

worked by one commander. A brigade division of artillery in action should never be broken up, except by order of the general commanding the troops, and then only for some special and temporary reason. Batteries advancing in brigade should take great care to keep to their brigade formation, and open fire in brigade, as batteries opening fire in succession are likely to be overwhelmed in succession. Therefore, as a simultaneous advance is advisable, the opening of fire simultaneously is essential. It is also very important to observe the proper intervals when advancing in brigade, in line under fire, the full intervals between batteries being essential, in order to facilitate observation of fire. Field artillery is really only effective when in action; therefore, frequent changes of position when in action are deemed inadvisable, as they lead to loss of time and consequently effect. Artillery advancing under effective fire should do so at the most rapid pace the ground will admit of. On the other hand, in retiring under fire, they should not move faster than a walk. Artillery in action must never retire except by the order of the officer commanding the force to which they belong. The fire of artillery may become slow from losses, but that can never justify abandonment of a position. To such an extent is this considered essential that it is a recognized fact that although a battery may have been obliged to cease fire, having run out of ammunition, still it must remain in action, even though under fire, till more ammunition has been brought up to it; and the reason of this is obvious, for were such a large unit as a battery, or indeed even one gun, seen to be retiring, it would tend to have a demoralizing effect on our friends and the contrary effect on our foes.

Great care must be taken when firing over the heads of friendly troops. At any distance under 1,500 yards on level ground it would be dangerous; at longer ranges on level ground friendly troops would be safe at a distance of 600 yards from either the guns or from the objective, so far as the artillery fire is concerned. As artillery is seldom of use after dark, they should, as a rule, be withdrawn from the front line after dark.

Artillery has to commence and carry on the action at long ranges, doing its destructive work before the action of the other arms is possible. In the attack it covers the deployment of the advance guards, and aids them in pushing in the advanced posts of the enemy. If on the defensive, it checks the deployment of the enemy, thus compelling him to form up in order of battle at a distance, and, consequently, delays his advance. In addition to commencing the fight, it has also to maintain the fight—to keep down the fire of the