

**GUNS AND CAVALRY:
THEIR PERFORMANCES IN
THE PAST AND THEIR
PROSPECTS IN THE FUTURE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649118045

Guns and cavalry: their performances in the past and their prospects in the future by E. S. May

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

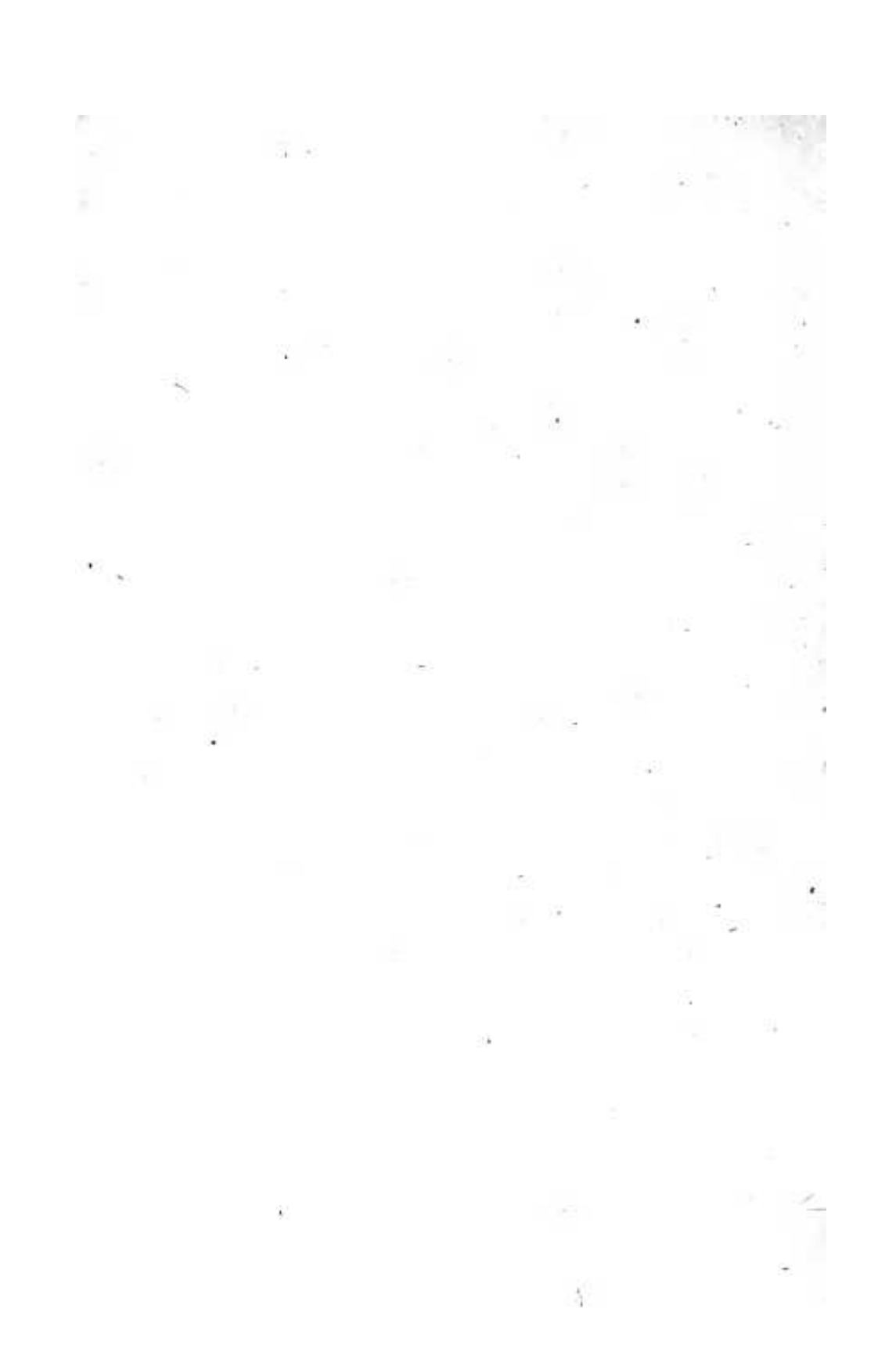
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BRIGADIER-GENERAL FOX STRANGWAYS.

GUNS AND CAVALRY

*THEIR PERFORMANCES IN THE PAST
AND THEIR PROSPECTS IN THE FUTURE*

BY

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AUTHOR OF "ACHIEVEMENTS OF FIELD ARTILLERY"

WITH PLANS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

BOSTON

ROBERTS BROTHERS

1896

P R E F A C E.

MUCH of what the following pages contain has been said before by me in lectures or articles which I have written within the last few years. It has been suggested to me that they might interest more than the comparatively narrow circle of officers for which they were originally intended, and accordingly I have here thrown my ideas into a more connected and less fugitive form.

To a book which is neither written wholly for professional soldiers, nor yet in a style which appeals to popular taste alone, some few words by way of preface seem demanded. To one class of readers I must often appear to dwell on matters which are already obvious and need no explanation, while I may occasionally weary another with details and considerations which are too technical to be attractive. Yet all

soldiers are not students, and many laborious civilians in their hours of relaxation are very capable soldiers indeed. I take the opportunity, therefore, of offering my apologies to both the parties whose indulgence I may have trespassed upon from opposite directions, and plead as my excuse that it is a difficult task to satisfy everybody.

That some words on the action of guns and cavalry may not, however, just now be superfluous, when the problem of their application is far more complicated than it was before scientific ingenuity had invaded successfully the realm of the gun-constructor, is shown by the interest the subject has within the last year or two aroused above and beyond the special attraction which for certain minds it has always possessed. No branch of the art of war is more difficult; none calls for the exhibition of more soldierlike qualities, physical as well as mental, on the part of a leader, and in none are so many noble chances offered. The story of cavalry and of artillery co-operating with it is a record studded with the names of quick, resolute men, low down in the scale of precedence according to rank or age, who climbed to

fame by such deeds as have ever delighted soldiers. Men vigorous, and energetic in body, and with some touch of that indefinite quality which may most fitly be expressed as military instinct, but which merges or develops imperceptibly into what without inflation of language we may term genius for war. Many of them never rose to high dignities ; many were killed or died when comparatively young : Norman Ramsay was but a brevet major when he fell at Waterloo ; Brandling and Von Woldersdorf were captains when they acutely influenced the fate of a serious combat ; Lasalle was thirty-four when he lost his life at Wagram ; Murat was only four years his senior ; and Kellerman, when he, "inspired by a happy and sudden resolve, threw himself on the Austrian column," and won Marengo for Buonaparte, was no more than thirty. The unexpected, sudden, and fleeting opportunities offered by the circumstances under which cavalry and guns engage, are indeed the very ones in which he who is something more than mediocre and painstaking may win his spurs. It is because of this that there is a greater halo of romance round these arms than any others, and that on them