OUR REGIMENTS

No. VI.—THE TENTH ROYAL HUSSARS.—Part I.

"PENINSULA," "WATERLOO," "SEVASTOPOL," "ALI-MUSJID," "AFGHANISTAN, 1878-79," "EGYPT, 1894."

From Photographs by Mr. Argent Archer, High-street, Kensington.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, COLONEL.

(This picture was presented by H.R.H. to the Officers of the Regiment in 1886, and is published by permission of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.)

THERE is no regiment in the British service whose history has been more closely bound up with that of this country, since the day of its creation, nearly two hundred years ago, than the Tenth Hussars; nor is there any other in the records of whose social and military life we come across so many well-known names. It was in the reign of George the First that there was "Given at our Court of St. James' this 23rd day of July, 1715, in the first year of our reign, to our trusty and well-beloved Brigadier Gore and Colonel of one of our Regiments of Dragoons" the warrant to "raise, form, and discipline" six troops of Dragoons. This was the origin of the Tenth Hussars. At that time the Jacobites had not given up plotting for the restoration of the House of Stuart, and it was owing to the rebellion raised in Scotland by the Earl of Mar that the English army was increased in order to meet the dangers thus threatened to the Protestant religion and the Hanoverian dynasty.

This rebellion was soon put down, and the Earl of Mar's followers dispersed; but the Young Pretender, popularly known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie," aided by his mother's fortune, and secretly encouraged by most of the Reigning Families and all the Roman Catholics of Europe, never lost heart, and was only waiting for a favourable opportunity of again raising the standard of revolt against the House of Hanover. In 1745 the time seemed to be ripe for the attempt. The English army in Flanders, having met with serious reverses, had to be largely reinforced, and this country was almost denuded of troops in consequence. On the 25th July, then, in that year, Prince Charlie landed in Scotland, and marched into Perth at the head of 2,000 men. On the 4th September he proclaimed his father James III., King of England; on the 17th he took Edinburgh, and on the 21st defeated a Royal army, under Sir John Cope, at Preston Pans. Such were the circumstances which led up to the first occasion on which the "Tenth" were called upon to take the field. The Duke of Cumberland had been recalled from Germany, regiments were brought back from Flanders, and a Royal Army, of which the 10th Dragoons formed part, was hurried northwards to oppose the forces of the Pretender, who, having made himself master of all Scotland, was then marching into England. He soon afterwards retreated into Scotland, followed by the Duke of Cumberland, who was, however, shortly afterwards recalled, and the Royalists, being defeated by the rebels at Falkirk, forthwith retired to Edinburgh, the retreat being well covered by the 10th Dragoons. This defeat was amply avenged, soon

GROUP OF OFFICERS.

afterwards, at Culloden, where the Royal cavalry, led by General Bland, and, consisting of the 10th Dragoons, commanded by Viscount Cobham, and Lord Mark Kerr's Dragoons, turned the enemy's right flank, and caused the total rout of the whole rebel army. The year after these events the regiment returned to England, and on the death of Viscount Cobham, which occurred soon afterwards, Major-General Mordaunt succeeded to the command. In 1756 a Light Troop was added to the strength of the regiment, of which Lieutenant Robert Atkinson was appointed Captain, Lord Wallingford, Lieutenant, and Frederick Caldwell, Cornet; and in the same year we find the Tenth being reviewed by George II. in Hyde Park.

In 1756 a flying squadron, carrying a small body of picked troops, was organised by Pitt to harry the French coasts. The Light troop of the Tenth formed part of this force, which soon afterwards landed at St. Malo, set fire to the Naval Stores and nearly a hundred ships in the harbour, and then re-embarked. In the following month they again landed on French soil, this time at Cherbourg, where they did a large amount of damage, and then sailed away. Whilst these things were taking place on the French coast, the rest of the 10th Dragoons embarked for Germany, and joined the army which had been assembled there under the Duke of Marlborough to defend the Electorate of Hanover against the French. The British force which was to act in concert with the King of Prussia's army, commanded by Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, consisted of nearly 12,000 men, including the Royal Horse Guards, King's Dragoon Guards, 3rd Dragoon Guards, Scots Greys, Inniskilling Dragoons, and 10th Dragoons; and in 1759 the campaign opened. The French began by defeating the Prussians and overrunning the greater part of the Electorate. The Allies then concentrated and attacked them near Minden. In the battle which followed the British and Hanoverians broke through the centre of the enemy, whom they completely defeated, and compelled to retire behind the Weser. The battle of Warbourg, which took place in the following year, also ended in a decisive victory for the allies—a result which was chiefly due to the valour of the British cavalry. Having detached one corps to turn the left flank of the enemy, Prince Ferdinand directed his main attack against their centre. This was making but slow progress, when the 10th and 6th Dragoons, under Brigadier-General the Earl of Pembroke, were sent for, and ordered to advance. They at once charged home, routed and scattered the French troops, and won a great and glorious victory for the Allies. It is recorded in Prince Ferdinand's orders issued after this battle that "the British cavalry performed prodigies of valour." It was during this engagement that the left squadron of the Tenth, which had got separated from the rest of the regiment, and had lost all its officers except Captain Mordaunt, charged a whole regiment of French Grenadiers, and captured 300 prisoners, together with a large quantity of mules, waggons, guns, &c. At the conclusion of the Seven Years' War the Light Troop was disbanded, and in 1780 Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Pitt succeeded to the command of the regiment on the death of Sir John Mordaunt, who had commanded it for thirty-one years. Three years afterwards the Tenth were formed into Light Dragoons, their uniform and equipment were changed, and they received the title of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Light Dragoons.

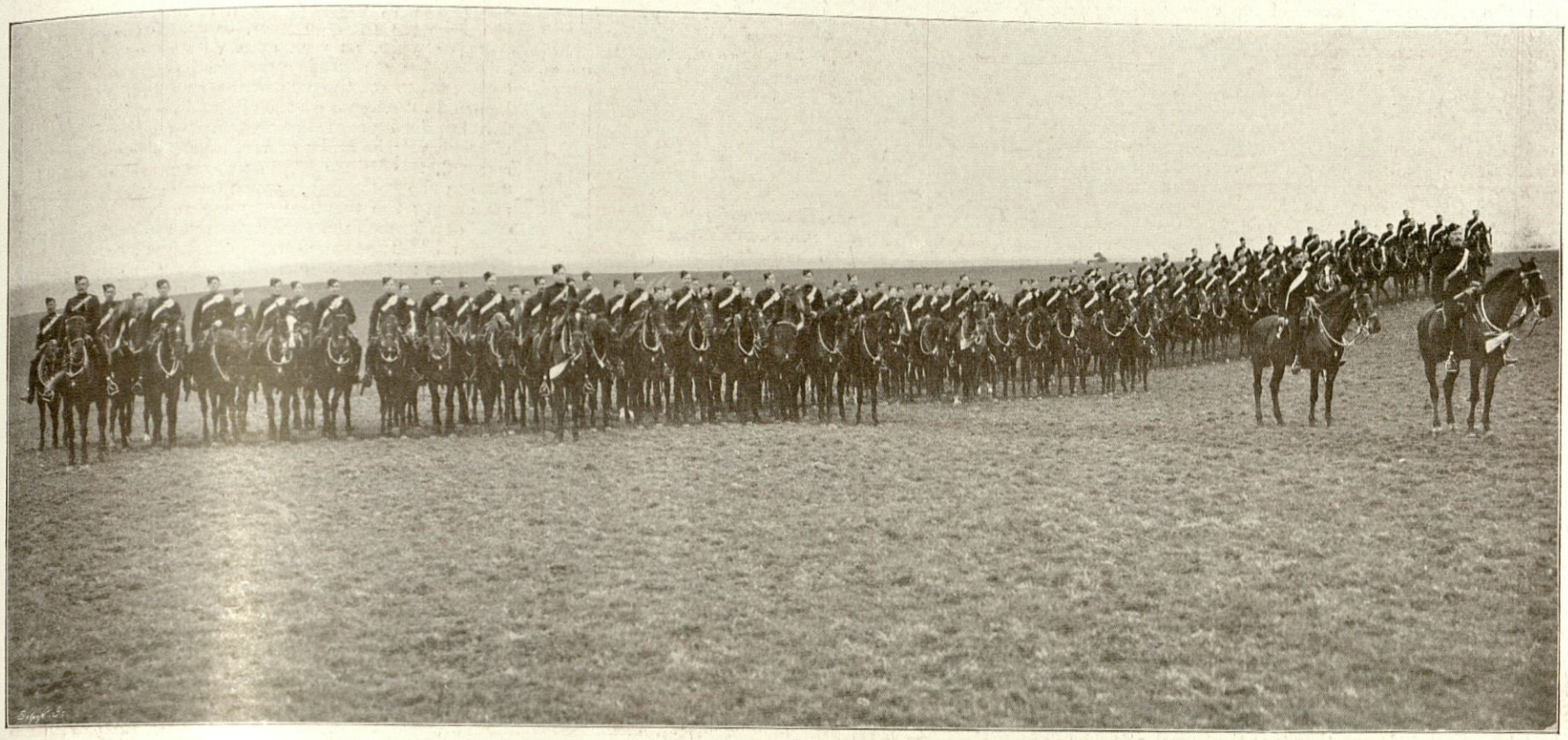
Although the Tenth have from time to time borne some very celebrated names on their muster-roll, there have, perhaps, been none with which a larger number of amusing stories have been connected than that of the famous wit, dandy, and leader of fashion, Beau Brummel. Educated at Eton and Oxford, he was in 1795 given a commission in the 10th Dragoons by the Prince of Wales, and at once took London by storm. Unfortunately, soon after joining he was thrown from his horse at a review at Brighton, and broke his nose. Dandies are generally good soldiers, but Beau Brummel seems to have been an exception to the rule. It was said of him that he only knew his own troop by recognising one remarkably bottle-nosed old trooper who was always put in the front rank. Unluckily, this man was one day transferred to another troop, and Beau Brummel, coming late on to parade, at once fell in in front of him, although it was not his troop at all, nor could anything persuade him it was not. "Do you think I do not know my own men?" was his indignant reply to the remonstrances of his colonel. He did not remain long in the service, as, the regiment being ordered to Manchester, he refused to go on "foreign service," and retired. In 1796 the Prince of Wales was appointed Colonel of the Tenth Dragoons, and in 1806 they were changed into Hussars. In 1808 England determined to assist Spain and Portugal in their efforts to get rid of the French. With this object in view, a British force under Sir Arthur Wellesley sailed from Cork on July 12th, and in due course landed between Oporto and Lisbon. The Tenth did not form part of this expedition, though another celebrated character belonging to the regiment, Captain Mellish by name, went out as A.D.C. to Sir Ronald Ferguson. He was later on appointed A.A.G. to Sir A. Wellesley, and there are numerous amusing stories told of his escapades during this campaign. On one occasion he was taken prisoner by the French; on hearing which his chief simply remarked, "They'll not keep him long," and, true enough, they didn't, as the very next morning he was seen riding quietly and composedly into camp on a donkey. He was well known as a gentleman rider and an owner of racehorses, and he won the Leger two years running with Sancho and Stavely.

The Tenth were not long in following the advance guard of the British army; and in October of the same year, in company with the 7th and 15th Hussars, they were seen off at Portsmouth by the Prince of Wales, and landed at Corunna on the 10th of the following month. The British forces in the Peninsula by this time amounted to 25,000 men, of whom 2,000 were cavalry, and 60 guns, under Sir John Moore, in whose hands the command had been placed after the return of Sir Arthur Wellesley to England. It was at once determined to advance into Spain, and assist the garrison of Madrid by operating on the French lines of communication. On November 20th the whole British army, was at Mayorga, prepared to attack Soult, who was close at hand with two divisions of infantry and two cavalry brigades. The Hussar brigade was the first to come into contact with the enemy, and we read in Alison that—"On the 21st Lord Paget, at the head of the 10th and 15th Hussars, fell in with, and, after a short and brilliant action, totally defeated a body of 700 French cavalry." Soult was subsequently defeated at Sahagun; and Napoleon, alarmed at the turn things were taking in the West, advanced hurriedly with an army of 50,000 men against Sir John Moore. To prevent being cut off from Portugal, the British leader was compelled to fall back; and so began that famous retreat which ended in the glorious victory of Corunna. It was not long before the British cavalry had their work cut out for them in covering the retreat; and on the very first day two squadrons of the Tenth made a brilliant and successful charge on a large body of Ney's cavalry who were threatening the rear-guard of the retiring army. On December 29th the Prince of Wales's Own again covered themselves with glory at Benevente. The French cavalry having crossed the river Esta, early in the morning, and driven in the British piquets, advanced boldly in pursuit. The Tenth, however, now appeared upon the scene, and at once fell upon the French horsemen, who broke and fled to the river, pursued and cut to pieces by the British hussars. Private Grisdall captured the French General Lefévre-Desnouettes, and the regiment gained immense credit for its brilliant and spirited conduct on this occasion. The British army then continued its march through rain and snow, over well-nigh impassable roads, amidst almost inconceivable miseries and hardships, and closely pressed every mile of the way by Soult with 70,000 men and 10,000 cavalry. And yet this famous and unexampled retreat was so well

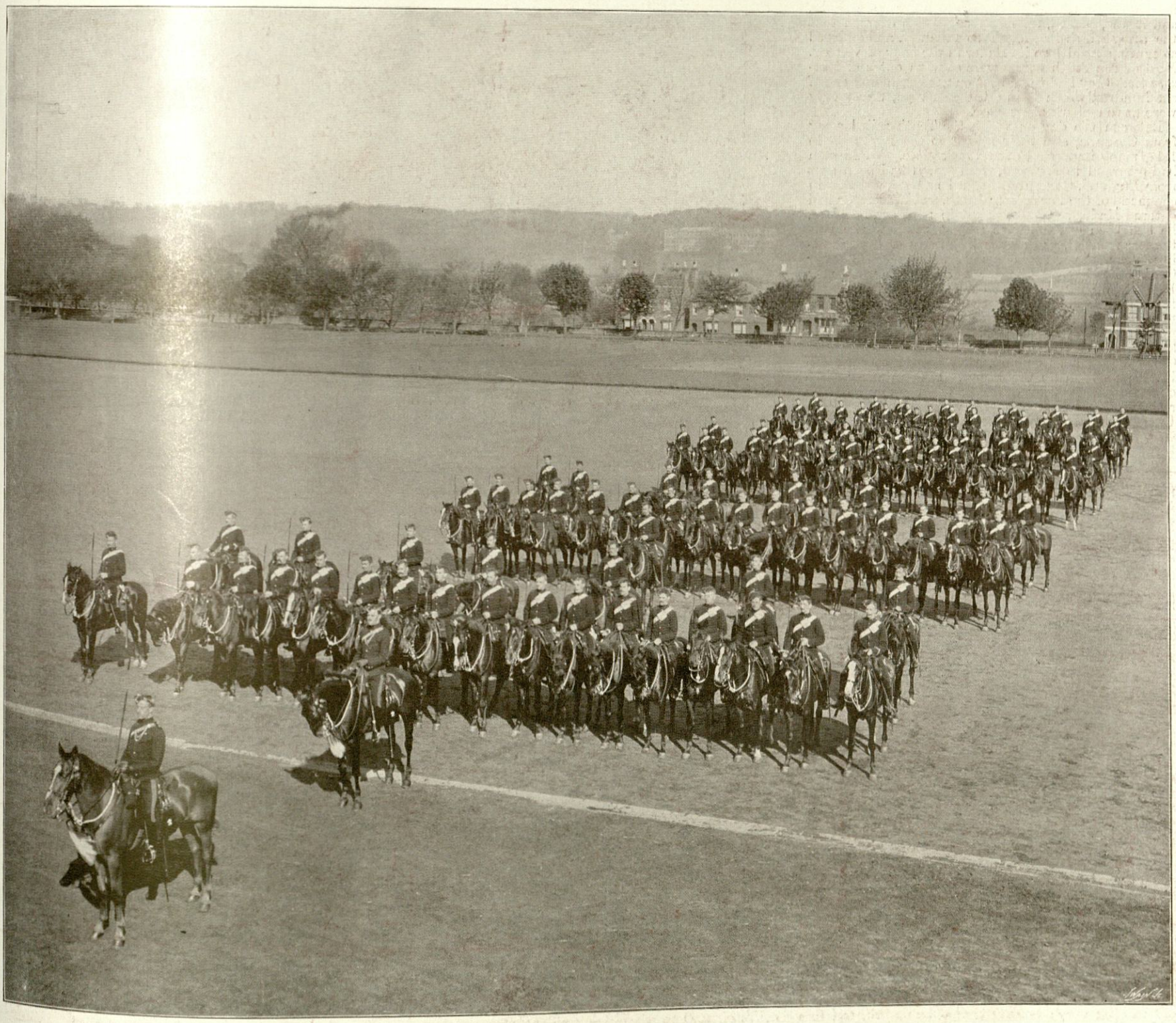
MAJOR ONSLOW.

POLO—THROWING IN THE BALL.

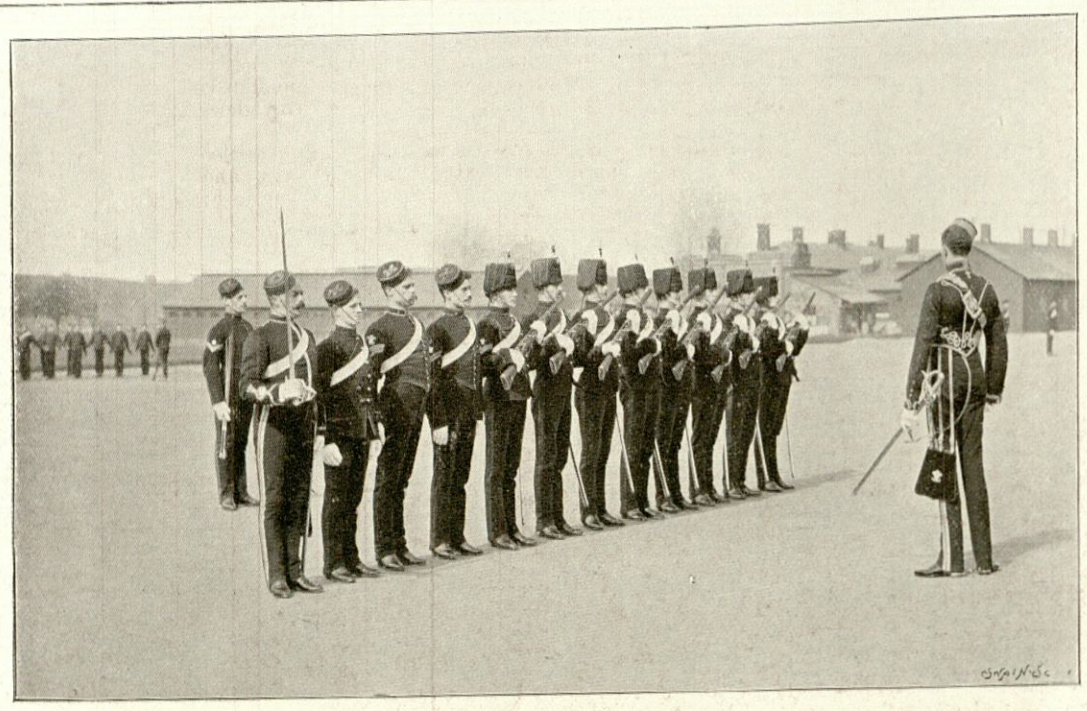
BEFORE POLO.



SQUADRON DRILL.



SQUADRON ON PARADE.



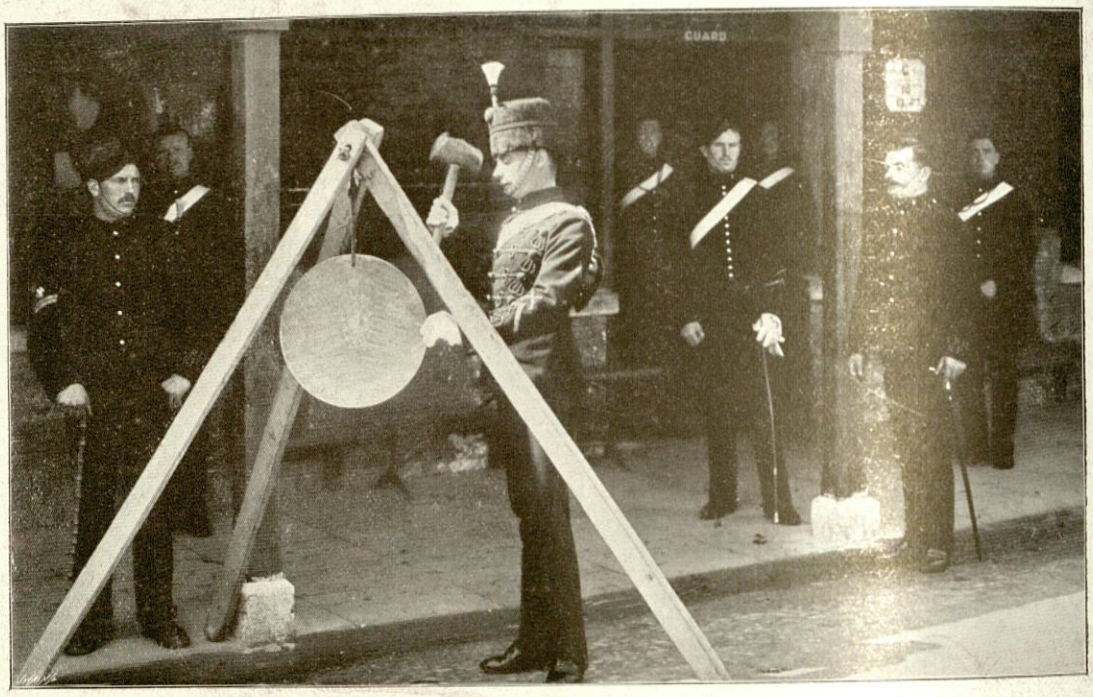
MOUNTING THE GUARD.

covered by a mere handful of hussars that when the army at length reached Corunna it had not lost a single gun or colour. The British transports not being in sight, Sir John Moore took up the strongest position available, and turned to bay. On the evening of the 14th the ships arrived; the sick and wounded, and the greater part of the cavalry horses were embarked, and the rest of the troops prepared to go on board next day. It was then that the French attacked the British infantry, only some 14,500 in number, who were covering the embarkation, and the Battle of Corunna was fought. This ended in another victory for the British, dearly purchased, though, at the cost of their leader's life. He had fought a glorious campaign against enormous odds; he had brought the most difficult retreat in history to a successful issue, and it was, indeed, an ill-fortune which decreed that the army which had fought so gallantly, and endured so much, should lose its leader in the hour of victory. Most of the Tenth horses were so worn out and footsore that they had to be shot on the beach, and out of six hundred which began the campaign, thirty only were fit to embark at its close.

Between the day on which the Tenth sailed away from Corunna, and their return to the Peninsula in 1813, many important events took place. Wellington had returned to Portugal, fresh troops had been sent from England, General Beresford had been placed in command of the Portuguese forces, and Wellington had entered Madrid. Overmatched in numbers, however, he had been compelled to retreat towards the Portuguese frontier, and at the beginning of the following year the British army was cantoned near Ciudad Rodrigo. Extensive preparations were now being made for the total expulsion of the French from Spain, and in the campaign which followed the Tenth played a very conspicuous and distinguished part. Their work soon began when, as part of the hussar brigade which formed the advanced guard of General Graham's column, they helped to turn the French position on the Douro. It was during these operations that they overtook the vanguard of the retiring French army near the village of Morales. The French turned to fight, when the Tenth, under Major Robarts, with the 18th Hussars in support, at once charged and, overthrowing their two lines in quick succession, pursued them, inflicting heavy losses, for more than two miles. These are the words in which this exploit was described by Wellington in a letter to Sir Thomas Graham: "The Tenth had a very handsome affair this morning with the enemy's cavalry between this and Morales."

The Battle of Vittoria, in which the British cavalry played an important part in helping to break through the enemy's centre, was fought on June 21st, 1813. The French were everywhere driven back, and the Tenth, entering the town of Vittoria at a gallop, made an enormous quantity of prisoners. One squadron of the regiment, under Captain Henry Wyndham and the Marquis of Worcester, captured the Emperor's baggage train, as well as a vast quantity of stores, ammunition, etc. It is a curious fact that a battle had been fought on the very same ground by the Black Prince, in the cause of the rightful monarch of Spain, five hundred years before. It was after this fresh victory that the Duke of Wellington was made a field-marshal, the Prince Regent presenting him with his *báton* in the following graceful terms: "You have sent me, among the trophies of your unrivalled fame, the staff of a French marshal, I send you in return that of England." The campaign of Vittoria is thus described by Alison: "In this campaign of six weeks Wellington marched, with 100,000 men, six hundred miles, passed six great rivers, gained one decisive battle, invested two fortresses, and drove 120,000 veteran troops out of Spain."

During the following summer the Tenth had plenty of hard work, exposure, and fighting in maintaining the communications between the different portions of the Allied army scattered throughout the Pyrenees, and they took an important part in the series of operations known as the "Battles of the Pyrenees." During the month of September both armies rested, and the British officers took the opportunity of getting a little hunting. Two packs of foxhounds were sent out from England, and the officers of the Tenth had a brief opportunity of turning their attention to what the immortal Mr. Jorrocks has described as "the sport of kings; the image of war without its guilt, and only five and twenty per cent. of its danger." An amusing incident occurred once when a hunted fox, with the pack close at his brush, ran into the French lines, and created much excitement among their troops, who seemed to imagine that it was a new



STRIKING THE HOUR.

FITTING CLOTHES.

method of opening an attack on the part of the British. However, matters were soon satisfactorily explained, and the hounds brought back under a flag of truce. In the following spring Wellington attacked and defeated Soult at Orthez, and among the records of the regiment we find a copy of the following order of Sir Stapleton Cotton's: "Major-General Lord Edward Somerset will be pleased to convey his best thanks to Lieut.-Col. Quentin, and the officers and men of the 10th Royal Hussars for their gallant and steady conduct yesterday." At the Battle of Toulouse, on the 10th April, the Tenth with great difficulty crossed a dangerous swamp, and drove Berton's cavalry off the field. The result was the retreat of Soult, and Wellington's entry into Toulouse amidst the greatest enthusiasm. Soon after this came news of the taking of Paris, the abdication of Napoleon, and the proclamation of Louis XVIII. The dismounted men of the Tenth, thereupon embarked at Bordeaux, and the main body of the regiment marched to Boulogne, where they arrived on the 11th July, embarked on the 15th, landed at Dover on the 16th, and took up their quarters at Brighton on the 24th.

From the records of that gay and festive period we gather that the Tenth must have spent a pleasant enough life at Brighton, where their Colonel, the Prince of Wales, passed so much of his time; and where they no doubt made up for the privations they had perforce endured in the Peninsula, by entering eagerly into all the sports and amusements of the time. However, they were not to enjoy these long, and there was sterner work than hunting, or racing, in front of them. In March, 1815, the news was received in this country that Napoleon had escaped from Elba, returned to Paris, been welcomed by the French army, and proclaimed Emperor. England poured troops into Flanders, and found the necessary money for the Belgian and Hanoverian levies. Blucher took the field, at the head a Prussian army; the Austrians put their forces on a war footing; and the Russian troops in Poland were ordered to hold themselves in readiness. The strength of the 10th Hussars was increased by the addition of two new troops, and on the 16th April they landed at Ostend. It was obvious that Belgium would be the first battle field; and there the English commander assembled his mixed army, of whom the greater part, with the exception of his British troops, were of more or less doubtful loyalty, and very inferior quality. These were cantoned on a long scattered line, covering Brussels, and with their left in touch with the Prussian right at Charleroi. The cavalry, commanded by the Earl of Uxbridge, consisted of seven brigades, of which the 6th or Hussar brigade, was made up of the 10th and 18th Hussars, and the 1st Hussars of the King's German Legion, under Major-General Sir Hussey Vivian. The head-quarters of this brigade were about eighteen miles from Brussels, and, as there was no immediate prospect of anything taking place, the Tenth, according to their usual custom, went in for as much sport and amusement as were procurable under the circumstances, instituting race meetings, and other diversions, and entertaining their friends from Brussels, and the army generally, in true hussar-like fashion.

All this while, however, Napoleon was exhibiting the most extraordinary energy and resource. Within three months of his landing in France he had aroused the national spirit to the level of his own dauntless enterprise, had repaired the finances of the country, and collected a thoroughly organised and perfectly equipped army of 200,000 men with which to invade Belgium. For this purpose he naturally selected the road via Charleroi to Brussels, his object being to defeat first Blucher, then Wellington, and thus prevent these two from ever joining hands again. On June 12th news was received from the outposts in front of Tournai that the French forces were assembling on the frontier; on the 14th Napoleon joined his army, and at daybreak on the 15th led it across the Belgian frontier in three columns. By eleven o'clock on the same morning he had reached Charleroi, from which the Prussians fell back and concentrated on Ligny, whilst Wellington ordered his forces to assemble at Quatre Bras.

The news of Napoleon's sudden advance was received by Wellington at the Duchess of Richmond's ball at Brussels. In the face of this tremendous intelligence, however, he displayed the same imperturbable calmness which was one of his leading characteristics. Although his generals were disappearing one by one throughout the evening, he himself stayed to the end, and returned thanks for the toast of the Prince Regent's health, which was proposed by the Prince of Orange. Then came the hurried mustering, and the march to Quatre Bras. The Tenth got their orders at midnight, and arrived at Quatre Bras on the evening of the following day. At 2 p.m. that afternoon Ney with 17,000 men attacked the Allies there, in order to detain them from helping Blucher, who was being engaged by

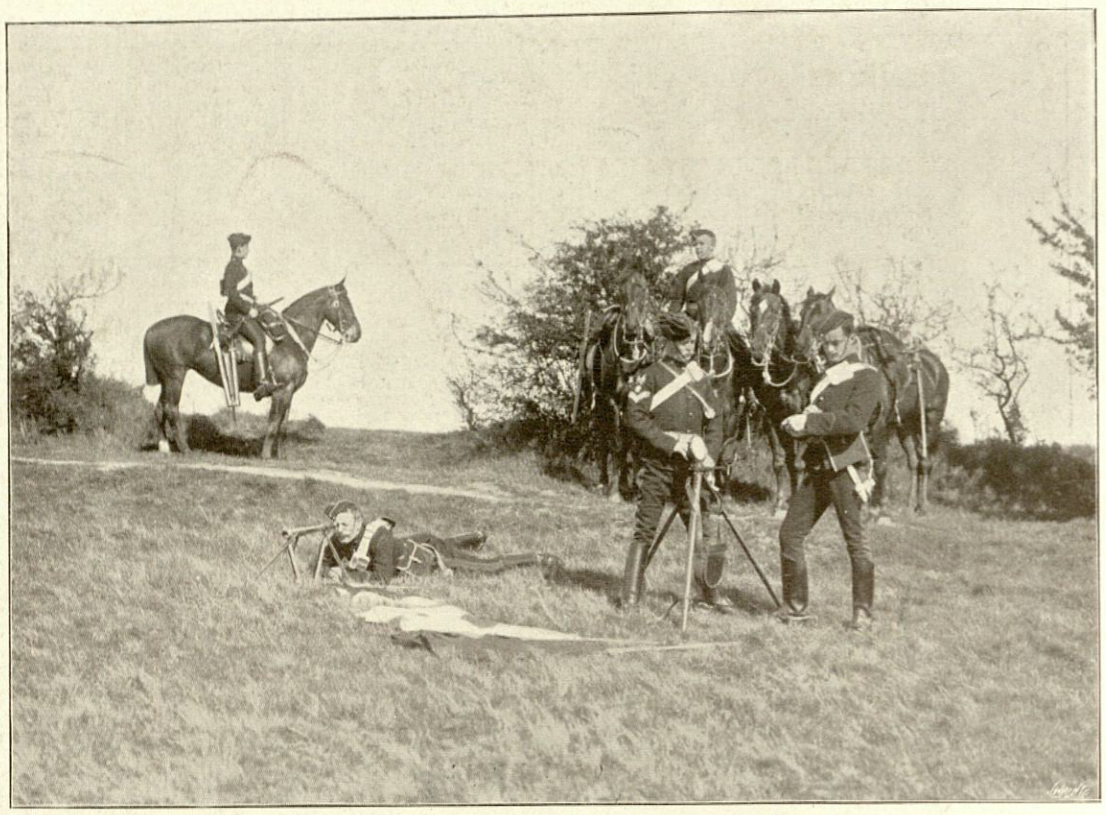
COOK HOUSE.

LECTURE ON THE ANATOMY OF THE HORSE.

Napoleon and the bulk of his army at Ligny. Wellington held his own at Quatre Bras, and drove the French back to Frasne. The Prussians, however, got the worst of it at Ligny, and were compelled to fall back on Wavre. Wellington, therefore, was compelled to retire towards Brussels in order to keep touch with Blucher, and the whole of the 17th was occupied in this movement, which was closely followed by Ney, and well covered by the British cavalry. On the evening of the 17th Wellington's infantry took up their position in front of Mont St. Jean, at the junction of the Charleroi and Nivelles roads to Brussels, with their left about twelve miles from Wavre. Napoleon spent the same day in moving the bulk of his force across to join Ney, and that evening saw the French army formed up opposite the Allies on both sides of the same road with its head-quarters at La Belle Alliance. Here then the two armies bivouacked during the night of storm and rain which preceded the day of Waterloo.

The accounts of the battle of Waterloo in the other regimental histories which have already appeared in these columns, have all dealt with it from the point of view of Somerset's and Ponsonby's brigades, to one of which they all belonged. The 6th or Hussar brigade, of which the Tenth formed part, was in another quarter of the field, and played a perfectly different part in the day's proceedings. The seven cavalry brigades of Wellington's army were drawn up as follows, on the reverse slope of the main ridge occupied by the Allied infantry: On the right, near the Nivelles road, was the 5th Brigade, with the 3rd on its left. Then came Somerset's Household Brigade on the right of the Charleroi road, on the other side of which was Ponsonby's Union Brigade. The 4th was still further to the left, and on the extreme flank was the 6th, Sir Hussey Vivian's Brigade.

A patrol of the Tenth, sent out early in the morning of the 18th to get news of Blucher, had a skirmish with some French cavalry; and then nothing more took place until 11 o'clock, when the French infantry was seen advancing in two lines of massive columns, covered by clouds of skirmishers, flanked by lancers, and supported by heavy cavalry, with the Imperial Guard in its rear, and 246 guns arranged along the front and on the flanks of the first line. Prince Jerome began by attacking Hougoumont, but this never had any real success; and an hour later the Allied left and centre were assailed. This attack was for a time made good at La Haye Sainte in the centre of Wellington's position, and then Lord Uxbridge sent Somerset's and Ponsonby's Brigades to break it up. The former fell upon the French Cuirassiers, and hunted them down the slope; whilst the latter rolled back the enemy's infantry in disorder. This attack having also failed, Napoleon made desperate efforts to break through Wellington's line with repeated charges by the whole of his heavy cavalry, but these met with no more success than his infantry had done. Meanwhile the Prussians, under "old Marshal Forward," who had been struggling gamely on, over desperately bad roads, were closing in on Napoleon's right, and it was time for him to make one more last and desperate effort, with his hitherto unused Old Guard, to break the obstinate and undaunted line of English infantry. Wellington, however, now assumed the offensive, and the Hussar brigade, which was comparatively fresh, was launched against Napoleon's cavalry near La Belle Alliance. It moved forward, cheered by Vandeleur's and Maitland's brigades as it passed them, and in another moment dashed in. The enemy's cavalry fled, and the charge was a complete success. It was at this time that one squadron of the



SIGNALLERS AT WORK.

Tenth, led by Major Howard, charged a whole regiment of Grenadiers of the Guard in square, and forced it to retire. Their gallant leader was shot dead, and it was this event which prompted Byron's well-known lines:

"And his was of the bravest, and when showered
The death-bolts deadliest the thinn'd files along
E'en where the thickest of war's tempest lowered,
They reached no nobler breast than thine, young gallant Howard!"

The Tenth having overthrown and defeated everything they had come across, continued their career across the valley in front, drove back the French Cuirassiers, charged and routed a battalion of French Guards, and by their vigorous attack succeeded in piercing the French centre. Napoleon and his aide-de-camp, Gourgaud, both ascribed the loss of the battle to this happy charge of Vivian's Brigade on the flank of the Old Guard. The Tenth bivouacked that night near the village of Hilaincourt. Their casualties in the fighting which they had done so much to crown with success were: killed, two officers, twenty-one rank and file, and fifty horses; wounded, six officers, forty rank and file, and thirty-five horses; and missing, twenty-six rank and file, and forty-one horses.

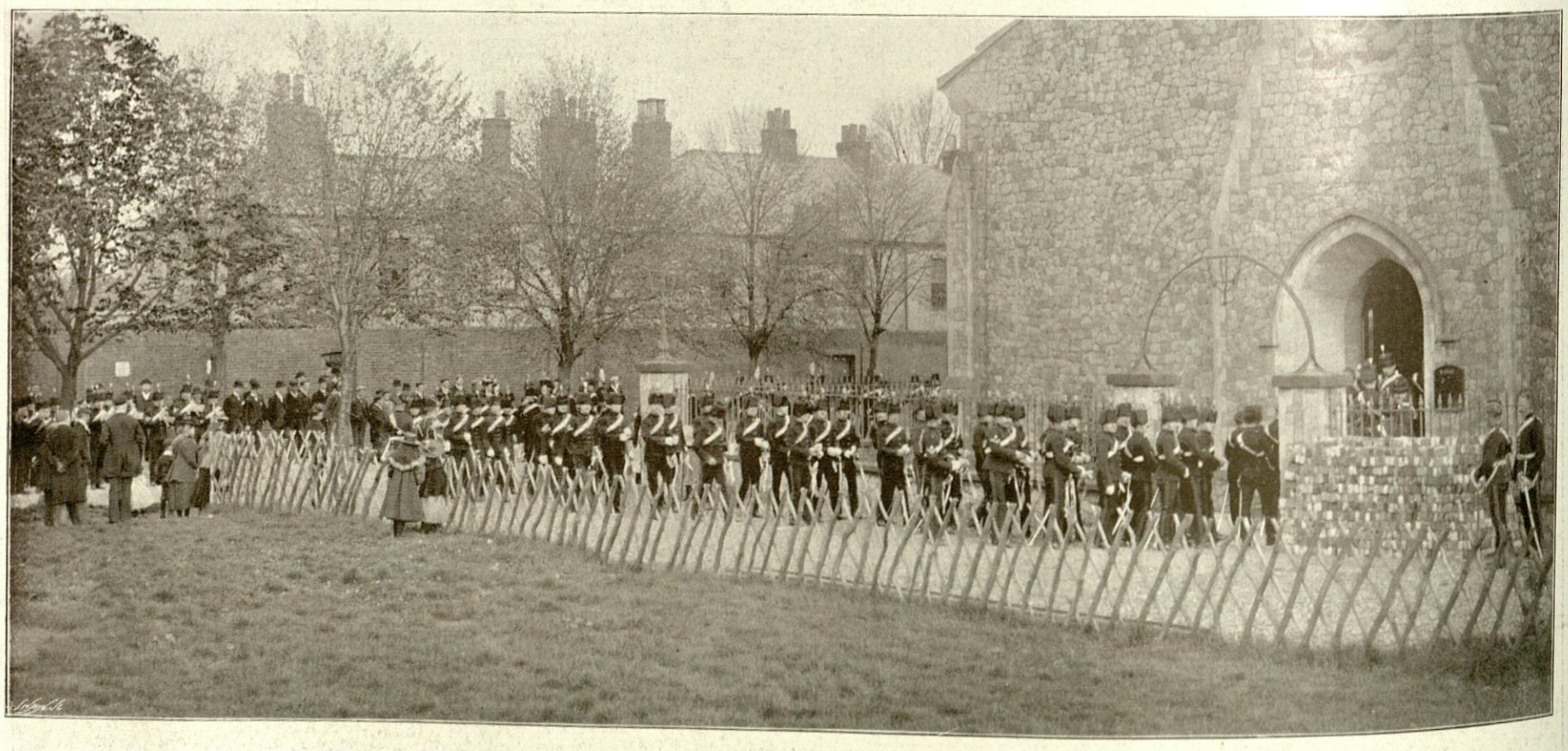
Thus ends the history of the Tenth's gallant and valuable services in the German, Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns, of which this is of necessity but a very hasty and imperfect sketch. In our next article we shall give some account of its doings in India, the Crimea, and Egypt, as well as the prominent position that this gallant regiment has always held in the world of sport, and on the polo-ground especially.

The dress and equipment of the Tenth Hussars must be very fairly familiar to most people in these days, but to those to whom it is not, the illustrations which accompany this number will give a good idea of the appearance of this smartest of regiments on its various parades. A turn of Guard is by no means one of the most popular forms of a cavalry soldier's many duties, but it has to be taken in its turn, and our illustration of "Guard-Mounting" shows the new guard preparing to relieve the old, and no doubt wishing heartily that the whole job was over.

The appearance of a squadron in drill order is also well illustrated by the two pictures, "Squadron on Parade," and "Squadron Drill," whilst from these and other illustrations a very good idea may be formed of the type of horse on which this regiment is now mounted. "Church Parade" is one of the occasions on which the regiment turns out in its best clothes, and looking its smartest, as may be easily gathered from another of our illustrations; whilst among the less showy, if none the less important, details of a soldier's life is the art of signalling, and a squad of "Signallers" is therefore included in our illustrations.

As every one who takes any interest in the fascinating game of polo knows, it was introduced into England by the Tenth Hussars, who have ever since been among its champion exponents in this country. This, however, is too long and too interesting a subject to be dealt with in a few words. It will, therefore, be gone into fully in our next number, and we will content ourselves for the present by drawing our readers' attention to the group of polo ponies shown in the illustration "Before Polo." There is a very good portrait of Major Hughes Onslow, as well as a group of officers who will be readily recognised by their friends. As has already been stated in this article, the Prince of Wales is Colonel of the Tenth, and there are few better portraits of His Royal Highness than the one which accompanies this brief history of his own regiment.

UBIQUE.



CHURCH PARADE.

(To be concluded in our next Issue.)