observation. The piquets are in rear of the line of observation and on the line of resistance, the best defensive position in the neighbourhood, and which usually becomes the first line of battle if the enemy makes a determined attack.

The supports are in rear of the line of resistance, centrally located, and should be in readiness to go to any part of the line which might be in need of assistance.

Reconnoitring patrols may be furnished by the piquet, or by the supports, and should go to the front, about a mile, searching ground which cannot be seen from the line of observation, or to give warning of the enemy's approach.

Standing patrols may be furnished either by mounted troops or infantry, and are sent out to remain at some definite spot to watch either the enemy, a road by which he might advance, or a locality where he could collect, preparatory to an attack.

Detached posts are used in front of the sentry line, especially at night, to guard the principal approaches, or to watch some spot where the enemy might collect preparatory to an attack.

The inlying piquet is furnished by the main body, and should be in readiness to go to the assistance of the outposts.
The reserve is provided only when the circumstances warrant it, or when the outpost commander finds it unnecessary to employ all the troops placed at his disposal.

Artillery is employed if the outposts occupy ground which the main body is to hold in case of attack, and should usually be withdrawn at night.

Machine guns should be employed to sweep approaches and to cover ground which an enemy in advancing may be compelled to pass or occupy.

The Depth of the Outpost Position.

The distance of the outpost position from the troops protected is regulated by the time which the latter will require to prepare for action, and by the importance of preventing the enemy's artillery from approaching within effective artillery range of the ground on which these troops will deploy if attacked. On the other hand, especially in the case of small commands, the distance must not be such as would permit of the outposts being cut off, or would necessitate the employment of an undue proportion of men on outpost duty.

Sentry Groups.—200 to 400 yards in front of piquet.

Piquets.—400 to 600 yards in front of supports.

Supports.—400 to 700 yards in front of inlying piquet or reserves.
Inlying Piquets or Reserves.—1 to 3 miles in front of main body.

Reconnoitring Patrols should move out about a mile in front of the sentry line.

Detached Posts should not be more than about a mile in front of the sentry line.

It is important to grasp the necessity of keeping the men in hand as much as possible; dissemination over a wide front means weakness everywhere. All that can be done on outposts is to consider the probable lines of the enemy's advance, on these place piquets to check his movements (the piquets throwing out sentry groups for their own protection), and to watch the intervening ground by means of patrols, keeping in hand bodies of men—the supports—who are always available to meet the enemy should he advance by the unexpected line.

DUTIES OF AN OUTPOST COMPANY COMMANDER.

Outpost companies are allotted a section of the outpost line, which may have a frontage 800 yards in open country, and furnish supports, piquets, sentry groups, detached posts, and reconnoitring patrols for the line of observation and the line of resistance of their section.
The commander of an outpost company would, in the first place, receive his instructions from the outpost commander, which should cover the following points:

1. Information about the enemy, and our own troops, so far as they affect the outposts.
2. The position of the section to which he has been allotted.
3. The exact frontage and the number of roads his company has to watch.
4. The line of resistance of the outposts, the position upon which the main body will fight in case of attack, his action in case he is attacked, and if forced to retire, his line of retreat to the fighting position of the main body, if that does not coincide with the line of resistance of the main body.
5. The position of the companies on the flanks of his position.
6. The position of the outpost commander, to whom reports should be sent.

On being allotted his section, and having received his orders, the commander should march his command, under cover of one or two sections sent well on in advance, to the ground allotted to him, where the men should be halted under cover.

The duty of the covering party is to prevent the enemy from interfering with or overlooking the out-
post line while it is being posted. Its commander should be given any information regarding the enemy and our own troops that would be useful for him to know. He should be told the position to be taken up by his own company, and should receive clear instructions regarding his action if attacked, the distance he is to go in front of the outpost line, and the place to which reports are to be sent. The covering party should send out a few patrols, and the remainder follow as a support. It should remain out until the piquets are posted and reconnoitring patrols sent out. Having sent out the covering party, the company commander should then go forward, accompanied by his subalterns and section commanders, and reconnoitre the ground allotted to him.

He should first select his line of resistance, that is the line he intends his company to hold if attacked. As the company must be prepared to make a protracted resistance, they should have a good field of fire and be concealed from view. In choosing this line of resistance, which should correspond with the one indicated by the outpost commander, the commander should consult the commanders of the companies on both flanks, so as to arrange for mutual supporting fire, and make certain that no ground is left unwatched or unprotected. He should then decide on the number of the piquets, the frontage to be
allotted to them, and their position, which should usually be on the line of resistance, and, if necessary, the position of the detached post.

The number of piquets to be posted depends upon the nature of the country allotted, as regards facilities for resistance, the number of patrols required, and the number of roads to be guarded. It may sometimes be necessary to post one piquet, sometimes two, and sometimes three, but there must be sufficient to carry out the work effectively. The intervals between piquets and their distance from the supports depends upon the situation and the nature of the ground.

He should select the outpost company's line of observation, and decide on the number of sentry groups to be employed. If observation is difficult, reconnoitring patrols should be sent out to cover the ground which cannot be seen. He should decide whether these should be furnished by piquets or supports. When the troops who covered the company's advance to the outpost position are available, it is sometimes convenient that they who already know something of the country in front, should be detailed for this duty.

He should then go back and select the position for his supports, which should be in a central position, so that the support can go without delay to any part of the line which is in need of assistance. He
should then return to his company and tell it off. The piquets should march to their places, covered by scouts so that they can not be observed in making their dispositions.

In giving his explanations and orders, the outpost company commander should do so in front of and in the hearing of his men. On outpost duty more than on any other occasion, it is essential that everyone should thoroughly grasp the situation.

The covering troops should be withdrawn as soon as the piquets and group sentries are posted, and the reconnoitring patrols are sufficiently far to the front.

When the piquets and group sentries have been posted he should inspect the whole, and alter or modify what he considers necessary.

He should arrange to have his piquet line strengthened, with shelter from fire for every man belonging to the piquets, and see that every man has a good field of fire to his front.

When his company is in position he should send a report to the outpost commander showing its disposition, what steps he has taken to strengthen his position, to establish communication, whether any patrols have been sent out, and his own position.

It is essential that communication should be maintained throughout the length and breadth of an outpost line, and therefore it is necessary for the officer commanding an outpost company to know the way to
pass information to the officers commanding the outpost companies on each flank. He should, if possible, personally interview these officers, thus finding out from them where they wish information sent to, and letting them know the point to which they should send information for his benefit. He should ensure that he has with him in the supports at least three men who are able rapidly and with certainty to find their way to the officers commanding companies on each flank. Every man in each of the piquets should know, not only the direction to the piquets on each flank, but also the quickest way to reach them. In fact, every man in the company should know the whereabouts of all bodies of troops in his immediate vicinity, and be able to find his way with certainty to them.

SUPPORTS.

The strength of the portion of an outpost company detailed as support will depend upon whether the line of piquets or the line of supports is to be the line of resistance, but will usually approximate to the aggregate of the piquet or piquets to which it is linked. When divided into two or more parts, each part should be composed of a complete unit or units, and the commander of the outpost company should exercise a general supervision over the whole.
support is not split up the company commander will usually be in immediate command of it.

The distance of the supports from the piquet line depends on the ground, varying from 350 to 750 yards. When the piquet line is the line of resistance, steps should be taken to ensure that it can be reinforced by day or night without confusion. With this object, communication where necessary should be improved, and every man of the supports should be required, while daylight lasts, to get a clear mental picture of his surroundings. Every man should further be told exactly what he will be required to do in case of attack, whether by day or night. Supports will keep up communication with their piquets, with the supports on left and right, and with the reserve.

In every case where a support may have to reinforce a piquet in the dark, the details of its action should be thought out beforehand, the ground reconnoitred by the commander of the reinforcing body, and a definite plan agreed upon; it is only by working on some definitely prearranged plan that the difficulty and confusion, almost bound to arise when reinforcing troops are fighting in the dark, can be eliminated. The actual position which the reinforcing troops are to occupy should also be prepared for occupation, this work being undertaken by men belonging to the support.
TRAINING A COMPANY IN OUTPOST DUTIES.

Officers often fail to properly appreciate that “company training” is training and not manoeuvres, nor a mere “outpost scheme.” When N.C.O.’s, or men offend against the principles of outpost duties the company commander should, so long as it does not interfere with nor interrupt the operations in hand, at once check them, and make them do the same job all over again in the right way, which is by far the best method of impressing its necessity on them.

Every bit of outpost work should be thoroughly carried out as on service, and every detail connected therewith explained. During company training these details, and the repeated instruction in them, are neglected, the commander being frequently satisfied with taking up positions for piquet and supports, posting his groups, sending out a patrol or two, and then considering that he has done all that is required of him.

This is not only careless and slack, but it is also most dangerous. Outpost duty, unless taught and practised thoroughly in every little detail, “precept upon precept, line upon line,” is a mere parody of “protection,” and is but sowing the seeds of regret-
table incidents, the harvest of which is reaped in bloody wars and the tears of a nation.

The Japanese, in this matter of instruction, appreciate the fact that a child must learn to walk ere he would run, and that "rudiments" must be thoroughly learned and understood before they can be effectively applied. Company commanders will find many useful hints in the following extract from a report to the War Office on the training of Japanese troops:

"In training the company in outpost duties after a thorough theoretical instruction, general and individual, much time is devoted to practising on the parade ground, or elsewhere in the neighbourhood of barracks, particular phases of outpost duties. Thus two or three groups are posted close together representing groups in an outpost line. The remainder of the men observe the work carried out by the men posted as sentries, and two or three men, under the instruction of the officer commanding the parade, represent hostile patrols, scouts attempting to pass the line, messengers bringing in reports from friendly patrols, etc. After the particular exercise has been carried out, the men who
were taking part in it are called on to explain why they followed the particular course which they did; and the others observing are made to criticise, point out mistakes, etc. If mistakes have been made other men are made to repeat the same exercises again and again. The same principle is applied to every portion of the soldier's training in field work, thus bringing home to the intelligence of the soldier what course he should pursue in the various situations arising, and the reason for it.

Another officer describes the instruction of recruits in outpost duties by night. The following are extracts from his report:

"All the recruits were formed in one section and constituted the piquet. The piquet was told off, and those men who had been detailed for sentry groups, detached posts, and any duty which would not be with the actual piquet, were formed up on one side clear of the piquet. The piquet was organised so that the men of the same relief of sentries, reconnoitring patrols, etc., piled arms by reliefs or by patrols. These were all in one line with intervals
between each group of duties. The men available for other duties piled arms in another line about six paces in rear of the arms of the reliefs for sentries and patrols. All this was done with every man present, so that each could see what ought to be done. A sentry group was next posted, and then all were taken to a spot immediately in rear of the groups and shown what ought to be done and what ought not to be done. A patrol was now sent out and the men were shown how the patrol informs the sentry as to where it is going, about how long it is likely to be away, and where it means to return through the sentry line.”

“This was followed by posting another group, and every one moved to this group to see how the patrol returned, how the sentry challenged, and how the patrol commander told the sentry what information had been obtained by the patrol. At the same time the men were shown how a hostile patrol should be received.”
FAILINGS IN OUTPOST DUTIES.

"In an article in the "Army Review," entitled "Our Failings in Outpost Duties," Brigadier-General F. C. Carter, C.B., wrote:—

"There seems to be a want of uniformity, system and method as regards instruction in the 'drill' of outpost duty, in the telling off of piquets, in the arranging of reliefs, and in many little details connected with the duty of Protection generally."

I will give a few examples of what I mean:—

(a) I have sometimes found, watching, for the first time, companies at their training, that the outpost company has never been properly "told off," nor the piquet apportioned out to its various duties. Details, such as hewers of wood, drawers of water, diggers of latrine and refuse pits, cooks, orderlies etc., have been either neglected or arranged for in a very perfunctory manner.

(b) That the various reliefs required are not so placed that when one moves off to its work it does not disturb the repose of the remainder.

Over and over again I have found all the reconnoitring patrols of all three reliefs
placed together, and the same with sentries over the piquet, orderlies, etc. The result is that everyone is constantly disturbed throughout the night.

Even when the various reliefs have been correctly told off together with all their component parts, I have frequently found that the three reliefs and the remainder of the piquet are resting merely a yard or so from each other, which results in their being unnecessarily disturbed by their neighbours. From my experience of four campaigns on the frontiers of India I remember we were always most careful to avoid this, and it should be avoided in peace training also.

(c) That the strengthening of the piquet post has frequently not been methodically thought out, nor the carrying out of a sound scheme of fortification and screening apportioned to squads.

It is not sufficient for the company commander to say, "Oh, I would strengthen this bank;" "Dig an entrenchment here;" "Put up a wire entanglement here;" "Screen this gap or that approach." What is wanted, especially during company training, is more actual instruction in detail.
The position should be thoroughly studied in all its aspects, and exact orders given as to entrenching, improving banks, and making obstacles, even as far as deciding in what field sods are to be cut, and where; which railing is to be used for making an obstacle, and how it is to be used; where branches are to be lopped or added; what stones removed or built up; the exact measurements of the trench, parapet, or banquette; what approaches require screening, and with what material and where it is to be found; and all this to be done so as not to show on the enemy's side that any work has been carried out.

Even if the actual work cannot be executed because it would entail the destruction of private property, every little item should be considered, and N.C.O's. and men encouraged in small groups to think out ideas, and then discuss them at a small conference with the company commander.

(d) Reconnaissance by patrols is not, as a rule, carried out at company training in as stealthy a manner as is necessary on service. The art of scouting is still, I fear,
somewhat neglected. I am well aware that I have the reputation of being somewhat "exigeant" in this matter of scouting. I think, however, that it is always wise to aim at a high standard, and I have seen how this high standard has, by careful and enthusiastic training, been achieved, notably by mounted infantry battalions now in South Africa, the results of which at Army Manoeuvres, 1907, especially in connection with advanced guards and outpost duties, were invaluable to me as the commander of the Southern Force.

From what I have heard from others, and from what I have seen myself, I am afraid this high standard is the exception and not the rule.

Eyes and ears on outpost duty are not trained as they should be, and this is, more often than not, due to the fact that the enemy is entirely "imaginary," whereas a couple of good N.C.O.'s. and a few old soldiers acting as the enemy's scouts would do much to make reconnaissance and reports, during company training, more instructive.
(e) "To see without being seen is one of the first principles of outpost duty," and although this is still printed in thick type in "Field Service Regulations," Part I., 75 (8) it is, I find, very much neglected in practice during company training. The chief faults I notice are that the men of the piquet when not employed are apt to show themselves, or their moving cap-tops, unnecessarily above the bank, wall or scrub where they are posted.

When out watching a battalion or a company at training, or inspecting piquets during brigade training, I like to find great difficulty in locating the actual piquet from the front. The top of a man's head and that not moving, and almost concealed behind a branch or ragged rock, is all I expect to be able to see with careful binocular work. Over and over again I have seen men on piquet leaning over walls, and officers, N.C.O's., and men moving about in a manner that quite gives the show away to the enemy.

In the same manner N.C.O's. conducting sentries or groups are far too apt to take the shortest way instead of moving under
cover of hedgerows, etc.; and the sentry of a group frequently moves his body and head unnecessarily instead of remaining perfectly still and concealed by a friendly branch, a tree trunk, or a bit of heather placed on the wall or bank in front of him. Any shikari knows full well how the slightest movement may disclose an otherwise excellently selected position.
PIQUETS.

It is the duty of the piquets to maintain uninterrupted observation of the ground to the front and on the flanks by means of sentries and patrols, to report promptly all hostile movements and other information concerning the enemy, to prevent unauthorized persons from passing the line of observation, and to drive off small parties of the enemy, or to make temporary resistance to larger bodies.

A piquet has to find one or more sentry groups (to be relieved after eight or twelve hours duty), sentry over piquet—three reliefs, reconnoitring patrols—three reliefs, men to dig fire trenches and latrine trenches, as well as messengers and men for wood and water fatigue, cooking etc. The piquet commander has to see that his men have ammunition, food and water before they go on duty. The fighting efficiency of a piquet, and the comfort of the men, are both dependant upon the piquet being well organized.

The strength of a piquet varies according to the value of the position it has to hold. It is usually a section, but it is sometimes a half company, or a company, if the position to be guarded is an important one.
When there is time, the outpost company commander will select the position for the piquet, but when there is little time for detailed reconnaissance, and when it is necessary for a company to find more than one piquet, the piquet commander would very likely have the general position only of his piquet pointed out to him. In such a case he would have definitely to select the locality, though, of course, he would be visited later by the company commander and his choice approved.

Piquets usually occupy the line of resistance of the outposts, covering a frontage up to half a mile, and should, therefore, be posted in a good defensive position, with a good field of fire to the front, and should be so far concealed that the enemy could not discover it without attacking. It should have free approaches to its sentry groups, neighbouring piquets, and supports. It should also be close enough to the neighbouring piquets for mutual support, and a mutual flanking fire should be provided for. It should also be so situated that there is no other place close by which commands the ground occupied by the piquet, and which the enemy could occupy and then fire into the position.

The position of the piquet and the sentry group should be at once strengthened by constructing trenches, providing headcover if possible, placing im-
pediments in the way of an enemy's advance, and ensuring a good line of fire without exposure.

If the piquet is to be reinforced by the support, the outpost company commander should see that enough men are sent from it to assist the piquet to construct the additional entrenchments required. The position of the piquets and groups should also be concealed, as far as possible, by means of bushes, grass, etc., in order to make them invisible from the enemy's point of view.

Piquets and sentry groups should be numbered from right to left, facing in the direction of the enemy. Detached posts, if employed, are detailed from the outpost company as a whole and not from piquets or sentry groups.

**DUTIES OF A PIQUET COMMANDER.**

As soon as a piquet commander has received his orders he will move his command, by a covered approach, if possible, to a spot in rear of the position of the piquet line for which he is responsible.

He will then examine the ground and decide on the number and position of the sentry groups required, remembering that no more should be used than are absolutely necessary.

By day in open country, one sentry over the piquet, and one sentry group in front of it may often be all that is required.
He will then explain his orders to the piquet, and will detail the various duties and their reliefs, including one or more single sentries over the piquet itself, for the purpose of communicating with the sentry groups, and warning the piquet in case of attack.

Sentry groups required only for night dispositions should not be posted till after dusk.

He should, to avoid the men being unnecessarily disturbed at night, arrange that the non-commissioned officers and men of each relief of the various duties bivouac together, and some distance apart from the other reliefs. All reliefs should know exactly where to find the men of the next relief.

He should satisfy himself that every man of his piquet knows the direction of the enemy, the position of the next piquets, and of the support, and what he is to do in case of attack, by day or night. He should see that no fires are lit without permission, and take the range of all prominent objects.

He should strengthen the position to be defended, should improve communications where necessary, without waiting for orders on this point, and should make the necessary sanitary arrangements. If the piquet line is on the line of resistance, he should see that the amount of frontage strengthened is sufficient to accommodate the support as well as the piquet.
He should impress on his men the importance, where possible, of getting a clear mental picture of their surroundings while daylight lasts, so that they may the more easily find their way about by night.

He should maintain communication with the piquets on either flank, arranging with them for mutual support, and while limiting, as much as possible, any movements in the line of sentries which might be visible to an enemy, he should satisfy himself that the sentries are alert and understand their duties.

Piquets should invariably be ready for action. By night the men must never lay aside their accoutrements. Not more than a few men should be allowed to leave the piquet at one time for any purpose. They should never be allowed to move about in, or in front of, the sentry line, when seeking fuel, forage, etc.

In getting into touch with neighbouring piquets, all that is required is to detail one or two men to visit them and find out that all is well with them.

Every Man in Piquet should know—

The direction of the enemy, and his probable line of advance.

The position of the sentry groups and the extent of frontage they cover.
The position of the supports and the piquets on the flanks, and the best way to them.

What he is to do in case of attack by day or by night.

That he has to get a clear mental picture of his surroundings while daylight lasts.

That he must not leave the piquet, smoke, or light a fire without permission, nor lay aside his accoutrements by night.

SENTRIES AND SENTRY GROUPS.

Sentries in the front line should be posted in groups, which consist of from three to six men under a non-commissioned officer, or the oldest soldier. These groups remain on duty for eight or twelve hours, and thus require no reliefs when the force is only halting for the night. In open country, one man should be posted as sentry while the remainder lie down close at hand, within a few yards, but if the country is close, or special precautions are necessary, the sentry post may be doubled. Sentries should always be posted double when men are very tired.

The distance between the sentry groups and piquets depends upon the facilities for observation, but should not usually exceed about a quarter of a mile.
Sentries should be placed so as to gain a clear view of the ground in their front—from 400 to 800 yards—whilst concealed from the enemy’s view. To avoid attracting attention they should not be permitted to move about; on the other hand, permission to lie down, except to fire, should only be given for special reasons, since sentries permitted to lie down may not remain sufficiently alert.

Sentries must be made to realise the importance of their work, and their eyes and ears must always be ready to catch any indication of the presence or the movements of the enemy. Except at night, or in a fog, the bayonets of sentries should not be fixed.

Commanders of sentry groups must, in addition, know what is to be done with persons found entering or leaving the outpost line. They should also be given explicit orders what to do in case of an advance in force by the enemy, whether they are to remain at their posts, which, in this case, must be protected from fire from behind as well as from the front, or whether they are to retire on the piquet. In the latter case they must be warned of the danger of arriving headlong on the piquet, only just ahead of the enemy.

If a sentry group is compelled to retire, they should be careful to fall back on the flank of the piquet position, thus ensuring a clear field of fire for the piquet.
Movements in the sentry line should not be encouraged, and the surest way to make certain that the sentries are alert and understand their duties is for the commander of the piquet to be himself sure that the commander of the group knows his work, and that the men are well trained.

OUTPOST SENTRY POSITIONS.

The principal points to be provided for in the posting of a sentry group are:—

There should be extensive view to the front and flanks—500 to 1000 yards if possible.

The sentry should be concealed from view by the enemy.

There should be easy communication with the piquet, and with the sentry group on both flanks.

The sentry should be able to see the piquet, or its connecting sentry and the sentries on both flanks.

Commanding ground is also advantageous by night as well as by day, as the sentry is in a better position to see lights and hear noises, but a low position would frequently be better, as the sentry would be looking over the crest of a rising slope with the sky as a background. On the darkest nights, it is possible to observe figures moving over the skyline, whereas if the sentry is situated at the top of a hill, he would be looking into a valley where everything is shrouded in darkness.
An outpost sentry should know—

That it is his duty to see and hear all he can, placing himself where he can best see to the front, but being careful that he cannot be seen or heard.

The direction of the enemy, and the probable line in which he might advance on his post.

The extent of front and any special point he has to watch, and the position of the sentries on his right and left, and connecting sentries (if any).

The number and position of his piquet, and the best way to it; of neighbouring piquets, and of any detached post in the neighbourhood.

How he is to deal with flags of truce, and also with persons approaching his post.

The names of all villages, rivers, etc., in view, and the places from and to which roads and railways lead.

Whether any friendly patrols, or scouts, may be expected to return through his portion of the line, and the signal (if any) by which they may be recognised.

The countersign, which he should repeat until it is firmly fixed on his mind.

Where from, and where to, expect his reconnoitring patrols, either going out or coming in.

That he must never lie down, except for firing, unless otherwise ordered, but must remain motionless, as far as possible, to avoid attracting attention.

That he must immediately warn his group of the approach of any person or party.
If any stranger approaches his post, the sentry will call out "Halt," covering him with his rifle. The group commander will then deal with the person or party according to the instructions received by him.

That any person or party not obeying the sentry, or attempting to make off after being challenged should be fired upon without hesitation.

How to make the most of any cover, from both view and fire, making artificial cover if necessary.

That he should pay no compliments, and allow no one to distract his attention to the rear.

TELLING OFF A PIQUET.

The following describes how to tell off a piquet consisting of—

1. Officer,
2. Sergeants,
3. Corporal,
4. Lance Corporals,
5. Bugler,
6. Privates,

and explains in detail the duties to be allotted to each man, and what steps should be taken to ensure that a man required for any particular duty can be roused without interfering with any of the others. It also shows how to arrange that all the men shall be ready for action in the shortest possible time should the alarm be given.
A sentry group of six men under a lance corporal should first be posted at a point which would cover the most probable line of the enemy on to the piquet, so that anyone moving in front will show up against the skyline, and also to enable the sentry group, as far as possible, to escape hostile observation.

A piquet, may, however, sometimes have to post two sentry groups, according to its strength and the amount of frontage it has to cover. In addition to this group, a sentry over the piquet should be posted, having two reliefs besides the man on duty.

Orders to the Sentry Group.

Lance-corporal Brown, you and these six men will form the sentry group of No. 1 Piquet, No. 2 Outpost Company. You know all that is known at present about the enemy and our own troops, and as soon as I hear definitely where "A" Company's piquet is, and also where Corporal Z's detached post is, I will let you know. The frontage you have to watch is from the post and rail fence on the right to Heathcote House (pointing), but at night it is more particularly the road that must be looked to. I am placing you here under the tree so that you cannot be seen, but you must clear a bit of that hedge along the far side of the road, so that no one can creep past you without your knowledge. No
civilians of any sort are to be allowed through the outpost in either direction. Make anyone attempting to pass a prisoner, and send him to the piquet under escort. No one is to come into the piquet along the road, or on either side of the road; your line of communication to it, and of retreat, if necessary, is by that gap in the hedge, 150 yards north of the piquet. I will have the gap enlarged, so as to make it easier for you. This road leads to Heathcote, which is about a mile on, and six miles further on is Albion. That farm on the right is called Blunt's Farm. Do you want to ask any questions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N.C.O.'s</th>
<th>Bugler</th>
<th>Men</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group sentry</td>
<td>...</td>
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<tr>
<td>One sentry at the piquet, with two reliefs</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two men for carrying messages to adjacent posts, and for intercommunication generally, with two reliefs</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconnoitring and other duties</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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The sentry group having been posted, the piquet should be formed up, and the duties allotted to each man. As they are detailed, each party should move a little apart from the rest, so that all can see who are detailed for any special work. The bugler should not be told off to any special duty, but should be kept
as an orderly to accompany the piquet commander when visiting sentries or adjacent posts. The two senior non-commissioned officers should be detailed to remain with the piquet, to take charge in the absence of the commander, etc. The remainder are available for any duty required.

From those detailed for reconnoitring and other duties a patrol of two non-commissioned officers and three men should be sent out to get into touch with any standing patrols, etc. This patrol should be sent out in daylight in order that they may get a good idea of the ground, and later on, each of them should go out in charge of reconnoitring patrols. They should not all form one reconnoitring patrol again.

The piquet having been told off, the men should have pointed out to them the position each was to occupy for the night. The piquet commander should see that men of the same category were next each other, quite separate from those detailed for other duties. Each man's position for the night would be where he would actually fight. In case of alarm, the sentry over the piquet could instantly arouse his reliefs, who would be sleeping at his feet, and these in turn could rouse the remainder of the piquet.

When telling off a piquet, the commander should remember the peculiarities of his men, thus a trained scout would be wasted if used for intercommunication and not for patrolling, and sentries should be
arranged so that, if possible, an old soldier and a young one are on watch at the same time.

In making arrangements for the night, it is essential that each man should lie down as near as possible to the place in which he is to fight, no movement ought to be necessary within the piquet. It is also important that men required for any duty can be roused without disturbing others, hence the necessity of keeping each party of men distinct from the others.

The two senior non-commissioned officers should each be on duty for half the night, remaining awake for that period, seeing to the relieving of the sentries over the piquets, and the men sent from neighbouring posts for intercommunication, and despatching patrols as ordered by the piquet commander.

In this way the piquet commander is always free to visit his sentry group, and can obtain a little rest. Of course, if any positive information is brought in, the sergeant must at once rouse the officer, as must also be the case should any patrol not return by the expected hour. In a small piquet of one section, however, it would rarely be possible to detail two non-commissioned officers for this duty, and the piquet commander would have to take his share of the duty with the non-commissioned officer. In such a case he would not be able to move about as freely.

As regards the actual method of telling off, detailed above, definite reconnoitring patrols are often detailed,
The country north of this is does not affect the pro.

The valley is marshy, enclosu fordable anywhere provided, up to the waist.
but the method indicated is to be preferred for the following reasons:—Patrols will not always go by the same route, or to the same destination, their object is to search ground, and if proceeding far to the front they must, as a rule, be stronger than if acting in the immediate vicinity of their own piquets. Again, if information is received that the enemy are about, not only may it become necessary to increase the number of patrols, but these must themselves be stronger, in order to ensure information being brought back promptly without losing touch. The whole business of patrolling is then irregular in its nature, and there are distinct advantages in merely detailing them in regular reliefs. Of course, the men should be so arranged that those required for duty may be taken in regular rotation without disturbing those who have already been out.

The method of sending out by daylight a reconnoitring patrol, consisting of men who will later be the leaders of patrols has very distinct advantages. Even a little knowledge of the ground is of value when traversing it at night.

As to the steps that should be taken to strengthen the position, in most cases the men have already completed a day's march, they are probably tired, and have to be on the alert for at least a portion of the night. The amount of work that can be demanded of them is not, then, very great, and nothing
elaborate should be attempted, but bullet proof cover must always be provided, and, where possible, some efficient, if simple, form of obstacle.

**DISPOSITION OF A PIQUET ON NIGHT OUTPOST DUTY.**

(The references are to the Sketch Map on pages 102 and 103.)

The battalion to which you belong forms part of an advanced guard, and at the conclusion of a long march is told off to a section of the outpost line.

The officer commanding your company sends you in command of two sections, with orders to form a piquet near the village (marked A on the map), the time being 4.30 p.m. Before moving off you are told that the light horse troops to your front have received orders to withdraw, and will all be within the outposts by 5.30 p.m.

The village (A) and the position of the piquets to your right and left (X and Y) are pointed out to you, and you are told that your duty is to hold the bridge (B), and on no account to retire. You march off and reach the village at 5 p.m. there being still half an hour of daylight.

The following remarks by a leading authority will explain what should be done after reaching the
village as regards posting and telling off the piquet to their various duties with reference to—

1. Securing the piquet from surprise.
2. Preparations for resisting an attack.

Here we have an officer and two sections belonging to a company, the officers and men of which have been living and working together for some time past. Anyone's experience will tell him that, when a number of people with a common object are working together it will tend to economy of labour to divide up the work among them. Anyone's experience will tell him that some people do certain things better than others. And anyone's experience will tell him that work must be apportioned fairly.

These principles, common to every walk of life, are those which guide the routine of a company. Here two sections are to find the piquet, and presumably, the other two belonging to the company will be in support; probably last time the company was on outpost duty this allotment of duty was reversed. Some men make better scouts than others, and such men will probably be told off as patrols. Other men may have had specially hard work during the last few days, or be obviously "done up," such men will, if possible, be given an "easy," in fact, over and above the actual posting
of the piquet, there are a dozen personal questions which officers and section leaders must go into.

The notes which follow should be read in connection with "Field Service Regulations," Part I., and officers should note the adaptation of the principles laid down there to the conditions of this particular problem.

It may be assumed that the company will have proceeded along the road in fours, and that it will be preceded at a distance of 300 yards or so by a point of, perhaps, nine men. At some convenient part of the road, probably near a place which might be selected for the position of the supports, the rear half-company halts and the two sections with whom we are concerned keep moving on, the subaltern himself marching most likely at the head of his two sections. The point, which is responsible for keeping in touch with the half-company, passes the village and crosses the bridge; the main body following on, reaches the village and halts there. Looking back, the point will see that this has been done, and conforming to the movement will advance until it can take a post of observation.

The halt will be made in order to allow the officer in charge to make his dispositions; he wants to carry out his work in safety and, if possible, without letting his dispositions be overlooked.
Knowing what is required of a piquet he will already have made up the point to a strength which will allow it to act as a covering party; but supposing he has not, he will now send forward a few more men to reinforce it, and it will become his covering party. He is responsible for his own safety and should not rely upon the mounted troops. Seeing the nature of the country and the time available, and remembering that patrols should know something of the country they are to patrol at night, it is desirable to make up the covering party from men who are to find the patrols during the night, or at any rate to send out a patrol at once, so that some idea of the country may be formed.

Having made these arrangements, the officer, followed by his bugler, goes quickly forward towards the bridge and makes up his mind as to how he will hold it. Two or three minutes are all he can allow himself here (he has only half an hour of daylight), and, turning round, he signals to his half company, which has (automatically) placed a man to watch him, to advance. As they come up to the place he has chosen he gives his directions.

Standing in front of his command he says, "From this point (marking it with a bayonet taken from one of his men) to this point (pacing towards it and marking it in the same way), will be the main
trench from which fire is to be brought to bear on the bridge. Sergeant ‘N,’ your section is to dig this and will sleep in it; get your men and tools ready. Corporal ‘O,’ this is what your men have to do (showing it in the same sort of way).”

While the necessary arrangements are being made by these two non-commissioned officers, the pack mule being unloaded, tools distributed, and the dimensions of the trench marked out, it occurs to the subaltern that it will be necessary to collect wire, etc., for obstructing the bridge before it gets dark; he therefore says to Sergeant “N” (who has the stronger section, the other having found the covering party, or reinforced that found by the company), “Send five of your men (the sergeant would see that the two wire-cutting instruments were given them) to collect wire, barbed for choice, and stakes to make the entanglement on the bridge; they can get a wheel-barrow in the village. Get the wire from the fences near ‘A,’ not those near the stream. Don’t block the bridge finally until I tell you.”

Having thus started his men at work he might now walk up to the cross roads north of “B” to see

* It is possible that, the ground being marshy, any trench dug may fill with water; in such a case it would be better to dig the ditch on the enemy’s side of the parapet.

NOTE.—The sites of the trenches must allow of the bridge being kept under close rifle fire at night.
how the non-commissioned officer in charge of the covering party is getting on and what patrols he has sent out, and also to get some idea of how an enemy might approach the bridge so that he may make any necessary modifications in his arrangements for defence.

All this might take him half an hour, and he now comes back to where his men are working. It will be noted that he has given no orders as to the posting of a sentry near the working party, but Sergeant "N," being an old soldier, has not needed to be told and has placed a sentry over arms in an inconspicuous position near the bridge.

The time being 5.30 p.m., we may assume that one of the squadrons of light horse, which has been out in front (the protective cavalry), now passes over the bridge on its way to bivouac, and the officer in command will stop and give verbally all the information he can.* "We are the rear squadron, the other squadrons came in by (naming the road)." "Yes, the enemy's mounted troops have been hanging about all day, and a villager brought in news that there were men with guns at 'X' (naming the town), to which the road you are on leads."

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* If the light horse does not return by this road then the same information would be forwarded to this piquet through the officer commanding the company.
“Where have we been all day?” “About 2 miles north of this, and passed a patrol of yours about half a mile away coming in this direction,” and so on.

The light horse passes on and the work of entangling the bridge can now be begun. Also it is getting dark, and sentries and patrols, who will have plenty to do during the night, must be posted and relieved from the work of digging.

The officer in command of the piquet now posts a double* sentry group of one non-commissioned officer and six men at the cross roads north of “B,” and tells off a sentry over arms with reliefs. The covering party of one non-commissioned officer and nine men is called in, and the men belonging to the other half company (if any) return to it.

As mentioned before, the men who composed the covering party will conveniently find the patrols during the night, and as we have heard that the enemy are not far off, our patrols will be frequent, and as we have not many men they will be small, say, three men in each. The patrols will have to pass out by way of the sentry group at the cross roads; and to enable them to do this, either a pas-

* The position of the group in this case, at a cross roads surrounded by trees and therefore exceptionally dark, is held to justify the use of a double sentry. A single sentry might be concentrating his attention on something he imagines himself to have seen or heard down one road, while the real danger is coming from quite another quarter.
sage must be left in the entanglement which has been made, or, if not, the men finding the patrols will be told to arrange some sort of foot-bridge by which to cross the stream and get to the cross roads. This temporary foot-bridge would be a convenient line of retreat for the sentry group if attacked, as by moving off to one side it will clear the front of the piquet; the group must, of course, be informed of its position and shown the way to it.

Let us suppose that by 6.30 p.m. our piquet commander is satisfied with the work done. He has not, of course, been idle all this time. He has sent a man to the adjoining piquets to say what he has done, and to inform them as to the direction in which he is patrolling; or they may have sent to him. He has marked a hay, or straw, stack from which bedding for his men can be obtained, dug latrines, and so on. He may have sent a report and sketch to his company commander, but, in a case like this, that officer, especially if he has spoken to the officer commanding the light horse, being fully aware of the difficulties which may face his piquet commander, will most likely come down himself to see where the supporting half company would be best placed in case of need. In this case, on the report of the light horse, it is more than probable that the remainder of the company would be moved down to "A," but this is a contingency which need not be discussed.
Put briefly, then, the piquet settles down for the night in the trenches with—

One non-commissioned officer and six men, as a sentry group at the cross road north of “B.”

Three men told off to find the sentry over arms and reliefs.

Nine men divided into three reconnoitring patrols. Say, 20 men all told, leaving 30 to sleep, from whom men can be taken to serve as escort to the officer if he wishes to visit the sentry group, to go with messages, or to furnish extra patrols.

It is worth while considering a possible form of attack on your post, and then to see how the preparations described will help you in withstanding it.

What advantage will an enemy gain if he does succeed in getting possession of your bridge? Presumably, your side means to hold the bridge and the line of the valley, either with a view to a further advance next day, or as the line of resistance of a defensive position. All the arrangements of the force for taking up positions are based on the assumption that you will hold the bridge, and that all the other piquets do the same as regards their posts. If, then, the enemy can capture some of the piquets, he has disarranged your side’s plans, and if he does this while it is dark, new plans have to be hurriedly made, and in the confusion he may, if he presses home his attack, obtain a very great advantage.
How then would he proceed to attack a post like yours?

If possible he will have had parties out watching the posting of your piquet, and if they have been able to make adequate observations they can act as guides to assaulting columns; such a party might have followed the light horse almost to the cross roads, though the appearance of the reconnoitering patrol you sent out should have prevented this. If not, all he can do is to put himself in your place and try to figure out what you have done.

Assume that he thinks you have acted as described above, this does not tell him the exact places where your posts are, but he knows that the first thing with which he is likely to come in contact is one of your patrols, and knowing something of your habits from previous study of your army, and perhaps being able to guess from the map and other information where your line of resistance is likely to be, he would expect a patrol to come out along the road leading due north. His first move will be to capture the patrol, not, however, before the force told off to assault your piquet is ready to come on, for if the patrol does not return you will become suspicious and send out another. Probably then the first patrol or two going out from your line would be observed and counted, and the intervals at which they came out noted. Then, when the
assaulting column was ready, the next patrol would be ambushed, and the way would be clear up to the sentry group, which is the next thing with which the enemy would have to deal. Its position might have been located by the simple method of following in one of your patrols. It does not seem likely that the sentry group could be surprised; it might be by sending a party on, but the simplest thing would be for the enemy having ambushed a patrol to march straight on trying to rush the piquet by weight of numbers. Knowing the country and expecting you to hold the bridge, he would probably tell off a company to charge straight down the road at it, and as soon as fire had broken out other parties would try to work round on both sides of you, crossing the water and guiding themselves by the flashes of your rifles.

If your patrol has been successfully ambushed and if the enemy really meant business, this plan of attack would give your piquet some 2 or 3 minutes notice of the attack, and it would depend on how much the enemy knew of the country whether they got into your piquet before supports came into action. In this case the best support would probably be obtained by fire from the village, and unless you had covered the back as well as the front of your piquet, you would be under the fire of both sides.
DETACHED POSTS.

Detached posts from an outpost company are sometimes unavoidable, but as there is always the danger of their being cut off, they should not be employed except in case of necessity.

They usually consist of from six to twelve men under a non-commissioned officer or officer, but may be stronger. Such posts may be placed in front of or in rear of the extreme flank of the outpost position, to watch some particular place or road by which the flank might be turned, or they may be placed in advance of the sentry line to watch some spot where the enemy might collect preparatory to an attack, or which he might occupy for purposes of observation.

They should act in the same manner as laid down for piquets and sentry groups, when only required for night dispositions they should not be posted till after dusk.

OUTPOST PATROLS.

Outpost patrols are sent out from the outposts with the object of searching the country in front of the outpost position, or of watching the enemy if the opposing forces are in close touch. Their strength may be from three to eight men, under a non-commissioned officer. They may consist of
mounted men, cyclists or infantry. Patrol leaders should be given instructions before they start as to how they are to deal with inhabitants whom they may meet, and be informed, if possible, of the movements of other friendly patrols.

In the absence of definite orders, piquet commanders are responsible for taking such action as they deem necessary for the security of their piquets.

Movement of patrols through the outpost line should be as few as is consistent with the performance of this duty. By day, movements through the outpost line may disclose the dispositions of the outposts, while by night there is great danger of returning patrols being shot by their own side.

When mounted patrols are employed they should move out before daylight and patrol all approaches which an enemy might use, within distant field artillery range of the position. When the opposing forces are in close touch, mounted patrols should maintain constant touch with the hostile force. When ordered to remain out in observation in front of the outposts they become standing patrols.

In a country where the roads are good, cyclists may replace mounted patrols, and by night they are especially suited for this work.

If mounted troops from the outpost line are patrolling to the front, it should seldom be necessary to send out infantry patrols by day, unless the
country is very thick or the weather misty. At night the duty of patrolling will, as a rule, fall on the infantry. Such patrols should move along tracks or roads in the direction of the enemy for about a mile, and should search all ground where the enemy’s scouts might conceal themselves. It may occasionally be advisable to leave out standing infantry patrols to watch certain points in front of the outpost position, instead of sending out patrols at stated periods.

An outpost patrol, when going out, informs the nearest sentry of the direction it is taking. In the event of a patrol not returning when expected, another should be immediately sent out. If a force halts for more than a day in one place, the hours at which the patrols go out (except those before sunrise), and also the direction of their route, should be changed daily.

**Conduct of a Patrol at Night.**

It is not always realised that reconnoitring patrols on night outpost duty are the real eyes and ears of the outpost line, and that on them outposts have to depend for protection from surprise, and for early information of any advance on the part of the enemy. Patrols should be out constantly in front throughout the whole night, systematically
searching the various points at which an enemy might collect, and the tracks by which he might advance.

A patrol may consist of a non-commissioned officer and four men. Such a patrol would pass through the line of sentries, and would move cautiously forward to some central spot in front previously arranged by the commander of the piquet. Here the non-commissioned officer and one of the men should halt, sit down and listen. The remainder of the patrol should move forward to any point ordered, and systematically search the country. They would rarely move fast, would always move quietly, and would frequently halt to listen for any suspicious sounds. At the end of half an hour they would return—to the central spot—and report to the non-commissioned officer. Again, two or three men would move forward and continue to reconnoitre the ground for which they are responsible, but there should always be at the central spot a couple of men silently listening and watching. At the expiration of two hours the whole patrol of five men should be relieved by another patrol of similar strength, which passing through the line of sentries relieves the first patrol at the central spot. The patrol which has been relieved now returns to the piquet, passing by the sentry group which has been expecting it, having been previously warned by the outgoing patrol. Thus the work goes on throughout
the night. The ground is systematically reconnoitred, and the chance of a hostile scout following up a patrol to the outpost line is reduced to a minimum. Patrols should be relieved beyond the line of outposts, and not at the piquet.

**STANDING PATROLS.**

Standing patrols are formed by two to eight mounted men or cyclists under a non-commissioned officer sent well in advance, to watch either the principal approaches, or some particular points where the enemy could concentrate unseen. Their positions are fixed, and they remain out for several hours. They are of the utmost value, especially at night, and spare the horses, as they are not constantly in movement. The rules for cossack posts regarding off-saddling apply to standing patrols. Occasionally standing patrols are employed by infantry.

The commander of the outposts will issue orders as to the employment of standing patrols.

A standing patrol must be prepared to remain out for several hours. Its commander must arrange to send back an immediate report of any hostile movement observed, and if the enemy advances in strength, he must in default of other orders, retire on the piquet line before becoming seriously engaged.
MOUNTED PIQUETS AND VEDETTES.

In addition to the principles laid down in previous pages the following apply to mounted troops:—

i. Cossack posts are equivalent to sentry groups. They consist of three to six men (including the vedette), under a non-commissioned officer or senior soldier. The vedettes, as a rule, dismount. The reliefs of the vedette always dismount, and remain as close to the vedette as possible.

ii. By night the vedette should be doubled and the post increased accordingly.

iii. Cossack posts never off-saddle, and must be ready for instant action. Piquet commanders will arrange for the necessary feeding and watering of the horses of cossack posts. When there is no danger of surprise they may authorise the temporary removal of the bits for this purpose from one third of the horses at a time. Otherwise they should arrange for the temporary relief of a proportion of the horses.

iv. Cossack posts are relieved every 6, 12, or 24 hours, according to weather, shelter, water, etc.
v. Feeding and watering are to be carried out by one-third of a piquet or detached post at a time. Horses that are to be fed must be taken a short distance away from the others.

vi. The horses of a piquet or detached post are never to be unsaddled or unbridled at night. During the day, when matters seem quiet, girths should be loosened, and saddles shifted, one-third at a time.
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