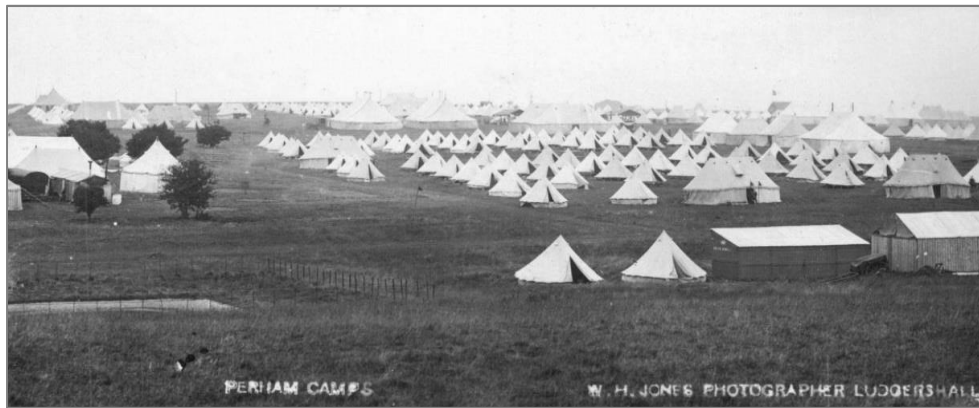


The Great Review 1898



The Salisbury Plain Manoeuvres

A matter of engrossing interest to the military authorities at the present time is the approaching operations to be carried out on Salisbury Plain, followed by the manoeuvres in the counties of Wiltshire and Dorset. It is doubtful whether operations of so extensive a character have hitherto been attempted. The programme commences on July 1st with cavalry exercises, to be followed by brigade and divisional drills on the newly acquired War Office land on Salisbury Plain.

Three camps are to be pitched at Perham Down, Park House and Bulford. Perham Down is within a very short distance of Ludgershall Station, on the Midland and South Western Junction Railway, and should prove a fine camping spot, the down stretching from Shoddesden on the one side to Tedworth on the other. The second camp, at Park House, in the parish of Shipton Bellinger while a short distance away is the towering Beacon Hill, with its far reaching table-land on one side, probably the most level bit of country now in possession of the War Office, and splendidly situated for cavalry gallops. The third camp is at Bulford.....

Extracts from Western Gazette 17 June 1898

Feeding Arrangements

The arrangements for feeding and otherwise maintaining the troops in the field are believed to be as satisfactory as they can be made, and to a large extent the food supply will be dependent upon one of the large civil contracting firms. The daily free rations for each man will be a pound of bread, or three quarters of a pound of biscuit, and a pound of fresh or preserved meat; groceries and vegetables will be obtained from the canteen under arrangements made by divisional and brigade commanders. The canteens will be entirely supplied by Lipton (Limited). There is an order that during the manoeuvres no man is to be served with more than one quart of malt liquor a day, a rule which it may be difficult to make absolutely operative.

Extract from Western Gazette 19 August 1898

Where to see it and how to get there

Apart from the great interest which is being evinced in the manoeuvres by all branches of the military service, remarkable interest in the event is also being taken by the general public, and although a great number will, perhaps be unable to view the preliminary operations in the counties of Wilts and Dorset, a vast concourse from all parts of the country is expected to witness the grand final pageant of the review and marchpast under Beacon Hill. The day will be observed as a general holiday in Salisbury and other places in the neighbourhood.

Already conveyances are being booked for the Review, the site of which is on the ground where the 1872 Review took place. A journey by road is imperative, as Beacon Hill is, unfortunately for sightseers, several miles distant from any railway station, rendering a conveyance of some kind absolutely necessary. On the London and South Western system, Grately and Porton are the two nearest stations, but is a remarkably pleasant ride over the breezy downs, which have passed into the hands of the War Office, is wished for, Ludgershall Station, on the Midland and South Western Junction Railway, is undoubtedly a most convenient place to terminate the railway journey.

Trials of Teetotallers

The teetotallers in the ranks of the First Brigade at Perham Down fell upon rather hard and thirsty times when they returned to camp after their exercises on Friday. Needless to say, after the hot march an attack even more vigorous than they had just made upon the enemy was opened upon the Army Temperance Association tent and the canteen, but the temperance men found to their horror there was not a bottle of mineral water to cool their parched tongues. It seems that a contractor had failed to deliver his supplies and beer was all there was to be had. It is not known how many men sacrificed their principles to their thirst, but the weather justified their doing almost anything.....

Camp Visitors

Many persons visited the Perham Down camp on Sunday and interested themselves in the numberless details which go to make up the life of a soldier in the field. The open air church services attracted the earliest visitors, whose numbers were greatly supplemented later in the day. The camp is pleasantly situated and easily accessible from Ludgershall Station, on the Midland and South Western Junction Railway. The Cavalry camp on Bulford Down and also the Homington, Ford and Wilton camps, at which advance parties of the regiments, who are now engaged in occupying them, arrived from various parts of the United Kingdom on Friday, were likewise visited by a large number of persons on Sunday.....

Extracts from Western Gazette 26 August 1898