

ed by the other, on the *alarm* each will form a rallying square. When the *commence firing* sounds, the support will halt and prepare for cavalry, and both squares will commence firing.

Section 3. Skirmishers Closing on the Support.

Calling in Skirmishers.—On the words *close on supports*, or the bugle sound *close*, the two centre files will retire in quick time, opening out as they move to the rear to clear the front of the support; the remaining files will close upon them on the march; when at quarter distance in rear of the support they will turn inwards, shouldering arms as they turn; and when they meet in rear of the centre of the support, they will halt front, order arms, and stand at ease.

Closing for Cavalry.—When skirmishers are not closely pressed by cavalry, the word or sound *close* will be given, followed by the *alarm* or word *look out for cavalry*, on which the support will advance, and if it is a company it will form subdivisions on the march, if a subdivision it will form sections. The skirmishers will move to the rear at the double, closing on the inward files or subdivisions (or sections), as described in the preceding paragraph, except that the centre files will incline outwards when they commence to retire, in order to keep clear of the front of their support. As the skirmishers approach the support, the latter will halt, the rear subdivision (or section) closing on the leading subdivision (or section), each fixing bayonets as it comes to the halt; the skirmishers will turn inwards, and form close column or subdivisions (or sections) in rear of the supports, fixing bayonets as they halt and front. The square will then be ordered to prepare for cavalry, as described in Section 7 of the Eighth Drill.

If skirmishers cannot reach the support, which will be signified on parade by repeating the *alarm*, they will, if a company, form company square, if a subdivision they will form rallying square; the support will also form company or rallying square.

Section 4. Relieving Skirmishers.

When skirmishers have suffered considerable loss, when they are fatigued by continued rapid movements, or when their supply of ammunition is getting low, it will be advisable to relieve them.

The most convenient method of effecting the relief is to order the support to extend and relieve its skirmishers.

When retiring, the successive relief of the skirmishers by supports, is the most effectual method of keeping an enemy in check. The officer commanding a support should therefore be constantly on the look-out for good positions, in which he may extend his men with advantage, such as a bank, a ditch, a wall, or such like cover. After relieving, the new skirmishers must hold their position until ordered to continue the retreat.

The following general rules are laid down for relieving skirmishers under the different circumstances:

Relieving Skirmishers that are halted.—To relieve skirmishers that are halted, the support will extend in the rear, out of immediate reach of the enemy's fire, and then run up to the old line. The old skirmishers on being relieved, will run straight to their rear, and when out of immediate reach of the enemy's fire, will close on the centre and form support.

Should an immediate advance be intended, the old skirmishers, on being relieved, will remain lying down till the new skirmishers have gained sufficient distance to their front; they will then rise, close on the centre, and form support.

Relieving Skirmishers that are advancing.—The support will extend on the march and then double up to the old skirmishers, changing into quick time as it passes through them, on which the old line will lie down and wait till the new skirmishers are sufficiently advanced to protect them from immediate fire, when they will rise and close to the centre, forming the support.

Relieving Skirmishers that are retiring.—To relieve skirmishers that are retiring, the support will halt, and front, at a considerable distance in the rear, and will then extend, each man, if possible, getting under cover. When the old skirmishers arrive within about twenty or thirty paces of the new, they will run through them to the rear and then close on the centre and form support.

Section 5. Reinforcing or Extending a line of Skirmishers to a Flank.

Reinforcing.—Any part of a line of skirmishers may be reinforced, by throwing forward the supports or part of them in the same manner as they are thrown forward when relieving skirmishers, but on joining the old line, both will remain and skirmish together, dividing the distances. A line of skirmishers may be diminished by calling in any portion of them, who will