

**MANUAL OF INFORMATION FOR
REGIMENTAL OFFICERS: A SERIES
OF QUESTIONS ON ALL MATTERS
RELATING TO THE SOLDIER,**

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Manual of information for regimental officers: a series of Questions on all matters Relating to the Soldier, by Lyster

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LYSTER

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MANUAL
OF
INFORMATION FOR REGIMENTAL OFFICERS:

A SERIES OF QUESTIONS

ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE

SOLDIER,

FROM HIS ENLISTMENT TO HIS DISCHARGE :

ADAPTED TO THE USE OF EXAMINERS, AS WELL AS
THOSE DESIROUS OF BEING EXAMINED
FOR PROMOTION.

BY

CAPTAIN LYSTER,

LATE OF THE CAMBOMIANS.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following Questions and Answers have been drawn up for the purpose of facilitating the acquirements necessary for the Military Examination; and if they should be found to contribute in any way to the information of the Compiler's Brother Officers, he will consider his object fully accomplished.

Regulations in regard to the Examination of Officers preparatory to Promotion in the Queen's Service.

Horse Guards, 4th July, 1851.

The following Regulations in regard to the examination of Officers, preparatory to promotion in the Army, are to be substituted for those promulgated by the Circular Memorandum of the 14th May, 1850.

The qualifications required of Candidates for Commissions will be made known to their friends, and the time and place of examination will be stated in each case, so that the same may take place before any Commission is granted.

Before Officers are recommended for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, the Commanding Officer is to have them examined by a Board of Officers, consisting of himself, another Field Officer, (if there should be one present with the regiment,) and the Senior Captain, and, if there should be no second Field Officer present with the regiment, then the two senior Captains present.

This Board is to report to the Military Secretary, for the information of the Commander-in-chief, that the officers about to be recommended for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, have been instructed on the following points, viz:—

1 They must have a perfect acquaintance with the Standing Orders of the Regiments in which they are serving.

2 They must have a thorough knowledge, and must give an account, of the duties they have to perform as Regimental Orderly Officers, as Officers Commanding Guards, or as Subaltern Officers of Guards under Officers of superior rank.

3 They must be able to put a company through the Manual and Platoon Exercise, and be capable of exercising both a squad and company in the Drill and Evolutions as prescribed in the first two parts of the Regulations for the Field Exercise of the Infantry.

4 They must know exactly the place of all the company officers in every situation of the battalion, whether in line, or in open, close, quarter, or half-distance column, and whether right or left in front.

5 They must be acquainted with the General Regulations and Orders of the Army, and with the Mutiny Act, and Articles of War.

6 They must be acquainted with the Queen's Regulations and Warrants in regard to the supply of necessaries to the troops, with the price of each article, and the regulations applicable to the same.

7 They must know the weight of the knapsack, the weight of the soldier's firelock, with and without the bayonet, of his pouch, with and without ammunition, the quantity of ammunition it is calculated to carry, and the weight of his accoutrements.

8 In addition to such portions of the above as may apply to the Cavalry Service, the Cornets must be required to be well acquainted with their stable and barrack duties, to have completed their course of instruction in the riding-school, and to be able to exercise a troop both on foot and mounted.

Lieutenants who may have entered the service subsequently to July 1842, and all who may hereafter enter the Army, will, in addition to the above, before they are recommended for promotion to the rank of Captain, be required to have—

9 A knowledge of Geography, so as to be able to state the general divisions of the world, the name of the capital of each nation in Europe, and the principal rivers, sea-ports, and military posts in Great Britain, Ireland, and Her Majesty's Dominions in every part of the world.

10 The outlines of Grecian, Roman, and English History.

11 The first six books of Euclid's Geometry.

12 Geometry on the ground.

13 Algebra—comprising addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, the extraction of the square root, and the solution of simple equations.

14 Plane Trigonometry, comprehending the solutions of plane triangles in the three principal cases, with applications to the determinations of heights and distances (examples to be worked logarithmically).

15 Mensuration, including the determination of the areas of plane figures, rectilinear and circular, with the volumes and surfaces of solids.

16 Fortification, so as to be able to trace upon paper a front of fortification, according to Vauban's First System, with the profile of a rampart and parapet, and, in addition to state the names and uses of the different field works, from the redan to the bastioned fort, inclusive.

17 They must be perfectly acquainted with the provisions of the Mutiny Act and Articles of War:

18 And with the forms and proceedings of Courts Martial.

19 They must have studied some of the standard works on Courts Martial.

20 They must understand perfectly the evolutions of a battalion of infantry, or regiment of cavalry, as laid down in the regulations for those services respectively.

21 They must be acquainted with the Light Infantry Drill.

22 They must perfectly understand the interior economy of a troop or company, the regulations for the messing and subsistence of the soldiers, and the established system of keeping their accounts.

23 They must be acquainted with the Royal Warrants which regulate the pay, provisioning, pensions, rewards, periods of service, clothing, and equipment of the soldier.

24 They must be acquainted with the General Regulations and Orders of the Army; more particularly with

those for the government and management of the troops embarked in transport and convict ships.

25 And it must be ascertained that they are competent to take charge of a company or detachment, in every position in which it may be placed.

The examination of officers for the rank of Captain as far as relates to matters of regimental economy, detail, or discipline, is to be made by Boards of Officers, to be appointed by the Commanding Officer, consisting of the three Senior Officers of the regiment, and a report thereon is to be forwarded to the Military Secretary in every case of a Lieutenant recommended for promotion to the rank of Captain of a troop or company.

Any officer of the rank of Lieutenant in a regiment serving within the United Kingdom, who may have entered his name for the purchase of a troop or company, may apply, through his commanding officer, to be examined in respect to his required attainments, as specified in this order, upon which application the Commander-in-chief will give such orders as may be proper and necessary.

Orders will hereafter be given to provide for the examination of officers serving abroad, in respect to their qualifications and attainments, preparatory to their being recommended for promotion to the rank of Captain.

Lieutenants who entered the Army prior to July 1849, will not be required to pass an examination on the educational portion, or on the points specified from No. 9 to No. 16 of this scheme; but, in respect to all matters of regimental detail, and military evolution, their examination is to take place as above described.

By Command of Field Marshal

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,

Commander-in-Chief.

G. BROWN,

Adjutant-General.

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