

PRELIMINARY NOTICE SENT TO OFFICERS ATTENDING THE STAFF RIDE.

War Office,
7th July, 1906.

Herewith, and under separate cover:—

One Précis of the campaigns in the Po Valley in 1703—4, 1706, 1799, and 1859.

One set of 11 maps to illustrate the above campaigns.

One General Idea.

One Special Idea.

Field Service Pocket Book.

One skeleton map of the Valley of the Severn.

One general map of the theatre of operations.

One set of four $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to the mile Ordnance Survey Maps.

The scheme set for this Staff Ride is based on the problems which faced the various commanders in the campaigns described in the Précis, more especially the Campaign of 1859.

Please send to Major-General H. D. Hutchinson, C.S.I., Director of Staff Duties, War Office, by 8th August, a concise Appreciation of the Situation, based on the General and Special Ideas.*

Details in regard to hotel accommodation, &c., will be sent in due course. Neither public nor private motors will be used by Officers taking part in this Staff Ride. All the work can easily be done on bicycles. A certain number of signallers and cycle orderlies will be allotted to each Command for the transmission of information and orders in the field.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this communication and documents sent herewith.

(Signed) D. HUTCHINSON,
Director of Staff Duties.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS OF THE DIRECTING STAFFS.

1. Copies of "Composition of Directing Staffs" and "Instructions for Officers Attending" are attached.

2. Officers will assemble not later than 3 p.m., on 3rd September, at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, where arrangements have been made for their accommodation, and will remain there throughout the Ride.

3. Plain clothes will be worn.

4. Officers will be provided with motor cars.

5. The general arrangements for the conduct of the Ride are described in the "Instructions for Officers attending." The arrangements as regards the duties of the Directing Staffs will be as follows:—

Major Hare, attached to Army Head-quarters, Southland, will arrange for the collection of the daily work (including orders) executed by the Officers

* The Commander-in-Chief, Army Corps Commanders, and Commander of the Cavalry, on each side, were also asked to send in their Operation Orders dated 3 p.m., 3rd September.

of the Southland Forces, and will transmit it to Major Stuart-Wortley, who will submit it to Lieut.-General Sir Leslie Rundle for criticism. After the work has been criticised, Major Stuart-Wortley will be responsible for its transmission to the Director, and finally to Major Hare for its return to the Officers of the Southland Forces. Majors Legard and Nairne will make similar arrangements with regard to the work of the Welshland Forces.

6. The Director will issue the daily "Narrative," and will examine all work submitted with a view to selecting points of interest for discussion at a conference to be held at the conclusion of the Ride.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS ATTENDING.

1. The following papers are forwarded herewith:—

- (a.) Table showing the distribution of Officers to the various Head-quarters.
- (b.) List of hotels within the area of operations, showing the accommodation at each.
- (c.) A sealed envelope, not to be opened till 3 p.m., 3rd September.

2. Officers will join, on the 3rd September, 1906, before 3 p.m., at the places where their respective Head-quarters are located, as stated in the Special Idea with which they have already been furnished.

3. Plain clothes will be worn during the Ride. Officers will bring bicycles, and will not be permitted to use motor cars or motor bicycles. They will also bring their own notebooks, and sketching instruments and materials. Envelopes, and white foolscap paper (which must be used for all orders and, as far as possible, for other written work) will be sent to each Officer from the War Office.

4. The Directing Staffs will be at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, throughout the Ride.

5. An Officer of the Directing Staff will be attached to each Army Head-quarters, who will arrange for the collection and transmission, to the Assistant Director, of the work done by Officers each day.

6. The Volunteer Cyclist Orderlies employed on the Ride will be divided into two groups, one group (who will wear a white band on the right arm) will be attached to the Directing Staff for the collection of work, &c. The remainder will be distributed among the various Head-quarters for orderly duties in the field.

7. At 3 p.m. on the 3rd September, each Officer will open the sealed envelope referred to in paragraph 1 (c), which, in the case of subordinate Commanders and their Staff Officers, contains the orders of their immediate superiors for the operations to be carried out on the afternoon of the 3rd September. Based on these orders he will then write the orders for his own command. These orders will be collected at 5 p.m. by cyclists who will be sent out by the Officer of the Directing Staff attached to Army Head-quarters.

8. The sealed envelope issued to the Commander-in-Chief contains the Narrative of Events up to the completion of the operations of the 3rd September, in accordance with which he will write his orders for the operations of the 4th September, and make out the allotment of work for that day. He will hand copies of both these papers to the Officer of the Directing Staff attached to Army Head-quarters, for transmission to the Director, the Assistant Director, and the subordinate Commanders concerned.

9. On receipt of the Army Orders referred to in paragraph 8, each Officer will write his orders for the operations of the 4th September. These orders will be collected at 7 a.m. on the 4th September.

10. On the 4th September and subsequent days the procedure will be as follows:—

Each Officer will have his day's work ready for collection by 4 p.m.

The Commander-in-Chief will receive the Narrative from the Directing Staff at 3 p.m., when he will write his orders for the following day's operations. These, together with the detail of work for the next day, will be transmitted to the Director, &c., as detailed in paragraph 8.

On receipt of his superior's orders (about 7 or 8 p.m.), each Officer will write his orders for the following day. These will be collected at 7 a.m. next morning.

Staff Officers to General Officers Commanding Divisions will write orders for one of the brigades.

11. All orders must be submitted in duplicate.

12. Should a General Officer Commanding wish to see any particular reconnaissance report before writing his orders, he must make special arrangements to ensure its submission to him in sufficient time to admit of the required information being obtained from it before the hour (4 p.m.) fixed for the collection of the daily work.

13. (i)* The telegraph may be used for the transmission of messages which could, on actual service, be sent by means of the field telegraph available with the Corps Troops. Copies of all telegrams sent under this paragraph must be kept and attached to travelling claims.

(ii)† The Volunteer Signallers (cyclists) are at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief, who may distribute them as he thinks best.

14. Officers will stay, at night, at the hotels nearest to the localities where their respective units encamp.

In order that the Officer of the Directing Staff attached to Army Head-quarters may know where Officers are to be found, each Officer will, after writing his orders for the following day, fill up and enclose with the orders, one of the forms provided for the purpose, showing where he will be at 4 p.m. next day, and where he will stay the night.

15. Travelling claims (on Army Form O 1771) will be sent to the Director of Staff Duties after the conclusion of the Ride.

* Para. 13 (i) was sent to the Southland Army only.

† Para. 13 (ii) was sent to the Welshland Army only.

COMPOSITION OF DIRECTING STAFFS.

Director.

General Hon. Sir N. G. LYTTELTON, K.C.B., Chief of the General Staff.

Staff of Director.

Major-General H. D. HUTCHINSON, C.S.I.

Colonel H. H. WILSON, *D.S.O.*

Lieut.-Colonel W. P. BLOOD.

Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) C. M. DOBELL, *D.S.O.*

Major C. J. SACKVILLE-WEST.

Major Hon. G. H. MORRIS.

Captain A. H. MARINDIN.

Captain W. M. C. Du Q. CAILLARD.

Assistant Director (Southland Forces).

Lieut.-General Sir H. M. L. RUNDLE, K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G., *D.S.O.*

Staff of Assistant Director.

Brigadier-General E. H. H. ALLENBY, C.B.

Brigadier-General H. I. W. HAMILTON, C.B.,
D.S.O., A.D.C.

Colonel H. H. BURNEY, C.B.

Colonel F. WALDRON, C.B.

Colonel L. B. FRIEND.

Assistant Director (Welshland Forces).

Lieut.-General E. P. LEACH, *V.C.*, C.V.O., C.B.

Staff of Assistant Director.

Brigadier-General S. H. LOMAX.

Brigadier-General E. C. BETHUNE, C.B.

Brigadier-General Hon. J. H. G. BYNG, C.B.,
M.V.O.

Lieut.-Colonel A. G. HUNTER-WESTON, *D.S.O.*

Lieutenant Lord D. M. GRAHAM.

Major Hon. A. R. MONTAGU-STUART-WORTLEY,
D.S.O. (attached from the Director's Staff).

Major R. H. HARE, *D.S.O.* (attached to Army
Head-Quarters, Southland Force).

Major E. S. NAIRNE (attached from the
Director's Staff).

Major D'A. LEGARD (attached to Army Head-
Quarters, Welshland Force).

Lieutenant A. H. TRAPMANN, Commanding Volunteer Cyclist Orderlies.

OFFICERS ATTENDING.

RED.

Lieut.-General A. S. WYNNE, C.B.

Major-General Sir R. C. HART, *V.C.*, K.C.B.,
K.C.V.O.

Brigadier-General F. S. ROBB, C.B., M.V.O.

Brigadier-General M. F. RIMINGTON, C.B.

Brigadier-General T. D'O. SNOW.

Brigadier-General G. F. GORRINGE, C.M.G.,
D.S.O.

Colonel G. BARKER, C.B.

Colonel A. E. CODRINGTON, C.V.O., C.B.

Colonel A. P. PENTON.

Colonel A. G. CHURCHILL.

Colonel C. E. CALLWELL.

Colonel R. C. B. HAKING.

Colonel E. J. GRANET.

Colonel J. A. L. HALDANE, C.B., *D.S.O.*

Lieut.-Colonel J. R. F. SLADEN.

Major A. G. DALLAS.

Major C. B. BULKELEY-JOHNSON.

Major T. B. WOOD.

Major C. ROSS, *D.S.O.*

Major E. R. BRADFORD.

Major F. H. G. STANTON.

Major F. B. MAURICE.

Major C. F. ROMER.

Captain L. J. BOLS, *D.S.O.*

Captain G. McK. FRANKS.

Captain A. GRANT-DUFF.

Captain T. BRUCE.

Captain A. SOLLY-FLOOD, *D.S.O.*

GREEN.

Major-General Sir F. HOWARD, K.C.B., C.M.G.

Colonel G. C. KITSON, C.V.O., C.M.G.

Colonel R. C. A. B. BEWICKE-COPLEY, C.B.

Colonel J. W. HAWKINS.

Colonel C. R. SIMPSON.

Colonel F. J. DAVIES.

Colonel W. E. PEYTON, *D.S.O.*

Colonel J. E. W. HEADLAM, *D.S.O.*

Colonel H. DE LA P. GOUGH.

Colonel G. F. MILNE, *D.S.O.*

Lieut.-Colonel G. M. KIRKPATRICK.

Lieut.-Colonel E. M. PERCEVAL, *D.S.O.*

Lieut.-Colonel J. E. GOUGH, *V.C.*

Major H. WELLS-COLE, *D.S.O.*

Major W. THWAITES.

Major R. L. MACALPINE-LENY.

Major C. K. BURNETT.

Major R. ST. G. GORTON.

Captain J. DUNCAN, *D.S.O.*

Captain G. PALEY.

Captain M. H. E. WELCH.

Captain C. BONHAM-CARTER.

Captain Sir T. A. A. M. CUNINGHAME, Bart.,
D.S.O.

Captain R. F. S. GRANT, *D.S.O.*

Lieutenant A. G. MATHEWS, Commanding
Volunteer Signallers.

GENERAL IDEA.

1. Four countries are concerned in the operations about to take place:—

- (a.) NORTHLAND, *i.e.*, all that part of England lying north of a line joining the mouths of the Mersey and the Humber.
- (b.) EASTLAND, *i.e.*, all that part of England lying south of a line joining the mouths of the Mersey and the Humber and east of the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and north of Hampshire, Surrey and Kent.
- (c.) WELSHLAND, *i.e.*, all Wales plus the counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, and that part of Wiltshire north of the Avon—Kennet Canal.
- (d.) SOUTHLAND, *i.e.*, all that part of England comprised in the counties of Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent.

2. Southland has often attempted to conquer and absorb Welshland, but the assistance which Northland has extended to Welshland has always prevented Southland from succeeding. Eastland has invariably been, and is, a neutral.

3. During the present year Northland and Welshland have made an alliance with a view to crushing Southland and putting an end to the constant state of menace on Welshland's southern frontier.

4. During the month of August all three Powers mobilized, and Southland, coming to the conclusion that it was impossible to avert a war any longer, sent Welshland a peremptory order to demobilize by 2nd September, failing which she threatened to move into Welshland.

5. No answer having been received by 3 p.m. on 3rd September, the Southland columns moved across the frontier of the River Avon.

6. The following information is common property to all three countries:—

- (a.) The Southland Army is about 100,000 strong, and is standing ready to move at a moment's notice across the River Avon. This Army is likely to be reinforced by another 30,000 to 40,000 in the next 2 or 3 weeks.
- (b.) The Welshland total Regular force only amounts to 60,000 of all arms, and these are divided into two parts: about one-third being on the left bank of the River Severn, covering the direct road on Bridgnorth; the remainder being on the right bank of the River Severn, in the triangle Brecon—Cardiff—Gloucester. Welshland has also a Territorial Militia of a very inferior fighting quality, about 20,000 strong. Bridgnorth is not only the capital of Welshland, but it is also its greatest manufacturing town, its most important arsenal and its seat of government.

- (c.) The Northland Army, about 200,000 strong, is destined to co-operate with Welshland by advancing both from the Northland frontier on Bridgnorth, and from Milford Haven (the only possible landing place on the West Coast) *via* Brecon. Owing to the physical difficulties of these lines of advance, and the time necessary for disembarkation, the Northland troops are not expected to exercise an important influence on the operations before the 14th September, though part of the force may arrive in the Northern zone some days earlier.
- (d.) Considerable field fortifications have been erected along the Worcester—Birmingham Canal; Ross and Tewkesbury are protected by semi-permanent fortifications, those at the latter place embracing both sides of the River Severn. Some old field works stand opposite Gloucester on the right bank of the River Severn. These are not of a serious nature against modern artillery. The Severn tunnel does not exist. The only bridges over the Severn are those now standing at Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Worcester, Stourport and Bridgnorth.
- (e.) The Welshland Regular troops, for various reasons, are inferior in all respects both to those of the enemy and to their own allies.
- (f.) The railways are not available inside the theatre of war. Telegraphs are not available.
- (g.) The inhabitants of Welshland are not all loyal to that country. Those on the left bank of the River Severn, from the Worcester—Birmingham Canal down to Bristol, are friendly to Southland.