Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including instructions for
authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19>

Précis of the Duties of an Adjutant of a Battalion in the German Army

Captain Allen

Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Captain Allen (1881) Précis of the Duties of an Adjutant of a Battalion in the German Army, Royal United Services Institution. Journal, 25:112, 691-693, DOI: [10.1080/03071848109418555](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071848109418555)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071848109418555>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan,

sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

back of the burdensome Russian customs' line.¹ The Prussian maritime provinces would develop afresh by this opening up of their back country, new blood would thus be brought into the districts adjoining the Oder and Vistula, and Poland herself would be made accessible to culture by the establishment of communications. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Poland, united in a customs and postal union, might not only exchange among themselves the different products of agriculture and of manufactures, but would also take a very influential place in the markets of the world.

Russia would have to bear the expense of this transformation; as, by such an expulsion from the pivots of trade of Central Europe, her status would be entirely changed, and she would then be thrown back directly on Asia.

We are now at the end of our reflections. As a result of these it follows, that on the Russians assuming the offensive, the Prussian frontier districts, and in the converse case the Polish triangle, will be the regions in which the strategic decision will be arrived at, and therefore to learn to know these better is especially to be recommended. Finally, an effort has been made to prove that, in spite of her geographical peculiarities, a war could be waged against Russia, and carried out to its final consequences, and that in this respect she does not occupy any special position different from that of other European States.

PRÉCIS OF THE DUTIES OF AN ADJUTANT OF A BATTALION IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

Extracted by Captain ALLEN, East Yorkshire Regiment, from "*Der Dienst des Adjutanten von Hauptman v. Scheel*."

BATTALION Adjutants are appointed on the recommendation of the Officer commanding the battalion. The Adjutant conducts the correspondence and office work of his battalion. He keeps a nominal roster for Officers, and for non-commissioned officers and men by companies.

The non-commissioned officers are under his control for practical training in battalion and other exercises; he also sees that they are correctly turned out for guard duty, &c.; he is responsible for the proper instruction of the bandsmen and buglers in the use of their instruments, and that on battalion parades they are clean and correctly dressed.

He corrects the maps which are left in the orderly room, especially with reference to *chaussées*, railways, canals, and communications generally. For this purpose the Landrath supplies the necessary information periodically to the various district commands.

Office hours, as a rule, from 8 A.M. till noon and from 2 P.M. until the work is over.

One clerk per orderly room is allowed and one orderly who is to be a man qualified for lance-corporal.

The Adjutant supervises local returns, especially such as relate to mobilization.

More in detail his duties are—

¹ From the 1st January, 1881 (old style) an additional duty of 10 per cent. has been imposed on goods imported into Russia. As this additional tax is payable in gold, it is equivalent to an increase of about 13 per cent.—*Tr.*

Detailing Officers of the day.

"	"	for grand and visiting rounds.
"	"	" guard and orderly duty.
"	"	" court-martial duty.
"	"	" fatigues.
"	"	" receipt of money.
"	"	church parade.
"	"	Feldwebel ¹ weekly for duty, &c.
"	"	non-commissioned officers for guards and duties.
"	"	companies for fatigues and other duties.

He dictates the orders to the Feldwebels.

The theoretical instruction of the non-commissioned officers by the battalion Adjutant generally begins on 1st October, takes place twice a week for one hour, and lasts till the commencement of his battalion drill. The subjects are—

Battalion drill.

Garrison and guard duties, arrests, patrols, &c.

Duties in police courts, courts-martial, courts of inquiry.

Elements of "Army Discipline Act."

Elements of military correspondence.

Instruction as to conduct of working parties.

Field fortification and earthworks.

Making ammunition.

Conduct in command of parties, &c.

Conduct of baggage, escorts, and fatigues.

Railway transport.

Precautions to be adopted to prevent sunstroke, &c., on the march, and mode of treatment.

Duties in camp and on the march.

Map reading and an accurate topographical knowledge of the vicinity of the garrison. For this purpose an expedition, map in hand, is recommended.

Extract from the regimental records if time permits.

Skeleton battalion drill. The band to attend to practise the cadence.

The musicians are attached to a company for discipline, rations, clothing, &c., but for duty and "musical employments" not on duty they are under a Staff Officer, an Officer who understands music, or the *regimental* Adjutant.

There is a band committee, of which the regimental Adjutant is a member.

The Adjutant is responsible for the ammunition of the battalion, and is to be present when any is received or issued.

On parade he corrects distances, dresses markers, &c., much the same as our Adjutants, and sees that the band is properly formed up for marching past, &c.

When the battalion is in half battalion columns or company columns the Adjutant simply carries orders or instructions, and acts as aide-de-camp to the battalion commander.

On the march he prepares a sketch of the road and acts as Staff Officer, map in hand. He rides forward to announce the arrival at, or probable time of passing through, another cantonment.

Details baggage guard, ammunition escort, colour party, &c., &c.

Rides on and orders the inhabitants of villages to have water ready in vessels in the street for the troops to drink.

¹ The German "Feldwebel" performs all the duties of a colour-sergeant, but is in a somewhat superior position. He ranks senior to the "Portepée-Fähnrich," and is saluted by them. His duties have been described by a German writer as those of the Captain's Adjutant.

Arrived in camp, he details the duties and receives the orders of the commanding Officer from the brigade Adjutant as to locality of bivouac.

In the field he prepares a list of casualties after an action, and keeps a diary of operations in his own handwriting.

From the foregoing notes it will be seen that in the German Army the Adjutant acts as secretary and aide-de-camp to the battalion commander, and has no such relations with Officers commanding companies as in the English Service.

INCIDENTS OF THE WAR BETWEEN CHILI AND PERU, 1879-80.

Contributed by Lieut. MADAN, R.N., late H.M.S. "Shannon."

Introductory.

THE war between Chili and the allied Republics of Peru and Bolivia has naturally not excited much attention in England; but some details of the principal naval events which occurred will, it is believed, be found interesting to those who study the science of naval warfare; as both Chili and Peru possessed ironclads, torpedo-boats, and several kinds of torpedoes; and the former country, in addition, several recently-constructed guns.

The following notes are chiefly from accounts given me by Chilian and Peruvian Officers, from my own personal observation on the spot, from official reports, and from Chilian newspaper accounts. The Peruvian press, it should be mentioned, is quite untrustworthy.

Origin of the War.

The struggle for supremacy on the West Coast of South America between the nearly related Republics of Chili and Peru had, owing to the natural jealousy which existed, been impending for several years.

Eventually a dispute arose in consequence of the desert which surrounds the badly-defined boundary between Chili and Bolivia becoming very valuable by the discovery of the existence of nitrate of soda in vast quantities.

The differences were patched up by treaty for a time, but Bolivia, urged on by a secret alliance with Peru and by her own want of money, imposed taxes on Chilian subjects contrary to the agreement.

Chili, alarmed by the warlike preparations of Peru, demanded a declaration of neutrality from her. This was refused, and Chili, though far from being prepared, declared war against the allies on the 5th of February, 1879.

Chilian Navy, 1879.

1. "Blanco Encalada," 2. "Almirante Cochrane."—Sister ships designed by Mr. E. J. Reed, and built in England in 1874 and 1875. They are short powerful-looking central battery ironclads carrying six 9-inch M.L. Armstrong guns, 12 tons, besides several light guns and two Nordenfelt machine-guns. Displacement 3,560 tons, I.H.P. 2,920. Armour, 9-inch at water-line, but tapering to bow and stern; 6- and 8-inch round the battery. Twin screw, and, therefore, very handy. During the war, only the lower masts were standing with foreyard up, the tops being protected with iron shields. The bowsprit and other spars were all landed. As there was no dock accommodation on the coast for them, their iron bottoms were foul and they could only steam 9 or 10 knots.

3. "O'Higgins," 4. "Chacabuco."—Sister corvettes, 1,670 tons, 800 I.H.P., carrying three 150-pr. 7-ton Armstrong guns, and four 40-prs.