

WARHORSE

CLASSIC AND MODERN



Adventureride with U.S. Border Patrol Mounted Patrol

California Dreamin'

Louis Riel Mystery

What happened to Gabriel Dumont's
'Le Petit' rifle?

North American Cavalry Challenge

Set for Toronto in November '06

Mounted Weapons Profiles

-The 1909 Hotchkiss Machine Rifle
-Horseback archery

Killer Dressage

Dressage was battle-oriented

Britch! Britch! Britch!

Those essential threads

Spitpolish secrets for peacetime troops

Training Issues: Experienced or
inexperienced riders...
Which is 'better'?

Modern hoofcare issues for
ceremonial mounts

World Cavalry Report

WARHORSE

Vol.1, No.1, 2005

CLASSIC AND MODERN

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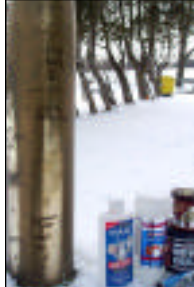
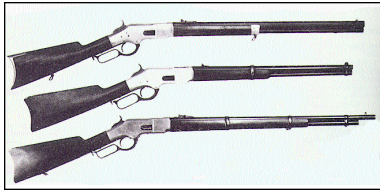
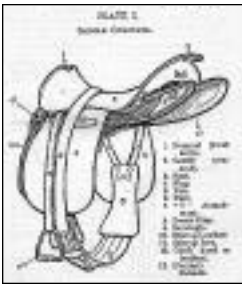
Contributions and Communications

We welcome both contributions and communications on any aspect of the military horse. This encompasses mounted troops and enthusiasts. We are interested in pertinent information on the historical and modern perspectives of:

- training;
- tack;
- accoutrements;
- weapons;
- readings;
- historical life
- personal profiles.

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PRODUCED BY:
GUY'S HOUSE (CANADA),
PUBLISHERS, ISBN-XXX-000-000-

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**Warhorse Editorial
IN THE VANGUARD
with Ted Dentay**

Janus-like, Classic Warhorse looks backwards *and* forwards

If you think of military horsemastership as being a thing of the past, think again. While military horsemastership has profoundly influenced virtually every element of modern horse sports for almost four centuries -from dressage to games- it is by no means dead as a continuing discipline and expression of the bond between horse and rider.

Modern Warhorse is dedicated to that robust core of military riders and mounted police around the world (or for those who are just plain interested) with timely news, views, reviews, and ongoing horsemastership issues that are demonstrably unavailable in any other medium.

Modern Warhorse will appear first as a quarterly electronic publication and will be available in hard copy on a per-request basis. We have planned to grow with the readership. A website will be constructed that allows more convenient access.

There are still many traditional techniques that apply to contemporary equitation. By the same token, there are many techniques that have proven to be inferior in the face of modern recognisance. The Modern Warhorse will cover these.

Warhorse Regular Features and Columns

Edges, fletches, and projectiles are the Mounted Tools of the Trade.

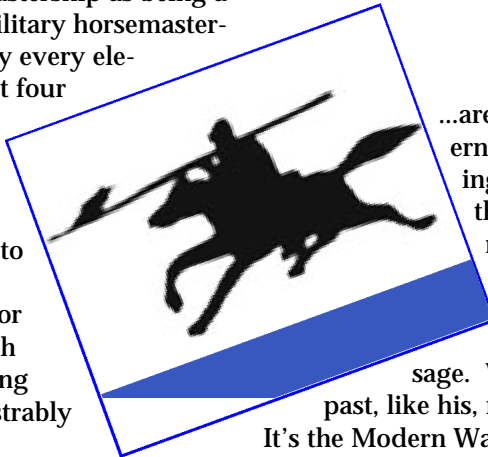
Since today's military and mounted police rider still deals with the issue of weapons, regular features covering the historical ramifications, technical aspects, descriptions, history, and deployment of mounted weapons will feature prominently. The three basic categories to be covered in each issue will include:

- edged weapons including lance; sword; sabre; axe/tomahawk, and others, both modern developments and original designs;

- fletched weapons, notably bows and crossbows of all varieties and including arrowshaft and point specific variations;

- firearms, from black powder to more modern incarnations, their history and the figures that used them. (E.G. Winston Churchill is the first cavalryman to have ever used a semiautomatic pistol in warfare off horseback, an 1896 'Broomhandle' Mauser.)

- military tack and equipage; what it is, profiles, and more.



Training Techniques Oriented to the Warhorse...

...are applicable to a broad variety of modern needs. The obvious is weapons training. The subtle can encompass everything from dressage to 'trick' and games riding (the Prince Phillip Games (PPG), for example).

Napoleon's horsemastership taught the world the basics of dressage. We will follow how techniques of the past, like his, mesh with techniques of the present. It's the Modern Warhorse's home in time.

Books and Reading

From Xenophon to Monty Roberts.

From the books of antiquity to modern renditions, Modern Warhorse will cover and review noteworthy tomes, along with information on how to care for antique books, where to go, how to evaluate, and how much to pay for antique books in particular. MWH will review books; antique, reprinted, and new. The panoply of the horse over the millenia.

Staff

World-class experts in their fields; internationally published writers, authors, and individuals with specialist experience in their own fields will be contributing to The Modern Warhorse. Information you can count on that will not appear in any other horse publication.

Ted Dentay, editor of Modern Warhorse, is a trained military rider; certified farrier and blacksmith; equine nutrition specialist; combat arms specialist; and internationally-published writer on defence affairs, horsemastership, and the outdoors. □

PROFESSIONALS NOTE:

We pay for professional contributions to Modern Warhorse. Please e-mail us with your proposals or suggestions on the subjects listed above.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Thank you.
The Editorial Staff

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United States

Border Patrol Service MOUNTED SERVICE

A CANADIAN CAVALRY TROOPER'S SOJOURN

DEC 10 2003

It's an impossible situation, in impossible times, seemingly never-ending, where there's no winning. Nonetheless, the horsemen do it.

San Diego's U.S. Border Patrol Service Mounted Patrol covers hundreds of square miles in the southern California/Mexican border area in an effort to interdict the torrent of illegal aliens, 7/24, all while slogging through an inhospitable terrain. It's a losing battle but a horseman never gives up.

by Ted Dentay

A cool, dry, desert wind, redolent with the fragrances of sage and manzanita, wafted over the Border Patrol's five-horse trailer as we unloaded and tacked up. The five sorrel quarterhorses for the morning shift's patrol, about an hour east of the Border Patrol station in Duzula, stood patiently...probably the only time that 'JB', the horse I was assigned, was patient during the whole shift.

I checked final fit on the nylon/neoprene bell and
Continued on P. 6

**Left: Everything is a thorny issue in this southern CA patrol area. 'God's Yucca' flowers only once every century.
Below: There's a long-long trail a-windin' ... a few miles from Mexico border.**



USBPS Continued from P. 5

brush boots, meant more to protect the mounts' lower legs against snake bite and the limitless varieties of prickly things than for problems with gait. The trooper who usually rode 'JB' gave quiet parting advice when we were loading the trailer.

"Oh...don't let him run or he'll get away from you", he said casually. I don't know if it was imagination or not, but I thought I heard some snickers from the kiddie troopers in the background.

Checking their communications, hitching up gun belts heavy with baton, 9mm Parabellum Beretta pistol and spare magazines, plus a host of needed field equipment, we mounted up and headed out.

Their young horses -average age of about five- have a mixed bag of experience and skill, as do the majority of the Mounted Patrol troopers. Most of the troopers are male, in their late 20's to early 30's, and have no previous experience with horses. Russell Miles



Above: Capt. Russel Miles, as with the younger troopers, demonstrated very good horsemanship skills, notable considering their brief experience.

Below: The Tucker 'Endurance' saddle. Breastplates are used.



(a.k.a. 'Rusty Buckets'), the shift's supervisor for the day was considered an 'Old Man' at 50 years of age.

The San Diego Sector's Mounted Patrol lost a number of their more seasoned veterans some years ago when the decision was made to change tack and riding style from western to a hybrid style related more to dres-



Snaffle-type bits are easier on a horse's mouth... especially with less experienced riders who may not always have light hands on the reins.

sage riding.

This did not go down well with the rank and file, according to head honcho, Supervisor Juan Garcia.

"Essentially, western-style riding has not progressed in a hundred years, although that's now changing", he said. "We now train the horse to use its upper body properly." He agreed with the notion that the San Diego Sector Mounted Patrol blends classical dressage elements with operational realities.

This change in style also included a switch to the 19.5 pound Tucker 'Endurance' saddle, with its quilt-stitched seat that provides a secure and comfortable ride. All things considered, the San Diego Sector Horse Patrol's style has actually become more cavalry-oriented. They employ both neck reining and direct rein of opposition interchangeably. Oddly enough, the horses are not gun trained, even though all mounted troopers are armed and may have to use their weapon(s) at some time.

On Patrol

Falling off a horse is hurtful at the best of times. Falling off a horse in the patrol region is even worse. Virtually every plant wants to either punch holes in your hide or to poison you. And there are two distinct layers

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USBPS from P. 6

of these plants...just in case the topmost one fails to hurt you.

The first layer, ground cover, is about two feet high, distinctly hostile to human bodies, and is impenetrable. The up-side is that it forces illegal aliens to stick to delineated paths which meander across the region north from the Mexican border. The Border Patrol places electronic sensors on, or near, well-travelled paths which then relay information back to a control point which then is communicated to the mounted patrol.

The next layer of lethal vegetation tends to top out at about seven feet and is equally as unpleasant to fall onto or brush by.

Illegal Aliens Leave Trail

They call it 'cutting sign': tracking human beings. It's an art that takes time and guidance to develop.

Being a mounted trooper is very much like being a hunter and tracker, except for the fact that the quarry has become more elusive with time and cannot be injured when apprehended. While the average trooper doesn't like 'illegals', they treat them as decently as circumstances permit. One member told me that his wife will not allow him to have any money in his pockets when he goes to work. The problem? He usually ends up giving it away to those illegals who seem particularly in need of sustenance.

Illegals coming into the U.S. from Mexico pay anywhere from between \$700 and \$7,000 each for a 'guide' that smuggles them to their vehicular pickup point, somewhere north of the border.

Over the years they have become more canny. The patrol first looks for 'layup' areas; hidden

places where they collect together before embarking on the next part of their penetration of the U.S., usually in some inhospitable place that few mounted troopers would attempt to penetrate.

Having been 'issued' water jugs in the form of



Not every patrol results in arrests. In this case the individual was a 'mule', smuggling drugs. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Border Patrol Service)

discarded plastic milk bottles attached to their belts with a piece of binder twine, a layup area is generally recognizable from the discarded containers. On our patrol we found a few areas but the trail had long gone cold.

In order to disguise footprints in the soil, the illegals have taken to wrapping their shoes with pieces of cloth torn from old blankets. Frequently you will see these odd bits of fabric but, as usual and by that time, it's too late.

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Small scraps of cloth tell that the illegals have muffled their feet to ensure their footprints are more difficult to detect.



Border Patrol Mounted Patrol troopers can read the signs.

USBPS from P. 7

Tracking Expertise

Tracking expertise was highlighted during a last-day tour of the border area of Tijuana. I would have missed some gentle scrapes along a section of dirt road parallelling the border. This was caught by the alert trooper with whom I was riding in a Border Patrol 4x4. He had spotted some broken branches on the slope leading away from the road surface.

Navigating a landscape strewn with apartment-building-sized boulders, washes, arroyos, and mesas poses its own unique challenges. Oddly enough, the Mounted Patrol doesn't use Global Positioning Systems (GPS's). Instead they have arcane, albeit colourful, ways of describing areas close to the border.

You've got the 'Sunrise Highway', a meandering, eroded, switch-backed trail that climbs several thousand feet above Tecate. This eventually leads to 'Stonehenge', a gaggle of rocks that doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to its namesake. Then there is 'Lizard Rock', on which a trooper once saw a large lizard sunning itself, rather than any resemblance to anything. Going by 'The Swing' begged the question, "What swing?". The drawled reply: "Wahl...there was an old tire swing here onc't." A tire swing now long gone. Right.



The vast, unforgiving landscape has a way of making riders and horses appear very small. The above photo gives an idea of how difficult it is to patrol these huge areas.



As the trail winds upwards and leftwards, you can see how an all-out boogie could be fun. Unless, of course, your horse doesn't want to do what you want to do when you want to do it!

Sum of All Fears

It was towards the last part of the shift that the feared moment came: After hours of patrolling without finding much, we were walk/trotting along with some of the patrol members forging out ahead. Without warning, they and the other four riders with me lit out, galloping up a long, straight, gentle slope about half a mile long.

There was no way that 'JB' could be held back. The thundering of his clumsy hooves beat a ragged tattoo that every sensor in the region must have picked up. And that didn't include his ragged breathing. Worst-case scenario, I wondered? That I would crash into the other

riders thus ensuring a modicum of a soft landing without impaling myself on something sharp and pointy.

Digital camera swinging wildly from one hand; binoculars threatening to bounce out of the wildly flapping coat pocket; hat long ago a victim of the slipstream; grimacing against the storm of pebbles and sand kicked up by the others, I committed my soul. Then disaster struck.

About three-quarters of the way up the long slope, my foot slipped out of the stirrup. Usually, that's no problem. This time it *was* a problem because I couldn't get it back into the stirrup. The relentless, jagged pace of the horse wouldn't allow it. Then, pell mell, the

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USBPS From P. 8

trail abruptly ended. A radical 90-degree turn presented itself and 'JB' was on the wrong lead.

By the Grace of God we actually managed to make the corner in a spray of soil and without succumbing to Newton's immutable laws of physics. Fortunately, 'JB' was so pooped that he was quite happy to skid to a stop before any major collision took place with the other troopers who had reined up in an open area. He was blowing heavily and snorting as the other riders looked at me indulgently, pretending they had been out for a pleasant sojourn. Canadian honour was upheld. A particularly important issue when considering relative ages. Troopers: 0. Canadians: 1.

Shooting Themselves in the Foot

According to some of the guys, the U.S. Border Patrol Service is not one of the most beloved of U.S. government agencies; understandable when you consider that these mounted troopers have to deal with information-age developments with iron-age practicalities. As a consequence, recruiting potential horsemen is getting more and more difficult because it appears that horses are becoming increasingly irrelevant in the information age.

Like any other professional organization, the San Diego Sector Mounted Patrol have had their share of hilarious mistakes which cost no lives.

The wander back to where the trailer was parked took awhile. During that time a few stories of how the Border Patrol Mounted Patrol have shot themselves in the foot were told.

In one, an errant patrol was pursuing some illegals across an unknown area; private property owned by an 'odd' church, they said. The hot pursuit burst onto a trail they later found was called the 'Path of Inner Awareness'. It was a very appropriate monicker. The local folks had evidently lost their 'Outer Awareness'. They were nudists, complete with drooping paunches and bandy legs.

There were other stories which must remain untold. Needless to say, it was a privelege to have spent time in these troops' company.

Ho hum. All in a day's work, sez they! ☐

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INTAKE: Experienced Versus Non-Experienced. Which is best?

'Conventional' mounted unit training philosophies have generally required that volunteers have no experience with horses before joining up. Is it time to change that convention or have modern social realities been imposed on us? What is the advantage to having no experience versus experience and is it relevant to today's mounted operations?

The answer is somewhere 'twixt and 'tween.

Today's mounted unit operations are generally law enforcement or ceremonial in nature but they are still subject to modern training, budgetary, and manpower considerations.

The question used to be: "Do we want to 'untrain' bad habits exhibited by 'experienced' riders, or do we want to train fresh troops to our standards and our standards alone?"

According to CW4 Richard Dyk, C.O. of Michigan (USA's) 'Blue Devils Horse Platoon', his unit prefers previous riding experience for their troopers. He is very affirmative in stressing that the Blue Devils ascribe to Britain's Household Cavalry standards. The 'Blue Devils' are a U.S. Army Reserve troop sanctioned by the U.S. government. They have extensive contacts with other cavalry troops around the world including Britain's Household Cavalry, King's Troop, and Dutch Cavalry unit(s).

Sgt. Jim Patterson, Metro Toronto Police Mounted Unit trainer, said their preference is for inexperienced troopers, although they are slowly changing to accommodate experienced riders.

Sgt. Laurie Blake, a member of the executive committee of the Governor General's Horse Guards' (Canada) Cavalry Squadron, said that her unit has not come to any specific conclusion. The Guards' cavalry activities are limited exclusively to volunteers from the outside world as well as from The Regiment.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Sgt/Maj. Bill Stewart said, essentially, that the decision of experienced versus inexperienced riders is out of his hands.

Then there are the gender issues. Do women have a place in modern cavalry movements?

Which philosophy works best within the 2005 timeframe?

Dyk said that the Blue Devils prefer riding experience because they are "in the spotlight so much" and that they have to prove their worth every time they are in public. They require riders that can prove their experience by going through a riding test. This doesn't work for potential riders that 'used to' ride during summer camp, or with similar experiences.

He said that his seven well-trained horses, including Holstein and Oldenburger breeds, can help the inexperienced rider.

Metro Toronto Police's Mounted Unit trainer, Sgt. Jim Patterson, has another opinion. He said that, in his experience, even well-trained horses will inevitably take advantage of an inexperienced rider by doing exactly what they are not supposed to do.

For the Governor General's Horse Guards of Canada (Cavalry Squadron) Sgt. Laurie Blake, the issue of experience versus inexperience is a complex one. Because the Cavalry Squadron is entirely voluntary in which troopers pay their own way from start to finish, inexperienced and non-military intakes have multiple problems. These include the inability to take orders (a.k.a. "being yelled at"). She said that intakes of inexperienced riders from The Regiment could at least deal with military decorum and necessities, leaving the horsemastership to be developed.

The R.C.M.P.'s Sgt./Maj. Bill Stewart has to deal with orders from headquarters. He said that their mounted unit troopers are chosen according to their experience with the force; their physical condition, and their performance as police officers.

In his 30-plus years on the force, he said that 75 to



Metro Toronto Police Mounted Unit trainer, Sgt. Jim Patterson

80 percent of his intake has had no previous experience with horses. In the plus-and-minus department, he said, his work with experienced riders has been good.

Continued on P. 40

Full Page Ad Space available

Coming to Toronto: The North American Cavalry Challenge "A Celebration of North American Resolve"



Toronto, ON, Summer, 2006.-

It will be a historical first: remaining North American cavalry troops, plus selected additions from overseas and elsewhere; meeting for modern ceremony and bloodless combat; incorporating North American historical events, and modern figures.

With 12 'Challenges' and five 'Events' over three days and nights, featuring cash prizes and awards for excellence in horsemanship, this is a world-class televised event. The **'North American Cavalry Challenge: Cavalcade of Blades and Tattoo'** will be conducted in, and around, Toronto during summer, 2006.

'Events' are considered as those parts of the programme that are not competitions. 'Challenges' are the competitive parts of the programme.

The 'official' Master of Ceremonies has not yet been determined but considerations that have been made include personalities like horseman Robert Duvall; Kevin Kostner, William Shatner, etc. All of these have previous horse experience.

The historical flavour of the event will be set on the first morning of the first day. An inspection of massed troops, and an address by the leader of Canada's Association of First Nations (AFN), will precede a march-past, by mounted and dismounted troops, of local, regional, and federal dignitaries. This will be followed by a parade through Toronto.

Meanwhile, Toronto and surrounding venues will be set up for the 'Challenges'. These will include 'First Combat', and the 'Victoria Cross' challenges. Meanwhile,

venues used by the Royal Winter Fair will host other, peaceable, challenges.

These include the Musical Ride portion of the programme. Competitors will have had almost a year to prepare for their rides. Points will be given for originality and horsemastership.

North American political themes will be celebrated through the 'Louis Riel' and 'William Lyon MacKenzie' challenges, which will take place around Toronto and surrounding venues.

The 'Louis Riel' challenge, recalling the events of Saskatchewan's Northwest Rebellion of 1885, will feature 'Gabriel

Dumont's 'Le Petit' Mounted Rifle Challenge'. Dumont was Riel's right-hand man and was locally noted as a top rated sharpshooter and horseman. During the time of the Riel debacle, he went to the U.S. and became part of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

The 'Le Petit' challenge will involve a series of five mounted horsemen at a time, shooting a course of fire using Model 1866 Winchester rifles with .44/40 Cal. ammunition, against steel 'gong' targets at a licensed gun range.

The 'William Lyon MacKenzie' challenge will recreate the Upper Canada Rebellion ride/march, from Montgomery's Tavern (now located at Eglinton and Yonge, on the site of the post office which is currently there), that saw the looting of the University Ave. armouries in the early part of the 19th century.

Special additions to the North American Cavalry

Continued next page

'A Celebration of North American Resolve'



Imagination and innovation are the order of the day for modern cavalry troops. These Pattern 1868 lances slings have been modified with brass wire by Edmonton's Lord Strathcona Horse so that the lance is easier to use during ceremonial rides.

Although cavalry operations today are largely restricted to ceremonial duties, training of horses to perform in alien environment is a challenge. Many of the old techniques have been forgotten.

Challenge event will include period colonial troops drawn from local and international resources.

These troops will be used to provide added realism and challenge. For example, the North/South Skirmish Association of the U.S. has been asked to provide an artillery battery of horse-drawn, period field pieces which

will be used for a rendition of the British 'King's Troop' musical *drive*.

Contacts have been made with groups such as the Mounted Action Shooters' Association who will figure highly in the mounted 'Forest Challenge', to take place in the York Regional Forest, east of Newmarket.

Overall net proceeds from the event will be donated to Canada's two remaining cavalry regiments: Calgary's Lord Strathcona Horse, and Toronto's Governor General's Horse Guard, Cavalry Squadron. □

1/3H ad space

Great Military Saddles #1: The British Universal Pattern

Like many great military saddles, the 'Universal' is still in use today, both in original and newly manufactured forms. It is still being made in its original home, Walsall, England, as well as by makers in North America.

Despite being designed in the 1860's, modern users include police mounted units such as Metropolitan Toronto Police's Mounted Unit, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

At about 18 pounds, without stirrup irons, the Universal comes in three sizes (S,M,L) and, in conjunction with correct saddle-blanket folding techniques, can comfortably fit virtually any confirmation of horse. It is also extremely comfortable for the rider due to its seat which is suspended atop a web matrix. Cavalry troops of the late 1800's could and would ride up to 75 miles per day.

Tree

Two specially-formed and pivotable wooden sidebars, which parallel the horse's spine, are attached front and rear by two cast-steel arches (pomel and cantle sections). This gives even pressure along all contact points thus making the saddle comfortable for the horse over a wide variety of riders' weights.

Surcingle

Also called the 'overgirth', the saddle surcingle helps cinch the saddle securely to the horse without adding pressure points at the girth billets and 'V'-attachments that can cause galls during long marches. This was of particular importance when the mounted trooper was fully equipped with rifle, ammunition, sword and/or lance, rations, horse accoutrements such as feed/water bags, hay net, picketing tack, the the troopers own personal kit.

The surcingle is a three-inch-wide, almost nine-foot-long supple leather strap which goes over the saddle seat and flaps and around the bar-

rel of the horse atop the girth itself.

History

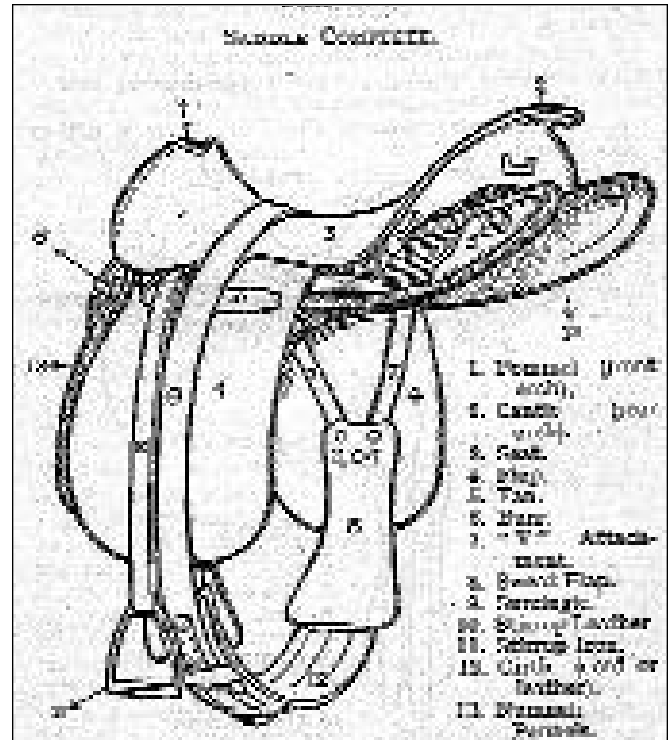
Like all great designs, the Universal is a hybrid which is rooted in the Hungarian Hussar's saddle of the early 1850's. Britain's war department liked the design and set about copying it, with modifications as they saw fit. Because the wooden side panels could be severe, they adapted the Russian idea of removable felt 'Numnah' panels to spread the load.

Interestingly,

these saddles were so prized that, during the U.S. Civil War, many Confederate cavalry officers opted to purchase their own, personal Universal saddles, despite naval blockades imposed by the Union government of the time.

Adjustments

Aside from the different sizes



of saddles, the blanket could be folded in any one of a number of ways and the Universal's fit could also be adjusted through the buckles of the 'V'-attachment.

The Trooper's Load

Weapons carried during the reign of the Universal saddle varied. Consequently, a number of accessories came and went.

The transition from sabre to pointing sword involved a new 'sword wallet' which also held a spare horse-shoe and nails inside.

Smallarms, which went from muzzleloaders to breechloading single shots, to magazine-fed, bolt-action repeaters, all required changes in methods of carriage for both rifle and ammunition.

So if the definition of greatness in a military saddle is predicated on its longevity of service, you would have to say the the British Military Universal Saddle is truly one of the world's best!□



Next Issue: The U.S. McLellan

Ad space available



Warhorse Column FROM THE FORGE with Ted Dentay, Farrier

Modern Hoofcare Issues and the Military Horse

Keeping the modern military mount shod and sound-for-service is not as easy as it may appear. Today's envi-

ronment tends

to be very urban and, of course, very ceremonial. These factors impose their own, unique, requirements.

Britain's Household Cavalry's Lance-Sergeant Paul Dean is the head honcho of their farrier's detail in London. In an interview, he described some of the challenges involved with keeping their cavalry's horses sound.

There are a number of factors that influence shoeing and hoofcare decisions that farriers make for the Household Cavalry, he explained. These include the type of horse that is most commonly used, the weight of the rider, accoutrements, distances travelled (read: events and timings), and the time of year. Their ceremonial high-times run from April to July when they have the Queen's Birthday Parade, Trooping of the Colours, and so on.

During the April to July period the Household Cav's farriers' workload and work-group are this:

At full strength, they have between 270 to 300 horses to care for, of which they have roughly 14 farriers working during the maximum workload. That is, for every six-week cycle (which is, realistically, for them, actually a four or five week cycle), each farrier has to shoe about 22 horses all around.

While mounted unit farriers in North America seldom shoe all-around for conventional protection against wear-exceeding-growth, or influencing stance-or-gait (that is four hooves and shoes) these compadres have their work cut out for them because there is virtually no such thing as a reset. The

shoes wear out during the period of the set. So there ain't no such thing as a reset.

As an example of what these horses are put through during their working day, the 'Queen's Life Guard' route through London involves a mile-and-a-half of pavement each way (three miles total, every day, which translates to 21 miles per week during high-season) at a sitting trot. This, evidently, is a really wearing problem on shoes and hooves.

The size of the horses and their loads come into play here. Troopers have to deal with heavy loads, including riders' weights, uniforms and accoutrements (plus ceremonial armour and weapons) and their pace to positions. This influences hoof and shoe wear.

Drive-in and screw-in calks (pronounced 'corks') consisting of tungsten carbide inserts do not seem to make much of a difference in slowing the wear and tear of shoes whilst on duty. In fact, they seem to cause more problems in the long run than solutions, according to L/SGT Dean. From his professional point of view, calks are seldom used on toes as well as heels.

In North America, long distance and endurance riders, who ride 75 miles over hard terrain in a day-or-so, use two standardbred toe calks, as well as the identical two heel calks. The shoe wear is thereby reduced significantly. With appropriate calking they can climb mountains.

Losing Shoes

The unit's master farrier,

Ad space - horseshoe/farrier, accessories

Lance-Sergeant Paul Dean, avers to the fact that every horse is an individual. The youngsters versus the experienced ones included. Losing shoes is an issue that brings them all together, notably during official functions.

He said that most of the Household Cav's lost shoes come about as the result of close quarters work...notably amongst the younger horses.

When working in a section (four horses abreast) and having to stand for awhile, the horses get fidgety. Younger ones tend to move back and forth within the six inches allowed from 'knee to knee'. They tend to step off the shoes of their mates. Consequence? Lost shoe. You can tell what happened by the sprung heel.

Shoes Used

The Household Cavalry uses Swedish 'Stromsholm' (a.k.a. Kaerckhardt, in N. America), 3/4 fullered shoes, and 'Werkmann' Dutch-manufacture shoes on the larger hoof sizes.

Fitting of Shoes

By and large, Household Cavalry shoes are fitted 'full', with lots of expansion at the heels, since the majority of these horses are shod year-round. The problem, of course, with horses that are shod 'full' (where about 1/8th to 1/4 inch of shoe is visible outside the heels), is the fact that they can 'step' them off when working in close quarters together, as mentioned previously.

Calking and Influences

Many types of calking options have been tried by Household Cavalry farriers to reduce the work and wear experienced by their mounts, shoes (and themselves!) on the job. Mostly to no avail.

Dean said the the unit's farriers made a calking study some time ago. They wanted to reduce the horses' slipping on paved or cobblestoned surfaces.

They found that heel calks resulted in greater toe wear (whether drive-ins or screw-ins were used). The lateral wear of the hooves and shoes equipped thusly were also unacceptable. On the hinds, for example, Dean said that they found that there was increased lateral branch wear when calks were used. They also found that calks increased concussive wear and enhanced hoof capsule distortion, notably on horses with low heels (also, usually accompanied by shallow soles and long toes).

Natural Balance

When it came to the subject of natural balance-type shoes, Dean said the "jury is still out". He said that many civilian riders reported excellent

results from the use of natural balance-type shoes. In Britain, 'CYTEK', a company that makes cast (rather than forged)shoes, has yet to make any significant inroads into a very tradition-bound area of horsemanship, despite the fact that their product line has enjoyed good success in N. American civilian markets.

Farrier staff and workload

Household Cavalry farriers don't see much in the way of resets, There is no such thing as a reset of shoes since they are well worn by the time re-shoeing has to take place. This, despite the fact that duties such as the Queen's Life Guard only involve three miles of roadwork per event. Household Cavalry horses are reshod every four weeks, on average.

Professional farriers know that reshoeing at this frequency involves tricky problems, notably in the fact that there isn't much hoof growth in the interim. This, in turn, means that unit farriers have to be imaginative in re-nailing shoes. Many, if not most, of the nails are re-driven through the old holes. This isn't much of a problem for them as long as a good clinch can be

made.

The Household Cavalry's experiences are not unique, although they are important. We will review the experiences of other farriers in contemporary cavalry and mounted units worldwide in future issues of Classic and Modern Warhorse.□

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**A great Canadian gun mystery:
Louis Riel's lieutenant was a
historical figure in his own right.
...but his gun has gone missing.
What was 'Le Petit', and where did it go?**

Horseman, Marksman, Bagman:

by Ted Dentay

Everyone loves a mystery. This one is solidly Canadian, although it later involved America's 'Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show', and dates back to the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Bottom line to this mystery is that it involves what may be a historically-significant Canadian gun.

Louis Riel, the charismatic Metis leader of the time, incited a rebellion in the prairie province of Saskatchewan which, after styming the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, drew cavalry troops into the fray from as far away as Toronto and London, Ontario. It came to an end at the battle for Batoche. The Metis were a distinct people, the result of inter-mixing French fur traders with aboriginals from the area during the early decades of the 1800's.

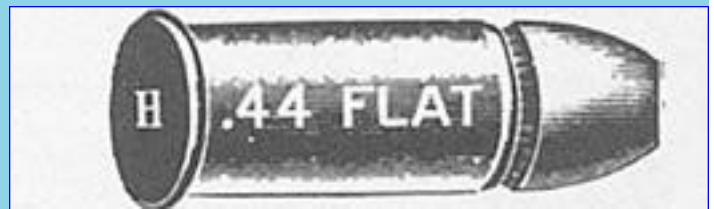
Riel's right-hand-man at the time of the Rebellion was the dour, taciturn Gabriel Dumont. A man of action and few words, Dumont was known at the time as a first-class horseman and marksman. It is his rifle, which he's reported to have affectionately named '*Le Petit*' (the 'Little One') that's at the centre of the mystery. It has vanished. Someone, somewhere, has it. But part of the mystery is...what, exactly, was '*Le Petit*'?

There have been overtures from gun owners who claim to have '*Le Petit*'. Juti Winchester, curator of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming, fielded a few of them. She, like others in the historical firearms business, did not bite at the bait because, like everyone else, she doesn't know for sure what the rifle actually was.

The mystery began during research for the North American Cavalry Challenge (see page XX for details). Riel's historical legacy is to be highlighted in the 'Gabriel Dumont Invitational Rifle Challenge'.

Dumont was literally born with a rifle in his hand

which, according to him, he named '*Le Petit*'. However, and it's a big however, the dates and models of guns he's been

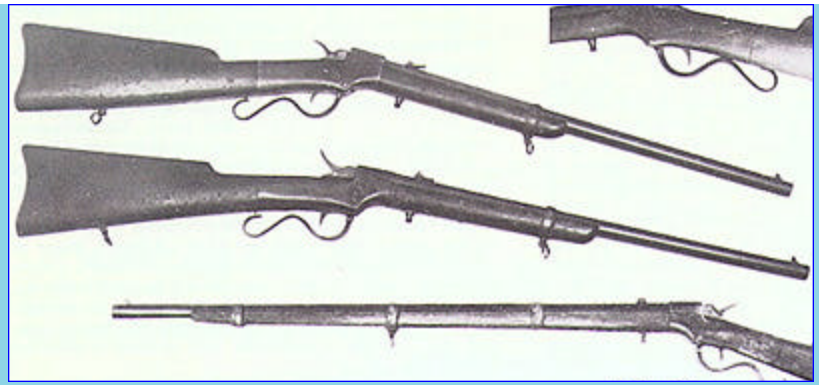


The 'original' .44 Henry rimfire cartridge had quite a respectable throw-weight but was still underpowered by virtue of its rimfire design

illustrated with don't add up. He was born before the metallic cartridge was invented. So the suspicion is that his first '*Le Petit*' was actually some sort of percussion or flintlock trade gun. Probably a smoothbore.

Only three or four photographs of Dumont seem to exist. One of them shows him standing before his horse, a lever-action repeater propped on his toe. Careful examination by an expert would seem to indicate that it's a Model 1866 Winchester. By-guess-and-by-golly would dictate that it was probably in .44 Henry rimfire calibre because the .44H was one of the most popular calibres of the time in Saskatchewan's neck of the woods. It was the same cartridge used by its predecessor, the fabled Henry Repeater, forerunner of the Winchesters. (The rifle you could "...Load on Sunday and shoot all week" because it could hold up to 14 rounds in its tubular magazine.)

In the Battle of Little Big Horn, 'Custer's Last Stand', First Nations warriors are said to have used stolen Henry repeaters to decimate U.S. Cavalry troops armed with single-shot .45-70 Springfields.



Modern Warhorse's research department delves back into misty Canadian hist'ry to find out!

Whatever happened to Gabriel Dumont's 'Le Petit' rifle?



The centrefire (CF) .44/40 Winchester replaced the .44 Henry. It was more powerful, due to the CF's case design, but required a boost in the firearm's design strength.

One of the photographs provided by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center illustrates him with what is, unmistakably, a falling-block, single-shot Ballard rifle. Not exactly what a horseman would want because it was too accurate and didn't have follow-on shots. Accuracy wasn't much of an issue when you were shooting buffalo from horseback, an exercise that usually took place within spitting distance.

One of the strangest elements in the search for 'Le Petit' is that there are a number of modern organizations in Canada, linked with Metis culture, that use the 'Le Petit' moniker. But they haven't got the faintest idea of what 'Le Petit' stood for.

Since Dumont is pictured both holding a '66 Winchester and a Ballard, some technical information might help unravel the mystery.

The Winchester Model of 1866



Rimfire cartridges quickly became obsolete upon the introduction of the centrefire cartridge. The common .22 Long Rifle rimfire (left cartridge) managed to survive. Modern high-intensity rimfire rounds have made a renaissance, albeit in tiny .17 calibre variants. Above: L-R: Old rimfires included the .25 Stevens Short; .25 Stevens Long; .32 Rimfire; .35 Rimfire, and .44 Henry Rimfire.

Photo Courtesy: Monica Altmann

The Model 1866 Winchester was a lever action, tube magazine, repeating rifle that was sold in a variety of models, all in .44 rimfire calibre. They ranged from carbine (with 20" barrel); rifle (24" barrel), and musket (27" barrel). The '66 used the .44 Henry cartridge because it was the Henry's immediate successor and nothing had supplanted it at the time.

Warhorse Column SPITPOLISH

From Bullets to Polishes. Your Basic Guide To B/S Soldiering



Let's face it: Today's mounted trooper is no longer in the shooting and stabbing end of the warhorse business. Military mounteds are virtually exclusively ceremonial. Mounted law enforcement isn't far behind, other than urban crowd control and harsh terrain patrols.

Fact is, we're all in the same boat: Polishes are more important than bullets. So if you've got to go with the flow and make life easier, here's some of the skinny we've picked up

over the years of B/S soldiering.

Tack Brightwork

By and large, most metal parts of saddles and accoutrements are made from brass and/or copper. Why? Because it doesn't rot leather as quickly as does steel. Make no mistake, though. Brass and copper do eventually eat their way through leather.

Bits, on the other hand, notably the older military patterns such as the British Pelham, are generally constructed of solid nickel because it doesn't rust and it predated stainless.

Keeping them all bright and shiny is mostly a matter of slog-work. You have to disassemble the pieces to get a really good shine on them, even if that seems too much like work!

ders, saddle soap isn't necessary to maintain your leather-work. A damp sponge used to get sweat residue and crap off your tack does just as well as saddle soap. Then all you need is some form of leather treatment/polish. Ones containing beeswax in a solvent medium seem to work best.

Using compounds like neatsfoot oil do *compound* your long-term saddle problems. They darken the leather and soften it to the point where it may fail, notably in the case of strirrup leathers. But that's another subject for another column.

Back to metal cleaners

Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. Stainless steel is an alloy of steel and nickel. Cleaning them and keeping them polished have one thing in common: a cleaner containing an abrasive paste of some sort; a solvent to carry the stains away, and a finish which excludes oxygen. (Stainless is really not 'stainless' when you get fingerprints and other oily substances on its surface. Brass and copper get a greenish coating when left too long. It is called 'verdigris'.)

'Brasso', a standby since 1905, still occupies front-and-centre position in the rankings of metal polishes. Its formula is a mixture of 'Stoddard Solvent' and fine silica dust in suspension. The solvent is capable of dissolving the by-products of oxidation while the silica dust is the abrasive necessary to get to fine metal. The polish that's left after using a

The bad news:

There are no magic polish 'bullets' that take the work out of cleaning metals and tack.

The good news:

Some of the products we tested *do* work somewhat better.

In the case of brass, the Maas-brand tube paste polish worked better than Brasso.

But that old standby wasn't far behind!



clean cloth contains the remnants of the naphthalene component of the solvent.

Then there are some of the paste polishes, like 'Solvof Autosol', which give a different kind of shine than Brasso but work in much the same way: an fine abrasive paste carried in a gelled solvent.

'DuraGlit' is another polish that appears to work on most metals commonly found in the cavalry world. One difference is that it comes impregnated into cotton waste so finding an application cloth isn't as important.

Hate to say it, but...there don't seem to be any magical 'spray on/wipe off' products that work better than *ye auld elbowe grease*, along with a simple cleaning compound.

The secret is to do your brightwork BEFORE you clean your leather. The leftovers of metal polishes are easily removed during the latter process.

And here's another newsflash: according to our sad-

Continued on P. 35

Rimfire cartridges

Rimfire cartridges of the time were essentially low pressure, low-velocity, black powder propelled rounds that the relatively-weak action of the '66 Winchester could safely

Continued on P. 21

Dumont from P. 19

handle. The cartridge cases were made of copper, rather than brass, which came later.

The development of the centrefire cartridge created a whole new world of power, range, and accuracy. The thicker brass case allowed greater pressures to be developed, although firearms actions of the time had to be beefed up. The Ballard rifle, illustrated in the Dumont photo on the preceding page, could handle the longer, more potent 'Buffalo' cartridges long before the lever-actions like the Winchesters.

Dumont must have been an excellent horseback shooter to have killed buffalo in the numbers that he did using the underpowered .44 Henry rimfire.

The Ballard

The first of the Ballards were manufactured by the John M. Marlin Co. (New Haven, CT, USA) between 1875 and 1876 and chambered for both rimfire and centrefire calibres. The Marlin Co. is the same one that exists to this day with their ever-popular line of sporting arms.

One of the problems with Dumont being illustrated with a Ballard is, again, involved with determining what his original 'Le Petit' was. Ballards weren't really as well-suited to use from horseback since they were single shot and didn't come in handy horse-length (carbine) barrels, even though they came in considerably more powerful calibres than the '66 Winchester.

Ballard rifles are being exquisitely reproduced today by a company of the same name, located in Cody, WY. They are now available in modern, high-intensity calibres which attests to the strength and durability of the action.

Wild West Show

The Buffalo Bill historical Center, also in Cody, WY, now enters this piece of historical Canadianna.

After having been named the 'Adjutant General of the Metis People' by Louis Riel, Dumont was defeated in a four-day battle near Batoche (SK) by the combined forces of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and the Canadian militia on May 12, 1885. Militia troops were called out from as far away as London, ON, and Toronto, ON, to



enter the fray.

He then fled over the border into the U.S. where, on

**"The old days are dead
and the old men are dying,
and the young ones don't know
what it is to be free."**

Gabriel Dumont, 1885



Only three photos of Gabriel Dumont are known to exist. This is the first time they have all been assembled. Above photo was taken in N. Dakota, U.S.A., in 1886.

Photo Credits: Glenbow Alberta Institute, University of Saskatchewan, Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

May 27, 1885, he was detained by U.S. Cavalry troops. Released on May 29, 1885, after two days in captivity, he was introduced to Buffalo Bill Cody's 'Wild West Show'. In 1886 he accepted their offer to demonstrate his marksmanship by becoming a trouper with the show. He remained with them for two years. According to Juti Winchester, curator of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, few detailed records exist of what he did with the show.

Perhaps the mystery of 'Le Petit' will never be resolved...which makes it perpetually tantalizing for the student of mounted history.

The North American Cavalry Challenge's 'Gabriel Dumont Invitational Rifle Match' is intended to commemorate the life and times of this unique Canadian. □

Great Treasures Found in Classic Books

Nothing is more valuable than a classic book on mounted horsemastership. Long-forgotten, practical knowhow can be found on virtually every page of such classics as Britain's 'Manual of Horsemastership' series which began in the early part of the 1900's and ended with the 1937 edition.

The only problem is finding them, whether originals or reprints. Another problem is that vintage military training or field manuals were never issued in the great numbers that they are today. Until the early 1900's, most mounted troopers were functionally illiterate so manuals (especially those with few illustrations) were largely reserved for training officers who had the benefit of at least some education.

Of course, there are some absolute classics like Xenophon's treatises on the art of horsemastership that have been reprinted many times. Xenophon was the combined Monty Roberts/Pat Parelli of his era in ancient Greece.

The numbers of practical and classic books on mounted horsemastership can be truly overwhelming, even if most of them are available only in museums.

On a recent U.K trip, for example, we spent many hours in the Imperial War Museum's reading room. The best reflection of the range of reading is to quote some of the titles we ran across (but haven't had the time to track down and read in the public sector). You might find something of interest. Furthermore, the list gives an idea of the many cavalry units, techniques and actions experienced by many different nations...and in many languages.

Since the primary form of 'Classic and Modern WARHORSE' is electronic, the presumption must be made that many readers are computer-literate and therefore able to access web-related sites such as Amazon.com and eBay. We will examine these opportunities in upcoming issues. 'Classic' doesn't mean it can't be modern!□

A Random Sampling of Books Listed by the Imperial War Museum

Hunt, James "Charge to Glory!. A garland of cavalry exploits". London. Heinemann, 1960, 265 pp, plates, ill. IWM Main Classification: 02(41).51/1

British Regular Cavalry 1644-1914/Leonard Cooper, London, Chapman and Hall, 1965, 216 pp. IWM Main Classification: 02(41).51/2

Benary, O., Lt. "Der Kavallerist - Handbuch von Selbstunterricht und ausbildung"D. und von Bleucher, Maj. im 6. Ritter Regiment. IWM Main Classification: 04(43):02.551/4.

Keleman, Pal. "Hussar's Picture Book From the Diary of a Hungarian Cavalry Officer in WW1". Pal Keleman, Bloomington, IN University Press, 208pp. IWM Main Classification: 23(=439.1)/3.

Monsenergue (Col.). "Cavalry Tactical Schemes - series of practical exercises for cavalry troops". Transl. Spiers. Introduction by Brig. Gen. H. de la P. Gough. IWM Main Classification: 00.751/2(=44).

Childers, Erskine. "German Influence on British Cavalry". London: Edward Arnold 1911-. IWM Main Classification: 00.751/2(=41).

Wimgels, Alexis. "The End of Chivalry - The Last Great Cavalry Battle 1914-1918". N.Y, Hippocrene Books, 1982. ISBN 0-436-58200-7. IWM Main Classification: 01/3(4-11).0651.

Miegel, Hartmut. "Bei der Kavallerie 1942 bis 1945". H. Miegel, Herford. E.S. Mittler 1988. ISBN 3-8132.

Yorkshire Hussars. "Notes on Care of Uniform, Equipment, and Saddlery". Yorkshire. Herald Printing, 1936.

Denison, George, T. "History of Cavalry From the Earliest Times". London. MacMillan, 1913, 468pp. First edition 1877. IWM Main Classification: 02(1).51/1.

U.S. Army Cavalry School. "Cavalry Combat/The Cavalry School, U.S. Army". U.S. Cavalry Association, 1937. 512pp. IWM Main Classification: 04(73):02.551/1.

Rifleman (Pseudonym). "A Question of Mounted Infantry/ by a Rifleman". London. Hugh Roes, printer, 1909. 94pp. IWM Main Classification: 00.751/2(=41).

Anglesly, George Charles Henry Victor Paget VII. "A History of the British Cavalry 1816-1919", [4 Vols.], London. Leo Cooper 1994-1997. ISBN 0-85-052-395-8. IWM Main Classification: 02(41).51/3.

Chappel, Mike. "British Cavalry Equipments 1800-1941". Osprey 1983 (1986 printing). ISBN 0-8045-479-4. IWM Main Classification: 06(41):02.6/1

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After almost 2000 years, it's as close to original as you can get!

At 12 aimed arrows per minute - forwards, sideways, and rearwards, all from horseback- the Hun and Mongol mounted archers were a force to be reckoned with, having conquered much of the known world in their time under the leadership of the Khans.

Horses and Courses

He's a strange looking duck, if you judge by his promotional photograph: A very Magyar-looking character with black painted stripes under his eyes resembling First Nations warpaint. But his research and dedication to the sport of horseback archery aren't strange. Kassai Lajos has meticulously researched ancient Hun and Mongol mounted archery techniques and weapons, has reproduced the bows for sale, and conducts regular clinics in his native Hungary to teach these ancient arts. He's broadening his horizons to the extent of planning North American clinics.

Mongols: A Brief History Lesson

If you had a sense of humour, you could have called the Mongol invasions of Europe the 'Hegemony of

the Khan Imperial Company'. Pere Ogdai, descendants Mangu, Hulagu, Kublai, then many of his progeny, all laid waste and conquered by force of arms many of the civilized areas of eastern Europe and the Middle East during the 11th and 12th centuries. During this time they managed to impregnate literally thousands of women. Today, DNA testing has pointed to tens of thousands of lineal descendants, attesting to the fertile prowess of these ancient horsemen. Of course, that's if you don't take into account their murder of many able-bodied men or the rape of many of their women.

In the sobering light of hindsight, you could say that the Khans were the Hitlers of their time. The Mongol horses and troops embodied the idea of 'Blitzkrieg'. Their rapacious decimation of all they overran could be called a 'Scorched Earth' policy, only in reverse. To inject at least one humorous note into an otherwise-dark history, it pays to remember the old Hungarian adage:

"The only problem with Hungarian history is that it's so hard to *predict!*"

The Scythian Bow

The principal tool of the Mongol and Hun horseman was his bow. This recurved bow consisted of a wood and sinew laminate with an unknown draw weight. The arrows were tipped with a trefoil-pattern blade.

In today's context, it's the ancient horseback archer's technique that is the most fascinating and difficult to master, especially if you have any 'con-



Hungarian master horseback archer, Kassai Lajos, has meticulously researched their weapons, tactics, and techniques to provide the next great horseback challenge for devotees of the mounted military arts...

...of Fletched Fire!

ventional' archery experience.

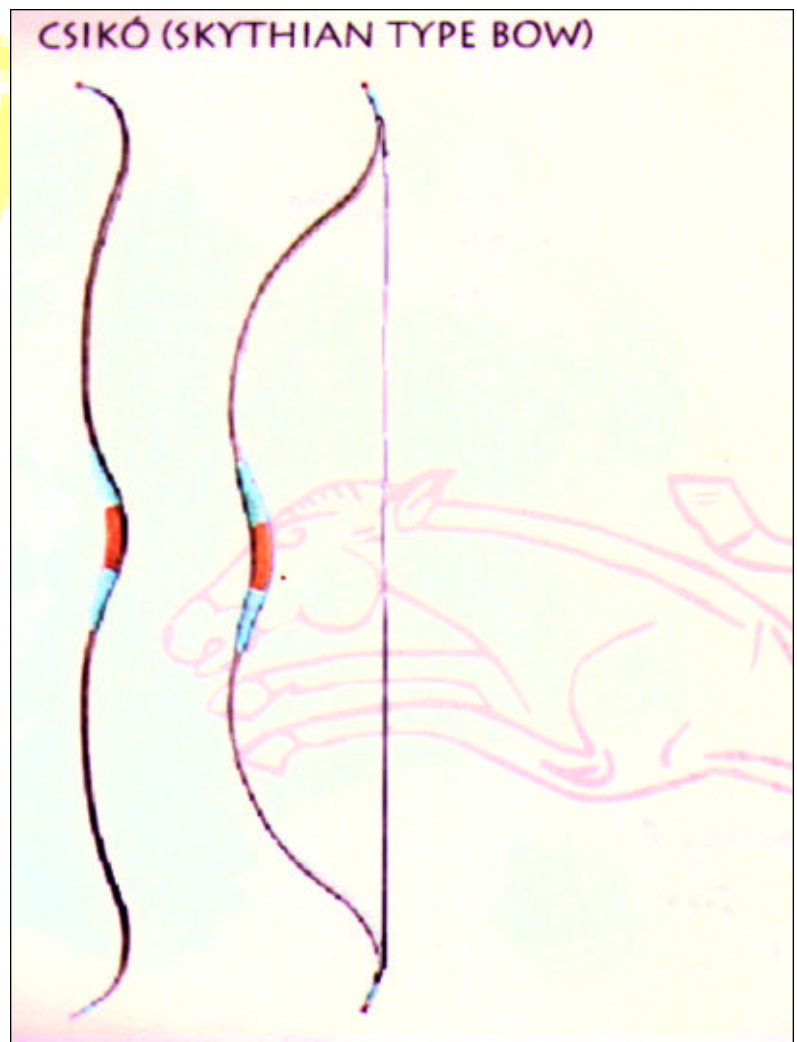
Today's highly-technical compound bows with string silencers, stabilizers, complex sights, etc., make draw weight (the amount of pulling strength you have to have to bring the bowstring back to full length) less of an issue for the feeble among us. So the roughly 35-pound draw weight of Lajos' Scythian-pattern bow isn't really a problem. What is unusual is the design, deployment, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of these classic bows, as compared to today's bows.

The Scythian bow is truly a horseman's bow. It has one limb that is marginally shorter than its mate. This allows the bow to be swept over the horse's body more easily, thus allowing faster engagement from virtually any position you would care to name. It does not feature an arrow ledge.

Discharging the Scythian bow is where the knack really comes in.

Unlike today's archery conventions, the string is not drawn up to a consistent anchor point somewhere on the archer's face. Rather, the bow is drawn and released, more-or-less, from the midpoint of the archer's body. Additionally, the string/arrow hand is literally 'thrown away' upon release, unlike current practices which dictate that the release is completely stable and never-changing.

Additionally, up to 12 arrows are held in the bow hand and are knocked on the string *through* the space between string and limb. An experienced archer could fire all 12 arrows within the space of a minute...from a moving horse.



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HOTCHKISS MOUNTED OPERATIONS 1909-STYLE: PACKING THE MACHINE RIFLE

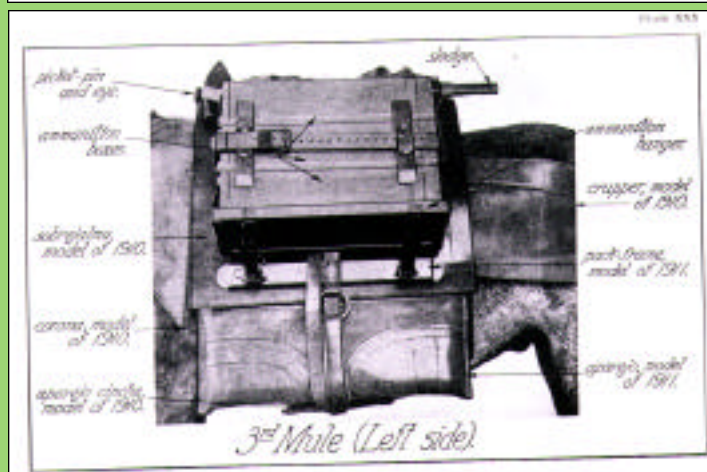
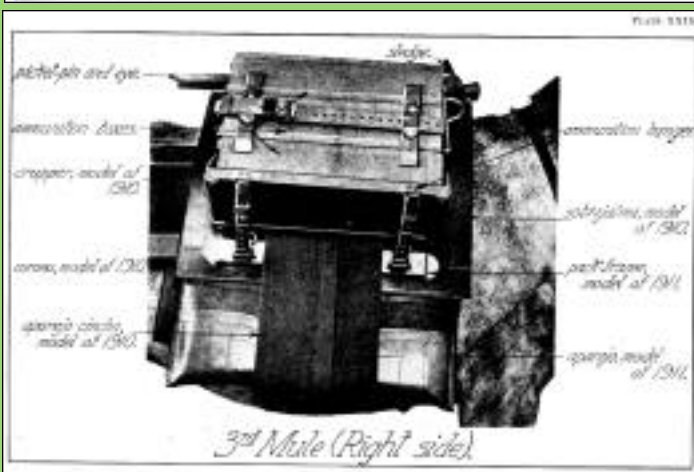
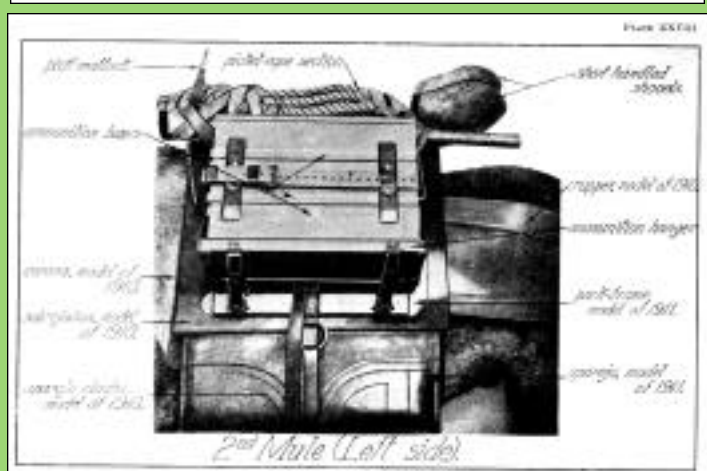
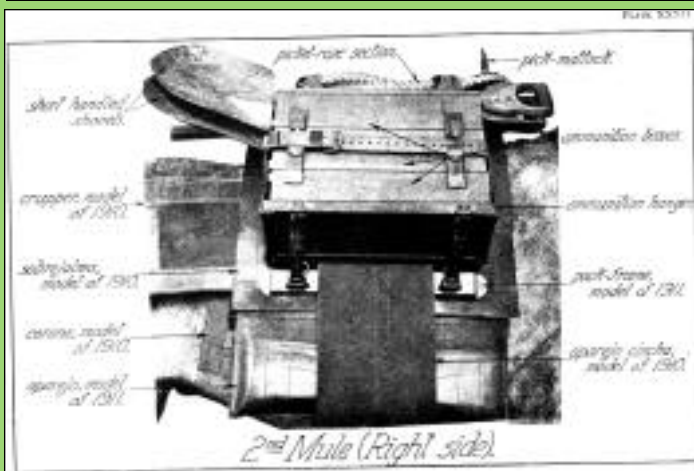
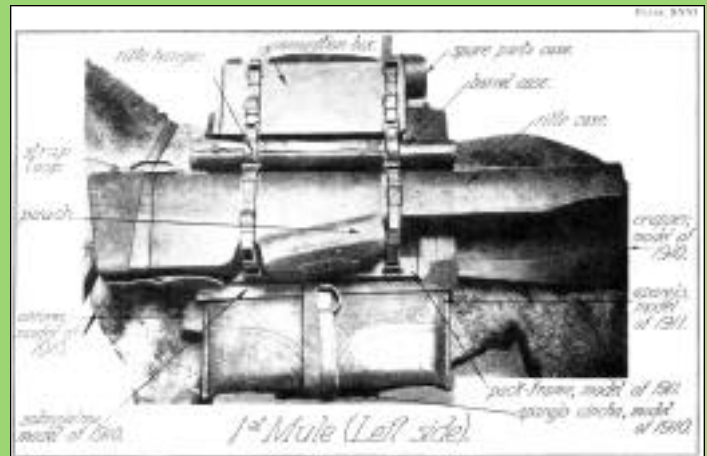
Methods of Packing

A stunning number of appurtenances were required to transport all the necessaries required for maintaining and employing the Hotchkiss in the field. In fact, transporting the Hotchkiss required three pack animals!

The manual goes into dozens of pages that outline what was needed: everything from basic blacksmithing sup-

plies for the pack animals, pack saddles and panniers, to spare parts and ammunition for the gun itself. It was a major effort to carry this weapon into battle. Roughly the same, incidentally, that was required to transport medium and heavy machineguns of the time.

Oddly enough, the manual is mute on the training of these animals to withstand the sounds of automatic weapons fire nearby. But that must be another book for another time! □



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Killer Dressage



Piaffe. Passage. Airs-Above-the-Ground. Levade.

by Ron Smith, U.S. Cavalry Association

Dressage today has experienced many changes since its initial development, although the style aspects are subjective and part of a never-ending debate. Classical-style fans employ methods based on the writings of masters like Pluvinel, Weyerother, Gueniere, and so on. Dressage-Sportif fans have a more modernistic approach based on shortcuts and less artistic expressions than the classical crowd.

While Dressage today is considered a hobby/sport for enthusiasts of higher level equestrian goals, or as simply a Olympic endeavor, in reality it is the echo of a past military option that no longer has application in battle tactics. But one thing is certain, the reason for Dressage was first and foremost for mounted battle.

Xenophon is Internationally recognized as the father of Dressage in its principles as we understand it. His ideas and understanding were translated into training techniques that were improved for millennia. However, as the Roman Empire fell into decline and finally disappeared, Dressage also suffered that fate for many centuries.

Not until about the 1650s did Dressage re-enter the military & civilian equestrian world. As Europe climbed out of the Dark Ages and art flowered once again in many forms, so did the growth of nations and the tensions of an ever-expanding society. These tensions naturally resulted in the various nations of Europe creating Armies of great numbers, and mounted forces were a vast part of these numbers.

THE HORSE AS A WEAPON



Not exactly 'Cavalry To The Rescue' but certainly worthy of mention in despatches!

The tactics of the day were linear and this was partly due to the development of the firearm, but that was more related to infantry. Around 2500 BC, the Sumerians began using horses in battle. Little is known of their techniques so even educated guesses are risky at best. Then, sometime between 2500 BC and 890 BC, Simon developed the basis of dressage which was later expanded upon by Xenophon. But prior to Xenophon -and after Simon- around 890 B.C, the Assyrians developed a specialized cavalry force when Tukulti Ninurta II ruled them. Cyrus the Great began developing the Persian Cavalry around 560 BC, and saw much success in the tactics and skills of his mounted forces.

Later, around 450 BC, Xenophon (Zen-O-Phon), the mercenary General to the Romans, established a systematic method of training mounted warriors on the principles of dressage as primarily dictated by Simon centuries earlier. This led to an improved performance on the battlefield, which meant greater success for the Legions employing

mounted (Turma) troops.

antry than mounted forces. Cavalry then as well know considered the Saber and/or Lance as the primary weapon of the horse soldier. Firearms when used by mounted troops were seldom-fired en-masse from horseback until the U.S. Civil War. The norm for Cavalry when charging was dependent on the shock action of horse troops arriving at the battle point, boot to boot.

In order to do this, training of horses and men had to develop an instinctive ability of all troops and horses to act as one. The only effective method to accomplish this goal is Dressage. Which results as follows;

The concept of Dressage in relation to Cavalry concerns teaching troops:

TEMPO

INTERVALS

DISTANCE

And the results determined:

2005: Changing Times

Women Rounding Out The Troops

Somehow, the idea of thundering hooves and flashing swords does not evoke visions of martial women but, in some modern cavalry units at any rate, it is a fact.

Women have become a valuable resource to outfits such as the Governor General's Horse Guards of Canada, Cavalry Squadron (GGHG C/S) and Calgary (Alberta)'s Lord Strathcona Horse Troop.

Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) has not met with much success recruiting from the 450-strong ranks of the Regiment. The Troop is not funded by the Department of National Defence, or the Regiment, therefore 'official' interest is minimal.

According to CW4 Richard Dyk, Officer in Command (OC) of the U.S. Army Reserve (Michigan) 'Blue Devils Horse Platoon', about 50 percent of

male/female ratio is currently between 15 and 20 percent.

Female mounted police officers must decide the career consequences of service with the Mounted Unit every bit as much as their male counterparts. While they have to be fully-qualified police officers with years of experience before joining the Mounted Unit, the unit is seen as more of a benign policing exercise than actual 'crime fighting'.



Above: Orders Given. Sgt. Laurie Blake instructs her demonstration section (four riders) of cavalry troopers. Female troopers show better horsemanship skills but are not as adroit with military skills.



Top Right: In more traditional fashion, the male OIC addresses mixed male and female troops during official function in Toronto, Canada.

Right: It is difficult to tell male from female with correct uniform worn. Being on-guard is this trooper's task. Male or female?



The GGHG C/S male-female rider ratio is significant, " (reaching 80, even 90 percent) on some of our demo rides", Blake said. Female troopers are dedicated and loyal. Their horse skills are unquestionable. Their military skills are adequate for the task at hand.

Lt. Jason Martin, OIC of the Lord Strathcona Mounted Troop, said they have a very low female component so the issue has not come to the fore in much as with other units. The

their riders are female. He said the unit has found them to be 'better horse riders than general'. They have found that male troopers generally have better military skills, something that is reflected in the experience of the GGHG C/S.

Sgt. Jim Patterson, Training Officer for the Metro Toronto Police force's Mounted Unit, says the unit's

Women Continued on P. 40

DRÉSSAGE IS THE METHOD TO HELP CAVALRY GAIN EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN BATTLE FORMATIONS IN WHICH, AS A CLOSE PHALANX, IT HAS TO APPROACH THE ENEMY

This training was almost universal throughout the riding halls and military riding schools of Europe. Naturally there were some variances from riding master to riding master as well as progress through time caused changes in tactics and training.

A brief synopsis of the period's approaches can assist the reader in understanding how tactical training changed.

In the early 15th century ñ Grisone revives Xenophon's methods, but he is too harsh in application

Pignatelli / Naples Riding Academy Director and student of Grisone has impact on Pluvinel who later became riding master to Louis XIII. Pluvinel wrote *Manage du Roi* in 1623 (highly ridiculed for a time)

Pluvinel's book killed the theories of the "Duke of Newcastle" published in 1657 as well as "George Englehart von Lohneyson's" book from 1588

18th century ñ France is leading influence on the art of riding "Francois Robichon de la Gueriniere" produced the most profound book on classical riding in history to date.

French revolution saw end of the great schools and the loss of de la Gueriniere's teachings. Spanish Riding School has maintained his style since inception.

19th century Max Ritter von Weyrother SRS director in early 1800's was the influence to return de la Gueriniere's methods to application. Weyrother had influence all over Europe especially in Germany where future military trainers and Ritt Masters Seidler, Seeger, and Oyenhausen were devoted followers.

The ability to perform High School maneuvers by rank and file troopers is often over rated. Movements such as the Levade, Capriole, Courbette, were elements developed to allow the mounted soldier to defend against Infantry. But then as now developing those skills in the horse were time consuming and expensive. For the rider to have those skills and balance necessary to successfully ride a horse capable of such moves required long periods of training under highly skilled masters. To perform those movements under the stresses of the battlefield required an exceptional mount and very skilled and calm rider. Not that there were not soldiers

capable of achieving such skills and many horses in the Squadrons could be brought to that level, the time allotted for training both man and horse was not available in the lower ranks.

The rank and file horse soldiers throughout Europe were trained in many elements of soldiering, horsemanship and horsemastership. The actual riding skills taught varied by Army doctrine and the trainers but the principle movements did not.

As mentioned earlier linear battle tactics were used throughout all of the Armies and branches. In many periods the Squadron usually consisted of a 60 file ranks. (A file representing 1 soldier) and could run as deep as 10 ranks. This depended upon time period & Command attitudes, which changed tactics periodically.

When advancing in multiple ranks or expanded fronts it was imperative that troops all move at the same gait rate and maintain the ability to make lateral movements as required to keep the integrity of the line. Failure to do so meant a break in the line, a flank guide becoming behind the movement or worse creating a hole by excessive Interval.

Lateral movements such as the Side Pass, which is a basic skill adapted by the most novice rider, had multiple uses. When used by an individual soldier this movement was adaptable to offensive and/or defensive maneuvers when engaged in saber/sword combat against an adversary. When used in formation application it allowed for lateral movement/s, maintaining alignment by shifting the troop body to the right or left. It also allowed the individual trooper to adjust his Interval as needed.

One of the more critical individual movements that had numerous effects on troop movement, drill effectiveness was the Volte (10-meter circle) and the 20-meter circle by the individual trooper and the Wheel by the Section, Platoon or Squadron. Wheel movements are/were a critical element of changing direction w/o changing the Squadron formation. The ability of the rider at the Pivot position is one of the key factors in allowing the evolution to be executed properly.

The Wheel when executed properly allows for the line/front direction to be changed without sacrificing unit integrity. While the ability to perform a 10-20 meter turn is an essential function to the movement, many other individual skills such as half halts, laterals, flexion, lengthening/retarding of stride or gait tempo change are required to allow the movement to be completed successfully. Cont'd on P. 38

Britch! Britch! Britch!

Once more into your breeches, dear friend?

Here is what you should know before sliding into that quintessential piece of attire: the riding breech... breek... britches.. jodhs... whatever...

First, the word needs to be clarified. Whether you call them 'britches (USA); 'breeches' or 'breeks' (Commonwealth); 'Jodhs (after jodhpurs in the U.K.), or plain 'riding pants' (early USA), they're essentially all the same in purpose. They are riding pants that give the mounted trooper a comfortable, purpose-developed-and-built piece of 'seamless' riding attire - seamless to the extent that the inside 'seam' will not chafe the rider's calf during long marches.

Blue jeans, long considered to be the correct attire for the civilian western rider, were usually worn underneath chaps...which should give some hint as to their suitability on a long ride without the chaps. While some blue jean companies modified their inside seam so it wouldn't chafe, still a fact today, the relative tightness and inflexibility of the cotton/canvas fabric made mounting tall horses, while heavily laden with personal kit, a difficult proposition. Eventually, the professional rider in blue jean country adopted 'riding pants'. These incorporate some of the ideas of what eventually became britches.

Meanwhile, elasticized fabrics had yet to be developed when the basic idea of britches took hold. These were pants that were ballooned at the hips and thigh, yet tight from the knees down. They resembled elephant's ears in many ways.

Although shrouded by the mists of time, the history of the modern riding pant is very much form-and-function. They defined the riding 'gentleman' of the period and eventually defined the practical function we enjoy today.

In a 1953 British book ('Clothes and the Horse', Barney, Sydney, D. Regent St., London W.1), kindly provided by contemporary British photographer John Minoprio, the development of the riding pant was described like this:

"Every garment worn for riding, unlike clothes for other sports, is specially made for its singular purpose. A pair of breeches, for example, have to be measured and fitted so that they provide the ideal garment to be worn in the saddle astride the horse. The specialist tailor knows that few people have two legs with identical measurements - usually one calf and knee have been developed more than the other. He knows, too, that the greatest attention must



Trick Q: OK...so who has the fat butt?

Real A: Neither. Both britches are worn by the same trooper

Continued on P. 42

Continued from P. 20

Weapons

Thankfully, there's no need for the modern cavalry trooper to keep his/her B/S sword, sabre, or lance, combat sharp. So we don't need to worry



about sharpening equipment. Keeping cold steel presentable is another matter.

Personal ordnance used to be kept presentable with the regular use of brick dust and sperm whale oil. Whether it was a .69 Cal. Tower flintlock



pistol or a .450Cal. Martini-Henry breechloading rifle, the combination worked well. Unfortunately, today, sperm whale oil is not politically-correct and brick dust is hard to come by.

Keeping cold steel looking like it means business can be accomplished by remembering the foregoing brightwork philosophy: You have got to use cleaners that will lightly abrade the metal, carry the abrasion and oxides away with a solvent, and leave an impermeable finish on the metal to prevent further oxidation...in the short run. Long run? You have to keep on doing it but the patina of TLC can't be faked. One of our favourites for keeping steel blades, chrome, and nickel polished is 'Solvul Autosol'. As mentioned bpreviously, it comes in a tube and resembles tooth-paste.

There is no such thing as the 'perfect', 'easy', tack or metal finish. All of them require a considerable degree of elbow grease to accomplish the task to the satisfaction of your senior N.C.O., if not yours.

Spitpolish on Leather

England's Household Cavalry is very keen on B/S soldiering. They have elevated it to an artform.

One timesaver we learned about when spending time with them was the art of the spitpolish on leather, whether riding boots or harness. Their kit is so brilliantly shined that you would swear it was patent leather.

Continued on P. 40



It began with boots.
Very big boots
that went all the
way up to your thighs.
(Riding a horse for business was
never supposed to be easy.)
Then they invented britches.
From this point onwards, the
utility of this piece of
clothing went from the
fashionable to the practical.



**WARHORSE COLUMN
SHIT ON A SHINGLE**
with Chef Guy

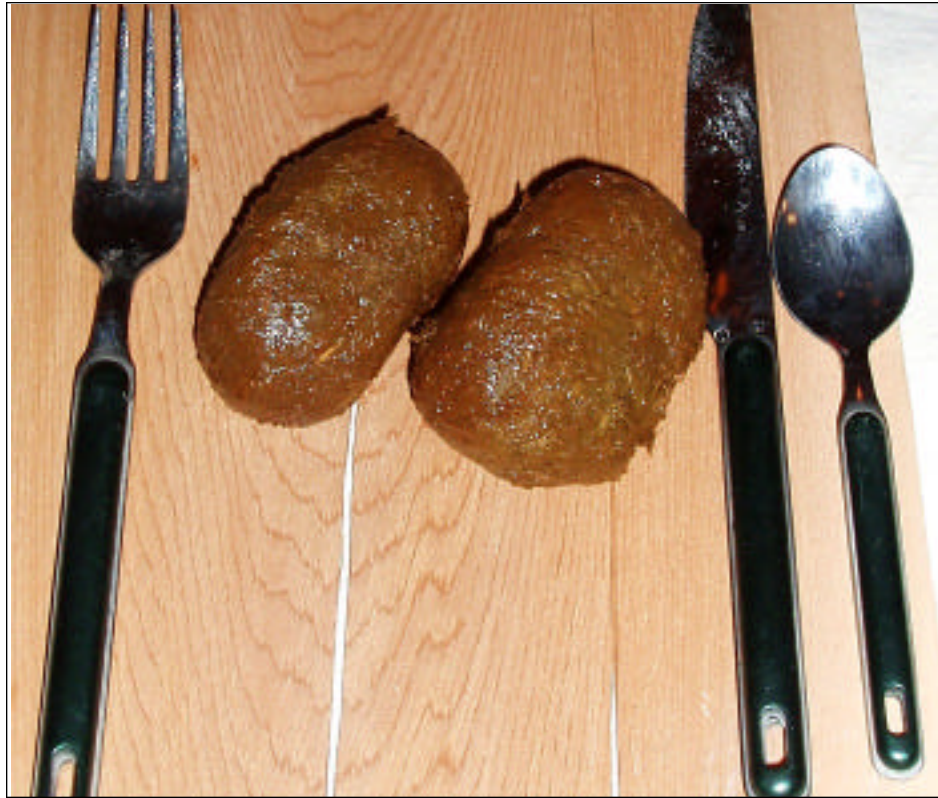
Bon Appetit!

Some musings on early rations and how a *real* mounted trooper would deal with the subject of food.

Napoleon was said to have recognized the fact first: An army travels on its stomach. Long before starvation sets in, insufficient rations lead to many short term problems, the primary of which include reduced fighting capabilities, not to speak of morale.

Early North American Individual Food Rations

According to a January, 1949, Conference Note for the U.S. Quartermaster-General, the first individual food rations for North American troops was codified on 4 November, 1775. The ration consisted of the following, and is illustrated in contemporary terms to the right and below. (Ed. Note: 16 ozs. milk not included in this photo.)



Candle ration was increased in 1765 from .0686 Oz. to .24 Oz., as was the soap ration. Depending on the type of candle (tallow being the most common). In our experiments, they burned for about 1 3/4 hours. The later soap issue is in the background.



Changes to the US Continental Army individual ration between the 1775 and 1785 standards included: In the 1785 issue, salt was introduced (above photo with beef ration); spruce beer and milk were replaced by a gill of rum and a gill of vinegar (four ounces of each); peas and rice were removed; candle and soap allotments were increased, as was the basic beef allotment. Coffee and sugar were introduced in 1832, almost 40 years later. Spices were introduced much after that.



.0686 oz. candle.

- 16 of. beef
- 18 oz. flour
- 16 oz. milk
- 1 qt. spruce beer
- 6.8 oz. peas
- 1.4 oz. rice
- .1830 oz. soap

1785 Ration

Only ten years after the first rations were approved, they changed them. Gone were the dried peas, milk, rice, and spruce beer.

Instead, troops now had more beef; the same amount of flour; more soap, candle wax, and the booze-ration was changed, eliminating the spruce beer and milk. Those were replaced with:

- 1 gill rum (4 Oz.), 150-proof
- 1 gill vinegar.

Why a gill of vinegar was included is anyone's guess. Rum is always useful.

The Here and Now

There were many acrimonious debates here when discussing how troopers would have used their individual allotments at the time. Initial discussion centred around the idea of a mess where all troopers had their allotments delivered and meals were prepared. The decision was made to restrict the discussion to light mounted-unit/reconnaissance operations using the below scenario. i.e. They had to carry their allotments with them on horseback patrol because there were no cook facilities following them. **Continued on P. 40**

Continental Army Fare: A Gourmand's Appreciation

If at least one trooper has a culinary imagination, some interesting -albeit limited- recipes come to mind based on the 1775 and 1785 Continental Army rations. If another trooper was at home in the outdoors, the potential for foraged wild foodstuffs like onion, leek, wild garlic, etc. would make the menu more palatable. These recipes might be a bit basic but the reader will get a better idea of the ration realities of the times.

Recipe 1: Sliced beef au jus with steamed rice and peas

(CAUTION: Do not attempt to prepare or serve horse (or any other kind of) droppings as illustrated above, left.)

- Thinly slice the (probably frozen) individual daily ration of beef and dredge pieces in flour.
- Soak peas in cold water to soften in advance.
- Wash rice with cold water, then set aside.
- Pre-heat a cast-iron cook surface or grill.
- Prepare rice in a heatproof container using a 2:1 ratio of water to rice. Bring water to a boil, add rice, allow to simmer for approx. 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Add softened peas to rice halfway through the cooking process, while there is still water visible.
- Fry the coated beef slices until evenly browned.
- Deglaze the pan with spruce beer, allowing the jus to reduce to the desired consistency.
- Serve with jus added to rice/pea mixture and beef.

Recipe 2: Roast beef with dumplings

- Cook whole individual ration of beef to desired done-ness in a closed container and set aside all juices. Add spruce beer and reduce.
- Using flour ration, moisten with sufficient water and juices until it resembles a coarse meal. With fingers, work the meal until gluten strands develop. Set aside.
- Prepare boiling water. Make small balls of flour dough and add to boiling water. Cook until firm.
- Serve beef and dumplings using reduced juices and spruce beer on top.□

Ration-ale:**Continued from P. 39**

As for the horses? Again, using the below scenario, we can figure we will carry concentrated horse rations in the form of grain. Because they're fat and lazy from the winter layoff we can let them forage under the snow for grass when we rest and/or make camp at the halfway point of the trek. Their water can come from under the ice. So the troopers and their mounts have been taken

care of. The real quandry is, "How do you prepare tempting meals from rations that are the same all year long? We'll examine more ration cookery in upcoming issues of Modern Warhorse!□

Spitpolish:**Continued from P. 35**

In recent history, a spitpolish shine was excruciatingly tedious to apply. It consisted of endless applications of black wax shoe polish that, as the expression would indicate, required the judicious application of saliva during the polishing phase. There are many 'secrets' to the process, notably in the type of polishing cloth used for buffing. One consistent cloth type always mentioned by troops -old and young- is a pair of used women's nylon 'Panty Hose' employed for the final polish.

How the Household Cavalry do it today is to use a combination of hard work, polishes, and (the secret ingredient) hot beeswax.

Using a small propane torch, they melt a small amount of beeswax onto the pre-warmed surface of the leather and wipe the excess away before it cools. Then the surface is polished using that old pair of women's pantyhose, adding the appropriate colour of shoe polish over the surface of the beeswax, then polish for the finishing touches.□

Training:**Continued from P. 10**

So it's a double-edged sword for many units. Experienced riders need to be re-trained in the art of military riding. Inexperienced riders can be trained to military standards but don't necessarily happily submit to being ordered by non-commissioned or commissioned officers.

Since the R.C.M.P. are still considered to be amongst the world's pre-eminent mounted troops, Sgt./Maj. Stewart's experiences are worthy of quoting.

He said that he must take headquarters' choices where experience is not requisite.

"We have some (intake riders) with quite a lot of background which helps (in their ultimate training and performance).

"Then again, some of our riders have never handled a horse (before) and have gone all the way through (to become truly competent riders)."

Historically, cavalry troops were selected on the basis of no experience. And, they had no choice in the matter. Today, budgets and a declining cadre of people interested in mastering the art of military horsemastership are the overriding concern. Most cavalry units have subsistence funding that barely keeps the horses fed, not to mention training, transport, and the usual requirements faced by the modern ceremonial cavalry unit no longer fully supported by governmental agencies.

Women**Continued from from Page 34**

Sgt. Patterson said that he expects the gender ratio of the unit to 50/50 within the next 20 years.

Sergeant/Major Bill Stewart, NCOIC of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) Mounted Unit, said that gender is a non-issue. Currently, the Musical Ride troop has xx-memo riders, of which xx-memo are female. His observations reflect those of Metro's Jim Patterson. There's not much policing going on with the mounted-end of operations. The RCMP's Mounted Section is funded by their federal organization.

Special Considerations

Gender-related issues, such as various bodily functions, are handled by the Blue Devils with their luxury horse transport that features living accommodations...including washroom facilities.

The Guards do not have the same option: female troopers are obliged to seek appropriate solutions or to make use of the horse trailers, with appropriate guarantees of privacy.

Metro Mounted's female troops are covered by all applicable (mandated) labour and workplace environment regulations, as are members of the RCMP Mounted troop.

In conclusion, it must be said that there are no 'givens' in the role of women in mounted units. Most professional acknowledge that their impact will grow with time.□

The question becomes how do you encourage non-horsemen to become horsemen with these consistently declining levels of support?

In the case of Michigan's Blue Devils, they have the whole U.S. military machine from which to draw.

Toronto Police's Mounted Unit relies on word-of-mouth and Routine Orders to recruit new riders. The major problem, according to Sgt. Patterson, is that riders with the unit "face a huge (time) commitment" which may deviate them from other career paths in law enforcement. Riding with the mounted unit is more "of an exercise in public relations than crime fighting", he said.

As always, there are no simple solutions to recruiting and retaining troopers, whether experienced or inexperienced, in the new millenia. It is largely a matter of the individual units' resources; intellectually, monetarily, individually, and jointly. Just like real cavalry troops!□



Britch! Britch! Britch!
Continued From P. 34

be paid to the left knee which takes an enormous strain when the leg is raised to put the foot into the stirrup-iron when mounting. Then there is the stride when the right leg is thrown over the saddle, yet this expanse of material, so necessary to cover the maximum stretch, must be cut so that there is no surplus fullness to cause rubbing and wear or soreness on the limbs when seated and riding. Neither must there be unusual bagginess in the knees which take the strain the whole time the breeches are worn. Moreover, he must be an expert in his choice of suitable materials to offer riders of both sexes and differing ages and for changing seasons and climates in all parts of the world. The materials are made to stand up to the roughest usage, they must be showerproof and look and remain serviceable after constant cleaning. The tailoring, too, has to meet all those requirements. Therefore the cutting and stitching must be expertly carried out by craftsmen whose experience has been concentrated on breeches making."

Many cavalry and military breeches were constructed from heavy weight materials, including merino wool (scratchy and hot!), cotton denim/canvas, and a corduroy-type fabric called 'whipcord'. This was the period during which British tailors first made their mark on the fashion world. They worked with the finest (100 weft/100 warp per inch) fabrics in the civilized world, although that was not always the case to this point.

1860's-vintage military riding pants didn't seem to

have anything noteworthy in their design but, obviously, they worked. Presumably, up until that time, mounted troops wore thigh-length leather boots, a quaint practice still in use today by Britain's Household Cavalry. (Walking in these boots closely resembles the gait shown by modern downhill skiers when in the lodge.)

Today's 'high priced' britches are less of a fashion statement than reflective of the quality of materials and workmanship that goes into them. Entry-level breeches are generally manufactured in developing countries where labour and textile costs are lower. Brands such as Germany's 'Pikeur' are costlier because of high quality microfibre materials and the higher cost of labour in Europe.

Overall, the mounted trooper that can get away with wearing commercial (as opposed to military) breeches while performing his/her tasks is fortunate, indeed! They are infinitely more comfortable, flexible, and durable than their military predecessors. Sometimes progress can be downright comfortable!□

Tentpegging: Some Basic Rules and Regulations

Having gained 'official' recognition, the sport of tentpegging is governed by FEI Regulations (Chapter 7, Article 143). Some countries have developed their own regulations which are outside the purview of FEI. The sport uses lances and swords as the principal tools.

Lance Standards

Lances used for tentpegging are to be a minimum length of 2.5M and a maximum length of 2.75M (9 Ft.) and having a smooth metal point with no serrations or edges. The British Pattern 1858 lance with fullered blade is acceptable.

Sword Standards

No differentiation is made between swords and sabres. Regardless, *blade* length is mandated to be a minimum of 81 cm. and a maximum of 90 cm. with an overall

maximum length of 110 cm. The British Pattern of 1908 'Pointing' sword is acceptable and it stands to reason that contemporary US and European swords will qualify.

Target Standards

Standard targets are to be pegs measuring 30 cm. x 2.5 cm. x 6 cm.. Depending on competition, the pegs may be reduced in size to four and three centimetres.

Construction of the pegs is to be of a fibrous material or cardboard; painted white, and wrapped top and bottom with wire, or acceptable equivalent. American tentpeggers use 1"x4" pine stakes of the appropriate dimensions.

The pegs are to be grounded at an angle of 60 degrees with 17 cm. of the peg being aboveground.

Original British-type tentpegs were constructed on oak and had

round wrought-iron bands shrunk onto the top with chisel-shaped wrought iron tips fastened to the base. They had an eight-inch shank of spliced hemp or manilla rope around their neck.

Arena Standards

Arenas resemble 'alleys' in that they are parallel to one another. Depending on the competition, they are to be a maximum of 200 metres in length, minimum 130 metres in length.

Approximate competitive speeds

'Winning' speeds tend to be between 700 to 800 metres per minute. This translates to 41 feet-per-second (fps), or approximately 25 miles-per-hour (40 kilometres-per-hour) based on the norm of 88 fps being 60 miles-per-hour.□

DISPATCHES'

WORLD CAVALRY REPORT

U.S. Tentpegging organization formed

Tentpegging, the equestrian sport based on precision lance and sword work, has achieved 'official' status in the U.S. and is now governed by world-class rules through the



International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

The sport, based on traditional techniques of collapsing enemy encampments' tents by pulling out their stakes using lance and sword from horseback, has been mastered by many international cavalry outfits. The best to date include troopers from England, S. Africa, Israel, and Pakistan.

The U.S. Tentpegging Association (USTPA) can be found online.

The sport has been in existence for many years. Continuing interest from military, law-enforcement, and civilian riders has resulted in codification of the Rules of Engagement. □

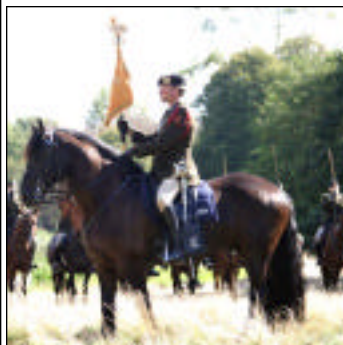
North American International Military Horse Show announced for Melbourne, FLA., September 2005

The U.S. Cavalry Association, a non-governmental organization, has announced initial details of the North American International Military Horse Show.

The show is to be held in Melbourne, FLA, USA, in September 2005 and is expected to draw competitors from as far away as Israel and South Africa. □

Communications needed between mounted units

Keeping tabs with various cavalry and law-enforcement units around the world appears to be a difficult proposition, despite major advances in communications mediae, such as the Internet. Nonetheless, what a wonderful opportunity for cross-pollination. What



kinds of tack, weapons, and equipment are used by our colleagues. Our rich histories. What challenges we all face in trying to maintain a dying art. How our units deal with a total lack of funding; with recruitment and retention, and how we train. All topics worthy of a forum.

This is an invitation for just that: Classic and Modern Warhorse is intended to be a communications medium that brings us together. We would very much appreciate hearing from both 'official' and 'recreationist' mounted units worldwide.

Our email address is:

tdentay@netrover.com

Telephone/FAX (Canada code):
905 473 2550

We would enjoy hearing from you! □

Riding the Winds of New Technology

Military horses and all their appurtenances: so how did we do? This premier issue of Classic and Modern Warhorse was an experimental run-through to develop design format and content. It will constantly improve as the process becomes more streamlined.

As an official 'program guide'

This periodical has been designed with a number of business factors in mind. Principally, it is intended to be a consumer and enthusiast's periodical positioned on the leading edge of electronic document technology so that it can deliver timely, yet extremely flexible materials on an exceptionally cost-effective basis. i.e. Conventional full-colour hard copies of Classic and Modern Warhorse will be limited to the minimum necessary for each. Full e-editions will be available online and on CD-ROM (which will be marketed internationally for Point of Sale in relevant markets). This does not mean that Classic and Modern Warhorse will be an 'E-Zine' as is understood today. The emphasis is on cost-effective, flexible delivery rather than spending large sums to publish a periodical that, if unsold, represents a waste of said funds.

Two major military horse events have been planned for the next year: The North American International Military Horse Show, set for September, 2005, in Melbourne, Florida, USA, and, the North American Cavalry Challenge, set for Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in late summer, 2006.

Classic and Modern Warhorse has been designed to fulfil the role of 'official program guide' for both of these events and can be quickly adapted to other unique and/or individual needs.

For Professional and Enthusiast

Modern Warhorse is primarily a professional and enthusiasts' publication. Broadly-speaking, its audience consists of international, professional mounted troops - both military and law enforcement- as well as 'recreationists'; mounted troops that celebrate the living history of bygone military horse units. They devote substantial personal resources in order to maintain these units. For every mounted trooper there are approximately five support troops.

There are no accurate estimates of overall readership numbers at this time. A 'best estimate', taking into account the various groups, is 100,000 readers.

This number of ceremonial mounted units is substantiable if you consider that there are 'official' mounted troops in:

- Australasia (including Australia, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, etc.);
- Europe (the U.K., Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, etc.);
- Africa (South Africa, Kenya, etc.);
- Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Israel, Qatar, etc.
- North America (USA and Canada)
- Central America (Mexico, Costa Rica);
- South America (Columbia, Chile, Argentina)
- Russia and former republics (e.g. Baltic and Balkan states).

A 'best estimate', taking into account the various groups, is 100,000 readers.

'Recreationists' are almost everywhere and field some very impressive units. The most sophisticated units are found in Europe and North America and are meticulous in their accuracy of both equipment and riding skills.

Other professional readers include international mounted law-enforcement units; motion picture, television, and similar industries,

The 'enthusiasts' readership consists of:

- virtual and real-life military hobbyists (computer 'wargamers' and collectors of model troops);
- currently-serving international military troops;
- equestrians of all disciplines;
- international firearms/weapons historians and enthusiasts.

Classic and Modern Warhorse will ride the winds of new technology while celebrating the past.□

**Outside
Back Cover
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