I'm not a bot



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Soldiers or warriors fighting from horseback Not to be confused with Calvary. "Cavalryman" redirects here. For the racehorse, see Cavalryman (horse). For other uses, 
classical Castles Early modern Military revolution Pike and shot Napoleonic warfare Fourth-gen warfare Fourth-gen warfare Fourth-gen warfare Fourth-gen warfare Military Organization Command and control Defense ministry Reserves Ranks Branches: Staff
Engineers Intel Recon Medical Police Diving Pilot Land units: Infantry Armor Cavalry Artillery Special forces Signal corps Naval units: Fighters Bombers Command Close air support Electronic-warfare Reconnaissance Combat systems: Fire-control system Fire-control radary Armor Cavalry Artillery Special forces Signal corps Naval units: Fighters Bombers Command Close air support Electronic-warfare Reconnaissance Combat systems: Fire-control systems Fire-control radary Special forces Signal corps Naval units: Fighters Bombers Command Close air support Electronic-warfare Reconnaissance Combat systems Fire-control syst
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Blue Brown Green Surface Underwater Seabed Cyber Information Weapons Air defence Armor Artillery Barrage Biological Camouflage Cavalry Chemical Cyber Denial Disinformation Drone / Robot Electromagnetic Firearms Infantry Loitering Missile Music Nuclear Psychological Radiological Radiological
Submarine Unconventional TacticsList of military tactics Aerial Airlift Air assault Airbridge Airdrop Anti-aircraft Anti-sub Anti-tank Battle Cavalry Charge CQC Counterattack Counterinsurgency Convoy Defeat in detail Foxhole Drone Envelopment Formation Guerrilla Naval Rapid dominance Encirclement Investment Siege Swarm Screen Tactical
objective Target saturation Trench Withdrawal Operational Military operation Special Operational Maneuver Operational Military campaign Anti-access Attrition Commerce raiding Counter-offensive Culminating
Defence in depth Fabian Empty fort Mosaic Deception Defensive Scorched earth Grand Strategy Asymmetric Blockade Broken-backed Class Cold war Colonial Conquest Containment Divide and conquest Economic Endemic Fleet in being Irregular Liberation Limited Network-centric New generation Perpetual
Political Princely Proxy Religious Resource Strategic Succession Technology Theater Total war World war Administrative Branch Policy Staff Training Service Sociology Organization Area of responsibility Chain of command Com
Technology and equipment Personnel Recruitment Conscription Draft evasion Mobilization Training Specialism Soldier Morale Volunteer Women Children Transgender Harassment Conscription and sexism Counter-recruitment Logistics History War economy Arms industry Materiel Supply-chain management Military-industrial
complex Base MOB FOB Outpost Science Power projection Loss-of-strength gradient Lanchester's laws Force multiplication Morale Law Belligerent Occupation Armistice Ceasefire Court-martial Desertion Geneva Protocol Islamic rules Justice Lawful / Unlawful combatant Perfidy Regular / Irregular Jewish laws on war Right of
conquest Right of self-defence Rules of engagement Self-determination Martial law War crime War and genocide War treason Theory Air supremacy Appeasement Command of the sea Deterrence theory Full-spectrum dominance Overmatch Just war theory Principles of war Philosophy of war Security dilemma Tripwire force Wargaming Simulation
Exercises Combat effectiveness Center of gravity Non-warfare Arms control Counter-insurgency Deterrence Disaster response Grey-zone Gunboat diplomacy Humanitarian aid Law enforcement Low-intensity conflict Military engineering Peacekeeping Peacekeeping
Warrior War film Military science fiction War novel Anti-war movement Foot drill War song Uniform Wargame Militarism Camp follower Books Seven Military Classics The Art of War De re militari Strategemata Related Women in war War resister War studies Horses in warfare Wartime sexual violence Fifth column
Mercenary Pacifism Privateer Private military company Soldiers are murderers Lists Battles Military occupations Writers vte Historically, cavalry (from the French word cavalerie, itself derived from cheval meaning "horse") are groups of soldiers or warriors who fight mounted on
horseback. Until the 20th century, cavalry were the most mobile of the combat arms, operating as light cavalry in the roles of reconnaissance, screening, and skirmishing, or as heavy cavalry for decisive economy of force and shock attacks. An individual soldier in the cavalry is known by a number of designations depending on era and tactics, such as
a cavalryman, horseman, trooper, cataphract, knight, drabant, hussar, uhlan, mamluk, cuirassier, lancer, dragoon, samurai or horse archer. The designation of cavalry was not usually given to any military forces that used other animals or platforms for mounts, such as chariots, camels or elephants. Infantry who moved on horseback, but dismounted
to fight on foot, were known in the early 17th to the early 18th century as dragoons, a class of mounted infantry which in most armies later evolved into standard cavalry had the advantages of greater height, speed,
and inertial mass over an opponent on foot. Another element of horse mounted warfare is the psychological impact a mounted soldier can inflict on an opponent. The speed, mobility, and shock value of cavalry was greatly valued and exploited in warfare during the Ancient and Medieval eras. Some hosts were mostly cavalry, particularly in nomadic
societies of Asia, notably the Huns of Attila and the later Mongol armies.[1] In Europe, cavalry became increasingly armoured (heavy), and eventually evolving into the mounted knights of the medieval period. During the 17th century, cavalry in Europe discarded most of its armor, which was ineffective against the muskets and cannons that were
coming into common use, and by the mid-18th century armor had mainly fallen into obsolescence, although some protection against lances, sabres, and bayonets; including some protection against a shot from distance. In the interwar period many cavalry units were converted into motorized
infantry and mechanized infantry units, or reformed as tank troops. The cavalry tank or cruiser tank was one designed with a speed and purpose beyond that of infantry units, or reformed as tank troops. The cavalry tank or cruiser tank was one designed with a speed and purpose beyond that of infantry units, or reformed as tank troops. The cavalry tank or cruiser tank was one designed with a speed and purpose beyond that of infantry units, or reformed as tank troops.
the Royal Italian Army, the Royal Hungarian Army, the Romanian Army, the Romanian Army, the Polish Land Forces, and German light reconnaissance units within the Waffen SS). Most cavalry units that are horse-mounted in modern armies serve in purely ceremonial roles, or as mounted infantry in difficult terrain such as mountains or heavily forested areas. Modern
usage of the term generally refers to units performing the role of reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (analogous to historical light cavalry) or main battle tank units (analogous to historical leavy cavalry). Main article: Cavalry tactics Historically, cavalry was divided into light cavalry and heavy cavalry. The differences were their roles
in combat, the size of their mounts, and how much armor was worn by the mount and rider. Heavy cavalry, such as Byzantine cataphracts and knights of the Early Middle Ages in Europe, were used as shock troops, charging the main body of the enemy at the height of a battle; in many cases their actions decided the outcome of the battle, hence the
later term battle cavalry.[2] Light cavalry, such as horse archers, hussars, and Cossack cavalry, were assigned all the numerous roles that were ill-suited to more narrowly-focused heavy forces. This includes scouting, deterring enemy scouts, foraging, raiding, skirmishing, pursuit of retreating enemy forces, screening of retreating friendly forces,
linking separated friendly forces, and countering enemy light forces in all these same roles. Light and heavy cavalry mostly unarmored. Yet many cavalry units still retained cuirasses and helmets for their protective value against sword and bayonet strikes, and
the morale boost these provide to the wearers, despite the actual armour giving little protection from firearms. By this time the main difference between light and heavy cavalry was in their training and weight; the former was regarded as best suited for harassment and reconnaissance, while the latter was considered best for close-order charges. By
the start of the 20th century, as total battlefield firepower increased, cavalry increasingly tended to become dragoons in practice, riding mounted between battles, but dismounting to fight as infantry, even though retaining unit names that reflected their older cavalry roles. Military conservatism was however strong in most continental cavalry during
peacetime and in these dismounted action continued to be regarded as a secondary function until the outbreak of World War I in 1914.[3] With the development of armored warfare, the heavy cavalry role of decisive shock troops had been taken over by armored units employing medium and heavy tanks, and later main battle tanks.[4] Despite horse-
borne cavalry becoming obsolete, the term cavalry is still used, referring in modern times to units continuing to fulfill the traditional light cavalry employs helicopters. Assyrian cavalry Before the Iron Age, the role of cavalry on the
battlefield was largely performed by light chariots. The chariot originated with the Sintashta-Petrovka culture in Central Asia and spread by nomadic or semi-nomadic Indo-Iranians.[5] The chariot was quickly adopted by settled peoples both as a military technology and an object of ceremonial status, especially by the pharaohs of the New Kingdom of
Egypt from 1550 BC as well as the Assyrian army and Babylonian royalty.[6] The power of mobility given by mounted units was recognized early on, but was offset by the difficulty of raising large forces and by the inability of horses (then mostly small) to carry heavy armor. Nonetheless, there are indications that, from the 15th century BC onwards,
horseback riding was practiced amongst the military elites of the great states of the ancient Near East, most notably those in Egypt, Assyria, the Hittite Empire, and Mycenaean Greece.[7] Cavalry techniques, and the rise of true cavalry, were an innovation of equestrian nomads of the Eurasian Steppe and pastoralist tribes such as the Iranic Parthians
and Sarmatians. Together with a core of armoured lancers, [8] these were predominantly horse archers using the Parthian shot tactic. [9] Parthian horseman, now on display at the Palazzo Madama, Turin The photograph straight above shows Assyrian cavalry from reliefs of 865-860 BC. At this time, the men had no spurs, saddles, saddle cloths, or
stirrups. Fighting from the back of a horse was much more difficult than mere riding. The cavalry acted in pairs; the reins of the mounted archer were controlled by his neighbour's hand. Even at this early time, cavalry used swords, shields, spears, and bows. The sculpture implies two types of cavalry, but this might be a simplification by the artist.
Later images of Assyrian cavalry show saddle cloths as primitive saddles, allowing each archer to control his own horse. [10] As early as 490 BC a breed of large horses was bred in the Nisaean plain in Media to carry men with increasing amounts of armour (Herodotus 7,40 & 9,20), but large horses were still very exceptional at this time. By the fourth
century BC the Chinese during the Warring States period (403-221 BC) began to use cavalry against rival states,[11] and by 331 BC when Alexander the Great defeated the Persians the use of chariots as a shock force
in continental Europe was during the Battle of Telamon in 225 BC.[12] However, chariots remained in use for ceremonial purposes such as carrying the victorious general in a Roman triumph, or for racing. Outside of mainland Europe, the southern Britons met Julius Caesar with chariots in 55 and 54 BC, but by the time of the Roman conquest of
Britain a century later chariots were obsolete, even in Britannia. The last mention of chariot use in Britain was by the Caledonians at the Mons Graupius, in 84 AD. Warrior's departure; an Athenian amphora dated 550-540 BC Main articles: Hippeis and Companion cavalry During the classical Greek period, cavalry was usually limited to citizens who
could afford expensive war-horses. Three types of cavalry became common: light cavalry - who armed with javelins could harass and skirmish; heavy cavalry - using lances and having the ability to close in on their opponents; and finally those whose equipment allowed them to fight either on horseback or foot. The role of horsemen did, however,
remain secondary to that of the hoplites or heavy infantry who comprised the main strength of the citizen levies of the various city states. [13] Cavalry played a relatively minor role in ancient Greek city-states, with conflicts decided by massed armored infantry. However, Thebes produced Pelopidas, their first great cavalry commander, whose tactics
and skills were absorbed by Philip II of Macedon when Philip was a guest-hostage in Thebes. Thesaly was widely known for producing competent cavalrymen, [14] and later experiences in wars both with and against the Persians taught the Greeks the value of cavalry in skirmishing and pursuit. The Athenian author and soldier Xenophon in particular
advocated the creation of a small but well-trained cavalry force; to that end, he wrote several manuals on horsemanship and cavalry force that culminated in the hetairoi (Companion cavalry)[16] of Philip II of Macedon and Alexander the Great. In
addition to these heavy cavalry, the Macedonian army also employed lighter horsemen[17] called prodromoi for scouting and screening, as well as the Macedonian pike phalanx and various kinds of light infantry. There were also the Ippiko (or "Horserider"), Greek "heavy" cavalry, armed with kontos (or cavalry lance), and sword. These wore leather
armour or mail plus a helmet. They were medium rather than heavy cavalry, meaning that they were better suited to be scouts, skirmishers, and pursuers rather than front line fighters. The effectiveness of this combination of cavalry and infantry helped to break enemy lines and was most dramatically demonstrated in Alexander's conquests of Persia
Bactria, and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern India.[18] Main article: Roman cavalry Tombstone of a Roman auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany. Second half of the greatery and northwestern auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany and northwestern auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany and northwestern auxiliary trooper from Cologne, Germany auxiliary trooper fr
to arms and armor heavier than those of the common legions. Horses were provided by the Republic and could be withdrawn if neglected or misused, together with the status of being a cavalryman.[19] As the class grew to be more of a social elite instead of a functional property-based military grouping, the Romans began to employ Italian socii for
filling the ranks of their cavalry.[20] The weakness of Roman cavalry was demonstrated by Hannibal Barca during the Second Punic War where he inflicted a catastrophic defeat on the Romans. At about the same time the Romans
began to recruit foreign auxiliary cavalry from among Gauls, Iberians, and Numidians, the last being highly valued as mounted skirmishers and scouts (see Numidian cavalry). Julius Caesar had a high opinion of his escort of Germanic mixed cavalry, giving rise to the Cohortes Equitatae. Early emperors maintained an ala of Batavian cavalry as their
personal bodyguards until the unit was dismissed by Galba after the Batavian Rebellion.[21] For the most part, Roman cavalry during the early Republic functioned as an adjunct to the legionary infantry and formed only one-fifth of the standing force comprising a consular army. Except in times of major mobilisation about 1,800 horsemen were
maintained, with three hundred attached to each legion. [22] The relatively low ratio of horsemen to infantry does not mean that the utility of cavalry should be underestimated, as its strategic role in scouting, skirmishing, and outpost duties was crucial to the Romans' capability to conduct operations over long distances in hostile or unfamiliar
territory. On some occasions Roman cavalry also proved its ability to strike a decisive tactical blow against a weakened or unprepared enemy, such as the final charge at the Battle of Aquilonia. [23] After defeats such as the final charge at the Battle of Aquilonia. [24] At the same time
Nonetheless, the Romans would continue to rely mainly on their heavy infantry supported by auxiliary cavalry. Reenactor as a Roman auxiliary cavalry most of the late Roman Empire, cavalry played an increasingly important role. The Spatha, the classical sword throughout most of the 1st millennium was adopted as the standard model for
the Empire's cavalry forces. By the 6th century these had evolved into lengthy straight weapons influenced by Persian and other eastern patterns. [26] Other specialist weapons during this period included javelins, long reaching lancers, axes and maces. [27] The most widespread employment of heavy cavalry at this time was found in the forces of the
            empires, the Parthians and their Persian Sasanian successors. Both, but especially the former, were famed for the cataphract (fully armored cavalry armed with lances) even though the majority of their forces consisted of lighter horse archers. The West first encountered this eastern heavy cavalry during the Hellenistic period with further
intensive contacts during the eight centuries of the Roman-Persian Wars. At first the Parthians' mobility greatly confounded the Romans would successfully adapt such heavy armor and cavalry tactics by creating their own units of
cataphracts and clibanarii. [28] The decline of the Roman infrastructure made it more difficult to field large infantry forces, and during the 4th and 5th centuries cavalry began to take a more dominant role on the European battlefield, also in part made possible by the appearance of new, larger breeds of horses. The replacement of the Roman saddle
by variants on the Scythian model, with pommel and cantle, [29] was also a significant factor as was the adoption of stirrups and the Near East, following the precedents established by Persian forces, as the main striking force of
the armies in contrast to the earlier roles of cavalry as scouts, raiders, and outflankers. [30] The late-Roman cavalry tradition of organized units in a standing army differed fundamentally from the nobility of the Germanic invaders—individual warriors who could afford to provide their own horses and equipment. While there was no direct linkage with
these predecessors the early medieval knight also developed as a member of a social and martial elite, able to meet the considerable expenses required by his role from grants of land and other incomes.[31] See also: Horse archer Main articles: Mongol military tactics and organization and Mongol Empire § Military setup Chinese caltrop jar Xiongnu,
Tujue, Avars, Kipchaks, Khitans, Mongols, Don Cossacks and the various Turkic peoples are also examples of the horse-mounted groups that managed to gain substantial successes in military conflicts with settled agrarian and urban societies, due to their strategic and tactical mobility. As European states began to assume the character of
bureaucratic nation-states supporting professional standing armies, recruitment of these mounted warriors was undertaken in order to fill the strategic roles of scouts and raiders. The best known instance of the Russian Empire. In Eastern Europe, and out
onto the steppes, cavalry remained important much longer and dominated the scene of warfare until the early 17th century and even beyond, as the strategic mobility of cavalry was crucial for the semi-nomadic pastoralist lives that many steppe cultures led. Tibetans also had a tradition of cavalry warfare, in several military engagements with the
Chinese Tang dynasty (618-907 AD). Main article: Mounted archery Mongol mounted archery Further information: Horses in East Asian warfare An Eastern Han glazed ceramic statue of a horse with bridle and halter headgear,
from Sichuan, late 2nd century to early 3rd century to early 3rd century AD Further east, the military history of China, specifically northern China, held a long tradition of intense military exchange between Han Chinese infantry forces of the settled dynastic empires and the mounted nomads or "barbarians" of the north. The naval history of China was centered more to
the south, where mountains, rivers, and large lakes necessitated the employment of a large and well-kept navy. In 307 BC, King Wuling of Zhao, the ruler of the nomads' form of mounted archery to hone their new cavalry skills.[11] A
bas-relief of a soldier and horse with saddle and stirrups, from the tomb of Chinese Emperor Taizong of Tang (r. 626-649), c. 650 The adoption of massed cavalry in China also broke the tradition of the chariot-riding Chinese aristocracy in battle, which had been in use since the ancient Shang dynasty (c. 1600-1050 BC).[32] By this time large Chinese
infantry-based armies of 100,000 to 200,000 troops were now buttressed with several hundred thousand mounted cavalry in support or as an effective striking force. [33] The handheld pistol-and-trigger crossbow was invented in China in the fourth century BC; [34] it was written by the Song dynasty scholars Zeng Gongliang, Ding Du, and Yang Weide
in their book Wujing Zongyao (1044 AD) that massed missile fire by crossbowmen was the most effective defense against enemy cavalry charges. [35] The Qianlong Emperor in ceremonial armor on horseback, painted by Giuseppe Castiglione, dated 1739 or 1758 On many occasions the Chinese studied nomadic cavalry tactics and applied the lessons
in creating their own potent cavalry forces, while in others they simply recruited the tribal horsemen wholesale into their armies; and in yet other cases nomadic empires proved eager to enlist Chinese infantry and engineering, as in the case of the Mongol Empire and its sinicized part, the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368). The Chinese recognized early on
during the Han dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD) that they were at a disadvantage in lacking the number of horses the northern nomadic peoples mustered in their armies. Emperor Wu of Han (r 141-87 BC) went to war with the Dayuan for this reason, since the Dayuan were hoarding a massive amount of tall, strong, Central Asian bred horses in the
Hellenized-Greek region of Fergana (established slightly earlier by Alexander the Great). Although experiencing some defeats early on in the campaign, Emperor Wu's war from 104 BC to 102 BC succeeded in gathering the prized tribute of horses from Fergana.
at least the 4th century, as the oldest reliable depiction of a rider with paired stirrups was found in a Jin dynasty tomb of the year 322 AD.[36][37][38] The Chinese invention of the horse collar by the 5th century was also a great improvement from the breast harness, allowing the horse to haul greater weight without heavy burden on its skeletal
structure.[39][40] The horse warfare of Korea was first started during the ancient Korean kingdom Gojoseon. Since at least the 3rd century BC, there was influence of northern nomadic peoples and Yemaek peoples on Korean warfare. By roughly the first century BC, the ancient kingdom of Buyeo also had mounted warriors.[41] The cavalry of
Goguryeo, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, were called Gaemamusa (, 鎧馬武士), and were renowned as a fearsome heavy cavalry force. King Gwanggaeto the Great often led expeditions into the Baekje, Gaya confederacy, Buyeo, Later Yan and against Japanese invaders with his cavalry.[42] In the 12th century, Jurchen tribes began to violate theorem.
Goryeo-Jurchen borders, and eventually invaded Goryeo Korea. After experiencing invasion by the Jurchen were ultimately defeated,
and surrendered to Yun Kwan. To mark the victory, General Yun built nine fortresses to the northeast of the Goryeo-Jurchen borders (9, 東北 九城). A mounted samurai with bow and arrows, wearing a horned helmet. c. 1878 In the Battle of Ichi-no-Tani, Japanese cavalry moving down a mountain-side The ancient Japanese of the Kofun period also
adopted cavalry and equine culture by the 5th century AD. The emergence of the samurai aristocracy led to the development of armoured horse archers, themselves to develop into charging lancer cavalry was largely made up of landowners who would be upon a horse to better survey
the troops they were called upon to bring to an engagement, rather than traditional mounted warfare seen in other cultures with massed cavalry units. An example is Yabusame (流鏑馬), a type of mounted warfare seen in other cultures with massed cavalry units. An example is Yabusame (流鏑馬), a type of mounted warfare seen in other cultures with massed cavalry units. An example is Yabusame (流鏑馬), a type of mounted warfare seen in other cultures with massed cavalry units.
targets. This style of archery has its origins at the beginning of the Kamakura period. Minamoto no Yoritomo became alarmed at the lack of archery skills his samurai had. He organized yabusame as a form of practice. Currently, the best places to see yabusame performed are at the Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gū in Kamakura and Shimogamo Shrine in
Kyoto (during Aoi Matsuri in early May). It is also performed in Samukawa and on the beach at Zushi, as well as other locations. Kasagake or Kasakake (笠懸, かさがけ lit. "hat shooting") is a type of Japanese mounted archery. In contrast to yabusame, the types of targets are various and the archer shoots without stopping the horse. While yabusame
has been played as a part of formal ceremonies, kasagake has developed as a game or practice of martial arts, focusing on technical elements of horse archery. In the Indian subcontinent, cavalry played a major role from the Gupta dynasty (320-600) period onwards. India has also the oldest evidence for the introduction of toe-stirrups.[43] Indian
literature contains numerous references to the mounted warriors of the Central Asian horse nomads, notably the Sakas, Kambojas, Yavanas, Pahlavas and Paradas. Numerous Puranic texts refer to a conflict in ancient India (16th century BC)[44] in which the horsemen of five nations, called the "Five Hordes" (pañca.ganan) or Kṣatriya hordes (Kṣatriya
ganah), attacked and captured the state of Ayudhya by dethroning its Vedic King Bahu[45] Manuscript illustration of the Battle of Kurukshetra The Mahabharata, Ramayana, numerous Puranas and some foreign sources attest that the Furanas and some foreign sources attest that the Kamboja cavalry frequently played role in ancient wars. V. R. Ramayana, numerous Puranas and some foreign sources attest that the Furanas attention of the Furanas 
the epics agree that the horses of the Sindhu and Kamboja regions were of the finest breed, and that the services of the Kambojas as cavalry troopers were utilised in ancient wars".[46] J.A.O.S. writes: "Most famous horses are said to come either from Sindhu or Kamboja; of the latter (i.e. the Kamboja), the Indian epic Mahabharata speaks among the
finest horsemen".[47] Coin of Chandragupta II or Vikramaditya, one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire during times referred to as the Golden Age of India Rajput warrior on horseback The Mahabharata speaks of the esteemed cavalry of the Kambojas, Sakas, Yavanas and Tusharas, all of whom had participated in the Kurukshetra war
under the supreme command of Kamboja ruler Sudakshin Kamboja, Yavansa, Gandharata and Vishnudharmottara Purana pay especial attention to the Kamboja cavalry along with that of the Sakas, Yavanas is reported to have been
enlisted by the Kuru king Duryodhana of Hastinapura. [50] Herodotus (c. 484 - c. 425 BC) attests that the Gandarian mercenaries (i.e. Gandharans/Kambojans of Gandari Strapy of Achaemenids) from the 20th strapy of the Achaemenids were recruited in the army of emperor Xerxes I (486-465 BC), which he led against the Hellas. [51] Similarly, the
men of the Mountain Land from north of Kabul-River equivalent to medieval Kohistan (Pakistan), figure in the army of Darius III against Alexander at Arbela, providing a cavalry force and 15 elephants.[52] This obviously refers to Kamboja cavalry south of Hindukush. The Kambojas were famous for their horses, as well as cavalrymen (asva-yuddha-
Kushalah).[53] On account of their supreme position in horse (Ashva) culture, they were also popularly known as "Home of Horses".[55] They are the Assakenoi and Aspasioi of the Classical writings, and the Ashvakayanas and Ashvayanas in Pāṇini's Ashtadhyayi. The Assakenoi had faced
Alexander with 30,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry and 30 war elephants.[56] Scholars have identified the Assakenoi and Aspasioi clans of Kunar and Swat valleys as a section of the Kambojas.[57] These hardy tribes had offered stubborn resistance to Alexander (c. 326 BC) during latter's campaign of the Kabul, Kunar and Swat valleys and had even
extracted the praise of the Alexander's historians. These highlanders, designated as "parvatiya Ayudhajivinah" in Pāṇini's Astadhyayi,[58] were rebellious, fiercely independent and freedom-loving cavalrymen who never easily yielded to any overlord.[59] The Sanskrit drama Mudra-rakashas by Visakha Dutta and the Jaina work Parishishtaparvan refer
to Chandragupta's (c. 320 BC - c. 298 BC) alliance with Himalayan king Parvataka. The Himalayan alliance gave Chandragupta a formidable composite army made up of the cavalry forces of the Shakas, Yavanas, Kambojas, Kiratas, Parasikas and Bahlikas as attested by Mudra-Rakshasa (Mudra-Rakshasa 2).[a] These hordes had helped Chandragupta
Maurya defeat the ruler of Magadha and placed Chandragupta on the throne, thus laying the foundations of Mauryan dynasty in Northern India. The cavalry of Hunas and the Kambojas is also attested in the Raghu Vamsa epic poem of Sanskrit poet Kalidasa. [60] Raghu of Kalidasa is believed to be Chandragupta II (Vikaramaditya) (375-413/15 AD), of the cavalry of Hunas and the Kambojas is also attested in the Raghu Vamsa epic poem of Sanskrit poet Kalidasa.
the well-known Gupta dynasty. As late as the mediaeval era, the Kamboja cavalry had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 10th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 10th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 10th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the Pratihara armed forces from the eighth to the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centuries AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of the 20th centures AD. They had also formed part of t
shrenis (corporations) to manage their political and military affairs, as Arthashastra of Kautiliya as well as the Mahabharata record. They are described as Ayuddha-jivi or Shastr-opajivis (nations-in-arms), which also means that the Kamboja cavalry offered its military services to other nations as well. There are numerous references to Kambojas
having been requisitioned as cavalry troopers in ancient wars by outside nations. Main articles: Sowar, Zamburak, Howdah, Mahout, and Mounted archery Akbar leads the Mughal armies (lashkar) were primarily a cavalry force. The elite corps were the ahadi who provided direct service to the Emperor and acted
as guard cavalry. Supplementary cavalry or dakhilis were recruited, equipped and paid by the central state. This was in contrast to the tabinan horsemen who were the followers of individual noblemen. Their training and equipment varied widely but they made up the backbone of the Mughal cavalry. Finally there were tribal irregulars led by and loyal
to tributary chiefs. These included Hindus, Afghans and Turks summoned for military service when their autonomous leaders were called on by the Imperial government. [66] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be
challenged and removed. Find sources: "Cavalry" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (August 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this message) See also: Horses in the Middle Ages Horse-mounted Normans charging in the Bayeux Tapestry, 11th century As the quality and availability of heavy infantry declined in Europe with the fall of
the Roman Empire, heavy cavalry became more effective. Infantry that lack the cohesion and discipline of tight formations are more susceptible to being broken and scattered by shock combat—the main role of heavy cavalry, which rose to become the dominant force on the European battlefield.[67] As heavy cavalry increased in importance, it
became the main focus of military development. The arms and armour for heavy cavalry even more. [68] This shift in military importance was reflected in an increasingly hierarchical society as well. From the late 10th century
onwards heavily armed horsemen, milites or knights, emerged as an expensive elite taking centre stage both on and off the battlefield.[69] This class of aristocratic warriors was considered the "ultimate" in heavy cavalry: well-equipped with the best weapons, state-of-the-art armour from head to foot, leading with the lance in battle in a full-gallop,
close-formation "knightly charge" that might prove irresistible, winning the battle almost as soon as it began. A 13th-century depiction of a riding horse. Note resemblance to the modern Paso Fino A Hussite war wagon: it enabled peasants to defeat knights But knights remained the minority of total available combat forces; the expense of arms
armour, and horses was only affordable to a select few. While mounted men-at-arms focused on a narrow combat, medieval armies relied on a large variety of foot troops to fulfill all the rest (skirmishing, flank guards, scouting, holding ground, etc.). Medieval chroniclers tended to pay undue attention to the knights at the expense
of the common soldiers, which led early students of military history to suppose that heavy cavalry was the only force that mattered on medieval European battlefields. But well-trained and disciplined infantry could defeat knights. Massed English longbowmen triumphed over French cavalry at Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt, while at Gisors (1188)
Bannockburn (1314), and Laupen (1339),[70] foot-soldiers proved their pike squares for offensive as well as defensive use, infantry started to become the principal arm. This aggressive new doctrine gave the Swiss victory over a range of adversaries, and
their enemies found that the only reliable way to defeat them was by the use of an even more comprehensive combined arms doctrine, as evidenced in the Battle of Marignano. The introduction of missile weapons that required less skill than the longbow, such as the crossbow and hand cannon, also helped remove the focus somewhat from cavalry
elites to masses of cheap infantry equipped with easy-to-learn weapons. These missile weapons were very successfully used in the dominance of infantry led to the adoption of dismounted tactics. From the earliest times knights and mounted men-at-arms had frequently
dismounted to handle enemies they could not overcome on horseback, such as in the Battle of Bremule (1119), but after the 1350s this trend became more marked with the dismounted men-at-arms fighting as super-heavy infantry with two-handed swords and poleaxes.[71] In any case, warfare in the Middle Ages
tended to be dominated by raids and sieges rather than pitched battles, and mounted men-at-arms rarely had any choice other than dismounting when faced with the prospect of assaulting a fortified position. Main articles: Religious war and Early Muslim conquests Main articles: Mobile guard and List of battles of Muhammad Arab camelry The
Islamic Prophet Muhammad made use of cavalry in many of his military campaigns including the Expedition of Dhu Qarad, [72] and the expedition of AH of the Islamic calendar, [73] Early organized Arab mounted forces under the Rashidun caliphate comprised a light
cavalry armed with lance and sword. Its main role was to attack the enemy flanks and rear. These relatively lightly armored horsemen formed the most effective element of the Muslim armies during the later stages of the Islamic conquest of the Evant. These relatively lightly armored horsemen formed the most effective element of the Muslim armies during the later stages of the Islamic conquest of the Islamic conq
AD) in which Khalid ibn Walid, knowing the skills of his horsemen, used them to turn the tables at every critical instance of the battle with their ability to engage, disengage, then turn back and attack again from the flank or rear. A strong cavalry regiment was formed by Khalid ibn Walid which included the veterans of the campaign of Iraq and Syria.
Early Muslim historians have given it the name Tali'a mutaharrikah (طليعة متحركة), or the Mobile guard. This was used as an advance guard and a strong striking force to route the opposing armies with its greater mobility that give it an upper hand when maneuvering against any Byzantine army. With this mobile striking force, the conquest of Syria was used as an advance guard and a strong striking force to route the opposing armies with its greater mobility that give it an upper hand when maneuvering against any Byzantine army. With this mobile striking force, the conquest of Syria was used as an advance guard and a strong striking force to route the opposing armies with its greater mobility that give it an upper hand when maneuvering against any Byzantine army. With this mobile striking force, the conquest of Syria was used as an advance guard and a strong striking force to route the opposing armies with its greater mobility that give it an upper hand when maneuvering against any Byzantine army.
made easy.[74] The Battle of Talas in 751 AD was a conflict between the Arab Abbasid Caliphate and the Chinese Tang dynasty over the control of Central Asia. Until the 11th century the classic cavalry strategy of the Arab Middle East incorporated the razzia tactics of fast
moving raids by mixed bodies of horsemen and infantry. Under the talented leadership of Saladin and other Islamic commanders the emphasis changed to Mamluk horse-archers backed by bodies of irregular light cavalry. Trained to rapidly disperse, harass and regroup these flexible mounted forces proved capable of withstanding the previously
invincible heavy knights of the western crusaders at battles such as Hattin in 1187.[75] Main article: Mamluk Originating in the 9th century as Central Asian ghulams or captives utilised as mounted auxiliaries by Arab armies, [76] Mamluks were subsequently trained as cavalry soldiers rather than solely mounted-archers, with increased priority being
given to the use of lances and swords.[77] Mamluks were to follow the dictates of al-furusiyya,[78] a code of conduct that included values like courage and generosity but also doctrine of cavalry tactics, horsemanship, archery and treatment of wounds. By the late 13th century the Manluks were to follow the dictates of al-furusiyya,[78] a code of conduct that included values like courage and generosity but also doctrine of cavalry tactics, horsemanship, archery and treatment of wounds.
by more numerous but less well-trained footmen. [79] A Moroccan with his Arabian horse along the Barbary coast The Islamic Berber states of North Africa employed elite horse mounted cavalry armed with spears and following the model of the original Arab occupiers of the region. Horse-harness and weapons were manufactured locally and the six-
monthly stipends for horsemen were double those of their infantry counterparts. During the 8th century Islamic conquest of Iberia large numbers of horses and riders were shipped from North Africa, to specialise in raiding and the provision of support for the massed Berber footmen of the main armies.[80] Maghrebi traditions of mounted warfare
eventually influenced a number of sub-Saharan African polities in the medieval era. The Esos of Ikoyi, military aristocrats of the Yoruba peoples, were a notable manifestation of this phenomenon.[81] Kanem-Bu warriors armed with spears in the retinue of a mounted war chief. The Earth and Its Inhabitants, 1892 Main article: Al-Andalus Main articles
Qizilbash and Zamburak Qizilbash, were a class of Safavid militant warriors in Iran during the 15th to 18th centuries, who often fought as elite cavalry. [82][83][84][85] Manikin of a Safavid Qizilbash, showing characteristic red cap (Sa'dabad Palace, Tehran). Persian Zamburak. Main articles: Sipahi and Akinji During its period of greatest expansion,
from the 14th to 17th centuries, cavalry formed the powerful core of the Ottoman armies. Registers dated 1475 record 22,000 Sipahi feudal cavalry levied in Europe, 17,000 Sipahis recruited from Anatolia, and 3,000 Kapikulu (regular body-guard cavalry).[86] During the 18th century however the Ottoman mounted troops evolved into light cavalry
serving in the thinly populated regions of the Middle East and North Africa.[87] Such frontier horsemen were largely raised by local governors and were separate from the main field armies of the Ottoman Empire. At the beginning of the 19th century modernised Nizam-I Credit ("New Army") regiments appeared, including full-time cavalry units
section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: "Cavalry" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (August 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Knightly cavalry and noblemen, painting by Jan van Eyck (c. 1390-1441) Ironically, the rise of infantry in the early 16th century coincided with the "golder
age" of heavy cavalry; a French or Spanish army at the beginning of the century could have up to half its numbers made up of various kinds of light and heavy cavalry, whereas in earlier medieval and later 17th-century armies the proportion of cavalry was seldom more than a quarter. Knighthood largely lost its military functions and became more
closely tied to social and economic prestige in an increasingly capitalistic Western society. With the rise of drilled and trained infantry, the mounted men-at-arms, now sometimes called gendarmes and often part of the standing army themselves, adopted the same role as in the Hellenistic age, that of delivering a decisive blow once the battle was
already engaged, either by charging the enemy in the flank or attacking their commander-in-chief. From the 1550s onwards, the use of gunpowder weapons solidified infantry's dominance of the battlefield and began to allow true mass armies to develop. This is closely related to the increase in the size of armies throughout the early modern period
heavily armored cavalrymen were expensive to raise and maintain and it took years to train a skilled horseman or a horse, while arquebusiers and later musketeers could be trained and kept in the field at much lower cost, and were much easier to recruit. A Polish winged hussar The Spanish tercio and later formations relegated cavalry to a
supporting role. The pistol was specifically developed to try to bring cavalry back into the conflict, together with manoeuvres such as the caracole was not particularly successful, however, and the charge (whether with lance, sword, or pistol) remained as the primary mode of employment for many types of European cavalry, although by
this time it was delivered in much deeper formations and with greater discipline than before. The demi-lancers and the heavily armored sword-and-pistol reiters were a dominating heavy cavalry force in Eastern Europe
               achieved great success against Swedes, Russians, Turks and other, until repeatably beaten by either combined arms tactics, increase in firepower or beaten in 1702 (at the Battle of Kliszów) until 1776, the obsolete Winged hussars were demoted and
largely assigned to ceremonial roles. The Polish Winged hussars military prowess peaked at the Siege of Vienna in 1683, when hussar banners participated in the largest cavalry charge in history and successfully repelled the Ottoman attack. Cavalry charge in history and successfully repelled the Ottoman attack.
of regularization and standardization across European armies. They remained the primary choice for confronting enemy cavalry, Attacking an unbroken infantry formations were vulnerable to flank or rear attacks. Cavalry was important at Blenheim (1704), Rossbach (1757),
Marengo (1800), Eylau and Friedland (1807), remaining significant throughout the Napoleonic Wars. Portrait of a Dutch cavalry officer at the Battle of Ekeren Even with the increasing prominence of infantry, cavalry still had an irreplaceable role in armies, due to their greater mobility. Their non-battle duties often included patrolling the fringes of
army encampments, with standing orders to intercept suspected shirkers and deserters, [90] as well as, serving as outpost pickets in advance of the main body. During battle, lighter cavalry such as hussars and uhlans might skirmish with other cavalry, attack light infantry, or charge and either capture enemy artillery or render them useless by
plugging the touchholes with iron spikes. Heavier cavalry such as cuirassiers, dragoons, and carabiniers usually charged towards infantry formations or opposing cavalry in order to rout them. Both light and heavy cavalry pursued retreating enemies, the point where most battle casualties occurred.[91] The greatest cavalry charge of modern history
was at the 1807 Battle of Eylau, when the entire 11,000-strong French cavalry reserve, led by Joachim Murat, launched a huge charge on and through the Russian infantry squares. The most notable examples are at the Battle of Quatre Bras and
later at the Battle of Waterloo, the latter which the repeated charges by up to 9,000 French cavalrymen ordered by Michel Ney failed to break the British-Allied army, who had formed into squares. [92] The British 28th infantry, especially those
formed in squares were deadly to cavalry, but offered an excellent target for artillery. Once a bombardment had disordered the infantry formation, cavalry were able to rout and pursue the scattered foot soldiers. It was not until individual firearms gained accuracy and improved rates of fire that cavalry was diminished in this role as well. Even then
light cavalry remained an indispensable tool for scouting, screening the enemy's movements, and harassing the enemy's supply lines until military aircraft supplanted them in this role in the beginning of the 19th century, European cavalry
fell into four main categories: Cuirassiers, heavy cavalry, adorned with body armor, especially a cuirass, and primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, and primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, and primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, and primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, and primarily armed with pistols and a sword Dragoons, originally mounted infantry, but later regarded as medium cavalry, and a sword Dragoons, and a sword Dragoon
Red Line" at the Battle of Balaclava, where the 93rd Regiment held off Russian Cavalry There were cavalry variations for individual nations as well: France had the Chevaulegers; and Russia had Cossacks. Britain, from the mid-18th century, had Light
Dragoons as light cavalry and Dragoons, Dragoon Guards and Household Cavalry as heavy cavalry only after the end of the Napoleonic wars were the Household Cavalry equipped with cuirasses, and some other regiments were converted to lancers. In the United States Army prior to 1862 the cavalry were almost always dragoons. The Imperial
Japanese Army had its cavalry uniformed as hussars, but they fought as dragoons. In the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade and the Thin Red Line at the Battle of Balaclava showed the vulnerability of cavalry, when deployed without effective support. [96] Monument to the Spanish Regiment of light cavalry of Alcántara During the Franco-
Prussian War, at the Battle of Mars-la-Tour in 1870, a Prussian cavalry brigade decisively smashed the centre of the French battle line, after skilfully concealing their approach. This event became known as Von Bredow's Death Ride after the brigade commander Adalbert von Bredow; it would be used in the following decades to argue that massed
cavalry charges still had a place on the modern battlefield.[97] Cavalry found a new role in colonial campaigns (irregular warfare), where modern weapons were lacking and the slow moving infantry-artillery train or fixed fortifications were often ineffective against indigenous insurgents (unless the latter offered a fight on an equal footing, as at Tel-el-
Kebir, Omdurman, etc.). Cavalry "flying columns" proved effective, or at least cost-effective, in many campaigns—although an astute native commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in the Caucasus, or any of the better Boer commander (like Samori in western Africa, Shamil in western Africa,
firepower compared with European forces. In 1903 the British Indian Army maintained forty regiments of cavalry, numbering about 25,000 Indian sowars (cavalrymen), with British and Indian officers. [98] Among the more famous regiments in the lineages of the modern Indian and Pakistani armies are: The charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman
19th Lancers near Mametz during the Battle of the Somme, 15 July 1916 Governor General's Bodyguard (now President's Horse (Now India's 2nd Lancers (now India's 3rd Horse (Now India's 3rd Horse (Hodson's)) of the Bengal Lancers fame 6th Bengal
Cavalry (later amalgamated with 7th Hariana Lancers to form 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry) now 18th Cavalry of the India's The Poona Horse (now India's The Poona Horse) Royal Deccan Horse (now India's The Deccan Horse) Queen's Own Guides Cavalry
(now Pakistan). 11th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan). 12th Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (Frontier Force), Pakistan (Frontier Force)
in Algeria and Morocco from 1830 until the end of World War II. Much of the Mediterranean coastal terrain was suitable for mounted action and there was a long established culture of horsemanship amongst the Arab and Berber inhabitants. The French forces included Spahis, Chasseurs d' Afrique, Foreign Legion cavalry and mounted Goumiers.
[100] Both Spain and Italy raised cavalry regiments from amongst the indigenous horsemen of their North Africa as part of the Schutztruppen (colonial army) garrisoning the territory. [102] Main article:
United States Cavalry Union Cavalry Union Cavalry capture Confederate guns at Culpeper In the early American Civil War the regular United States Army mounted rifle, dragoon, and two existing cavalry regiments were reorganized and renamed cavalry regiments were reorganized and renamed cavalry regiments.
organized, but the infantry played a much larger role in many battles due to its larger numbers, lower cost per rifle fielded, and much easier recruitment. However, cavalry saw a role as part of screening forces and in foraging and scouting. The later phases of the war saw the Federal army developing a truly effective cavalry force fighting as scouts,
raiders, and, with repeating rifles, as mounted infantry. The distinguished 1st Virginia Cavalry commanders included Confederate general I.E.B. Stuart, Nathan Bedford Forrest, and John Singleton Mosby (a.k.a. "The Grey Ghost") and on the Union
side, Philip Sheridan and George Armstrong Custer. [104] Post Civil War, as the volunteer armies disbanded, the regular army cavalry Regiment and U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment and U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment. The black
units, along with others (both cavalry and infantry), collectively became known as the Buffalo Soldiers. According to Robert M. Utley: the frontier army was a conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military force trying to control, by conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military methods, a people that did not behave like conventional military methods are conventional military methods.
most difficult of all military assignments, whether in Africa, Asia, or the American West [105] These regiments, which rarely took the field as complete organizations, served throughout the American West [105] These regiments, which rarely took the field as complete organizations, served throughout the American West [105] These regiments, which rarely took the field as complete organizations.
ranchers and other outdoorsmen, that served as a cavalry in the United States Military. [106] Italian cavalry officers practice their horsemanship in 1904 outside Rome At the beginning of the 20th century, all armies still maintained substantial cavalry forces, although there was contention over whether their role should revert to that of mounted
infantry (the historic dragoon function). With motorised vehicles and aircraft still under development, horse mounted troops remained the only fully mobile forces available for manoeuvre warfare until 1914.[107] Following the experience of the South African War of 1899-1902 (where mounted Boer citizen commandos fighting on foot from cover
proved more effective than regular cavalry), the British Army withdrew lances for all but ceremonial purposes and placed a new emphasis on training for dismounted action in 1903. Lances were however readopted for active service in 1912.[108] In 1882, the Imperial Russian Army converted all its line hussar and lancer regiments to dragoons, with
an emphasis on mounted infantry training. In 1910 these regiments reverted to their historic roles, designations and uniforms.[109] By 1909, official regulations of the realities of modern warfare. The massive cavalry charge in three waves which
had previously marked the end of annual maneuvers was discontinued and a new emphasis was placed in training on scouting, raiding and pursuit; rather than main battle involvement.[110] The perceived importance of cavalry was however still evident, with thirteen new regiments of mounted rifles (Jäger zu Pferde) being raised shortly before the
outbreak of war in 1914.[111] In spite of significant experience in mounted warfare in Morocco during 1908-14, the French cavalry remained a highly conservative institution.[112] The traditional tactical distinctions between heavy, medium, and light cavalry branches were retained.[113] French cuirassiers wore breastplates and plumed helmets
unchanged from the Napoleonic period, during the early months of World War I.[114] Dragoons were similarly equipped, though they did not wear cuirasses and did carry lances.[115] Light cavalry were described as being "a blaze of colour". French cavalry of all branches were well mounted and were trained to change position and charge at full
gallop.[116] One weakness in training was that French cavalrymen seldom dismounted on the march and their horses suffered heavily from raw backs in August 1914.[117] See also: Horses in World War I Austro-Hungarian cavalry horses after the Battle
of Halen - where the Belgian cavalry, fighting dismounted, decimated their still mounted German counterparts In August 1914, all combatant armies still retained substantial numbers of the opening battles on both Eastern and Western Fronts provided a number of instances of traditional cavalry actions, though on a
smaller and more scattered scale than those of previous wars. The 110 regiments of Imperial German cavalry, while as colourful and traditional as any in peacetime appearance, [118] had adopted a practice of falling back on infantry support when any substantial opposition was encountered.
more conservative French and Russian opponents[120] but proved appropriate to the new nature of warfare. A single attempt by the German cavalry to cut off the Belgian field army from Antwerp floundered when they were driven back in disorder by rifle fire.[121] The two German cavalry
brigades involved lost 492 men and 843 horses in repeated charges by French cavalry took place on the night of 9/10 September 1914 when a squadron of the last recorded charges by French cavalry took place on the night of 9/10 September 1914 when a squadron of the last recorded charges against dismounted Belgian lancers and infantry.[122] One of the last recorded charges by French cavalry took place on the night of 9/10 September 1914 when a squadron of the 16th Dragoons overran a German airfield at Soissons, while suffering heavy losses.[123] Once the front
lines stabilised on the Western Front with the start of Trench Warfare, a combination of barbed wire, uneven muddy terrain, machine guns and rapid fire rifles proved deadly to horse mounted troops and by early 1915 most cavalry units were no longer seeing front line action. On the Eastern Front, a more fluid form of warfare arose from flat open
terrain favorable to mounted warfare. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the bulk of the Russian cavalry was deployed at full strength in frontier garrisons and, during the period that the main armies were mobilizing, scouting and raiding into East Prussia and Austrian Galicia was undertaken by mounted troops trained to fight with sabre and lance in the
traditional style.[124] On 21 August 1914 the 4th Austro-Hungarian 4th Cavalry Division [pl] under Edmund Ritter von Zaremba [pl] clashed with the Russian 10th Cavalry Division under general Fyodor Arturovich Keller in the Battle of Jaroslawice,[125] in what was arguably the final historic battle to involve thousands of horsemen on both sides.
[126] While this was the last massed cavalry encounter on the Eastern Front, the absence of good roads limited the use of mechanized transport and even the technologically advanced Imperial German Army continued to deploy up to twenty-four horse-mounted divisions in the East, as late as 1917.[127] A British cavalry trooper in marching order
(1914-1918) For the remainder of the War on the Western Front, cavalry had virtually no role to play. The British and French armies dismounted many of their cavalry regiments and used them in infantry and other roles: the Life Guards for example spent the last months of the War as a machine gun corps; and the Australian Light Horse served as
light infantry during the Gallipoli campaign. In September 1914 cavalry comprised 9.28% of the total manpower of the British Expeditionary Force in France—by July 1918 this proportion had fallen to 1.65%.[128] As early as the first winter of the war most French cavalry regiments had dismounted a squadron each, for service in the trenches.[129]
The French cavalry numbered 102,000 in May 1915 but had been reduced to 63,000 by October 1918.[130] The German Army dismounted nearly all their cavalry in the West, maintaining only one mounted division on that front by January 1917. German dragoons, armed with lances, after the capture of Warsaw, August 1915 Italy entered the war in
1915 with thirty regiments of line cavalry, lancers and light horse. While employed effectively against their Austro-Hungarian counterparts during the initial offensives across the Isonzo River, the Italian mounted forces ceased to have a significant role as the front shifted into mountainous terrain. By 1916 most cavalry machine-gun sections and two
complete cavalry divisions had been dismounted and seconded to the infantry.[131] Some cavalry were retained as mounted troops in reserve behind the lines, in anticipation of a penetration of the opposing trenches that it seemed would never come. Tanks, introduced on the Western Front by the British in September 1916 during the Battle of the
Somme, had the capacity to achieve such breakthroughs but did not have the reliable range to exploit them. In their first major use at the Battle of Cambrai (1917), the plan was for a cavalry division to follow behind the tanks, however they were not able to cross a canal because a tank had broken the only bridge.[132] On a few other occasions,
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throughout the war, cavalry were readied in significant numbers for involvement in major offensives; such as in the Battle of Caporetto and the Battle of Moreuil Wood. However it was not until the German Army had been forced to retreat in the Hundred Days Offensive of 1918, that limited numbers of cavalry were again able to operate with any

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effectiveness in their intended role. There was a successful charge by the British 7th Dragoon Guards on the last day of the war.[133] In the wider spaces of the Eastern Front, a more fluid form of warfare continued and there was still a use for mounted troops. Some wide-ranging actions were fought, again mostly in the early months of the war.[134]
However, even here the value of cavalry was overrated and the maintenance of large mounted formations at the front by the Russian Army put a major strain on the railway system, to little strategic advantage. [135] In February 1917, the Russian Army put a major strain on the railway system, to little strategic advantage.
two squadrons of each regiment were dismounted and incorporated into additional infantry battalions.[136] Their Austro-Hungarian opponents, plagued by a shortage of trained infantry, had been obliged to progressively convert most horse cavalry regiments to dismounted rifle units starting in late 1914.[137] In the Middle East, during the Sinai and
Palestine Campaign mounted forces (British, Indian, Ottoman, Australian, Arab and New Zealand) retained an important strategic role both as mounted infantry, formations like the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and Australian Light Horse of ANZAC Mounted Division, operating as mounted infantry, formations like the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and Australian Light Horse of ANZAC Mounted Division, operating as mounted infantry, formations like the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and Australian Light Horse of ANZAC Mounted Division, operating as mounted infantry, formations like the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and Australian Light Horse of ANZAC Mounted Division, operating as mounted infantry, formations like the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and Australian Light Horse of ANZAC Mounted Division, operating as mounted infantry, formations are supported by the Angel Rifles Brigade and Rifles Bri
drove German and Ottoman forces back from Romani to Magdhaba and Rafa and out of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula in 1916. After a stalemate on the Gaza-Beersheba line between March and October 1917, Beersheba was captured by the Australian Mounted Division's 4th Light Horse Brigade. Their mounted charge succeeded after a coordinated
attack by the British Infantry and Yeomanry cavalry and the Australian and New Zealand Light Horse and Mounted Rifles brigades. A series of coordinated attacks by these Egyptian Expeditionary Force infantry and mounted troops were also successful at the Battle of Mughar Ridge, during which the British infantry divisions and the Desert Mounted
Corps drove two Ottoman armies back to the Jaffa—Jerusalem line. The infantry with mainly dismounted cavalry and mounted infantry fought in the Judean Hills to eventually almost encircle Jerusalem which was occupied shortly after. During a pause in operations necessitated by the German spring offensive in 1918 on the Western Front, joint
infantry and mounted infantry attacks towards Amman and Es Salt resulted in retreats back to the Jordan Valley which continued to be occupied by mounted divisions during the summer of 1918. The Australian Mounted Division was armed with swords and in September, after the successful breaching of the Ottoman line on the Mediterranean coast
by the British Empire infantry XXI Corps was followed by cavalry attacks by the 4th Cavalry Division, 5th Cavalry Division and Australian Mounted Division which almost encircled two Ottoman armies in the Judean Hills forcing their retreat. Meanwhile, Chaytor's Force of infantry and mounted infantry in ANZAC Mounted Division held the Jordan
Valley, covering the right flank to later advance eastwards to capture Es Salt and Amman and half of a third Ottoman army. A subsequent pursuit by the 4th Cavalry Division to Damascus. Armoured cars and 5th Cavalry Division lancers were continuing the pursuit of Ottoman
units north of Aleppo when the Armistice of Mudros was signed by the Ottoman Empire. [138] A combination of military conservatism in almost all armies and post-war financial constraints prevented the lessons of 1914–1918 being acted on immediately. There was a general reduction in the number of cavalry regiments in the British, French,
Italian[139] and other Western armies but it was still argued with conviction (for example in the 1920 saw an interim period during which cavalry remained as a proud and conspicuous element of all major armies, though much less
so than prior to 1914. Cavalry was extensively used in the Russian Civil War and the Russian Bolsheviks. Colonial warfare in Morocco, Syria, the Middle East and the North West Frontier of India provided some opportunities for mounted
action against enemies lacking advanced weaponry. Lithuanian lancers training in the 1930s The post-war German Army (Reichsheer) was permitted a large proportion of cavalry regiments between 1929 and
1941, redefining their role from horse to armoured vehicles to form the Royal Armoured Corps together with the Royal Tank Regiment. The U.S. Cavalry abandoned its sabres in 1934[143] and commenced the conversion of its horsed regiments to mechanized cavalry, starting with the First Regiment of Cavalry in January 1933.[144] During the
 Turkish War of Independence, Turkish cavalry under General Fahrettin Altay was instrumental in the Kemalist victory over the invading Greek Army in 1922 during the Battle of Dumlupinar. The 5th Cavalry Corps was able to slip behind the main Greek Army in 1922 during the Battle of Dumlupinar. The 5th Cavalry Corps was able to slip behind the main Greek Army in 1922 during the Battle of Dumlupinar.
surrender of the remaining Greek forces and may have been the last time in history that cavalry played a definitive role in the outcome of a battle. Turkish cavalry during mounted and mechanised cavalry units into larger formations.[145] Dragoon
regiments were converted to motorised infantry (trucks and motor cycles), and cuirassiers to armoured units; while light cavalry (chasseurs a' cheval, hussars and spahis) remained as mounted sabre squadrons.[146] The theory was that mixed forces comprising these diverse units could utilise the strengths of each according to circumstances. In
practice mounted troops proved unable to keep up with fast moving mechanised units over any distance. The 39 cavalry regiments of the British Indian Army were reduced to 21 as the result of a series of amalgamations immediately following World War I. The new establishment remained unchanged until 1936 when three regiments were
redesignated as permanent training units, each with six, still mounted, regiments linked to them. In 1938, the process of mechanization began with the conversion of a full cavalry brigade (two Indian regiments and one British) to armoured car and tank units. By the end of 1940, all of the Indian cavalry had been mechanized, initially and in the
majority of cases, to motorized infantry transported in 15cwt trucks.[147] The last horsed regiment of the British Indian Army (other than the Viceroy's Bodyguard and some Indian States Forces regiments) was the 19th King George's Own Lancers which had its final mounted parade at Rawalpindi on 28 October 1939. This unit still exists in the
Pakistan Army as an armored regiment. This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: "Cavalry" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (May 2020) (Learn how and when to remove this message)
See also: Horses in World War II While most armies still maintained cavalry units at the outbreak of World War II in 1939, significant mounted action was largely restricted to the Polish, Balkan, and Soviet campaigns. Rather than charge their mounts into battle, cavalry units were either used as mounted infantry (using horses to move into position
and then dismounting for combat) or as reconnaissance units (especially in areas not suited to tracked or wheeled vehicles). Polish uhlan with anti-tank rifle. Military instruction published in 1938. A popular myth is that Polish cavalry armed with lances charged German tanks during the September 1939 campaign. This arose from misreporting of a
single clash on 1 September near Krojanty, when two squadrons of the Polish 18th Lancers armed with sabres scattered German infantry before being caught in the open by German armoured cars.[148] Two examples illustrate how the myth developed. First, because motorised vehicles were in short supply, the Poles used horses to pull anti-tank
weapons into position. [149] Second, there were a few incidents when Polish cavalry was trapped by German tanks, and attempted to fight free. However, this did not mean that the Polish army chose to attack tanks with horse cavalry. [150] Later, on the Eastern Front, the Red Army did deploy cavalry units effectively against the Germans. [151] A
German cavalry patrol in May 1940, during the Battle of France A more correct term would be "mounted infantry" instead of "cavalry", as horses were primarily used as a means of transportation, for which they were very suitable in view of the very poor road conditions in pre-war Poland. Another myth describes Polish cavalry as being armed with
both sabres and lances; lances were used for peacetime ceremonial purposes only and the primary weapon of the Polish cavalryman in 1939 was a rifle. Individual equipment did include a sabre, probably be more effective than a rifle and
bayonet. Moreover, the Polish cavalry brigade order of battle in 1939 included, apart from the mounted soldiers themselves, light and heavy machine guns (wheeled), the Anti-tank rifle, model 35, anti-aircraft weapons, anti tank artillery such as the Bofors 37 mm, also light and scout tanks, etc. The last cavalry mutual charge in Europe tookness.
place in Poland during the Battle of Krasnobród, when Polish and German cavalry units classed with each other. The last classical cavalry brigade. Infantry and tanks had been employed to little effect against the German position,
both of which floundered in the open wetlands only to be dominated by infantry and antitank fire from the German fortifications on the forward slope of Hill 157, overlooking the wetlands. The German shad not taken cavalry into consideration when fortifying their position which, combined with the "Warsaw"s swift assault, overran the German anti-
tank guns and consolidated into an attack into the village itself, now supported by infantry and tanks. The Italian invasion of Greece in October 1940 saw mounted and one partially mechanized) played an
important role in the Italian defeat in this difficult terrain. [152] Main article: Cavalry corps (Soviet cavalry to the development of modern military operational doctrine and its importance in defeating Nazi Germany has been eclipsed by the higher profile of tanks and airplanes. [153] Soviet cavalry contributed
significantly to the defeat of the Axis armies.[153] They were able to provide the most mobile troops available in the early stages, when trucks and other equipment were low in quality; as well as providing cover for retreating forces. Considering their relatively limited numbers, the Soviet cavalry played a significant role in giving Germany its first real
defeats in the early stages of the war. The continuing potential of mounted troops was demonstrated during the Battle of Moscow, against Guderian and the powerful central German 9th Army. Pavel Belov was given by Stavka a mobile group including the elite 9th tank brigade, ski battalions, Katyusha rocket launcher battalion among others, the unit
additionally received new weapons. This newly created group became the first to carry the Soviet counter-offensive in late November, when the general offensive operations. Cavalry were amongst the first Soviet units to complete the encirclement in
the Battle of Stalingrad, thus sealing the fate of the German 6th Army. Mounted Soviet forces also played a role in the encirclement of Berlin, with some Cossack cavalry units reaching the Reichstag in April 1945. Throughout the war they performed important tasks such as the capture of bridgeheads which is considered one of the hardest jobs in
battle, often doing so with inferior numbers. For instance the 8th Guards Cavalry Regiment of the 2nd Guards Cavalry Division (Soviet Union), 1st Guards C
mechanized and horse units. The main advantage of this tactical approach was in enabling mounted forces included the high quality of Russian Cossacks, which provided about half of all mounted Soviet cavalry throughout the war. They excelled in warfare
manoeuvers, since the lack of roads limited the effectiveness of wheeled vehicles in many parts of the Eastern Front. Another consideration was that sufficient logistic capacity was often not available to support very large motorized forces, whereas cavalry was relatively easy to maintain when detached from the main army and acting on its own
initiative. The main usage of the Soviet cavalry involved infiltration through front lines with subsequent deep raids, which disorganized German supply lines. Another role was the pursuit of retreating enemy forces during major front-line operations and breakthroughs. During World War II, the Royal Hungarian Army's hussars were typically only used
to undertake reconnaissance tasks against Soviet forces, and then only in detachments of section or squadron strength. The last documented hussar attack was conducted by Lieutenant Colonel Kálmán Mikecz on August 16, 1941, at Nikolaev. The hussars arriving as reinforcements, were employed to break through Russian positions ahead of German
troops. The hussars equipped with swords and submachine guns broke through the Russian lines in a single attack. An eyewitness account of the last hussar attack by Erich Kern, a German officer, was written in his memoir in 1948:[154] ... We were again in a tough fight with the desperately defensive enemy who dug himself along a high railway
embankment. We've been attacked four times already, and we've been kicked back all four times, The battalion commanders were helpless. Then, instead of the artillery support we asked for countless times, a Hungarian hussar regiment appeared on the scene. We laughed. What the hell do they want here with
their graceful, elegant horses? We froze at once: these Hungarians went crazy. Cavalry Squadron approached after a cavalry squadron. The command word rang. The bronze-brown, slender riders almost grew to their saddle. Their shining colonel of golden parolis jerked his sword. Four or five armored cars cut out of the wings, and the regiment
slashed across the wide plain with flashing swords in the afternoon sun. Seydlitz attacked like this once before. Forgetting all caution, we climbed out of our covers. It was all like a great equestrian movie. The first shots rumbled, then became less frequent. With astonished eyes, in disbelief, we watched as the Soviet regiment, which had so far
repulsed our attacks with desperate determination, now turned around and left its positions in panic. And the triumphant Hungarians chased the Russian in front of them and shredded them with their glittering sabers. The hussar sword, it seems, was a bit much for the nerves of Russians. Now, for once, the ancient weapon has triumphed over
modern equipment .... The last mounted sabre charge by Italian cavalry occurred on August 24, 1942, at Isbuscenski (Russia), when a squadron of the Fegiment, together with the Novara Lancers made a dismounted attack in an action that ended with the
retreat of the Russians after heavy losses on both sides.[155] The final Italian cavalry action occurred on October 17, 1942, in Poloj (now Croatia) by a squadron of the Alexandria Cavalry were dispersed or disbanded following the retreat of the Axis forces
from Russia.[156] Germany still maintained some mounted (mixed with bicycles) SS and Cossack units until the last days of the War. Finland used mounted troops against Russian forces effectively in forested terrain during the Continuation War.[157] The last Finnish cavalry unit was not disbanded until 1947. The U.S. Army's last horse cavalry
actions were fought during World War II: a) by the 26th Cavalry Regiment—a small mounted regiment—a small mounted regiment of Philippine Scouts which fought the Japanese during the retreat down the Bataan peninsula, until it was effectively destroyed by January 1942; and b) on captured German horses by the mounted reconnaissance section of the U.S. 10th Mountain
Division in a spearhead pursuit of the German Army across the Po Valley in Italy in April 1945.[158] The last horsed U.S. Cavalry (the Second Cavalry Division) were dismounted in March 1944. All British Army cavalry regiments had been mechanised since 1 March 1942 when the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons (Yeomanry) was converted to a
motorised role, following mounted service against the Vichy French in Syria the previous year. The final cavalry charge by British Empire forces occurred on 21 March 1942 when a 60 strong patrol of the Burma Frontier Force encountered Japanese infantry near Toungoo airfield in central Myanmar. The Sikh sowars of the Frontier Force cavalry, led
by Captain Arthur Sandeman of The Central India Horse (21st King George V's Own Horse), charged in the old style with sabres and most were killed. Mongolian People's Army were involved in the Battle of Khalkhin Gol against invading Japanese
forces. Soviet forces under the command of Georgy Zhukov, together with Mongolian forces, defeated the Japanese Sixth army and effectively ended the Soviet-Japanese Border Wars. After the Soviet-Japanese Sixth army and effectively ended the Soviet-Japanese Border Wars. After the Soviet-Japanese Sixth army and effectively ended the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact of 1941, Mongolia remained neutral throughout most of the war, but its geographical situation meant that the country served
as a buffer between Japanese forces and the Soviet Union. In addition to keeping around 10% of the population under arms, Mongolia provided half a million trained horses for use by the Soviet Invasion of
Manchuria. The last active service seen by cavalry units of the Mongolian Army occurred in 1946–1948, during border clashes between Mongolia and the Republic of China. U.S. Special Forces and Combat Controllers on horseback with the Northern Alliance of Afghanistan, which frequently used horses as military transport While most modern
"cavalry" units have some historic connection with formerly mounted troops this is not always the case. The modern Irish Defence Forces (DF) includes a "Cavalry Corps" equipped with armoured cars and Scorpion tracked combat reconnaissance vehicles. The DF has never included horse cavalry since its establishment in 1922 (other than a small
mounted escort of Blue Hussars drawn from the Artillery Corps when required for ceremonial occasions). However, the mystique of the cavalry is such that the name has been introduced for what was always a mechanised force. Some engagements in late 20th and early 21st century guerrilla wars involved mounted troops, particularly against
partisan or guerrilla fighters in areas with poor transport infrastructure. Such units were not used as cavalry but rather as mounted infantry. Examples occurred in Afghanistan, Portuguese Africa and Rhodesia. The French Army used existing mounted infantry. Examples occurred in Afghanistan, Portuguese Africa and Rhodesia. The French Army used existing mounted infantry.
last mounted charge by French cavalry was carried out on 14 May 1957 by a detachment of Spahis at Magoura during the Algerian War. [159] The Swiss Army used horse mounted cavalry with some success in the wars of independence in Angola and
Mozambique in the 1960s and 1970s.[160] During the 1964-1979 Rhodesian Bush War the Rhodesi
opponents in the rebel African forces. In the 1978 to present Afghan Civil War period there have been several instances of horse mounted cavalry for longer than those of Asia, Europe, or North American Army included a number of horse mounted cavalry regiments as late
as the mid-1990s and the Chilean Army had five such regiments in 1983 as mounted mountain troops. [161] After the end of World War II, the remaining 26 Soviet cavalry divisions were mostly converted into mechanized and tank units or disbanded. [162] Meanwhile the overall Red Army became the Soviet Ground Forces in 1945. The last cavalry
divisions were not disbanded until the early 1950s, with the last cavalry division, the 4th Guards Cavalry Division (II Formation, previously reduced in status from 4th Guards Cavalry Unit still having
operational potential.[164] It was raised in 1951 from the amalgamated state cavalry squadrons of Gwalior, Jodhpur, and Mysore. While primarily utilised for ceremonial purposes, the regiment can be deployed for internal security or police roles if required.[165] The 61st Cavalry and the President's Body Guard parade in full dress uniform in New
Delhi each year in what is probably the largest assembly of traditional cavalry still to be seen in the world. Both the Indian and the Pakistani armoured regiments with the titles of Lancers or Horse, dating back to the 19th century. As of 2007, the Chinese People's Liberation Army employed two battalions of horse-mounted border
guards in Xinjiang for border patrol purposes. PLA mounted units last saw action during border clashes with Vietnam in the 1980s, after which most cavalry units were disbanded as part of major military downsizing in the 1980s, after which most cavalry units were disbanded as part of major military downsizing in the 1980s, after which most cavalry units were disbanded as part of major military downsizing in the 1980s.
inventory for disaster relief in difficult terrain. Subsequent Chinese media reports[166][167][168] confirm that the PLA maintains operational horse cavalry at squadron strength in Qinghai.[169] The Chilean Army still maintains a mixed
armoured cavalry regiment, with elements of it acting as mounted mountain exploration troops, based in the city of Angol, being part of the III Mountain Division, [es] and another independent exploration cavalry detachment in the town of Chaitén. The rugged mountain terrain calls for the use of special horses suited for that use. The Argentine Army
has two mounted cavalry units: the Regiment of Horse Grenadiers, which performs mostly ceremonial duties but at the same time is responsible for the president's security (in this case, acting as infantry), and the 4th Mountain Cavalry Regiment (which comprises both horse and light armoured squadrons), stationed in San Martín de los Andes, where
it has an exploration role as part the 6th Mountain Brigade. Most armoured cavalry units of the Army are considered successors to the old cavalry regiments from the Independence Wars, and keep their traditional names, such as Hussars, Cuirassiers, Lancers, etc., and uniforms. Equestrian training remains an important part of their tradition,
especially among officers. Italian Army regiment "Lancieri di Montebello" (8th) on public duties in Rome 2019 A trumpeter of the Representative Cavalry Squadron in the Polish Army Horse-mounted guards from the Armed Forces of Paraguay at the inauguration of President
Santiago Peña in August 2023 Cavalry or mounted gendarmerie units continue to be maintained for purely or primarily ceremonial purposes by the Algerian, French, Hungarian, Indian, Italian, Jordanian, Malaysian, Mongolian Moroccan,
Nepalese, Nigerian, North Korean, Omani, Pakistani, Panamanian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Senegalese, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Tunisian, Turkmenistan, United States, Uruguayan and Venezuelan armed forces. A number of armoured regiments in the British Army retain the historic designations of Hussars, Dragoons, Light
Dragoons, Dragoon Guards, Lancers and Yeomanry. Only the Household Cavalry (consisting of the Life Guards' mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry and the Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry and the Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry and the Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron (the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry Mounted squadron) and the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry M
French Army still has regiments with the historic designations of Cuirassiers, Hussars, Chasseurs, Dragoons and Spahis. Only the cavalry/armoured branch[170] as a whole are now mounted. In the Canadian Army, a number of regular and reserve units have
cavalry roots, including The Royal Canadian Hussars (Montreal), the Governor General's Horse Guards, Lord Strathcona's Horse, only Lord Strathcona's Horse and the Governor General's Horse Guards maintain an official ceremonial horse-
mounted cavalry troop or squadron.[171] The modern Pakistan army maintains about 40 armoured regiments with the historic titles of Lancers, Cavalry or Horse. Six of these date back to the 19th century, although only the President's Body Guard remains horse-mounted. In 2002, the Army of the Russian Federation reintroduced a ceremonial
mounted squadron wearing historic uniforms. Both the Australian and New Zealand armies follow the British practice of maintaining traditional titles (Light Horse or Mounted Rifles) for modern United States Army retain the designation of
"armored cavalry". The United States also has "air cavalry" units equipped with helicopters. The Horse Cavalry Detachment of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, made up of active duty soldiers, still functions as an active unit, trained to approximate the weapons, tools, equipment and techniques used by the United States Cavalry in the 1880s.[172]
 in federal service but acts in a mounted disaster relief role when in state service.[176] In addition, the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry is a Reserve Officer Training Corps unit which forms part of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University. Valley Forge Military Academy and College also has a Mounted Company, known as D-Troop . Some individual U.S.
 states maintain cavalry units as a part of their respective state defense forces. The Maryland Defense Force includes a saber qualification course based upon the 1926 U.S. Army course.[178] Cavalry Troop A also assists other Maryland
and assist in search and rescue missions.[179] In July 2004, the National Lancers were ordered into active state service to guard Camp Curtis Guild during the 2004 Democratic National Convention.[178] In 2020, the California State
 peasants on foot. If landlords and peasant levies came into conflict, the poorly trained footmen would be ill-equipped to defeat armored knights. In later national armies, service as an officer in the cavalry was generally a badge of high social status. For instance prior to 1914 most officers of British cavalry regiments came from a socially privileged
colonial units. These included the British Indian cavalry, the Russian Cossacks or the French Chasseurs d'Afrique. During the 19th and early 20th centuries most monarchies maintained a mounted cavalry element in their royal or imperial guards. These ranged from small units providing ceremonial escorts and palace guards, through to large
formations intended for active service. The mounted escort of the Spanish Royal Household provided an example of the former and the twelve cavalry regiments of the aristocracies of their respective societies. Some sense of the
the riders are shown in the Extended Version DVD Appendices. Other films that show cavalry actions include: The Charge of the Light Brigade, about the Australian Light Horse during the Sinai and Palestine campaign of World War I The Lighthorsemen, about the Battle of
includes a cavalry charge during the Siege of Kerak The Last Samurai - a US army veteran, is hired by the Japanese emperor to train his army in the modern warfare techniques the British use of infantry squares to defend against cavalry attacks. A
cavalryman of Hakkapeliitta, the Finnish cavalry Regiment (United States) Australian Light Horse Bayreuth Dragoons The Blues and Royals (British Army)(who with the Life Guards form the Household Cavalry) British
Republicana (Portuguese National Guard) Governor's Guards (United States) Guides Cavalry (Pakistan Army) Hamidiye (Ottoman) Ironside King's Royal Hussars (British Army) Panserbataljonen (Norwegian Army) Queen's Own Yeomanry (a British Army Reserve Light
Cavalry Regiment) Queen's Royal Hussars (British Army) Regulares (Spanish Morocco) Royal Dragoon Guards (British Army) Royal Wessex Yeomanry (a British Army) Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (British Army) Royal Wessex Yeomanry (a British Army) Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (British Army) Royal Wessex Yeomanry (a British Army) Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (British Army) Royal Wessex Yeomanry (a British Army) Royal W
World War II[183] Didier Courrèges, major in the French Army, member of Ecole Nationale d'Equitation's Cadre Noir, Olympian at 2004 Summer Olympics Edwin Ramsey, lieutenant colonel in the 26th Cavalry Regiment during World War II, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, led the last cavalry charge in American military history[184]
General Fahrettin Altay, commander of the 5th Cavalry Corps of the Turkish 1st Army during the Turkish War of Independence, which was instrumental in victory over the invading Greek Army. His name is given to the new Turkish battle tank Altay.[185][verification needed] Cavalry tactics Shock tactics Horses in warfare Armored reconnaissance - a
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War II) Society of the Military Horse Gesellschaft der Freunde der Kavallerie (German) The Horse and Mule in the British Army during WW1 Retrieved from "2Indian Army regiment 18th CavalryActive1842; 183 years ago (1842)1921; 104 years ago (1842)1921; 104 years ago (1842)1921; 104 years ago (1842)1921; 105 years ago (1842)1921; 107 years ago (1842)1921; 108 years ago (1842)1921; 1
(1947-1950) India (1950-)Branch British Indian Army (1921-1947) Indian Army (1947-)TypeCavalrySizeRegimentPart ofIndian Army (1947-)Typ
WarSecond Mohmand CampaignSecond World WarIndo-Pakistani War of 1971Battle honoursPunniarMoodkeeFerozeshahSobraonEgypt 1882Tel-El-KebirPunjab FrontierCommandersColonel of the armoured corps of the
Indian Army. The regiment was created in 1921 through the amalgamation of the 7th Hariana Lancers and 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry and the 7th Hariana Lancers to form the 6th/7th Cavalry. This designation was quickly changed in 1922 to 18th
King Edward's Own Cavalry. [3] These two regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 1861 - 6th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1863 - 6th (The Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1801 - 6th (Prince of Wales's) Regim
Wales's) Bengal Cavalry, 1903 - 6th Prince of Wales's Cavalry, 1906 - 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry, 1847 - 17th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 1861 - 7th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1906 - 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry, 1847 - 17th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 1861 - 7th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, 1908 - 6th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 1847 - 17th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 1847 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 - 1848 -
Bengal Lancers, 1903 - 7th Lancers, 1904 - 7th Hariana Lancers. The composition in 1921 consisted of Kaimkhanis, Rajputana Rajasthan; Rajputana Rajasthan; Rajputana Rajasthan; Rajputana Rajasthan and Hindustani
Mussalmans from all over India, but mainly from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. 7th Bengal Cavalry (from DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University) In 1936, the unit was renamed 18th King Edward VII. In 1940 it became
the second to last cavalry regiment to be mechanised, leaving only the 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse still mounted on horses (though it too would be mechanised a month later). [citation needed] The regiment, while still mounted on horses (though it too would be mechanised, leaving only the 17th Queen Victoria's Own Poona Horse still mounted on horses (though it too would be mechanised a month later).
1935 Loe-Agra and Mohmand operations. The 1935 operations was to suppress the Mohmands, north of the Khyber Pass, after their raiding on the plains and attacks on road construction parties. The campaign witnessed a night operation to capture the heights around the Nahakki Pass.[5] An Indian Pattern Carrier Mk IIA named 'Dhar IV', North
Africa, 10 April 1942 of the type used by 3rd Indian Motor Brigade, which was initially part of the 1st Indian Armoured Division, [6] The brigade was detached from the division, and dispatched to Egypt in late January 1941,
along with its units including the 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry. The regiment, and the brigade, were attached to a number of different formations that included the 2nd Armoured Division, the 7th Armoured Division, and the 9th Australian Division who they were with during the Siege of
Tobruk.[6] The regiment also supplied men for the Indian Long Range Squadron. The brigade was later overrun by the Italians during the Battle of Gazala, and took some days to reform. After the brigade re-formed, the regiment was equipped as follows: Cavalry Carrier - 2 x Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 x AT Squadron.[7][8][9] On 30 June, the
brigade was ordered to hand over 50 per cent of its vehicles to the Eighth Army, and was dispersed; the regiment was allocated the regiment. It travelled overland to Sahneh, in Persia via Baghdad, and was placed under the command of the 31st
Indian Armoured Division (formally the 1st Indian Armoured Division). In late November it then moved to Shaibah, 7 miles (11 kilometres) from Basra. From here the regiment returned to India in January 1943. In the middle of the
year, the regiment moved to Rawalpindi and commenced conversion to a light cruiser regiment, which was successfully completed by the end of the year.[10] The regiment was split up after that, and elements were serving in different parts of India when the Japanese surrender came in August 1945. 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry won the
following gallantry awards during the Second World War:[11][12] Order of the British Empire — Major L.M. Murphy Distinguished Service Order — Major H.O.W. Fowler Military Cross — Captain J.W. Prentice, Second Lieutenant G Annesley Cooke Indian Order of Merit — Jemadar Jage Ram, Jemadar Aman Singh Indian
Distinguished Service Medal — Risaldar Hasham Ali Khan, Sowar Abdi Khan, S
18th King Edward's Own Cavalry was allocated to India. When India became a republic in 1950, the regiment's title was changed to that of 18th Cavalry. The then Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Hari Singh Deora with a destroyed Pakistani War. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the regiment
fought a series of isolated armour battles as part of the 1st Armoured Division in the approaches to Sialkot.[13] They left behind 29 destroyed enemy tanks, and Naib Risaldar Mohd. Ayub Khan was awarded the Vir Chakra.[14] Seven were mentioned in despatches.[15] During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, the regiment saw action in the Fazilkan
sector. Naib Risaldar Noor Mohammed Khan was awarded the Vir Chakra.[16] The regiment has participated in Operation Vijay, Operation Parakram, and undertaken counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir, where it was awarded the GOC-in-C (Northern Command) Unit Citation.[citation needed] This section needs additional citations
for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (June 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this message) 1991 postage stamp The regiment was awarded the following battle honours:[17][18] Awarded to 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry
Punniar, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Sobraon, Egypt 1882, Tel-el-Kebir, Punjab Frontier[19] Awarded to 7th Hariana Lancers Punjaub, Burma 1885-87[20] First World War Awarded in 1926 for services of predecessor regiments Somme 1916, Morval, Cambrai 1917, France and Flanders 1914-18, Megiddo, Sharon, Damascus, Palestine 1918, Shaiba, Kut-
al-Amara 1915, Ctesiphon, Tigris 1916, Mesopotamia 1915-16 Second World War El Mechili[broken anchor], Defence of Tobruk, The Kennels, North Africa 1940-43 Independent India Jammu and Kashmir 1965, Tilkapur-Muhadipur, Punjab 1965. The Chief of Army Staff, General Dalbir Singh presenting the President's 'Standard' to 18 Cavalry, in
Amritsar on 7 March 2016 The President of India, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy presented a guidon to the regiment at Amritsar by General Dalbir Singh, Chief of the Army Staff, on behalf of the President of India, Mr Pranab Mukherjee,
[2][21] The regiment shed its horses and was converted to a motorised cavalry regiment equipped with anti-tank guns in 1940. This gave way to tanks in 1946, the T-72s in 1983. [10] The current regimental insignia consists of
| | Caahas Aur Samman | Caahas Aur Samman | Caahas Aur Samman | Caahas Aur Samman | Captain | Caahas Aur Samman | Caahas Aur Samman | Captain | Caahas Aur Samman | Caahas Aur S
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University of California) digitised 4 Sep 2008. ISBN 81-7062-104-6., ISBN 978-81-7062-104-1 The uniforms of the late 19th Century Evolution of the 18th Cavalry Portals: India History Retrieved from " 35 Probyn's HorseActive1857-presentCountry British India PakistanBranch British Indian Army Pakistan ArmyTypeArmoured
RegimentSizeRegimentNickname(s)Probyn's HorseMotto(s)Allah O AkbarEngagementsIndian Rebellion of 1857Second Opium War 1868-61Abyssinian Campaign 1868Second Afghan War 1914-18 (Mesopotamia)Second World War 1939-45 (Burma)Indo-Pakistani War of 1965CommandersColonels-in-ChiefKing Edward VIIKing
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George VColonel of the Regiment Field Marshal The Lord BirdwoodNotablecommanders General Sir Dighton Probyn, VCGeneral Sir Hugh Gough, VCGeneral Sir Hugh Gough Goug

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Probyn's Horse, which was a regular cavalry regiment of the British Indian Army. It was formed in 1921 by the amalgamation of the 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) was originally raised on 1 August 1857 by Captain Frederick Wale
as Wale's Horse during the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and served at Lucknow. Captain Wale was killed in action on 1 March 1858, while leading the regiment was dispatched to China to take part in the Second Opium War. It participated in the advance on
Peking and returned to India in 1861 with a good reputation. The regiment saw service in the Second Afghan War of 1878-80 and then took part in the Black Mountain Expedition; it went to Chitral and formed part of the Malakand Field Force. During the First World War, the regiment served in Mesopotamia.[1][2] 1857 Wale's Horse 1857 1st Sikh
Irregular Cavalry 1858 1st Sikh Irregular Cavalry (Probyn's Horse) 1861 11th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry (Probyn's Horse) 1861 11th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry (Probyn's Horse) 1874 11th Regiment of Bengal Cavalr
 Lancers 1904 11th Prince of Wales's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse) 1906 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's Horse). Watercolour by AC Lovett, 1910 The Lancer's uniform of Probyn's Horse was topped by cap-line worn unattached. Shoulder epaulettes were covered with gilt
curb-chains, and plus the Mameluke scimitar. Mussullmen were unique in wearing a kulla, a pointed cap under the puggaree. Made of heavy khaki cloth it gave good protection against the sun, and became popular, even with British officers, who's adopted the puggaree as part of their dress. The 12th Cavalry was also raised during the Indian
Rebellion of 1857, by Captain PR Hockin in October 1857. It formed part of the 1868 Expedition to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and served in the Second Afghan War of 1878-80. During the First World War, the regiment fought in the Mesopotamian Campaign.[1][2] 1857 2nd Sikh Irregular Cavalry 1861 12th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry 1901 12th Bengal
Cavalry 1903 12th Cavalry After the First World War, the number of Indian cavalry regiments was reduced from thirty-nine to twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the entire cavalry line. The 11th King Edward's Own Lancers (Probyn's
 Horse) and the 12th Cavalry were amalgamated at Meerut on 28 August 1921 to form 5th King Edward's Own Probyn's Horse. The uniform of Probyn's Horse was blue with scarlet facings. The new regiment's badge consisted of the Prince of Wales's plumes. Its class composition was one squadron each of Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs and Dogras. The
regiment was converted to a mechanised unit in 1940 while based at Risalpur. Initially this simply involved the substitution of trucks for horses but by mid-1942 re-equipment with three squadrons of Stuart tanks and Lee tanks had been concluded. In 1944 Probyn's was assigned to 225 Indian Tank Brigade, to serve with distinction in the Burma
Campaign using M4 Sherman tanks. On the Partition of India in 1947, Probyn's Horse was allotted to Pakistan became a republic and all titles pertaining to British royalty were dropped. The regiment's new designation was 5 Horse, although informally, it continues to be known as the Probyn's Horse. During the Indo-Pakistan
War of 1965, 5 Horse fought in the Battle of Khem Karan.[3] 1921 11th/12th Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward's Own Lancers) 1937 Probyn's Horse (5th King Edward's Own Lancers) 1956 5 Horse Major Dighton Probyn, VC, 1867 Lucknow, Taku Forts, Pekin 1860
Abyssinia, Ali Masjid, Peiwar Kotal, Charasiah, Kabul 1879, Afghanistan 1878-80, Chitral, Malakand, Punjab Frontier, Mesopotamia 1915-18, Meiktila, Capture of Meiktila, Capture 
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 Indian Army and Pakistan Army 6th Lancers(Watson's Horse)Active 1857-present Country British Indian Army Pakistan Army TypeArmoured Regiment SizeRegiment SizeReg
 1914-18Third Afghan War 1919Second World War 1939-45Indo-Pakistani War of 1965CommandersColonel-in-ChiefPrince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn (Son of Her Majesty Queen Victoria) Senior Most CommandantLt. Gen Mian Muhammad Afzaal HI(M) SI(M) OA(M) SBt (Shaheed) (CGS)NotablecommandersGeneral Sir John Watson VC
GCBBrigadier Francis Ingall DSO OBEMilitary unit The 6th Lancers is an armoured regiment of the Pakistan Army. Previously, it was known as the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers (Watson's Horse), and was a regular cavalry regiment in the British Indian Army. It was formed in 1921 by amalgamation of the 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers
(Watson's Horse) and the 16th Cavalry. The regiment and its predecessors have seen active service on the North West Frontier, in Egypt during 1882, in China during the Boxer Rebellion, the regiment was allotted to the Pakistan Army, where it remains in
service today.[1] 13th (Duke of Connaught's) Bengal Lancers scouting. Painting by Harry Paine, 1890. The 13th Duke of Connaught's Lancers was originally raised in Sep 1857, at Lahore, as the 4th Sikh Irregular Cavalry by Lieutenants H Cattley and John Watson VC. Watson was appointed the commandant but did not join until 1860. He would go on
to command the regiment for eleven years and is better known for introducing changes in the riding practices of the cavalry, where by the rider would rise in the second Afghan War of 1878-80 and in Egypt in 1882, where it fought against Arabi Pasha at the
 Battle of Tel-el-Kebir. It so impressed the Duke of Connaught that he requested his mother, Queen Victoria, to appoint him as their Colonel-in-Chief. In 1897, the regiment was engaged in suppressing the tribal uprisings on the Northwest Frontier. During the First World War, the regiment remained on the Northwest Frontier until July 1916, when it
 moved to Mesopotamia for the relief of Kut-al-Amara. On its return, it served in Waziristan during the Third Afghan War in 1919.[1] 1857 4th Sikh Irregular Cavalry (Lancers) 1874 13th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry 1861 13th Regiment of 
Lancers 1901 13th (Duke of Connaught's) Bengal Lancers 1903 13th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers 1904 13th Duke Own Lancers 1904 13t
of the Bhutan Field Force. It was disbanded in 1882 when three regiments were broken up to provide an additional, fourth squadron for the approval for an increase in strength of the cavalry and the 16th Cavalry was reformed in 1885 at Ambala. In 1900, the regiment went to China to
relieve the international legations in Peking during the Boxer Rebellion. On relieving the American Legation, the 16th Cavalry was presented with the United States flag, which had flown over the building and, for many years, it had hung in the Officers' Mess.[1] During the First World War, the 16th Cavalry served in the Mesopotamian Campaign.
After the war, it served in the Third Afghan War of 1919.[1] Risaldar-Major of 13th (Duke of Connaught's) Bengal Lancers, 1897. Painting by CP Chater 1857 Rohilcund Horse 1861 16th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry 1864 16th Regiment of Ben
Cavalry (re-raised) 1901 16th Bengal Lancers 1903 16th Cavalry After the First World War, the number of Indian cavalry regiments was reduced from thirty-nine to twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the surplus units, it was decided to amalgamate them in pairs. This resulted in renumbering and renaming of the entire cavalry line. The 13th
Duke of Connaught's Lancers (Watson's Horse) and 16th Cavalry were amalgamated at Meerut on 1 June 1921 as the 13th/16th Cavalry; becoming the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers a year later. Their uniform was blue with scarlet facings, while the new badge was to be crossed lances with the figure '6' on the intersection and a scroll below,
reading 'The Duke of Connaught's Own'. Their composition was one squadron each of Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs and Dogras.[1] Indian troops, including those of the 16th Bengal Lancers at the Temple of Heaven, Peking; 3rd China War (Boxer Rebellion), 1900 During the Second World War, the 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers, now mounted on
armoured cars, served as the Reconnaissance Regiment of the 10th Indian Infantry Division and later with the 8th Indian Infantry Division in the Italian Campaign. The regiment was engaged in a number of actions, most notably the Second Battle of Cassino, Monte Moro, crossing of the Rivers Po and Adige and the race to Venice. In August 1947, on
the Partition of India, the 6th DCO Lancers was allotted to Pakistan. The regiment's Jat Squadron went to the 7th Light Cavalry in exchange for their Punjabi Mussalman Squadron was exchanged with the Punjabi Mussalmans of the 8th King George V's Own Light Cavalry.[1] The 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers at San
Felice, during the advance towards the River Sangro, Italy, 1943 In 1956, Pakistan became a republic and all titles pertaining to the British royalty were dropped. The regiment's new designation was 6 Lancers. During the Indian
town of Khem Karan under the dynamic leadership of their Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Sahib Zad Gul, who fell in battle while leading his regiment. [2] 1921 13th/16th Cavalry (amalgamation) 1922 6th Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers 1927 6th Duke  Kebir, Egypt 1882, Punjab Frontier, China 1900, Shaiba, Kut al Amara 1915, Ctesiphon, Tigris 1916, Baghdad, Kut al Amara 1917, Sharqat, Mesopotamia 1915-18, NW Frontier, India 1915, Afghanistan 1919, The Sangro, The Moro, Cassino II, Pignataro, Liri Valley, The Senio, Santerno Crossing, Italy 1943-45, Khem Karan 1965
[3] Light Dragoons 6th Lancers (India) ^ a b c d e f Gaylor, John (1991). Sons of John Company: The Sabre & Lance: Journal of the Pakistan Armoured Corps. (1997). Nowshera: The School of Armour & Mechanised Warfare. ^ Rodger,
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 Journal Retrieved from " 5Pakistan Army unit 15th Lancers (Baloch)Active 1922 - 1937; 1955 - Present Country British India Pakistan Branch British India Army Pakistan Army Pakistan Army Unit 15th Lancers (Baloch)Active 1922 - 1937; 1955 - Present Country British India Pakistan Branch  Pakistani War of 1965Battle honours Afghanistan 1879-80, Afghanistan 1919, Khem Karan 1965. Military unit The 15th Lancers (Baloch) is an armoured regiment of the Pakistan Army. It was formed in 1922 by the amalgamation of the 17th Cavalry and the 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse). [1] The 17th Cavalry was raised in 1857 at Muttra by Colonel CJ
 Robarts and was composed entirely of Afghans. Throughout its existence, the regiment remained an exclusively Muslim unit. In 1861, after several changes in nomenclature, it was designated the 17th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry. In 1865, it saw action as part of the Bhutan Field Force, while in 1879-80, the regiment operated on lines of
communication during the Second Afghan War as part of the Kabul Field Force. During the First World War, it dispatched a squadron to Africa where it took part in the East African Campaign. In 1919, the regiment fought in the Third Afghan War. The regiment maintained a mounted pipe band from 1895 to 1902. The uniform of the 17th Cavalry was
blue with white facings. The regimental badge consisted of a silver star and crescent over "XVII" with a title scroll below.[2][3] 1857 Muttra Horse 1857 Muttra Horse 1857 Muttra Horse 1851 Tth Regiment of Bengal Cavalry 1882
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made up of Pathans and Baluchis. Their first chance of active service came in 1919, when they served in the Third Afghan War, although one of their squadrons operated in Persia during the First World War. Prior to 1914 the regiment's dress uniform was dark blue (khaki drill for hot-weather parade and field dress), with buff facings. The badge
consisted of crossed lances and pennons with "37" over crossed lances.[2][3][4] 1885 7th Bombay Cavalry (Jacob-ka-Risallah) 1886 7th Bombay Cavalry (Belooch Horse) 1903 37th Lancers (Belooch Horse) 1903 37th La
twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the surplus units, it was decided to amalgamate them in pairs. This resulted in renumbering and renaming of the entire cavalry line. The 17th Cavalry and 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) were amalgamated at Lucknow in 1922 to form the 15th Lancers. Meanwhile, an existing 15th Lancers (Cureton's
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 Lancers became the training regiment of the 1st Indian Cavalry (Frontier Force). However, the next year, the centre was disbanded.[1] In 1955, the 15th Lancers was re-raised by the Pakistani Army as a Reconnaissance Regiment of the Pakistan
Armoured Corps and equipped with M24 Chaffee light tanks. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the regiment served with distinction in the Kasur Sector and was awarded the Baluch Regiment) due to the old link with the 37th
 Lancers (Baluch Horse). It added the title of 'Baluch' to its designation in 1989.[2] 1922 17th/37th Cavalry (amalgamation of 15th Lancers and 12th Cavalry) 1941 Disbanded 1955 15th Lancers (re-raised) 1989 15th Lancers (Baluch) 1991
15th Lancers (Baloch)[7] The Baloch Regiment The Royal Dragoon Guards ^ a b c Ahmad, Lt Col RN. (2010). Battle Honours of the Baloch Regiment. Abbottabad: The Baloch Regiment The Royal Dragoon Guards ^ a b c d 15th Lancers (Baloch): Through the Ages 1858-1998. (1998). Lahore: 15th Lancers. ^ a b c Gaylor, John (1991). Sons of John Company: The Indian
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which had been disbanded in 1882. This regiment was also an all-Muslim unit made up of Pathans and Baluchis. Their first chance of active service came in 1919, when they served in the Third Afghan War, although one of their squadrons operated in Persia during the First World War. Prior to 1914 the regiment's dress uniform was dark blue (khaki
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number of Indian cavalry regiments was reduced from thirty-nine to twenty-one. However, instead of disbanding the surplus units, it was decided to amalgamate them in pairs. This resulted in renumbering and renaming of the entire cavalry line. The 17th Cavalry and 37th Lancers (Baluch Horse) were amalgamated at Lucknow in 1922 to form the
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and badges are still in use by the regiment. [2] In 1937, the 15th Lancers became the training regiment of the 1st Indian Cavalry (Frontier Force). However, the next year, the centre was disbanded. [1] In 1955, the 15th Lancers was re-raised by the
Pakistani Army as a Reconnaissance Regiment of the Pakistan Armoured Corps and equipped with M24 Chaffee light tanks. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the regiment of the Pakistan Armoured Corps and equipped with M24 Chaffee light tanks. During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the regiment of the Pakistani War of 1965, 
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next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500) Retrieved from "WhatLinksHere/15th_Lancers" Explore more from Cavalry The British Army used horses in all sorts of ways, including pulling and carrying supplies and equipment. But around one third of its horses were used as riding animals. Soldiers who fought on horseback were known as cavalry. They often
dominated the battlefield and performed a variety of important roles. 8 minute read The Charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaklava, 1854 Cavalry soldiers on large, heavy and strong horses were used to break enemy formations. Some cavalry, and later mounted infantry, also gave commanders mobile firepower on the battlefield. Small, light, fast
horses were used to scout, patrol and pursue. Scouts were trained to spot signs of the enemy and track their movements while staying hidden. They also became specialist marksmen who could shoot very accurately from long distances. Soldiers on swift horses carried important orders and news (despatches) between commanders and officers. In the
event of defeat, horses could also provide a quick getaway. A horse gave extra height. This allowed generals and their staff to move around a battlefield encouraging and directing their soldiers. They could be seen more clearly by their troops but also by their enemy, making them prime targets for sharpshooters. 'Cavalry is useful before, during, and
after the battle.' Napoleon Bonaparte The first cavalrymen to be armed with firearms were known as harquebusiers. The name derived from the word 'harquebus', which was their main weapon. This had a shorter barrel than an infantryman's musket, making it easier to fire from horseback, but giving it a shorter range. A shortened musket or rifle
later became known as a carbine, and was wielded by carabiniers. Britain first raised a carabiniers were often armoured like cuirassiers and in some ways functioned like dragoons. However, carabiniers were used as conventional mounted cavalry from their very inception, unlike dragoons who took hundreds of years to evolve
into that role. They were also a Europe-wide phenomenon at the time - the 'carabinieri' in the Italian police force have the same origin. Buff coat worn by harquebusier Major Thomas Sanders during the English Civil War, 1640s The King's Regiment of Carabiniers, 1709 Dragoons were originally mounted soldiers primarily intended to fight on foot.
They were named after their main weapon, 'the dragon', which was a type of firelock musket common in the 16th century, In these early years, dragoon horses tended to be cheap beasts of burden rather than fine cavalry charges. However, by the late 18th century, most dragoon regiments had evolved into conventional cavalry, able to charge and
fight on horseback. They were armed with short rifles, known as carbines, and heavy swords. The British Army had light dragoons, used for scouting and reconnaissance duties, and dragoon guards, who fulfilled a heavy cavalry role by delivering shock action on the battlefield.
They rode big heavy horses, were armed with large swords, and wore a back and breastplate known as a cuirass. The latter gave them their French name of 'cuirassiers'. In the British Army, the cuirassier role was performed by the Life Guards and the Royal Horse
Guards, 1815 During the late 19th century, the use of heavy cavalry gradually declined as the firepower and accuracy of infantry weapons increased. Although equipped with armoured vehicles, soldiers of today's Household Cavalry still parade on horseback and wear their 18th-century-style uniforms - complete with cuirass and helmet - when
guarding the monarch during ceremonial occasions in London. Hussars were light cavalry mounted on fast horses. They were used to fight skirmish battles and for reconnoitring. Originally Hungarian, by the mid-18th century most European armies had recruited hussar regiments. The British Army first encountered them during the War of the
Austrian Succession (1740-48), but did not start transforming certain of its own light dragoon regiments into hussars, 1812 Pelisse worn by Lieutenant Walter Brinkley, 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars, c1848 The most expensively dressed and flamboyant of all cavalry,
hussars wore pelisses. These were short fur-edged jackets that were worn slung over the shoulder in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade
in 1854. Today's hussar regiments drive armoured vehicles. 'My friend, any hussar who does not die by thirty is a blackguard.' General Antoine-Charles-Louis de Lassalle, French hussar commander — 1804 The main task of the lancers was to charge enemy infantry and cavalry formations. They were also used for typical light cavalry tasks such as
skirmishing and scouting. Although they wielded a fearsome lance as their chief weapon, lancers were normally equipped with sabres and pistols or carbines. These weapons were for close combat, whereas the lance had its greatest impact in the charge. Pattern 1846 Lance fitted with a red and white pennon The British established lancer regiments
in 1816 after confronting French lancers during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15). Improvements in the late 19th century, alongside the appearance of the machine gun, made the lancer's role largely obsolete. Today, lancer units are mechanised. 'I had never before realised the great superiority of the lance over the
sword.' French commander General Durutte at Waterloo — 1815 The 17th Lancers at Balaklava, 1854 The volunteer yeomanry cavalry units were originally formed in the 1790s as a response to the invasion threat from Revolutionary France. However, they were also used to support the civil authority to put down political and social disturbances. This
continued until the mid-19th century, when police forces took over this role. The yeomanry then concentrated on local defence. Members of the yeomanry were usually armed with swords and pistols or carbines. They were not obliged to serve overseas, but most did when asked to do so - as in 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War. By then, the
yeomanry had become the cavalry wing of the Territorial Force (today's Army Reserve). The last mounted regiment of yeomanry was the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, which was converted to an armoured role in March 1942. 2/1st Hertfordshire Yeomanry on the march to war stations, August 1914 British mounted infantry units emerged during
the colonial conflicts of the late 19th century. Foot regiments formed mounted platoons for scouting and skirmishing when serving overseas in Australia, South Africa, Egypt and Sudan. Many of these eventually formed the Imperial Mounted Infantry. The troops travelled great distances on horses, but fought on foot with rifles. Likewise, several colonial
units - such as the Cape Mounted Rifles, Natal Carbineers and Victorian Mounted Rifles - fought as mounted infantry, Many colonial soldiers were experienced horsemen and hunters, used to an outdoor life in their homelands. They made expert mounted infantry, Many colonial soldiers were experienced horsemen and hunters, used to an outdoor life in their homelands. They made expert mounted infantry, Many colonial soldiers were experienced horsemen and hunters, used to an outdoor life in their homelands.
and mounted infantry was often blurred. During the Second Afghan War (1878-80), the 9th Lancers always went into action with their carbines on their backs so they could perform mounted infantry duties, the mounted infantry could not charge effectively, having neither
sword or lance. Mounted infantry watering their horses, South Africa, 1901 Even though the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry were generally easier to maintain than the larger cavalry horses, the mounted infantry were generally easier to maintain than the larger cavalry horses, the mounted infantry watering their horses, South Africa, 1901 Even though the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering their horses, the mounted infantry watering their horses, the mounted infantry watering their horses, and the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering their horses, and the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering their horses, and the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering their horses, and the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering their horses, and the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering the smaller and often hardier ponies used by mounted infantry watering the smaller and often hardier ponies water and the smaller and often hardier ponies water and the smaller and the sm
A Royal Horse Artillery troop at the Battle of Fuentes d'Onoro, 1811 The Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) was raised in 1793 and had the task of giving artillery support to the cavalry. With its soldiers all riding into battle on horses, wagons or limbers, the RHA was able to keep up with the fast-moving mounted units. Six-horse teams were normally used to
haul the RHA's guns into action. The East India Company's Bengal and Bombay Armies also formed their own horse artillery units on similar lines. Bengal Horse Artillery in action, 1857 Once in position, horse artillery crews were trained to quickly dismount, unlimber their guns, then rapidly fire at the enemy. They could then just as rapidly limber up,
remount and be ready to move to a new position. A classic use of horse artillery was against an enemy infantry square that had formed up to resist a cavalry to destroy it. Another common role for the RHA was as cover during the retreat of slower-moving
units. Their speed of deployment meant they could also act as a rapid response force, repulsing attacks in a threatened sector of the battlefield. Story Cavalry charges might win a battle, but with poor leadership they could end in disaster. Many are remembered and celebrated because of the risk involved, whether successful or not. story The Battle of
Blenheim in 1704 saw a decisive defeat for a Franco-Bavarian force by the allied English, Dutch and Austrian armies commanded by the Duke of Waterloo was fought on 18 June 1815 between Napoleon's French Army and a coalition led by the Duke of Wellington and Marshal Blücher. It
was the decisive battle of its age. Story The Battle of Balaklava in 1854 witnessed one of the most famous acts of battlefield bravery and one of the most infamous blunders in military history. Story During the First World War, the Army relied on its horses to perform a wide range of jobs. The requisition, transportation and care of these animals was
therefore of huge importance. Story Horses have played a vital role in supporting soldiers on and off the battlefield. Explore the stories of some of the most incredible horses in British military history.
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