

**THE THREE ARMS;  
OR, DIVISIONAL  
TACTICS, OF DECKER**

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The Three Arms; Or, Divisional Tactics, of Decker by Inigo Jones

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**INIGO JONES**

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THE  
THREE ARMS,  
OR,  
DIVISIONAL TACTICS,  
OF  
DECKER:



TRANSLATED AND ABRIDGED  
BY MAJOR INIGO JONES,  
Prince Albert's Hussars.

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## P R E F A C E.

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ANY Officer of Her Majesty's Army may be called upon to command Detachments of the other Branches of the Service, combined with his own; and, in these times, it would not be expedient that his conduct should give occasion to the remark, "that there are few mistakes of the Officer, from which the valour of the British Soldier cannot extricate him." In the absence of any Book that I know of, in English, on the subject of this Treatise, I have abridged and translated the valuable Work of Colonel DECKER on "The Three Arms"—interspersing Remarks from JOMINI, and from any other Writer, which might serve to develop the System.

Tactics, or the handling of Troops, in front of an Enemy, depend so much upon circumstances, that it is impossible to lay down, beforehand, any precise Rules, from which there shall be no deviation; but the Germans, by taking numerous

examples, drawn from the transactions of the late Wars, have deduced many principles, from which it would be unwise to depart.

This System of Tactics is based upon the long-tried peculiarities of each Arm; and it is self-evident that he is the best tactician who can draw the greatest advantages from the junction of the Three Arms for Action, conformably to their respective qualities, so that the weakness of the one should be supported by the strength of the other.

Each Arm has its peculiarities of organization and armament, and consequently there is a system of tactics of all Arms united. The effect of their Arms, and their utility, relatively to the Ground, and their Equipment, ought to decide, in War, the application of these Troops.

At the same time, it must be borne in mind, that all Rules ought to be followed only as general principles, which are altered by circumstances and by ground; the modifications are left to the judgment of the General—remembering the golden rule adopted by the French, “that every thing is right which leads to Victory.”

Omitting those chapters in the original which are appropriated to the organization of each Arm—for this reason, that the Officer must use



the tools which are given him—I shall, as briefly as possible, first detail the characteristics of each Arm individually; and then proceed to show, secondly, the mutual support derivable, in a combination of the three Arms, from the natural peculiarities of each, as they would be brought to bear on a level plain; and, thirdly (which is the most important part), point out how this support would be influenced and modified by accidental circumstances of ground—as Mountains, Forests, Woods, Villages, Enclosures, &c., &c.; and these latter considerations will form the two last Parts of the Translation.



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