

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER CORPS.

I. VOLUNTEER corps being composed, for the most part, of men whose time is much occupied with their ordinary pursuits, and who consequently are not able to spare many hours for drill, it is recommended that every volunteer be provided with a copy of this drill book, in order that he may read the instructions between the drills, which will be found a great assistance.

II. No instructor could possibly teach a whole company of untrained men placed together in two ranks. In the following system the volunteers will first be instructed in small squads, in open files, and in single rank. The drills will then be repeated in larger squads in two ranks, and finally, when the volunteers have learned all the preliminary parts of their drill, they will be exercised together as a company.

III. When a corps of volunteers is first assembled, if there are no regular drill instructors attached to it, the commanding officer would do wisely at once to select a certain number of the members, in the proportion of about 10 or 12 per cent, to act as such. These men may afterwards become non-commissioned officers, and rank according to the aptitude they show for military duties.

IV. The volunteers thus selected should first be trained in a squad by themselves, after which they will be employed in drilling the remainder of the corps, and time will eventually be gained.

V. The corps being assembled, and the drill instructors ready to begin their work, the volunteers will be divided into as many squads as there are instructors, and each instructor will proceed with the following drills.

VI. The volunteers, when at drill, must remain perfectly silent, and give their whole attention to their instructors.

VII. The volunteers should be perfect in one drill, before they proceed to another; each drill may be repeated as often as it is found necessary, and time will permit.

VIII. A system of mutual instruction will frequently be found advantageous; as the volunteers get more acquainted with their drill, each in succession may be called out, and directed to put the squad through one or two exercises, under the superintendence of the instructor.

FIRST DRILL.

Section 1. Squad falling in.

The squad will fall in, in line, that is side by side. The right hand man being first placed, the remainder will then fall in one after the other, touching very lightly towards him; the thick part of the arm just below the elbow is the part that should keep the touch, and will be the principal guide when marching.

Section 2. Telling off.

The volunteers will number off from right to left, each man calling out his number thus,—“one,” “two,” “three,” &c., the right hand man being “one.”

It must be explained to them that odd numbers are called right files, even numbers left files.

Section 3. Method of Teaching.

In all the following exercises, the instructor will first give the word of command in the margin distinctly, in the ordinary tone of his voice, the volunteers remaining steady; he will then explain to them, in the words of the text, the movement required. This done, he will repeat the word of command in a loud tone, the first or cautionary part, slowly and distinctly, the last, or executive word or syllable, on which the men will move as directed, sharply and decidedly.

Section 4. Opening for Squad Drill.

RIGHT
FILES ONE
PACE FOR-
WARD,
LEFT
FILES ONE
PACE STEP
BACK—
MARCH.

On the word MARCH, the right files will take one pace to the front, and the left files will take one pace to the rear, both with the left foot, and then stand perfectly still.

Section 5. Position of the Volunteer.

The instructor will place each volunteer in his proper position as follows:—The shoulders square to the front, heels together, toes turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of 60 degrees, the arms hanging straight down from the shoulders, palms of the hands flat to the