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**BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.**

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*Office of the ADJUTANT GENERAL of  
the Militia of Lower-Canada.*

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

FOR THE

**FORMATIONS, FIELD-EXERCISE,**

AND

**MOVEMENTS,**

OF

**THE MILITIA OF LOWER-CANADA.**

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IN TWO PARTS.

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**Q U E B E C:**

Printed by order of His Excellency the **LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,**  
and sold by J. Neilson, no. 3, Mountain-street.

1804.



ADJUTANT GENERAL'S *Office*,

**H**IS EXCELLENCY the Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Militia of Lower-Canada, judging it expedient and necessary for the King's Service in this Country, that one uniform System of Field Exercise and Movements, founded on just and true principles, and adapted to the state of the Province, should be established and practised, throughout the whole Militia, is therefore pleased to direct, that the regulations and instructions, approved of by his Excellency for this important purpose, and now detailed and published herewith, shall be strictly followed and adhered to, without any deviation whatsoever therefrom. It is His Excellency's further pleasure, that all officers appointed to review the Battalions of Militia shall pay particular attention to the performance of every part of these regulations, and to report their observations thereupon, for his information; so that the exact uniformity required in all movements may be attained and preserved, and his Excellency's intention thereby carried into full effect.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND,

FRANCIS LE MAISTRE,

ADJUTANT-GENERAL of Militia.



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# RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

FORMATION AND MOVEMENTS

OF

THE MILITIA OF LOWER-CANADA.

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**I**N the army, the recruit is completely drilled before he joins the battalion; but, as this method requires a great number of persons capable of giving the necessary instructions, it cannot be followed, in this Province, where one single person qualified for that purpose, will be under the necessity of drilling a great number of Militia men: it will therefore be necessary to form the men into platoons before proceeding to drill them.

WHEN the platoon or company is formed, they will be instructed in the exercises and movements, according to these regulations.

THE Officers will meet, at a place agreed upon, where they will be previously instructed in the principles contained in the same.

THE

THE manual exercise is not that part of military instruction which is of the greatest importance: it has therefore been made as simple, as short and as easy as possible; but the greatest attention must be given to the marching, which is the fundamental and essential part of military instruction; because it is only by this means that a body of men is capable of manœuvring and real action. It must be considered as applicable to two objects; that of manœuvring only, and the column of route; the first requires precision and unison of movement, the second is not so much subject to these requisites.

THE present regulations contain no manœuvres, but merely the elements of which manœuvres are afterwards to be formed; this being all that is necessary for the present.

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## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY OBSERVATIONS.

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*Battalion.* A Battalion consists, generally, of between 300 and 1000 men, who are divided into 6, 8 or 10 companies.

*Regiment.* May consist of one or more battalions, each battalion has a distinct organization, and the whole is commanded by one Colonel.

*Company.* The words *Company*, *Division* and *Platoon*, have generally the same meaning.

*Sub-divisions.* Sub-divisions of the right, and sub-divisions of the left.

*Grand divisions.* Consist of two platoons; they are numbered, 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th (and 5th if there are 10 Platoons) from right to left; the grenadiers and light companies act as companies of the battalion.

*Sections.* Each sub-division is commonly divided into two *Sections*, so as to form four *Sections* in the company, when the platoon is not strong enough, it may be divided into three *Sections*; a *Section* should never be less than five files.

*Right and left wings.* That part of the battalion posted on the right of the centre (where the colours are placed) is called the *right wing*; that on the left of the centre, the *left wing*.

*Right and left centre platoon.* The platoon which is placed next on the right of the centre of the battalion, is named the *right centre platoon*; that on the left of the centre, the *left centre platoon*. All these denominations of the ranks, files, platoons, &c. &c. are preserved, whether the battalion is faced to the front or the rear.

*Covering.* In a military sense, an individual is said to *cover* another by being placed directly behind him.

*Filing.*



*Filing.* A platoon (or company) is said to march *by files*, when the platoon, being formed in line, faces, either to the right or to the left, and so march in any direction; in this mode of marching, there is but one file in front.

*Wheeling by files.* A file may wheel its head to either flank, each file making its separate wheel without altering its time of march, and each file will wheel as the leading one has done, at the place where the leading one wheeled.

*Pivot.* In column, when the right of the battalion is in front, the left is the *Pivot* flank; and when the left of the battalion is in front, the right is the *pivot* flank; the *pivot* files of men, in marching in column, remain close to their *pivot* officers, and preserve the true distance.

*Pivot of the reverse flank;* Is the man on the opposite flank to the *Pivot*; it is on him that the Platoon dresses in wheeling, and he dresses on the *Pivot*.

*Captain, commanding a platoon.* Is the officer having the command of the platoon.

*Wheeling.* A division *wheels* when one flank of it standing fast, or being moveable only in a small degree, all the rest of the division moves round, either backward or forward describing portions of concentric circles, like a gate upon its hinges.

*Counter-marching.* A division *Counter-marches*, when it marches in such a manner as to bring its front to its former rear, and its proper right to its former left.

*Facing.* A man *faces to the right* or *to the left*, when he turns to the right hand, or to the left hand.

*Fall in.* Is a word of command for every Militia man to take his proper place in the ranks.

*Dressing in alignment.* The *alignment* is the line upon which the battalion forms, or marches when in column,

or

or the line to which the battalion is to march or to form; to *align* a division is to form it in an *alignement*.

*Dismiss'd.* A word of command for every man to break off and proceed to his quarters.

*Sizing.* To *size a division* is to place the men who compose it according to their size, or height, in a particular order.

*Rank and file.* The parallel rows in which troops are disposed in a division, from front to rear, are called *ranks*. The *files* are the parallel rows in which soldiers are placed from one flank of a division to the other.

*Supernumerary Rank.* The use of this rank, which is of great importance, particularly to young troops, is to keep up the other ranks in their places.

*Column.* A battalion is *in column*, when the divisions that compose it, are ranged not in line, but stand the one directly behind the other, parallel to each other.

*Close column.* When the divisions are close to each other (that is not more than one pace asunder,) it is called a *close column*.

*Deploying.* A column is said to *deploy*, (from the French word *déployer*;) when the divisions that compose it, unfold or open out, and then form a line upon some one of those divisions.

*Doubling; moving up.* A division marching in line if obliged to diminish the extent of its front, may double to the right or left; and when the part that doubled, returns to its original position, it is said to *move up*.

*Base line.* The line formed by the first platoon that enters into an *alignement* is termed the *Base line*.

*Point of appui; Point of formation.* When troops are to form in a straight line, two points must be previously ascertained. One the *point of appui*, the point at which one flank of the body to be formed is to be placed, the

other, the *point of formation*, (called also the point of dressing, and the point of view) which is beyond the other flank of that body, and on which its front rank is directed.

*Pivot flank, and reverse flank of a column.* For the purpose of forming correct lines; the flanks of a column are distinguished by the names of the *pivot-flank* and the *reverse flank*; the *pivot flank* of a column is that flank which when wheeled up to, preserves the divisions of the line in their proper order.

*Reverse flank.* The flank of a column that is not the pivot, is called the *reverse flank*.

*Echelon.* When the divisions of a Battalion, or larger body, are placed (like the steps of a flight of stairs) parallel to each other, but the one not directly behind the other, as in column, they form an *Echelon column*, or as it is oftener called, simply an *Echelon*.

*Drill.* Is the instruction and forming of men to military exercise and movements.

*Flugal-man.* The *Flugal-man*, is the person who marks the time. He is always placed in front of the battalion, a little to the right that he may be better seen by the whole of the men.

*Camp Colours, Camp Colour men.* The *Camp Colours* are small colours which are used to mark out the ground on which troops are to exercise, or the directions in which they are to form or march. The *Camp colour-men*, are active and intelligent men appointed to place the colours according to the direction of the proper Officer.

*Close order;* Is when the ranks are placed at one pace or thirty inches distant the one from the other.

At *open order* the distance between the ranks is two paces.

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# PART I.

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## Drill of a Platoon without Arms.

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### *Formation of the Militia.*

THE fundamental formation of the Militia will be in two ranks: The men should, however, be perfectly familiar with the manner of forming in three ranks, as pointed out in another part of these regulations. Each man must be placed in the ranks, so that when he stands in the proper position of a Soldier, his elbows slightly touch the elbows of his right and left hand men; but by no means so as to impede the free movement of the arms. The ranks must be in close order that is, the heels of the rear rank men, must be placed on a line one pace or thirty inches from the line of the heels of the men in the front rank; and every man in the rear rank, must exactly cover the man in his front. These distances and positions must be invariably maintained in all situations, where it is not otherwise ordered.

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### *Formation of a Company or Platoon, two deep sized according to the height of the men.*

SUPPOSING the number of Militia men to be sixty, the smallest man is to be placed at the point intended to be the centre of the line, the next in size, at his left, the next at his right, and so on, alternately. By this method the tallest men will be placed on the flanks; the company is afterwards to be divided into four sections and 2 sub-divisions. The following *caution* is then to be given, "The fifteen men on the right flank. and the fifteen on the left will form the first rank." At the word, *to the right and left inwards*, the sections of the right and left

left flanks face to the centre; and at the word *march*, the two sections in the centre march two steps to the rear, and the sections on the right and left flanks march forward till they meet; at the words, *halt, front*, they stop and face to the front. The words of command *to the right and left inwards, march, halt, front*, must then be given.

When the movement is executed, the tallest men will be placed in the first rank. The Captain is to take post at the right of the first rank, the Ensign at the left, and both are to be covered by a Serjeant; the Lieutenant and the other Serjeant will make a third or supernumerary rank three feet in the rear of the second rank. The Corporals or the most intelligent men, must be placed in the first rank, to the right and left of each sub-division. In the absence of the Officers, the Serjeants take their place, and the Corporals the place of the Serjeants. If the platoon is to join others, the Ensign and his covering Serjeant, leave the flank and retire to the third, or supernumerary rank; the Lieutenant taking post on the right, and the Ensign on the left, and the Serjeants between them.

Officers and Serjeants of the Supernumerary rank are in the rear of their respective companies; when the battalion is halted, or marching in line, they are three paces from the rear rank. In open column, they are within one pace of the rear rank. In close column, they go on the flank of their division which is not the pivot.

The following is perhaps the easiest method of fixing a company; having an exact size roll of it, (that is a roll or list in which the names of the men follow according to their size.

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### *When the Company is to take Open Order from Close Order.*

Rear Ranks, { At this command, flank men on the right and left of the rear ranks, step back to mark the ground on which each rank respectively is to halt, and dress at open distance; they face to the right, and stand covered; every other individual remains ready to move.

At

*March,* } At this command, the flank men front,  
 and the rear ranks fall back one and two  
 paces, each dressing by the right, the in-  
*The Officers* } stant it arrives on its ground, the officers  
*will take post* } face to the right, marching through the se-  
*in the rear.* } veral intervals occupied by the Serjeants;  
*March.* } and when three paces beyond the rear  
*Front.* } rank, they halt, and then receive the word  
 front.

The instructor will, in the commencement, cause the ranks to be opened to the distance of three or four feet, for the greater facility of examining the position of every Militia man.

The Officers of the Platoon may be permitted to leave their ranks to assist in the instruction of the men, when assembled solely for exercise; but they must still observe with the strictest attention, that the general position be not deranged.

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### *Manner of Instructing.*

THE several heads of instruction for the Militia are to be attended to, and followed, in the manner and order here set forth. It requires in the instructors to whom this duty is intrusted, and who are to be answerable for the execution of it, the most unremitting perseverance and accurate knowledge of the part each has to teach, and a clear and concise manner of conveying his instructions; but with a firmness that will command from men a perfect attention to the directions he is giving them. He must allow for the weak capacity of the learner; be patient, not rigorous, where endeavour and good will are evidently not wanting: quickness is not at first to be required, it is the result of much practice. If officers and instructors are not critically exact in their own commands, and in observing the execution of what is required from others, slovenliness must take place, labour be ineffectual, and the end proposed will never be attained.

The word of command must always be given short, quick and loud. Every Officer must be accustomed to give his words of command, even to the smallest bodies, in the full extent of his voice.

There

There are two sorts of words of Command; the one to serve as a caution, the other for the execution of the motion or movement. The first are to be pronounced in an elevated voice, clear and distinct, weighing a little on the last syllable: the last, are, to be given quick and loud, in the manner before mentioncd.

The instructors must always explain whatever they teach, in a concise and distinct manner: they must also execute whatever they may have occasion to command; that the learner may have, at the same time, both precept and example.

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### *Position of a Soldier.*

THE equal squareness of the shoulders and body to the front is the first and great principle of the position of a soldier.—The heels must be in a line, and closed.—The knees strait without stiffness.—The toes a little turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of about 60 degrees. Let the arms hang near the body, but not stiff, the flat part of the hand and little finger touching the thigh; the thumbs as far back as the seams of the breeches.—The elbows and shoulders to be kept back; the belly rather drawn in, and the breast advanced, but without constraint; the body upright, but inclining forward, so that the weight of it principally bears on the fore part of the feet; the head to be erect, and neither turned to the right nor left.

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### *Standing at Ease.*

*Stand at Ease* { On the words *Stand at Ease*, the right foot is to be drawn back about six inches, and the greatest part of the weight of the body brought upon it; the left knee a little bent; the hands brought together before the body; but the shoulders to be kept back and square; the head to the front, and the whole attitude without constraint.

{ On the word *Attention*, the hands are to

*Attention.* { to fall smartly down the outside of the thighs; the right heel to be brought up in a line with the left; and the proper unconstrained position of a soldier immediately resumed.

When standing at ease for any considerable time in cold weather, the men may be permitted, by command, to move their limbs; but without quitting their ground, so that upon the word *Attention*, no one shall have materially lost his dressing in the line.

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### *Eyes to the Right.*

*Eyes Right.* { On the words, *Eyes to the Right*, glance the eyes to the right, with the slightest turn possible of the head. At the words  
*Eyes left.* { *Eyes to the left*, cast the eyes in like manner to the left. On the words, *Eyes to*  
*Eyes front.* { *the Front*, the look, and head, are to be directly to the front, the habitual position of the soldier.

These motions are only useful on the wheeling of divisions, or when dressing is ordered after a halt; and particular attention must be paid in the several turnings of the eyes, to prevent the soldier from moving his body, which should be preserved perfectly square to the front.

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### *The Facings.*

In going through the facings, the left heel never quits the ground; the body must rather incline forward, and the knees be kept straight.

*To the Right* { 1st. Place the hollow of the right foot  
*face.* { smartly against the left heel, keeping the  
 { shoulders square to the front.  
 { 2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the right  
 { on both heels.

1st.



- To the left face.* { 1st. Place the right heel against the hollow of the left foot, keeping the shoulders square to the front.  
2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the left on both heels.
- To the Right about face.* { 1st. Place the ball of the right toe against the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.  
2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the right about on both heels.  
3d. Bring the right foot smartly back in a line with the left.
- To the left about face.* { 1st. Place the right heel against the ball of the left foot, keeping the shoulders square to the front.  
2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the left about on both heels.  
3d. Bring up the right smartly in a line with the left.

The greatest precision must be observed in these facings, for if they are not exactly executed, a body of men, after being properly dressed, will lose their dressing, on every small movement of facing.

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### *Position in Marching.*

- March.* { In marching the soldier must maintain, as much as possible, the position of the body as directed. He must be well balanced on his limbs. His arms and hands, without stiffness, must be kept steady by his sides, and not suffered to vibrate. He must not be allowed to stoop forward, still less to lean back. His body must be kept square to the front, and thrown rather more forward in marching than when halted, that it may accompany the movement of the leg and thigh, which movement must spring from the haunch. The ham must be stretched, but without stiffening the knee. The  
toe

toe a little pointed, and kept near the ground, so that the shoe soles may not be visible to a person in front. The head to be kept well up, straight to the front, and the eyes not suffered to be cast down. The foot, without being drawn back, must be placed flat on the ground.

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### *Ordinary Step.*

The length of each pace, from heel to heel, is 30 inches, and the learner must be taught to take 75 of these steps in a minute, without tottering, and with perfect steadiness.

The *ordinary* step being the pace on all occasions whatever, unless greater celerity be particularly ordered, the learner must be carefully trained, and thoroughly instructed in this most essential part of his duty, and perfectly made to understand, that he is to maintain it for a long period of time together, both in line and in column, and in rough as well as smooth ground, which he may be required to march over. This is the slowest step which is taught, and is also applied in all movements of parade.

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### *The Halt.*

*Halt.* { On the word *Halt*, let the rear foot be brought upon a line with the advanced one, so as to finish the step which was taking when the command was given.

N. B. The words *Halt wheel*,—*Halt front*,—*Halt dress*, are each to be considered as one word of command, and no pause made betwixt the parts of their execution.

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### *Oblique Step.*

{ When the learner has acquired the regular length and cadence of the ordinary pace, he is to be taught the oblique step. At the

*To the left  
Oblique—  
March.*

the words, *To the left Oblique—March*, without altering his personal squareness of position, he will, when he is to step with his left foot, point and carry it forward 19 inches in the diagonal line, to the left, which gives about 13 inches to the side, and about 13 inches to the front. On the word *Two*, he will bring his right foot 30 inches forward, so that the right heel be placed 13 inches directly before the left one. In this position he will pause, and on the word *Two*, continue to march, as before directed, by advancing his left foot 19 inches, pausing at each step till confirmed in his position; it being essentially necessary to take the greatest care that his shoulders be preserved square to the front. From the combination of these two movements, the general obliquity gained will amount to an angle of about 25 degrees. When the learner is habituated to the lengths and directions of the step, he must be made to continue the march; without pausing, with firmness, and in the cadence of the ordinary pace, viz. 75 steps in the minute.

### *Dressing when halted.*

*Dress.*

Dressing is to be taught equally by the left as by the right. On the word *Dress*, each individual will cast his eyes to the point to which he is ordered to dress, with the smallest turn possible of the head, but preserving the shoulders and body square to their front. The whole person of the man must move as may be necessary, and bending backward or forward is not to be permitted. He must take short quick steps, thereby gradually and exactly to gain his position, and on no account be suffered to attempt it by any sudden or violent alteration, which must infallibly derange whatever

ver is beyond him. The faces of the men, and not their breasts or feet, are the line of dressing. Each man is to be able just to distinguish the lower part of the face of the second man beyond him.

In dressing, the eyes of the men are always turned to the officer, who gives the word *Dress*; and who is posted at the point by which the body halts; and who from that point corrects his men, on a point at or beyond his opposite flank.

The faults to be avoided, and generally committed by the learner in dressing, are, passing the line; the head too forward, and body kept back, the shoulders not square; the head turned too much.

Two, or more men, being moved forward, or backward, a given number of paces, and placed in the new line, and direction, the following commands will be given;

By the *Right, forward—Dress*

By the *Right, backward—Dress*

By the *Left, forward—Dress*

By the *Left, backward—Dress*

*Eyes front.* { As soon as the dressing is accomplished, the words *Eyes front*, will be given, that heads may be replaced, and remain square to the front.

---

### *Stepping out.*

*Step out.* { The Platoon marches as already directed in ordinary time. On the word, *Step out*, the learner must be taught to lengthen his step to 33 inches, by leaning forward a little, but without altering the cadence.

This step is necessary when a temporary exertion in line, and to the front, is required; and is applied both to ordinary and quick time.

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### *Mark Time.*

*Mark Time.* { On the words *Mark Time*, the foot then advancing completes its pace; after which

*Ordinary Step.* { the cadence is continued, without gaining any ground, but alternately throwing out the foot, and bringing it back square with the other. At the words *Ordinary Step*, the usual pace of 30 inches will be taken.

This step is necessary marching in line, when any particular battalion is advanced, and has to wait for the coming up of others.

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### *Stepping Short.*

*Step Short.* { On the word, *Step Short*, the foot advancing will finish its pace, and afterwards each learner will step as far as the ball of his toe, and no farther, until the word *Ordinary Step*, be given, when the usual pace of 30 inches is to be taken.

This step is useful when a momentary retardment of either a battalion in line, or of a division in column, shall be required.

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### *Changing the Feet.*

*Change Feet.* { To change the feet in marching, the advancing foot completes its pace, the ball of the other is brought up quickly to the heel of the advanced one, which instantly makes another step forward, so that the cadence may not be lost.

This may be required of an individual, who is stepping with a different foot from the rest of his division, in doing which he will in fact take two successive steps with the same foot.

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### *The Side or Closing Step.*

The side or closing step is performed from the halt in ordinary time, by the following commands:

*Close to the Right—March.*

*Close to the Left—March.*

*Close to the Right,* { In closing to the right, on the word *March*, eyes are turned to the right, and each

*March.* each man carries his right foot about 12 inches directly to his right (or if the files are closed, to his neighbour's left foot), and instantly brings up his left foot, till the heel touches his right heel: he then pauses so as to perform this movement in ordinary time, and proceeds to take the next step in the same manner; the whole with perfect precision of time, shoulders kept square, knees not bent, and in the true line on which the body is formed.—At the word *Halt*, the whole halt, turn their eyes to the front, and are perfectly steady.

*Halt.*

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### *Back Step.*

*Step back, March.* The *back step* is performed in the ordinary time and length of pace, from the halt, on the command *Step Back—March*, the men must be taught to move straight to the rear, preserving the shoulders square to the front, and the body erect.—On the word *Halt*, the foot in front must be brought back square with the other.

*Halt.*

A few paces only of the back step can be necessary at a time,

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### *The Quick Step.*

*Quick March* The cadence of the ordinary pace having become perfectly habitual to the men, they are now to be taught to march at quick time, which is 108 steps in the minute, each of 30 inches, making 270 feet in a minute. The command *Quick, March*, being given with a pause between them; the word *Quick*, is to be considered as a caution, and the whole to remain perfectly still and steady; on the word *March*, they step off with the left feet, keeping the body in the same posture, and the shoulders square

square to the front; the foot to be lifted off the ground, that it may clear any stones, or other impediments in the way, and to be thrown forward, and placed firm; the whole of the sole to touch the ground, and not the heel alone; the knees are not to be bent, neither are they to be stiffened, so as to occasion fatigue or constraint. The arms to hang with ease down the outside of the thigh, a very small motion to prevent constraint may be permitted; but not to swing out, and thereby occasion the least turn, or movement of the shoulder, the head is to be kept to the front, the body well up, and the utmost steadiness to be preserved.

This is the pace to be used in all *Fileings* of divisions from line into column, or from column into line; and by battalion column of manœuvre, when independently changing position. It may occasionally be used in the column of march of small bodies, when the route is smooth, and no obstacles occur; but in the march in line of a considerable body it is not to be required; and very seldom in a column of manœuvre; otherwise fatigue must arise to the men, and more time will be lost by hurry and inaccuracy, than is attempted to be gained by quickness.

The word *March*, given singly, at all times denotes that *ordinary* time is to be taken, when the *quick march* is meant that word will precede the other. The word *March* marks the beginning of movements from the *Halt*; but is not given when the body is in previous motion.

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### *The Quickest Step.*

The quickest Step, or wheeling march is 120 steps of 30 inches each, or 300 feet in the minute, the directions already given for the march in quick time relate equally to the march in quickest time.

PLUMMETS which vibrate the required times of march in a minute, should be used to correct uncertainty of movement, the lengths of the Plummets will be as follows:

One for ordinary time, 75 vibrations in a minute, the length,

length, 24 inches and 96 hundredth parts of an inch; one for quick time, 108 vibrations in a minute, the length 12 inches, 3 hundredth parts of an inch, and one for quickest or wheeling time, 120 vibrations in a minute, the length to be 9 inches, and 8 tenths of an inch, the two first are most requisite. A musquet ball suspended by a string not liable to stretch will answer the purpose, if the different lengths are marked on this string, one plummet will be sufficient.

The ground on which the men march should be divided by bricks, or some other visible marks into 150 or 200 paces of 30 inches each, on these marks the Platoon should march in regulated time, both slow and quick, until it habitually marches with correctness.

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### *Close Order.*

*Rear Ranks,*  
*take close*  
*Order,*  
*March.*

{

The ranks close within one pace, marching one and two paces and then halting.  
The officers move round the flanks of the company in their respective posts.

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### *Marching to the Front and Rear.*

*Caution.*  
*March.*

{

The platoon or division, is to be particularly well dressed; files correct; heads kept up; the rear ranks covering exactly, and each individual to have his just attitude and position before the platoon is ordered to move.—The march will be made by the right or left flank, and a proper trained man will therefore conduct it.—The word *Platoon*, or *Division*, may be given as a caution; and at the word *March*, each man steps forward a full pace.—The men must not turn their heads to the hand to which they are dressing, as a turning of the shoulders would undoubtedly follow.—Their elbows must be kept steady, without constraint; if they are opened from the body, the next man must be pressed upon; if they are closed, there arises



rises an improper distance which must be filled up; either case waving on the march will take place, and must therefore be avoided.

*Halt, Front, March.* { Turning to the right or left, or about, in march, is not to be at first practised: but the platoon is to *halt, front*, by command, and then *march*.

Changing from *ordinary* to *quick time*, and from *quick* to *ordinary time*, must always be preceded by a previous, but instantaneous *halt*; although this may not appear essential for the movements of a platoon, division, or battalion, it is absolutely so for those of a larger body, and is therefore required in small ones.

On many occasions where a body great or small, after a movement to the rear, or in file, is immediately to resume its proper front; instead of the words to halt, and face about, the word *halt front*, as one command will be given, when it is instantly to face to its proper front in line. Nor in general should there be any sensible pause between the halt front of any body; and it is after fronting, that the dressing, if necessary, is ordered to take place.

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### *File Marching.*

*To the—face.* { The platoon must first *face*, and then be instructed to cover each other exactly in file, so that the head of the man immediately before, may conceal the heads of all the others in his front.—The strictest observance of all the rules for marching is particularly necessary in marching by files, which is first to be taught at the *ordinary time*, and afterwards in *quick time*.

*March.*

On the word *March*, the whole are immediately to step off together, gaining at the very first step 30 inches, and so continuing each step without increasing the distance betwixt each man, every man locking or placing his advanced foot on the ground, before the spot from whence his preceding man had taken up his,—no looking down, nor leaning

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ing backward is to be suffered, on any pretence whatever,—the leader is to be directed to march straight forward to some distant object given him for that purpose, and the men made to cover one another during the march, with the most scrupulous exactness,—great attention must be paid to prevent them from marching with their knees bent, which they will be very apt to do at first, from an apprehension of treading upon the heels of those before them.

The platoon, when marching in file, must be accustomed to wheel its head to either flank; each file following successively, without losing, or increasing distance.—On this occasion, each file makes its separate wheel on a pivot moveable in a very small degree, but without altering its march, or the eyes of the rear ranks being turned from their front rank.—The front rank men, whether, they are pivot men, or not, must keep up to their distance, and the wheeling men must take a very extended step, and lose no time in moving on.

### *Countermarch by Files.*

The platoon, when it is to countermarch, must always be considered as a division of a battalion in column; the instructor of the drill will therefore, previous to his giving the caution to countermarch, signify whether the right or left is supposed to be in front, that the commander of the platoon, and his covering serjeant, may be placed on the pivot flank before such caution is given, as it is an invariable rule in the countermarch of the division of a column by files, that the facings be made from the flank, then the pivot one, to the one which is to become such.

FACE.	{	On the word TO THE RIGHT, or LEFT,
		FACE, the platoon faces, the commander of it immediately goes to the other flank, and his covering serjeant advancing to the spot which he has quitted, faces to the right about.—At the word QUICK MARCH, the whole, except the serjeant coverer, step off together, the platoon officer wheeling
QUICK MARCH,		short

*Halt, Front,*  
*Dress.*

} short round the rear rank, (viz: to his right, if he has shifted to the right of the platoon; or to his left, if he be on the left of it); and proceeds, followed by the platoon in file, till he has conducted his pivot front rank man close to his serjeant, who has remained immoveable, he then gives the words *Halt, Front,* and *Dress,* squares, and closes his platoon on his serjeant, and then replaces him.

All countermarches by files necessarily tend to an extension of the files; unity of step is therefore absolutely indispensable, and the greatest care must be taken that the wheel of each file be made close, quick, and at an increased length of step of the wheeling man, so as not to retard or lengthen out the march of the whole.

Companies, or their divisions, when brought up in file to a new line are not to stand in that position, till the men cover each other minutely; but the instant the leading man is at his point, they will receive the word *Halt, front,* and in that situation close in, and dress correctly.

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### *Forming to the Front from File.*

HALT,  
 FRONT,  
 CAUTION.

MARCH.

FRONT  
 FORM PLA-  
 TOON.

The platoon when marching in file may form to its front, either in sections, sub-divisions, or in platoon.—The right flank being supposed to lead, on the word, HALT, FRONT, the platoon instantly halts, and faces to its left: the CAUTION is then given, BY SECTIONS, SUB-DIVISIONS, OR PLATOON, ON THE LEFT BACKWARD WHEEL, and at the word MARCH, the wheel ordered is made. But in situations where it may have been necessary to order an extension of files (such as will sometimes occur in marching through the streets of a town) a body thus moving, in order to avoid incorrect distances between the divisions, may form to the front in the following manner, either by platoon, sub-divisions, or sections.—On the word TO THE FRONT FORM PLATOON; the front rank man of the leading file alone halts, is instantly cover-

*Eyes left.*

covered by his center and rear rank men: every other file of the platoon makes a half face to the left, and successively moving up, dresses on the right file; when the commander of the platoon sees it is properly dressed, he gives the word *Eyes left*, and places himself on the pivot flank.

FRONT  
FORM SUB-  
DIVISIONS.

Should the order have been, TO THE FRONT FORM SUB-DIVISIONS (FORM SECTIONS), the leading sub-division, or section, will proceed in the manner already detailed for the platoon; the succeeding sub-divisions, or sections, will each continue moving on, until its front file arrives at the proper forming distance from the division in its front, when it will receive from its commander the word, *To the front form*, and will instantly form up by files in the manner already described.

*Front form.*

### *Forming from File to either Flank.*

The platoon marching in file (suppose from the right) has only to halt and front, to be formed to the left flank.

*Right form.*

To form to the right it will receive the word, *To the right form*; the front rank man of the leading file, instantly turns to his right, and halts; his center and rear rank men at the same time move round and cover him. All the other files of the platoon make a half turn to their left, and move round successively, in a line with the right hand file; the center and rear rank men of each file keeping closed well up to their file leaders.

### *Wheeling forward from the Halt.*

*Right wheel.*

At the word, *To the Right wheel*, the man on the right of the rank faces to the right, and the rear rank, if at one pace distance,

*March.* lock up, in the quickest time; on the word *March*, they step off together, the whole, turning their eyes to the left (the wheeling flank) except the man on the left of the rank, who looks inwards, and, during the wheel, becomes a kind of base line for the others to conform to, and maintain the uniformity of front.—The outward wheeling man always lengthens his step to 33 inches, the whole observe the same time, but each man shortening his step in proportion as he is nearer to the standing flank on which the wheel is made,—during the wheel, the whole remain closed to the standing flank; that is, they touch, without incommoding their neighbour; nor must they stoop forward, but remain upright,—opening out from the standing flank is to be avoided; closing in upon it, during the wheel, is to be resisted.—On the word *Halt, Dress*, each man halts immediately, without jumping forward, or making any false movements.

### *Wheeling from the March.*

*Halt, Right Wheel.* The men must first be taught to perform this wheeling at the *ordinary time*, and afterwards in the *quickest*, or *proper wheeling time*,—the platoon, marching to the front at the ordinary time, receives the word of command, *Halt, Right Wheel*, the man on the right of the platoon instantly halts, and faces to his right; the rest of the platoon turning their eyes to the wheeling flank (as directed in the preceding section), immediately change the step together to *wheeling time*; as soon as the portion of the circle to be wheeled is completed, the words *Halt, Dress*, will be given (a pause of 2 or 3 seconds may be made) and then *March*, on which the whole platoon steps off together at the ordinary time.

*Wheel-*

*Wheeling into Line from Open Column of Sub-divisions.*

HALT.                   The platoon being in open column of sub-divisions, marching at the ordinary step on the alignment, receives the word HALT, from the instructor of the drill; both divisions instantly halt, and the instructor sees that the leaders of the divisions are correct on the line in which they have moved; he then gives the word (supposing the right of the platoon to be in front) by sub-divisions TO THE LEFT WHEEL INTO LINE; on which the commander of the platoon goes to the center of his sub-division, the two pivot men face to their left exactly square with the alignment, and a serjeant runs out and places himself in a line with them, so as to mark the precise point at which the right flank of the leading sub-division is to halt, when it shall have completed its wheel.—At the word MARCH, the whole wheel up in quickest time; during the wheel, the commander of the platoon, turning towards his men, inclines to the wheeling flank, and gives the word *Halt dress*, at the moment the wheel of the division is completing; the commander of the platoon, if necessary, corrects the internal dressing of the platoon on the serjeant and pivot men; this dressing must be quickly made, and when done, the commander of the platoon gives word *Eyes front*, in a moderate tone of voice, and takes post in line.

In all wheels of the divisions of a column that are to be made on a halted pivot in order to form line, the flank man of the front rank on the hand wheeled to, is such pivot, not the officer who may be on that flank, and whose business is to conform to it.

All wheelings by sub-divisions, or sections, from line into column, or from column into line, are performed on the word given by the commander of a battalion when the whole of the battalion is at the same instant to wheel; or on

on the word given by the commander of the company, when, companies singly, or successively, so wheel: they are not to be repeated by the leaders of its divisions.

### *Increasing and diminishing the Front of an Open Column halted.*

#### *Increasing.*

FORM  
PLATOON.  
*Rear Sub-division, left Oblique, Q. March. Forward.*

The platoon standing in open column of sub-division, (suppose the right in front) receives from the instructor of the drill a caution to FORM PLATOON—The commander of the platoon turning round instantly orders, *Rear Sub-division, left Oblique.*—*Quick March.* When it has obliqued so as to open its right flank, he gives the word *Forward*; and on its arriving in a line with the first division, he orders, *Halt, Dress*, and takes post on the left, the pivot flank of the platoon.

#### *Diminishing.*

FORM SUB-DIVISIONS.  
*Left Sub-division, inwards face. Q. March, Halt, Front, Left Dress.*

On the cautionary command from the instructor of the drill to FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, the serjeants coverers falls back to mark the point where the left flank of the sub-division is to be placed.—The commander of the platoon advancing one step, orders *Left sub-division, inwards face*, and instantly on facing, the three leading files disengage to the rear. At the word *Quick March*, the file passes round, and behind the serjeant, and at the proper instant receives the words, *Halt, Front, Left Dress.*—The commander of the platoon is now on the left flank of the first sub-division, and his serjeant on that of the second.

It is to be observed as a general rule in diminishing the front of a column, by the doubling of sub-divisions or sections (whether the column, be halted or in motion) that the sub-division, or section, on the *reverse* flank, is the one behind which the other sub-divisions or sections, double.—Thus, when the right is in front, the doubling will be in the

the rear of the right division; and vice versa, when the left is in front; by which means, the column is at all times in a situation to form line to the flank, with its divisions in their natural order, by simply wheeling up on the pivot flanks. And in increasing the front of a column, the rear sub-divisions, or sections, oblique to the hand the pivot flank is on; so that when the right is in front, the obliquing will be to the left; and the reverse when the left is in front.

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*Marching on an Alinement, in Open Column of Sub-Divisions.*

MARCH.

The platoon having wheeled backwards by sub-divisions from line, and a distant marked object in the prolongation of the two pivot flanks being taken; the commander of the platoon, who is now on the pivot flank of the leading sub-division, immediately fixes on his intermediate points to march on. On the word MARCH, given by the instructor of the drill, both divisions step off at the same instant; the leader of the first divisions marching with the utmost steadiness and equality of pace on the points he has taken; and the commander of the second division preserving the leader of the first in an exact line with the distant object; at the same time he keeps the distance necessary for forming from the preceding division; which distance is to be taken from the front rank. The objects are in themselves sufficient to occupy the whole attention of the leaders of the two divisions; therefore they must not look to, nor endeavour to correct the march of their divisions, which care must be entirely left to the non-commissioned officers of the supernumerary rank.



*In open Column of Sub-divisions wheeling into a new Direction, on a moveable Pivot.*

*Right  
Shoulders  
Forward.*

*Forward.*

The commander of the leading sub-division, when at a due distance from the intended new direction, will give the word *Right* (or *left*) *Shoulders forward*, on which the pivot man, without altering either the time or length of his pace, continues his march on the circumference of the lesser circle, and tracing out a considerable arch, on the principle of dressing, gradually brings round his rank to the direction required, without obliging the other flank, which is describing the circumference of a larger circle, to too great hurry:—and he himself carefully preserving the rate of march, without the least alteration of step or time, will begin to circle in his own person from the old into the new direction, so as not to make an abrupt wheel, or that either flank shall be stationary; the rest of his division on the principle of dressing will conform to the direction he is giving them: when this is effected, he will give the word *Forward*. The leader of the second sub-division, when he arrives at the ground on which the first began to wheel, will in this manner follow the exact track of the first, always preserving his proper distance from him.

This without the constraint of formal wheels, a column, when not confined on its flanks, may be conducted in all kinds of winding and changeable directions: for if the changes be made gradual and circling, and that the pivot leaders of divisions pursue their proper path at the same uniform equal pace, the true distances of divisions will be preserved, which is the great regulating object on this occasion, and to which every other consideration must give way.

To whichever hand the wheel is made on a moveable pivot, it is made within, and cuts of the angle formed by the intersection of the old and new directions.

In wheeling in column of march on a fixed pivot, the outward file, whether officer or men, is the one wheeled on.

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### *Wheeling on the Center of a Platoon.*

The platoon must be accustomed to wheel upon its center, half backward, half forward, and to be pliable into every shape, which circumstances can require of it; but always in order, and by a decided command.

The Words of Command are,

PLATOON, ON YOUR CENTER TO THE	}	RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT ABOUT, LEFT ABOUT,	} WHEEL.
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MARCH.

*Halt, Dress,*

When the wheel to be made is to the right, or right about, the right half platoon is the one to wheel backward, and the left, forward—The reverse will take place, when the wheel is to be made to the left, or to the left about.—On the word MARCH, the whole move together in the quickest time, regulating by the two flank men, who, during the wheel, preserve themselves in a line with the platoon; as soon as the required degree of wheel is performed, the commander of the platoon gives the word *Halt, Dress*, and instantly squares it from that flank on which he himself is to take post.

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### *Increasing and diminishing the Front of an Open Column on the March.*

#### *Increasing.*

FORM PLA-  
TOON.

*Left Oblique,*

The platoon marching at the ordinary time in open column of sub-divisions (suppose the right in front), receives from the instructor of the drill the cautionary command, FORM PLATOON; the commander of the platoon instantly turning round gives the words *Left Oblique*

E

*Oblique*

*Quick march.* } *Oblique—Quick March*; on which the rear sub-division obliques to the left, and as soon as its right flank is open, receives the word, *Forward.* } *Forward*—When it gets up to the first sub-division (which has continued to march, with the utmost steadiness, at the ordinary pace), the commander of the platoon gives the word *Ordinary.* } and takes post on the pivot flank, towards which he has been moving.

*Diminishing.*

FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, } When the instructor of the drill gives the *Left Sub-division, Mark Time,* } caution to FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, the commander of the platoon advancing one step, immediately orders, *Left Sub-division, Mark Time*; this it does until the right one, which continues its march steadily at the ordinary pace, has cleared its flank, he then orders the left sub-division, *Quick oblique,* } and when he perceives that it has doubled properly behind the right one, he gives the word *Forward.* } on which it takes up the ordinary march, and follows at its due distance of wheeling, he himself being then placed on the pivot flank of the sub-division, and his serjeant on that of the second.

The same directions that apply to increasing or diminishing by sub-divisions, apply equally by sections, which individually repeat the same operations.

Increasing and reducing the front of a column, is an operation that will frequently occur in the march of large bodies; and it is of the utmost importance that it be performed with exactness. The instructor of the drill must therefore be particularly attentive, that the transition from one situation to the other be made as quick as possible; that the leading division continues its march at the regular time and length of pace, and the exact distances between the divisions be accurately preserved.—During the operation, the ranks must be closed, and the greatest attention required from each individual.

Wheeling forward by Sub-divisions from Line.

CAUTION. [ On the caution BY SUB-DIVISIONS, TO THE RIGHT

RIGHT WHEEL, the commander of the platoon places himself one pace in front of the center of the right sub-division, at the same time the men on the right of the front rank of each sub-division face to the right.

MARCH. At the word MARCH, each sub-division steps off in wheeling time.—The commander of the platoon turning towards the men of the leading sub-division, and inclining to its left (the proper pivot flank) gives the word

*Halt Dress.* *Halt, Dress,* for both sub-divisions, as his wheeling man is taking the last step that finishes the wheel square; and instantly posts himself on the left, the pivot flank.—The serjeant coverer, during the wheel, goes round by the rear, and takes post on the pivot flank of the second sub-division.—It is to be observed, that the commander of the platoon invariably takes post with the leading sub-division; therefore, when the platoon wheels by sub-divisions to the left, the commander of the platoon moves out to the center of the left sub-division, and during the wheel inclines towards the right, now become the proper pivot flank of the sub-division.

The *proper* pivot flank in column, is that which, when wheeled up to, preserves the divisions of the line in the natural order, and to their proper front; the other may be called the *reverse* flank.

In column, divisions cover and dress to the proper pivot flank; to the left, when the right is in front; and to the right, when the left is in front.

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### *Wheeling backwards by Sub-divisions from Line.*

CAUTION. The platoon will also break into open column of sub-divisions by wheeling backwards.—When the right is intended to be in front; at the caution BY SUB-DIVISIONS ON THE LEFT, BACKWARD WHEEL, the commander of the platoon moves out briskly and

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places

places himself in front of the center of the right sub-division.—The man on the left of the front rank of each sub-division at the same time faces to the right.—On the word MARCH, each sub-division wheels backward in quickest time, dressing by the outward wheeling man; those nearest the pivot man making their steps extremely short, and those towards the wheeling man increasing them as they are placed nearer to him.—The men in this wheel must not bend forward, nor be suffered to look down; but by casting their eyes to the wheeling flank, preserve the dressing of the rank.—During the wheel, the commander of the platoon turns towards his men, inclining at the same time to the left, or pivot flank, and on completing the wheel, gives the word *Halt dress*, to both divisions; he and his covering serjeant, then places themselves on the left flanks of their sub-divisions.

It may be considered as a rule almost general (the reasons for which are given in the following part) that all wheels of the battalion, or line (when halted, and when the divisions do not exceed 16 or 18 files) into column, should be backward.—And all wheels from column into line, forward.—The only necessary exceptions seem to be in narrow ground where there is not room for such wheels.

N. B. When the battalion is in column, by Platoons, with its right in front, if it is intended to form by sub-divisions, it is the left of the Platoon that is commanded for that purpose, and which reforms the Platoon.

It is the duty, of the Adjutant to ascertain the direction in which all movements are made, and for this purpose, he must have some Camp colour-men instructed to line and post themselves quickly on any given points.

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### *Open and Close Order, on the March.*

Rear ranks, { The platoon, when moving to the front in ordinary time, receives the word *Rear ranks*,  
take

- take open Order.* } *take open Order*, on which the front rank continues its march, without altering the pace, and the center and rear ranks mark the time, viz: the center once, and step off at the second step; the rear stepping off on the third pace.
- Rear ranks, take close Order.* } On the word *Rear ranks, take close Order*, the center and rear ranks step nimbly up to close order, and instantly resume the pace, at which the front rank has continued to march.
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*From two ranks forming into three Ranks.*

- FORM } The platoon being halted and told off into three sections, it receives the word FORM
- THREE } THREE DEEP; on which the third section
- DEEP, } instantly steps back one pace; the word
- RIGHT FACE } RIGHT FACE is then given, and the man on the right of its front rank, on facing, disengages a little to his right; on the word
- QUICK } QUICK MARCH, the front rank men of the
- MARCH. } third section step off, those of the other rank mark the time till they have past, and then follow—When the leading man has got to the right of the platoon, the commander gives the word *Halt, front*, on which each man halts, faces to his left, and instantly covers his proper file leader.
- Halt, front.* }
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*Rallying.*

The Platoon being in line, the Commandant will order a roll of the drum: at this signal, the Platoons will break up, and intermix in a confused manner, if there is no drum, the Commandant will give the word of command to *break up the battalion*. When he wishes it to be formed again, he will cause the camp colours to be placed in the direction the battalion is to form, and will cause the drum to beat a roll or give the word, *Fall in*; and the officers will immediately form their Platoons at

at about six paces in the rear of the place they are to occupy in the line. The Commandant will then cause the center platoon to dress on the camp colours and the Captains of other Platoons, will immediately dress their companies on the center Platoon.

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When a division is required to wheel three-fourths, one-half, or a quarter of the quarter circle, a non-commissioned officer places himself on the EIGHTH FILE from the pivot flank, and thence counts on the circumference of the circle six, four, or two wheeling paces (according as the wheel is to be three-fourths, one-half, or a quarter of the quarter circle) to ascertain with precision the point to which the division is to be wheeled. This mode is always used, in the movements in Echellon.

End of PART FIRST.

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## P A R T II.

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### Drill of a Platoon with Arms.

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#### *Position of the Soldier.*

WHEN the firelock is given, and is shouldered, the person of the soldier remains in the position already described except, that the wrist of the left hand is turned out, the better to embrace the butt, the thumb alone is to appear in front, the four fingers to be under the butt, the left elbow is a little bent inwards, without being separated from the body, or being more backward or forward than the right one.—The firelock is placed in the hand, not on the middle of the fingers, and carried in such manner that it shall not raise, advance, or keep back one shoulder more than the other; the butt must therefore be forward, and as low as can be permitted without constraint; the forepart nearly even with that of the thigh, and the hind part of it pressed by the wrist against the thigh; the piece must be kept steady and firm before the hollow of the shoulder; should the firelock be drawn back or attempted to be carried high, in that case, one shoulder will be advanced, the other kept back, and the upper part of the body distorted, and not placed square with respect to the limbs.

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#### *Manual Exercise.*

1st. With the right hand seize the firelock at the lower loop, just above the swell.

2d. Bring it down turning the barrel inwards, to the right side, the butt within two inches of the ground; (the firelock is now at the *trail*, a position in which it is carried when the soldier marches under a low gate, passage, &c.)

3d. Drop the butt on the ground, placing the muzzle against the hollow of the right shoulder, and the right hand flat upon the sling.

Words of  
Command.

1st. Order  
Arms. 3  
Motions.

At



2d Fix bayonets. 1 Motion. At the word *fix*, place the thumb of the right hand behind the barrel, taking a gripe of the firelock: At the word *bayonets*, push the firelock a little forward with the right hand, at the same time drawing out the bayonet with the left hand, and fixing it on with the utmost celerity. The instant this is done, return to the *order*, as above described, and stand perfectly steady.

3d. Shoulder Arms. 1 Motion. At the word *shoulder*, take a gripe of the firelock with the right hand, as in fixing bayonets; and at the word *arms*, throw the firelock with the right hand, in one motion, and with as little appearance of effort as possible, into the position first described above, upon the left shoulder, the left hand catching the piece under the butt: The right hand must be immediately withdrawn to its proper place on the right thigh.

4th. Present Arms. 3 Motions. 1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving the piece from the shoulder:

2d. Bring it to the *poize*, seizing it with the left hand a little above the guard, the fingers extending along the sling, the left wrist upon the guard, the lock still to the front, and the musket raised so high that the point of the left thumb may be of equal height with the eyes:

3d. Bring down the firelock, turning the barrel inwards and the sling to the front, with a quick motion as low as the right hand will admit without constraint, drawing back the right foot at the same instant so that the hollow of it may touch the right heel. The firelock in this position is to be supported in the left hand, and kept perfectly upright before the middle of the body, which is to rest entirely on the left foot; both knees to be straight.

N. B. This is a parade motion used by soldiers to compliment officers of a certain rank.

5th. Shoulder Arms. 2 Motions. 1st. By a turn of the right wrist bring the firelock to its proper position on the left shoulder, as described above, the left hand grasping the butt.

2d. Quit the right hand, bringing it briskly down to its place on the right thigh.

6th. Charge Bayonets. 2 Motions. 1st At one motion throw the firelock from the shoulder across

across the body to the *prt.*—In this position the lock is turned to the front, and at the height of the breast, the muzzle flanting upwards so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder, with the butt proportionably depressed; the right hand grasps the small of the butt, and the left holds the piece at the swell, close to the lower pipe, the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle. (The center and rear ranks remain at the *prt.*)

2d. (To be performed by the front rank only) Make an half face to the right and bring down the firelock to nearly an horizontal position, with the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the right thigh just below the hip.

N. B. The first motion of the charge is the position which the soldier will, either from shoulder or after firing, take, in order to advance on an enemy whom it is intended to attack with fixed bayonets: and the word of command for that purpose is “*prepare to charge.*” The second position of the charge is that which the front rank takes when arrived at a few yards distance only from the body to be attacked. The first motion of the *charge* is also that which sentries are to take when challenging any persons who approach their posts.

1st. Face to the front, and throw up the piece into its position on the shoulder by a turn of the right wrist, instantly grasping the butt with the left hand. 7th. Shoulder Arms.  
2 Motions.

2d. Quit the firelock briskly with the right hand, bringing it to its proper place by the right side.

For the ease of the soldiers, they are often permitted to *support arms*, which is done at three motions, throwing the first and second nearly into one.

1st. Seize the small part of the butt under the lock with the right hand, bringing the butt in front of the groin and keeping the lock somewhat turned out. 2d. Bring the left arm under the cock. 3d. Bring back the right hand briskly to its proper place. Support Arms. 3 Motions.

In *carrying arms* from the support, these motions are reversed. On the first motion the right hand seizes the small of the butt; on the second the left hand grasps the butt, and on the third the right hand is carried to its proper place by the right side. F In

In marching any distance, or in standing at ease when arms are supported, the men are allowed to bring the right hand across the body to the small of the butt, which latter must in that case be thrown still more forward; the fingers of the left hand being uppermost must be placed between the body and the right elbow. The right hands are to be instantly removed (but the firelock not always *carried*) when the division *halts*, or is ordered to *dress by the right*.

*Supported* arms are allowed when halted or when in column; but in the march in line, and when the close column prepares to deploy, and the open column to wheel into line, arms must always to be *carried*.

**Time.** The manual exercise is to be performed leaving three seconds between each motion, except that of *fixed bayonets*, in which a longer time must be given.

Each separate word of command in the manual exercise is to be given by the officer who commands the body performing it.—Formerly the greatest part of the manual was executed by signals.

**Sloping Arms.** The soldiers should be taught to perform the following motions in the most convenient and expeditious method. Is allowed for the relief of the soldiers on a long march, and may be done (from the shoulder) by moving forward the butt of the firelock with the left hand, the left elbow bent, the guard about the height of the breast, the musket resting upon the left shoulder in a slanting or *sloping* position, with the muzzle pretty much raised.

**Securing Arms.** When the firelock is to be secured in wet weather, &c. it may be done thus, from the shoulder: 1st. Seize the piece with the right hand under the guard: 2d. Gripe the piece almost as high as the swell with the left hand upon the barrel: 3d. Bring the firelock down under the left arm, the barrel downwards, the lock to be well *secured* by the arm, the musket sloping so that the muzzle may be within a foot of the ground.

**Grounding Arms.** May be done from the order thus: 1st. Seize the piece with the right hand, as in fixing bayonets, but keep it perpendicular: 2d. Turn the lock to the rear making an half face to the right: 3d. Step directly forward

ward a moderate pace with the left foot, and lay the firelock on the ground on a line straight to the front, the lock being upwards: 4th. spring up, bringing both feet to their former position, and the hands down by each side.

Is done from the *shoulder* at two motions, as described in the *order*. To *shoulder* from the *trail* is performed as from the *order*. To *trail* from the *order*, seize the firelock with the right hand at the lower loop, raising the piece from the ground and letting it hang in the right hand in a slanting position. Trailing Arms.

Three firelocks of each file) are *piled* by being placed sloping upwards with the butts on the ground, and the muzzles meeting at the top, the ramrods locked in each other, so that the three pieces may stand firmly in a pyramidal form. Piling (or as it was formerly called Filing) arms

The firelock being at the *order*, bayonets are *unfixed* and *returned* into the scabbards on the command, “*return bayonets,*” in the same manner as they are fixed. Returning bayonets.

Corporals marching with reliefs, or commanding detachments or divisions, have their arms *advanced*; into which position the firelock may be brought from the *shoulder* by the following *three motions* on the command *Advance arms*, 1st and 2d bring the piece to the *poize*, as directed in the fourth command of the manual (the *present*.) 3d, seizing the piece at the guard with the right hand bring it with a quick motion to the front of the right shoulder, and hold it at the guard, as low down as the arm will fall, the barrel turned to the rear, the firelock exactly perpendicular, the left hand brought down to its position on the left thigh. Advancing Arms.

The manual and platoon exercises do not now make a regular part of a review, but are only performed when particularly called for by the reviewing General.

*The Platoon Exercise.*

Words of  
Command.

- 1st. Make Ready. The firelock being at the shoulder, throw it briskly to the *recover*; in which position it is held perpendicular and opposite the left side of the face, the butt being close to the breast, but not pressed, the body strait and full to the front, and the head erect. As soon as the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, raise the right elbow a little, placing the thumb of that hand upon the cock, with the fingers open on the plate of the lock; then quickly cock the piece by dropping the elbow, and forcing down the cock with the thumb, and immediately seize the small of the butt with the right hand.
- 2d Present. Slip the left hand along the sling as far as the swell of the firelock, bringing the piece down to the Present, stepping back about six inches to the rear with the right foot, and steadfastly look along the barrel of the firelock.
- 3d Fire. Pull the trigger firmly, remaining perfectly steady in that position, until the next word of Command.\*
- 4th. Load. I. Bring the firelock briskly down to the priming position.  
II. Half cock.
- 5th. Handle Cartridge. I. Draw the Cartridge from the Pouch.  
II. Bring it to the mouth, holding it between the forefinger and thumb, and bite off the top of the Cartridge.
- 6th. Prime. I. Shake some powder into the pan.  
II. Shut the pan with the three last fingers.  
III. Seize the small of the butt with the above three fingers.
- 7th. Cast about. I. Face to the left on both heels, so that the right toe may point directly to the front, and the body be a very little faced to the left, bringing at the same time the firelock round to the left side and raising it by a motion of the right hand, so that the lock may be as high as, and nearly opposite to the left breast, It should in this momentary

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\* The Soldier must be made sensible, that on receiving the word of command, "FIRE," his whole attention, and all the skill of which he is possessed, are to be employed in giving a proper direction to the contents of his musket; for which essential purpose it is necessary to habituate him to pause on the word "PRESENT," after he has pulled the trigger.

mentary position be almost perpendicular (having the muzzle only a small degree brought forward) and as soon as it is steady there it must instantly be forced down with the left hand within two inches of the ground, the butt nearly opposite the left heel, and the firelock itself somewhat sloped and directly to the front. The right hand at the same instant catches the muzzle in order to steady it.

II. Shake the powder into the barrel, putting in after it the powder and ball.

III. Seize the top of the ramrod with the fore finger and thumb of the right hand.

I. Draw the ramrod half out with the finger and thumb, and seize it back-handed exactly in the middle. 8th. Draw  
Ramrods.

II. Draw it entirely out, and turning it with the whole hand and arm extended from you, put it one inch into the barrel.

I. Push the ramrod down, holding it as before, exactly in the middle, till the hand (the right one) touches the muzzle. 9th. Ram  
down cart-  
ridge.

II. Slip the forefinger and thumb of that hand to the upper end of the ramrod without letting it fall farther into the barrel.

III. Push the cartridge well down to the bottom of the barrel.

IV. Strike it two very quick strokes with the ramrod.

I. Draw the ramrod half out with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, catching it back-handed. 10th Return  
Ramrods.

II. Draw it entirely out turning it very briskly from you, with the arm extended, and put it into the loops, forcing it as quickly as possible to the bottom. Then face to the proper front, the finger and thumb of the right hand holding the ramrod, as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, and the butt raised two inches from the ground.

Strike the top of the muzzle smartly with the right hand in order to fix the bayonet and ramrod more firmly, and instantly throw the firelock nimbly up with a jirk of the left hand, at one motion to the *shoulder*, bringing down the right hand at the same time to its original position on the right side of the body. 11th Shoul-  
der Arms.  
N. B.

N. B. Though the butts are not to come to the ground in *casting about* (the first motion of the sixth command of the platoon exercise) as accidents might happen, yet they are permitted, while loading, to be so rested; but this must be done without noise and in a manner imperceptible in the front.

*PRIMING AND LOADING QUICK.*

**Prime and** I. The firelock, being at the shoulder when this com-  
**Load.** mand is given, is brought down in one brisk motion to the priming position, and the thumb of the right hand placed against the pan cover or steel; the fingers clenched, and the right elbow a little turned out so that the wrist may be clear of the cock.

II. Open the pan by throwing up the steel with a strong motion of the right arm, turning the elbow in, and keeping the firelock steady in the left hand.

III. Bring the right hand round to the pouch, and draw out the cartridge. The rest as above described, except that in the *quick loading*, all the motions are to be performed with as much dispatch as possible; the soldiers taking their time from the flugal man in front, for casting over and shouldering *only*.

*POSITIONS OF EACH RANK IN THE FIRINGS.*

The position of the front rank, when it fires standing, is that which has been explained in the beginning of this section.

*FRONT RANK KNEELING.*

**Make ready** Bring the firelock briskly up to the recover, catching it in the left hand; and without stopping, sink down with quick motion upon the right knee, keeping the left foot fast; the butt end of the firelock, at the same moment, falling upon the ground: Then cock, and instantly seize the cock and steel together in the right hand, holding the piece firm in the left, about the middle of that part which is between the lock and the swell of the stock: the point of the left thumb to be close to the swell and pointing upwards.

As the body is sinking, the right knee is to be thrown so far back that the left leg may be right up and down, the right foot a little turned out, the body straight, and the

the head as much up, as when the musket is shouldered. The firelock must be upright, and the butt about four inches to the right of the inside of the left foot.

As for the front rank standing.

Present.

Pull the trigger as before directed, and as soon as the piece is fired, spring up nimbly upon the left leg, keeping the body erect and the left foot fast, and bringing the right heel to the hollow of the left foot: At the same instant drop the firelock to the priming position (the height of the waistband of the breeches) *half cock, handle cart-ridge*, and go on with the loading motions as before described.

Fire.

#### CENTER RANK.

As for the front rank standing, except that on the instant of cocking the piece, step with the right foot a moderate pace to the right, and keep the left foot fast.

Make ready

As for the front rank standing.

Present.

As for the front rank standing, with this difference only that the left foot is to be drawn up to the right one, (the hollow of the left foot to the right heel,) at the same time that the firelock is brought down to the priming position (the height of the middle of the stomach.) The loading, &c. will be performed as before described, except that immediately after the firelock is thrown up to the *shoulder*, the men spring to the left again and cover their file leaders, that is the front rank men of the files to which they respectively belong.

Fire.

#### REAR RANK.

Recover and cock as before directed for the front rank standing, and as the firelock is brought to the recover, step briskly to the right a full pace, at the same time placing the left heel about six inches before the point of the right foot: The body to be kept straight and square to the front.

Make ready

As in explanation for the front rank standing.

Present.

As for the front rank standing, except that the left foot is to be drawn back to the right one, (the hollow of the left

Fire.

left



left foot to the right heel, at the same time that the firelock is brought down to the *priming position*, (close to the breast for this rank.) After shouldering the men spring to the left again and cover the front and center rank men of their respective files.

### *Oblique Firing.*

- 1st *Toon*, This firing is executed either to the right or left and by  
 2d *Ready*, the same words of command as firing in front: all that is necessary is to mention whether the firing is to be to the right or left oblique.
- 3d *To the Right or Left Oblique*, The first rank will point the firelock to the right, bending the left knee a little inwards, without altering the position of the feet.
- 4th *Present*, The second rank will bring forward the left foot about six inches, towards the point of the right foot of his front rank man, he will at the same time lean a little forward bending the left knee a little and point his firelock to the right; after the word "Fire," the two ranks will bring the shoulders square, and take their proper position.

### *Independent Firing.*

- 1st *Toon*, The men must be placed in the common manner in  
 2d *Ready*, two ranks. The man in the front rank and the one in  
 3d *Present*, the second, present and fire together, and every file will,  
 4th *Fire*. do the same, when the commanding officer wishes the firing to cease, he will cause the drum to beat the *general*, when every man will instantly bring his piece to the port and half cock, and remain perfectly steady until the word shoulder arms is given by the commandant: particular care must be taken that the men, in the hurry, do not cock their firelocks instead of bringing them to the half cock.

### *General observations on Firing.*

Firing should always be practised at first without cartridges

tridges, and afterwards with blank cartridges, in order to learn the men to prime, load, and ram down, properly and expeditiously. In bringing the piece to the half cock, after firing with powder, the men should always observe whether the smoke comes out of the touch hole: in that case, the charge is gone off; if not, they should use the pricker only and prime again. If any of the men on loading should perceive that the former charge had not gone off, which if such is the case, he cannot fail to do when he rams down, he deserves to be punished if he puts in a third charge. After exercising, the officer, must always inspect the pieces that they may discover if such a fault has been committed.

It is dangerous to practise firing standing, when the men are formed three deep; particularly if the ground is not level and the men have their knapsacks on. When it is necessary to fire formed in that manner, two ranks only ought to fire, and the fire of the third rank be kept in reserve: when the battalion is formed two deep, it may even be sometimes necessary for the first rank to fire kneeling.

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### *Exercise of Non-Commissioned Officers, with Firelocks.*

When the men shoulder arms from the order, the serjeants come to the *advance*, when the men come to the charge, the serjeants at the first motion, come to the *Port*; the serjeants in *front rank*, come down with the men to the charge; in the rear rank they remain at the *Port*; when the men are ordered to *shoulder*, the serjeants throw their firelock at one motion to the advance, waiting for the signal to quit their left hands which are across the body touching the firelock.

The serjeants go through the same motions as the men at *Order Arms*, *Fix Bayonets*, *Unfix Bayonets*; at every other word of command they remain at the *Advance*.

*Instructions for the Sword Salute, &c.*

## CARRIAGE OF THE SWORD, AT CLOSE ORDER.

*Advance Swords, 1st.* } Grasp the Sword lightly by the hilt, in your right hand, on a level and close to your hip bone, there let it rest, as the soldier does his firelock, casting the blade into the hollow of your right shoulder.

*Carriage of the Sword, at Open Order.*

*Port Swords, 2d.* } Grasp the Sword by the hilt in your right hand, in front of your hip bone, drop the blade, four inches from the point, in your left hand, keeping the left elbow bent, and place your thumb along the blade upwards; bring your right arm somewhat forward, so as to allow the blade to remain in a diagonal direction across the chest, without constraint; your left hand being opposite to, and about three inches lower, than the left shoulder.

*Salute of the Sword, in four motions.*

*Recover Swords, 1st.* } Bring your Sword briskly up, in a perpendicular direction, the point upwards, and the flat side of the blade opposite to the right eye, the Guard even with the right nipple, and the elbow close to the body; the instant the left hand quits the blade, it must be briskly dropped to the left thigh, the thumb being kept flat upon the seam of the breeches, and the rest of the hand close to the thigh.

2d. } Drop the blade, by briskly stretching your arms, so as to bring your right hand close to the right thigh, and remain steadily in this position until the person you have saluted shall have passed two paces at least.

3d. } Bring your Sword briskly up, as in the first position.

4th. } Sink it in a diagonal direction across the chest, as described at *open order*.

At the words of command, *Rear rank, take open order*, Officers face to the right, recovering their Swords, as in 1st position of the Sword salute; they march in ordinary time to the different intervals in the Battalion, come to the right about, and by one motion bring their Swords as in NO. 1, of the carriage of the Sword at close order.

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### *Salute of the Sword in Marching.*

As in position, NO. 1, and 2, taking care to bring the blade up with the left foot, and to drop it with the right, and keeping the right eye steadily fixed towards the person saluted.

N. B. Whenever an officer shifts his position, it must invariably be done by passing in the rear of the division (or company) &c.

When officers are ordered to take their post of exercise, in rear of a battalion during the Manual and Platoon Exercise, they will recover swords, face to the right, and pass through the intervals of their several divisions, &c. waiting in the rear with recovered swords as in NO. 1, of the carriage of the Sword at *close order*; at the word *Rear rank, take close order*, they will spring briskly to their several stations on the flanks, without recovering their Swords, remaining steadily as in NO. 1.

At the words of command, *Rear Rank, take open order*, Officers recover their swords, at the command *March*, they will step out in ordinary time, to the front of their respective companies, and keeping their swords at the recover, looking to the right hand officer of the line, who will be advanced three paces in front for the signal to drop their swords across the body.

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WHEN the Platoon can go through the Manual and Platoon exercise, and the different sorts of firing &c. with precision, the Marchings and Wheelings contained in the first part of these regulations, must be assiduously practised WITH ARMS.

## FORMATION OF THE BATTALION.

Strength of  
the battali-  
on.

The Battalion is Ten Companies,

{ 1 Grenadier,  
8 Battalion,  
1 Light.

A Company commonly consists of

{ 3 Officers,  
3 Serjeants,  
4 Corporals,  
1 Drummer,  
0 Privates.

Formation  
of the bat-  
talion.

When the companies join, and the battalion is formed, there is to be no interval between any of them, grenadier, light company, or other; but every part of the front of the battalion should be equally strong.

The Grenadier and Light Infantry Companies are to be completed with proper men out of their respective battalions, and to be constantly kept so.

Each company which makes a part of the same line, and is to act in it, must be formed and arranged in the same manner.

Position of  
the compa-  
nies in bat-  
talion.

The companies will draw up as follows from right to left:—grenadiers;—first captain and major;—4th. and 5th. captain, 3d. and 6th. captain; 2d. captain and lieutenant-colonel;—light company.—The colonel's company takes place according to the rank of its captain;—the four eldest captains are on the right of the grand divisions;—officers commanding companies or platoons, are all on the right of the front rank of their respective ones.

Divisions.

The eight battalion companies will compose four grand divisions; eight companies or platoons,—sixteen sub-divisions,—thirty-two sections, when sufficiently strong to be so divided, otherwise twenty-four, for the purposes of march.—The battalion is also divided into right and left wings.—When the battalion is very numerous, each company will be divided into two platoons.—When the ten companies are with the battalion, they may then, for the purposes of firing or deploying, be divided into five grand divisions from right to left.

The

The battalion companies will be numbered from the right to the left, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.—The sub-divisions will be numbered 1, 2. of each;—the sections will be numbered, 1, 2, 3, 4. of each; the files of companies will also be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, &c.—The grenadier and light companies will be numbered separately in the same manner, and with the addition of those distinctions. These several appellations will be preserved, whether faced to front or rear.

The companies must be equalized in point of numbers, Companies at all times when the battalion is formed for field move- equalized. ment; and could the battalions of a line also be equalized, the greatest advantages would arise; but though from the different strengths of battalions this cannot take place, yet the first requisite always must, and is indispensable.

Ranks are at the distance of one pace, except the fourth or supernumerary rank, which has three paces. Formation of the battalion at close order.

All the field officers and the adjutant are mounted.

The commanding officer is the only officer advanced in front, for the general purpose of exercise when the battalion is single; but in the march in line, and in the firings, he is in the rear of the colours.

The lieutenant-colonel is behind the colours, six paces from the rear rank.

The major and adjutant are six paces in the rear of the third and sixth companies.

One officer is on the right of the front rank of each company or platoon, and one on the left of the battalion; all these are covered in the rear rank by their respective serjeants; and the remaining officers and serjeants are in a fourth rank behind their companies.—It is to be observed, that there are no coverers in the center rank to the officers or colours.

The colours are placed between the fourth and fifth battalion companies, both in the front rank, and each covered

vered by a non-commissioned officer, or steady man in the rear rank.—One serjeant is in the front rank betwixt the colours; he is covered by a second serjeant in the rear rank, and by a third in the supernumerary rank.—The sole business of these three serjeants is, when the battalion moves in line, to advance and direct the march as hereafter mentioned. The place of the first of those serjeants, when they do move out, is preserved by a named officer or serjeant, who moves up from the supernumerary rank for that purpose.

Use of the  
fourth or  
supernume-  
rary rank.

The fourth rank is at three paces distance when halted, or marching in line.—When marching in column, it must close up to the distance of the other ranks.—The essential use of the fourth rank is, to keep the others closed up to the front during the attack, and to prevent any break beginning in the rear; on this important service, too many officers and non-commissioned officers cannot be employed.

The pioneers are assembled behind the center, formed two deep, and nine paces from the third rank.

The drummers of the eight battalion companies are assembled in two divisions, six paces behind the third rank of their second and seventh companies.—The grenadier and light company drummers and fifers are six paces behind their respective companies.

The music are three paces behind the pioneers in a single rank, and at all times, as well as the drummers and pioneers, are formed at loose files only, occupying no more space than is necessary.

The staff of chaplain, surgeon, quarter-master, and surgeon's mate, are three paces behind the music.

**Officers.** In general, officers remain posted with their proper companies; but commanding officers will occasionally make such changes as they may find necessary.

Relacing  
serjeants.

Whenever the officers move out of the front rank, in parade, marching in column, wheeling into line, or otherwise, their places are taken by their serjeant coverers, and preserved until the officers again resume them. When

When the line is halted, and especially during the firings when engaged, the serjeant coverers fall back into the fourth rank, and observe their platoons.

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*When the Battalion takes Open Order.*

*Rear Ranks,  
take Open  
Order.*

At this command—the flank men on the right of the rear ranks of each company step briskly back to mark the ground on which each rank respectively is to halt. They face to the right, and cover as pivots, being regulated and dressed by the adjutant or serjeant-major on the right.—Every other individual remains ready to move.

*March.*

At this command—the flank dressers face to the front, and the whole move as follows :

The rear ranks fall back one and two paces, each dressing by the right the instant it arrives on the ground.

The officers in the front rank, as also the colours, move out three paces—those in the rear, together with the music, move through the intervals left open by the front rank officers, and divide themselves, viz. the captains covering the second file from the right, the lieutenants the second file from the left; and the ensigns opposite the center of their respective companies.

The music form between the colours and the front rank.

The serjeant coverers move up to the front rank, to preserve the intervals left by the officers.

The pioneers fall back to six paces distance behind the center of the rear rank.

The drummers take the same distance behind their divisions.

The major moves to the right of the line of officers.—The adjutant to the left of the front rank.

The staff place themselves on the right of the



the front rank of the grenadiers, viz. chaplain, surgeon, quarter-master, mate.

The lieutenant-colonel, and the colonel (dismounted), advance before the colours, two and four paces.

The whole being arrived at their several posts—Halt, Dress to the Right, and the battalion remains formed in parade, in the order in which they are to receive a superior officer.

When the battalion is reviewed singly, then in order to make more show, the division of drummers may be moved up, and formed two deep on each flank of the line, the pioneers may form two deep on the right of the drummers of the right, and the staff may form on the right of the whole.

### *When the Battalion resumes Close Order.*

- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Rear Ranks,</i>       | { | The lieutenant-colonel, officers, colours, staff, music, face to the right.   |
| <i>take Close Order.</i> |   | The drummers and pioneers (if on the flank) face to the center.   |
|                          |   | The serjeants (if in the front rank) face to the right.   |
|                          |   | The rear ranks close within one pace, moving up one and two paces, and then halting.  |
| <i>March.</i>            | { | The music marches through the center interval.  |
|                          |   | The serjeants, drummers, pioneers, &c. &c. resume their places, each as in the original formation of the battalion in close order.                  |
|                          |   | The officers move through and into their respective intervals, and each individual arrives, and places himself properly at his post in close order. |

commanding platoons, who in line are on the right of their platoons, shift to the left to conduct the heads of files, or the pivot flanks of their divisions in column or echelon.

When the battalion wheels by companies or subdivisions to either flank into column; both colours and the file of directing serjeants always wheel to the proper front, and place themselves behind the third file from the new pivot. Colours.

There is no separate colour reserve; the pioneers, music, &c. sufficiently strengthen the center; but in the firings the two files on each side of the colours may be ordered to reserve their fire. Colour reserve.

The constant order of the light company when formed in line, and united with the battalion, is at the same close files as the battalion. Their extended order is an occasional exception. Light company.

When the light company is detached, and the grenadier company remains, it will be undivided on one flank of its battalion, whenever there are several battalions in line: but when the battalion is single, it is permitted to be occasionally divided on each flank. Grenadiers.

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### *Attentions of the Soldier.*

QUICK TIME is in general confined to WHEELINGS and FILINGS, the other movements of the platoon or battalion are made in ORDINARY TIME. It is seldom that they will, or ought, to be required at quick time. Times of march.

All WHEELINGS, forward or backward, are made quick. Eyes are turned to the wheeling hand at the word *March* (and not before.) The wheeling flankman steps out firm at a pace of thirty-three inches, till he receives his word *Halt*; it is the business of the rest of the rank to keep up to him. Eyes remain in all cases to the wheeling hand, till a new order is given by the commanding officer. Wheeling.

**Filing.** All **FILINGS** are made quick, close, and at the lock-step. Files are at no time to open out, on occasions of exercise, parade, or manoeuvre; but they will often be so permitted and **ORDERED**, when marching in the streets, or in common route marching, when the march by divisions cannot so conveniently take place.

**Pivot men.** All **FACINGS** must be accurately made on the left heel. Pivot men must cover carefully and exactly. In wheeling backward, the standing man faces the opposite way to what he does if wheeling forward. Pivot men, whether in wheeling into column, or in wheeling into battalion, when once posted, are to remain immoveable, and do not alter their position in consequence of platoon-dressing, nor on any account, but by order of the commanding officer of the battalion, when he finds it necessary to require a more correct dressing from the whole.

**Position.** The great **OBSERVANCE** of the soldier in the ranks, and under arms, is the squareness of the shoulders and body, the head to the front, and the eyes only glanced to the point of dressing. When the battalion is halted, and a more accurate *dressing* is ordered, the head may be a little turned during that operation only, and each man should just distinguish the lower part of the face of the second man from him. Whether in movement, or halted, each man is just to touch (without crowding) his neighbour's arm, towards whom he dresses, to depend on that chiefly for his line, and at no time to separate from him.

**March.** At the word *March*, the stamp of the foot is not to be made, but the first step is to be taken as firm and lengthly as any other, and the body of each man, if in his true position under arms, is prepared for it by an inclination forward. On the perfect execution of this depends much of the accuracy of march. On the word *March*, the first step in all situations is taken with the left foot. When the commanding officer of the battalion gives the word *March*, the whole step off together, whether in line or in column. When he gives the word *Halt*, the whole halt at that instant.

At the word *March*, eyes are directed to the pivot flank, if in column, or to the head of the file if filing;

to the colours, if marching in battalion; and in general to that point by which they are conducted.

At the word *Halt*, the foot in the air finishes its step, and the other is brought up to it. *Eyes* remain directed to the pivot flank, if marching in column; to the colours, if in line; or to the wheeling flank, if wheeling; and in general, to the point to which they were turned when in movement, until a new order commands a new dressing. Whenever the word *Dress* is given by platoon officers to their platoons, eyes are turned to the pivot, where the officer is, and from whence he corrects them upon a distant object.

Halt.

In marching in line, each man must preserve his body perfectly square, and just feel the touch of his neighbour, who is nearer than himself, to the directing point; and the rear ranks are to be well locked up, particularly when firing. In marching in battalion, or when halted, rear ranks will be locked up; but in marching in column, they may in general be at one pace distance: the steps are to be taken firm and marked.

Line,

All alterations in *carrying, supporting arms, &c.* are done by the whole battalion at once, whether in line or column, and not by the divisions of it separately. The commanding officer gives the word, and not the platoon officers; and no such change is at any time made, but in consequence of his command; the men therefore in all cases, *wheel, halt, march, dress, &c.* with their arms *carried, supported, &c.* according as the last given command directed them. The same is to be observed whenever the battalion, moving in line, or column, changes its time of march.

Carriage of arms.

In column, when the right of the battalion is in front, the left is the pivot flank; and when the left of the battalion is in front, the right is the pivot flank.

Pivot flanks

In marching in column, the pivot files of men next to the officers, must have great attention in covering, when the movement is made in a straight line, as they are points on which the formation is made, and therefore for that purpose, they remain close to their pivot officers, who in that situation cover and give distance.

Pivot Files.

Supported arms should only be allowed when halted in line, or when moving in column. But the march in line, and in general all wheelings up into line, and all formations of the line or dressing it, should be made with *carried*

*ried arms*, as the only situation which preserves the true distance of files, or can give an accurate line.

### Covering Platoon Serjeants.

**Position of the covering serjeant.** The covering serjeant accompanies and assists the platoon officer in all his movements, and preserves his place in line, or on the pivot flank in column, whenever the officer's duty requires him occasionally to quit it.—In battalion he covers in the rear-rank.—At open order, he moves into the officer's place in the front rank. At close order, he leaves it for the officer to take it. In the march in echelon he is on the outward flank of the front rank.

**In column.** When the battalion breaks into column to the right, or left, the serjeant falls back two paces; and when the wheel is finished, he covers his officer on the pivot flank. When the column marches, if the officer is in front of the platoon, the serjeant is on the pivot of the front rank, and is answerable for the platoon distance; if the officer remains on the pivot flank, the serjeant then falls behind the rear rank, and covers the second file from the pivot.

**Wheeling into line.** When from column, the right in front platoons wheel up to the left into line; the serjeant, at the word *wheel*, goes to the right of the front rank of the platoon, and wheels, up with it, thereby preserving the officer's place. If the wheel is to the right, the serjeant is behind the right file, ready to move up to the officer's place at the conclusion of the wheel. On all occasions when any platoon (which is then separated) joins in line to one on its right, at that instant must the covering serjeant be on its right to preserve the place of his officer, who may be employed in dressing his platoon.

**Leading Platoon.** When the platoons *wheel* either into line, or into column, the serjeant of the leading platoon runs out, and marks the point in the line of pivots, where its flank is to halt.

**Counter-march.** When platoons *countermarch* in column, the serjeant moves into the officer's place (when he quits it to lead in file,) *faces* to the right about, stands fast, and becomes the pivot point for the front rank leader to close to after the

coun-

countermarch is finished, and his place is occupied by the officer after dressing his division.

When the platoons from columns file in order to take a new line, either to the front or rear; the serjeant of each successively, as it arrives within thirty yards of that line (and no sooner,) runs out, takes distance, places himself on it, and remains as a point to which his officer is to bring and close in the pivot flank man of his platoon, and as a point which the officer himself is afterwards to occupy. In File.

Whenever the battalion halts to fire, the serjeants fall back, and in concert with the supernumerary rank, keep the rear ranks well locked up, and attentive to their duty.—When the battalion again moves, serjeants resume their places. Firings.

When the battalion is in column of sub-divisions, if the officer is ordered to march in front of his platoon, the serjeant is on the pivot of the leading sub-division. If the officer is on the flank of his leading sub-division, the serjeant takes the flank of the second. In column of sections the serjeant also takes the flank of the second section. Sub-divisions.

In close column the serjeant is on the flank of the rear rank behind his officer: and in forming line after the *halt*, *front* of the platoon, he remains on its outward flank, and marches up with it. Close column.

The PIONEERS in column of march, are in front.—In line, they are formed two deep behind the center, and nine paces from the rear rank. Pioneers.

DRUMMERS in column of march, or close column, are with their companies, and on the flank, not the pivot one, —In line, the grenadier and light drummers are six paces behind the rear rank of their companies.—The battalion drummers are in two divisions, and formed six paces behind the third and seventh companies.—In parade, at open ranks the drummers preserve their six paces from the rear rank. Drummers.

Whenever the platoon is cautioned to *wheel* forward or backward any *named* number of paces, the serjeant immediately posts himself before or behind the eighth file, from the standing flank, and takes the ordered number of paces; when his platoon has conformed, he places himself on its outward flank. Echelon.

The MUSIC, in open or close column, are on the flank, Music.  
which

which is not the pivot one; in line, they are in a single rank behind the center, twelve paces from the rear rank; in parade, at open ranks, they are between the colours and the front rank.

**Music, &c.** Drummers, music, pioneers, &c. will take care not to impede the flank movements of the close column, nor its formation into line, but will get into the rear of their respective battalions as soon as they are disengaged from each other.

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### *Attention in Platoon Officers.*

**Position of platoon officers.** When the battalion is formed in line, company or platoon officers are all on the right of their platoons.—In column, they are on the pivot flank, unless particularly ordered into the front of each platoon, if a march for any considerable distance is to be made.—When on the pivot flanks, they are answerable in their own persons for distances and covering: When in front, their serjeants, under their direction, preserve the ordered distance.

**Wheeling into column.** In wheeling from line to column, each moves out, and places himself one pace before the center of his platoon; each turns towards his men during the wheel, and inclines to his pivot flank; each gives his word *Halt Dress*, when his wheeling man has just completed his degree of wheel; each squares his platoon, but without moving what was the standing flank; each then places himself on the proper pivot flank. After the wheel into column is completed, no one is to cause his platoon to shift, by way of covering on the pivot flank, unless so ordered by the commanding officer, or that in the course of marching a straight line is gradually taken up.

**Wheeling into line.** In wheeling from column into line, each places himself one pace before the center of his platoon; each turns towards his men during the wheel, and inclines towards the pivot of his preceding platoon; each gives his word *Halt Dress*, when his wheeling man, on whom his eyes is fixed, is just arrived at the next standing pivot man; each then from that next pivot man corrects the interior of his platoon upon his own pivot man; each then takes his place and remains steady on the right of his platoon.

**Wheeling in column on a fixed point.** If the column is in movement, and platoons are successively to *wheel* into a new direction, each officer, to whatever

ever hand he is to wheel, gives his word from the point he is then placed at, whether in front, or on the flank. If on the wheeling flank, he conducts it. If he is on the standing flank, he steps out two or three paces, the better to see that his platoon wheels quick, with a lengthy step, and that he may time his word *Halt*; this done, he is to fall back to his place on the pivot flank, no longer to look to his platoon, but having his eye fixed on the officer of the preceding platoon, he is to give his word *March* at the instant that officer is taking the last step which establishes the proper distance betwixt the platoons.

When an officer is marching on the pivot flank, he is to be answerable for distance and covering; these circumstances alone must solely engage his whole attention; he can only occasionally give a glance of his eye towards his platoon, which must dress to him of course, and without any particular direction.

On the pivot flank.

When platoons in column are each to countermarch on its own ground, the officer, when his platoon faces, goes to that flank, which is to become the pivot flank, conducts his platoon in file, and closes its leader to the serjeant, who has remained to mark the pivot, *halts, fronts,* and dresses it square; he then places himself where the serjeant stood.

Countermarch of platoons.

When the battalion marches in line, officers then become individuals, equally attentive as the soldier; nor can officers then be attentive to any thing but to the correctness of their own personal march, every operation then depends on the word from the commanding officer, who MOVES, HALTS, and DRESSES the battalion. Whenever the battalion is in line, officers give no commands, except in firings.

In line.

When the platoons of a column *file* separately to a flank, the officer conducts the head, and when he arrives within thirty paces of the new position, in which he is to form, he detaches his serjeant to mark the point at which he is to place his pivot front rank man, either in filing to front or rear; the officer stops at that serjeant, and *halt, fronts,* and *dresses* his platoon close to the serjeant; he then himself, after correcting his platoon, replaces the serjeant, who falls back to the rear rank. In *FILING*, distances and dressing are taken from that hand to which by a face of the platoons, the whole would stand fronted in column, and the

In file.



the line breaks into column towards the directing point. The leaders of the third, fourth, &c. platoons, from the directing flank, are never to overpass the straight line which joins the heads of the first and second, but are, if any thing, to be behind it, till they arrive and halt exactly in the new line. In movements to the rear, distances and dressing are always taken from the same point to which they would be made if the movement was to the front, that is, from the left, in going to the rear, if it should be from the right, in going to the front.

**Leading of-**  
**ficer.** On the leading platoon officer of the column, much of the precision of march depends; he must lead at an equal, steady pace; he must lead on two objects either given to him, or which he himself takes up on every alteration of position; this demands his utmost attention; nor must he allow it to be diverted by looking at his platoon, the care of whose regularity depends on the other officers, and non-commissioned officers, belonging to it. The second platoon officer must also be shewn, and know the points on which the first leads; he is always to keep that first officer and those points in a line, and those two officers, together with the placed mounted officers thus become a direction for the other pivot officers to cover. In marching in open column, the covering serjeants are placed behind the second file from the pivot officers, that the officers may the more correctly see and cover each other in column.

**When pi-**  
**vots march.** In the column of march, after the word HALT is given, no one is to move, and pivots particularly must remain where they are then placed. In this situation, when ordered to FORM, each platoon WHEELS up to its adjoining pivot; the whole will then, perhaps (as in the case of marching on a road, along the different turnings of a height, &c. &c.) be in a winding line, and must not attempt to get into a straight line, unless so ordered by the commanding officer to answer some particular object.

**Wheeling**  
**backwards.** When the platoon wheels BACKWARDS, from line into column, the situation and business of the officer is the same as when wheeling forwards. And he *halts* and *dresses* from his pivot flank, which he gains during the wheel.

**In close co-**  
**lumns.** In close column, division officers are on the pivot flanks. In forming line, before the divisions face, they are shifted to the leading flank, if necessary. The officer of each

stops

Steps in his own person when the division nearer to the forward point than himself receives the word *Halt, Front*. He allows his serjeant to proceed with the division; at the due instant gives the word *Halt, Front, Dress*, and as soon as the front of his division is clear, the word *March* conducting it into line. Before the division arrives within three or four paces of its ground, the officer will have stepped out nimbly to the flank of the preceding division and will be thus ready to give the word *Halt, Dress*, at the instant his inward flank man joins the preceding division. The men dress by the formed part of the line, and the officer corrects them on the known distant point. He then resumes his platoon place, which has been preserved by a serjeant. When the close column, or part of it, forms line on a rear division, the officer of each, when the one behind him halts, fronts, will step nimbly round to the rear (and without impeding his division, allow his serjeant to proceed), from thence he can better judge the proper moment of giving his words *Halt, Front*, to his division; he then places himself on its inward flank, and *marches* up when his front is clear.

The officer of one of the center platoons is always in open column to preserve distance for the colour files. The colours wheel up into column, with the leading center platoon, and place themselves behind the third file of men from its pivot flank; when the line forms, they close in to that flank. Colours.

When officers march in front of their divisions, they must in their own persons keep so close to the preceding ones, as not to hinder the flank of their own division from preserving its proper distance. In front divisions.

When the head of a column of march changes its direction, and that marching in an alignment is not in question, instead of making regular wheels on fixed points, the officer who conducts the leading division will often be directed gradually to bring it round into the new direction, by the turn of the outward shoulder, making both his flanks continue moveable; but each succeeding division, without the formality of command, or halt, does the same thing, the whole attention resting on each pivot flank, which at no rate must encrease its distance; but during this operation preserves the same equality of time and length of step at which it was before moving. Wheels in column of march.

**Close column.** On all occasions of forming in line, either by wheeling up from open column, or in moving up from close column, or in marching up from echelon, &c. the conducting officer moves nimbly to his point d'appui, some paces before the arrival of his division in the line, and from thence gives his word to *Halt*, and instantly dresses it.

**Supernumerary rank.** Officers and serjeants of the SUPERNUMERARY rank are in the rear of their respective companies, when the battalion is halted, or marching in line, they are three paces from the rear rank. In open column, they are within one pace of the rear rank. In close column they go on the flank of their division which is not the pivot. Their great attention during movements is, that files are correct, ranks kept up, and that perfect order is preserved among the soldiers, circumstances in which they greatly assist the platoon officer, who having the important objects of distance and covering of pivots to observe, cannot in such situation be giving minute directions to his platoon, without losing sight of his more material duties. During the firings, the supernumerary rank, assisted by the platoon serjeants, are to keep the rear ranks well closed up to the front, and to prevent any break beginning in the rear.

**Staff.** The STAFF (adjutant excepted) in line are three paces behind the music. In parade at open ranks, they are on the right of the grenadier front rank.

**Adjutant gives point.** It is the particular business of the ADJUTANT at all times to ascertain the direction on which the column is to move, or on which the formation of the line is to be made. For this purpose he is mounted, otherwise he could not properly discharge this important duty; and he can be much assisted in it, by having two or three camp colour men, or non-commissioned officers properly trained to line themselves quickly with any two given points. He is to take care, that the point where the battalion in column enters an alignment, is ascertained to it. When it is moving in that alignment, that two points a head of the column are always prepared. When it wheels up into line, that a point beyond each flank in that line is ascertained. When the line is to be prolonged, and has wheeled backward by divisions, that two points in the exact line of the pivots are ready for its march. When the close column is to form

in

in line, that a point to each flank is given. When the battalion changes position, either by files or by the diagonal march of divisions, that there are points given on which the pivots of files will cover, and can dress their divisions upon, from their several points of appui. In short, that upon all occasions, fixed points of forming, dressing, and march, are given, except in advancing in line, where the ascertaining such points does not depend on the Adjutant.

When the battalion changes position by the echelon Echelon. march, the named division wheels its 8th file into the new direction. The other divisions wheel their 6th file half the number of paces as the named one. The serjeant is on the outward flank, the officer on the inward flank of each division. At the word MARCH, they move on, preserving their relative distance, and covering of pivots from before them, and just before the inward flank of each division arrives at the outward flank of its preceding one, which is already halted in line, its officer places himself before that flank; and when his inward man touches it, he gives his word *Halt, Dress up*, if the movement is to the front, and dresses his division on the distant prepared flank point, so that his division is steadied before the arrival of the next one. When the change is made to the rear, the retiring part *faces* about before the division wheels are made, proceeds as above, and each officer gives the word *halt, front, dress back*, to his division when its inward man touches the preceding formed one.

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### *Attentions of commanding Officers of Battalions.*

The battalion may be considered to the line, what the platoon is to the battalion.

Commanding and Field Officers are always to be moun- Field Offi-  
cers moun-  
ed.ted, and unless they are active on horseback, it is impos-  
sible for them to see, to correct, to prevent mistakes, or  
to move with that dispatch which is necessary from one  
point to another.

Whatever operation is to be performed by the whole of Commands.the battalion at once, is done upon the word from the

commanding officer, without any repetition being made by platoon officers; he puts it in *motion* and *halts* it, whether in line or column; he *wheels* it from line into column; and from column into line; he *orders* arms to be *carried*, *supported*, &c. he *dresses* it from the center, when it has marched in line, and halts; and from what was the leading flank when it has *wheeled* up from column into line.

Points of  
march.

Before the column marches, the commanding officer ascertains *points* to the leading officer, and when he intends to change the direction of the march he gives new points, and he watches over the just leading of the column. He takes care that all *wheels* of platoons are made at the identical point where the leading platoon wheeled; that all *doublings* of sub-divisions are made successively in the same manner, and at the same point; and that *forming* up to platoons is made at the spot where the first forming up is made.—That in all diminutions of the front, the natural order of the column is preserved, whether the right or left of the battalion leads.—That a column of half platoons occupies no more space than a column of whole platoons, viz. just sufficient to wheel up into battalion.

Points of  
doubling  
and wheel  
ing

Halt of the  
column.

When the open column marching in an alignment is to *form* in a straight line, and for that purpose *halts*; the instant that it does halt, the commanding officer from the head of the battalion at that instant corrects the pivot files of men (which ought not to be necessary) in the true line, and upon a rear point.—But if the *march* is making in a winding direction, and that the intention is not to form, or not to take up a straight line, the platoons remain on the ground on which they *halt*, and do not move in any shape, until they receive a further *order*, either to form in line; or first to cover, and then to form; or to continue the march.

Dis-ting.

The commanding officer always conducts the head of his battalion column to the point at which it is to *enter* a new line, and he takes care in time to dispatch a mounted officer to ascertain that point.—When the platoons *wheel* up into line, he immediately (if necessary) corrects the dressing of the battalion from the flank which led when in column, and that generally upon a point beyond the other flank.

Comments  
in line.

When acting in line with others, the commanding officer of each battalion conforms to the movements of the  
regu-

regulating one, and from it takes, and rapidly repeats his words of *Halt, Wheel, March, &c.* and the least delay in repeating the words *Halt, or March,* must undoubtedly disorder the line in proportion to that delay, for the whole of a line should *March, or Halt,* at the same instant.

In line, the commanding officer is in rear of the colours, <sup>Attentions</sup> from thence, by marked cautions, he makes his battalion <sup>in line.</sup> *step out, or step short, or incline,* as is necessary to preserve its place in the general line; his great attention is to see and prevent the beginning of faults, and not wait till they have had their effect; by watching and regulating his advanced serjeants, he best regulates his battalion; the squareness of the march, the compactness of the files, and the equality of step, are the great objects he is to have in view.—The other mounted officers are behind the wings, and can assist much in preventing faults, and in correcting them.

All the battalions of a line must *halt* at the same in- <sup>Dressing in</sup>stant in consequence of that word, repeated by command- <sup>line.</sup>ing officers, whether they are correct or not in line.—*Each* half battalion from its own colour, and the men looking to it, will be immediately dressed on the colours of the next adjoining battalion; by this means a general continued line will be obtained, and at any rate, a straight one between each two colours; and if all the colours should have truly halted in one line, the whole corps will be completely formed in a straight line.—But if the *halt* is not justly made and that a better line must be obtained, the colours of the defective battalions will be brought into the general line; the platoon officers will quickly *arrange* themselves, ~~and~~ will be ordered to the *right*, and the men will in an instant *move* up; too much celerity cannot be used in completing this operation.

A single battalion, when it halts, is thus dressed on its right or left center company, and is therefore in a straight line.—Two battalions dress each from its center on each other's colours, their outward wings conforming, and are therefore in a straight line.—Three or more battalions dress from the center of each on their next colour; and therefore if all the colours halt in a line, the line of the whole will be straight: if they are not in a line, the general line will not be straight (till a special correction is made), but no flank will be thrown out of the general direction. When

When a battalion retires and *halts*, it ought never to remain in that situation, but be immediately faced about, and dressed to the proper front.

*Interval.* The greatest fault that a battalion in line can make is increasing its interval; bad dressing may be remedied without danger, but a false distance presents a weak part to an enemy, and is not to be closed, without a hazardous movement, and great operation of the line.

*Aids in exercise.* Commanding officers cannot take too much precaution to ascertain true points in the line in which they are to form, before the arrival of their battalions in it.

When a battalion is exercising singly, a commanding officer may have two camp colour bearers behind each flank properly trained, and ready to run out to that flank, to give points of marching, forming, or dressing upon the true line. In doing which, one flank of the battalion is generally considered as in that line, and often both.

*Attentions.* Words of command cannot be specified for all the variety of circumstances and situations that occur; but commanding officers being themselves clear in what is to be done, should by distinct and explicit orders, which they divide and adapt for the occasion, lead their battalions through all the points of execution with precision; this will always be found the shortest path, nor on any account should any operation, more especially the correction of an error or mistake (once a battalion is assembled under arms) be performed in a careless or slovenly manner, which will always be the case if the commander's orders are not pointed, loud and sufficiently explanatory.

*Close column.* A battalion *close* column forms in line on its front division, on its rear division, or on a central one, according as circumstances require; and in all cases the line formed upon is that on which the head of the column or columns is halted before the formation begins, and therefore the division on which each battalion at any time forms, moves up at the proper instant, and halts on that line.—When several close battalions, standing on the line, are to extend and form, the regulating and named battalion *only* can be obliged to form on a central division: *each* of the others will form on its front, or rear division, viz. on that which first arrives at its ground, where it *halts*, *fronts*, and occupies its proper place, while the others move on, and successively come up to it.

In

In forming line from close column, points must be given beyond both flanks in the direction of the line, and a mounted officer halts, and fronts each division, which is especially necessary for those that form upon a rear one, although less so for those that form upon a front one.—The dressing and correction of the line is from the first formed division towards the other flank, and all the eyes of the battalion are of course turned to that first formed division.

The same number of *points* are required for the march in an alignment, and wheeling up into line of an open column of one battalion, as for that of several battalions, viz. *one* where the line is entered, and (always) *two* beyond the head of the column.—Therefore, although these precautions may appear formal for the movements of the battalion when single, yet are they necessary in all its exercises; when it is recollected, that such battalion is in the place of and must consider itself as the leading one of the column, on whose correct position those of every following one depends.—The same exactness is required in every extension from close column into line, and in every forming and change of position that the battalion makes. In fine, in order to qualify the battalion for acting in general line; it must at its single exercises work on points fixed and relative, and make no chance and accidental movements and formations.

Although on most occasions of movement and formation, and at all times in instruction, determined *points* marked by detached and mounted officers, are given: yet such helps cannot be expected or depended on, when the line is advancing on an enemy, when a corps is harassed in its retreat, and when it is unsafe to send out officers, &c. In such situations every thing will depend on the eye and judgment of conducting officers, who must preserve such direction of movement, and seize such accidental points as present themselves, and lead to the object which is to be accomplished.

In whatever shape a battalion is moving, the commanding officer is never to lose sight of this great *principle*, that the battalion should at no time cover more ground than its proper extent when formed in line.—Therefore if he is marching in line he must take care that his files do not open; and if he is marching in column, his great attention



is that his divisions do not open. For this purpose his march must be just, and compact, his wheels quick, and all doublings up, or back, which alter the extent of front, must be made so as not to impede the general movements of the column or to change its distances.—When the front is to diminish, he must see that the doubling division slackens its pace, and when disengaged from the other division, that it inclines well up, quick, and covers, thereby not impeding the division behind it. When the front is to be increased, the moving up division does it quick and by oblique marching.

Marching  
in an augmen-  
tant.

The commanding officer must recollect, in the winding movements of the *open column of march*—that the wheeling distances must be just; that the pivots are to follow on the exact tract, which the leading one has traced out; that the whole, when ordered, halt on the precise ground they then occupy; and that when they wheel up and form, the line will not then be a continued, but probably an irregular curved one.—But if a straight line is to be entered and formed upon, from the point where the head enters, and not sooner, and where a mounted officer remains posted, does every platoon pivot officer begin to cover in the true line, to march in that line, and to preserve his true distance: nor must any obstacle that can possibly be surmounted, ever force the pivot officers out of that line; although the men of their platoon, when it becomes necessary, may open or widen their files from them. And if the pivots on account of any material obstacle are thrown for a time out of the line, they should always, if possible, move to the hand which carries them behind the line, and again re-enter it when they can; and for which purpose an officer, or non-commissioned officer, should be placed where they are to re-enter it. In marching in the alignment, the commanding officer should frequently place *himself* in it, with a glance of the eye see whether his files preserve it, and correct them if necessary.

As *one* field officer at a time must command the battalion, the others present can only act in aid of him, nor can their situation in all cases be ascertained; but should the commanding officer not be at the head of the open column (when it marches, and particularly when it halts) to correct if necessary, the pivots in the general line, another field officer, or the leading officer, if no field officer is there,

there, should instantly attend to it, that the wheeling up may not be delayed. If in the course of exercise and instruction, the commanding officer is not behind the center when the battalion marches in line or halts, another field officer from that situation can immediately give every proper aid in movement, or in lining as it ought when halted; and in every case it must be evident in what manner the commanding officer can be assisted.

When the line is to break and wheel into open column of march, in almost all cases it is better done by wheeling *backward* than forward, for the wheel is in this manner made on the pivot flanks; and although divisions may be unequal, yet these flanks cover after the wheel, an advantage which is lost if the wheels are made forward.

When a battalion makes a retired ECHELLON, or part of an echelon of a considerable line: the commanding officer must take great care to regulate his movements by those of the one preceding him, viz. that he preserves his parallelism; his ordered distance; his proper flank interval; and when the leading echellons halt, and that he is to move up into line, that the outward flank is not thrown too forward (which without great attention will happen) and thereby perhaps be exposed to the enemies enfilade.

Commanding officers of regiments, brigades, or larger bodies, are moveable according to circumstances, and should by no means consider the center of such bodies as their general post in exercise or movements, or expect by the exertion of one voice, from one fixed situation, to command and direct the whole; their presence is more frequently required near one or the other flank; in general they should be at the conducting point of movement or formation, and to that address their orders by voice or message; for if that point is led, or placed in the direction it should take, there is little danger of the parts of the body not properly and successively conforming to it.

There are many situations in the movements of great bodies, where commands, that are not immediately to influence the whole, are not given loud, but quietly, to the directing body to whose situation the rest by the eye conform; as when the head of an open column is ordered to halt, that the rest of the divisions may move on, and successively stop in close column; and on all occasions where parts only of a large body are to march, or

halt

halt successively, commanding officers of regiments should have an attention to give their commands in such manner as not to produce an alteration in those points that are not meant to be influenced by them at that instant.

Where a large body is marching in column or columns, through narrow ground, and when its parts are to be assembled beyond the defilé in several lines, in a compact manner behind each other, such parts are not to begin to assemble when the leading one does, but the head of each line is successively first to come up to the ground on which it is to stand, and when it there halts, its proper followers (and not before) move into line with it, and thereby do not impede the bodies that are behind them, which are still in the defilé, and are to perform the same operation.

Precision of movement depends altogether on the instant circulation of commands of execution, and that on the attention of officers to the point they may be expected to come from, unless the whole of a body, however large, is put in motion at the same instant, a column will be extended, and a line will be ill dressed, and with false intervals.

Officers must particularly attend to the difference between changes of direction made by *Wheel*, and by *Shoulder forward*. In the first case, one flank remains fixed, while the other is on the wheel; in the second case, both flanks continue in motion. *Shoulder forward*, applies to a small front, and to a column of march, where the change of direction is to be made gradually, without an alteration of the pace. In proportion to the front of the body so changing, must be the degree of sweep made by both flanks; and in all cases the reverse flank conforms to the pace of the pivot flank, and in no case can it be made short and quick, otherwise it becomes a wheel.

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### *Regulations in Firing.*

1. The advance of the battalion should instantly succeed the forming of the line; and when it arrives and halts at the point where it is to fire, the firing ought instantly to commence at the word *halt*; for the battalion having been apprized, during the march, of the nature of the required firing, no improper delay need therefore be made. 2.

2. The greatest care is to be taken by the officers and under officers in the rear (whose principal attention this is) that the rear ranks are well locked up in the firings, and that in loading they do not fall back.

3. The line, if retiring, *Halt, fronts*, at one command; and instantly begins firing, having been apprized during its movement of the nature of the firing.

4. The pause betwixt each of the firing words—*Make-ready! present! fire!* is the same as the ordinary time, viz. the 75th part of a minute, and no other pause is to be made betwixt the words.

5. In firing *Wings by Companies*: Each wing carries on its fire independant, and without regard to the other wing, whether it fires from the center to the flanks, or from the flanks to the center.—If there are five companies in the wing, two pauses will be made betwixt the *fire* of each, and the *make-ready* of the succeeding one.—If there are four companies in the wing, three pauses will be made betwixt the *fire* of each, and the *make ready* of the succeeding one.—This will allow sufficient time for the first company to have again loaded, and shouldered at the time the last company fires, and will establish proper intervals between each.

6. In firing by *grand divisions*, three pauses will be made betwixt the *fire* of each division, and the *make-ready* of the succeeding one.

7. In firing by *Wings*.—One wing will make ready the instant the other is shouldering.—The commanding officer of the battalion fires the wings.

8. In firing companies by *Files*.—Each company fires independant.—When the right file presents, the next makes ready, and so on.—After the first fire, each man as he loads comes to a recover, and the files again fires without waiting for any other; the rear rank men are to have their eyes on their front rank men, and be guided by, and present with them.

9. In general after the march in, and halt of the battalion, company, or platoon firing should begin from the center, and not from the flanks.—In other cases, and in successive formations, it may begin from whatever division first arrives, and halts on the ground.

*Firing in line.*

Object of fire. 1st. The chief object of fire against cavalry, is to keep them at a distance, and to deter them from the attack; as their movements are rapid, a reserve is always kept up.—But when fire commences against infantry, it cannot (consistent with order and other circumstances) be too heavy or too quick while it lasts, and till the enemy is beaten or repulsed.

2d. The fire of 3 ranks standing, is hardly with our present arms to be required; especially if the ground be broken, and that the soldiers are loaded with their knapsacks.

Defensive fire. 3d. Where infantry are posted on heights that are to be defended by the fire of musquetry; the front rank will kneel, that one third of the fire that may be given should not be lost, for otherwise the rear-rank, in such situation, could not sufficiently incline their pieces to raise the slope.—As soldiers generally present too high, and as fire is of the greatest consequence to troops that are on the defensive, and who are posted if possible on commanding grounds, the habitual mode of firing should therefore be rather at a low level than a high one; and the fire of the front rank kneeling, being the most efficacious as being the most raising, should not be dispensed with when it can be safely and usefully employed.

In line advancing. 4th. When infantry marches in line to attack an enemy, and in advancing makes use of its fire; it is perhaps better to fire the two first rank only standing, reserving the 3d. than to make the front rank kneel and to fire the whole: but volleys fired at a considerable distance, or on a retiring enemy, may be given by the three ranks, the front one kneeling.

Platoon firing. 5th. A line posted, or arriving at a fixed situation, will fire by platoons, each battalion independant; and such firing generally commencing from the center of each.—The first fire of each battalion will be regular, and establish intervals; after the first fire; each platoon shall continue to fire as soon as it is loaded, independant and as quick as it can, till the battalion or line is ordered to cease.

File firing. 6th. Behind a parapet, hedge, or abbatis, the two first ranks only can fire, and such firing may be *file firing*, deliberate

liberate and cool, the two men of the same file always firing together; it may begin from the right or left of platoons, and should be taught in situations adapted to it, not in open ground.—Should the parapet, hedge, or abattis be but little raised, platoon firing may be used. This mode of firing is very galling if well kept up; it is sometimes used on rejoicing days, when it gets the name of a *feue de joie*.

7th. *Oblique firing* by battalions, is advantageous on many occasions; as when it is proper or that time does not allow to give an oblique direction to part of a line, or that their fire in this manner can be thrown against the opening of a defilé, the flanks of a column, or against cavalry or infantry that direct their attack on some particular battalion or portion of the line Oblique firing.

8th. As long as the fire by battalions, half battalions, or companies, can be kept up regular, it is highly advantageous and can be at any time stopped; but should file firing be allowed and once begun, unless troops are exceedingly cool and well disciplined, it will be difficult to make it finish, and to make them advance in order. Regularity of firing.

9th. When a line halts at its points of firing, no time is to be lost in scrupulous dressing, and the firing is instantly to commence.—But a line that halts and is not to fire, or when its firing ceases after the halt, may immediately be ordered to dress from colours to colours.

10th. The attention of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the rear to the locking up of the ranks in firing, cannot be too often repeated.

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### *Firing at the Target.*

THE importance of a well directed fire is generally acknowledged. To attain this essential object of military instruction, the following method ought to be frequently practised:

One or more targets must be prepared for each detachment of men, each target must be of five feet nine inches in height and twenty one inches in breadth, it should be painted across, the middle with a colour that will strike the eye, about three inches in breadth; the

the upper end ought also to be painted in the same manner.

The men must at first fire at 50 toises distance, then at 100, and lastly at 150.

At 50, and 100 toises they will aim at the lower mark, at 150, they will aim at the upper; at first, they will fire singly; when they are able to fire with precision, they may be accustomed to fire at the word of command. They must be taught to place the butt of the firelock properly against the shoulder at the present, to support the barrel steadily with the left arm, and level expeditiously the breach of the barrel and the sight exactly on the point at which they are to aim. The word *Recover Arms*, ought to be given often after the word *Present*, that they may acquire a habit of levelling expeditiously at the object. Particular care must be taken that on the word *Fire*, they draw the trigger sharply without stirring the head or altering in the smallest possible degree the direction of the firelock; and to enable the instructor to observe this important point, they must remain at the present till the word *lad*.

This exercise is to take place every year, after the Militia has been instructed in firing with blank cartridges.

The Officers ought to pay particular attention to the following remarks: "The end to be attained in firing is not to fire the greatest number of shots in a given time; but to make every shot effectual. This is to be done, by simplifying the manner in which the firing is to be made, and in making the men properly acquainted with the carrying and bearings of the pieces; and finally to teach them at what distance a reliance is to be placed on the fire of musketry, and how to guide it properly with respect to the ground, circumstances, and the arms of the enemy: in a word, when it ought to be laid aside for the charge of the bayonet."

"It is at 80 toises that the fire of musketry begins to have a considerable effect; but the proper direction is only to be acquired by the repeated use of target firing; the target ought to be placed at different known distances, sometimes on descending ground, in a hallow, on rising ground, on a level, and on an eminence; and the men ought to be perfectly familiar in levelling at the proper part of the object of his fire according to the situation  
and

and distance at which it is placed. There are, in that respect, proportions which ought to be considered as axioms, and which may be taught the men without explaining the theory on which they are founded: for instance, if a battalion of the enemy is at 300 toises distant, in front, the aim must be about three feet higher than their heads, at 200 toises a foot and a half above their heads, at 150 toises at their hats at 100 toises at the middle of the body; at 50 toises about the knees, but never lower."

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### *Order for forming the Parade of a Battalion.*

THE men having assembled at their officers quarters,\* are to march under the direction of an officer of each company, to the General Parade, and the strictest silence is to be observed; at fifty yards of the ground upon which the Battalion is to be formed, the officer will order the company to *halt, carry arms*, and march in ordinary time, to an allotted station in the Battalion; he must be very particular in taking the distance for his company in open column from the company in front of him; when he has got his proper distance, he gives the words of command, *order arms, stand at ease*.

The Captain or officer commanding such company will repair to the parade, for the purpose of minutely examining the arms, dress and accoutrements of the men.

Words of Command given by the Captain.	{	<i>Attention.</i>
		<i>Rear Rank, take Open Order.</i>
		<i>March.</i>
		<i>Order arms.</i>
		<i>Handle arms.</i>
		<i>Right face.</i>
		<i>Draw Ramrods.</i>

As soon as the ramrod is drawn, each private will place it into the barrel, the round end of the ramrod on the heel of the bayonet, about three inches forward; the instant the officer approaches the first file, the ramrod will be briskly thrown into the barrel, so as effectually to ring within it, and then be placed as before; the officer will

care-

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\* If the men are with arms, they will fall-in with bayonets fixed and shouldered arms.



carefully examine the nob of the ramrod, to see whether any dirt or rust be attached to it.

*Return Ramrods.*

*Ease arms.*

*Front.*

N. B. The company will *front* from a motion made by the flugal-man in the same manner that it faced to the right.

*Shoulder arms.*

*Port arms.*

*Open pans.*

The officers will carefully and minutely inspect every part that is visible of the lock, &c. see that the pan is bright and clean, and the touch-hole perfectly clear; if they should observe any dust about the latter, or should suspect that the aperture is not clear to the chamber, they will either order the man to use his pricker, or make him blow down the barrel, after having directed him to

*Shoulder arms.*

*Order arms.*

*Unfix bayonet.*

*Butt to the front.*

The officers will apply their hands to the touch-hole, whilst the men blow down their barrels; this should invariably be practised before the battalion goes to exercise with cartridge; on these occasions the above mentioned words of command will be adopted, with the following ones :

*Order arms.*

*Fix bayonets.*

*Shoulder arms.*

*Port arms.*

The Officer or Officers will continue their inspection of pans, flints, or drivers.

*Shut pans.*

*Shoulder arms.*

*Order arms.*

*Unfix bayonet.*

*Stand at ease.*

*Open your pouches.*

The Officers inspect the men's ammunition, and when the men have shut their pouches, the officer inspects the men's

men's cloathes, and appointments of the company will likewise see that the bruthes, prickers, turncrews and worms, are in good order and properly fixed; the prickers and bruthes are hung beneath the breast plate, especially at inspections.

*Rear Rank, trail arms.*

*Take ease order.*

*March.*

*Order arms.*

*Stand at ease.*

After which he will leave it to the direction of the Adjutant.

N. B. A very excellent practice has been adopted in some Regiments to ascertain the nicety of distances, on which the true formation of a battalion wholly depends. This is by fronting the pivot men and marching them one or two paces forward from their several flanks, and facing them again to right or left (as the case may be) the Adjutant and Serjeant-Major are thus enabled to form a most accurate judgment from the two extremes of the rectilinear situation of these important points; to which the different divisions, &c. will be attached by the *side step* to the right or left.

When the Commanding Officer comes on the parade, he orders the Adjutant to form the parade, who gives the following words of command, viz.

*Column, Attention.*

*Shoulder arms.*

*Officers, take post.*

The Officers on all duties under arms are to have their swords drawn, without waiting for any words of command for that purpose; the Commanding officer then gives the following words of command.

*By Companies, to the left wheel into line.*

*March.*

*Rear Rank, take open order.*

*March.*

The Commanding Officer orders the Adjutant to collect the Reports.

N. B. No compliments pass between the officers and the adjutant, either by dropping the sword, or otherwise.

The Reports having been collected by the Adjutant from the Officers standing on the flanks of the column, or at

open order in front of the Battalion, and by him delivered to the Major who will give them to the Colonel, or to the Lieutenant Colonel;

The commanding officer, will *open the ranks*. A regiment is seldom dismissed from a parade, without going through the Manual exercise or some manœuvres. As soon as the Manual exercise is over.

*Rear Rank, take close order.*

*March.*

*Order arms.*

*Unfix Bayonets.*

*Shoulder arms.*

If the commanding officer makes a signal to the officers to fall out, the officers sheath their swords.

The adjutant then marches the battalion; if the battalion has been firing powder, it is always dismissed with bayonets fixed.

N. B. All officers, not in the ranks, are to place themselves in the rear of the Commanding officer of the parade.

Whenever the regiment parades with arms, the adjutant will order the men to *fix bayonets* and *shoulder arms*: till the Commanding officer arrives on the parade, he will either make them, *order arms*, or *support arms*, but as soon as he appears, they will *carry arms*.

The Battalion is never to be dismissed on the grand parade, but marched off, in a body, to some distance: it will then *halt*, and the officers commanding companies, will march off their men to their own private parades, and there dismiss them.

If a party of men with arms pass the guard, it will turn out, and should a drum be beat, the guard is to present arms, and the drummer of it will beat a march. When no drum is beat, the guard remains shouldered.

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### *Review of a Battalion of Infantry.*

THE Battalion to be reviewed being drawn up in open order, the Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel advance dismounted to their places, the Major on horseback in his place, a Camp colours is previously placed eighty or a hundred

dred paces in front of the center of the Battalion, which being considered as the station of the reviewing officer, is the point to work upon, and to which all the movements are relative.

In this disposition they await the arrival of the reviewing General, who, having presented himself before the center at fifty or sixty paces distance, is received with a general salute, the battalion presents arms, the Officers salute, and the Music play, the Colours salute those only who from their rank are entitled to that honour; the General then moves towards the right, and passes along the rear without receiving any further compliment; the music cease upon his having returned to the right flank of the battalion, and while he proceeds to place himself in the front, the rear rank are closed, and the Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel will then mount on horseback in rear of the center.

The Battalion in open column of companies is then put in motion, with the music and pioneers at its head; and points having been ascertained by the adjutant for the exact and several wheelings of the divisions, each company wheels, successively on arriving at those points; their Right ranks in marching past only four paces distant from the camp colour, the supposed situation of the General.

Each leader of a company, when he has advanced six paces from the second wheeling point, changes quickly by the rear to the right flank of his company; when placed, he gives the word's *Eyes Right*, and upon arriving within fifty paces of the General *open rear ranks*, at which time the officers, whether supernumerary or otherwise, move three paces in front of their company, the captain on the right, the lieutenant on the left, and the ensign in the center. Covering serjeants move into the place quitted by the captain.

In marching past the reviewing general, the colonel is at the head of the leading company, the major a little behind on his left; the music six paces before them in two ranks, the pioneers in two ranks, are six paces before the music, having a corporal at their head to lead, the drummers and fifers are on the left flank of their respective companies. The lieutenant-colonel is in the rear, with the adjutant on his left, but somewhat behind; the music begins to play immediately after the leading company has

made the second wheel; the officers prepare to salute six paces before the General, and recover their swords when ten paces past him; the commanding officer having saluted at the head of the battalion, places himself near the General and remains there till the rear has marched past, the officers commanding companies having also past the same point by thirty paces, will each successively close his rear ranks, and at this time each individual resumes the post which he held when the column was first in motion.

When the leading company arrives near the fourth wheeling point, the whole halt, music ceases, and they march off in quick time with arms supported; and upon arriving at the sixth wheel, arms are again carried, and having wheeled the music begins to play.

The battalion now marches past the General in quick time, and at close order; the colonel and lieutenant-colonel, &c. are in the same situations, and the leading officers of each company change to its right by the rear, in the same manner and at the same time as before, but do not salute. The supernumerary officers and serjeants are in the rear of companies at one pace from the rear rank. When the head of the column arrives near the eighth wheeling point, music ceases, it is halted in order to take up the ordinary step march, and when arrived at the point where the right of the battalion was originally placed, it is again halted, the music and pioneers go to their posts behind the center, and the pivots being corrected, the battalion is wheeled into line.

The commanding officer having then given the caution that the Manual and Platoon Exercise (should it be required) will be performed, goes to the rear, and the major advancing to the front, gives the words of command; the officers and colours take their posts in a line with the supernumerary rank in the rear of the battalion, the colonel and lieutenant-colonel are in the rear of the colours, and the pioneers are formed nine paces beyond the rear, the music three behind them.

The major closes the rear ranks for the platoon exercise, the officers and colours then resume their situation in the line, and the exercise being finished, the major goes to his post in rear of the second company (the third if the battalion consists of eight companies), and the commanding officer having ordered to prime and load with cartridge, proceeds to execute the movements. *Words*

*Words of Command for a Review, including the Manual and Platoon Exercise, and the March.*

The Ranks being at Open Order, and the Reviewing General having taken post in the front, the following words of Command are given.

\* \* \* The words marked *in Capitals* are given by the Commander of the Battalion.—Those marked in *Italics* are given by the Commander of the Company or Division.

Commanding Officer.		Words of Command by Officers of Companies.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
	PRESENT ARMS.	
	SHOULDER ARMS.	
	REAR RANKS, TAKE CLOSE ORDER, MARCH.	
	COMPANIES, ON THE LEFT BACKWARDS WHEEL, MARCH.	<i>Halt dress.</i>
	MARCH.	
	1st wheel.	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, march.</i>
	2d	<i>Halt, left wheel. Halt dress, march. Eyes right. Rear ranks, take open order. Rear ranks, take close order.</i>

*Halt,*

Commanding Officer.		Words of Command by Officers of Companies.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
	3d wheel	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, march. (1)</i>
	HALT.	
	SUPPORT ARMS,	
	QUICK, MARCH.	
	4th	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, quick, march.</i>
	5th	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, quick, march.</i>
	6th	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, quick, march.  Eyes right.</i>
	7th	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, quick, march.</i>
	CARRY ARMS.	
	HALT.	
	MARCH.	
	8th	<i>Halt, left wheel, Halt dress, march.</i>
	HALT.	
	LEFT WHEEL INTO, LINE.	
	MARCH.	<i>Halt dress.</i>

(1) Each officer commanding a company give all these words of command; to wheel to the left is repeated at every angle. The

Commanding Officer.		Words of Command by Officers of Companies.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
<p>The Battalion will go through the Manual and Platoon Exercise. (2)</p> <p>The Officers will take post in the rear.</p> <p>The front rank only charges bayonets, the rear ranks port arms.</p> <p>Battalion,</p>	<p>REAR RANKS, TAKE OPEN ORDER, MARCH.</p> <p>ORDER ARMS,</p> <p>UNFIX BAYONETS, SHOULDER ARMS,</p> <p>OFFICERS, TO THE RIGHT FACE, MARCH. FRONT.</p> <p>ORDER ARMS, FIX BAYONETS, SHOULDER ARMS, PRESENT ARMS, SHOULDER ARMS, CHARGE BAYONETS, SHOULDER ARMS, REAR RANKS, TAKE CLOSE ORDER, (3) MARCH.</p> <p>MAKE READY, PRESENT, FIRE.</p> <p>WITH CARTRIDGE, PRIME AND LOAD.</p> <p>(4)</p>	

The

(2) The major is now in front of the regiment, and gives the word of command—the colonel having taken post in the rear.

(3) The officers having taken their posts in front as at close order.

(4) The front rank in this case fires standing, if it was ordered to fire kneeling it would be commanded, and this is given by the colonel who replaces the major, the battalion having shouldered.



Commanding Officer.		Words of Command by Officers of Companies.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
The line will advance, Fire two rounds by companies from flanks to center. Drum.	MARCH. HALT.	<i>Town, ready, Present, Fire.</i>
The line will retire, Fire two rounds by companies from center to flanks. Drum.	RIGHT ABOUT FACE, MARCH. HALT, FRONT.	<i>Town, ready, Present, Fire.</i>
The line will advance, Prepare for file firing.	MARCH. HALT. COMMENCE INDEPENDENT FIRING.	
The line will advance, Fire a volley to the front.	MARCH. HALT. MAKE READY, PRESENT, FIRE.	
The line will retire.	PRIME AND LOAD. RIGHT ABOUT FACE. MARCH. HALT, FRONT.	
The line will advance,	MARCH. HALT,	

Commanding Officer.		Words of Command by Officers of Companies.
Caution.	Words of Command.	
Fire a volley to the front, and after port arms,	<p>MAKE READY, PRESENT, FIRE.</p> <p>HALF COCK, ARMS, SHUT PANS, SHOULDER ARMS. REAR RANKS, TAKE OPEN ORDER, MARCH.</p>	-Moves out three paces in front.
The line will advance,	MARCH, HALT.	
General Salute.	<p>PRESENT ARMS, SHOULDER ARMS. REAR RANKS, TAKE CLOSE ORDER, MARCH.</p>	

N. B. After the General Salute, arms are afterwards shouldered, rear ranks closed, and the battalion marched back to quarters.

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*The following orders are to be strictly attended too:*

The officers of Militia must be taught to march in slow and quick time, the Wheelings, the Manual and Platoon exercifes, the Sword Salute, and how to give the different words of Command in a full strong voice.

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# C O N T E N T S.

	Page
<i>General orders concerning the regulations</i> - - -	3
<i>Introduction</i> - - - - -	5
<i>Definitions and Explanatory Observations</i> - - -	7

## PART I. DRILL OF A PLATOON WITHOUT ARMS.

<i>General Formation of the Militia</i> - - - - -	11
<i>Formation and sizing of a Platoon or Company</i> <i>ibid.</i>	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>To take open order from close order</i> - - - - -	12
<i>Manner of instructing the Militia</i> - - - - -	13
<i>Position of a Soldier</i> - - - - -	14
<i>Standing at ease</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>Byes right or left</i> - - - - -	15
<i>The facings</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>Position in marching</i> - - - - -	16
<i>The ordinary step.</i> - - - - -	17
<i>The halt</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>The oblique step</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>Dressing when halted</i> - - - - -	18
<i>Stepping out</i> - - - - -	19
<i>Marking time</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>Stepping short</i> - - - - -	20
<i>Changing the feet</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>The side and closing step</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>The back step</i> - - - - -	21
<i>The quick step</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>The quickest step and method of regulating the steps</i> } by the Plummet - - - - -	22
<i>Resuming close order</i> - - - - -	23
<i>Marching to the front and rear</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>File marching</i> - - - - -	24
<i>Countermarching by files</i> - - - - -	25
<i>Forming to the front from file</i> - - - - -	26
<i>Forming from file to either flank</i> - - - - -	27
<i>Wheeling forward from the halt</i> - - - - -	<i>ibid.</i>
<i>Wheeling from the march</i> - - - - -	28
<i>Wheeling into line from open column of sub-divisions</i>	29

# C O N T E N T S.

	Page
<i>Increasing and diminishing the front of an open column halted</i> - - - - -	30
<i>Marching on an alignment in open column of sub-divisions</i> - - - - -	31
<i>In open column of sub-divisions wheeling into a new direction, on a moveable pivot</i> - - - - -	32
<i>Wheeling on the center of a platoon</i> - - - - -	33
<i>Increasing and diminishing the front of an open column on the march</i> - - - - -	ibid.
<i>Wheeling forward by sub-divisions from line</i> - - - - -	34
<i>Wheeling backward by sub-divisions from line</i> - - - - -	35
<i>Open and close order on the march</i> - - - - -	36
<i>From two ranks forming into three ranks</i> - - - - -	37
<i>Rallying</i> - - - - -	ibid.

## PART II. DRILL OF A PLATOON WITH ARMS.

<i>Position</i> - - - - -	39
<i>Manual exercise and movements of the firelock</i>	ibid.
<i>The platoon exercise</i> - - - - -	44
<i>Oblique firing</i> - - - - -	48
<i>Exercise of non-commissioned officers with firelocks</i>	49
<i>Instructions for the sword salute</i> - - - - -	50
<i>Sword salute in marching</i> - - - - -	51
<b>FORMATION OF THE BATTALION.</b>	<b>52</b>
<i>When the battalion takes open order</i> - - - - -	55
<i>When the battalion resumes close order</i> - - - - -	56
<i>General attentions of the soldier</i> - - - - -	57
<i>Attentions of covering platoon serjeants</i> - - - - -	60
<i>Attentions in platoon officers</i> - - - - -	62
<i>Attentions of commanding officers of battalions</i> - - - - -	67
<i>Regulations in firing</i> - - - - -	74
<i>Firing in line</i> - - - - -	75
<i>Firing at the target</i> - - - - -	77
<i>Parade of a battalion</i> - - - - -	79
<i>Review of a battalion</i> - - - - -	82
<i>Words of command for the review</i> - - - - -	85
<i>Orders to be observed by all officers.</i> - - - - -	90