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RULES AND RÈGULATIONS
FOR THE
FORMATIONS, FIELD-EXERCISE,
AND MOVEMENTS,
OF
HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

By His Majesty's Command.

Adjutant General's Office,

June 1, 1792.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

FORMATIONS, FIELD-EXERCISE,

AND MOVEMENTS,

OF

HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

MONTREAL;

Printed by FLEURY MESPLET, Notre-Dame

Street N^o 40. 1793.

*Adjutant General's Office,
1st June, 1792.*

HIS MAJESTY thinking it highly expedient, and necessary, for the benefit of his service at large, that one uniform system of field-exercise, and movement, founded on just, and true principles, should be established, and invariably practised throughout his whole army, is therefore pleased to direct, that the rules, and regulations, approved of by his MAJESTY, for this important purpose, and now published herewith, shall be strictly followed and adhered to, without any deviation whatsoever therefrom:—And such orders before given, as may be found to interfere with, or counteract, their effect and operation, are to be considered as hereby cancelled, and annulled. It is his MAJESTY's farther pleasure, that the General Officers appointed

appointed to review his troops, shall be instructed to pay particular attention to the performance of every part of these Regulations, and to report their observations thereupon, for his MAJESTY'S information, so that the exact uniformity required in all movements may be attained and preserved, and his Royal intentions thereby carried into full effect.

BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND.

WILLIAM FAWCETT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

INTRO-

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

THE great object in view from these regulations, is to establish one general and just system of movement, which directing and governing the operations of great, as well as of small bodies of troops, is to be rigidly conformed to, and practised by every regiment in HIS MAJESTY'S service—The important purposes of this system are to reconcile celerity with order;—to prevent hurry, which must always produce confusion, loss of time, unsteadiness, irresolution, inattention to command, &c. — to ensure precision, and correctness, by which alone great bodies will be able

able to arrive at their object in good order, and in the shortest space of time; — to inculcate and enforce the indispensible necessity of military dependance, and of mutual effort, and support, in action, which are the great ends of discipline; — to simplify the execution, and to abridge the variety of movements, as much as possible, by adopting such only as are necessary for combined exertions in corps, and that can be required, or applied in service, regarding all matters of parade, and show, merely as secondary objects; — to ascertain to all ranks, the part each will have to act, in every change of situation that can happen, so that execution may not retard, at a moment when execution should take place; to enable the commanding officer of any body of troops, whether great or small, to retain the whole relatively as it were, in his hand and management, at every instant; so as to be capable of restraining, at all times, the bad effects of
such

such ideas of independant and individual exertion, as are visionary and hurtful; and of directing them to their true and proper objects;—those of order, of combined effort, and of regulated obedience, by the united force of all which, a well disciplined enemy can only be defeated.

To attain these essential ends, no extraordinary alterations will be required; nor any thing farther enjoined than a strict observance of the rules hereafter laid down, and a dereliction of such practices as would counteract them.

These rules will be found few, simple, and adapted to the understanding, and comprehension, of every individual.—but they will require perfect attention in all ranks;—In the soldier, an equal and cadenced march, acquired and confirmed by habit, independent of music, or sound:—In the officer, precision, and energy of command; the preservation of just distances; and

and the accurate leading of divisions, on given points of march, and formation :—These circumstances, together with the united exertions of all, will soon attain that precision of movement, which is so essential, and without which, valour alone will not avail.

These Regulations are divided into parts ; and each part subdivided into various articles of explanation.

P A R T I.

Of the Drill, or Instruction of the Recruit.

The several articles of instruction, and the progression, and manner in which they are to be taught, are there detailed.

P A R T II.

Of the Platoon, or Company

The instruction, and various operations of the company, which enable

able it to act in battalion, are there detailed.

Formation of the Company.

Of the Battalion.

The several operations, and movements of the battalion, are there detailed

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P A R T I.

INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT.

THE several heads of instruction for recruits 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, an accurate knowledge of the part each has to teach, and a clear and concise manner of conveying his instructions;

tions; 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 recruit; 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 recruit must be carried on progressively; he should comprehend one thing before he proceeds to another.—In the first circumstances of position; firelock, fingers, elbows, &c. are to be justly placed by the instructor; when recruits are more advanced, they should not be touched; but from the example shown, and the directions prescribed, be taught to correct themselves when so admonished. Recruits should not be kept too long at any particular part of their exercise, so as to fatigue or make them uneasy; and marching without arms should be much intermixed

mixed with the firelock instructions.—
 Fife, or music, must on no account be
 used; but the recruit is to be con-
 firmed by habit alone in that cadence
 of step which he is afterwards to maintain
 in his march to the enemy, in spite of
 every variety of noise and circumstance,
 that may tend to derange him.

In the manner hereafter prescribed,
 must each recruit be trained singly,
 and in squad; nor until he is steadied
 in these, and in other points of his duty,
 is he to be allowed to join the battalion;
 for one awkward man, imperfect in his
 march, or whose person is distorted,
 will derange his division, and of course
 operate on the battalion and line, in a
 still more consequential manner.—Every
 soldier on his return from long ab-
 sence, must be redrilled before he is per-
 mitted to act in the ranks of his com-
 pany.

Remarks upon the necessity, utility,
 or application, of what is hereafter pre-
 scribed, are as much as possible avoided
 in the first and second parts: such re-
 marks properly belong to the third, or
 battalion part, with the principles of
 whose movements it must be supposed an
 instructor is sufficiently acquainted.

W I T H O U T A R M S.

S. I.

Position of the 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 straight, 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

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.

The position in which a soldier should move, determines that in which he should stand still.—Too many methods cannot be used to supple the recruit, and banish the air of the rustic.—But that excess of setting up, which stiffens the person, and tends to throw the body backward instead of forward, is contrary to every true principle of movement, and must therefore be most carefully avoided.

The words on the margin, which are printed in *Italics*, are the words of command to be given by the instructor,

S. II.

Standing at Ease.

Com-
mands
given by
the in-
structor.

*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.

Attention.

On the word, *Attention*, the hands are 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.

S. III.

S. III.

Eyes to the Right.

ON the words, *Eyes to the Right*, *Eyes Right.*
 glance the eyes to the right, with
 the slightest turn possible of the Head.—

At the words, *Eyes to the Left*, cast the *Eyes Left.*
 eyes in like manner to the left.—On the

words, *Eyes to the Front*, the look, and *Eyes Front.*
 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.

S. IV.

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.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| <i>To the Right- face.</i> | N ^o of Mo. | { | <p>1st. Place the hollow of the right foot smartly against the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.</p> <p>2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the right on both heels.</p> |
| <i>To the Left-face.</i> | 2 | { | <p>1st. Place the right heel against the hollow of the left foot, keeping the shoulders square to the front.</p> <p>2d. Raise the toes, and turn to the left on both heels.</p> |

1st. Place

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.

N^o of M^o.

3

*To the
Right
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 foot smartly in a line with the left.

3

*To the
Left about
face.*

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.

S. V.

*Position in Marching.**March.*

IN marching, the soldier must maintain, as much as possible, the position of the body as directed in Sect I. 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 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.

S. VI.

S. VI.

Ordinary Step.

THE length of each pace, from heel to heel, is 30 inches, and the recruit 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 recruit 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 a recruit is taught, and is also applied in all movements of parade.

S. VII.

*Halt.**The 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 taken when the command was given.

S. VIII.

Oblique step.

*To the
Left Ob-
lique—*

March,

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

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 30 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 recruit 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.

As all marching (the side-step excepted) invariably begins with the left foot, whether the obliquing commences from the halt, or on the march, the first diagonal step is taken by the leading foot of the side inclined to, when it comes to its turn, after the command is pronounced.

The squareness of the person, and the habitual cadenced step, in consequence, are the

the great directions of the oblique, as well as of the direct march.

Each recruit should be separately and carefully instructed in the principles of the foregoing eight sections of the drill. They form the basis of all military movements.

Three or four recruits will now be formed in one rank, at very open files, and instructed as follows.

S. IX.

Dressing when Halted.

DRESSING is to be taught equally *Dress.* 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 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 foldier in dressing, are, passing the line; the head 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.*

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.

No rank, or body, ought ever to be dressed, without the person on its flank appointed to dress it, determining, or at least supposing, a line, on which the rank, or body, is to be formed, and for that purpose taking as his object
the

the distant flank man, or a point beyond such flank, or a man thrown out on purpose;—drumming must then be made gradually, and progressively, from the fixed point, towards the distant flank one, and each man successively, but quickly; must be brought up into the true line, so as to become a new point, from whence the person directing proceeds in the correction of the others; and he himself, when so directing, must take care, that his person, or his eyes at least, be in the true line, which he is then giving.

S. X.

Stepping out.

THE squad marches as already directed in ordinary time. On the word *step out*, the recruit must be taught, to lengthen his step to 33 inches, by leaning

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; or when the rear divisions of a column, are to move up into line with the leading ones, and is applied both to ordinary, and quick time.

S. XI.

Mark Time.

*Mark
Time.*

ON the word, *Mark Time*, the Foot then advancing compleats its pace; after which the cadence is continued, without gaining any ground, but alternately throwing out the foot, and bringing it back square with the other.—At

*Ordinary
Step.*

the word *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.

S. XII.

S. XII.

Stepping Short.

ON the word, *Step Short*, the foot advancing will finish its pace, and afterwards each recruit will step as far as the ball of his toe, and no farther, untill 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.

S. XIII.

Changing the Feet.

TO change the Feet in marching, the advancing foot compleats its pace, and the ball of the other is brought up quickly

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 make two successive steps, with the same foot.

S. XIV.

The Side or Closing Step.

THE side step is performed from the halt in ordinary time, by the following commands.

Close to the Right (a caution)—*March.*

Close to the Left (a caution)—*March.*

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

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* halt turn their eyes to the front, and are perfectly steady. (V. S. XLIII.)

S. XV.

Back Step.

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

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

S. XVI.

S. XVI.

*The Quick Step.**Quick.
March,*

THE cadence of the ordinary pace having become perfectly habitual to the recruits, they are now to be taught to march a quick time, which is 108 steps in a minute, each of 30 inches, making 270 feet in the 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 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

down the out side of the thigh; a 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 *filings* of divisions from line into column, or from column into line; and by battalion columns 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 soldier, 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.

S. XVII.

The Quickest Step.

THE *quickest time*, 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.

This is applied chiefly to the purpose of wheeling, and is the rate at which all bodies accomplish their *wheels*, the outward file stepping 33 inches, whether the wheel is from line into column, during the march in column, or from column into line.—In this *time* also should divisions double, and move up, when passing obstacles in line, or when in the column of march, the front of divisions is increased, or diminished.

Three or four recruits in one rank, with intervals of 12 inches between them, should be practised in the different steps, that

that they may acquire a firmness and independence of movement.

Many different times of march must not be required of the soldier.—These three must suffice, ORDINARY TIME (75 steps in the minute), QUICK TIME (108 in the minute), WHEELING, or QUICKEST TIME (120 in the minute).

PLUMMETS, which vibrate the required times of march in a minute, are of great utility, and can alone prevent or correct uncertainty of movement; they must be in the possession of, and constantly referred to, by each instructor of a squad;—the several lengths of plummets swinging the times of the different marches in a minute are as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| | | | | | In Hund. = <i>hundred</i> |
| Ordinary time, | - - - | 75 | steps in the minute, | 24 | 96 <i>feet decimal</i> |
| Quickest time, | - - - | 108 | - - - - - | 12 | 93 |
| Quickest, or wheeling time, | 120 | - - - - - | - - - - - | 9 | 80 |

A musket ball suspended by a string which is not subject to stretch, and on which are marked the different required lengths, will answer the above purpose, is easily acquired, and should be frequently compared with an accurate standard in the adjutant's, or serjeant-major's possession.

Ac-

Accurate distances of steps must also be marked out on the ground, along which the soldier should be practised to march, and thereby acquire the just length of each.

Six or eight recruits will now be formed in a rank, at close files, having a steady, well drilled soldier on their flank to lead,—and FILE MARCHING may be taught to them.

S. XVIII.

File Marching.

*To the
face.*

THE recruits 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*.

On

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

S. XIX.

Wheeling of a singl Rank, in ordinary Time, from the Halt.

Right wheel.
March. **A**T. the word, *to the Right wheel,* the man on the right of the rank faces to the right; on the word *March,* they step of 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 lenthens 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 close to the standing flank; that is, they touch, without incommoding their neighbour; nor must they stoop forward, but remain upright,

right,—opening out from the standing flank, is to avoided; closing in upon it, during the wheel, is to be resisted.—
 On the word *Halt, Dress*, each man halts ^{*Halt,*} ^{*Dress.*} immediately, without jumping forward, or making any false movements.

When the recruits are able to perform the wheel with accuracy in the *ordinary time*, they must be practised in wheeling in *quickest time*.

Nothing will tend sooner to enable the recruit to acquire the proper length of step, according to his distance from the pivot, than continuing the wheel without halting for several revolutions of the circle.

S. XX.

Wheeling of a single Rank from the March.

THE recruits are first to be taught to perform this wheeling at the *ordinary time*, and afterwards in the *quickest*

D

Right, wheel. *quickest, or proper wheeling time,*—the rank, marching to the front at the ordinary time, receives the word of command, *Right, Wheel*, the man on the right of the rank instantly halts, and faces to his right; the rest of the rank, 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 rank steps off together at the ordinary time.

Halt, Dress.

March.

S. XXI.

Wheeling Backwards, a single Rank.

On the right backwards, wheel. **A**T the word, *On your Right backwards Wheel*, the man on the right of the rank faces to his left; at the

the word, *March*, the whole step back- *March*
 ward in wheeling time, dressing by the
 outward wheeling man, those nearest the
 pivot man making their steps extremely
 small, and those towards the wheeling
 man encreasing them as they are placed
 nearer to him.—The recruit in this wheel
 must not bend forward, nor be suffered
 to look down; but by casting his eyes
 to the wheeling flank, preserve the dress-
 ing of the rank.—On the word *Halt*, the *Halt*
 whole remain perfectly steady, still locking
 to the wheeling flank till they receive the
 word, *Right Dress*. *Right*
Dress.

The recruits should be first practised
 to wheel backwards at the ordinary step;
 and at all times it will be necessary to
 prevent them from hurrying the pace; an
 error soldiers are very liable to fall into,
 particularly in wheeling backwards; where
 large bodies wheel from line into column,
 this wheeling is necessary to preserve
 the covering of pivot flanks, and the dis-
 tances of the divisions, which the line has
 broken into.

S. XXII.

*Wheeling of a single Rank on a
moveable Pivot.*

IN wheeling on a moveable pivot, both flanks are moveable, and describe concentric circles, round a point, which is removed a few paces from what would otherwise be the standing flank; and eyes are all turned towards the directing pivot man, whether he is on the outward flank, or on the flank wheeled to.

When the wheel is to be made to the directing pivot flank, (suppose the left) —the rank marching at the ordinary pace, receives the word, *Right 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, with-

without obliging the other flank, which is describing the circumference of a larger circle, to too great hurry;—on the word, *Forward*, shoulders are squared, *Forward*, and the pivot marches direct to his front.

When the directing pivot is on the outward flank, and has to describe the circumference of the larger circle, on the word, *Left shoulders, forward*, he will, without changing the time, or length of his pace, gradually bring round the rank to the required direction, so as to enable the inward flank to describe a similar arch of a lesser circle, concentric to the one he himself is moving on.—During both these wheels, the rank dresses to the proper pivot, and when he describes the smaller circle of the wheel, the other flank, which has more ground to go over, will quicken its march, and step out.—When the pivot describes the greater circle of the wheel, the other flank, which has less ground to go over, will step shorter, and gradually conform.—In the first case, the recruit must be cautioned against opening out from the pivot; and, in the latter, from crowding on him.

*Left
shoulders
forward.*

The

The just performance of this mode of wheeling depends so much on the directing pivot, that a well-drilled soldier should, at first, be placed on the flank named, as the proper pivot, and changed occasionally.—It is used, when a column of march (in order to follow the windings of its route), changes its direction, in general, less than the quarter circle.

W I T H A R M S.

S. XXIII.

Position of the Soldier.

WHEN the firelock is given, and is shouldered, the person of the soldier remains in the position described (Section I.) except, that the wrist of the left hand is turned out, the better
to

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 fore part 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.

Each recruit must be separately taught the position of shouldered arms, and not allowed to proceed until he has acquired it.

S. XXIV.

Different Motions of the Firelock.

THE following motions of the firelock will be taught and practised as here set down, until each recruit is perfect in them; they being necessary for the ease of the soldier in the course of exercise.

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| As mentioned | } | Supporting arms. |
| in the fire- | | Carrying arms. |
| lock exer | | Ordering, at eased arms. |
| cise. | | Standing at ease. |
| | | Attention. |
| | | Shouldering. |
| | | Trailing arms. |
| | } | Shouldering from the trail. |

These motions are necessary for the ease of the soldier in the course of exercise.

The recruit must be accustomed to carry his arms for a considerable time together; it is most essential he should do

so, and not to be allowed to *support* them so often as is practised, under the idea that long *carrying* them is a position of too much constraint.

S. XXV.

Attention in forming the Squad.

WHEN the SQUAD or division (consisting of from six to eight files) is ordered to *fall in*, each man with carried arms, will as quick as possible take his place in his rank, beginning from the flank, to which he is ordered to form; he will dress himself in line by the rule already given; assume the ordered position of a foldier, and stand perfectly still, and steady, until ordered to stand at ease, or that some other command be given him.—Attention must be paid, that the files are correctly close; that the men in the rear ranks cover well, looking their file leaders in the middle of the neck;—That the ranks have their proper distance of one pace (30 inches) from each other;

other ;—That al the ranks are equally well dressed ;—That the men do not turn their heads to the right or left ; and that each man has the proper unconstrained attitude of a soldier.

S. XXVI.

Open Order.

THE recruits being formed in three ranks at close order, on the word, *Rear ranks take open order,* the flank men on the right and left of the center, and rear ranks, step briskly back, one, and two paces respectively, face to their right, and stand covered, to mark the ground on which each rank is to halt, and dress to open order ; every other individual rémains ready to move.—On the word, *March,* the dressers front, and the center and rear ranks fall back one and two paces, each dressing by the right, the instant it arrives on the ground.

S. XXVII,

S. XXVII.

Close Order.

ON the word, *Rear ranks take close order*, *Rear*
 the whole remain perfectly steady; *ranks take*
 at the word, *March*, the ranks close with- *close or-*
 in one pace, marching one and two paces, *der;*
 and then halting. *March,*

S. XXVIII.

Manual Exercise.

ACCORDING to Regulation.

S. XXIX.

Platoon Exercise.

ACCORDING to Regulation.

S. XXX.

Firings.

WHEN the recruits have acquired the management of their arms, and are perfect in the motions of the manual, and platoon exercises, they will be instructed at closed ranks in firing.

Direct to their front.

Obliquely to the right and left.

By files.

S. XXXI.

Marching to the Front, and Rear.

THE squad, or division, is to be particularly well dressed; files correct; arms carried; the rear rank covering exactly, and each individual to have his
just

just attitude, and position, before the squad 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, *Squad*, or *Division*, may be given as a caution; and at the word, *March*, each man steps forward a full pace.—The recruit must not turn his head to the hand to which he is dressing, as a turning of the shoulders would undoubtedly follow.—His elbows must be kept steady, without constraint; if they are opened from his body the next man must be pressed upon; if they are closed, there arises an improper distance which must be filled up; in either case waving on the march will take place, and must therefore be avoided.

The going to the right or left about, in march, is not to be at first practised; but the squad is to *halt, front* by command, and then *march*.

As the being able to march straight forward is of the utmost consequence, he who commands at the drill, will take the greatest pains in making his squad do so;—For this purpose he will often go behind his squad, or division, place himself behind the flank file by which the squad is to move in marching, and take a point,

or

or object, exactly in front of that file; he will then command, *March*, and remaining in his place, he will direct the advanced of the squad, by keeping the flank file always in a line with the object. —It is also from behind, that one soonest perceives the leaning back of the soldier, and the bringing forward or falling back of a shoulder; faults which ought instantly to be rectified, as productive of the worst consequence in a line, when one man, by bringing forward a shoulder, may change the direction of the march, and oblige the wing of a battallion to run, in order to keep dressed.

In short, it is impossible to labour too much, at making the soldier march straight forward, keeping always the same front as when he set off.—This is effected by moving solely from the haunches, keeping the body steady, the shoulders square, and the head to the front; and will without difficulty be attained, by a strict attention to the rules given for marching, and a careful observance of an equal length of step, and equal cadence, or time of march.

Changing from *ordinary* to *quick time*, and from *quick* to *ordinary* time, must always be preceded by a previous, but
 in-

instantaneous *halt* : although this may not appear essential for the movements of a squad, division, or battalion, it is absolutely so for those of a larger body, and is therefore require in small ones.

Turning on the march, in order to continue it, though inaccurate and improper, for a large body, is necessary and must often be allowed, in the movements of small divisions in file, or front, when connected with others in line, or column.

As helps to fixing the true time, or cadence of the march, the plummet must be frequently resorted to; the words, *left, right*, may when necessary be repeated slowly for ordinary time, and quicker for quick time.—Strong taps of the drum, if in just time, and regulated by the plummet, may be allowed to be given immediately before the word, *March*, thereby to imprint the required measure on the mind of the recruit; but they are on no account, or in any situation, to be given during the march.

S. XXXII.

Open, and Close Order on the March.

THE squad, when moving to the front in ordinary time, receives the word, *Rear ranks 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 steps off at the second steps; the rear ranks step 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.

S. XXXIII.

March in File to a Flank.

THE accuracy of the march in file is so essential in all deployments into line, and in the internal movements of the divisions of the battalion, that the soldier cannot be too much exercised to it.—The whole battalion, as well as its divisions, is required to make this flank movement, without the least opening out, or lengthening of the file, and in perfect cadence, and equality of step.

After *facing*, and at the word, *March, To the* the whole squad steps off at the same *face.* instant, each replacing, or rather over-*March,* stepping the foot of the man before him; that is, the right foot of the second man comes within the left foot of the first, and thus of every one, more or less overlapping, according to the closeness; or openness of the files, and the length of step.—The front rank will march straight along the given line, each soldier of that

E

rank

rank must look along the necks of those before him, and never to right, or left; otherwise a waving of the march will take place, and of course the loss, and extension of line, and distance, whenever the body returns to its proper front.—The center and rear ranks must look to, and regulate themselves by, their leaders of the front rank, and always dress in their file.—Although file marching is in general made in quick time; yet it must also be practised, and made in ordinary time. The same position of the feet, as above, takes place in all marching in front, where the ranks are close, and locked up.

With a little attention and practice this mode of marching, which appears so difficult, will be found by every soldier to be easier than the common method of marching by files, when on every halt the rear must run up to gain the ground it has unnecessarily lost.

S. XXXIV.

Wheeling in File.

THE squad, when marching in files must be accustomed to wheel its head to either flank; each file following successively, without losing, or encreasing distance.—On this occasion, each file makes its separate wheel, on a pivot moveable in a very small degree, but without altering its time of 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.

S. XXXV.

Oblique marching in front.

*Right
Oblique.* WHEN the squad is marching in front, and receives the word, *To the right, oblique*; each man, the first time he raises the right foot, will, instead of throwing it straight forward, carry it in the diagonal direction, as has been already explained in Sect. VIII. taking care not to alter the position of his body, shoulders, or head.—The greatest attention is to be paid to the shoulders of every man in the squad, that they remain parallel to the line on which they first were placed, and that the right shoulders do not fall to the rear, which they are very apt to do in obliquing to the right, and which immediately changes the direction of the front.—On the word, *forward*, the incline ceases, and the whole march forward.—In obliquing to the left, the same rules are to be observed, with the difference of the left leg going to the left,

left, and attention to keeping up the left shoulder.

The same instructions that are given for ordinary time, serve also for quick time but this movement, though it may be made by a squad, or division, cannot be required from a larger body.

Obliquing to the right, is to be practised sometimes with the eyes to the left; and obliquing to the left, with the eyes to the right; as being absolutely necessary on many occasions; for if one of the battalions of a line in advancing be ordered to oblique to the right, or to the left, the eyes must still continue turned towards its center.

S. XXXVI.

Oblique Marching in File.

IN obliquing to the right, or left, by files, the center and rear rank men will continue looking to their leaders of the front rank.—Each file is to consider
itself

itself as a rank entire, and is to preserve the same front, and position of the shoulders, during the oblique, as before it began.—This being a very useful movement, the recruits are to be often practised in it.

S. XXXVII.

*Wheeling forward from the Halt.**Right wheel.**March.*

THE directions already given for the wheeling of a single rank (vide Sect. XIX.) are to be strictly attended to in the wheel of the squad.—On the word *Right* (or *left*) *wheel*, the rear ranks, if at one pace distance, lock up. At the word, *March*, the whole step together in the quickest time, and the rear ranks; during the wheel, incline so as to cover their proper front rank men.—At the word, *Halt*, the whole remain perfectly steady.

S. XXXVIII.

S. XXXVIII.

Wheeling backward.

THE squad must be much practised in wheeling backward in the quickest time.—In this wheel, the rear ranks may preserve their distance of one pace from each other.—Great attention should be paid, to prevent the recruits from fixing their eyes on the ground. (Vide Sect. XXI.)

S. XXXIX.

Wheeling from the March, on a halted, and moveable Pivot.

THE directions for wheeling on a halted, and on a moveable pivot have been already given, in Sects. XX. and

and XXII.—The squad should now be practised in both, until the recruits are thoroughly confirmed in these movements.

S. XL.

*Stepping out,—Stepping short,—
Marking the Time,—Changing
the Feet,—The Side Step,—
Stepping back.*

THE squad must likewise be practised in, *stepping out, stepping short, marking the time, changing the feet, the side step, and stepping back*, the instructions for which have been fully detailed in the foregoing sections.

It cannot be too strongly inculcated, or too often recollected, that upon the correct *equality of march*, established and practised by all the troops of the same
army,

army, every just movement and manœuvre *Remarks* depends. When this is not attended to, disunion, and confusion, must necessarily take place, on the junction of several battalions in corps; although, when taken individually, each may be, in most respects, well trained.—It is in the original instruction of the recruit, and squad, that this great point is to be laboured at, and attained.; the *time* and *length* of step, on all occasions, are prescribed.—The *TIME* is infallibly ascertained, by the frequent corrections of the *plummet*, which, when so applied. will soon give to each man that habitual measure so much desired; and therefore every driller must have it constantly in his hand; and, as it has been already observed, before any squad, or larger body, is put in march, 5 or 6 strong taps of the drum may be given, in exact time, as regulated by the plummet, which will imprint the true measure on each ear, and prepare for taking an accurate step at the word, *March*.—The length of step is only to be acquired by repeated trial, and therefore, before the recruit, or squad, is put in motion, each instructor should ascertain the space on which he is to drill his men; he will therefore (supposing that he himself is accurate

accurate in his paces, and that there is ground for that purpose) mark out an oblong square, of 40 paces by 20, or 30, the corners of which he will ascertain by halberts, stones, or in any other visible manner; along the sides of this figure he will march the pivot flank of this squad, making correct wheels, and halts at the angles.—The time of March being so exactly ascertained, he will then see, that the sides of the oblong are gone over at the known number of steps; and if there be any inaccuracy, he will lengthen or shorten the step, till the squad marches with the utmost precision; every man preserving his just position, and all the other indispensable attentions in marching being strictly observed.—Where there is a sufficiency of *ground*, the squads will occasionally march over greater paces, but the distances should in the same manner be exactly ascertained, so that there may be no doubt as to the true length of the step.—In proportion to the strength of squads, or drills, one or more formed soldiers should accompany each, to march on the flank, give distances, and, in other points, to regulate the motions of the drill.

End of Part I.

PART II.

OF THE PLATOON, OR COMPANY.

S. XLI.

Formation of the Platoon.

THE recruit being thoroughly grounded in all the preceding parts of the drill, is now to be instructed in the movements of the platoon, as a more immediate preparation for his joining the battalion: for this purpose from 10 to 20 files are to be assembled, formed, and told off in the following manner, as a company in the battalion.

The platoon **FALLS IN** in three ranks, **FALL IN.** at close order, with shouldered firelocks; the files lightly touching, but without crowding; each man will then occupy a
space

space of about 22 inches.—The commander of the platoon takes post on the right of the front rank, covered by a serjeant in the rear rank.—Two other serjeants will form a fourth or supernumerary rank, three paces from the rear rank.

The platoon will be told off into subdivisions, and, if of sufficient strength, into four sections; but as a section should never be less than five files, it will often happen that, for the purposes of march, three sections only can be formed.

The four best trained soldiers are to be placed in the front rank, on the right and left of each sub-division.

When thus formed, the platoon will be practised in

Opening, and } Ranks. (Sect. 26 and 27.)
 Closing of }

Dressing { to the front, } by the
 { to the rear, } right,
 { in an oblique direction, } and
 left;

and be exercised in the several motions of the firelock, as have been shewn in the preceding part.

Close order is the chief and primary order in which the battalion, and its parts, at all times assemble, and form.—

Open

Open order is only regarded as an exception from it, and occasionally used in situations of parade, and show.—In close order, the rear ranks are closed up to within one pace; the length of which is to be taken from the heels of one rank, to the heels of the next rank. In open order, they are two paces distant from each other.

In order to distinguish the words of command given by the instructor of the drill (who represents the commander of the battalion), from those given by the commander of the platoon, or its divisions, the commands of the former are in CAPITAL Letters, those of the latter in *Italic*.

S. XLII.

Marching to the Front.

IN the drill of the platoon, the person instructing must always consider it as a company in battalion, and regulate all its movements upon that principle: he

he will therefore, before he puts it in motion to front, or rear, indicate which flank is to direct, by giving the word. **EYES RIGHT, or EYES LEFT:** and then **MARCH.**—Should the right be the directing flank, the commander of the platoon himself will fix on objects to march upon, in a line truly perpendicular to the front of the platoon; and when the left flank is ordered to direct, he and his covering serjeant will shift to the left of the front rank, and take such objects to march upon.—To **MARCH** on one object only, and to preserve a straight line; in an operation not to be depended on; the conductor of the platoon before the word, **MARCH**, is given, will therefore endeavour to remark some distinct object on the ground, in his own front, and perpendicular to the directing flank: he will then observe some nearer and intermediate point in the same line, such as a stone, tuft of grass, &c.; these he will move upon with accuracy, and, as he approaches the nearest of those points, he must from time to time chuse fresh ones, in the original direction, which he will by this means preserve; never having fewer than two such points to move upon. If no object in the true
line

line can be ascertained, his own squareness of person must determine the direction of the march.

A person placed in the rear of a body can, more readily than if placed in its front, determine the line which is perpendicular to such front; and, could we suppose ranks and files most perfectly correct, the prolongation of each file would be a perpendicular to the front of the body.

As the MARCH of every body, except in the case of inclining, is made on lines perpendicular to its then front, each individual composing that body must in his person be placed, and remain perfectly square to the given line; otherwise he will naturally and insensibly move in a direction perpendicular to his own person, and thereby open out, or close in, according to the manner in which he is turned from the true point of his March.—If the distortion of a single man operates in this manner, and all turnings of the head do so distort him, it may be easily imagined what that of several will occasion, each of whom is marching on a different front, and whose line of direction are crossing each other.

Accuracy

Accuracy and squareness of position, the equality of cadence and step, the light touch of the files, which is never to be relinquished, just distances, and true lines of movement, will give, without apparent constraint, the head being turned, or the least trouble taken in dressing, the most decisive exactness in the marches, and operations, of the largest bodies.

The platoon, during its march in line, will occasionally be ordered to

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----|
| <i>Step out</i> | vide Sect. | 10 |
| <i>Mark time</i> | _____ | 11 |
| <i>Step short</i> | _____ | 12 |
| <i>Open, and close ranks</i> | _____ | 32 |
| <i>Oblique</i> | _____ | 35 |

S. XLIII.

The Side Step.

THE *side, or closing step,* must also be frequently practised; it is very necessary, and useful on many occasions, when

when halted, and when a very small distance is to be moved to either flank:—As, for instance, to open, or close files; to join one division to, or open it from another; to regain an interval in line; to move a whole battalion, or parade, 20, or 30 paces to a flank; to regulate distances between close columns, before deploying:—alterations made in this manner are imperceptible from the front, and better made, than by facing, and file marching: the words of command must be decided, and strong

When the whole platoon is to close, at the word, **TO THE RIGHT CLOSE**, the platoon officer takes one step to the front and instantly faces about, the covering serjeant replacing him: on the word, **MARCH**, the whole move together agreeably to the directions (in Sect. 14). On the word, **HALT**, the platoon officer resumes his place, having stepped in the same manner as the men, but fronting them, and thereby assisted in preserving the direction.

S. XLIV.

*The Back Step.*STEP
BACK,
MARCH.

THE platoon must be accustomed from the halt, at the words, STEP BACK, MARCH, to step back any ordered number of paces in the ordinary time, and length, as it is an operation that may be frequently required from a battalion.

S. XLV.

*File marching.*LEFT
FACE.QUICK
MARCH.

IN marching by files, the commander of the platoon will lead the front rank; therefore when the movement is by the left, on the word, TO THE LEFT FACE, he, and his covering serjeant, will instantly shift to the left flank of the platoon; at the word, QUICK MARCH, the

the whole step off together, (vide Sect. *Halt*, 18); and on the word, *Halt, Front*, the *Front* leader, and his serjeant, will return to their posts on the right.

S. XLVI.

Wheeling from a Halt.

IN wheeling either forward, or backward from a halt, the commander of the platoon, on the word, *RIGHT* or *LIFT WHEEL*, moves out, and places himself one pace in front of the center of his platoon: during the wheel, he turns towards his men, and inclines towards that flank which has been named as the directing, or pivot one, giving the word, *Halt, Dress, Halt*, when his wheeling man has just completed the required degree of wheel: he then squares his platoon, but without moving what was the standing flank, and takes his post on the now directing flank.

*RIGHT
WHEEL,
MARCH.*

Dress.

S. XLVII.

*Wheeling forward by Sub-divisions
from line.*

BY SUB-DIVISIONS, TO THE RIGHT WHEEL.

ON the word, BY SUB-DIVISIONS, TO THE 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, observing the directions given (in Sect. 19 and 37). 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*, 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

*Halt,
Dress.*

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 flanks of the sub-divisions.

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.

S. XLVIII.

*Wheeling backward by Subdivisions
from Line.*

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 word,

BY SUB-
DIVI-
SIONSON
YOUR
LEFT
BACK-
WARD
WHEEL.

BY SUBDIVISIONS, ON YOUR LEFT, BACKWARD WHEEL, the commander of the platoon moves out briskly and 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.

MARCH.

On the word, MARCH, each sub-division wheels backward in quickest time, as directed in Sect. 21, and Sect. 38. 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 place themselves on the left flanks of their sub-divisions.

*Halt,
Dress.*

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.

S. XLIX.

*Marching on an Aligment, in
Open Column of Sub-divisions.*

THE platoon having wheeled backwards by sub-divisions from line, (as directed in the foregoing Section) 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.
(Vide

(Vide Sect. 42.) On the word, MARCH, given by the instructor of the drill, both divisions step off at the same instant; the leader of the first division 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. — These 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.

S. L.

Wheeling into Line from Open Columns of Sub-divisions.

THE platoon being in open column of sub-divisions, marching at the ordinary step on the alignement, 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** LEFT WHEEL AND FORM. **WHEEL AND FORM**; on which the commander of the platoon goes to the center of his sub-divisions, the two pivot men face to their left exactly square with the alignement, 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 MARCH. in quickest time; during the wheel, the commander of the platoon, turning towards his

*Halt,
Dress.*

his men, inclines to the wheeling flank, and gives the word, *Halt, Dress*, at the moment the wheel of the division is compleating; 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 the word, *Eyes front*, in a moderate tone of voice, and takes post in line as directed in Sect. 41.

*Eyes
front.*

In all wheels of the divisions of a column (either from the halt, or from the march), that are made on a halted pivot; the flank firelock of the front rank on the hand wheeled to, is such pivot, not the officer who may be on that flank, and whose business it is to conform to it.

All wheeling 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 a battalion is at the same instant so to wheel, or 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.

S. LI.

*In Open Column of Sub-divisions
wheeling into an Alignement.*

THE platoon being in open column of sub divisions, marching in ordinary time; when its leading division arrives at the ground, where the wheel is to commence, it receives the word *Right, or left, wheel*, from its commander; *Wheel.* on which the rear ranks, if at one pace distance, lock up; the flank front rank man alone halts, and faces into the new direction, while the others quicken their pace to the wheeling time, and regulate their step by the outward hand (to which they have turned their eyes), until the wheel is completed.—He then gives the word, *Halt, Dress*, for his division to dress *Halt, Dress.* to the hand it is to move by; and whenever the second division, which has continued to advance in ordinary time, arrives close on the wheeling point, he gives his division the word, *March*, and moves *March.* on in ordinary time, so as its rear rank does

Wheel.
Halt.
Dress.
March.

does not occasion even a momentary stop to the division behind it, which at that instant receives the word, *Wheel*, then *Halt*, *Dress*, and finally, *March*, whenever the leading division has gained its proper distance from it.

The officer conducting the leading (and every other) division of the column in march, on any given point or object where it is to wheel into a new direction, and to its proper pivot hand on a halted pivot, always stops at that point, or object, close on his own outward hand, and gives the word, *WHEEL*, when the front rank of his division has taken *ONE* pace beyond such object; he thus allows space for his own person (when the wheel is finished) to move on close behind the new direction of march.

But if the proper pivot flank is to be the wheeling one, each commander of a division gives his word, *Wheel*, as he successively arrives at such a distance from the point on which he has moved, as that at the completion of the wheel, his division may *halt* perpendicular to the new line, but with the given point, of course, behind the proper pivot, and that he also in his own person be on the new direction, prepared to give his word, *March*, and to proceed. The

The rear ranks if at one pace distance must close up at the word, *Wheel*, and during the wheel the incline, so as to cover their proper front rank men.

The sub-divisions must take care that they continue their march correctly upon, and wheel exactly at, the point where the leading one wheeled, and that they do not shift to either flank, which without much attention they are apt to do.

In this manner the sub-divisions succeed each other; and if the words of command be justly given; no stop made on arriving at the wheeling point; the wheels performed at an increased time and step; and the proper halt, dressing, and pause, be made after the wheel; no extension of the column will take place, but the just distances between the divisions will be preserved.

The officer conducting the directing flank of a division may during the wheel be advanced one or two paces before it, and remain so, facing to the flank, that he may the more critically be enabled to give his word, *Halt*; at which instant, he will again place himself on the flank ready to judge his distance, and to give the word, *March*:

S. LII.

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

*Right
Shoulders
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* (vide Sect. 22), 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 *Forward.* 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.

Thus

Thus 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 distance of divisions will be preserved, which is the great regulating object on this occasion, and to which every other consideration must give way.

S. LIII.

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

pivot flank, before such caution is given, as it is an invariable rule in the countermarch of the divisions 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, steps off together, the platoon officer wheeling 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*; square and closes his platoon on his serjeant; and then replaces him.

*Halt,
Front
Dress.*

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

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.

S. LIV.

Wheeling on the Center of the 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 CEN- TER TO THE | } | RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT ABOUT, LEFT ABOUT, | } | WHEEL. |
|--|---|--|---|--------|

When the wheel to be made is to the right, or right about, the right half
G
platoon

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

MARCH. 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 center of 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.

*Halt,
Dress.*

S. LV.

Oblique Marching.

THE instructor of the drill will have the oblique march frequently practised, in platoon, in sub-divisions and in file; (Vide Sect. XXXV. XXXVI.) He will see when in divisions, that the rear ranks lock well up, and cover exactly;—when in file, that the exact distances are preserved between the files;—and in both cases,

cases, that the platoon, during its march, continues parallel to the position from which it commenced obliquing.

S. LVI.

Increasing and diminishing the Front of an Open Column halted.

Increasing.

THE platoon standing in open column of sub-divisions (suppose the right in front), receives from the instructor of the drill, a caution to FORM PLATOON: The commander of the platoon instantly orders, *Rear sub-division, to the 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.

FORM
PLATOON
Rear di-
vision, left
Oblique.
Quick
March.
Forwards
Halt,
Dress.

Diminishing.

On the cautionary command from the instructor of the drill, to FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, the commander of the platoon orders, *Left sub-division to the right face*; and instantly on facing, the three leading files disengage to the rear, the serjeant coverer running round to head them:—On the word, *Quick, march*, the serjeant conducts the sub-division in file, to its proper distance in rear of the first sub-division.—The commander of the platoon having moved to the left flank of the leading division, as soon as he sees the rear file of the second in a line with his own person, gives the words *Halt, Front, and Left, Dress*. The serjeant coverer at the same times move briskly to his post on the left flank of the rear sub-division, and squares it.

FORM
SUB-DI-
VISIONS.

*Left sub-
division.
Right
face.*

*Quick
March.*

*Halt,
front, left,
Dress.*

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-division, or sections double;—thus, when the right is in front, the doubling will be in rear of

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 in 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.

S. LVII.

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

Increasing.

THE platoon marching at the ordinary time in open column of subdivisions (suppose the right in front), receives from the instructor of the drill the

FORM PLATOON. the cautionary command, FORM PLATOON; the commander or the platoon instantly gives the words, *Left oblique—quick march*; on which the rear sub-division obliquates to the left, and as soon as its right flank is open, receives the word, *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 words, *Halt, march*, and takes post on the pivot flank.

*Halt,
march.*

Diminishing.

When the instructor of the drill gives the caution to FORM SUB-DIVISIONS, the commander of the platoon immediately orders, *Left subdivision, mark time*; this it does until its right one, which continues its march steadily at the ordinary pace, has cleared the flank; he then orders the left subdivision, *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.

FORM SUB-DIVISIONS.
*Left Sub-division
mark time*

*Quick
Oblique.*

Forward.

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

The

The words for the sub-divisions, or sections encreasing or diminishing the front of a column, are given by the commander of the company; and not repeated by those of its divisions.

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 is performed with exactness.—The instructor of the drill must therefore be particularly attentive, 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, arms carried, and the greatest attention required from each individual.

S. LVIII.

*The Platoon in Open Column of
Sub Divisions to pass a short
Defilé, by breaking off Files.*

BREAK
OFF
THREE
FILES.

*Three
files; rig^lt
turn.*

THE platoon is supposed in open column of sub-divisions, with the right in front, marching in ordinary time; when the leading division is arrived within a few paces of the defilé, it receives from the instructor of the drill an order to break off a certain number of files, (suppose three).—The commander of the leading division instantly gives the words, *Three files on the left, right turn*; the named files immediately turn to their right, and wheel out in rear of the three adjoining files.—The commander of the sub-division himself closes into the flank of the part formed.—When the second sub-division comes to the spot where the first division contracted its front, it will receive the same words of command from
its

its own leader, and will proceed in like manner.

Should it be required to diminish the front of the column, one or two files more, the commander of the leading division will, as before, order the desired number of files to *turn*; on which those already in the rear will incline to their right, so as to cover the files now ordered to break off, and which are wheeling out in the manner already prescribed.

In this movement, the files in the rear of the sub-divisions must look well up, so as not to impede the march of the succeeding division.

As the defilé widens (or the instructor of the drill shall direct) the commander of the leading sub-division, will order files to move up to the front, by giving the word, *One, two or three files to the front*; on which the named files turn to their front (the left), and lengthening their pace, march up, file by file, to the front of their sub-division, and immediately resume the ordinary pace.—Those files which are to continue in the rear will oblique to the left, lengthening also their step, till they cover, and are closed up to the three files on the left flank of their sub-division.

S. LIX.

Marching in Quick Time.

THE platoon must frequently be practised to march in quick time, particularly in file, until the men have acquired the utmost precision in this movements, which is so essential in all deployments from close column.—The platoon will also occasionally be marched in front at the same step, as it may be sometimes required from small bodies,

S. LX.

Forming to the Front from File.

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
word

word is then given, **BY SECTIONS, SUB-DIVISIONS, OR PLATOON, ON YOUR LEFT BACKWARD WHEEL,** and at the word, **MARCH,** the wheel ordered is made in the manner directed in Sect. XLVIII.

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 fourth rank man of the leading file alone halts, and is instantly 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.

Should the order have been **TO THE FRONT FORM SUB-DIVISIONS (OR 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

Front form.
 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.

S. LXI.

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,

sively, 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.

S. LXII.

To form to either Flank, from Open Column of Sub-Divisions, or Sections.

THE platoon marching in the ordinary time in open column of subdivisions, or sections, to form to its left, receives the words, HALT, LEFT WHEEL AND FORM, MARCH, &c. and proceeds as has already been shewn in Section L.

To form the platoon to its right flank, the instructor of the drill gives the cautionary word of command, **TO THE RIGHT FORM THE PLATOON**; on which the commanders of the several divisions shift to the other flank, and the commander of the leading sub-division, or section, instantly gives the word to his division,

Right

*Right
wheel,
halt,
right,
Dress.*

Right wheel; and when it has wheeled square, he orders, *Halt, right, dress*; goes to the right flank of his division, and dresses it on the intended line of formation.—The commander of the other sub-division, or sections, on the leading one being ordered to wheel, gives the word,

Left oblique.

To the left oblique, and gradually inclines, so as to be able to march clear of the rear rank of the division forming; this

Forward.

being effected, the word, *Forward* will be given to each division, and they move on in the rear of the one formed.—When the second sub-division, or section, is arrived at the left flank of the first, its commander gives the word, *Right wheel*, then, *Halt, dress up*; on which the division moves up into the line, with the one formed; and its commander instantly places himself, two or three files, from the left of his first division, and dresses his own on it, as quickly and as accurately as possible.—Thus each succeeding section should proceed, until the whole be formed.

*Right
Wheel,
Halt,
dress up.*

S. LXIII

*The Platoon moving to the Front,
to gain Ground to a Flank,
by a March in Echelon, by,
Sections.*

IN the drill of the platoon, when the soldier is compleatly formed, he may be taught to march in echelon, by sections. This is a very useful movement for a battalion, or larger body moving in line, that is required to gain ground to a flank, and may be substituted instead of the oblique march.—It will be performed in the following manner.

The platoon marching to the front in the ordinary time, receives the word, **BY SECTIONS TO THE RIGHT**; the right hand men of the front rank of each section, turning in a small degree to their right, mark the time for three paces, during which the sections are wheeling in

SEC-
TIONS,
RIGHT

FOR-
WARD.

in ordinary time on their pivot men: at the fourth pace, and at the word *Forward*, the whole move on direct to the front that each section has now acquired, and the commander of each section, having taken post on the right of his division, the platoon continues its march in echelon.

FORM
PLA-
TOON.FOR-
WARD.

On the word, *FORM PLATOON*, the pivot men mark the time for three paces, turning back in a small degree to their left, the original front, and the sections instantly wheel backward into line; at the fourth pace the whole move forward. When the platoon is in two ranks only, two paces instead of three will be sufficient to mark time, and to step off at the third, instead of the fourth pace.

S. XLIV.

From three Ranks forming in two Ranks.

FORM
TWO
DEEP

THE platoon halted, is ordered, *FORM TWO DEEP*; the rear rank men of the left sub-division, instantly
step

step back one pace; on the word, **LEFT FACE**, the rear rank of both sub-divisions face; the word **QUICK MARCH** is then given, on which the men of the rear rank of the left sub-division step short, until those of the right get up to them; they then move on with them in file; as their rear is clearing the left flank of the platoon, the commander (who has shifted to this flank during the movement) gives the words, *Halt, front, dress up*, he instantly dresses them on the standing part of his platoon, and resumes his post on the right.—One third, or one more sub-division, is thus added to the front of the company, which is here supposed standing, as one in a battalion column.

S. LXV:

*From two Ranks, forming into
three Ranks.*

THE platoon being halted and told off into three sections, it receives the word, **FORM THREE DEEP**; on which the

H

the

**FORM
THREE
DEEP,**

RIGHT
FACE.

QUICK
MARCH.

Halt,
front.

the third section instantly steps back one pace; the word, 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 MARCH, the front rank men of the third section step of, 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.

IN pursuance of the foregoing instructions, and on the principles they contain, every company of a battalion must be frequently exercised by its own officers, each superintending a rank, or an allotted part of the whole.—And on a space of 70 or 80 yards square, can every circumstance be practised, that is necessary to qualify it for the operations of the battalion.—That space being pointed out by under officers, or other marks,
as

as directed at the latter end of the first part, the company will, both at open and close files, without arms, and with arms,

By Ranks.

1st. March in single file, by successive ranks, along the 4 sides of the square.—The same, by twos.

2d. March, and wheel, by ranks of fours ;—File off singly and double up, preserving proper distances, and not quickening on the wheel.

3d. March, and wheel, by sub-divisions of ranks.

4th. March, and wheel, by whole ranks.

5th. March to front, and to rear ; ranks at 10 paces asunder.

6th. March the company in a single rank, to front, and to rear, by a flank ; and by the center.

7th. Oblique by ranks.

8th. Open, and close files, and intervals, by the side step.

9th. March in file to either flank.

10th. Ranks successively advance 6 or 8 paces ; halt, and dress.—Ranks suc-

cessively fall back 6 or 8 paces; halt, and dress.

11th. Advance, or retire 2 or 3 flank men; the ranks dress to them.

12th. Open, and close ranks.

At Close Ranks, and Files.

13th. March, and wheel in all directions, by sub-divisions, and by company,—shorten step, and lengthen it, the march to be made both in ordinary and quick time.—The wheels to be made in wheeling time.

14th. Advance, and retire, 2 or 3 flank files, and dress to them.

15th. Open, and close to the flank, by the side-step.

16th. Change front by the counter march by files.

17th. March in file to the flanks, close, and without opening out.—Form to the front, or to either flank.

18th. March oblique.

19th. Sub-divisions double on the march, and again form up, by obliquing.

20th. Wheel backwards by sub-divisions.—March along the line, to prolong
it;

it:—form to the flank, by wheeling up; or to the front by obliquing.

21st. File from the flank, of company to the rear, as in the passage of lines:—*Halt, front*;—Close into pivot file:—Wheel up, as in forming in line.

22d. From 3 deep, form 2 deep.

23d. From 2 deep, form 3 deep.

24th. Exercise of the firelock, manual, and platoon, by ranks, and company.

25th. Firings by files, sub-divisions, and company.

The necessary pauses, and formations, betwixt these movements, in order to connect them, must of course be made.—They may be practised in whatever succession shall at the same time be found proper.—The greatest precision must be required, and observed, in their execution, according to the rules already laid down.

Every officer must be instructed in each individual circumstance required of a recruit; or a soldier; also in the exercise of the sword; and accustomed to give words of command, with that energy
and

and precision, which is so essential.— Every officer, on first joining a regiment, is to be examined by the commanding officer; and, if he is found imperfect in the knowledge of the movements required from a soldier, he must be ordered to be exercised that he may learn their just execution. Till he is master of those points, and capable of instructing the men under his command, he is not to be permitted to take the command of a platoon in the battalion.

Squads of officers must be formed, and exercised by a field officer; they must be marched in all directions, to the front, oblique, and to the flank; they must be marched in line, at platoon distance, and preserve their dressing and line from an advanced center: they must be placed in file at platoon distance, and march as in open column; they must change direction, as in file and cover anew in column. In these, and other similar movements, the pace and the distances are the great objects to be maintained.—From the number of files in division, they must learn accurately to judge the ground necessary for each, and to extend that knowledge to the front of greater bodies. They must acquire the habit

habit of readily ascertaining, by the eye, perpendicular of march, and the squareness of the wheel.

An officer must not only know the post, which he should occupy, in all changes of situation, the commands which he should give, and the general intention of the required movement; but he should be master of the principles, on which each is made; and of the faults that may be committed, in order to avoid them himself, and to instruct others.—These principles are in themselves so simple, that moderate reflection, habit, and attention, will soon show them to the eye, and fix them in the mind; and individuals, from time to time, when qualified, must be ordered to exercise the battalion, or its parts.

The complete instruction of an officer enlarges with his situation, and at last takes in the whole circle of military science:—From the variety of knowledge required of him, his exertion must be unremitting, every one striving to make himself master of his own part.

Besides the instruction peculiar to the under officers, they should be exercised in the same manner as the officers are,
as

as they are frequently called on, to replace them :—The necessity also of order, steadiness, silence, and of executing every thing deliberately, and without hurry, should be strongly inculcated in the infantry soldier.

End of Part II.

Formation of the Company.

THE company is always to be sized from flanks to center.

The company is formed three deep.

The files lightly touch when firelocks are shouldered and carried, but without crowding; and each man will occupy a space of about twenty-two inches.

Close order is the chief and primary order, in which the battalion and its parts at all times assemble and form.—Open order is only regarded as an exception from it, and occasionally used in situations of parade and shew.—In close order; the officers are in the ranks, and the

the rear ranks are closed up within one pace. In open order; the officers are advanced three paces, and the ranks are two paces distant from each other.

Each company is a platoon.—Each company forms two sub-divisions, and also four sections. But as sections should never be less than five files, it will happen, when the companies are weak, that they can only (for the purposes of march) form three sections.

When the company is singly formed; the captain is on the right, the ensign on the left, of the front rank, each covered by a serjeant in the rear rank. The lieutenant is in the rear, as also the drummer and pioneer in a fourth rank, at three paces distance.

The left of the front rank of each sub-division is marked by a corporal, The right of the left sub-division may be marked by the other corporal.

When necessary, the places of absent officers may be supplied by serjeants, those of serjeants by corporals, and those of corporals by intelligent men.

When the company is to join others, and the battalion, or part of it, to be formed; the ensign and his covering serjeant quit the flank, and fall into the fourth rank, until, otherwise placed.

When

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

At this command, the 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; each other individual remains ready to move.

At this command, the rear rank dresses front, and the rear ranks fall back one and two paces each dressing by the right, the instant it arrives on its ground: The officers move out in front three paces, and divide their ground: One serjeant is on each flank of the front rank: The pioneer remains behind the center of the rear rank: The drummer places himself on the right of the right serjeant.

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

The officers, serjeants, drummer, face to the right.

*Rear
Ranks
take Close
The 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 to their respective posts: The serjeants and drummers fall back, and each individual resumes his place, as in the original close order.

The above regards the company when single; but when united in the battalion, other posts are allotted to the drummer and pioneer.

Formation of the Battalion.

A Perfect uniformity in the formation and arrangement of all companies and battalions, is indispensable for the execution of just, and combined movements.

The battalion is ten companies. Strength of the battalion.

{ 1 Grenadier.
8 Battalion.
1 Light.

Each company consists at present of

{ 3 Officers.
2 Serjeants.
3 Corporals.
1 Drummer.
30 Private.

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

Formation of the battalion.

part of the front of the battalion should be equally strong.

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 com-
panies in
battalion.

The companies will draw up as follows from right to left:—grenadiers;—1st 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 subdivisions.—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 on a war establishment, each company will be divided into two platoons.—When the ten companies are with the battalion, they may then, for the purposes

poses of firing, or deploying, be divided into five grand divisions from right to left.

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.—The several appellations will be preserved, whether faced to front or rear.

The companies must be equalized in point of numbers, at all times when the battalion is formed for field movement, 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.

Companies equalized.

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

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.

Formation
of the bat-
talion at
Close Or-
der.

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 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

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.

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, quartermaster, 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.

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

*When the Battalion takes Open Order.*Com-
mands.

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 sergeant major on the right.—Every other individual remains ready to move.

*Rear
ranks take
Open
Order.*

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

March.

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 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 would 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

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. Comd^{rs}
mands.

The lieutenant-colonel, officers, colours, staff, music, face to the right. *Rear ranks*

The drummers and pioneers (if on the flanks) face to the center. *take Close Order,*

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.

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. *March.*

The

The officers move through and into their respective intervals, and each individual arrives at, and places himself properly at his post in close order.

Posting
of offi-
cers.

On particular occasions, and when necessary, officers 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.

Colours.

When the battalion wheels by companies or sub-divisions 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.

Colour
reserve.

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.

Light
Com-
pany.

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.

When

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.

When the grenadier or light companies are detached, and make no part of the line, they may be formed two deep, if it is found proper.

With a very few obvious alterations, these general rules take place when a company or battalion is permitted or ordered to form in two ranks only—and which on the present low establishment of our battalions, may often be done for the purposes of exercise and movement on a more considerable front: it is also evident that they generally apply whether the companies are strong or weak, and whether a greater or lesser number of them compose the battalion.

ABSTRACT OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL GENERAL ATTENTIONS REQUIRED IN THE MOVEMENTS OF THE BATTALION, AND WHICH WILL BE MORE FULLY DETAILED UNDER THAT HEAD.

Attentions of the Soldier.

Times of
march.

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 very seldom, indeed, that they will, or ought to be required at quick time.

Wheel-
ing.

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.

All

All **FILINGS** are made quick, close **Filings** and at the lock-step. Files are at no time to open out, on occasions of exercise, parade, or manœuvre; 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.

All **FACINGS** must be accurately made **Pivot men.** 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 shift 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.

The great **OBSERVANCE** of the sol- **Position.** dier 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

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, and to depend on that chiefly for his line.

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 lengthy 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

At the word *Halt*, the foot in the rear *Halt*, 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.

In marching in line, each man must *Line*. 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.

All alterations in *carrying, supporting* *Carriage* *of arms.* *arms, &c.* are done by the whole battalion at once, whether in line or column, and not by the divisions of it
sepa-

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 case, *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.

Pivot
Flanks.

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
Files.

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 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.

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 formings of the line or dressing it, should

should be made with *carried arms*, as the only situation which preserves the true distance of files, or can give an accurate line.

Covering Platoon Serjeants.

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.

Position
of the Co-
vering
Serjeant.

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

In Co-
lumn.

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 in 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 the 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 the 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

front rank leader to close to after the countermarch is finished, and his place is occupied by the officer after dressing his division.

When the platoons from columns file In Files 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.

Whenever the battalion halts to fire, Firings: 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.

When the battalion is in column of sub- Sub-divi- divisions, if the officer is ordered to march fions. 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.

- Close column.** 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.
- Pioneers.** 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.
- Drummers.** 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.
- Echellon.** Whenever the platoon is cautioned to *wheel* forward or backward any *named* number of paces, the serjeant immediately posts himself before or behind the tenth, or any other given file, from the standing flank, and takes the ordered number of paces; when his platoon has conformed, he places himself on its outward flank.

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

Drummers, music, pioneers, &c. will Music, &c. 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.

Attentions in Platoon Officers.

When the battalion is formed in line, Position of platoon officers. 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
K their

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*, when his wheeling man, on whom his eye 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

each then takes his place and remains steady on the right of his platoon.

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

Counter-
march of
platoons.

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.

In line.

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 the correctness of their own personal march, every operation then depends on the word from the commanding officer, who MOVES, HALTS, and DRESSES the battalions—Whenever the battalion is in line, officers give no commands, except in the firings.

In file.

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 *halts, fronts,* and *dresses* his platoon close to
the

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 generally taken from that hand to which by a face of the platoons, the whole would stand fronted in column, and 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 head 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.

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 after every alteration of position; this demands his utmost attention; nor must he allow it to be diverted by looking at his platoon, the care

Leading
Officer.

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
pivots
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.

When

When the platoon wheels BACKWARDS Wheeling back-wards. 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 column, division officers are In close column. on the pivot flanks.—In forming line, before the divisions faces, they are shifted to the leading flank, if necessary.—The officer of each stops in his own person when the division nearer to the forming point than himself receives the word *Halt, Front*.—He allows his serjeant to proceed with the division; at the due instant gives his 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

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 outward flank, and *marches* up when his front is clear.

Colours. 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.

In front divisions. 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.

Wheeling in column march. When the head of the column of march changes its direction, and that marching in an alignement is not in question, instead of making regular wheels

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 increase its distance; but during this operation preserves the same equal time and step at which it was before moving.

On all occasions of forming in line, Close column. 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.

Officers and serjeants of the SUPER-Supernumerary rank. NUMERARY 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

their division which is not the pivot.— Their great attention during movements is, that files are correct, ranks keep 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 lines is to be made. For this purpose he ought to be mounted, otherwise he cannot properly discharge this important duty; and he can be much assisted in it, by having two or three camp

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 points 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 line, that two points to each flank are given.—When the battalion changes position, either by files or by 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 the ascertaining such points does not depend on the adjutant.

When the battalion changes position Echelon, by the echelon march, the named division wheels its 10th file into the new direc-

direction.—The other divisions wheel their 10th 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, Drejs up*, if the movement is to the front, and dresses his division on the distant given 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 *halt, front, dress back* his division when its inward man touches the preceding formed one.

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 mounted, and, unless they are active on horseback, it is impossible 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 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,*

Field Of-
ficers
mounted.

Com-
mands.

ported, &c.; he *dresses* it from the center, when it has marched, 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
wheeling.

Halt of
the co-
lumn.

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

ing

ing 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.

The commanding officer always con- Dressing.
ducts 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.

When acting in line with others, the Com-
mands in
line.
Commanding Officer of each Battalion conforms to the movements of the regulating one, and from it takes and rapidly repeats his words of *Halt*, *Wheel*, *March*, &c.; and the least delay in repeating

peating 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.

Atten-
tions in
line.

In line, the commanding officer is in rear of the colours, from thence, by marked cautions, he makes his battalion *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.

Dressing
in line.

All the battalions of a line must *halt* at the same instant in consequence of that word, repeated by commanding officers, whether they are then 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;

tion; 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, *eyes* 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 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.

L

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.

Intervals. 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 should have two cap 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

and explicit orders, which they divide and adapt to 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 (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.

A battalion *close* column forms in line Close column. 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

Forming
in line.

In forming in line from close columns, points must be given beyond both flanks in the direction of the line, and a mounted officer halts, and fronts, each division, which is equally 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.

As many
points are
required
for one
battalion
as for se-
veral.

The same number of *points* are required for the march in any 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, though 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 positions 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 bat-

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 judgement 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

In all situations exact points of march cannot be given.

The battalion in no situation covers more ground than the proper extent of its front.

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 be diminished, 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 ali-
gnement.

The commanding officer must recollect, that in the winding movements of the *open column of march*,—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 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

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 field officer should frequently place *himself* in it, with a glance of the eye see whether her 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

general line, another field officer, or the leading officer, if no field officer is 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, the other field officer from that situation can immediately give every proper aid in movement, or in every case it must be evident in what manner the commanding officer can be assisted.

Wheeling
backward.

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 after the wheels are made forward.

Attentions to
Echellon.

When a battalion makes a retired **E**CHELLON, or part of an echellon 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

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,

The words marked in **CAPITALS** are given by the commander of the battalion.

The words marked in *Italicks* are given by the commander of the company

| Abstract. | Words of command. | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. When the battalion is halted, and wheels up by divisions of any kind to either flank (here the right).</p> | <p>COMPANIES, RIGHT (OR LEFT) WHEEL. QUICK MARCH. <i>Halt, Dress.</i></p> | <p>{ A caution. By the leader of each company.</p> |
| <p>2. When the battalion is halted, and wheels backwards into open column of companies, (the right in front).</p> | <p>COMPANIES, ON YOUR LEFT BACKWARD WHEEL. QUICK MARCH. <i>Halt, Dress.</i></p> | <p>{ The left-hand man of the front rank of the company faces inwards. By the leader of each company.</p> |
| | d | 3. When |

Abstract.

Words of command.

3.

When divisions are halted in column, and wheel up to either hand to form in line (to the left).

TO THE LEFT
WHEEL INTO
LINE.
QUICK MARCH.

A caution.

Halt, Dress.

By each leader of a division.

4.

When the head of the column wheels into a new direction, marches on, and is followed by the rear divisions.

leading division.

*Halt, Right,
Wheel.*

One word of command, halt being merely a caution before the QUICK MARCH is taken up.

*Halt, Dress,
March.*

The first division marches when the second is within 2 paces, and thereby does not impede its wheel.

succeeding divisions.

*Halt, Wheel,
Halt, Dress,
March.*

Each succeeding division wheels in the same manner as the leading one, and marches on when its preceding one is at its due distance.

5. From

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>5.</p> <p>From line to form open column of companies, behind the right company.</p> | <p>RIGHT FACE.</p> <p>QUICK MARCH.</p> <p><i>Halt, Front.</i></p> | <p>The right company stands fast, and the other companies are ordered to wheel into open column, facing to that company.</p> <p>The companies that are to wheel face to the right.</p> <p>The serjeants successively take flank points, and the companies march in file.</p> <p>Each officer, successively, halts and fronts his company, when his flank man arrives at his serjeant.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> <p>When the column of companies is to change its front, by the countermarch of each company.</p> | <p>COMPANIES WILL COUNTERMARCH RIGHT (OR LEFT) FACE.</p> <p>Q. MARCH.</p> <p><i>Halt, Front.</i></p> <p><i>Dress.</i></p> | <p>A caution.</p> <p>Each company faces. In file.</p> <p>Each company separately.</p> <p>To the pivot flank.</p> <p>7. When</p> |

Abstract.

Words of command.

7. When the battalion is halted, and is to march in front } THE BATTALION WILL ADVANCE. } The center serjeants move out.
 MARCH.

8. When the battalion is to halt, } HALT. } The advanced serjeants return to the battalion.

9. When the battalion is halted, and is to retire. } THE BATTALION WILL RETIRE. } The serjeants move out.
 RIGHT ABOUT FACE.
 MARCH.

10. When the battalion after retiring comes to its proper front. } HALT, FRONT. } One command, and the serjeants return to the battalion.

11.

From line to form close column in front of the right division. } FORM CLOSE COLUMN IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT DIVISION. } A caution.
 RIGHT FACE. } All the other companies face, and disengage their leading flanks.
 QUICK MARCH. } Each company.
 Halt, front.
 Left, Dress.

12. From

12.

From line to form close column behind the right company, or division.

FORM CLOSE COLUMN BEHIND THE RIGHT DIVISION.

A caution.

RIGHT FACE.

All the other companies face, and disengage their pivot flank.

QUICK MARCH.

Halt, Front.

Left, Dress.

Each company successively.

13.

From line to form close column on a central company.

FROM CLOSE COLUMN ON THE --- COMPANY; THE RIGHT IN FRONT.

A caution.

INWARDS FACE.

All but the named company, and disengage their pivot flanks.

QUICK MARCH.

Halt, Front.

Left, Dress.

Each company successively.

14.

From close column to form line on the front company (the right in front).

FROM LINE ON THE FRONT COMPANY.

A caution.

LEFT FACE.

QUICK MARCH.

HALT, FRONT,

Each company when opposite to its ground.

Dress.

March.

Halt, Dress.

When arrived in line.

15. From

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | FORM LINE ON THE REAR COMPANY. | } A caution. | |
| | | RIGHT FACE. | } All except the rear company. | |
| | | QUICK MARCH. | | |
| 15. | From close column to form in line on the rear company (the right in front). | The rear company. | <i>March.</i> | } As soon as uncovered. |
| | | | <i>Halt, Dress.</i> | } When it arrives in line. |
| | | Each other company successively. | HALT, FRONT. | } When opposite its ground. |
| | | | <i>Dress.</i> | |
| | | | <i>March.</i> | |
| | | <i>Halt, Dress.</i> | } When it arrives in line. | |

16.
From close column (the right in front) to form line on a central company.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| } | FORM LINE ON THE |
| | ----- COMPANY, |
| | OUTWARDS FACE. |
| | QUICK MARCH. |

The named company, when uncovered, moves up into line to its marked flank.---Those that were in front of it, proceed as in forming on a rear company.---Those that are in rear of it, proceed as in forming on a front company.

In the deployments of the close column into line, a mounted officer HALTS, FRONTS each company or division (of which it is composed) successively.

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