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The Austrian Army

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LECTURE.

Friday, May 2nd, 1873.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM J. CODRINGTON, G.C.B., &c.,
in the Chair.

THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

By Lieutenant C. E. H. VINCENT, F.R.G.S., Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

It is not without considerable diffidence, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, that I presume to come here this afternoon, humbly to bring to your notice the manner in which Austria has grappled with that most terrible problem of recent years—Army Reorganisation. I feel, too, that especial apology is due on account of the time. The morrow of the day on which that mighty empire inaugurates that which tends so potently to the promotion of peaceful industry and the development of inventive genius, would seem to be the date least fitted on which to bring under review her resources for war and the destruction of mankind.

This morning's telegrams inform us that the Reigning Chief of the Imperial House of Hapsburg, in company with the illustrious heir to the throne of England, opened little better than twenty-four hours since the International Exhibition of Arts and Industries at Vienna. Many, and I doubt not many of you, gentlemen, will seize the opportunity of visiting one of the most enchanting of European capitals. All will admire her palaces and her theatres; her promenades and her streets; her municipal institutions and her environs; and above all the country which has successfully brought all peoples, nations, and languages into one arena of commercial emulation and of social gathering. Not a few, however, there will be who, in witnessing all the pomp and luxury, all the riches and apparent prosperity around them, will think of the terrible trials Austria has passed through, and how, within the living memory of the youngest historical student, a hostile army held the fair city within its grasp. They will then turn their attention to the existing means to prevent the renewal of such a catastrophe. Let me, with your permission, endeavour to assist them in their investigations. But to you, gentlemen, I cannot give better advice than that you should yourselves become acquainted with the Austrian Army, that you should visit the Military Institutions, and the vast camp of Brück. You will not be unrewarded for your trouble;

for apart from the instruction and information derivable, you will meet with the rarest courtesy, the profusest hospitality and friendship. . . .

Recent events have brought about such a fever of Army Reorganisation throughout the length and breadth of either hemisphere, that those who, a few years ago, were thoroughly versed in the military details of a country, now find themselves entirely at fault respecting the formation of its army. The subject, truly, has become in a manner distasteful and monotonous, but it is impossible not to feel some curiosity as to the manner in which the leading members of the world of nations have construed and applied the principles of modern military might, whose sole efficacy has been so terribly demonstrated. These principles emanated from the sagacity and forethought of two earnest representatives Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, of a country driven to the verge of ruin and despair by the continued victories of the enemy she has lately worsted in so unprecedented a manner. . . .

In respect to Austria, the practical application of the study was no easy task, beset as she was with the germs of internal discontent, and resounding with the angry clamour of hostile factions. The military yoke had never been light, yet ill-success had continually attended the hardships and privations of the Army. The people were in little humour to suffer further encroachments on their liberty, and it was absolutely necessary to begin by pacifying the more or less just murmurings of the heterogeneous races composing the monarchy. How this was done in detail, little concerns the subject in hand, but it is known how the all-important loyalty of the Hungarians was secured by permitting them to crown and hail a King in the person of the Kaiser und König Franz Josef I, who granted them their long-wished-for separate Diet and Administration.

No time was now lost, and on the 4th of December, 1868, the Imperial signature was affixed to the retrospective law introducing the system of obligatory personal service for every male subject of the Austrian Crown.

To work out the details of the new system, Field Marshal Lieutenant Baron von Kühn, the then Minister of War, devoted himself with an indefatigable zeal, supported by talent of the highest order. But how difficult and tedious was the labour, how long it must remain apparently unproductive of result, is fully illustrated by the half century of uninterrupted peace and prosperity which the Northern Model required to develop the system and to arrive at perfection in its working.

Those of you who are, and I imagine there are few present who are not intimately acquainted with the organisation of the North German Army, may perhaps be astonished at Baron von Kühn's faithful adherence to that military prototype. This, however, is only on the surface of things, and it is hard for us to dive far below the surface, in the single hour to which the lecturer in this theatre is wisely confined. The admirably compiled and voluminous pages on the "Heerwesen der "K. K. Armée," will furnish ample material for novel investigation, and will show forth how many excellent provisions emanated solely from the Viennese Ministry. . . . However I must plunge at once in *medias res*.

The Military Force of Austria is composed of—

The Standing Army,
The Reserve,
The Landwehr,
And the Landsturm.

The latter element, though, meaning simply a *levée en masse* of the entire male population for the last struggle in defence of hearth and home, having neither arms nor even theoretical organisation, exists but in name, even it is to be hoped to the most distant future.

The total liability to military (or naval) service extends over twelve years, commencing from the 1st of January of the year succeeding the 20th birthday to the termination of the 32nd year.

This period is thus apportioned—

3	years to the Standing Army,
7	" " Reserve,
2	" " Landwehr.
—	
12	

Service in the Landwehr is, however, variable; for, under certain social conditions, which I will presently enumerate, as well as the inhabitants of the three privileged communities of Trieste, Cattaro, and Ragusa (who, under the old system, were entirely free), individuals are permitted to fulfil the whole of their liability in that force, having received regular training with the Army for at least two months.

The effective numerical strength of the Standing Army, Reserve, and Landwehr, amounts to about 1,100,000 men, of which about $\frac{2}{3}$ ths are contributed by the first two categories, the Standing Army and Reserve, to which Hungary furnishes a quota of nearly 330,000.

His Imperial, Royal, and Apostolic Majesty the Emperor Francis I, is at the supreme head of the Austrian Army, which he governs through the Ministry of War, and the Inspector-General, His Imperial Highness the Archduke Albrecht (the author of the celebrated pamphlet "Responsibility in War"), who is answerable for the military efficiency. The War Ministry is divided into three main sections—

The Personal,
The Military and Technical,
The Economical.

These are again subdivided into various departments.

A Chief of the Staff and five Inspectors-General of Artillery, of Engineers, of Cavalry, of Transport, and of Remounts, are appointed to assist the Minister.

The Chief of the Staff superintends the distribution of the Staff in all its practical and scientific departments, administers the Pioneer Regiment, and generally supervises all military education.

Each of the other officers is responsible for his branch, and forms the organ of communication with the Government. He superintends all the technical military schools, and to him are made the confidential reports.

There are 292 officers employed in the War Ministry at Vienna, exclusive of permanent engineer, artillery, and transport committees. . . .

The most perfect department, perhaps, in the Ministry, is that for the collection of military intelligence and information. It can hardly be far behind the Berlin General Stab in the extent of its researches. It is divided into four sections, viz. :—

1. For interior topography.
2. For external topography.
3. For matters connected with railways, steam-packets, and telegraphs.
4. For the collection of information concerning foreign armies.

The officers employed in these four sections are sought for throughout every branch of the standing army, reserve, and landwehr, and their appointment is governed by no pedantic laws of routine and precedent which limit the area of choice, and consequently detract from power and strength, where they are especially needed.

Austria, inclusive of Hungary, is divided into seventeen military districts, the head-quarters of which lie at—

1. Vienna, for Lower Austria (6 brigades of infantry, 1 of cavalry, and 1 local brigade).
2. Linz, for Upper Austria and Salzburg (1 brigade of infantry, 1 of cavalry).
3. Brünn, for Moravia and Silesia (2 brigades of infantry, 1 of cavalry).
4. Graz, for Steiermark, Kärnten, and Krain (2 brigades of infantry, 1 of cavalry).
5. Triest, for the town of Triest, Istria, Görz, and Gradiska (2 brigades of infantry).
6. Innsbruck, for the Tyrol and Vorarlberg (2 brigades of infantry).
7. Prague, for Bohemia (6 brigades of infantry, 2 of cavalry, and 1 local).
8. Lemberg, for the Eastern portion of Galicia (2 brigades of infantry, 2 of cavalry, and 1 local).
9. Krakau, for the Western portion of Galicia (2 brigades of infantry, 1 of cavalry).
10. Zara, for Dalmatia (2 brigades of infantry).
11. Pest Ofen (3 brigades of infantry, 3 of cavalry, and 1 local).
12. Presburg (2 brigades of infantry, 3 of cavalry).
13. Kaschau (2 brigades of infantry).
14. Temesvar (2 brigades of infantry, 3 of cavalry).
15. Hermannstadt (2 brigades of infantry, 1 of cavalry).
16. Peterwardein, for the military frontiers (2 brigades of frontier troops).
17. Agram, for the Croatian and Slavonian military frontiers (2 brigades of infantry, 2 of frontier troops).

At the head of each district is a General Officer, who is responsible for all the military administration of his command, which is divided into two distinct branches—

(1.) The purely military and technical.

(2.) The economical and control.

Every male subject of the Austrian Crown incurs, as I said before, the liability to military service. Exemption is only obtainable from physical deficiencies, in which case the exemptee has to pay a pecuniary indemnity to the Military Invalid Fund, and under the following social conditions, viz. :—

1. Being the only son and support of a helpless father or widowed mother.

2. After the death of a father, being the only grandson and support of an infirm grandfather or widowed grandmother.

3. Being the only support of helpless relations.

All service by a substitute, or exemption by purchase, is abolished. Those who have already got off by these means are for ever free; but for all others the law is retrospective, and service is required of them according to their age.

Certain social conditions further enable men to pass at once into the landwehr, having received two months' instruction in a regular regiment, viz. :—

Being the possessor of inherited property sufficiently extensive to support a family of five persons, and not larger than will maintain four such families.

Being a divinity student, a candidate for a professorship, or a national schoolmastership.

As in Prussia, the system of one year volunteers is in force, in order that the civil professions may not be deteriorated by the military exigencies. Youths of good character and education can qualify themselves in this manner for commissions in the reserve and landwehr, at the same time that they become freed from regular service in time of peace. The educational standard for the *Einjährige Freiwillige* is estimated by the passing of a special examination or the attainment of a certain place in the classes of a Government school. They are permitted to serve in the branch they select, whether it be combatant or non-combatant, with the regiment, and in the garrison also of their choice. The year may be any one of those between the 17th and 25th birthdays. At the termination of the year's training, which embraces all the duties of the various ranks, the volunteers are submitted to a searching theoretical and practical examination. Those that become reserve officers are liable to be called out for three trainings of not longer duration than four weeks each. At the proper age, the reserve officers pass into the landwehr. The expenses of the year's voluntary service fall entirely on the individual, even to quarters, except in a few isolated cases, when they are defrayed by the public, who in return demand higher qualifications, and evidence to show that the volunteer has no means of his own.

Ere I speak of the peculiarities of the several arms of the Austrian Army, it behoves me, gentlemen, first to direct your attention to the all important system of officering the whole. Austria does not find the same facility as Prussia, and happily ourselves, in procuring the best material for filling the commissioned ranks. It is a disagreeable, yet in-

controvertible fact, that the best blood which alone can lead plebeian ranks to victory, somewhat shirks a profession which bears the stigma, more by its misfortune than its fault of possessing "la routine de la défaite." Not all the deeds of signal valour which the Austrian Army adds each campaign to its gallant history, can thoroughly dissipate the keen sarcasm of the remark for which, I believe, a Hohenzollern Prince is answerable. Moreover, the severe mental and physical work and incessant examinations which the Austrian Government now exacts from her Officers, shakes off all but the most zealous.

In the standard of theoretical professional knowledge, Austria surpasses even Prussia. Practical tests, too, bar every stage of advancement.

The military schools are very numerous, and the education therein given is excellent. Cadets, who have been trained at the public cost, have to remain ten years in active service from the date of their exit from the academy, those who have paid half rates for seven years, and those who have paid full terms, for four years. . . . But the preparation for a commission may be regimental instead of academical, and in this manner the path is open to any non-commissioned Officer of good character and antecedents, and of sufficient attainments. Many Austrian Officers—some might say too many—rise from the ranks. However, the regimental training is preferred to the academical by many, even of the most gentle blood. . . .

After the aspirant has practically learnt every duty of the private and non-commissioned Officer, he attends the school which is established at the head-quarters of every division. Here he goes through a course of eleven months, followed by an examination. If this be successfully passed, he returns to the corps, and performs the duty of an Officer, though still uncommissioned. In course of time, when a vacancy occurs, and his proper turn has arrived, he receives his commission, subject to the unanimous approval of the Officers of the regiment as to his social worthiness. This consent of the *Offizier Korps* to receive their comrade elect, is never dispensed with except in the case of a cadet.

In spite, however, of this wholesome provision, the camaraderie for which our own and the Prussian Services are so remarkable, is somewhat wanting in default of the opportunities of social intercourse. The pay is too small to permit the establishment of messes, and few possess private resources. Besides this, the repeated transfer of Officers from one regiment and garrison to another on promotion, loosens friendships and lessens *esprit de corps*, which are such universally acknowledged elements of success.

Promotion goes right through the army, arm by arm, and rank by rank. It is by seniority and non-seniority. The former depends on the confidential reports giving clear testimony of the individual's efficiency. The latter method is followed every sixth step below field rank, and every fourth step above it. The candidates for non-seniority promotion are submitted to a very severe theoretical and practical test. These examinations are held biennially, and the successful competitors

are promoted in their numerical order on the final list. The expenses of candidates for non-seniority promotion are paid the first time of trial, but if they then fail, and obtain permission again to try their chance, they must defray them themselves.

This method of promotion would appear to merit some attention, for while it holds out a reward for the deserving and industrious, rapid advancement, by its means, can never be supposed to have connection with opportunity, interest, and protection. It must work equally fairly for the son of the Minister and for the promoted non-commissioned Officer.

Special qualifications, even if others are somewhat in defect, are always taken into account in considering the worthiness of a candidate.

For all purposes of promotion, cadets are counted as officers.

There is no special examination for promotion below field rank, but to pass from Captain to Major requires so vast a display of intellectual and military power, that many retire before so formidable an obstacle, thus clearing the way for true ability. Candidates for field rank must naturally be the Senior Captains of regiments. To prepare for the examination, it is optional with them to study for eleven months at the special school for each arm in Vienna. The practical test consists in being placed, suddenly and without previous warning, in charge of a force consisting of not less than three battalions of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, and half a battery of artillery, with orders to carry out some general idea, given by the examining officer. The theoretical knowledge lies in all that appertains to military efficiency.

The minimum of time to be spent in a junior position before promotion is as follows:—

To Captain, four years as a subaltern.

To Major, four years as a Captain.

To Colonel, three years as a Field Officer.

After three years' service, aspirants to the Staff are allowed to enter the Staff College or Kriegs Schule. The course of study lasts two years, and comprises much the same subjects as are taught in other colleges of a like nature, but to the notable exclusion of mathematics in any shape or form. . . .

An Officer can leave the Standing Army at his own request after one year's service, but he must enter the Reserve or Landwehr, unless he has attained the limit of the 32nd year of age. . . .

Foreigners are no longer admitted into the Austrian Service so freely as formerly. Now, they must obtain the formal authorization of their Governments, produce certificates as to character and probity, pass through every grade of the military hierarchy, and, like born Austrians, speak fluently one of the numerous dialects of the empire besides German, before they are eligible for promotion. At home, then, I take it they will find it more comfortable to act upon the trite saying, "Dulce et decorum est pro patriâ mori."

I have shown how easy it is to pass from the non-commissioned to the commissioned ranks, but the Austrian Government does not ignore

the necessity of having experienced and reliable "Unteroffiziere." A limited number are therefore permitted to re-engage with the consent of their Commanding Officers for a further period of service after the termination of the first three years. The re-engagement dates from the first of January, and is never for more than one year at a time. Every re-engaged non-commissioned Officer receives a daily addition of 15 kreutzers to his pay, and a gratuity of 60 florins at the end of the first year if he then takes his discharge; 120 at the end of the second; 190 florins after three extra years; 260 after four; and 1,260 florins, or £100, after twelve, besides the certainty of a comfortable and honourable, if not very lucrative, Government situation.

The Standing Army

must now be considered. It naturally forms the military training school of the country.

The tactical units are the division and the brigade. A division consists of two or three brigades. An infantry brigade is composed of two regiments of the Line and one of Rifles. A cavalry brigade is made up of two or three regiments, to which is usually attached a battalion of Rifles.

The Standing Army is divided into 24 divisions, consecutively numbered. The 21st, 22nd, and 23rd divisions are composed of Frontier troops.

These 24 divisions contain 71 brigades, 52 of infantry and 19 of cavalry. The brigades are usually known by the names of their Commanders. . . . A Field Marshal Lieutenant, corresponding to a Lieutenant-General, commands a division as a rule, and a Major-General a brigade.

The Infantry

of the Austrian Army possesses no Corps of Guards, except a small body of Gentlemen-at-Arms, who guard the person of the Sovereign, and are termed the Imperial and Royal Guards.

The infantry of the Line consists of 80 regiments, corresponding to the 80 recruiting districts into which the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy is divided. Each district has its regiment of infantry, of cavalry, and battery of artillery to supply.

The regiments are numbered from 1 to 80, and are known by their number and the name of their honorary proprietor.

A regiment is commanded by a Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel. It consists of five field battalions of four companies each, and one reserve battalion of five companies.

The battalion is commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel or Major. . . . The companies of the field battalions are numbered consecutively from 1 to 20, those of the reserve battalion from 1 to 5.

The stations of the first three battalions of a regiment are those which are most suitable for the public service; those of the fourth and fifth battalions, of which the cadres only are maintained in time of peace, are invariably within the recruiting district for the purpose of

the periodical manœuvres of the reserve. The cadre of the reserve battalion is stationed at the head-quarter town of the district. To it are usually attached those persons who have to undergo eight weeks' training prior to enrolment in the Landwehr. . . . The strength of a battalion on the peace footing is 14 Officers and 372 men; and of a regiment 89 Officers and 1,434 men.

A company on the peace-footing has three Officers and 95 non-commissioned Officers and men. . . . The mobilisation of the Standing Army is effected by calling in the men on furlough and the reserve. The complement of Officers is likewise made up, and further by the commissioning of cadets if necessary.

A battalion on the war establishment numbers 18 Officers and 934 men; a regiment 133 Officers and 5,935 men, of whom 17 Officers and 350 men are non-combatant. . . . A company on the war strength, is composed of 4 Officers and 236 non-commissioned Officers and men, to it then are further added four pioneers, and three bearers of the wounded. . . . The rifle troops consist of one rifle regiment and 33 independent field battalions. The Tyrolese riflemen, whose fame has endured through long ages, are organised in seven battalions of four companies each, seven reserve companies, and one additional battalion, the cadre only of which is maintained in time of peace.

The Austrian infantry is now armed with the "Wernld" breech-loading rifle, a somewhat heavy weapon and clumsy to the eye, though very formidable in competent hands. The ammunition pouches of the privates contain 72 rounds; of the non-commissioned Officers 24. . . . There was a time when the smart white tunics of the Austrian infantry were well known in every *salon* in Europe, and the human masses of snowy white captivated foreign critics no less than they offered a fatal mark for hostile bullets in the field. Now, however, the white has been superseded by a bluish-grey, and belts of untanned leather have taken the place of pipeclayed straps. Hungarian regiments are still allowed to wear their peculiar close-fitting blue pantaloons terminating in the boot.

Far be it from me to presume to say that Austria has gone too far in her honest desire to sacrifice effect to utility, but I have heard men of experience and observation remark in Vienna, that the slouching gait of the sentries, and their ill-worn uniform, shows that a new feeling of disregard of personal appearance has sprung up in the Army. One of the most illustrious of contemporary celebrities, who, now alas, lies asleep in a temporary resting place not many miles from this Institution, publicly warned armies against the fostering of so pernicious a feeling from the palace-prison to which he had been chiefly driven by the excessive encouragement of it, and its concomitant evils. Yet the danger may only lie in the limit imposed, rather than in the feeling itself, for there could be no more unsoldierlike sight to our insular eyes than the Prussian Guardsman rolling backwards and forwards on sentry go, and steadily ignoring such a thing as the manual exercise in the manipulation of his rifle; yet what finer troops could there be in the field?

The Cavalry

of Austria, and yet more so of Hungary, is world-renowned. Aye, gentlemen, many a square has been broken, many an advance covered, many a retreat gloriously defended, by those splendid horsemen. Although it is stated that they have lost something of their old prestige, have fallen somewhat from their pinnacle of perfection since the change in the war functions of that arm, we may be sure that many an additional proof of valour will be shown by them to any future enemies of his Imperial Majesty.

The cavalry of the Austrian Army consists of 41 regiments, whereof 14 are Dragoons, 14 Hussars, and 13 Lancers.

Each regiment is composed of six field squadrons, numbered 1 to 6, one depôt squadron for the training of recruits and remounts, and one reserve squadron.

Three squadrons form a regimental division or wing.

The strength of a squadron on the peace-footing, is 5 Officers, 1 Officer's substitute, and 130 non-commissioned Officers and men, whereof 16 are dismounted; on the war establishment, 165 non-commissioned Officers and men, of which 20 are dismounted. . . . A cavalry regiment takes the field with about 30 Officers and 870 sabres. The reserve squadron is usually detached for escort and orderly duty, the protection of baggage, &c., by which means the six field squadrons are kept together.

The total combatant strength of the Austrian cavalry is about 36,000 men, armed with the sabre, a breech-loading carbine and pistol, and the lancers with a lance. The pouches contain 30 carbine and 15 pistol rounds.

The training of the Austrian cavalry is now based upon the latest and most approved principles. Outpost and reconnaissance duties are ceaselessly studied.

Each regiment draws its recruits, who are selected for their previous association with horses, from the one or two infantry recruiting districts to which it is assigned. The preliminary training of recruits begins in the autumn at the depôt squadron, from whence in the spring they are drafted to the field squadrons.

Re-engagement year by year is considerably encouraged in the cavalry, but the number of re-engaged men must not exceed 90 per regiment.

But, gentlemen, at the present juncture, when such earnest attention is being directed to the supposed failing supply of horses in this kingdom, and serious apprehensions enter into the most non-alarmist minds of the difficulty that would be experienced in meeting any extensive demand either for offensive or defensive purposes, I venture to think you will feel more interest in the remounting, than in the recruiting system of the Austrian cavalry. I will, therefore, pass on to it at once, although a new law on the subject is at present under discussion at Vienna.

I cannot, however, omit first to direct your notice to a very admirable institution in the Austrian cavalry. The mounted arms are now pushed

so far in advance of the main force, that it is above all things desirable for them to possess in themselves all the mechanical skill they may chance to require. For this purpose, the fourth section of the sixth squadron of regiments is composed of artisans, who, besides their regular training, are especially instructed in practical engineering, in the laying and repairing of communications, and more particularly of railroads.

The remounts are supplied in part from the Government breeding establishments, of which there exist no less than twelve, and in part by the purchase of the horses at a predefined price, which have been bred therein and sold to agriculturists and others, on the understanding of the call that may possibly be made upon them. It is well known what excellent English blood has passed into these Austrian haras, and it is, indeed, high time to impose some restraint on foreign countries profiting so much more than ourselves by British equine resources. After the remounts for the current year have been furnished, the residue four-year-old stock is, I believe, sold by public auction. No cavalry regiment is suffered to remount more than 12 per cent. per annum of the mounted men. The remounts are distributed so that two-fifths of the horses are from 14·3 to 15·1 high, and three-fifths 15·2 and 3, or over.

Subaltern officers are mounted at the public cost. Staff Officers, Captains, and one year volunteers have to provide their own horses.

The Artillery

is the arm we will now briefly consider. Its splendid history you cannot ignore, and its skilful handling and glorious devotion on the fatal day of Königgrätz, will still be fresh in your minds.

The Austrian artillery consists of twelve regiments of field, and twelve battalions of garrison artillery. The former are designated by their consecutive numbers, and the names of their proprietors. The latter simply by their numbers. A field artillery regiment is commanded by a Colonel, and consists of—

- 4 four-pounder foot batteries.
- 3 " horse batteries.
- 5 eight-pounder foot batteries.

The cadre of a *depôt* battery, and

The cadres of five ammunition columns:

In war, a thirteenth battery can be added to the regiment, and the calling-in of the men on furlough and in the reserve, brings the batteries up to their full strength, *i.e.*, from the aggregate total per regiment of 75 officers, 1,415 men, and 532 horses, to 97 officers, 3,538 men, and 2,795 horses. In time of peace, the batteries are distributed throughout the monarchy, in the manner most beneficial to the public service. In the field, each *corps d'armées* of three divisions of infantry is allotted—

- 4 four-pounder foot batteries.
- 2 " horse "
- 6 eight-pounder foot "

Together with the first four of the artillery train columns of a regiment.

A cavalry division has two four-pounder horse batteries attached to it.

A battalion of garrison artillery consists of the battalion staff and six companies. To the 9th battalion of garrison artillery three mountain batteries and (likewise one each to the 11th and 12th battalions) are attached The artillery recruits are obtained in the same way as those for the infantry and cavalry, from specially assigned recruiting districts. They are generally those of a superior intellectual class. Mountain batteries seek men who are inhabitants of hilly districts.

The horses are furnished by the remount establishments in the proportion of one-third 15·3 high and over, one-third 15·2, and one-third 15·1.

The Engineers

of the Austrian Army consist of two regiments of five battalions each, with four active and eight reserve companies, and one dépôt battalion of five companies. There are, consequently, 25 companies in each regiment, which, commanded by a Colonel, has in peace a complement of—

118 officers and 2,736 men.

The Transport Service

of the Austrian Army is conducted by the Military Transport Corps, which consists of 36 field squadrons, 22 of which on mobilisation are assigned to the infantry divisions, five to the cavalry, four to army corps head-quarters, and two to general head-quarters.

The strength of the several squadrons varies, according to the nature of its duties, from 260 to 360 officers and men, with from 330 to 430 horses, and about 100 waggons and carts.

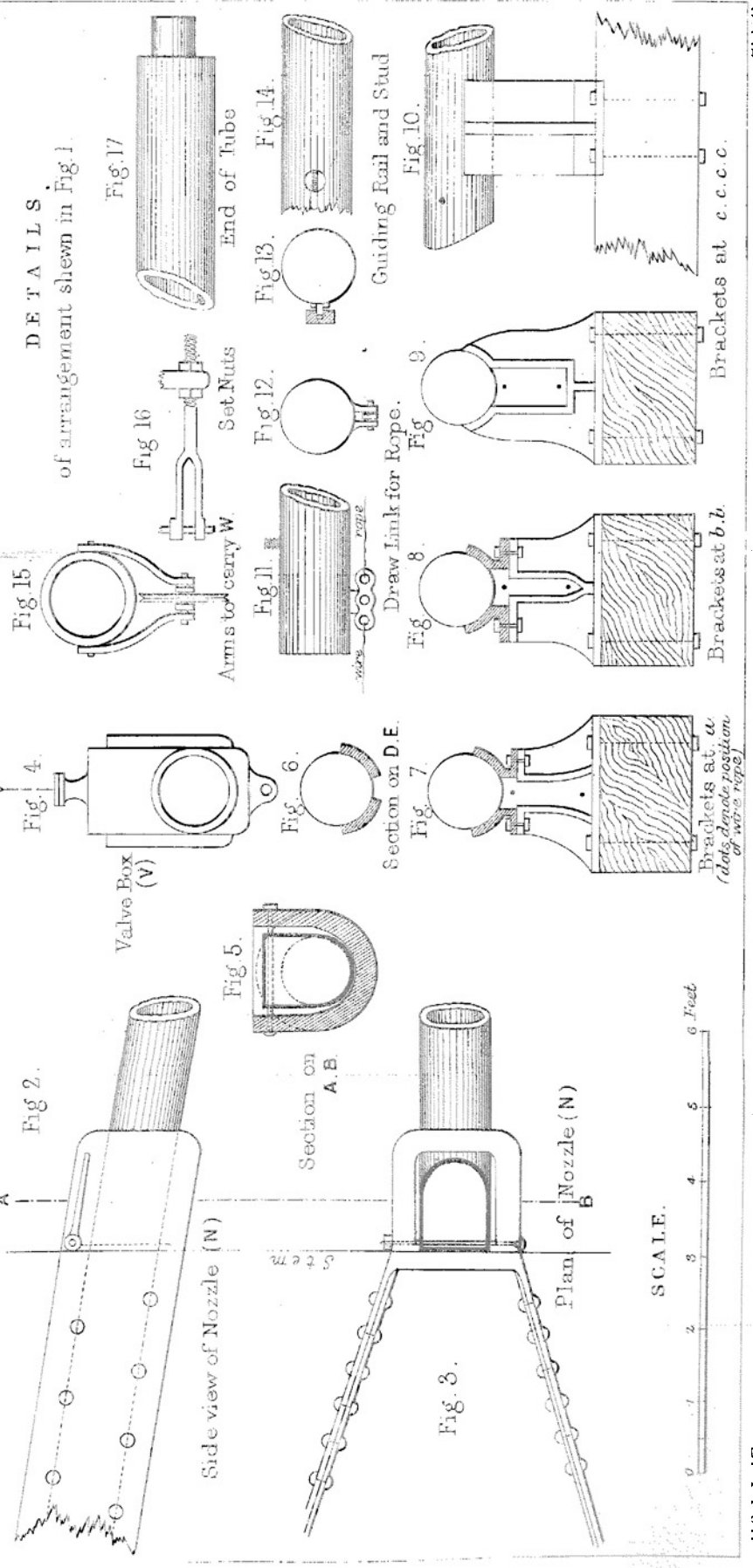
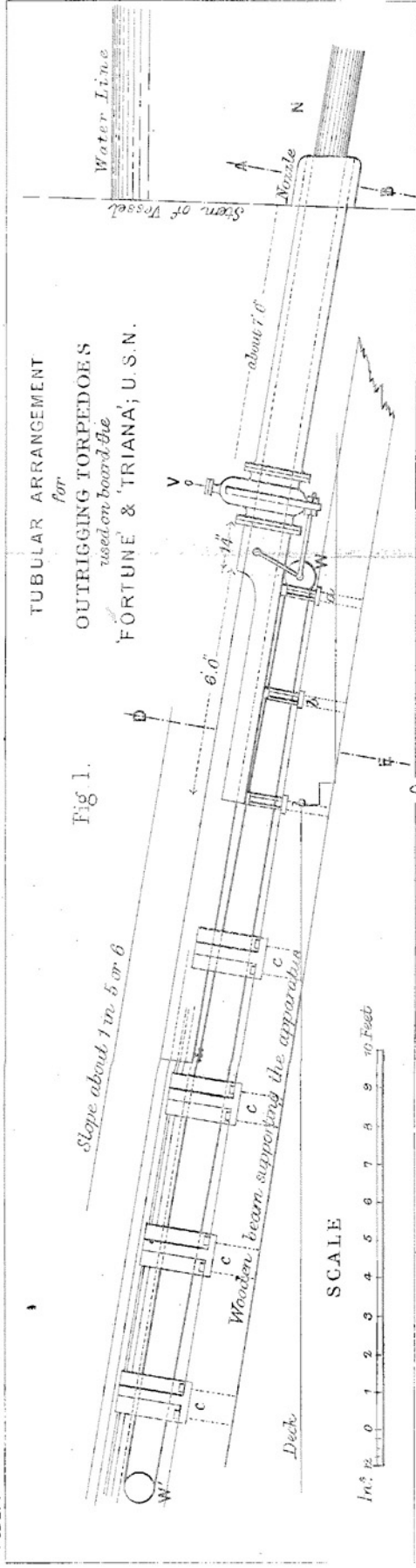
This system of transport appears to be less calculated to attain that great desideratum of having the baggage well up with the troops, which is achieved by the Russian and now by our own regimental methods.

The Hospital Corps

consists of 23 divisions. Their duties are solely in the hospitals; that all-important duty of bearing the wounded from the field being performed regimentally by trained men.

Time will not permit me to make additional demands on your patience by referring to the detailed organization of the reserve and landwehr. The former is subjected to periodical trainings, not exceeding three of four weeks each, in the course of its seven years' service. The minute the word goes forth for mobilisation,—should such unhappily become necessary,—it will be united with the Standing Army. The landwehr has no annual training, but in that force, where youths and veterans meet, the field army has a powerful support in numbers, no less than in quality.

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I am free, gentlemen, to admit that my account of the Austrian Army has been far from complete; yet, if it induce any one of you to enter into closer acquaintance with a body with which our service is knit by the bonds of mutual esteem, my object will have been fully attained. I have now but to express my sincere acknowledgements to you, Sir, for the honour you have done me in presiding here to-day, and to you, gentlemen, for the consideration with which you have been pleased to listen to my narrative.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TORPEDO BOATS "FORTUNE"
AND "TRIANA," UNITED STATES' NAVY.

By Lieut. J. TOWNSEND BUCKNILL, R.E.

THESE vessels were employed as tugs during the civil war, and were lying at the Washington Navy Yard in January, 1872. One of them, the "Fortune," had then been converted into a torpedo boat, and was in commission, but the other was undergoing a refit and alteration, so as to convert her into a similar torpedo vessel.

The navy yards of the United States are all open to the public, and, although I could gain very little information respecting these torpedo boats, I was enabled, by a hurried inspection of the "Triana," to take the following details, the *approximate* accuracy of which can be relied upon:

Size, 170 to 180 tons.

Length over all, 130 feet.

Beam, about 25 feet.

Draught, from 8 to 9 feet.

Engine 125 H.P. single vertical cylinder, direct acting.

Speed, 7 knots.

Burns 11 tons of coal in 24 hours.

Carries 95 tons.

Rig, fore and aft schooner, pole-masted.

Spread of canvas unknown, but small.

Freeboard, about 5 feet.

Bulwarks, about 3 feet.

Top-hamper, as usual, with American tugs.

The deck of the "Triana" had been removed, and she was being strengthened throughout, but more especially in those portions near the bow.

About 4 or 5 feet below the normal water-line, an iron nozzle was fixed in line with the stem or fore-foot by means of two cars, which were riveted to the sides of the vessel. This nozzle, which projected in front of the stem, was bored out to form a hole a little over 10 inches in diameter, and in the top of the nozzle a large U-shaped aperture was made, into which an iron door could swing when the torpedo was pushed from the interior of the vessel, Figs. (5), (2), (3). This door, in its normal