

## THE NEW INFANTRY DRILL BOOK.

(Continued.—From Volunteer Service Gazette.)

Deployments will invariably be made on the leading company of battalions or half battalions.

1. *To a Flank.*—Sections or sub-sections of the front company will close by the side step to gain the interval. The right or left guide will dress the company on the Captain's word, and then take post.

The remaining companies will be led by the shortest line to the spot where their inner flank will rest, and will then change direction and move parallel to the alignment, and when opposite to their place in line will be halted, fronted and dressed. Section or sub-section intervals will be gained on the march.

The colour party and band will move to their places during the deployment. A mounted officer will superintend the companies moving into line from the point of formation. The other mounted officer will mark the distant flank.

2. *To both flanks.*—The deployment will be made on the principle above described. The caution and command will be DEPLOY OUTWARDS, ONE COMPANY (OR TWO, OR MORE COMPANIES) TO THE RIGHT, FORM—FOURS, OUTWARDS, DOUBLE—MARCH. As a general rule, the company, or companies, next in success on from the front, will move to the right. If the deployment be to both flanks, the Major will mark the right, the Adjutant the left of the line. The Commanding Officer will superintend the formation of the companies.

3. *In an oblique direction.*—If it is required to form line in an oblique direction, the company of formation will be formed or dressed into the required alignment, on the command LINE—HALF OF QUARTER RIGHT, and the deployment will then be carried out as already described.

The commands of the company of formation are made longer by the necessity of opening out to sections or sub-sections at intervals. In all other respects, except that no markers are sent out and that the "double" is always used, deployments are made just the same as they used to be.

In closing or opening out of columns little alteration is made, as no markers have, at least, recently, been required for these operations. The only changes are

verbal ones in the words of command, such as "Company Column" for "Column," and "About turn" for "Right about turn."

The section on columns diminishing and increasing front contains merely the direction that, when columns on the march arrive at a narrow space or defile, each unit in succession will diminish its front, as laid down in Company Drill for the formation of half companies and sections and "clearing obstacles," and must increase its front as it clears the narrow space. The second paragraph on the same subject in the old work is omitted, all its provisions, except that for breaking off a file or two from the flanks of companies in quarter column, being dealt with in Company Drill.

In the next section, on columns changing direction and marching on an alignment, all the details in the old book as to the procedure when the formation is to the reverse flank, and when some companies are weaker than others, are omitted.

The very intricate method in which wheels in quarter columns used to be made is entirely abolished. It will be remembered that this was the only case in which in the old book the wheel, "feeling inwards and looking outwards," was retained, and then only for the front company of the column. The section containing the directions by which the movement analogous to the old quarter column is now headed, "A quarter column changing front or direction." The section may be given in full:—

CHANGE FRONT  
RIGHT (OR LEFT).  
No. 1.—Right  
(or Left) Form  
Double—March  
Left (or right)  
—Dress.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, &c.,  
Half—Left (or  
right)—Turn  
Double—March.  
Front—Turn  
—Form. Halt.  
Left (or right)  
—Dress.

CHANGE  
DIRECTION.  
RIGHT (OR LEFT).  
No. 1. Right (or  
left)—Form  
Double No. 2, 3,  
4, &c. Half  
Left (or right)  
—Turn. Front  
—Turn. Right  
(or left) —  
Form. Double.  
FORWARD.

The change of front or direction can be made in this manner at any angle less than a right angle.

CHANGE  
DIRECTION.  
RIGHT (OR LEFT)  
No. —, — Wheel  
Step Short.

Nos. 2, 3, 4, &c.,  
Right (or Left)  
— Wheel.  
Double.  
Quick.  
Step—Short.

FORWARD.

3. *When moving to a flank in fours.*—The commander of the company on the named flank, wheels his company into the new direction at the required angle and steps short; the remaining companies wheel, and move in double time to quarter-column distance on the preceding company, and when in position, break into quick time and step short.

When all the companies have arrived in their places, they move forward together in the new direction, on the order of the commanding officer.

For the movement described in 2 and 3, the company of formation can, if required, continue to move on in quick time, the remaining companies changing the time as each reaches its place.

In the section on "changing ranks," the directions for dressing contained in the old book are omitted.

Rather to our surprise we find the section on "changing in the order of columns" retained, with the only variation that "units" of the column are spoken of in place of "companies."

When a column is to move to a flank in fours, the directions in the old book are slightly simplified, but are virtually unaltered. The second paragraph of 1889, on moving diagonally, is omitted.

Companies moving to a flank in fours will close to or open from any named unit as formerly, except that all the units except that named will always move at the double.

When a battalion in line advances or retires in (direct) echelon, the companies "will invariably be ordered to preserve a specified distance." If the advance is from the right, the right guide of the leading company will direct; if from the left, the left guide. The other companies, in conformity with the general principles of the new system, will march by their centres. An advance may be made from the centre in echelon, no longer here called "short echelon" at any distances. The two centre companies will advance, "marching as in line by command of the senior Captain," not necessarily, as formerly, by command of the Captain of the right centre company. The other companies march by their centres.

The directions for forming line from echelon, are much condensed and are as follows:—

*On a parallel alignment.*—A battalion in echelon may form a line on any named company, by that company halting, and the remainder moving into line on it on the words LINE ON NO.—COMPANY, OR ON THE TWO CENTRE COMPANIES. (COM-