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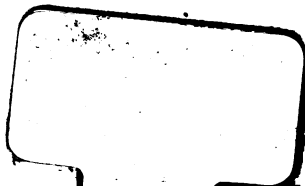
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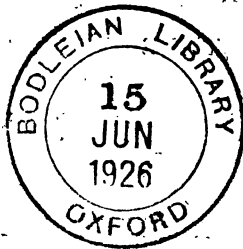
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A  
 PLAN  
*S* OF *B*  
 DISCIPLINE,  
 Composed for the USE of the  
 MILITIA  
 OF THE  
 COUNTY of NORFOLK.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. SHUCKBURGH, at the Sun, next Richard's Coffee-House,  
 Fleet-street. MDCCLIX.







## ADVERTISEMENT.

**I**T seems absolutely necessary to make some apology for the delay of the publication of this work, after having so long ago promised it to the public; and to account for its being at present published incomplete. Our first intent was to give only the manual exercise, with the explanations; and an introduction, containing a short history of exercise, and our reasons for the alterations which we had made: we afterwards enlarged our plan, thinking it would be of no small use to our Officers, to give them some directions as to the manner of teaching the exercise, marching, wheeling, and exercising by single companies; and also to form a plan for the exercise of the whole battalion in Whitfun-week. This led us into a much greater detail than we were at first aware of; and the work was only sketched out, and scarcely dead coloured, when we lost the first promoter, and I may say the life and soul of our undertaking; who was called abroad, to prove the reality of his truly noble and patriot spirit, in a distant and dangerous service. The care then of finishing and publishing this work, devolved chiefly on me; but my own very infirm state of health, and our continual avocations in attending the exercise of the companies of militia, joined to unexpected and unavoidable

## ADVERTISEMENT.

ble impediments from the press; rendered it impossib'le for us to get it ready for publication so soon as we intended: And our being immediately after the Whitsun-week exercise was over, ordered out into actual service, has been an invincible obstacle to our completing the third part, relating to the exercise of the whole battalion, the firings, evolutions, &c. in the manner we could have wished. For this reason we have chosen to postpone it for the present, and give only the two first parts; which having by experience found to be useful, we may venture to recommend, to the militia officers of such counties, as chuse to adopt our plan of exercise and discipline: though we propose publishing the third part also, with all convenient speed: and we hope that the experience which we shall gain by having our men together, and by exercising almost daily in battalion, will enable us to correct, and make it much more perfect than we at first were capable of doing; especially as we have at present, the advantage of frequent opportunities of seeing two regiments\*, justly celebrated for the excellency and exactness of their discipline; whose officers with the most open and engaging politeness imaginable, are always ready to communicate to us, whatever information we are desirous of having; and to assist us with their advice and instruction.

\* The 67th, and 72d.

Hillsea Barracks,  
Aug. 24, 1759.

W. WINDHAM.

# DEDICATION.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE the

Earl of SHAFTESBURY,

AND

The other NOBLE LORDS,

Who have exerted themselves in their respective Counties, as LORD-LIEUTENANTS, in the Execution of the MILITIA ACT.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship and the other illustrious personages, to whom this little volume is addressed, will, I flatter myself, find no impropriety in its claiming your consideration, and aspiring to your patronage. The work (such as it is) springs from the zeal of some friends to a national militia, in the county of Norfolk, who confiding in the irresistible principle of the measure, and the general sentiments of that independent county, have been greatly instrumental in carrying it into execution, in spite of every obstacle which the pride and envy

PART I. A of

## D E D I C A T I O N .

of particular men could suggest, or the violence and artifice of their agents could practise against it. As nothing could more effectually promote the success of this measure in general, than a communication between the several counties; whereby each will see what has been done in the other, and judge what is worth adopting; my worthy friend, the author of this little work, has charged me with the manner of introducing it to your Lordships, knowing that I have the honour of being acquainted with many of you; and I embrace, with pleasure, the opportunity which it affords me, of thus publicly acknowledging my just and grateful veneration, as an Englishman, for the truly noble and patriot part, which your Lordships have acted upon this occasion: recalling so fully to our minds the antient spirit, independence, and splendor of our British nobility.

However shamefully backward a part of this kingdom still appears, in resolving whether it will owe its preservation to itself, or delegate a circumstance of so much happiness and honour to fortuitous and inadequate resources; yet, my Lords, the progress which the militia has made in these counties, where your Lordships personal dignity and family influence attended it, no longer leaves the most prejudiced caviller an opportunity of denying its practicability as to the civil part of the bill; the common people having seen their error, and the views of their last year's instructors; and the meetings for the ballot being now attended with volunteers instead of rioters. Our military sceptics now direct their whole tirallerie against the military part of the act; to obviate, therefore, the objections on this side, a worthy gentleman of Norfolk, though no regular bred soldier, nor the offspring of the parade, has endeavoured to prove, how easily an  
healthy

## DEDICATION.

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healthy robust countryman, or a resolute mechanic, may be taught the use of arms; and how very attainable that degree of military knowledge is, which will enable a country gentleman to command a platoon: consequently that, under proper encouragement, it is very possible for this kingdom (the constant rival of the most powerful nation in the world, and engaged often for its own sake to defend the liberties of others) to establish so numerous and permanent a force, as may enable it all times to act with superiority abroad, without endangering its own safety or liberties at home. Such undoubtedly may be the consequence of instructing, to a certain degree, the body of the nation in the use of arms; for if the common people be made only half soldiers, and the gentlemen by a certain degree of application become only half officers; yet by a timely multiplication of the number of militia, as well as by the rotation prescribed by the act, and that further additional discipline which would result, from the militia's being put into actual service, previous to an invasion; this country will have a better security against the calamities of war, than any other in the world, Switzerland alone excepted: which, as your Lordships well know, though situated in the midst of all the ambitious and turbulent powers in Europe, is the only one which maintains its territories free and undisturbed. How astonishing is it then, my Lords, that notwithstanding history, the experience of our own times, and the present shocking scene in Europe, incontestably prove, that, if numbers without discipline avail but little, so discipline without great superiority in point of number, and great interior resources of defence, is equally ineffectual for the protection of a great and opulent country; I say, my Lords, how astonishing is it, that there should

## DEDICATION.

be men, whose rank and knowledge should put them above such prejudices; who maintain that, in a nation circumstanced like this, a militia is dangerous; sometimes that it is impracticable. Even of your Lordships order, some who once raised a body of men not totally unlike a militia, are now become so very military, as to affect to despise it; imagining, perhaps, that the safety of Britain would again, under such dreadful circumstances, be better trusted to troops of their dependents, raised on a sudden; than to that general effort, which it is but reasonable to expect from the whole nation, when armed in its own defence: a resource, which has been ever found to answer, even in nations far inferior to the British in natural courage. But, my Lords, if those who remember the disgrace and distraction of the year 1745, have not yet learned to wish for some farther security at home, at a time when we must send forth the greatest part of our armies for the protection of our colonies, or the support of our allies; I will not flatter myself, that I shall be able to prevail with them. Nor can I expect better success, from addressing those who have drawn no instructions of this kind from the events of the year 1756; little inferior to the former in terror and disgrace, though arising from a different cause: for then, our whole force being detained at home through real or imagined danger, our enemies had nearly over-run all our colonies; Minorca fell, Great-Britain imported a foreign army for her protection, and her flag and character sunk into the lowest contempt. What was the justification made use of in those days? Was it not our defenceless state at home? Let me ask, has care been taken to provide for that defect, should the events of war (which no man can command) bring back that scene? or is our present security, in the midst

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midst of our success, owing to any thing, but the vigorous measures (unknown in those days I have mentioned) resulting from the singular intrepidity of an eminent individual? The utility of a general militia, with respect to every operation, is self-evident. Would you make a diversion on the coast of France; or a real impression? If the former, make two, with ten thousand men each, you will scarcely meet an enemy in both places. If you mean a real impression, second your first by sending ten thousand men more, and you will not be obliged to retire with precipitation in a few days to your ships. In either case, their grand army is more likely to detach, or, not detaching, must abandon their country to your superiority. If we would support Prince Ferdinand, as the means of bringing the war to a short issue, who, in that case, had not rather see him at the head of an offensive, than a defensive force? This, as well as every other operation, will receive strength and activity by the establishment of that measure which renders us safe at home: And upon the reduction of our regular forces, in consequence of a peace; a militia is the only establishment, which can procure to us an ability of doing ourselves justice at first, upon a recommencement of hostilities; instead of being insulted for three years whilst we are getting ready for war.

The advantages of this situation are too numerous, for me now to attempt to illustrate: I have already digressed too far, and shall only recur to that part of my subject, from which, for your Lordships sake, I wish I had not deviated.

It will be proper, my Lords, that I should assure you, that I have seen this short and easy exercise taught and executed with the greatest success. I have, myself, made a gentleman perfectly master of it in

two

## DEDICATION.

two or three mornings, so as to perform it with grace and spirit. Our militia men learn it in seven or eight days, some of them in less time. Were I to enter into any description of it, I should anticipate the following sheets; but it is incumbent upon me to declare, that I have a very small share in the composition; the chief part of it being the result of a very active mind, and military turn in my worthy friend; which proves how deep a man of parts may penetrate into any science, without having first gone through the regular degrees, so often esteemed by pedants the essential parts of a man's education. My friend is much less indebted to me than to our adjutant, Mr. Mowatt, who, being esteemed a very good one in the army, is an authority, which I beg leave to avail myself of, with scrupulous men of his profession, in favour of the work. It is impossible for me to conclude this dedication to your Lordships (the first, indeed, I ever wrote) without acknowledging that assistance, which the militia has in general received from the gentlemen in the army; not only from the patronage of two very worthy Lords of high rank, both as to their civil and military stations: (one of which appeared the first among its advocates in the house of commons, the other in the house of peers;) but from the harmony and good-will, with which the military gentlemen have co-operated with the militia, in several counties. I wish their example had been more generally imitated. The quarter from which the difficulties to the militia arise, is but too manifest: had half the zeal been shewn in many counties for carrying it into execution, which is exerted in an election, its success had not now been limited to twelve or fifteen counties only. However, my Lords, under all the discouragements which this  
national



## DEDICATION.

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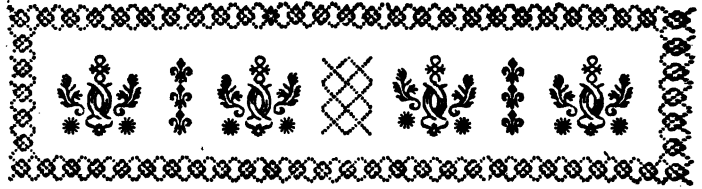
national act has met with, through slights, delays, and evasions, on the parts of those, whose duty it was to execute this law, with that zeal which becomes every good and faithful magistrate; it must, nevertheless, derive too much strength from your Lordships countenance and authority, to fail at last: on the contrary, as we see it walks alone, having from the goodness of its constitution survived much unnatural treatment; to the joy of every good Englishman, and not a little, I believe, to the astonishment of some of its good nurses and guardians; we may now venture to flatter ourselves it will live to full maturity, and become a most useful part of the constitution. That this may be the event, and that your Lordships may all of you long enjoy every blessing, which honest and eminent members of a community deserve, is the sincere wish of one who has the honour to be, with the most perfect respect and esteem,

My LORDS,


*Your Lordships most obedient and*

*faithful humble Servant,*

GEO. TOWNSHEND.



# INTRODUCTION.

HE title of an exercise composed for the militia of the county of Norfolk, must, no doubt, appear extraordinary to a great many, who will naturally ask, why the militia should not learn and practise the same exercise with that which is at present in use among the regular forces?

We have, therefore, thought it necessary to prefix to this little work an introduction, in which we shall give a short history of the origin and progress of that part of the art military, which is more particularly termed exercise; endeavour to shew the utility of it, and the principles on which it is founded; and point out in what the defects or excellencies of any exercise consist; and, in the notes which we shall add to the explanations of the several words of command in the Manual Exercise, we shall explain the particular uses of them; and shew in what manner, and for what reasons, we have varied from, and altered that which is now practised by the regular forces.

To

To do this completely, and to enter into all the details and nice disquisitions that the subject admits of, would be a most curious and useful work; requiring great abilities, an extensive reading, and a thorough knowledge, not only of history both ancient and modern, but likewise of all the authors who have wrote on military affairs. The limits of our preface will confine us to a few general hints and cursory remarks; however, that our military readers (if any such should do us the honour to peruse our work) may see, that we have not been deficient in consulting the best authorities, for the facts that we advance, and the principles which we establish, we shall, in the margin of each page, refer to authors of the greatest repute on military affairs; by whose opinions we have been guided, and whose sentiments we have adopted.

It is universally allowed, that the Greeks and the Romans carried the art of war to a greater degree of perfection than any other people in their days; and indeed the best judges seem to be agreed, that they have scarcely been equalled by any of the moderns. By what appears from the authors who have treated of their discipline, we cannot find that they had what we call a Manual Exercise. The Grecian order of the phalanx, whose whole strength consisted in being closely united and in perfect order, required that they should be strictly exact in their marching and evolutions; and these points were what they chiefly attended to, and practised in their exercise: as may be seen in Ælian, who has also given us their words of command; from which it appears, that the closing, opening, and doubling their ranks and files, together with the different facings and wheelings, and the various methods of changing their front

Ælian, chap. liv.

PART I.

B

by

by counter marches, constituted almost the whole of it (1.).

Vegetius, lib. i. The exercise of the Roman soldiers, collectively, chap. xlvii. ib. seems to have chiefly consisted in practising the evolutions of the legion; and in marching 20,000, or sometimes 24,000 geometrical paces in five hours, for that was their military pace: (2.) this they performed, loaded with their armour, weapons, and other military implements, which all together made up a very heavy burthen; and at the same time kept their ranks. They exercised themselves separately, in running, jumping, and swimming over rivers completely armed; and, above all, endeavoured to acquire the greatest skill and dexterity in the throwing of the pilum or javelin, and in the use of the sword and shield. For these purposes they had masters, called Campi Doctores; whose business it was to teach the youth and the new-raised soldiers; and the Campus Martius

Vegetius, lib. i. chap. ix. ibid. lib. iii. chap. iv. ibid. lib. i. chap. xviii.

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(1.) Marechal Saxe in his *Reveries*, Chap. i. Art. vi, has some very ingenious conjectures and observations on the manner of marching of the ancients; whom he supposes to have marched in exact time and cadence, to the sound of their musical instruments: and gives good reasons for the excellency of that method; which is (he says) practised at present by the Prussians. He was no scholar; which has led him into a gross mistake about the meaning of the word *Tactics*; but he might have supported his opinion, with regard to their marching in cadence, by many passages of the ancients; particularly the following one of Thucydides, in the account of the battle between the Lacedemonians and Argives, book v. "After this the fight began, the Argives and their allies moving on with violence and fury; but the Lacedemonians deliberately, and to the sound of several pipers, who were appointed by law; not on account of any religious ceremony, but that the soldiers, marching together, might make their attack uniformly, and not break their ranks." Whoever has a mind to form a more perfect idea of the discipline of the ancients, may consult Guischard, *Memoires Militaires*, printed in Holland in 2 vols. 4to. 1758.

(2.) At the rate of four or five English miles in an hour.

at

at Rome was set apart for such exercises; where all the most eminent citizens, whose age or infirmities did not disable them from service, took a pleasure and pride, in publickly endeavouring to excel in these military accomplishments. Besides these exercises, they were inured to hardships and severe labour, by a continual practice of fortifying their camps, making roads, and carrying on, at the sieges they undertook, such immense works, as appear to us almost incredible. By these methods, they formed excellent soldiers, who were robust, hardy, and perfectly well skilled in the use of their weapons; but they do not seem to have had that uniformity and harmony in it, which the moderns have established. Indeed the lance, the pike, the sword, and shield, and the other weapons that were used before the invention of gunpowder, do not require that precision and uniformity in the use of them, which fire-arms do; neither indeed do they admit of it; for, with these weapons, every thing must chiefly depend on the valour, strength, dexterity, and skill of the individuals; and every man must exert himself in proportion to his natural and acquired abilities, which are very unequal in different men: whereas fire-arms have reduced mankind more to a level; and, in fact, in the ancient histories we read continually, of the brave actions and feats of arms, of particular heroes, excelling in valour and strength: on the contrary, in the modern histories, private valour seldom, but by great chance, is remarked or recorded; though we find frequent relations of whole bodies of men, which have signalized themselves, and are there praised for their firmness and discipline.

B 2

After

Puysegur art de la guerre premiere partie, chap. ii. art. i.

Pere Daniel hist. de la mil. Francoise, vol. i. pag. 275.

Ibid. pag. 273.

Procopius de bello Goth. lib. ii. chap. xxv. Hist. de la mil. Franc. vol. i. pag. 109. ibid. p. 309. Guil. du Bellay disc. mil. chap. iv.

Hist. de la mil. Franc. vol. i. pag. 275.

After the downfall of the Roman Empire, we must not expect to find, amongst the barbarous nations that destroyed it, any great traces of military skill. In general it appears, that they fought without much method or order; though they certainly were not unacquainted with the necessity of keeping in a body, and acting together; and consequently they must have observed some sort of distinction of ranks and files; but they had not reduced their motions, and evolutions, to any regular or uniform method. Every individual exercised himself, in the use of such weapons, as he was appointed to fight withal; and we find that almost every people had their favourite one, in which they particularly excelled. That of the Franks, or ancient French, was the hatchet; which they used as a missile weapon, throwing it in the same manner as the North-American Indians do theirs, which they call tomahawks. The Gascons and Genoese were excellent crossbow-men. The Swiss owed the signal victories, which they gained over the Austrians and Burgundians, and the great reputation they were in as soldiers, to their strength and skill in the use of the pike, halberd, and espadon or two-handed sword. And the victories of Cressy, Poitiers, and Azincourt, will occasion the valour and skill of the English archers to be transmitted down with glory to the latest posterity. Among the nobility and gentry there was scarce any one that could read; they looked on letters as a disparagement to men dedicated to arms; but made the practice of their weapons, and all sorts of martial exercises, their whole study, and the only business of their lives; and what they esteemed of all others the greatest pleasure and entertainment, were those imitations of battles, the tilts and tournaments; though often attended with fatal

fatal accidents and bloodshed. However, for the reasons I have before mentioned, there could be little or no uniformity observed in their troops, but every man was left to perform, according to his respective abilities.

The invention of gunpowder totally changed the manner of fighting, and consequently the military discipline of all Europe. The Spaniards were the first who armed part of their foot with muskets and harquebuzes, and mixed them with the pikes: in this they were soon imitated by most other nations; though the English had not intirely laid aside their favourite weapon the long-bow, and generally taken to the use of fire-arms, during the reign of queen Elizabeth.

The first muskets were very heavy, and could not be fired without a rest; (3) they had matchlocks, and barrels of a wide bore, that carried a large ball, and

Montluc Memoires, L. 1. p. 8. Engl. transl. Brantome eloge de Monf. le Mar. de Strozzi & du D. d'Albe edit. de la Haye, 1740. tom. 4. disc. 4. & tom. 10. disc. 89.

Certain discourfes written by fir John Smith, Kt. concerning the forms & effects of divers sorts of weapons, &c. printed at London, 1590.

(3) The old English writers call those large muskets calivers; the harquebuze was a lighter piece, that could be fired without a rest. The matchlock was fired by a match, fixed by a kind of tongs in the serpentine or cock, which, by pulling the trigger, was brought down with great quickness, upon the priming in the pan; over which there was a sliding cover, which was drawn back by hand, just at the time of firing. There was a great deal of nicety and care required to fit the match properly to the cock, so as to come down exactly true on the priming, to blow the ashes from the coal, and to guard the pan from the sparks that fell from it; a great deal of time was also lost, in taking it out of the cock, and returning it between the fingers of the left-hand, every time that the piece was fired; and wet weather often rendered the matches useless. However, most writers allow (and some old officers that we have known, who remembered matchlocks being still in use, have confirmed it) that they were very sure, and less apt to misfire than the firelock; which seems scarcely credible; though one may suppose, that the firelocks at first were not so well made as they are now. The firelock is so called, from producing fire of itself, by the action of the flint and steel. The most ancient:

and charge of powder, and did execution at a great distance. The musketeers on a march carried only their rests and ammunition, and had boys to bear their muskets after them, for which they were allowed great additional pay. They were very slow in loading, not only by reason of the unwieldiness of the

A brief discourse concerning the force and effect of all manual weapons of fire, by Humph. Barwick, Soldier, Capt. et encore plus outre, printed at London in quarto, without date, a black letter. p.

4.

invention of this sort is the wheelock, which we find mentioned in Luigi Collados's treatise of Artillery, printed at Venice 1586, as then lately invented in Germany. This sort of lock was used till within these hundred years, especially for pistols, and carbines. It was composed of a solid steel wheel, with an axis, to which was fastened a chain, which, by being wound round it, drew up a very strong spring; on pulling the trigger, the spring, acting, whirled the wheel about with great velocity; and the friction of the edge of it (which was a little notched) against the stone, produced the fire: the cock was made so, as to bring the stone upon the edge of the wheel, part of which was in the pan, and touched the priming: they used any common hard pebble for that purpose, which served as well as a flint. These locks were inconvenient, took time to wind up, (or span as they termed it:) and sometimes would not go off; an instance of which may be seen, in Ludlow's account of his defence of Wardour-Castle. vide Ludlow's memoirs, Lond. edit. fol. 1751, p. 35. When the firelock, such as we now use, was invented, we cannot ascertain. It is called, by writers of about the middle of the last century, a snaphane, or snaphance; which, being the Dutch word for a firelock, seems to indicate, that it is a Dutch invention, and that we took it from them: but Ward, in his Animadversions of War, printed in 1639, p. 502, after describing the exercise of the firelock-pistol, and carbine, (by which he means the wheelock) says, that as most of our pieces go with English locks, which differ from firelocks, he shall add the method of handling them; and then gives the exercise of the snaphane carbine; by which it appears, that there was little or no difference between that and the pieces now in use. The more modern writers call it a fufee, from the French word fusil; whence the name of fuzileers is still continued to several of our regiments, which were the first that were armed with them, on the disuse of matchlocks. We thought this little digression would not be disagreeable to our readers, as it explains some passages in our writers, that perhaps may not be generally so well understood at present.



the pieces, and because they carried the powder, and balls separate, but from the time it took to prepare and adjust the match; so that their fire was not near so brisk as ours is now. Afterwards a lighter kind of matchlock musket came into use, (4.) and they carried their ammunition in bandeliers, which were broad belts that came over the shoulder, to which were hung several little cases of wood covered with leather, each containing a charge of powder; the balls they carried loose in a pouch; and they had also a priming horn hanging by their side (5.). Matchlocks were, about the beginning of this century, universally difused in Europe, and the troops were armed with firelocks;

Hist. de la mil.  
Fr. vol.ii. p420,  
21, 22, 20.  
to

(4) They used the musket and rest in England, so late as the beginning of the civil wars: as may be seen in lieutenant-colonel Bariffe's young artillery-man; a book composed for the instruction of the militia of the city of London, and addressed to Serjeant-Major-General Philip Skippon, and the rest of the officers of the trained-bands, printed at London 1643. There are some curious things in it, particularly a letter of Lord Viscount Wimbeldon's in 1637, to the artillery company, to recommend the practising of a new exercise, of the musket and half-pike together; which we do not remember to have seen mentioned in any other book; and which has a great resemblance to the manner of arming the soldiers, which Marechal Saxe recommends, chap. 2d: of his Reveries.

(5) We must here observe, that the soldiers, in action, put the bullets in their mouths, in order to have them more ready to drop into the piece, after they had charged with powder out of the horn, or bandelier: and we frequently find it stipulated in capitulations, when a garrison is to be allowed all the honours of war, that they are to march out with matches lighted, ball in the mouth, &c. that is to say, in a complete warlike posture, ready to defend themselves: and not like vanquished men: and this expression has been continued as a common form in capitulations, till within a few years, if yet totally difused; though of no meaning according to the present forms of discipline.

Vide Puysegur.  
Folard. M. Saxe  
nouveau projet  
d'un ordre Fran-  
cois en tactiq.  
ou la phalange  
coupée et doub-  
lée Botée études  
milit. dial. a la  
fin du tom. 2.

to which much about the same time, the bayonet being added, pikes also were laid aside. Which latter change, whether it was for the better or not, is a point that still admits of dispute amongst the best military writers; who are divided in their opinions about it, though most of them disapprove of it.

When the use of fire-arms began to be generally established, the necessity of a great regularity and uniformity, in the manner of using these arms, became apparent: it was soon discovered, that those troops which could make the briskest fire, and sustain it longest, had a great superiority over others less expert: and likewise, that the efficacy and power of fire did not consist in random and scattering shots, made without order; but in the fire of a body of men at once, and that properly timed and directed. It was therefore necessary to exercise the troops in loading quick, and firing together by the word of command: but as the awkwardness, carelessness, and rashness, of young soldiers, (if left to themselves) must occasion frequent accidents; and cause the loss of many of their own party, by the unskilful manner of using their fire-arms, especially in the hurry of an engagement; it became a matter of indispensable necessity to teach soldiers an uniform method of performing each action that was to be done with the musket; that they might all do it in the most expeditious and safe manner. In order to effect this, it was necessary to analyse and reduce the compound motion of each action into the several simple motions that it was composed of: this made each action easier to be learned and remembered; and by teaching the soldiers to perform the simple motions in the same manner, and in the same time, making a pause between each, it rendered them exact in the performance of the whole action. This is the origin of what

what is called the Manual Exercise; which, when it was once invented, (besides the real utility of it) made troops to shew to such advantage; and their motions appear so regular and beautiful, that it soon was copied by other nations, and came into general use. The Spaniards were most probably the inventors of it, as they were the first who made use of muskets, and their infantry was at that time the best in Europe. Even the French, who are so ready, upon the slightest grounds, to put in their claim for the honour of all useful inventions and improvements, acquiesce in this; and own, that they learned the use of the musket from the Spaniards; and that they they never had any regular discipline, or exercise, till they took it from the Dutch; whose army in Flanders was at that time the great school, where all who had a desire to attain military knowledge, went to learn it under Prince Maurice of Nassau, who is frequently stiled, by the military writers of his time, the reviver of the discipline of the ancients; and whose continual wars with the Spaniards had enabled him to improve upon, and surpass his masters. He was indeed, for many years, in almost unrivalled possession of the reputation of being the greatest commander in Europe; but was at last, in some degree, eclipsed by the great Gustavus Adolphus, whose exploits were more brilliant, and successes more rapid, than those of Maurice; who always was a cautious and prudent, rather than a bold and enterprising general. Gustavus was, undoubtedly, a very great master of all the branches of military knowledge, especially of tactics; in which he struck out many things entirely new, at least to the moderns. An ingenious French author has drawn a parallel between him and Epaminondas: it is indeed remarkable, that they each of them invented new methods of drawing up their armies, founded on the same principles in attacks: that they each of them

Brantom. elog.  
du D. d'Albe &  
du M. Strozzi.

Hist. mil. Fran.  
vol. 1. p. 277.

Folard traité  
de la colonne.

Nouveau pro-  
jet d'un ordre  
Francois en  
tactiq. p. 125.

PART I.

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appeared at the head of a people till then obscure, and of no great estimation in military affairs; which, under their conduct, attained, almost at once, to the highest degree of reputation: that they each fought two remarkable battles, against warlike nations, and veteran troops, in which they were victorious: and that each perished in the last. Indeed the Thebans, after the death of Epaminondas, soon sunk into their primitive obscurity; but the Swedes, after the loss of Gustavus, maintained their reputation for valour and discipline, for many years, under Kniphausen, Torstenson, Banier, Duke Bernard of Weimar, and other generals: which plainly shews, that, during the short time Gustavus lived, he had formed many excellent officers: and that, had he not been so unfortunately killed at Lutzen, he probably would have established a (6) discipline much superior to any that had been, since the time of the Greeks and Romans. After his death, the Dutch exercise and discipline again became the (7) pattern for all Europe to follow, and continued

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(6) The Swedes appear to have been the first that practised firing by two or three ranks at a time; as Hudibras has it:

When over one another's heads,

They charge three ranks at once like Swedes.

As may be seen in Sir Robert Monro's memoirs, and Bariffe's young artillery-man, &c. The firing by platoons is generally said to be a Dutch invention, though the life of Gustavus Adolphus, lately published, gives it to that monarch. We have looked into Sir Robert Monro's book; and some others that treat expressly of military affairs, and of the Swedish discipline in particular; and cannot find the least reason for acquiescing in that opinion, but rather the contrary; and we cannot help thinking, that the author confounds Gustavus's method, of posting platoons of musketeers amongst his cavalry, with the platoon firing by battalion, which are things totally different from one another.

(7) Lewis the XIVth, in 1662, employed Mons. Martinet to regulate and discipline his infantry, after the Dutch manner. He was first

tinued so till within these few years; that the amazing victories and successes of the Prussians have excited the attention and admiration of all nations; and put them upon endeavouring to learn and imitate that wonderful military establishment, and discipline, which has enabled the great Frederick the II<sup>d</sup>, the prodigy of our age, to perform such amazing exploits, as have already, whatever may be his future destiny, given him a title to the highest rank, among the most sublime military geniuses, and greatest generals that the world has produced.

This alteration and improvement of the Prussian discipline was originally the work of his father, Frederick William I<sup>st</sup> King of Prussia; whose character and actions, delineated by a masterly and impartial hand, would compose a work equally curious and entertaining. We should there behold a prince, who might properly be called military mad, without any real military genius; scrupulously attached and bigotted to the minutest formalities, and we may say fopperies, of the regimental detail and parade; but never shewing any signs of his being master of the great operations of war, or the sublime parts of military science: in short, much fitter to be a drill serjeant, or adjutant, than a king, or a general. Who, though truly religious, and in most instances a man of rigid virtue and strict morality; yet, from his immoderate fondness for troops, joined to the austerly and violence

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first lieutenant-colonel, and afterwards colonel of the regiment du Roi, or the King's own regiment; which was then the pattern. He was killed at the siege of Doesburg, in 1672. His name is become, among our military gentlemen, a term of sneer and reproach, too often applied to such officers as shame the rest of their corps, by being more assiduous and exact in the performance of their duty, than suits with the levity of the young, or the indolence of the old ones.

Vide Prussian regulations for the infantry. passim, particularly part 11.

of his temper, acted like a meer tyrant, and governed his family, and subjects, with the stern harshness and barbarity of a Muley Ishmael. (8) Indeed, the force and prevalency of an European education, and manners, had so far an influence upon him, as to prevent his being as bloody : but he exerted the natural roughness, and unfeelingness of his disposition, in breaking his troops to an obedience, and severity of discipline, unheard of before in Europe ; which transformed men into meer machines, moved and actuated solely by the will and command of their officers ; and which a man, of a milder and more humane turn, could not have attempted to have established : a slave in Turkey being in a state of much less constraint, and servile subordination, than that of his soldiers, or even of his officers. His passion for tall men was extravagant, beyond belief ; and, to recruit his great useless regiment of giants, he spared no expence, although covetous to excess, in his own disposition ; nor in order to inveigle, or even kidnap a tall man, did

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(8) As Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, condemned his son to death, because he could by no means make him apply himself to any thing that was liberal, or besitting a prince ; nor wean him from his attachment to the old barbarous customs and manners of the Russians ; so Frederick William was very near doing the same by that prince who now makes the most brilliant figure in Europe, only because he detested guzzling beer, and smoking tobacco : the great and only pleasures of his father's court ; which for elegance of manners, and taste of conversation, was just on a level with a common guard-room ; but, on the contrary, had a confirmed taste and attachment to literature, the sciences, and polite arts ; and had formed a scheme of retiring into some country, where he might have been at liberty to indulge his philosophical disposition. The strong intercession, and representations of the Emperor, and other Princes, did indeed prevent matters from being carried to that extremity ; but his confidant, the unhappy Katte, who was privy to his designs, suffered death ; being beheaded under his window, and he obliged to be a spectator of the cruel fate of his friend.

did his officers stick at fraud, perfidy, or the grossest violations of the laws of society, and of nations; which he always connived at, and oftentimes avowed. His whole country was one great garrison; every man, who was handsome, and had a fine person, was compelled to serve; even children were enlisted from their birth, and their parents were accountable for them to the regiment to which they were allotted: in short, every thing was made subservient to the military extravagance of the monarch, without the least regard to justice, or humanity. But as his troops were to him merely what dolls are to children, or ornamental china to the ladies; not for use, but amusement or parade; and his whole pleasure and employment was the adjusting their dress and accoutrements, which he would do with his own hands, and the exercising and reviewing them; he never chose to expose them to the dangers or fatigues of war; perhaps indeed, in some measure, for fear they should all desert. (9) All this added to the particularity, and even finicalness of their

Prussian regulations, chap. 5. art. 3. chap. 6. art. 4.

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(9) He had often disputes and quarrels with his neighbours; many of which were on account of the outrages committed by his recruiters, who seized tall men by force, wherever they could find them; in which he did little more than bully; publishing letters, manifestoes, and rescripts; reviewing his troops, drawing out his artillery, and making a great parade of his preparations for war, without ever coming to action. Not even in the affair of the cruel persecution of the Protestants at Thorn, in Poland: which, one would have imagined, must have irritated, beyond all measure, a Prince like him; (who, besides the natural violence of his temper, was quite a zealot in his religion;) and have engaged him to pursue immediately the most vigorous measures, for obtaining a signal satisfaction, and redressing the wrongs of his persecuted brethren; especially as he did not want power to force the Poles to submit to any terms, that he would have imposed on them; the King of England, George the First, as Elector of Hanover, and the Prince of Hesse, having offered to join him with considerable forces for that purpose.

their dress and appearance, (10) caused them, in his life-time, to be looked upon as meer puppets, fit only for show, but which could be of no use, or service, in real action; and they, and their discipline, were in general the subject of ridicule, amongst the military-men of other nations. But, when Frederick the 2<sup>d</sup>. succeeded to the crown of Prussia, his penetrating genius quickly distinguished and retrenched all that was trifling, and useles, from what was of real utility; and sensible of the advantages, which that strictness of discipline, and exact obedience, to which his troops were broken, and habituated, gave him; he did not fear attacking, with his then raw and un-experienced forces, the rough old warriors of the house of Austria; and soon convinced them, at the battles of Molwitz, Freyberg, and on many other occasions, that what is absurd and contemptible, in the

Traité des le-  
gions du M. de  
Saxe ouvrage  
posthum, le  
Haye 1753,  
P. 3.

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(10) Frederic William, besides his passion for tall men, had a very great fondness for broad faces; in order, therefore, that his soldiers might appear to the utmost advantage, in those two points, and not without a view to œconomy, he caused their coats to be made so very short, that they barely reached half-way down their thighs; and so scanty in the body and sleeves, that they could scarce put them on: their breeches reached scarcely down to their knees; and their hats were so small, as hardly to cover their heads, so that they were forced to have a contrivance to pin them on, for fear of their falling off when they were exercising. Their hair was all queued back, and powdered, with only one or two small curls on each side of the face; to this was added square-toed shoes, with high heels; a long sword, with a broad blade, worn very high upon the hip; and white gaiters, which, as well as the waistcoat and breeches, (that were generally white also) were continually chalked to keep them clean; for the least speck of dirt on any of them was punished with the utmost severity. This appeared the more extraordinary, as, at that time, the prevailing fashion of dress was every-where totally different: and being added to a sort of uprightnes, and stiffness in their air and motions, that was peculiar to themselves, made them really have very much the appearance of puppets.



the hands of a little genius, becomes great and formidable, in those of a prince of sublime understanding; and superior talents. And as the author of the memoirs of the house of Brandenburg, (who is generally supposed to be the king himself) observes, that, though the eager desire of the elector Frederick the III<sup>d</sup>. for the title of king, and the extraordinary pains which he took to get it conferred upon him by the emperor, were in him only the effect of his violent fondness for state and pre-eminence; and proceeded meerly from a puerile and ridiculous vanity: yet, that the acquisition of the royalty has been, in process of time, of the greatest advantage to the house of Brandenburg, by exciting and enabling it to throw off the dependence and subjection, in which it was to the house of Austria. So we may add, that the extravagant passion of Frederick William for troops, and for all kind of military discipline and parade; and the excess he carried it to, though it deservedly exposed him to contempt and ridicule, did, in a great measure, lay the foundation for the glorious victories and immortal fame of his son. The excellency of the discipline of the Prussians cannot be better proved, than by this, that, though sometimes repulsed and defeated, they never have been routed, nor put to flight: whereas their adversaries, whenever they have lost a battle against them, have been beaten most completely, with the loss of cannon, ammunition, and baggage, numbers of prisoners taken, and all the marks of a total defeat (11).

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(11) Xenophon, in his treatise of the Lacedemonian commonwealth, (after speaking highly of their military skill and discipline) says, that what he had already mentioned, was easy to comprehend; but that how the Spartans should be able, even  
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But it is not our business here to expatiate upon the excellency and superiority of the Prussian military establishment and discipline: our intent being now to treat, chiefly, of the manual exercise; in which also Frederick William made great alterations and improvements; not only with respect to elegance, but likewise to use. In order to judge of which, it is necessary to take a view of the old manual exercise; and to recal to mind, what we have before observed, that formerly they used large and heavy muskets with matchlocks; and carried the powder in leather cases, or bandeliers, which hung by a shoulder-belt, all down the breast of the soldier; holding the match lighted at both ends, between the fingers of the left-hand. This rendered it absolutely necessary to extend the arms, and keep the piece at a distance from the body, for fear of any accidents of firing their own charges, which sometimes happened; and, as their muskets were very heavy, they were forced into violent and constrained attitudes, in order to be able to exert their strength, and perform the motions: for this reason, they could not exercise but at open order, with the interval of three feet between each soldier. But when matchlocks were laid aside, and the troops armed with firelocks, which were much lighter; these wide motions became unnecessary; and it was the more absurd to retain them, because, in action, it is necessary to be in close order; and consequently the motions which the soldier was taught to perform in the manual exercise, became impracticable, at least in

Puysegur art.  
de la guerre  
part. 1. chap.  
7. art. 2. chap.  
1.

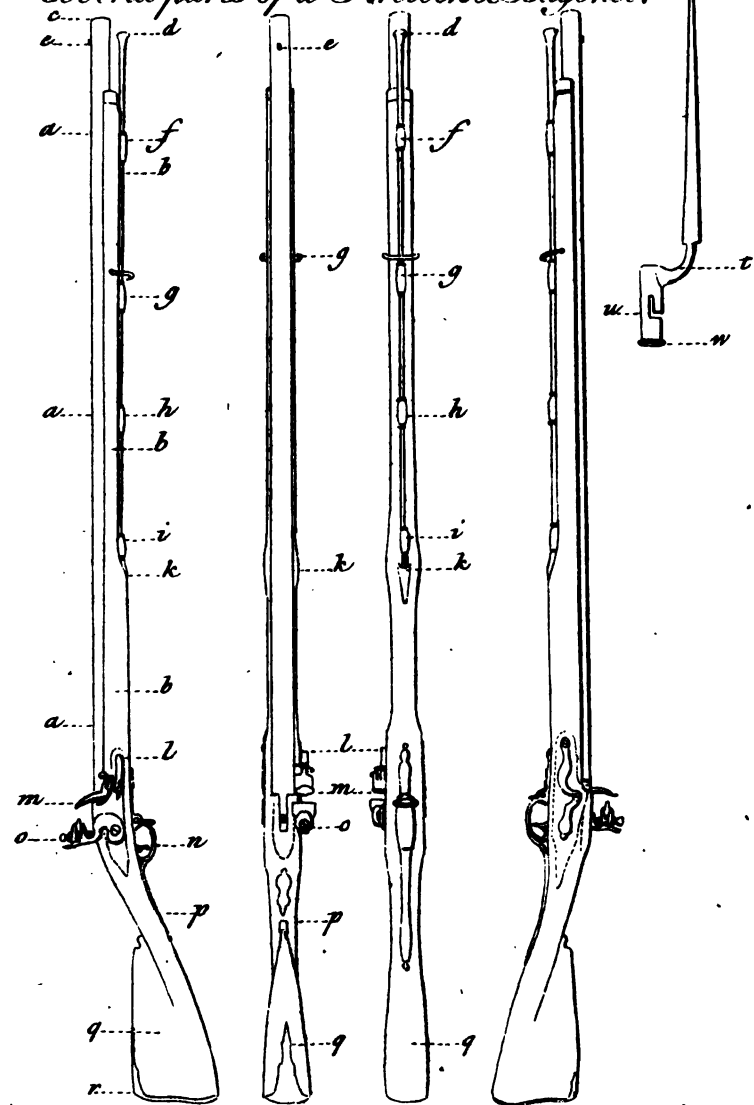
Puysegur  
ibid.

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after being put in disorder, to maintain their ground against a common enemy, was not easily to be understood, but by those who had been trained up under the laws of Lycurgus. This is so applicable to the Prussians (who may be called the Spartans of our days) that we could not forbear taking notice of it.

# Explanation of the Names of the several parts of a Firelock & Bayonet.

Pl. 1.



## References

- a a a the Barrell
- b b b the Stock
- c c c the Muscle
- d d d Butt of the Rammer
- e e e Sight
- f f f First Loop

- g g g Loop and Swivel for the Slings
- h h h Third Loop
- i i i Tail Pipe
- k k k Swell of the tail Pipe
- l l l Heather Spring
- m m m Hammer
- n n n Trigger & Guard

- o o o Cock
- p p p Small of the Stock
- q q q Butt
- r r r Swell of the Butt
- s s s Point of the Bayonet
- t t t Bend of the Shank
- u u u Socket
- w w w Notch of the Socket



in a great measure, in real service. Many likewise of the motions were quite useleſs, ſerving only for parade and ſhow; and moſt of the actions were performed in a round-about way: whereas the uſe and intent of the manual exerciſe being to teach the ſoldier, how to execute, in the beſt and moſt expeditious manner, all that is neceſſary to be done with the firelock; there cannot be too much attention given, to go the ſhorteſt way to work; and to do every action, with as few motions as poſſible; and that more particularly, in the firing and loading part; in which the old exerciſe was remarkably tedious, and full of uſeleſs motions and attitudes. However, ſuch is the attachment, which men have for old cuſtoms, and for what they have been long uſed to, although the reaſons for them ſubſiſt no longer, and they are become abſurd and ridiculous; that it is not till within a very few years, that this old exerciſe has been laid aſide in England, and other nations: and, even then, againſt the opinion of many old officers; who inſiſted upon it, that thoſe conſtrained attitudes, and forced motions, which (now that our eyes begin to be diſuſed to them) would appear groteſque and caricatures, were graceful, ſtately, and ſhewed a fine exertion of ſtrength.

Puyſegur  
prem. part.  
chap. 2. art. 4.

The late King of Pruffia, then, was the firſt who altered the motions of the manual exerciſe, cauſing them to be performed cloſe to the body: by this alteration, his troops could go through all the exerciſe, with their files in cloſe order, in the ſame manner, as in real action; and their motions being done with great quickneſs and life, allowing good time between each, and with the greateſt harmony and uniformity imaginable; a whole battalion appeared as one body, moved by a ſpring; which had a ſurprizingly fine effect. But the part of the exerciſe that he moſt

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improved,

improved, was the firing and loading; which he greatly shortened, retrenching or changing all such motions, as were not absolutely necessary, and, at the same time, the shortest and quickest possible. He also introduced the use of iron ramrods, secured from falling out, by a spring in the tail-pipe; which, being not liable to be broken, by their weight rendered the ramming down the charge much easier; and more certain. By these means, he taught his troops to fire with a quickness, that no one could have conceived possible to be attained to; not less than five or six times in a minute. He likewise improved their method of marching, bringing it, as it were, to a musical time and cadence; by which he enabled them to perform their wheelings, and evolutions, with a celerity and accuracy, that was till then unknown. In short, as his whole life was spent in this sort of study, (which was indeed the only one that he encouraged, or even countenanced;) and the thoughts and conversation of his court, and officers, turned, on nothing else; and every body who could hint at any new improvement, either for use, or elegance, was sure of making his court agreeably to the monarch; it is no wonder, that he succeeded so well; and that the Prussian exercise is so much admired, as to have been, in some measure, copied by most nations; though almost every one has added to, or altered it in some points. We must be less surprized at this, when we consider, that the first composer of it had nothing so much at heart, as to make his troops show to advantage, and make a figure on a parade; and therefore often attended more to the brilliant effect of a motion, though difficult, than to ease and shortness: and indeed there are many parts of the Prussian exercise, (such as, for instance, the planting the feet strong whenever they move

Traité des le-  
gions du M.  
de Saxe. p.91.

move them;) which, if not performed with that perfect unity, and exactness of time, that the Prussians observe, and which no other troops perhaps in the world have attained to, have a very bad effect, and are deformities, rather than beauties. For this reason, every nation has composed an exercise of its own, taken in some measure from that of the Prussians; but varied and altered, according to the different opinions and judgment of those officers, who have had the direction of it in each country. The King of France, some years ago, caused several of his principal officers to compose every one an exercise; and to teach it to a detachment of his troops, allotted to each for that purpose; and the late Marechal Saxe was commissioned to review the several detachments, and to give his opinion, which deserved the preference: he seems to have given it to that, which was most like the Prussian; but whether any one in particular was chosen, or a new one composed out of all of them, does not appear; for there are two ordinances of the King, one of 1750, the other of 1755, directing the manner of exercising, with explanations; but they are very different from one another, and neither of them much like the Prussian. We also in England, about 1757, had a new manual exercise, introduced among the troops; which is now generally followed, and called Prussian; but resembles it only, in the closeness of the motions, and in the firing and loading part being shortened, and rendered capable of being performed much quicker, than in the old exercise. We mention this, in order to observe, that since neither in the affair of exercise, no more than in most others, men will unite in opinion, and determine generally which way is the best; and our officers, as well as those of other nations, have thought fit to make alterations, and vary from the

Traité des le-  
gions du M.  
de Saxe. pag.  
89.

Espagnacessai  
sur la science  
de la guerre,  
tom. 2. p. 71.  
& tom. 4. p.  
377.

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

Prussian exercise, which, for many reasons beforementioned, one would imagine ought naturally to have been the most perfect; we also have the same right to deviate from the present exercise of our regular troops, if it shall appear (as we flatter ourselves it will do) that we have, without omitting any thing essential or useful, considerably abridged it, and rendered it easier to be learned and performed. Which, in an exercise designed for the militia, is a point of great importance; as we have it to teach men who are in general incapable of much attention, entirely unused to arms, awkward, and many of them grown stiff with age and hard labour; and but a very few days in a year allowed us for that purpose.

Botée, a French officer, who is generally esteemed a good author, has, in his *Etudes Militaires*, given some general rules with respect to the composition of an exercise; which are so very plain and rational, that we think it will not be improper to insert them here, as being the best that we have met with, and to which we have endeavoured to conform.

Rule 1st. An exercise ought to teach the soldier how to use his arms, upon all occasions whatever, with grace, quickness, and uniformity.

2d. It ought therefore to include, not only every action necessary to be performed in a day of battle, but also all such as may be useful on any other occasion or duty.

3d. All useless motions, and needless repetitions of such as are useful, ought to be retrenched, without any regard to show; as also all motions which are either tedious, or attended with inconvenience or danger in the performance.

4th.



4th. The origin of the several parts of the exercise is not to be considered, but only the being useful or not. (12)

5th. Each complete action ought to have its particular word of command.

6th. Each word of command ought to be executed in one or more motions, which should be capable of being performed in equal time, and clearly distinguished in the explanation and in the performance.

7th. When an action is too much compounded to be capable of being performed in four or five motions only, it ought to be divided into two or more words of command, not to over-burthen the memory and attention of the soldier, which generally is but very moderate. Vide the note on explanation 11. of the manual exercise.

These are the rules given by Botée; to which we shall add two or three more, which are indeed only corollaries from the preceding.

1st. To go the shortest way to work, and with the fewest motions possible, in the performance of every action.

2d. When different actions can be performed by similar motions, to make use of such as much as possible consistent with the observation of other rules, that the men may have the fewer different motions to learn, and because it adds greatly to the elegance and uniformity of the whole exercise. Vide manual exercise, expl. 9. 10. and 12. 49. and 50. and notes.

3d. As every complete action ought to have its particular word of command, so every word of command ought to imply a complete action. Vide note on the manual exercise, expl.

4th. 11.

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(12) He means here, that we are not to be guided by authority, and retain parts that are useless, only because some good officers may have approved and used them in the exercises which they have adopted.

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4th. If an action, though compounded, be so very easy as to be capable of being performed in the time of one motion; in that case, it is best to make only one of it, and not to analyse and divide it into many, which only fatigue the memory, and are apt to cause the men to perform them inaccurately, and in a slovenly manner; because they do not find any necessity or reason for making any stop, which, when the action is compounded enough to become difficult, they readily do of themselves.

The exercise of the officers is, we believe, totally new, and different from any that has been hitherto composed: as we have substituted in the manual exercise the carrying the firelock on the right arm, to the old manner of carrying it on the left arm, we have done the same with regard to the manner of the officers carrying their fusée; and we cannot help flattering ourselves, that the exercise of the officers will be found easy and graceful. The arming the officers with fusées, instead of espontons, may not perhaps be approved of by some, who with great reason think, that the esponton is an excellent arm for an officer, whose business is not to fire himself, but to attend to the keeping the men in order, to make them reserve their fire till the word of command, and to level their pieces well when they present. But, whatever force this reasoning may have, with respect to a day of battle, it must be considered, that, in all probability, if at any time the militia should be called out into actual service, the greatest part of their duty would consist in escorts, detachments, parties for discovery, or to harass the enemy, and such kind of service, which would render the fusée a weapon much more eligible for the officers than the esponton: and, perhaps, it might not be judged

Vide Puysegur art. de la guerre pr. par. cap. 11. art. 4.

judged improper to arm the serjeants with the firelock and bayonet, instead of the halberd, on such an occasion.

We do not doubt but we shall have many critics ; such of them as examine our exercise, only with a view of correcting real defects, and offering improvements, we esteem and honour, and shall be glad of being taught something better, shorter, or more elegant, than what we have been able to hit off. But we are apprehensive that there may be some who will, without examination, condemn and despise our performance, because it is not the work of some old soldier ; and look on it as a sort of sacrilegious touching the altar, for us to offer our sentiments, and propose alterations, in a matter that is not of our competency. In answer to this we can only say, that we have endeavoured, by reading the best authors, and by a careful examination of all the exercises, both ancient and modern, that we could come at, to find out and ascertain what actions were by the best judges esteemed necessary for soldiers to perform with the firelock and bayonet ; and such as have been generally adopted, and used by most nations. The settling that point may, perhaps, require some degree of military knowledge ; but yet not a greater than may be acquired by observation and study, and often seeing troops exercise. But when once it is determined what actions are to be performed, the method of doing them, in a graceful, easy, and quick manner, ceases to be a part of knowledge peculiarly military ; and any man, who has accustomed himself to use fire-arms, though only in sporting, may, by a little consideration and attention to the first principles and foundation of exercise, become capable of judging, which is the shortest and readiest manner of performing all the requisite actions. And

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if he is a master of the genteel exercises, particularly that of fencing, he will be a much better judge of the propriety of any motion or attitude (whether with regard to ease and grace, or its use in offence or defence) than the generality of the old military gentlemen; who, from being long habituated to certain motions and positions which they have for many years been taught to consider as essential parts of the exercise, cannot easily bring their eyes or minds to judge impartially when any thing new is proposed; nor can they find that facility in the practice of new motions, however simple and easy they may be, as they do in that of much more complicated ones, which long habit and practice have rendered familiar, and, as it were, natural to them. Whereas younger men, who are not attached to any one method in particular, have their eyes and minds quite unprejudiced; and, by the activity of their body, and suppleness of their joints, are capable of trying, with ease, all the various motions and attitudes that are to be met with in the different exercises, and of comparing them one with another, in order to select such as are readiest, easiest, and most graceful, for the performance of the several actions required to be done.

We have now given a sketch of the origin, successive changes, and general use of the manual exercise, and of the principles on which it is founded; and, though we have already much exceeded the usual length of a preface, we hope that our readers will excuse us; the subject being so copious, that we were much more embarrassed what to reject and omit, without being deficient in our plan, than at a loss to find more matter that would have been both curious and instructive. We were also willing to say enough to guard against an error, which some gentlemen have fallen into, who imagine, that all the military  
 I  
 exercise

exercise is a meer matter of show and parade, and of little or no use in action; while others, on the contrary, lay too much stress upon it; and even some military men are apt to think, when they have made themselves masters of the exercise, and the common detail of regimental duty, that they are become complete officers, and cease all farther study and application. But though, as Marechal Saxe *Traité des legions.* observes, the exercise of troops is a very essential point, and the perfect knowledge of it is the first foundation for making good soldiers and officers, yet we must beg leave to tell them, that they are then barely got through their grammar, and have learned only the very first rudiments of military knowledge; being but just enabled to look forward, and to attempt entering into the vast and unbounded field of military science, and the grand operations of war; in which the greatest natural genius, accompanied with the most intense application and study, will find still, to the end of his life, something yet left for him to learn and improve in: there being as wide a difference between their knowledge, and that of a Hannibal, a Scipio, a Turenne, a Marlborough, or a Frederick the II<sup>d</sup> of Prussia, as between the mathematical knowledge of a common land surveyor, and that of a Newton, a Mac Laurin, or a Stanhope.

What we have been saying of the extensiveness of military science, and the difficulty of attaining to a high degree of perfection in it, ought not, however, to discourage country gentlemen from applying themselves to the knowledge of military affairs, and serving as officers in the militia. Military science, and the military art, (13) are things very different and di-

PART I.

E

stinct

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(13) We are conscious, that, in using the words Science and Art of war, in the sense in which the French writers do Science & Metier:

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

distinct from one another. The former comprehends the great operations of war, and the business of a general, or commander in chief; in which there is infinite variety, and room for genius and invention to exert themselves. The latter consists in the knowledge of the subaltern parts; such as the exercise, the evolutions, and the general established discipline and detail of service, which admit of little variation, and are founded on certain fixed and permanent rules and principles, that are far from being difficult either to be comprehended or remembered. And we will venture to assert, that so much military knowledge, as is sufficient to enable a gentleman to go through the common course of duty, and be what is called a good battalion officer (which is all that is required of the militia officers who are never to command in chief) may be acquired by any man of a tolerable understanding, who will bestow a little pains and application upon it, in half a year, as well as in half a century, notwithstanding the great mystery some military pedants would make of it; for pedants there are of all professions; and most commonly they are such as, having very little real and solid knowledge, want to pass for persons of great ability and importance. These gentlemen affect, in a supercilious, dogmatical manner, on all occasions, to cry down and vilify the militia; representing it as an impossibility  
 ever

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*Metier de la guerre*, we lay ourselves open to criticism, as giving them a vague, and not strictly proper signification. We should not have ventured doing it, in a philosophical work, where the greatest accuracy and precision are required, both in the reasoning and in the use of terms. But in this, which is intended only as a sketch, and rather to give a few hints of what might be said upon the subject, than as a complete work, we hope that we may be indulged in it, especially as we fully explain our meaning in the subsequent lines.

ever to discipline and render it useful ; and, having themselves grovelled on for years in the routine of the service, without ever attaining to a greater degree of military knowledge than would constitute a tolerable serjeant, endeavour, by ridicule and all manner of absurd arguments, to discourage the country gentlemen from acting as militia officers, and entering upon the study of military affairs ; representing it as infinitely difficult, and persuading them, that an apprenticeship of many years in the service is absolutely necessary, to be able to make the least proficiency, or even comprehend the first rudiments of it: resembling, in that, the illiterate ignorant monks, at the time of the revival of learning in Europe, who discouraged it to the utmost of their power, and even persecuted the first restorers of true taste and polite literature ; being conscious, that, if knowledge and learning were generally diffused, their own want of it would be detected and exposed, and they should lose that authority and respect, which they had so long enjoyed in ease and plenty, accompanied with profound ignorance and dulness.

We the less scruple saying this, as we can at the same time with the greatest satisfaction acknowledge, that there are many of our military gentlemen, and some of them of high rank, who study the sublime branches of their profession with genius and application, and, by qualifying themselves for the highest commands, aim at doing their country service, and themselves honour ; who are far from being desirous of keeping military knowledge as a secret, confined to a particular body of men ; being sensible, that, the more it is diffused, the more judges there will be, capable of doing justice to their superior merit and abilities. These gentlemen we have the happiness of reckoning amongst the friends and well-wishers to a

militia; who have all along zealously promoted the establishment of it, and do not scruple publicly to declare it as their opinion, that it would be of infinite service on any emergency, if properly disciplined; and that it certainly might be so, if the gentlemen of the country would perform their parts, as officers, with alertness and diligence; for, on that, the very existence of a militia must depend.

We are sensible, that most of the readers of this book will be persons, whose pursuits and studies have led them to the attainment of a very different kind of knowledge from that which we now treat of; and that perhaps this is the only book of the sort, into which they have ever looked. It is indeed for such that we particularly write: the intent of this work being to facilitate to the country gentlemen, as much as we possibly can, the performance of their duty, as officers of the militia. Our case therefore is vastly different from what it would be, if we were writing for those who, having been in some degree conversant with military affairs, have already got a general notion of the exercise and evolutions; with such, a very few words would be fully sufficient, to recall to their minds what they have once seen practised, to make them comprehend the manner of executing it, and understand any variations that are proposed to be made in the performance. But in gentlemen who have never considered these affairs, nor looked at troops or their manœuvres, with any degree of observation or attention, we must excite ideas entirely new, and, being obliged to make use of a language and terms to which they have not been accustomed, must explain the easiest and most trifling parts and circumstances, with as much care and accuracy, as those of the greatest difficulty and importance; the more so, as we have to instruct them,



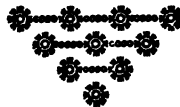
them, not only in the several parts of the exercise, so as to be able to perform them themselves; but likewise in the methods of communicating that knowledge, when they have attained it, to others who are quite raw and ignorant, in those matters.

For this reason, in the following pages, we shall do our utmost endeavours to be as clear and explicit, as possible, in all our directions and explanations; sacrificing elegance of expression to plainness and perspicuity; and we had rather be censured for being diffuse, and full of repetitions and tautology; than omit the least circumstance, that may be necessary or useful to be known and explained. In order to render that part of our work still more intelligible, we have added prints (engraved after drawings taken from the life, with the greatest accuracy) of all the principal motions of the manual exercise; and also plans of the various methods of wheeling, marching, and forming, either separate companies, or the whole battalion: and though perhaps those who have already some skill in military matters, may laugh at us for this, and think, that we descend into details too trifling and minute, explaining things which every one must be supposed to know; our unlearned readers will we believe thank us for it: for we cannot help being of opinion, that it would be much for the benefit of all scholars, if masters would recall to mind (as we have endeavoured to do) the time of their own ignorance, and their first beginning to learn the rudiments of whatever art, or science, they profess teaching; and recollect, what were the difficulties, which they had to encounter, and what most stopped them in their progress. They would then perceive, much more clearly and distinctly, in what manner to assist their scholars, and how to remove and explain whatever is most likely to puzzle and perplex them.

We

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

We cannot deny ourselves here the pleasure of doing justice to the corps of militia officers of this county, to which we have the honour to belong ; and declaring, that the spirit and zeal which they shew, and the pains that they take, to learn the exercise, and other parts of their duty, are very extraordinary, and do them great honour ; causing us to entertain the most sanguine hopes, that we shall be inferior, in order and discipline, to no other county in the kingdom ; though we sincerely wish, that we may have many rivals ; and that we may both feel in ourselves, and excite in others, that noble spirit of emulation, which is productive of the greatest effects. This we can assure the country gentlemen, that much less time and application, than many of them bestow upon their sports and trifling amusements, will, if applied to military affairs, enable them to become excellent militia officers ; sufficiently qualified to do good service, in the defence of their laws, liberties, and country, if ever they should be attacked or invaded.



T H E

# PART I.



CONTAINING

THE

Manual Exercise, with Explanations.

THE

Officers Exercise, and Manner of Saluting.

AND THE

Halbert Exercise.

# Words of Command for the MANUAL EXERCISE.

No.	Take Care.	Motions.	No.	Motions.
1	Reft	— — —	27	Present. — — —
2	Order	— — —	28	Fire. — — —
3	Ground	— — —	29	Shoulder. — — —
4	Take up	— — —	30	As Center rank, make
5	Reft	} your Firelocks.		ready. — — —
6	Shoulder		31	Present. — — —
7	<del>Club</del>	— — —	32	Fire. — — —
8	Shoulder	— — —	33	Shoulder. — — —
9	Secure	— — —	34	As Rear Rank, make ready.
10	Shoulder	— — —	35	Present. — — —
11	Fix your Bayonets.	— — —	36	Fire. — — —
12	Shoulder.	— — —	37	Shoulder. — — —
13	Carry your Firelocks on your right Arms.	— — —	38	Rear Ranks, close to the Front, March.
14	Shoulder.	— — —	39	Make ready. — — —
15	Present your Arms.	— — —	40	Present. — — —
16	Face to the Right.	— — —	41	Fire. — — —
17	To the Right.	— — —	42	Charge your Bayonets.
18	To the Right about.	— — —	43	Recover your Arms.
19	Face to the Left.	— — —	44	Rear Ranks, take your former Distance.
20	To the Left.	— — —	45	March. — — —
21	To the Left about.	— — —	46	Halt, Front. — — —
22	Charge your Bayonets.	— — —	47	Shut your Pans. — — —
23	Recover your Arms.	— — —	48	Shoulder. — — —
24	Prime and Load.	— — —	49	Return your Bayonets.
25	Shoulder.	— — —	50	Shoulder. — — —
26	As Front Rank, make ready.	— — —		

Words  
of  
Comd.

Take  
Care to  
perform  
the Manu-  
al Exer-  
cise!

No. of Motions.

I.

T H E  
M A N U A L E X E R C I S E .

Plate 2.

**E**VERY soldier must give the greatest attention to the words of command, remaining perfectly silent and steady, not making the least motion with head, body, feet, or hands, but such as shall be ordered. The heels at this time are to be in a line, not more than 4 inches asunder, the toes moderately turned out, shoulders square to the front, and kept back; the body upright, the breast pressed forwards, the belly drawn in, but without bending; the right hand hanging down on the right side, the back of the hand to the front; the firelock carried on the left shoulder, the barrel outwards, the butt in the left hand, two fingers being under it, the middle finger just upon the turn or swell of the butt, and the fore finger and thumb above it; the piece almost upright, the butt flat against the outside of the hip-bone, the lock a little turned up, the guard being just below the left breast, and the piece pressed to the body; the head held up and turned a little to the right, except the right-hand man, who looks full to the major or exercising officer. Great care must be taken not to begin a motion, till the word of command or signal on the drum be ended; and then to perform it as quick, and with as much life as possible; and to be very exact in counting a second of time, or one, two, slowly, between each motion; and the major or exercising officer is to take the

PART I. F space

# The M A N U A L

Words  
of  
Comd.

I.  
Rest your  
Firelock!  
2 Motions

No. of M.

space of two seconds, between the end of each motion and his giving the word of command or signal for another; and this the men are likewise to observe, when they exercise by one word of command only (1).

- |   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Join your right hand, by seizing the fire-<br>lock just below the lock, at the same time<br>turning it with your left hand, so that the<br>lock may be outwards or towards the front;<br>the piece being almost right up and down,<br>not stirring it from your shoulder, only<br>throwing out the left elbow a little.   | Plate 3.    |
| 2 | Bring the firelock over-against your right<br>breast, turning the barrel inwards; the cock<br>about a hand's-breadth above the waist-<br>belt; the butt opposite to the right thigh,<br>your left hand just above the feather-spring,<br>the right hand below the lock, holding the<br>piece slightly, the fingers outwards behind<br>the guard, the thumb inwards; the fire-<br>lock close to the body, and nearly upright;<br>the right elbow thrown a little out, the<br>knees | Pl. 4. & 5. |

(1) Standing shouldered, is the first position of a soldier under arms; it being the most graceful and easy manner of carrying a firelock, either standing or marching; and that from which all the other actions are to be performed; with the greatest facility and grace. According to the old exercises, in this position the left hand was placed upon the butt, instead of under it, which is the Prussian manner of carrying arms, and is now generally adopted; the reason for it was, that formerly the pikes only were formed in close order to charge, the musketeers being in open order; and, as the muskets were very heavy, they carried them almost horizontally upon the shoulder, keeping the butt down with the left hand, which was a very easy and convenient manner of doing it; but when bayonets were substituted to pikes, and the whole was obliged to be in close order for action; it was necessary that the arms should be carried very up-

Words  
of  
II.  
Order  
your  
Firelock!  
= Motions

No. M.

knees straight, and body presented well to the front. (2)

1 Incline the muzzle of your firelock a Plate 6. little to the right, sinking it with your left hand as low as you can without constraint, and seize it at the same time with your right hand, close to the muzzle, keeping the right thumb up.

2 Drop the butt of the firelock on the Plate 7. ground, just on the outside of your right

F 2 toe,

upright, to prevent clashing and interfering one with another; and then the left hand upon the butt was found not only an uneasy position, but the men scarce ever carried their arms upright and even; which they do with great ease in this new manner.

(2) The rest, is the position of a soldier prepared for immediate action; there being only the motion of cocking to be done, in order to make ready. In the old musket exercise, the musket was then placed on the rest, ready to present and fire from thence; and the same word of command is still continued, *Rest your firelock!* though rests are no longer used. This position has by universal agreement been always esteemed an attitude of military compliment; arising perhaps from the old custom of the soldiers receiving persons of distinction, to whom they would do honour, with irregular salvo's of their muskets, like a Feu-de joye, or running fire; which they also practised at reviews and on all occasions of parade.\*

We must observe here, that the army performs this action, in three motions; we have reduced it to two, as we could see no reason why any distinction should be made between a rest and a recover; nor any use or grace in the turning on the heels a half face to the right at the third motion: and to those who defend any additional useless motions, by saying that they serve to set off and show the men more to advantage, we shall answer, that there are certain parts of the exercise, which are most essential, and of the greatest importance in real service, such as the marching, wheeling, and the firings, that cannot be too much practised; nor too much assiduity used, to bring the men to perform them with the greatest quickness and accuracy imaginable; to do which to perfection will afford full employment for both officers and soldiers, even of the regulars, let them be ever so dili-

# The M A N U A L

4  
 Words  
 of  
 Comd.  
  
 III.  
 Ground  
 your  
 Firelock!  
 2 Motions

No. of Motions

toe, the barrel behind, and the lock to the right; holding it as before by the muzzle with the right hand, and quitting the left hand; the right arm hanging from the hand to the elbow close by the side of the firelock, the left hand hanging by the left side, both shoulders square to the front. (3)

I Turn the firelock on the butt, so that the lock may be behind, and the barrel towards you, and step immediately with the left foot directly forward a moderate pace, slipping your right hand down almost to the swell at the tail-pipe, and bending your right knee even with the lock; lay the piece down on the ground Pl. 8 & 9.

diligent, or take ever so much pains; and therefore every thing that renders the less important parts of the exercise more complicated, and difficult to be performed, must be wrong; as it takes up so much more of the soldiers time and attention, which may be employed to greater advantage. The army also perform most of their words of command from the position of the rest; which we think in many instances is going round about; as for example, in order to club from being shouldered, they must first rest, which is three motions; and then club, which is three more: in the same manner, to shoulder again, they first come to a rest, in three motions, and then shoulder in two; besides, in their way of coming to a rest, the men must be halted; whereas there is not one of our words of command, except the 2d, 3d, and 4th, but may be performed marching as well as standing.

*\* Brantome vies des mest. de Camp. catbol. disc. 89. Art. 3 & 11. edit. de la Haye 1740. vol. 10. Pag. 71 & 157.*

(3) The ordering, is an easy and graceful attitude for a soldier to repose himself, leaning on his piece; which he is then ready (if commanded) to ground.

We have retrenched the resting on their arms, as have likewise the Prussians and French; since the ordering answers the purpose full as well, and is a more graceful attitude; the soldier presenting his whole body better, and standing more upright; his shoulders being necessarily drawn back, by the position he stands in.



Words of Comd.	No. M.	
	2	ground in a straight line to the front, the lock upwards, your left hand upon your knee, and looking up.
		Raise up your body, quitting the firelock, and bring back your left foot to the former position, letting your hands hang by your sides.
IV. Take up your Firelock! 2 Motions	1	Step forward, bending the knee, and seizing the firelock above the swell, in the position of the first motion of the former explanation. <span style="float: right;">Pl. 8 &amp; 9.</span>
	2	Raise up yourself and firelock, slipping your right hand up to the muzzle, and turning the barrel behind; you will then be in the position of ordering, as in explanation the 2d. (4) <span style="float: right;">Plate 7.</span>
V. Rest your Firelock! 2 Motions	1	Raise the firelock with your right hand, bringing it up as high as your eyes, and seize it with the left just above the feather-spring. You will then be in the position of explanation 2d, motion the 1st. <span style="float: right;">Plate 6.</span>
	2	Come to a rest, as in explanation 1st, motion 2d. <span style="float: right;">Plate 4.</span>
VI. Shoulder your Firelock! 2 Motions	1	Quit your left hand, and with your right hand bring the firelock directly opposite to your left shoulder, turning the barrel outwards, and meet it with your left hand under the butt, placing the two last fingers under it, the middle finger just upon the swell <span style="float: right;">Plate 10.</span>

(4) The grounding and taking up the firelock, are actions the use of which is evident. We have reduced each to two motions, the 1st and 4th, in the exercise of the army, being merely for show, and of no use.

Words  
of  
Comd.

No. of M.

(swell of the butt, and the thumb and fore-finger above it, holding it upright at about a hand's-breadth from the shoulder, your right thumb up, the left hand at about two inches from your hip-bone.

2 Give the firelock a throw against your left shoulder with your left hand, bringing the hand against the hip briskly, and throw your right hand down by your right side, turning the back of it to the front. (5) Plate 2.

1 Seize the piece with your right hand on the inside, at the height of your chin, turning the thumb downwards, and the back of the hand towards you, raising it perpendicular from your shoulder. Plate 11.

2 Turn the piece briskly with your right hand, bringing the butt uppermost, and the lock outwards to the front, keeping your right hand at the same height of your chin, and seize it with your left hand about an inch from the end of the stock, holding it perpendicular, over-against your left shoulder, and about six inches from it. Plate 12.

3 With your left hand bring the piece briskly against your shoulder, and throw your right hand down by your right side, turning the back of it to the front. (6) Plate 13.

Seize

VII.  
Club your  
Firelock!  
3 Motions

(5) Rest your firelock ! and shoulder ! Both these might be done by one word of command, in 4 motions ; but, as they are distinct actions, we have made two of them. We always begin every action from the shoulder, and return to that again, it being the primary position.

(6) As the position of being shouldered, though easy and graceful, becomes tiresome if long continued ; when the men are to march

# E X E R C I S E.

**VIII.**  
Shoulder !  
3 Motions

1 Seize the piece at the swell of the tail-pipe with your right hand, the thumb turned downwards as in the 1st motion of explanation 7th, bringing it off from your shoulder perpendicular. Plate 14.

2 Turn the muzzle upwards, and place your left hand under the butt, as in explanation the 6th, motion 1st, taking care to bring the barrel outwards towards the front, and holding it perpendicular over-against your shoulder, and about six inches from it. Plate 15.

3 Bring it on your shoulder as in explanation the 6th, motion 2d. Plate 2.

**IX.**  
Secure  
your  
Firelock !  
3 Motions

1 Seize your firelock with your right hand below the lock, raising it about a hand's-breadth from the shoulder, not turning it, but keeping the barrel outwards. Plate 16.

2 Throw up your left hand, and seize the firelock at the swell below the tail-pipe, keeping your left thumb up, and your arm close along the outside of the firelock. Plate 17.

3 Throw down your left hand briskly along with the firelock, bringing the lock under your left arm, the barrel downwards, your left wrist at the height of your waist-belt, the muzzle in a straight line to the front within a foot of the ground, and throw your right hand Plate 18.

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March to a considerable distance, or are dismissed, they are ordered to club: they then are supposed free from constraint, and may carry their arms in the manner they find most convenient; carrying a piece clubbed being one of the easiest manners of doing it. We think that the ease and shortness of our method of clubbing, from the shoulder, which may be done marching, must strike every body with the difference between it, and the manner in which the regular troops perform it.

# The M A N U A L

Words of Comd.  
 X.  
 Shoulder!  
 3 Motions

No. M.

hand down by your side, turning the back of it to the front. (7)

1     } Raise your firelock with your left hand, Plate 17. feizing it with your right hand behind the lock, as in the second motion of the former explanation.

2     } Quit the firelock with your left hand, Plate 10. bringing it under the butt, as in the 1st motion of explanation 6th.

3     } As in the 2d motion of explanation 6th.     Plate 2.

1     } As in the 1st and 2d motions of expla- Pl. 16 &  
 2     } nation 9th.     17.

3     } Sink the piece in your left hand on the left side, with the butt behind, and feizing the bayonet with your right hand, with the thumb over the bend of the shank, draw it, and, bringing the notch over the sight on the muzzle, turn it from you and fix it. (8)     Pl. 19 & 20.

XI.  
 Fix your  
 Bayonet!  
 3 Motions

Bring

(7) The securing, is to keep the lock from wet, in rainy weather. Our manner of doing it from the shoulder, we think, must be allowed to be as short and easy as possible.

(8) Fix your bayonets! We have reduced this to three motions; the 3d motion may perhaps be objected to as too much compounded, and that it had better be divided into more; but, though this motion be compounded, yet it is easily performed in the time of one, when men are a little practised in it; and if it takes up a little more time, than one motion should do, it is not perceived, as there is a pause between that and the other word of command to shoulder. We must make this observation upon the present military exercise, that no less than four words of command, and ten motions, are used for the performance of one single action, *viz.* fixing the bayonet: and, to shoulder again, there are two words of command, and five motions used. To return the bayonet, four words of command, and ten motions: and, to shoulder, two words of command, and five motions.

XII.  
Shoulder!  
3 Motions

- 1 Bring up the piece again with your left hand, and seize it with your right, so as to be in the position of explanation 10th, motion 1st, Plate 17.
- 2 As in explanation 10th, motion 2d. Plate 10.
- 3 As in explanation 10th, motion 3d. Plate 2.

XIII.  
Carry yr.  
Firelock  
on your  
right Arm!  
3 Motions

- 1 } Bring your firelock to a rest, as in ex- Pl. 3. & 4.  
2 } planation 1st.
- 3 Turn your right hand, so that the palm may be towards the front, the fingers behind and thumb before, and grasp the small of the stock below the guard in that manner; at the same time drop your right arm down by your right side, and throw the left hand down by the left side; the piece will then be carried upright, the barrel against the hollow of your right shoulder, the right arm a little bent, supporting the firelock. (9) Plate 21.

XIV.  
Shoulder!  
3 Motions

- 1 Shift your right hand, bringing the back of the hand outwards and, seizing it above
- PART I. G the

(9) The firelock on the right arm is a Prussian attitude, substituted instead of carrying the firelock on the left arm; which is a manner of carrying the arms, used in trooping the colours, guarding prisoners, and on some other occasions; and is indeed one of the easiest and genteel ways of carrying a piece in sporting, or when one is at liberty to let it rest upon the bend of the left arm: but in close order, as the arms should be carried very upright, to avoid hitting and clashing, the firelock must be kept up to the hollow of the left shoulder, and the piece pressed to the body; so that the butt hits against the knees, and is troublesome in marching: and one scarce ever sees the men carry them so gracefully and uniformly, as they ought to do: whereas the firelock on the right arm causes a man to present himself well, and keep back his shoulders; and the piece is carried perfectly upright.

## The M A N U A L

XV.  
Presenty.  
Arms!  
2 Motions

- the feather-spring with your left hand, come to a rest.  
2 } As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and P. 10 & 2.  
3 } 2d. (10)

XVI.  
Face to  
the Right!  
2 Motions

- 1 } As in explanation 1st. Pl. 3 & 4.  
2 }  
1 Bring your right heel about four inches Plate 22.  
behind your left heel, making a square  
with your two feet.  
2 Turn on your heels a quarter of a turn  
to the right, without stirring your heels  
from their places.

XVII.  
To the  
Right!  
2 Motions

The same as in explanation 16th.

XVIII.  
To the  
Right  
about!  
3 Motions

- 1 The same as in explanation 16th, mo-  
tion 1st.  
2 Turn at once on your heels to the right  
quite about without stirring your heels from  
their places; so that you will then face di-  
rectly opposite to where you did, and your  
right foot will be foremost.  
3 Bring your right foot back even with your  
left, setting it down firm.

XIX.  
Face to  
the Left!  
2 Motions

- 1 Bring your right heel close up to the ball Plate 23.  
of your left foot, setting it square.

Turn

(10) Presenting the arms, being the same position with that of the rest, needs no farther explanation; it is so termed when used as a compliment.

# E X E R C I S E .

Words  
of  
Comd.

XX.  
To the  
Left!  
2 Motions

XXI.  
To the  
Left  
about!  
3 Motions

XXII.  
Charge  
your Bay-  
onet!  
1 Motion.

2 Turn on your heels a quarter of a turn to the left, without stirring your heels from their places.

The same as in explanation 19th.

1 The same as in explanation 19th, motion 1st.

2 Turn at once on your heels to the left quite about, without stirring your heels from their places; so that you will then face directly opposite to where you did, and your left foot will be foremost.

3 Bring your right foot up even with the left, setting it down firm.

1 Step backwards a moderate pace with your right foot, bending your knee a little, and keeping the right knee straight, and bring down your firelock to your right side above the waist-belt, grasping strongly with your right hand the small of the stock behind the lock, and pressing the piece against the top of your hip; the bayonet being presented to the front in a slope upwards, the point as high as your breast, and supported firmly with the left hand between the feather-spring and the tail-pipe, the hand underneath, and the thumb on the inside along the stock, the left arm and elbow pressed to the body. (11)

Plate 24.

G 2

Bring

(11) The attitude of charging the bayonet as directed in the military exercise, though it has an appearance of strength and firmness,

XXIII.  
Recover  
yr. Arms!  
1 Motion.

1 Bring up the right foot and come to a Plate 4-  
rest, as in explanation 1st.

XXIV.  
Prime and  
Load!  
9 Motions

1 Step back with your right foot a mode- Plate 25-  
rate pace, placing it square behind the left  
heel, facing full to the right, and bring  
the piece down under the right breast; rais-  
ing the muzzle as high as the man's head  
in the rank before you, the left hand half-  
way between the swell and the feather-spring,  
and pressing your left arm against your body  
to support the firelock in that position; plac-  
ing at the same time the ball of your right  
thumb against the hammer.

2 Open the pan, throwing back the ham- Plate 25-  
mer with your thumb, the right elbow  
down.

### Handle

firmness, is a very weak position, from whence no other motion can well be made; being in itself as much contrary to all the rules of defence, or fencing, as for any one, after making a thrust, to remain upon the longe: the least effort made sideways on the firelock, or the body, throws the man down, or disarms him; nor can he advance, or make a push from it. By our method of charging the bayonet, a man is firm against any shock, and in guard; having the command of his body, feet, and firelock, to use as he shall see occasion, or opportunity, to defend himself, or annoy his enemy, or to advance upon him, if he should give way. Our manner of charging the bayonet seems to be the same with that which the Prussians use in action: so far as we can judge, from the obscure and almost unintelligible description, given of it in the regulations for the Prussian infantry, printed at London in quarto 1757: pag. 35. We have given no word of command for pushing the bayonet, the motion being so natural, that one in action can scarce avoid doing it properly; besides no particular direction can be given about it, as every man must watch his time, and the opening which his enemy gives him; to make his push.



Words  
of  
Comd.

- 3 Handle your cartridge, bringing down your right hand briskly to your pouch, and, taking out a cartridge with your two fore-fingers and thumb, bring it up to your mouth, the elbow a little turned up, and open it, by biting off the top of the paper so as to feel the powder in your mouth; then, placing your thumb upon the top of the cartridge, bring it down close to and even with the pan, the thumb uppermost, and, turning up your hand, prime by shaking some of the powder into the pan, place your thumb again upon the cartridge, and bring your two last fingers behind the hammer.
- 4 Shut the pan with a short and quick motion, drawing down your elbow.
- 5 Cast back the muzzle of your firelock, pushing down the butt, and sinking it with your left hand as low as you can without constraint; catch the muzzle on the hollow of your right hand, keeping the firelock close to your body, and pressing the left hand against the waist-band; the butt opposite to and over your left toe, the left knee a little bent, supporting the firelock; the cartridge covered with the thumb held up close to the muzzle in a line with the barrel, the right elbow down.
- 6 Load, putting the cartridge into the barrel, the open end downwards, and push it down into the barrel with your fore finger, and place your fore finger and thumb on the thick end of the rammer. Plate 26.
- 7 Draw your rammer as far as you can, Plate 27. catching it instantly with your right hand, the thumb turned downwards, and back of the  
the

the hand towards you; clear it of the pipes, and turn it immediately, bringing the butt of the rammer against your waist-belt; shorten it, by slipping your hand down to about three inches from the end, and bring the butt of the rammer into the muzzle upon the cartridge.

8

Slip up your hand to the middle of the rammer, and drive it down with a good force, catch it at the muzzle, and draw it out as quick and as far you can; seize it again with your thumb downwards and back of the hand towards you, and clearing it of the barrel turn your hand, and, bringing the small end against your waist-belt, shorten it, slipping your hand down within 12 inches of the end, the fore finger up along the rammer, and enter the small end of the rammer into the pipes, conducting it with your fore finger and thumb through the second pipe. Plate 28.

9

Bring your fingers quick on the butt of the rammer, pushing it quite down; and immediately raise the firelock in your left hand, and bring your right hand under the lock, your right hand a little below your waist-belt, slipping your left hand down to the feather-spring, the piece right up and down, and the lock outwards, your thumb on the inside turned upwards, keeping faced to the right. (12) Plate 29.

As

---

(12) The firing and loading motions, are very little different from those used by the regular troops; only we have made fewer of them, there being, as we have already observed, an excess in dividing the motions too much, as well as in leaving them too much

XXV.  
Shoulder !  
2 Motions  
XXVI.  
As Front  
Rk. make  
Ready!  
3 Motions

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | } | As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and P.10&2.                          |
| 2 | } | 2d.  |
|   |   |  |
| 1 | } | Join your right hand, and come to Pl.3.&4.                             |
| 2 | } | a rest, as in explanation 1st, placing your right thumb upon the cock. |

Step

much compounded. As these motions in the time of action, and in the performance of the platoon firings, are to be performed as quick as possible, without any interval of time between them; we have endeavoured to mark, by the stops directed in this explanation, the most essential motions, which ought on no account to be neglected or omitted, that the men, by being accustomed to make pauses there, may the better remember them when they do them quick.

We must own here, that, if there is any part of our exercise with which we ourselves are not thoroughly satisfied, it is the 5th motion of this explanation, though we have in it copied the exercise of the army; but we must think, that the Prussian manner of coming up to their proper front, advancing the right foot before the left, and bringing the firelock to the left side, has something in it much more graceful and soldier-like; as the men by this means keep fronting the enemy, and take their motions from the right, which is a more regular and proper manner: whereas this way of casting back the firelock to the rear, making a face to the right, gives the men an appearance of turning away from the enemy, and they then must take their motions from the rear; the manner likewise of the Prussians shouldering, from the position of loading, is very graceful and military. Had this exercise been designed for regular troops, we most certainly should have adopted the Prussian method; but ease and facility was so much to be considered, in an exercise composed for the militia, that we were determined by that consideration; the casting back the firelock, and afterwards the bringing the right hand under the lock and shouldering from thence, being motions which are certainly easier to be learned and performed, than the others, which require more practice to do them well.

*N. B.* Whenever we mention the exercise of the army, we mean that which was set forth by authority, signed by the adjutant-general, June 25th, 1757; it being the established rule that the army is supposed to go by; though there are few regiments but what have introduced some variations, and particularities of their own.

## The M A N U A L

- 3 Step back with your right foot, three feet Plate 30.  
to the rear, in a direct line, and kneel  
upon the right knee, the toe turned inwards,  
and heel upright; the perpendicular line  
of the body falling about 12 inches behind  
the left heel, the body upright, the butt of  
the firelock placed at the same time upon the  
ground, in a line with the left heel; upon  
coming down to the kneel you cock the  
firelock.
- 1 Bring down the muzzle of your piece Plate 31.  
with both hands, slipping your left hand  
forward, as far as the swell of the stock by  
the tail pipe, and place the butt-end in the  
hollow betwixt your right breast and shoul-  
der, pressing it close to you; at the same  
time take your right thumb from the cock,  
placing your fore finger on the trigger,  
both arms close to your body, taking good  
aim by leaning the head to the right, and  
looking along the barrel.
- 1 Draw your trigger strongly, and at once Plate 25.  
with the fore finger; and, immediately upon  
having fired, rise from the kneel, bringing  
the right foot behind the left heel, as in the  
1st motion of the 24th explanation; and the  
right thumb upon the cock.
- 2 Half cock your firelock, straining the  
tumbler to the half-bent with your right  
thumb, bringing down your right elbow at  
the same time to add force to it.

XXVII.  
Present!  
1 Motion.

XXVIII.  
Fire!  
9 Motions

Handle

Words of Comd.		
	3	Handle your cartridge.
	4	Shut your pans.
	5	Cast back.
	6	Load.
	7	Draw your rammer.
	8	Ram down your charge.
	9	Return your rammer.
		As in explanation 24th, motions 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th.
XXIX. Shoulder!	1	} As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and P. 10 & 2.
2 Motions	2	
XXX. As Center Rank! make ready!	3	As in explanation 26th, only this rank, instead of stepping back three feet and kneeling, steps back with the right foot 18 inches in a direct line to the rear, by that means bringing their feet just behind the right feet of the front rank; cocking the firelock, and keeping it upright at a recover. <span style="float: right;">Pl. 3. &amp; 4. &amp; Pl. 32.</span>
3 Motions		
XXXI. Present!	1	As in explanation 27th, keeping the firelock a little to the right of the front rank. <span style="float: right;">Plate 33.</span>
1 Motion.		
XXXII. Fire!	9	As in explanation 28th.
9 Motions		
XXXIII. Shoulder!	1	} As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and P. 10 & 2.
2 Motions	2	
XXXIV. As Rear Rank! make ready!	3	As in explanation 30th, only this rank, instead of falling back, steps to the right with their right feet, till their toes touch the hinder part of the left heels of the right-hand men; at the same time bending their right knees a little, so that their bodies may be opposite to the intervals <span style="float: right;">Plate 34.</span>
3 Motions		

Words  
of  
Comd.

XXXV.  
Present!  
1 Motion.

1 As in explanation 27th.

XXXVI.  
Fire!  
9 Motions

9 As in explanation 28th.

Pl. 10 & 2.

XXXVII.  
Shoulder!  
2 Motions

1 } As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and  
2 } 2d.

XXXVIII.  
Rear rks.  
close to  
the front!  
March!  
10 Mns.

10 The centre and rear ranks step off together with the left feet, the centre rank makes five paces, and bring up their right feet, the rear rank makes ten paces, and bring up their left feet; the ranks are then at one pace or two feet asunder.

XXXIX.  
Make  
ready!  
3 Motions

3 The three ranks make ready together, the front rank as in explanation 26th, the centre rank as in explanation 30th, the rear rank as in explanation 34th.

XL.  
Present!  
1 Motion.

1 As in explanation 27th.

XLI.  
Fire!  
1 Motion.

1 Having fired, the front rank rises up, all three coming to a recover, as in explanation 23d. Pl. 4.

XLII.  
Charge  
your  
bayonets!  
1 Motion.

1 As in explanation 22d. Pl. 24.  
N. B. *The front rank only charges, the rear ranks remain recovered. The officers who are in*

Words  
of  
Comd.

*in the front rank charge their bayonets, and the serjeants their halberts.*

XLIII.  
Recover  
yr. Arms!  
1 Motion.

1 Bring your feet square, and come to a Pl. 4.  
recover, as in explanation 23d.

XLIV.  
Rear-rks!  
take your  
former  
distance!  
3 Motions

3 The centre and rear ranks go to the  
right about, as in explanation 18th. (13)

XLV.  
March!  
10 Mns.

10 The centre and rear ranks step off to-  
gether, beginning with their left feet; the  
centre rank counts five paces and halts, the  
H 2 rear

(13) Rear ranks take your former distance! March! In the military way of performing this, there is more difficulty, and more attention required in the men, than in ours: in the former, the men must observe to step off with their right or left foot, according to the rank they are in; and the centre rank is to attend to, and count the steps of the rear rank, in order to begin when that makes the 6th pace, and then count five steps more of its own; whereas, in our manner of doing it, both ranks step off together with their left feet, and the men in each rank have only to count their own paces, and halt when they have made their number, bringing their feet square. In the military exercise, the halting upon the left feet occasions both ranks to stand in a very ungraceful, awkward position, till the next word of command Halt is given. The going to the left about is likewise altered; for, as, in going either to the right or left about, the soldier is to turn upon his left heel, not stirring it from its place, it is exactly the same thing as to his position in the rank and file, whether he goes to the right or to the left; therefore we go to the right about only, on all occasions; so that the men are not so liable to mistake, and cause a confusion, by some of them going about one way when they should do it the other, as they would be, if accustomed to both.

XLVI.  
Halt!  
Front!  
3 Motions

rear rank counts ten paces and halts, bringing their feet square.

3 The centre and rear ranks come to the right about, as in explanation 18th.

XLVII.  
Shut your  
pans!  
4 Motions

1 Come to your priming position, as in Pl. 25. explanation 28th, motion the 1st, with your right thumb upon the cock.

2 Half-cock, as in explanation 28th, motion 2d, and bring your fingers behind the hammer.

3 Shut your pans, as in explanation 28th, motion 6th.

4 Come to a recover, as in explanation 23d. Pl. 4.

XLVIII.  
Shoulder!  
2 Motions

1 } As in explanation the 6th, motion 1st Pl. 10 &  
2 } and 2d. 2.

XLIX.  
Return yr.  
bayonet!  
3 Motions

1 } As in explanation 11th. Pl. 16. &  
2 } 17.

3 Sink the piece in your left hand on the left side, with the butt behind, at the same time catching the muzzle in the hollow of your right hand; let the bend of the shank come between your thumb and fingers, and strike it up strongly; turn it to you, unfix and return it into the scabbard, bringing up your right hand immediately to the muzzle. Pl. 19.

L.  
Shoulder!  
3 Motions

1 } As in explanation 12th. { Pl. 17,  
2 } { Pl. 10.  
3 } { Pl. 2.

*If the men have stood long shoulder'd, and the commanding officer is willing to ease them, he will give the word of command:*

Join



# E X E R C I S E.

Support  
your  
arms!  
2 Motions

- 1 Join your right hand, seizing the firelock just below the lock, not turning it, nor stirring it from your shoulder.
- 2 Quit the butt with the left hand, and bring it over your right arm across your breast, resting your left hand at the bend of the right elbow, and let the cock of your firelock rest upon your left arm.

*To make them shoulder again, he will give the word of command :*

Carry yr.  
arms!  
2 Motions

- 1 Place your left hand under the butt, as before explained.
- 2 Throw your right hand down by your side, as in explanation the 6th, motion the 2d.

*If the firings have been performed with powder, so that it be necessary to wipe the pans and bayonets, (instead of the 47th) he will give the word of command :*

Wipe yr.  
arms!  
6 Motions

- 1 Come to your priming position, as in Pl. 25. explanation 28th, motion 1st, with your thumb upon the cock.
- 2 Half-cock, as in explanation 28th, motion 2d.
- 3 Bring your hands to your pouch, and take out your wiping rag, wipe your pan, and bring your fingers behind the hammer.
- 4 Shut your pans, as in explanation 28th, motion 6th.
- 5 Cast back, as in explanation 24th, motion 5th.

Wipe

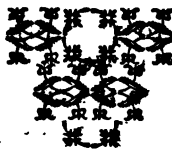
Words  
of  
Comd.

6 | Wipe your bayonet, and, immediately re-  
turning the rag into your pouch, bring your  
right hand under the lock, as in explana-  
tion 24th, motion 9th.

Shoulder!  
2 Motions

1 | } As in explanation 6th, motion 1st and  
2 | } 2d.

*N. B. It will be necessary, on some occasions,  
to fix and return the bayonets from the position  
of a rest; this is to be done in one motion, bring-  
ing the piece at once from the right side, into  
the position of explanation 11, motion 3d, or  
of explanation 49, motion 3d; when the bayonet  
is fixed, or returned, you come back to your rest  
in one motion likewise.*



H. E X.

**EXERCISE**  
OF THE  
**OFFICERS,**  
AND THE  
MANNER OF SALUTING.

**T**HE officers are at all times to carry their fuses on their right arms, in the manner described in explanation 13th of the Pl. 35. Manual Exercise; except when they are allowed to order their fuses, which is when they take their post in the front of their companies, or battalion: or when they are to march to a considerable distance; at which time they are to carry their fuses in their right hands.

The officers must likewise always observe to stand quite steady and upright, cast their eyes to the right, and dress with their bodies and fuses in a line to the right: let their left hands hang down behind their swords; keep their feet in a line, their knees stiff, and stand square to the front; divide the ground equally, and perform all the motions quick and short, and with great life.

I.  
Order  
your  
fusee!  
3 Motions

- 1 Seize the fusee with your left hand at the Pl. 36. swell of the tail-pipe, bringing it a hand's-breadth from the shoulder, and keeping it upright.
- 2 Sink the fusee with the left hand, keep-Pl. 37. ing it perpendicular, and seize it with the right

## EXERCISE of the OFFICERS, and

Words  
of  
Comd.

right hand near the muzzle, at the height  
of your eyes.

3 Drop the butt of the fusée on the ground Pl. 38.  
by your right toe, throwing your left hand  
down by your left side, as in explanation  
2d, motion 2d, of the Manual Exercise.

## II.

Carry yr.  
fusée on  
your right  
arm!  
3 Motions

1 Raise the fusée with your right hand, Pl. 37.  
bringing it up as high as your eyes, and seize  
it with your left just at the swell of the tail-  
pipe, keeping the piece upright.

2 Raise up the piece so as to bring the left Pl. 36.  
hand even with the hollow of your left  
shoulder, and seize it with the right hand  
behind the small of the stock, as in expla-  
nation 13th of the Manual; you will then be  
in the position described in the 1st motion  
of the former explanation.

3 Throw your left hand down by your left Pl. 35.  
side, and come to the position of explana-  
tion 13th, motion 3d, of the Manual.

## III.

Carry yr.  
fusée in  
your right  
hand!  
3 Motions

1 As in explanation 1st, motion 1st. Pl. 36.

2 Seize the fusée with the right hand, just Pl. 39.  
above the feather-spring, keeping the piece  
upright.

3 Drop the fusée down by your right side in Pl. 40.  
your right hand, carrying it with the point  
of the bayonet to the front, sloping upwards,  
and the butt to the rear, a little sunk.

## IV.

Carry yr.  
fusée on  
your right  
arm!  
3 Motions

1 Raise up the fusée with your right hand, Pl. 39.  
and seize it with the left at the swell of the  
tail-pipe, keeping the piece upright.

2 As in explanation 2d, motion 2d. Pl. 36.

3 As in explanation 2d, motion 3d. Pl. 35.

N. B.

The MANNER of SALUTING.

Words  
of  
Comd.

No. of Motions.

N. B. *When any of these words of command are to be performed marching, you must observe to begin your first motion when you step with your right foot, the second when you step with your left, and the third when you step again with your right foot.*

☞ *When the men are cammanded to charge their bayonets, as in explanation 42d of the Manual, or at any other time during the performance of the firings, the officers must likewise charge theirs, bringing the fusée in one motion from the right arm to the position of explanation 22d in the Manual. When the men recover their arms, the officers likewise come back to their former position of carrying the fusée in the right arm, in one motion, throwing their left hand down by their side.*

The salute  
standing is  
perform-  
ed in  
3 motions

1. Seize the fusée with your left hand at the Pl. 36.  
swell of the tail-pipe, bringing it a hand's-  
breadth from the shoulder and keeping it  
upright.

2. Step back with the right foot a moderate Pl. 41  
pace, or 18 inches, in a line with your left  
heel, your right toe pointing to the right,  
and the left to the front, keeping your bo-  
dy very upright; and drop the point of the  
bayonet directly to the front, within eight  
inches of the ground; supporting the piece  
on the back of the left hand, holding it  
slightly between the thumb and fore finger,  
the fingers extended, and back of the hand  
upwards; grasping the small of the stock  
with your right hand, the right elbow  
square, at the height of the shoulder.

3. Bring your right foot up square, and Pl. 36  
raise up the fusée perpendicular, as in the  
first motion of this explanation.

PART I.

I

Bring

## The MANNER of SALUTING.

The salute  
marching  
is per-  
formed in  
5 motions

- 4 Bring your fusée on your right arm; as Pl. 42. in explanation 2d, motion 2d; and put your left hand up to your hat, the left elbow square.
- 5 Pull off your hat with your left hand, Pl. 43. and let it hang down behind your sword, taking care not to bow your head in the least.
- 1 The positions are the same as in the salute Pl. 36. standing; it is to begin when you are at about six paces from the person whom you are to salute; observing to begin the first motion, when you step with your right foot.
- 2 The second with the left, which brings Pl. 41. you to the second position.
- 3 The 3d with your right, stepping forward with it, which answers to the third position.
- 4 The fourth with the left. Pl. 36.
- 5 The fifth with the right. Pl. 42.
- After you are past the person whom you have saluted, about six paces, put on your hat again, in two motions. Pl. 43.
- 1 Put on your hat.
- 2 Throw your left hand down by your side.

**THE**

## III.

## T H E

## HALBERT EXERCISE.

I.

**T**HE first position is that of being ordered; in this position the halbert is held perpendicular on your right side, near the body, the butt on the ground, even with the hollow of the right foot, and about four inches from it; the flat of the iron towards the front, and the hatchet part turned from you to the right, holding it with the right hand, at the height of your shoulder; the knuckles turned to the front, and the right arm hanging from the hand to the elbow, close by the staff of the halbert, the left hand hanging by the left side, both shoulders square to the front.

II.  
Recover  
your hal-  
bert!  
2 motions

1

Bring your halbert up before you, holding it perpendicular, and turning the edge of the hatchet to the front; your right hand at the height of your eyes; and seize it with the left hand, as low as you can without constraint, keeping it near the body.

2

Raise your halbert in your left hand, till your hand is at the height of your chin, raising the left elbow a little; and seize it at the butt with your right hand, the back of it to the front, keeping the hatchet towards the front.

I 2

Sink

## The HALBERT EXERCISE.

III.  
Order  
your  
halbert!  
2 motions

1 Sink the halbert in your left hand, and seize it with the right at the height of your eyes, keeping it perpendicular, and come to the position of explanation 2d, motion 1st.

2 Bring the halbert to your right side, turning the hatchet to the right, and drop the butt by your right toe, in the position of explanation 1st.

IV.  
Advance  
your  
halbert!  
3 motions

1 As in explanation 2d, motion 1st and 2d.

3 Drop your right arm down by your right side, turning the hand so as to bring the hatchet to the right, and the flat to the front; the halbert will then be carried upright, the staff against the hollow of your right shoulder, the right arm a little bent, supporting the halbert, throwing your left hand down by your left side.

V.  
Order  
your  
halbert!  
3 motions

1 Bring your halbert before you, turning the hatchet to the front, and, seizing it with your left hand, come to the position of explanation 2d, motion 2d.

2 The same as in explanation 3d, motion 1st and 2d.

VI.  
Club your  
halbert!  
2 motions

1 Turn your halbert with your right hand, keeping it fast, so that the spear be downwards, and the butt uppermost; and bring it opposite to your left shoulder, setting it, at the same time, with the left hand, half a foot above the hatchet, and holding it perpendicularly at two good hand's-breadths from the body; the right hand to be on a level with the elbow, which is to be square;  
the



Words  
of  
Comd.

Order  
your  
halbert!  
2 motions

the flat of the iron to the front, and the hatchet to the left.

2 Let the staff of the halbert fall on the left shoulder, and throw your right hand down by your side.

1 Raise the halbert from the shoulder two good hand's breadths, and seize it back-handed with the right hand, at the height of your chin, turning the thumb downwards, the knuckles towards you, and come to the position of explanation 6th, motion 1st.

2 Turn your halbert with your right hand, bringing the spear uppermost, and the hatchet to the right, and come to an order as in explanation 1st.

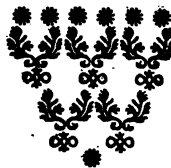
When the men charge their bayonets, as in explanation 42d of the Manual, or at any other time during the performance of the firings, the serjeants in the front rank must likewise charge their halberts, which is done from an advanced halbert in one motion, by stepping back with the right foot a moderate pace, bending the left knee a little, and keeping the right hand fast at the butt; at the same time seizing it with your left hand at the height of the shoulder, bring down your halbert to your right side, above the waist-belt, pressing the staff against the body, the halbert being presented to the front, in a slope upwards, the point as high as your breast, supporting it firmly with your left hand, and grasping it strongly, the left arm and elbow close to the body.

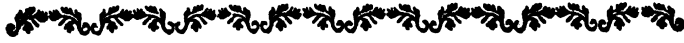
When

## The HALBERT EXERCISE.

When the officers stand with their fuses ordered, the serjeants are to order their halberts. When the officers carry their fuses on the right arm, the serjeants are to carry their halberts advanced. When the officers carry their fuses in the right hand, the serjeants are to carry their halberts clubbed. When there is occasion to ground the halbert, it is done from the position of being ordered : in the same manner, as the grounding the firelock, in explanation 3d of the Manual Exercise; to take it up again is the same as in explanation 4th of the Manual Exercise.

The End of PART I.





P A R T II.






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# PART II.

## CHAP. I.

### DIRECTIONS *to the* OFFICERS *about* *the* METHOD *of teaching the* EXERCISE.

I.  E shall now proceed to give a few rules and directions, with respect to the methods of teaching the militia-men the several parts of the exercise, in the best and easiest manner; in doing this, we shall endeavour to point out those parts, which, in our practice of teaching, we have observed to be the most difficult and embarrassing to raw men, who for the first time have arms put into their hands; and in which they are most apt to fail, and commit mistakes: And likewise indicate those methods, which we have observed to succeed the best for their instruction.

II. We must, in the first place, recommend to all gentlemen, who intend to act as militia officers, to arm themselves with a great deal of patience, as they must expect to find many of the countrymen infinitely awkward and stiff; especially those who are turned of thirty years of age, and have been used to very hard labour. These (though willing and attentive) cannot easily bring their limbs to execute

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what they are taught, although they perfectly comprehend it. In others they will find a great want of apprehension and memory, and an amazing difficulty of understanding, and retain things and ideas that are new to them, and different from what they have been used to from their cradle. Others again are lazy, careless, and want attention. These are certainly very disagreeable circumstances, and must often put an officer's temper to hard trials; but the best, and we may say the only way, to overcome these difficulties, is to be cool and sedate, and to teach the men with great good-nature and gentleness; at the same time, however, keeping up such a kind of deportment and behaviour, as will shew them that they are under the command of a superior, and inspire them with respect. For (whatever indulgence an officer ought to have for involuntary or accidental faults and defects) we must recommend to all the carefully supporting their dignity and authority; and when any of the men are wilfully, careless, negligent, or insolent, always to have them punished according to the directions of the acts; and to keep up to the strictness of discipline, as established by law; at least never to excuse, but on proper submission and intercession. This, though it may be attended, in some cases, with a little present trouble to the officers, will certainly prevent a deal more in the end; for, by an ill-judged indolent lenity, they will soon lose all command over the men, and find it impossible to make them attend or learn as they should do; nor ought they to imagine, that the supporting their authority in a proper manner, by sometimes making an example of such as really deserve it, will at all lessen the esteem and attachment of the men for them; but rather the contrary; as they will then see, that, when they are treated with mildness and good-nature, it does  
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not proceed from weakness, or want of spirit in their officers, but from generosity and humanity. But then all this is to be done without shewing any passion, or using any harsh language to the men, much less striking them; which will not only inspire them with a dislike and an aversion to the service, but some of them, by being treated with roughness and violence, will be quite confounded, and rendered incapable of learning any thing at all, and even forget what they already know. Whereas, by a calm quiet way of proceeding, and by showing them, separately and distinctly, what it is that is expected from them, and what they are to do; never leaving them till they have got a clear idea of it; by degrees the awkward will improve, the dull comprehend, and the inattentive be taught to observe, and mind their business.

III. And here we cannot forbear earnestly recommending a thing, which, though it may not at first appear to be a matter of importance, is nevertheless very much so: That is for the militia officers always to appear themselves, at the places and times of exercise, in as complete order, and as exactly dressed in their regimentals, with their swords, sashes, and gorgets, as if they were to mount guard at a royal palace; and at the same time use their utmost endeavours to inspire the militia-men, with a love of neatness and decency; and insist on their serjeants and private men always coming to exercise, as clean and well dressed as their circumstances will permit. The officers of the regular troops well know the stress there is to be laid on this, however trifling it may seem; and that is a known maxim, that a man who does not take delight in his own person, and is not neat in his dress, arms, and accoutrements, never makes a good soldier. Perhaps, it may not be exaggerated

Vid. Prussian  
Regulations  
for the Infan-  
try, Art. xii.  
chap. vii.

gerated to say, that one of the most important parts of the Prussian discipline, is the strict attention they give to the dress and cleanliness of the men ; this they indeed carry to what we, perhaps, may call an excess ; but it certainly contributes not a little to the making them such excellent troops. However, that be, some degree of attention to it is certainly requisite, even in a militia, as it tends to inspire the men with sentiments of respect for the service and their officers ; and this can be no better brought about, than by the officers setting the example in their own persons. Mankind in general, and the vulgar especially, are greatly captivated and taken with show and parade ; and when the common men see that their officers treat the affair of exercising, and the rest of their duty, with a certain ceremony and decorum, they will do the same, and be attentive and diligent ; but if they find that their officers are careless and indolent, and do their duty in a negligent slovenly manner, they will infallibly imitate them.

IV. We hope, that our brother officers of the militia will not take amiss these few hints, which we have given them by way of caution ; or attribute it to our affecting a magisterial and didactic way of expressing ourselves : Any thing of that nature is far from our intention or thoughts, as we are very sensible of the many imperfections of our work, and how many points there are, in which we ourselves still want to be instructed ; but we could not forbear mentioning such things as experience has proved to be very material, and of whose importance, gentlemen, who are unused to military affairs, may not be so thoroughly sensible. We will now proceed to such general rules as are necessary to be observed in the teaching of all exercise whatsoever ; and afterwards  
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give some particular directions, as to those peculiarities in our militia exercise, which principally require the attention of the officers, to make the men perform them with accuracy.

V. The first thing the officers are to attend to, as a matter of the utmost importance, and absolutely essential to the teaching the men well, is to accustom them to observe a profound silence when under arms: never suffering them to talk, or even speak a word on any account; but obliging them to give an entire attention to the officer who exercises them. The officers must never relax in their care and attention to this point, it being impossible to teach the men properly without it. Perhaps, no nation is more faulty in that respect than our own; and even our regulars are very seldom so silent and attentive as they ought to be; and yet, though the difficulty of making a militia observe a proper silence appears to be much greater; we can assert from experience, that by a constant attention in the officers to stop the very first beginning of noise or talking among the men, it may in a great measure be accomplished, and that by mild and gentle reproofs only.

VI. The performing the exercise well or ill depends a good deal on the manner in which the words of command are given; for which reason it will be proper, that every officer, in exercising should attend to the following rules.

1st. To study well the compass of his voice, and take care not to overstrain it, which will render him soon hoarse; nor to get above its pitch, which will give it a very disagreeable tone.

2d. To deliver the words of command clear and strong; pronouncing every word distinctly, that the men may understand them, and not mistake one for another; the words Present and Fire especially should always be delivered as loud and as short as possible.

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3d. To make his stops and pauses (when the word of command is too long to be pronounced in one breath,) in a proper manner ; laying the emphasis on the words which express the nature of what is to be done. Such pauses will greatly assist the men when judiciously made, by giving them time to think what they are to do, before the word of command is fully delivered : We have endeavoured by the punctuation, to mark when these stops should be made.

4th. To make proper pauses between the different words of command, that the men may have time to mind what they are about ; and consider what is to be performed next.

5th. Carefully to avoid getting any particular drawl or affected tone ; which is a fault that a great many have, who seem rather to imitate a chant, than endeavour to speak articulately or intelligibly.

VII. The men are always to turn their heads, and look to their right (1.) taking their motions from the right-hand man ; holding their heads up ; and are not to be suffered to cast down their eyes, nor look on the ground. This is a thing which must be very much attended to, as without it they never can be brought to perform their motions in time and together.

Vid. Prussian  
Regulations  
for the Infantry,  
p. 5. chap.  
4. Art. xi.

VIII. the men must be taught their exercise by degrees ; to shew them the whole at once will only confound them, it being impossible for them either to comprehend or retain it. The officers likewise must  
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(1.) By looking to the right or left, we understand always turning the head. The old way was only to cast the eyes, and not turn the head ; but that is found not to be so well, either for use or appearance. Indeed, every man, in looking to the right, or left, should turn his head enough to see the face of the man that is next to him. The doing this will occasion them to hold up their heads.

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not be desirous of putting the men too forward, by making them do more of the exercise than they can go through perfectly and accurately.

IX. The motions, must at first be shewn them, separately and distinctly; giving them the word Two, or Three (according to the number of the motion) as a signal when it should be begun; and not suffering them to do it, till that is given: making them stop between each motion, till every false attitude and position is remarked and corrected. By this method, though it may at first sight appear a little tedious, the officers will find, that their men will be taught with a great deal more ease, and in less time than by any other; as they will then be perfect in every thing that they do, and not forget what they have learned on one day of exercise, before the next comes again; as will be the case, if they are not thoroughly grounded, and made perfect in every particular motion.

X. At first they must be divided into squads of four or six men each, putting as much as possible such together in a squad as are of an equal degree of proficiency; when many of them can perform tolerably, it will be proper to exercise them together in a single rank; leaving off the words Two, Three, and making them take their motions from a man advanced in the front; who must likewise make them good pauses between each motion, that the officer may have time to remark and correct whatever is amiss. After they can do well in this manner, it will be proper (and not till then) to exercise them in three ranks.

XI. The first thing necessary to be taught the men is the distinction between ranks and files; explaining to them, that by the word Rank is meant a number of men ranged side by side in a straight  
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and even line from right to left ; and by the word File, a number of men ranged in an exact line behind one another, or (in the military phrase) from front to rear (2).

XII. The rank is distinguished into right flank, left flank, and centre. The foremost or front man in the file is called the file-leader.

XIII. To have the exercise well performed, it is in a particular manner requisite, that the ranks and files should be as straight and even as possible ; the men therefore must be taught always to dress (3) their ranks, from the right and the files to cover well their file leaders. The greatest attention is to be given to this, and to accustom the men to do it of themselves at all times, both in exercising, and in the performing of the firings and evolutions.

XIV. Great

(2.) A rank therefore, by being faced to the right or left, may become a file, and in the same manner a file may become a rank, in the true and proper acceptation and meaning of the words. Though some of our English military writers have not always used them with exact precision, and call the marching of a body of men by the flank marching by files ; which is not strictly proper, what were files, being then become ranks. However, it is a method of speaking so generally used, we shall conform to it, in our directions and explanations, that our readers may not be confounded in reading other books on the subject.

By a file is likewise generally meant six men ; and by half a file three ; this was when the battalions were drawn up six deep, but now a file is properly only three men ; and we shall use the word in that sense.

(3.) Dressing the rank is a military term, taken from the French Redresser, which signifies to straighten any thing that is crooked ; and means bringing the ranks straight, and to an even front. The term of Covering is applied to the files, and means the placing the men in a file, so as to be exactly behind one another, in a line from the front to the rear ; so that they may cover one another, when looked at from either.

XIV. Great care must be taken, that the men carry their arms well; they must therefore be first of all carefully taught to keep them even and steady upon their shoulders, as directed in the first part of the explanation of the manual exercise.

XV. That the firelocks, when shouldered, may be exactly dressed in rank and file; the men must keep their bodies upright, and in full front; and not have one shoulder forwarder than the other.

XVI. It is one of the greatest perfections in exercising, to have all the firelocks carried so exactly even, and the motions performed so true, that in the looking from the right or left of a rank, you can see, as it were, but one firelock: and the same standing in front to a file, each piece covering the others exactly.

XVII. The distances between the files must be equal, and not greater than from arm to arm, that the men may have just room to perform their motions; the distance allowed is nearly two feet for each man in exercising: In marching and wheeling, about twenty one inches.

XVIII. The men must be taught to perform every thing that they do with great life, and the shortest way; keeping their pieces always near to the body, without making any wide motions; and, at the end of every motion, to stand perfectly still and steady, without stirring in the least.

XIX. In the performance of the manual exercise the men must wait well between the motions, and do them together, counting one, two, very slowly between every one.

XX. No motion must be begun, till the word of command is fully pronounced.

XXI. As in our exercise there are some actions, which are as it were the counterpart of one another,

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and the positions the very same, only in a different order; it will greatly facilitate the teaching of men, to make them learn those which are most similar to one another, at the same time. They should therefore be taught first to rest, then to shoulder, 'till they can do those two actions perfectly true and well: then to order, and rest again, which are counterparts of one another; then to ground and take up; then to carry the firelock on the right arm, and shoulder; next to secure; and fix, and return their bayonets; these three actions having two motions out of three exactly the same; and lastly to club, and shoulder again.

XXII. When they can do all the actions tolerably well, it will be right to vary the words of command; and not always give them in the same order as they stand in the manual exercise, (that being only intended to comprehend all the different actions in a regular suite,) but irregularly; to accustom them to be attentive to the words of command only; and not do things mechanically, and merely by memory.

XXIII. The officers must be very attentive, to see that the men perform all their motions perfectly true; making the stops exactly at the time and in the manner, directed in the explanations of the manual exercise; in doing of which, it will be necessary to give attention to the following points, which are those that the men are most apt to fail in.

Expl. 3. Mot.  
1st.  
Mot. 2d.

I. In grounding, to teach them to turn the piece on the thick or upper part of the butt only, and not on the under; and caution them not to slip their right hand down too low in grounding, but only near the third loop; otherwise the weight of the barrel will overpoise the butt, and raise it from the ground; the same precaution is to be observed in taking up the firelock; the turning the barrel behind, and the  
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bringing it up exactly in a line with the right toe, will be difficult, if they turn it on the lower part of the butt.

2. To take care that they ground their firelocks exactly square to the front, and lay the pieces parallel with one another; the men are apt to incline them to the right, if not cautioned against it.

Expl. 3. Mot.  
1st.

3. In shouldering, to take care that the men do not make any wide motions, nor advance their left hand too far from the left side when they bring it under the butt, which is a fault they are very apt to commit.

Expl. 6. Mot.  
1st.

4. In clubbing, to cause the men to bring the barrel of the firelock forward, drawing the butt under their left arm so as to bring it between them and their left-hand man. The same precaution to be used in shouldering from a club; without which they will be apt to hit and hurt one another, which they never will, by observing this rule.

Expl. 7. Mot.  
2d.

5. In securing to observe, that the men throw down their firelocks exactly in a line, and the muzzles at an equal distance from the ground: and not bend their heads or bodies forward, but keep their elbow firm on the lock, and the arm a little bent.

Expl. 9. Mot.  
3d.

6. In teaching the men to fix their bayonets, first of all to show, each of them separately, how a bayonet is fixed, and how the notches correspond with the sight on the barrel; taking care that he seizes the bayonet at first with the thumb over the bend of the shank, as directed in explanation 14; and make him fix and unfix it several times, till he perfectly comprehend the manner of it. He will then easily do it in the time of one motion; it being done only by bringing the notch over the sight, and turning it to the left, or from him, pressing it down at the same time. To unfix, they must be taught to strike the

Expl. 11. Mot.  
3d.

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bayonet up strongly, and turn it to the right, or to them, lifting it up at the same time.

Expl. 16, 17,  
18, 19, 20,  
21.

7. To take particular care, that the men perform their facings with great exactness, and in each motion place their feet in a right position; which they will be apt to neglect; and to caution them continually never to move their left heels off from the ground, as the doing that, varies their situation, and breaks the order of the ranks and files.

Expl. 22.

8. In charging bayonets, to take care that the men do not step too far back, but stand easy and firm on their legs; and that the bayonets be dressed very exactly, both as to height, and degree of inclination or slope upwards; to do which they must press the right hand firm against the side, the knuckles resting on the top of the hip-bone.

Expl. 24.

9. The priming and loading being so essential a part of the exercise, the most particular attention must be given, that the men be very exact in it; making the stops, at the end of each motion, precisely in the manner directed in the explanations: and that they perform every one of the motions with the greatest accuracy; neither omitting or adding any, but doing them exactly according to the directions there given.

Expl. 24. Mot.  
1st.

10. In the first motion, to see that they come to a proper position; bringing the piece close under the right breast, and the butt just under their right arm-pit; keeping the left elbow down and pressed against the body, which helps them greatly in supporting the piece; the muzzle must be raised enough to be no inconvenience to the men in the ranks before them, but not so high as to endanger the falling out of the priming.

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11. To make them to be very exact in the motion of taking out the cartridge, biting it, and keeping the open end upwards, so that the powder may not fall out; and take care that they prime well. Mot. 3d.

12. To make them take care in shutting the pan, that they do it effectually; and not offer to cast about, 'till they are sure that it is shut; otherwise when the pan goes a little hard, they will continually fail of shutting it, and lose their priming. Mot. 4th.

13. To make them stop when they have cast about, and be very exact in performing the following motions of loading; observing, that they turn the hand, to put the open part of the cartridge downwards. Mot. 5th.

14. To be very exact and minute, in teaching them this motion; and particularly the seizing the rammer back-handed, and drawing it out at once; and not let them (as they will be apt to do,) omit the shortening the rammer against the waist-belt, and take care that they bring the butt of the rammer well into the barrel. Mot. 6th.

15. The ramming down is very essential to be well done; with iron rammers, the driving the rammers down once strongly, will be sufficient; but, with wooden ramrods, there must be a stroke or two, to ram down the cartridge, but done very quick care must be taken that the men, in returning the rammers, enter them far enough into the pipes, so as to be within the point of the bayonet, and not endanger their hands in returning them home in the next motion. Mot. 7th.

16. To make them, in shouldering, come briskly up to the proper front; and observe, that in doing it they do not stir the left heel, which is to be kept fast; otherwise they will lose their proper situation in the rank. Mot. 8th.

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Expl. 26. Mot.  
3d.

17. To make them kneel far enough back with the right knee, in coming down as front rank; the men being very apt to keep their right knee too close to the left heel, which throws them into a constrained posture, and prevents their keeping the body upright; the butts are all to be dressed in a line, even with the left toes, and the pieces kept perfectly perpendicular.

18. To take care that they level well in presenting; the muzzle rather low, and the pieces all dressed even and at the same height; and to see that they bring the butt well against the hollow of the shoulder, neither above nor below it.

19. Frequently to make them recover their arms, when they have presented, and expect the word Fire; and observe and reprimand such, as pull the trigger without the word of command being given. This is absolutely necessary, in order to accustom them to keep their fire 'till commanded, and is what must be constantly practised. When you give the word Fire, give it with a loud voice, and pronounce it as short as possible: When it is given in another manner, the men seldom or never fire tolerably; and very often a division or platoon is found fault with for firing ill, when the blame should be laid on the officer that gives the word of command.

20. Take care likewise to make the men pull their triggers strongly and at once; and as soon as they have fired, come briskly up to their priming position; observing that they come to a true attitude, and place their feet in a right situation, and that in half-cocking they strain the tumbler to the half-bent only, raw men being apt to cock, which is a fault that may be attended with dangerous consequences.

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21. In making ready as centre and rear ranks, the chief thing to be attended to, is the making men step back, or to the right, exactly in the manner directed in the Explanations; which they will be apt to neglect: and to make them keep their pieces upright to a good recover, and not present till the word for it is given. These points are to be likewise carefully attended to, when the three ranks make ready together in close order.

XXIV. As this is the most important part of the manual exercise, being that which it is not only highly useful, but indispensably necessary for troops to be well skilled, and thoroughly practised in, for to enable them to enter into actual service: the officers ought to spare no pains nor assiduity, in teaching the men, and exercising them in it. False motions or irregularities in the other parts of the manual exercise are faults, rather from their being deformities, and taking off from the uniform and elegant appearance of troops, than from any great inconvenience that can immediately arise from them; but, in that part which relates to the firing and loading, no fault can be committed, or false motion made, without a manifest inconvenience or danger. For this reason, when the men have gone through the other parts of the exercise, and can do them to a certain degree of perfection; it will be proper to make them chiefly apply to the firing and loading motions, and practise them almost solely; doing just enough of the other parts of the exercise, to keep them from forgetting, and losing what they have already learned; but employing much the greatest part of the times of exercising in the firings, and in marching and wheeling. They must at first be taught this part of the exercise, in the same manner as the others; for which we have given full

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full directions ; but when they are so far proficient, as to be able to do their motions with exactness, taking their time from the man that is advanced in the front ; the rear ranks must then be closed up, and they must be made to go through the firing and loading, several times in close order ; but still giving the same time, between the motions as before, and taking it from the man in the front ; and the officers must observe, that the men perform every motion regularly and accurately, particularly the men in the centre and rear ranks, who will be most apt to neglect, and commit faults, especially as they are a little crowded. When they are become expert in this, which they will soon be, they must be instructed in the manner of platoon firing, and first of all of all taught to make ready at once, joining all the three motions together ; that is to say, making scarce any sensible pause between them, but nevertheless performing every one of them distinctly. They then must be taught to go through all the rest of the motions of the twenty-fourth Explanation in the same manner ; carefully observing, that they do not omit nor alter any part of them ; it will therefore at first be proper, to make them do it by a few at a time, so as to be able more easily to detect any false motion ; and then let them do it with the ranks at open order, that the centre and rear ranks may be better observed and attended to, Strict cautions must be given them about this, and they must be told, that though they are to make no stops, or give any sensible time between the motions ; yet that they are by no means to hurry themselves, nor strive which shall have done soonest ; but perform every motion exactly as taught them at first ; only not wait for one another till after the ninth motion ; when they must stop, till the word be given to shoulder ; which they must

must do all together. When they can go through all the motions with quickness and regularity, then close the rear ranks to the front, and make them make ready and fire; first one file, or two at a time, taking care that each rank comes to its proper position in making ready: then by five or six files, and after that by divisions: but of the manner of doing this we shall say more in another place, when we come to treat of the platoon firings.

XXV. When, in order to ease the men, the word of command to support their arms is given; which it will be very proper to do, whenever they are marching or practising any of the wheelings or evolutions; the officers must take care to make them bring their right hands enough across their bodies, towards the left side, and hug their pieces well to them with their left arm; by doing this, they may carry the firelocks as upright and even, as when shouldered.

XXVI. After performing any firings with powder, it will be absolutely necessary to take particular care, that the bayonets are wiped very clean; and not suffer them to be returned, whilst any dirt or soil of the powder remains upon them, which will not only cause them to rust, but also spoil the scabbard, so as to render it impossible to keep the bayonets clean ever after.

XXVII. It will be frequently proper, in exercising the men in the firings in close order, to make them fire a general discharge, coming up after it to a recover as in explanation 41. of the Manual; and immediately to give them the words, March! March! making them advance in that manner several paces briskly by the double step, the drum beating the grenadiers march; then give them the word, Charge your bayonets! upon which the front rank  
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must immediately charge their bayonets, as they step with their left feet; and keep moving on briskly in that position, passing their right feet before the left, and keeping the body half-faced to the right; the rear ranks remaining recovered, and closing well up to the front rank. At the word Halt! they halt, the front rank at once coming to a recover; and immediately the whole primes and loads.

XXVIII. You may then face them to the right about, and make them retire back again slowly, the drum beating the retreat; and then face them again as before; but this may be repeated, or varied, at the discretion of the commanding officer.



## C H A P. II.

### RULES and DIRECTIONS FOR MARCHING.

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#### *ART. I. Of Marching straight forward, and a Description of the PRUSSIAN STEP.*

I. **T**HE marching well is an affair of so much importance in real service, that the officers must take the most particular care to render the men as perfect in it as possible, and spare no attention nor pains for that purpose; the regularity and beauty of all manœuvres and evolutions, and especially that most essential point, the keeping in good order, in advancing towards or retreating from an enemy, intirely depending on it. Marshal Saxe,

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Saxe, who was undoubtedly an excellent writer on military affairs, as well as a great general; says expressly, that the principal and most material part of all exercise is the teaching soldiers to use their legs properly, and not their arms (1.): That is to say, the accustoming them to march in exact order and regularity, keeping a true time, and as it were a musical cadence in their steps. He adds, that whoever does not follow this method, is ignorant of even the first elements of the art of war. We have before observed, that he takes this to have been the great secret of the discipline of the ancients; and it seems to be likewise a principal part of that of the Prussians (2.). The old method of marching was to lift

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(1.) We will give this passage out of Saxe's *Reveries* in the original, that his meaning may be the better understood, the word, Arms, having an equivocal sense in English:

“ Le principal de l'exercice sont les *jambes*, et non pas les *bras*:  
“ c'est dans les *jambes* que'st tout le secret des manœuvres des  
“ combats; et c'est aux *jambes* qu'il faut s'adresser: quiconque  
“ fait autrement, est un ignorant, et n'en est pas seulement aux ele-  
“ mens de ce qu'on appelle le metier de la guerre.

(2.) Since the note in page 2d has been printed off, an ingenious and learned friend (Mr. B. Stillingfleet, who has lately published some *Miscellaneous Tracts*, upon several very curious and interesting points of natural history, physic, &c.) has been so obliging as to communicate to us such passages as he could recollect in the Greek and Latin authors, relating to the use that the ancients made of music in war; which we will give in his own words, for the satisfaction of those of our readers, who have a mind to examine this piece of military antiquity, with a little more accuracy.

“ Your question about the ancient soldiers marching in cadence puts me in mind, that in my Milton I had a note upon the following passage:

“ On they move

“ In perfect Phalanx, to the Dorian mood

“ Of flutes and soft recorders. *Parad. Lost*, Book i. v. 543.

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lift up the legs and feet high, and make short steps; setting the feet hard down to the ground. Of late our troops, as well as those of other nations, have begun to practise the Prussian step and manner of marching; we shall give, therefore, a few general rules for the doing of it.

H. The manner of performing this step is by carrying the foot directly forward with a straight knee, near and almost parallel to the ground; the balance of the body is to be kept back on the leg that is behind, making as it were a momentary pause;

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“ And there I found quoted Thucyd. lib. v. and Cicero Tusculi;  
 “ lib. ii. §. xvi. Aul. Gell. lib. i. chap. ii. Xenophon de Lace-  
 “ dæm. Republica. Plutarch says they marched to the sound of  
 “ pipes, in order to make a more solemn and terrible appearance,  
 “ and that they might keep their ranks the better. Valer. Max.  
 “ lib. ii. chap. vi. says the same. Agefilaus in his Apophthegma  
 “ alludes to this use of music in war. Lucian de Saltat, says,  
 “ that the Lacedæmonians perform every thing musically, Inso-  
 “ much that they march to battle with measured steps regulated  
 “ by the pipe, which gives the sign of onset: And the order and  
 “ regularity proceeding from thence have made them always victo-  
 “ rious. N. B. I have translated αὐλός by the general word, Pipe,  
 “ which is commonly translated Flute; but, from a passage in a  
 “ scholiast on Pindar, I have reason to believe the αὐλός was an  
 “ instrument analogous to our hautboys. Maximus Tyrius Orat.  
 “ xxi. mentions this custom, and Clemens Alexandrinus, lib. ii.  
 “ chap. iv. and Quintil. lib. i. c. xvi. and Nicolaus apud Sto-  
 “ bæum who says, there always attended upon the king sooth-  
 “ sayers, physicians, and pipers, who in the battle supplied the  
 “ place of trumpeters. Polybius in fin. lib. ii. Aristides Quintil.  
 “ de Musica, lib. ii. With the Spartans every thing had a view to  
 “ war; and it was, I suppose, for this reason, that they were so  
 “ careful to preserve their old music, which was calculated for  
 “ that end, and for that only; they saw their neighbours get  
 “ into a style that rather served to render them effeminate and  
 “ delicate, than to make them terrible to their enemies; thus  
 “ Plutarch says, that they allowed of none but the simplest modu-  
 “ lations: That they were obliged to stick to their old musick:  
 “ That Terpander was fined by the Ephori, for using a string  
 “ more than the law allowed: That an Ephorus cut off two  
 “ of



pause, when the knee is at its full extension (3.): During which time the foot is advanced in the air, the toe turned out, and rather pointed downwards; when you shift the balance on to the other leg, you must spring forward from the ball of the foot which you stood on, still advancing the foot that is foremost, and set it down flat and at once on the ground.

We have added a plate No. 45, which will give a better idea of the step, than any description of ours can possibly do; this being a motion extremely beautiful and graceful, when well performed, but very difficult to describe.

III. It will require indeed, some time and trouble to teach the men to march well in this manner; but it is not near so hard to attain to, as at first it appears to be. The chief difficulty is to make them understand the nature of the step; most awkward fellows, especially those who are used to follow the plough, throw the balance of their body forward, which occasions them to have a slouch in their gait; and they are apt likewise to lift their legs too high, and turn up the points of their toes. It is therefore necessary to take some pains at first, to teach them the step singly, or by two or three only at a time, without arms; taking great care to make them keep the balance of the body as far back as possible, (which is done by throwing back the shoulders, and holding the head up,) so as to rest their whole weight on the leg which is  
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“ of nine strings from Phrynius’s Cithara: That another cut off  
“ one from Timotheus’s instrument having eight, which was one  
“ more than was permitted by law.”

(3.) We would by no means be understood here as intending to divide the step into two motions; the pause must be so short, as to be barely perceptible, and mark the shortest time possible.

*Rules and Directions for Marching.*

hindmost; and not bring the balance forward, 'till after the leg that is advanced be fully extended, and the knee straight. When once you have brought them to comprehend the nature of the step, and to do it singly, the making them perform it by ranks will be found very easy; and they will attain to an exactness and regularity in doing it, much sooner than in the old manner of marching; as the little momentary pause (which is made just at the instant the leg is extended, and the balance of the body ready to be shifted,) gives them a sort of time, which greatly facilitates their doing it all together. And this is one of the advantages, which this manner of marching has over that which was formerly practised. The others are, that it is incomparably more gracefull and genteel, and that a body moves faster, and gains more ground by it; the progressive motion being continued, during the whole time of the step.

IV. The men must be taught, that at the word of command, March! they are always to begin and step off with the left foot; and, for that reason, should be told not to bear the chief weight of their body on that foot: which some are apt to do, and so lose the time at the very first step, before they can shift the balance; but to keep the balance even between both feet, and, at the word, March! step off at once. They must, on the other hand, be strictly cautioned against raising up their feet, before the word of command to march be thoroughly pronounced.

V. At the word Halt! they are to stop at once, bringing their feet up even on a line with one another, the heels about four inches asunder, in the position before described in the manual exercise, and stand

stand perfectly steady; looking to the right, and dressing their ranks.

VI. In marching straight forward, the men are to look to the right, and take care to regulate their steps by their right-hand man; they must just feel one another, and their feet must all be lifted up, and set down on the ground at the same instant of time, and the steps should be exactly of the same length; in marching on a large front, the men must look inwards towards the centre, and regulate their motions by that.

VII. We shall follow the method of the French, in distinguishing three sorts of steps in marching: The short, the long, and the double step. The length of the short step is one foot and a half, and it is performed in the time of one second; that of the long or the common step two feet, and is performed in the same time; the double step is two feet likewise, but performed in half the time, or two of them in a second. When the men are to advance by this step, the word of command is to be doubled, March! March!

VIII. The ranks must take great care, in marching, to keep exactly parallel with one another, and that neither flank be more advanced than the other.

They must likewise cover one another well, and take care to preserve their distances; neither gaining nor losing ground, but each rank keeping at the same distance from the others as at first.

The same rules are likewise to be observed, in marching by companies or divisions; which must likewise keep exactly parallel to one another, and cover, and preserve their distances, with all possible exactness.

IX. It is not near so difficult to bring the men to march with great regularity and harmony by ranks,

as

*Rules and Directions for Marching.*

as it is to make them do it by files. If you take a rank that marches very exactly, and face them to the right or left, giving them the word to march ; you will find that they will neither step off together, nor keep their distances ; but will open from one another considerably, in marching a short space.

The reason for this is, that they cannot easily bring themselves in that situation, to step off all at once with the left feet ; but each man looks down, to see when the man before him lifts up his leg, being afraid of hitting him ; by which means, they lose the time at first, and the error increases the farther they go, and the more men there are in the file. The best way, therefore, is to begin, with placing four or five men in a file, or one behind the other ; and strictly caution them to look up, observing only one another's heads and shoulders ; taking great care to make them all, at the word, March ! lift up their left legs, and step off together. It will be difficult to make them do this perfectly ; however, if they have been, at first, well instructed according to the rules before laid down, you may with some pains, bring them to it very tolerably in a short time ; though one may venture to say, that a body that can march off by the flank, to any considerable distance, without losing the step, or opening its files, has nearly attained to the greatest possible perfection in marching.

X. To open the distances of the ranks in marching ; if to two paces, the centre rank must observe the front rank ; and when that makes the third pace, (or the second with the left leg) step off with the same leg along with it : The rear rank is to observe the centre rank in the same manner, and does the same.

It

It may not be amiss, at first, in order to accustom the men to observe, to make them count the steps of the rank before them; beginning (when they raise their left legs,) one; when they raise the right, two; when the left again, three; at the same time, stepping off themselves with their left legs.

If to open to six paces, the centre rank begins at the seventh pace of the front rank, or the fourth time of raising the left leg; the rear rank likewise begins, when the centre rank makes its seventh pace.

## A R T. II.

### *Of the oblique* STEP.

I. **T**HE oblique step is to be performed in the same time and manner, as to the motion of the feet and legs, as that straight forward, (4) only that it is made by carrying them obliquely to the right or left, the body being kept square to the proper front.

II. If you are to incline to the right, when you step with the left foot, you carry it across, setting it down even with and before the point of the right foot, the left toe pointing to the front; and then step obliquely to the right with the right foot, advancing it towards the front, and setting it down before, and about six inches to the right of the point of the left foot, the toe pointing obliquely to the  
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(4.) The oblique step is likewise distinguished into the short, the long, and the doubled step. The steps, however, must be rather shorter, on account of the obliquity; and the long step must not be above eighteen inches.

### *Rules and Directions for Marching:*

right; and so alternately, moving towards the front in a diagonal line, inclining to the right; observing to keep the body and shoulders square to your proper front:

If you are to incline to the left, when you step with the right foot, you carry it across, setting it down even with and before the point of the left foot, the right toe pointing to the front; and then step obliquely to the left with the left foot, advancing it towards the front, and setting it down before, and about six inches to the left of the point of the right foot, the toe pointing obliquely to the left; and so alternately, moving towards the front in a diagonal line, inclining to the left; observing to keep the body and shoulders square to your proper front.

III. In marching by the oblique step, in ranks or divisions, particular attention is to be given, that they keep parallel to their proper front; and not advance on the right flank, when they incline to the left; nor on the left, when inclining to the right; as they are exceedingly apt to do, and to make as it were a half wheel (5.): to prevent this, the men must be taught to look to the right, when they incline to the left; and to the left, when they incline to the right; and regulate themselves by the outside flank; observing by all means to advance equally, and keep even with it.

IV. The oblique step is of great use on many occasions, and renders several of the evolutions much more simple and easy; by it you always preserve your

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(5.) As in plate 46, figure 1 and 2, where the rank *a. b.* is supposed to be moving to *c. d.* by the oblique step. If particular care be not taken, when it comes half-way, instead of being in a parallel situation, as at *e. f.* it will be in the situation *e. g.*

your front, and avoid wheelings and other motions, that are very dangerous to be attempted, when near an enemy; besides the not losing any time, as the whole body keeps still marching, and advancing forwards.

V. The side-step, as now practised by our troops, is much the same as the oblique; only crossing the feet more, and going directly to the right or left; it seems to be a constrained motion, the body being in a forced twist, which is neither easy nor graceful. We cannot find that the Prussians use it, nor the French; though they use the oblique step (6), of which the Prussians were the inventors: neither do we perceive that it is of any great service; any evolutions, that require the side-step, being much more easily performed, by facing the men, and marching them by the flank, as the men must be halted to perform either; for which reason we have omitted giving any particular directions about it.

D 2

CHAP.

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(6.) When we say that the French do not use the side-step, we mean that it is not in the exercise established by authority in 1755; though we are sensible that Monsieur de Bombelles, in his *Evolutions Militaires*, mentions the *Pas de Coté*; which, however by his description of it, is rather an oblique step.



## C H A P. III.

## RULES and DIRECTIONS for WHEELING.

I. **A** Rank that wheels, is to be considered as an inflexible straight line, moving round upon one of its extremities as a centre, and describing a portion of a circle.

It is evident, that the farther any point in the line is from the centre, the greater space it has to run over in the same time, and consequently must move faster in a certain proportion, than those points which are nearer the centre.

This is the general principle of all wheeling by single ranks; on which the following rules for performing it are founded.

II. First, the whole rank is to step off at the same time, and with the same feet on the word of command, *March!* being given; and every man is to make an equal number of paces, only his paces must be longer or shorter in proportion to his distance from the flank, which serves as a centre. In wheeling to the right, therefore, each man's paces must be longer than those of his right-hand man; in wheeling to the left, they must be longer than those of his left-hand man.

2. The man on the flank, which serves as a centre, is not to stir that heel, which is the centre, upon which the rank is to turn from the ground. That is to say, the right heel in wheeling to the right, and the left in wheeling to the left.

For



For this reason in wheeling to the right, when the men step with the left feet, his left foot is to be lifted up at the same time, and set down again even with the right; when they step with their right feet, his right toe only is to be raised, and the heel kept fast on the ground; turning the body a little, so as to come about even with the rank (1.).

In wheeling to the left, the same rule is to be observed; only that the left heel is then kept fast; and, when the rank lifts the left feet, the left toe is to be raised.

3. The whole rank is governed by the flank that wheels. In wheeling, therefore, to the right, every man should look to the left, and regulate his steps by those of his left-hand man, in order not to advance before, or fall back behind him, but bring the rank about even. In the same manner, in wheeling to the left, every man is to look to the right, and regulate his steps by those of his right-hand man.

4. Every man must close towards the centre, so as just to touch and feel the man next within him, but by no means to crowd or press him: For particular is to be taken, that the men neither open  
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(1.) It will be proper to teach this motion first of all to each man separately, and then make them practise it a little, by six or eight, or a whole rank at a time; each man keeping his right or left heel fast, (according as they are to wheel to the right or left,) and all raising their toes, and lifting their legs at the same time, coming about all evenly together, without stirring from their places; this will make every one of them be ready at it, and know what they are to do, whensoever they happen to be on the flank that is wheeled upon: The word of command is the same as for the wheelings,

*To the right (or left,) Wheel! March!*

Except that at the word, *March!* they are only to raise their legs, but not stir from their place.

### *Rules and Directions for Wheeling.*

the rank, by edging away to the outside from one another; nor break it, by crowding in too close to the centre. In wheeling, therefore, to the right, you are to feel the right-hand man; and, in wheeling to the left, the left-hand man.

Pl. 46. fig. 3. Wheeling to the right or left is describing a quarter of a circle, (or from *a* to *b*.) Wheeling and 4. to the right or left about is describing a half circle, (or from *a* to *c*.)

These are the general rules for all wheeling by single ranks; those for doing it in close order, shall be given afterwards.

III. In teaching the men to wheel, it will be right to begin with but a few in a rank, as it will be easier for them to perform it, and any faults may be better remarked and corrected; when they are tolerably perfect, then add more.

IV. According as you intend to wheel to the right or left, you must caution the right and left-hand man, to stand or wheel; and then give the word of command (2.):

*To the right (or left) Wheel! March!*

At which the whole rank steps off together, with their left feet, and wheels to the right (or left) a quarter of a circle (or from *a*. to *b*.) observing exactly the directions before given, and taking care to move uniformly, and bring the rank about even. When they have described the quarter of the circle, you give the word:

*Halt!*

At

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(2.) Besides the general rules here given for wheeling, the men must observe strictly those before laid down in Chap. ii. Art. §. 4. and 5. for marching. Particularly 1st. never to begin the motion, till the word of command, *March!* is fully pronounced. 2dly. Always to step off at first with the left feet; and, 3dly, at the word of command, *Halt!* to bring the feet square and even with one another.

## Rules and Directions for Wheeling.

31

At which they at once bring their feet square, and dress their rank, standing quite firm and steady.

V. When the men are tolerably perfect in this, and do it regularly; you will give the word:

*To the right (or left) about, Wheel! March! Halt!*

At the word, *March!* they wheel the half circle to the right (or left) about (or from *a.* to *c.*) observing the same rules as before; and at the word, *Halt!* stand fast as before directed (3.). Plate 46. fig. 3. and 4.

VI. The rank may then be told off into divisions of four, six, or more men in each, according to the number of the whole rank. The right and left-hand men of each division must be told, you are the right, you are the left, of the division: Then, if they are to wheel to the right, the right-hand men are to be told that they stand; the left-hand men, that they wheel: If to wheel to the left, then the left-hand men are to stand, and the right-hand men to wheel; you then give the word:

*To the right, Wheel by divisions! (or by fours, six's, &c. according to the number of men in each division) March!*

At which all the divisions step off together with their left feet, and wheel a quarter of a circle, and then halt.

They

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(3.) By wheeling the half circle, the rank changes its front, and is removed either to the right or left of its former ground, by the whole extent of its front; as may be seen in plate 46. fig. 3. and 4.

To bring it back to its former front and ground, it must be again wheeled about the same way, from *c.* to *a.* which completes the circle.

Plate 46. Fig.  
5. and 8.

They will then be formed into as many ranks as there are divisions, each distant from the other, the extent of its front (4).

They may then wheel once more to the right, which will again form them into a rank entire, fronting opposite to what they did before (5.).

VII. After this they should be made to wheel by divisions (or ranks of fours, six's, &c.) to the right and left about; always forming a rank entire, at the finishing of the wheel. For to do this you give the word:

*To the right (or left) about, wheel by divisions! (or by four's, six's, &c.) March!*

Plate 46. 5.  
and 6.

At which all the divisions step off as before, and wheel to the right or left a half circle; taking care to move evenly, and to come about, all together in the same time; keeping exactly on their proper ground, without losing their centre; and falling in, all  
at

(4.) It is always customary to form into ranks, by wheeling to the right; for which reason we have represented it so in plate 46. figures 5. and 8. Though in teaching it will be proper to accustom the men to do it to the left as well as the right.

(5.) This changes not only the front, but the situation of the divisions; that which was on the right, being now on the left; and removes the rank to the right, the extent of the front of one of division, vid. fig. 6. To bring them back to their former situation and front, they must be wheeled, either twice to the right, or once to the right about. Fig. 6. shews the divisions wheeled to the right about. Fig. 7. shews the same done to the left about. If, after having wheeled by divisions to the right, you wheel them again to the left, and form a rank entire, by this you preserve the same front, but change your ground, being advanced to the front, by the extent of one division, and as much to the right, vid. plate 46. figure 8.

at once, into their places in the rank entire: when they are all come about, they still keep moving their feet without advancing, and look to the right; dressing the rank at the same time; when they are dressed, you give the word,

*Halt!*

At which they all stand fast as before directed.

VIII. Wheeling thus by ranks, and then forming a rank entire, is an excellent method of bringing the men to wheel with exactness; for, if the flank men of each rank, who serve as centres, stir at all out of their proper ground, by not keeping fast the heel they turn upon; the ranks cannot wheel clear of one another, nor fall into their places in the rank entire. And if the ranks do not come about all even, and together, it is immediately perceived; so that, when the men are tolerably perfect in doing this, they will find every thing else in wheeling very easy to them.

IX. The next thing to be taught the men is wheeling on the centre. To do this, you tell the rank into two divisions; and, after having informed the men which division they belong to, you give the word,

*Upon the centre, Wheel to the right! March!*

At the first word of command, the division upon the right goes to the right about.

At the word of command, *March!* both divisions wheel to the right, observing to move exactly even and together, and keep the whole rank perfectly straight and dressed; when they have wheeled the quarter of the circle, you give the word, Plate 46.  
Fig. 9.

*Halt! Front!*

At which the divisions halt, dressing their ranks; and at the word, *Front!* the right-hand division comes to the right about.

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Upon

*Rules and Directions for Wheeling.**Upon the centre, Wheel to the right about! March**Halt! Front!*

The same as the former, only describing the half circle.

*Upon the centre, Wheel to the left! March!*

As before; only the division on the left goes to the right about.

*Halt! Front!*

The left-hand division comes to the right about again.

*Upon the centre, Wheel to the left about! March!**Halt! Front!*

As before; only describing the half circle.

X. When the men are brought to wheel with tolerable regularity; which, by practising these methods, will be in a short time; it will be proper to make the ranks march, and wheel singly, one after another, at open order or six paces asunder; observing the directions before given, Chap. ii. Art. i. §. 8. to keep the ranks parallel to one another in marching; and taking particular care to make each rank wheel, exactly on the same ground as the rank preceding it did; coming up square to it, and not beginning to wheel, till the flank that is to stand, be precisely on the same ground that the flank of the other was. To make the men do this well, will require a good deal of care and attention; for they are excessively apt to incline to the outside, when they see the ranks before them wheel; and begin to wheel, long before they come to the proper place; which has a very bad effect, and destroys all beauty and regularity in marching (6.). The best way of teaching

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(6.) See plate 46. figures 13, 14. where the ranks are represented in their proper situations, at *a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h.* the pricked lines, *t. k. l.* shewing the places to which the ranks, *e. f. g. h.* will

ing the men at first, is to make all the ranks halt, as soon as each rank has finished wheeling; and set them right, placing them in the situation they ought to be in. Then again give the word, *March!* upon which the rank that is to wheel, wheels; and the others advance, and march forward six paces; then halt again, and do this every time that a rank wheels. By this method, the men will soon comprehend what it is they are to do; and, in a few times practising, will come up square to their ground, and wheel regularly after one another, without halting.

XI. As on certain occasions, particularly at a review, it is sometimes necessary to march the companies off by ranks of fours; it will be proper to teach the men this way of marching, and wheeling by single ranks, at open order. It being also the foundation for marching and wheeling by divisions in close order; because the wheelings in close order, with the rear ranks closed to the front, are governed by the same principles, and are done entirely by the same methods, as those in open order: the front rank, (which regulates the two others) observing exactly all the rules that have been given for a single rank. But, as a single rank may be considered as a straight inflexible line; so three or more ranks, in close order, may be considered as a ruler or parallelogram A. B. C. D. E. F. moved round on one of its angles C, as a centre; consequently the points F. H. D. must describe in wheeling the quarter of the circle, the arches of small circles, F. f. H. h. D. d. and  
 E 2 in

Plate 47. Fig. 1.

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*b.* will get, if the officers and serjeants on the flanks do not take particular care to make them keep the ranks parallel, and come up square to their ground. It is also to be observed here, that all marching is supposed to be done in a straight line, and all turnings by wheeling at right angles.

*Rules and Directions for Wheeling.*

in wheeling the half circle, the semicircular arches  
F. f. f. H. h. b. D. d. d. (7.).

For this reason, in wheeling to the right the rear ranks must incline a little to the left, in order to cover and keep in a line with their file-leaders; and, when they wheel to the left, incline a little to the right, for the same reason. The men in the rear ranks, are to close so as just to feel one another; and to take care to step off at the same time and in the same manner, as the front rank; but, the exactness of the whole depending chiefly upon the front rank, the principal attention of the rear ranks must be to cover well, and to keep exactly behind their file-leaders in the front rank; closing up well to it, and not opening their order; as they will be apt to do, especially on the flank that wheels, if particular care be not taken to prevent it.

XII. In marching with the ranks at open order, if the divisions be large, and the front consequently extended, it is very difficult to wheel with regularity by single ranks: for as the space to be gone over by the flank that wheels, is one quarter of the circumference of a circle, of which the whole rank is radius; it is evident, that the rank which follows, will have made six paces, (the distance allowed between the ranks,) long before the other that precedes it has finished its wheel; and will be obliged to halt, till it has done: and likewise, that the rank which precedes, will make more than six paces, before the rank following it can wheel;

so

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(7.) We have here only represented it as moved to the right on the centre C. because there can be no difficulty in comprehending the same moved to the left on the centre A. and the points F. G. B. describing portions of smaller circles, in the same manner as the points F. H. D. in this figure.



So that the proper distances between the ranks will be lost; for that reason, when the divisions are large, the best way, and that which is almost always practised, is to wheel in close order (8.).

XIII. To teach the men to wheel with the ranks in close order, the same methods are to be pursued, as before directed for wheeling by single ranks (9).

First, to practise them in wheeling to the right Fig. 2. and 3.  
and left, and to the right and left about (10.).

Then to form them into two or more divisions; Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7.  
and wheel them by divisions to the right and left about; forming the company at the finishing of each wheel, as directed in §. vii. of this chapter (11.)

XIV. In wheeling upon the centre in close order, it must be observed, that each division is to turn upon the man on the flank of the centre rank; and that man is to be cautioned not  
to

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(8.) For the manner of doing this, vide Chap. ii. Art. i. §.  
10.

(9.) In order to explain the nature of the wheeling in three ranks in close order the better, we have in plate 47. given plans of all the different wheelings (the methods of doing which in single ranks we have already described,) as done by three ranks in close order, which, being perfectly analogous to those in plate 46, need little farther explanation: We must only remark that in the wheeling upon the centre in fig. 10. it must be observed, that the rear rank of the left-hand division is the front, and in fig. 11. the rear rank of the right-hand division is the front, as they are supposed to have just finished the wheel, and not yet received the word of command to front.

(10.) Vide No. 4. of this chapter; and plate 47. fig. 2.  
and 3.

(11.) Vide, No. 5. of this chapter, and plate 47. fig. 4, 5, 6, 7.

### *Rules and Directions for Wheeling.*

to stir his heel off of the ground, but move round on it; as has been before directed for the front rank in §. ii. of this chapter. The two men in the centre are to take care to come round together, and keep shoulder to shoulder; the men in the centre of the front and rear ranks are likewise by no means to separate; therefore, in wheeling on the centre to the right, the front ranks should incline a little to the right; and the rear ranks to the left; and contrariwise in wheeling to the left.

The words of command are the same as before;  
*Upon the centre, Wheel to the right,*  
*March!*

Plate 47.  
 Fig. 10.

Upon the first of which, the right-hand division goes to the right about; and at the second, *March!* both divisions step off together, and wheel in the manner as before directed; only that the rear rank of the right-hand division is now become the first rank, and leads.

At the words, *Halt! Front!*

The division which faced comes again to the right about, and both divisions dress with one another.

In the same manner, they wheel to the right about.

Plate 47.  
 Fig. 11.

In wheeling to the left, or left about, exactly the same rules are to be observed; only that the left-hand division goes to the right about, and its rear rank becomes the front.

The same rules that are given in §. x. of this chapter, for marching and wheeling by single ranks, hold good with regard to doing it by divisions or companies;

companies; and the same care is to be taken to make them keep exactly parallel one with the other; and come square up to their ground on which they are to wheel, and neither incline outwards, nor begin to wheel too soon.



C H A P. IV.

DIRECTIONS FOR MARCHING and  
WHEELING by PLATOONS or  
DIVISIONS.

I. **I**N marching, the men must be taught, to assume themselves a soldier-like air, to hold their heads up, look to the right, and, when they pass by an officer, look him boldly in the face; to keep their breasts forward, and their shoulders back; to lift up their feet, and extend their knees all together at the same time, their toes being turned out, and pointed rather downwards; and set their feet down firm at once, but without stamping; to preserve their ranks even, and not to open their files; to carry their arms well, pressing their piece well against their body, that it may be steady, and not waver; letting their right hand hang down by their right-side, without any motion.

II. The platoons or divisions (1.) must march a moderate pace by the common step, rather slow than

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(1.) To avoid useless repetitions of words, we shall, in general, only use the word Platoon, though the same directions must be understood, as serving, likewise, for subdivisions and divisions.

### *Directions for Marching and Wheeling, &c.*

than otherwise; and the captain that leads the first platoon or division, ought to be very careful not to advance too fast, which would oblige those in the rear to quicken their pace, and even to run in order to preserve their distances; which, besides its having a bad effect, would hazard putting them in disorder, and prevent their standing steady and dressing well immediately, upon the word being given to halt.

III. The ranks of a platoon, in marching, must be at equal distances from one another, that is to say, two paces; the officers also are to keep equal distances between their platoons or divisions, which are not to exceed the extent of their front.

IV. The officers at the head of platoons must observe to keep at equal distances before them, and from one another, and carry their fuses steady upon their right arms, and frequently look back to the right, to see how they march.

V. The officers who lead platoons, or divisions, must march before the centre of them; if there be three or more officers at the head, the subalterns on the right and left must divide the ground equally between the right and left flank, the captain being in the centre. If there be only two officers, they divide the front equally between them. The drummers must keep opposite the centre of the platoon; taking care strictly to observe their proper distances from the officers, and from the men.—N. B. The distance between the officers and the front rank of the men is four paces; between the drummers and the front rank of the men two paces.

VI. The

VI. The officers are to take care that the right flanks of the platoons cover one another exactly, observing however, in wheeling to the left, that they are then to cover the left flank of the platoon preceding them.

VII. The officers must take particular care, when their platoons are to wheel, to make them come up square to the ground that they are to wheel upon, as directed in Chap. iii. §. the 10th.

VIII. When a division comes to the ground upon which it is to wheel, the officer commanding it gives the word of command, *Close up!* upon which the front rank-men keep moving their feet only, but the rear ranks close briskly up to the front; the officer then gives the word, *To the right (or left) Wheel!*

Upon which the division wheels, taking care to step together, and wheel even; as soon as it comes about, the officer gives the word, *Halt! Dress!* upon which the division stands fast and dresses at once. The officer then gives the word, *March!* upon which the front rank steps off with the left feet together, afterwards the centre and rear ranks, taking care to open to the distance of two paces, as directed in Chap. ii. §. 10.

IX. When the officer gives the word to the platoon to wheel, if it is to the right, the three ranks must immediately look to the left; and when they have wheeled, and the word *Halt!* is given, they must at once look to the right again.

X. In all wheelings, the serjeants must look to the flanks to see that the rear ranks keep close up to the front; they must halt at once with their platoon, and step off with their left feet together with them. The front rank steps off with the officer, and the rear ranks after the front in the manner already di-

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*Directions for Marching and Wheeling, &c.*

rected; and take care always that the men march even and steady, carry their arms well, and open to their proper distance in marching.

The officers in the rear of the platoons must wheel along with their platoon, taking care still to cover the same files, and halt at the same time, stepping off together, as soon as the rear rank is got to its proper distance.

XI. When a battalion is marching by platoons, and has a defile or gate to pass through, the whole must close up as close as possible; the first platoon facing to the right, and marching through by files, passing as quick as possible and keeping close, as soon as they have got a little distance from the defile; the officer will then give them the word, *Front! Wheel to the right!* and then they continue their march with an even but slow pace, all the other platoons observing the same direction: but, if the defile be wide enough for half the platoon to pass, it will be better to break them into two divisions, and march through in that manner. The first division, after it is through, must march very slowly the short step, to give the other division time to join it by the oblique long step, and then both dress and advance very slowly.

XII. When a battalion marching by platoons is to form sub-divisions, the adjutant will caution the officers leading the platoons which way they are to incline, whether to the right or left; at the word, *Form subdivisions!* they will march by the oblique step, forming the subdivisions in the manner directed in Chap. v. Art. iii. §. 4. and 5.

XIII. When the men are to club their firelocks in marching; upon the word of command or signal for it being given, the men are to perform the first motion when they step with their right foot, the second when they step with their left, and the third when they step again with their right foot, after which they must close

close their files again, and halt a moment; then all step off together with their left feet. The same directions must be observed in coming again to the shoulder. When the men club, the serjeants are to club their halberts.



C H A P. V.

DIRECTIONS for the Days of EXERCISE,  
by single COMPANIES.

ART. I. *Of Sizing and Viewing the Company and Forming it into Ranks at the Place of Assembly.*

I. **A**S soon as the serjeants have seen, that the men are properly dressed and accoutred, they are to draw them up in a single rank, divided into three equal parts or divisions (1.)

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(1.) The sizing of a company well contributes greatly to its good appearance; for which reason it is proper, that it should be not a little attended to.

Though the general rule is, that the tallest men should be in the front rank, yet, if a man has a fine person, and is well made, he ought to be put into the front, in preference to one who is somewhat taller, but not of so good a figure. Each rank should also be sized separately, placing the tallest men on the flanks, and the lowest in the centre: this the serjeants may do with great ease, by having a size-roll of the company; and in a very short time the men will exactly know their respective places in the company, and what rank and file they are to be in; which is an affair of no small importance, in case of being broken and put in disorder, in order to rally and form again. For this reason they ought

### *Directions for the Days of Exercise,*

The tallest man must be placed on the right, the next size on the left, and the lowest in the centre division.

II. When the men are thus sized, they are to be told off into three equal divisions, telling the right-hand man of the right-hand division, that he is the right of the front rank; the left-hand man of the same division, that he is the left of the front rank; the right and left-hand men of the centre division, that they are the right and left of the centre rank; and the right and left-hand men of the division on the left, that they are the right and left-hand men of the rear rank.

Each rank, likewise, is to be told off into two equal divisions, if the number of files be even; if not, the advantage must be given to the right hand division, which is the first; and the men in each rank that are right and left-hand men of the first and second divisions are to be told so, and cautioned to remember exactly their post in each division (2.)

### III. The

ought to be cautioned; always, when drawn up, to take particular notice, and remember, not only the rank and file they are in, but likewise their file-leader, and right and left-hand men in the rank.

(2.) We all along suppose the companies to be of forty men each, according to the present establishment in Norfolk, making thirteen files, exclusive of the hatchet-man; and taking up in front thirteen paces of two feet each; the first, or right hand division, consisting of seven files; the second, or left-hand division, of six. But as the difference is very trifling, and would scarce be perceptible on so small a scale, and the companies will not always be complete under arms; we have in our plans, represented both divisions as equal, or of six files each. — If the companies were much more numerous, they should be divided into four divisions; in which case the captain leads the first, and the ensign the third, the lieutenant bringing up the rear. In general, the rule is, that the chief or commanding officer leads the whole, the second



III. The officers will then inspect and examine the men, to see that the serjeants have done their duty; and that the men are exactly sized, well dressed, and their cloaths, hats, and accoutrements clean, and put on in a soldier-like manner; that their arms are clean and unloaded, and the locks in good order; that the bayonets are bright and fix well; and that their flints, or pieces of wood, (which they ought to have on common days of exercise, instead of flints;) are well screwed and fastened in the cock. When they have seen that every thing is as it should be, and have corrected all faults; they will then take post with ordered files, at the distance of four paces, or eight feet, before the front of the men; the captain facing and opposite to the centre of the front rank, the lieutenant to that of the rear rank, and the ensign to that of the centre rank.

Plate 48.  
Figure 1

The serjeants are to post themselves on the right of the front rank, in a line with the men; the drummers on the right of them, and the hatchet-men (if any) to the right of the drummers: The corporals are to be posted on the right of the front and rear ranks, and the six grenadiers are to be posted, two on the right of each rank, composing the two right-hand files (3.)

IV. This inspection being over, the company is to be formed into ranks; the right-hand division, as we observed before, making the front rank, the centre

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cond in command brings up the rear, and the others lead the intermediate divisions.

The different methods here laid down, for the marching off in two divisions, will serve equally for four or any other number, as we shall occasionally explain in the notes.

(3.) A company in this situation is represented in plate 48. fig. 1.

*Directions for the Days of Exercise,*  
 the division the centre rank, and the left-hand division the rear rank; in order to do this, the commanding officer gives the word,

*To the right! Wheel and form your ranks! March!*

Plate 48.  
 Figure 2.

At the word *March*, the three ranks step off together with their left feet, and wheel to the right; the front rank halts, as soon as it has finished the wheel; but the centre and rear ranks move forward, and close up to the distance of six paces from one another. The officers are now to take their posts in the front, the captain in the centre, lieutenant on the right, and ensign on the left; one serjeant on each flank of the front rank, the drummers and hatchet-men to the right of the front rank (4).

V. It will be proper, in forming the single rank at first, to take care and place it as much as possible in such a manner as to have room to wheel and form the ranks, and to march off by the right to the place where the company is to be exercised, that being the easiest and most regular manner of doing it; however, as oftentimes the situation of the place of assembly may not allow of it, and there may not be room to form the ranks by wheeling; the company may be formed into ranks by the commanding officer, giving the word of command,

*Centre and rear ranks, Face to the right! March!*

Upon

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(4.) Plate 48. fig. 2. represents a company, thus formed by wheeling, and the ranks closed up to six paces distance; the pricked lines *a. b. c. d.* shewing the places, where the two rear ranks finished their wheel, and from whence they advanced to their proper distance.

N. B. At open order, the ranks are to be at six paces asunder; if at close order, at one pace only, and in marching at two paces.

Upon the first of which, the centre and rear ranks face to the right; and, at the word *March*, they double behind the front rank, and halt when the right-hand men of each rank are even with the right-hand men of the front rank; then the officer gives the word,

*Halt! Front!*

On which both ranks face to the left, dressing their ranks, and covering the file-leaders exactly. The lieutenant and ensign face with the centre and rear-ranks, and, as they double behind the front, march to their posts as before directed in § the 4th. The lieutenant to the right, and the ensign to the left of the front rank. The captain remains in the centre (5).

Plate 48.  
Figure 3.

ART.

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(5.) The ranks will be then in close order, and, if there is occasion, may be then opened forwards or backwards, as suits the ground best; to open forwards, the word is to be given,

*Front ranks, Advance to open order! March!*

At which the front and centre ranks step off together with their left feet; the centre rank makes five paces and halts, bringing their feet square; the front makes ten and does the same, both ranks taking care to dress immediately.

To close them backward, the word of command is,

*Front ranks, to the right about! March!*

On which the front and centre ranks go to the right about; at the word, *March!* they step off with their left feet, and close back to the rear; the centre rank making five, and the front rank making ten paces, and halt, bringing their feet square.

*Halt! Front!*

The two ranks which closed come to the right about.



## A R T. II.

*Of Marching off the Company to the Place of Exercise.*

I. **W**E shall now give several methods of marching a company off from the place of assembly, and of forming it again, when it comes to its ground at the place of exercise; we do not pretend to say that they are all equally easy or useful; but as the militia officers and men, will but very seldom have an opportunity of seeing any thing of a battalion and its evolutions, and then only for a very short space of time; we are willing to give them as many different methods of marching and forming, that may be practised by a single company, as we can.

For

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To open backward, is performed as described in explanations 44, 45, and 46. of the Manual Exercise, the words of command being

*Rear ranks to open order!*

*March! Halt! Front!*

This manner of forming the ranks is represented in plate 48. figure 3. the letters *a. b. c. d.* shewing the places of the ranks, when opened to the front; and *e. f. g. h.* their places when opened to the rear.

For, when the men are once well grounded in facing, wheeling, and marching in small bodies; and are become attentive to the word of command, so as to execute it readily, and without hesitation, as soon as given; whatever is to be done in battalion, will be vastly easy to them; and the officers, by practising with their single companies occasionally, the various manners which we have here-given, of marching off, and forming again; will acquire an insight into the nature of the evolutions, so as to be able, with a very little instruction, to comprehend and perform all that will be required when the battalion is assembled; as it will be very little different from what they have already practised with their particular companies. The gentlemen of the regular forces must not laugh at us for this; their being so often exercised in battalion, and having so many general field-days, give them frequent opportunities of learning their duty with great facility; and they may take their ideas at once (if I may use the expression) from the life and nature whereas we are obliged to do it in miniature, and from small models.

II. One of the easiest and best manners of marching a company off to the place of exercise, on common occasions where you do not want to parade, especially if there are gates or other narrow passages to go through; is to close the rear ranks to the front, then face the whole to the right, and march off by the flank. The captain is to march at the head of the centre of the first file, the ensign on the flank of the front rank, and the lieutenant on the rear, Plate 48.  
opposite to the centre of the last file; the drummers Figure 4.  
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*Directions for the Days of Exercise,*

just behind the captain, and the serjeants before the right and left of the first file (6).

III. But in general a company should be marched off in two divisions. The right-hand division being the first, led by the captain, the second by the ensign, and the lieutenant bringing up the rear; the serjeants are to be, the first, on the right of the front rank of the first division, the other, on the left of the front rank of the second division; the drummers are to fall in between the front rank of the first division, and the captain that leads it; who is to be advanced four paces before the front of his division; and the hatchet-man twelve paces before him, with his firelock on his right-arm. The officers may either carry their fuses on the right-arm, or in the right-hand, as they chuse it, till they come to the ground on which they are to form; and then they must carry their fuses on their right-arm.

IV. If the company is to march off to the right; after having closed the rear ranks to the front, the commanding officer gives the word,

Plate 48.  
Figure 5.

*To the right, Wheel by divisions! March!*

At

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6. In doing this care must be taken to make the men step off with their left feet all together at once, and not open their files to above one pace distance, observing the rules given in Chap. ii. §. 9. If there be any turnings, they wheel by files, following one another as close as possible. Vid. plate 48. figure 4.

At which both divisions wheel at the same time to the right, and march off; opening their ranks in marching, as directed in Chap. ii. §. 10. (7.).

V. If it is to march to the left; the first division Plate 48. marches forward a few paces, and wheels to the Figure 6. left; the second, as soon as the first has finished its wheel, and is opposite to its right flank, begins to march forward; and, when the first is past its left flank, wheels after and follows it (8).

VI. If the company is to march straight forward to the front; one method is, when the officer Plate 48. that leads the first, or right-hand division, gives the Figure 7. word *March!* for the officer commanding the second division to give the word,

*Wheel to the right!*

At which the second division wheels to the right; as soon as it has finished the wheel, the officer again gives the word, *Wheel to the left!* and wheels to the left,

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(7.) Vide plate 48. figure 5. where the two divisions are represented, as having both wheeled together to the right, from *a.* to *b.* and from *c.* to *d.*

(8.) Vide plate 48. figure 6. the first division is represented, as having wheeled from *a.* to *b.* and marched on past the front of the second division, which is advanced to *c. c.* and ready to wheel from *c.* to *d.*

N. B. Each particular officer commanding a division is to observe, and give the proper words of command to it, to march, halt, and wheel at the proper times, as directed by these explanations.

*Directions for the Days of Exercise,*

left, which brings it directly on the ground of the first division (9.).

Plate 48.  
Figure 8.

VII. When there are many divisions, this last is the properest, and most regular method; where there are only two, when the officer that leads the first division gives the word, *March!* the officer commanding the second may order it to face to the right; and, as soon as the rear rank of the first division is got past the front rank of the second, he gives the word *March!* upon which the second division marches by the flank, till it comes exactly upon the ground on which the other stood; then he gives the words,

*Halt! Front! March!*

At the first of which the division halts; at the second it faces to the left; and at the word, *March!* follows the first division (10.).

VIII. The second division may follow the first by the oblique step; when the first division has made three paces, the officer commanding the second gives the word,

Plate 48.  
Figure 9.

*Incline to the right! March!*

Upon

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(9.) Vide plate 48. figure 7. where the second division has finished the wheel to the right, from *a.* to *b.* and is ready to wheel to the left, from *c.* to *d.* to follow the first division, which is marched on.

(10.) Vide plate 48. figure 8.



Upon which it follows, marching by the oblique step to the right, till it covers the first division; and then marches forward after it (11.).



A R T. II.

*Of Forming the Company and Drawing it up on the Place of Exercise.*

I. **W**HEN a company wheels in order to form, as soon as the captain comes upon the ground where he intends to halt, he faces to his division, and gives the word *Halt!* At which the drum-

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(11.) Vide plate 48: figure 9. where the second division has followed, by the oblique step, from *a. b.* to *c. d.* till it covers the first.

The directions, here given for marching in two divisions, will serve equally for any number, and consequently show the manner of marching off a whole battalion by divisions or companies. If there are more than two divisions, and they are to march to the right; all the divisions wheel at the same time to the right; if to the left; each division marches forward, when that division which was on its right has finished its wheel; and wheels after it to the left, as soon as it has passed its front.

If they are to march straight forward, and there are more than two divisions; all must wheel to the right, except the right-hand one, which marches straight forward; and, as each division wheels to the left, the others follow up in succession to its ground; and wheel likewise to the left after it, covering the divisions before them.

As the marching of the companies by ranks of fours is sometimes practised at a review, we shall just mention the method of doing;

*Directions for the Days of Exercise,*

drummers advance to the front ten paces, beating the troop, and take post opposite to the centre of the company. The hatchet-man does the same, only two paces more advanced than the drummers; and they come to the right about together, facing the men. The lieutenant and ensign when they come up take post, the lieutenant on the right, the ensign to the left, four paces advanced before the front, and face the men; the captain posts himself before the centre. When the captain has seen that the men dress well, and the files cover as they should do; he gives a signal to the other officers, and they all go to the right about together; the drummers then cease beating.

## II. To

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doing it. The ranks being at open order, all the three ranks wheel together to the right by fours; then the right-hand four of the front rank of the company on the right, wheel to the left, and march forward: the whole front rank following up by ranks of four; wheeling to the left upon the same ground, and marching forward likewise after the first. When the last four of the front rank wheel to the left, the right-hand four of the centre rank do the same, and that rank marches off in the same manner as the front rank did. The right-hand four of the rear rank wheel with the last of the centre rank, and that rank marches off as the centre rank did. After that, the right-hand company advances on to the ground of the first, and marches off exactly in the same manner as that did; the front rank first, then the centre rank, and then the rear-rank. The other companies follow successively, till they are all marched off. When they come round to the left of the ground that they were upon at first, the front rank of each company wheels to the left, and marches along the ground where the front rank stood; the centre and rear ranks pass the front rank, and do the same, on that where the centre and rear ranks stood; when the right-hand company comes upon the ground where it stood before, it halts, and each company does the same upon its own ground, then they wheel to the left by fours, which fronts them exactly as they were at first.

II. To form a company upon its ground, either for review or exercise, it must be considered, whether it comes on to it from the right, left, or rear; if it comes from the left, as soon as the first division comes within the breadth of its front of the right <sup>Plate 49.</sup> of the ground that they are to form upon, both di- <sup>Figure 10.</sup>visions wheel to the left, at the same time; and, having finished their wheel, halt together, dressing their front even with one another (12.).

III. When a company comes to its ground from <sup>Plate 49.</sup> the right, the first division wheels to the right, and, <sup>Figure 11.</sup>advancing six or eight paces to the front, halts on its ground; the second division, as soon as it has passed behind the rear of the first, and is even with its left-hand file, wheels to the left, and joins the left flank of the first, dressing its ranks with it. The officers, drummers, &c. post themselves as in the former explanation (13.).

#### IV. A

(12.) Vide plate 49. figure 2. in which both divisions are represented as actually upon the wheel, from *a.* to *b.* and *c.* to *d.* from whence they advance, and dress with one another at *e. f.* This shews also, that the second division must slacken its motion in wheeling, so as not to interfere with the rear rank of the first.

(13.) This is represented in plate 49. figure 11: The first division after having wheeled from *a.* to *b.* advances to *f. g.* to give the second, which follows it, room to pass by its rear. As soon as the front rank of that division is even with the left flank of the first, it wheels from *c.* to *d.* and advances to *e. f.* dressing its ranks with the first; in the plan the second division has finished the wheel, and the first is represented as just about to halt; the drummers not being yet advanced, and the captain still at the head of the division.

Plate 49.  
Figure 12.

IV. A company that comes directly up from the rear, may be formed by the oblique step: the second division inclining to the left, after the first has halted, till the right flank of the second is even with the left of the first; and then marching straight forward (14.).

Plate 49.  
Figure 13.

V. The first division may likewise, in marching, incline to the right by the oblique step; while the second inclines to the left, till the left flank of the first is clear of the right flank of the second division; and then they both march straight forward: the first division making short steps, and the second making long steps, in order to come up and dress with the first (15.).

Plate 49.  
Figure 14.

VI. It may likewise be done by the second division wheeling to the left, and again to the right, and then marching up to dress even with the front of the first division (16.)

Plate 49.  
Figure 15.

VII. When a company is thus formed, the rear ranks are to take their distance of six paces, as directed

(14.) Vide plate 49. figure 12. when the first division halts at *a*. *b*. the second inclines to *c*. and then advances to *d*. *a*. dressing with the first division; the officers and drummers are represented as not yet having taken their posts.

(15.) The dotted lines at *a*. plate 49. figure 13. represent the place of the first division when they both began to incline to the right and left; and those at *b*. that of the second; the pricked lines at *c*. represent the ground they are to come up to, and where the first division is supposed to be halted.

(16.) Plate 49. figure 14. shows the two wheels of the second division from *a*. to *b*. and from *c*. to *d*. The very same directions will serve

rected in explanation *xliv.* of the Manual; the serjeants fall back into the rear, at four paces distance behind the men; the drummers advance ten paces to the front, and face to the right about to the company. The hatchet-man posts himself two paces beyond the drummers, and likewise comes to the right about facing the company.

VIII. The captain then faces to the right about, *Plate 49.* and advances twelve paces to the front, and comes *Figure 16.* again to the right about. The drummers are then posted on his right. The lieutenant and ensign, when the captain advances, fall in on the flanks of the front rank; the lieutenant to the right, and ensign to the left; the serjeants come up to the right and left flanks of the rear rank.

IX. In this situation, the captain, or command- *Plate 49.* ing officer, will make them go through the Manual *Figure 17.* Exercise, and such parts of the firings as he shall think proper (17); after which he will practise them in marching, both straight forward, and by the oblique step; and likewise in wheeling; and in the various methods of marching off, and forming by divisions,

PART II.

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serve for forming any number of divisions into companies or battalions. If they come from the left, they all wheel at once to the left, as soon as they are all come upon their proper ground; which is, when the first division is within the breadth of its front, from the right of the ground it is to form upon. If they come from the right, the first division wheels to the right and advances: the rest following successively, and doing the same, as in Art. ii. §. 3. of this Chapter. If from the rear, they may form by the methods directed in §. 4, 5, 6. as shall be found most convenient.

(17.) When the rear ranks close to the front, in order to perform the firings, the officers and serjeants are to keep their posts as before: and the serjeants close up with the rear rank, as in *plate 49. figure 17.*

*Directions for the Days of Exercise,*

as before directed; and, when they have done as much of these things as shall be sufficient, he will march them back to the place of assembly, in the same manner as they marched from thence, and draw them up there. He then will give the words of command to open their ranks, and order their firelocks; and the officers will again inspect the arms and accoutrements, to see if they are clean and in order; and cause the serjeants to take an account of what is broken or amiss, and give such other orders as shall be necessary; after which he will command them to rest, shoulder, and club their firelocks; and then give the word, *To the right about!* and dismiss them with the ruffle of a drum. (18.)

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(18.) If the men are to lodge their arms in a house, church, or other place, that they can conveniently march into, the officers may make them rest their firelocks, and then give the word,

*Face to the right!*

and so make each rank file off with recovered arms singly from the right, the centre rank following as soon as the front rank has marched off, and then the rear rank, the drum beating the troop.



**T**HERE has lately been communicated to us a method of sizing and forming a company, which appears to us so easy, and at the same time so regular and elegant, that we cannot forbear giving it here, though out of its proper place, and recommending the practice of it. The author of it we are assured is an able and experienced officer of the army, whose name we have not the pleasure of knowing; it is as follows: Having an exact size-roll of your company, you begin with the lowest man, placing him in the centre, the next taller on the left, the next above him on the right, and so on alternately, forming a rank entire, till the tallest of all are on the flanks; you then tell off the rank into six divisions, telling the division on the right, and that on the left, that they are the front rank; the two divisions from the right and left nearer the centre, that they are the rear rank; and the two divisions in the centre, that they are the centre rank. You then give the words,

*Form your ranks, March! Halt!*

At the word, *March*, the two divisions on the flanks, and the two centre divisions, all step off together with their left feet, the flank divisions making twelve paces, and the centre divisions six; and halt when they have made their number of paces, bringing their feet up square. You then give the word,

*To the right and left, March!*

Upon which the two divisions of the front rank, and those of the rear rank, face those on the right to the left, and those

*Directions for the Days of Exercise, &c.*

those on the left to the right, and at the word, *March*, step off together, and march till they join the centre at *a* and *b*. as soon as you have done this, you give the word,

*Halt ! Front !*

Upon which they all face to the right and left, to their proper front.

The company is by this means at once formed into three ranks, the first rank being composed of the tallest men, the rear rank of those next in size, and the centre of the lowest ; and each of those ranks sized from the right and left.

This method may be varied either by causing the two divisions of the centre rank to stand, and the two of the rear rank to go to the right about. When the front rank divisions advance, and then face to the right and left, join ; or the two centre ranks and rear rank divisions to fall back, and the front rank stand. But that must be determined by the nature of the ground and situation.



ADDITION to Note 1st. Page 19.

**S**INCE the printing off of this, we have had the pleasure of seeing the 67th and 72d regiments of foot\*, march, and perform their evolutions, with the greatest order and regularity, to the sound of the fife; keeping the most exact time and cadence: and we have likewise found upon trial, that our militia men may be brought to do it, with much less difficulty than we could have imagined. The effect of the musick in regulating the step, and making the men keep their order, is really very extraordinary; and experience seems fully to confirm Marshal Saxe's opinion; who asserts, that it is the best and indeed the only method of teaching troops to march well; and of making a large body (especially of any considerable depth,) move all together; and advance faster or slower as may be required, in a regular uniform manner, without opening its ranks, or falling into disorder.

PART II.

I

AD-

\* General Wolfe's and the Duke of Richmond's.

### ADDITION to Note 3d, Page 21.

**P**ERHAPS we shall explain ourselves better, by saying that the essential point in the performance of this step, is the carrying the foot constantly forward, with an easy motion, and near the ground, so as always to advance; which indeed is just what every man does in his natural way of walking; only in marching the time is a little more marked; whereas in the old method of marching, the foot is lifted up high and advanced forward, but is brought back again, and set down on the ground very near the other; which is not only stiff and unnatural to the highest degree, but a loss of time and motion. In the way in which the two regiments before mentioned perform it, it appears no other than an easy genteel manner of walking in cadence; but we must observe that they remit a little of the exactness of the Prussians, (who perform it just as we have described;) and do not keep the knee so straight, nor the ballance of the body so far back, nor mark the time so strongly as they do: which certainly takes off that appearance of stiffness and dancing, which some have objected to the Prussian step; though we must think without reason, and that when well executed it has the most graceful and military appearance imaginable; but they proceed on the same principles, and begin to teach their young recruits in the manner that we have here directed, till they have got the true ballance of the body, and time of the step; and then they easily make them lose that air of stiffness and constraint which necessarily attends all first attempts at any exercise.

AD-

ADDITION to Chap. 2d, Art. 2d. §. VI.  
Page 27.

**T**HERE is another method which we have seen practised by the 67th and 72d regiments, which has a most excellent effect; and that is the accustoming the men to turn to the right or left, or to the right and left about, in marching, without halting, or losing the step. This is done by each man turning singly; in two steps, if only to the right or left, stepping off forward at the third; and in four, if to the right or left about, stepping off at the fifth: they must observe not to advance in the least in turning; but to turn each man precisely upon his own ground, and to keep the time of the step exactly. This method greatly facilitates and abridges the performance of many of the evolutions, which by this means are executed without halting the men in order to face them; and consequently causes the evolutions to be performed much quicker, and with more accuracy; as the men constantly keep a uniform and regular step. This also we have endeavoured to teach our militia men, and find that we succeed in it beyond our expectations, and that they learn it without much difficulty.

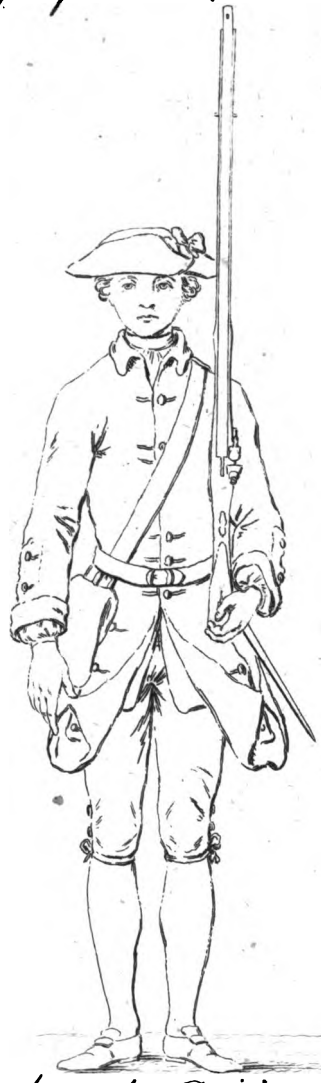
**N.B.** **T**HE halt here must be only momentary; just that the men may recover the step; and the word *March!* should be given, almost in the same breath with those of *Halt!* *Draw!* the instant the officer sees that the men are dressed, and ready to step off with the left feet. When they march so well as not to lose the step in wheeling, these words of command may be omitted; and should always be given in rather a low voice; so as to be heard only by the division that they are addressed to.

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\* \* \* Gentlemen are desired not to bind the first and second Parts, as a third will be published with all convenient speed.



Take care to perform the Manual Exercise.



N.B. This also shows the Position of.....

Capla. <sup>n</sup>	Motion.
6	2
8	3
10	3
12	3
14	3
25	2
29	2
33	2
37	2
48	2
50	2





I. *Rest your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.* Pl. 3.



*Explanation  
Motion.*

N.B. *This also shows the position of* .....

13	1
15	1
26	1
30	1
34	1



I. Rest your Firelock. 2<sup>d</sup> Motion.



N.B. This also shews the position of.....

Expian <sup>n</sup>	Motion
5	2
13	2
14	1
15	2
23	—
26	2
30	2
34	2
43	—
47	4





I. *Rest your Firelock. 2<sup>d</sup> Motion.*  
*viewed sideways, faced to the left.*



N.B. *This also shews the Position of Cap.<sup>n</sup> 19.<sup>th</sup> Mot.<sup>n</sup> 2.<sup>d</sup>*

II. *Order your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.*



NB. *This also shows the Position of Explan. 5. Mot. 1<sup>st</sup>*





II. Order your Firelock 2<sup>d</sup> Motion.



N.B. This also shews the Position of Espl. 4.<sup>th</sup> Mot. 2.



III. *Ground your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.*



N.B. *This also shews the Position of Expl. 4<sup>th</sup> Mot. 1<sup>st</sup>.*





III. *Ground your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion*  
*A Side View.* Pl. 9.



VI. *Shoulder. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.*  
*for 2<sup>d</sup> Motion, vid. Pl. 2<sup>d</sup>*



N.B. *This also shews the Position of*.....

<i>Expplan.<sup>n</sup></i>	<i>Motion</i>
10	2
12	2
14	2
25	1
29	1
33	1
37	1
48	1
50	2





VII. *Club your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.* Pl. II.





VII. *Club your Firelock. 2<sup>d</sup> Motion.*







VII. *Club your Firelock. 3<sup>d</sup> Motion.*



VIII. *Shoulder. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.* Pl. 14.







VIII. *Shoulder. 2<sup>d</sup> Motion.*  
*for 3<sup>d</sup> Motion, vid. Pl. 2<sup>d</sup>*





IX. *Secure your Firelock. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.*



*Explain.<sup>r</sup>*  
*Motion*

N.B. *This also shews the Position of* { 11 | 1  
 4.9 | 1



IX. *Secure your Firelock, 2. Motion.* Pl. 17.



N.B. *This also shows the Position of*

<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Motion</i>
10	1
11	2
12	1
19	2





IX. *Secure your Firelock, 3. Motion.* Pl. 18.





XI. *Fix your Bayonet, 3<sup>d</sup> Motion begun.*  
*for 1<sup>st</sup> Mot: vid: Pl. 16.*  
*for 2<sup>d</sup> Mot: vid: Pl. 17.*



N.B. *This also shews the Position of Expl. 49. 3<sup>d</sup> Mot<sup>n</sup>.*



XI. *Fix your Bayonet, 3. Motion ended.*







XIII. Carry your Firelock on your right Arm.

3<sup>d</sup> Motion.

for 1<sup>st</sup> Motion, vid. Pl. 3.

for 2<sup>d</sup> Motion, vid. Pl. 4<sup>th</sup>



XVI. *Face to the right, 1.<sup>st</sup> Motion.* **Pl. 22**





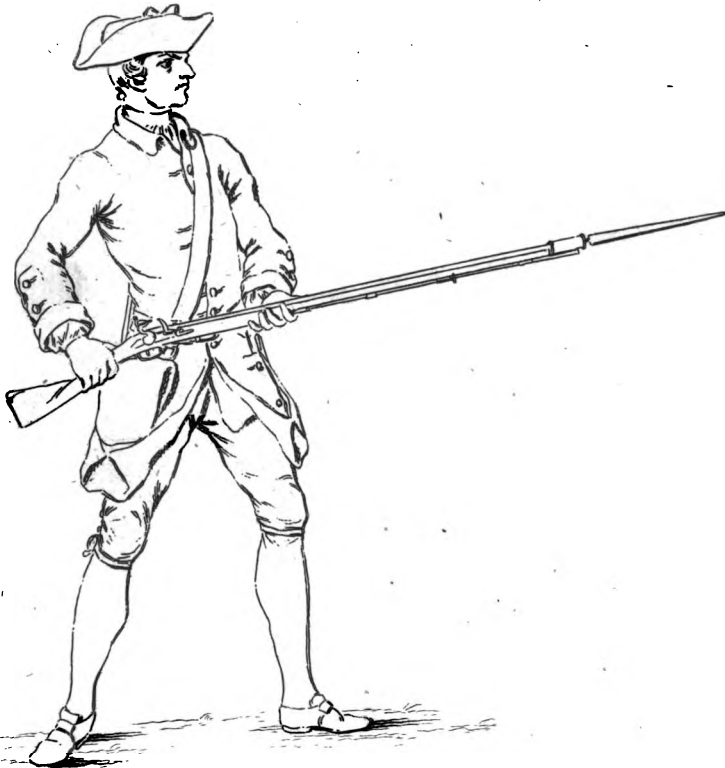


XIX. *Face to the left, 1.<sup>st</sup> Motion.* Pl. 23





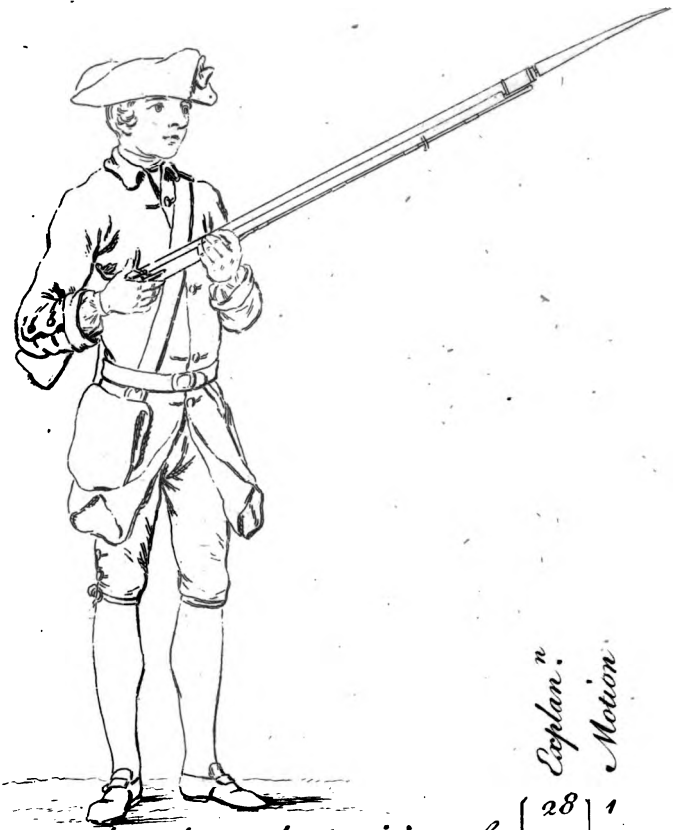
XXII. *Charge your Bayonet.*







XXIV. Prime & load, 2.<sup>d</sup> Motion.  
shewing also the position of y.<sup>e</sup> 1.<sup>st</sup> Motion.



N.B. This also shews the position of

{	28	1
	32	1
	36	1

XXIV. Prime & load, 6<sup>th</sup> Motion.  
 shewing also the position of y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Motion.



Explan.  
 Motion.

N.B. This also shews the position of

{	28	6
	32	6
	36	6





XXIV. Prime & load, 7<sup>th</sup> Motion ended.



N.B. This also shews the position of

Explosive  
Motion

28	7
32	7
36	7



XXIV. Prime & load; 8.<sup>th</sup> Motion ended.



N.B. This also shews the position of

<i>Explosive.</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Explosive.</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Explosive.</i>	<i>8</i>





XXIV. Prime & load. 9<sup>th</sup> Motion ended.



N.B. This also shows the position of

Caption.	28	9
Attention.	32	9
	36	9

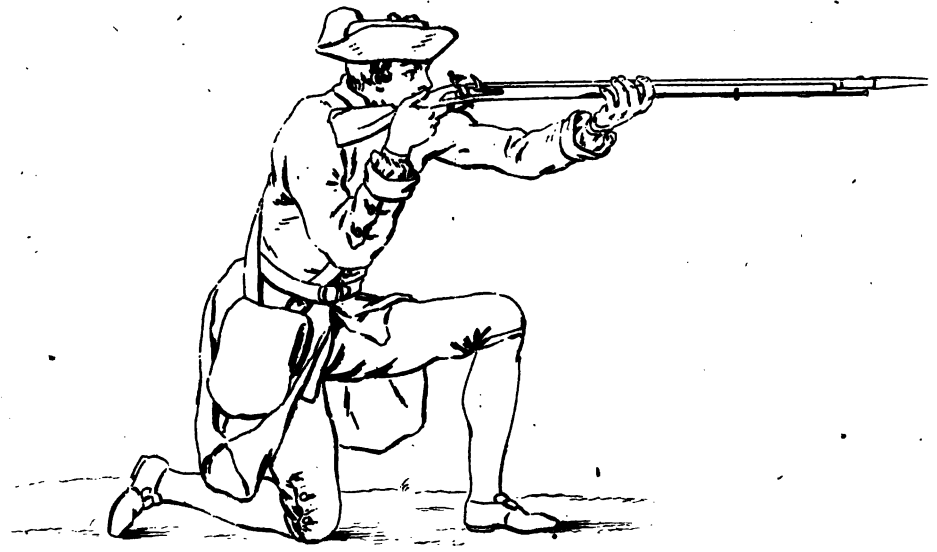
XXVI. As Front-rank, Make-ready. 3<sup>d</sup> Motion.

for 1<sup>st</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 3<sup>d</sup>  
for 2<sup>d</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 4<sup>th</sup>





XXVII. *Present as Front-rank, a side View.*







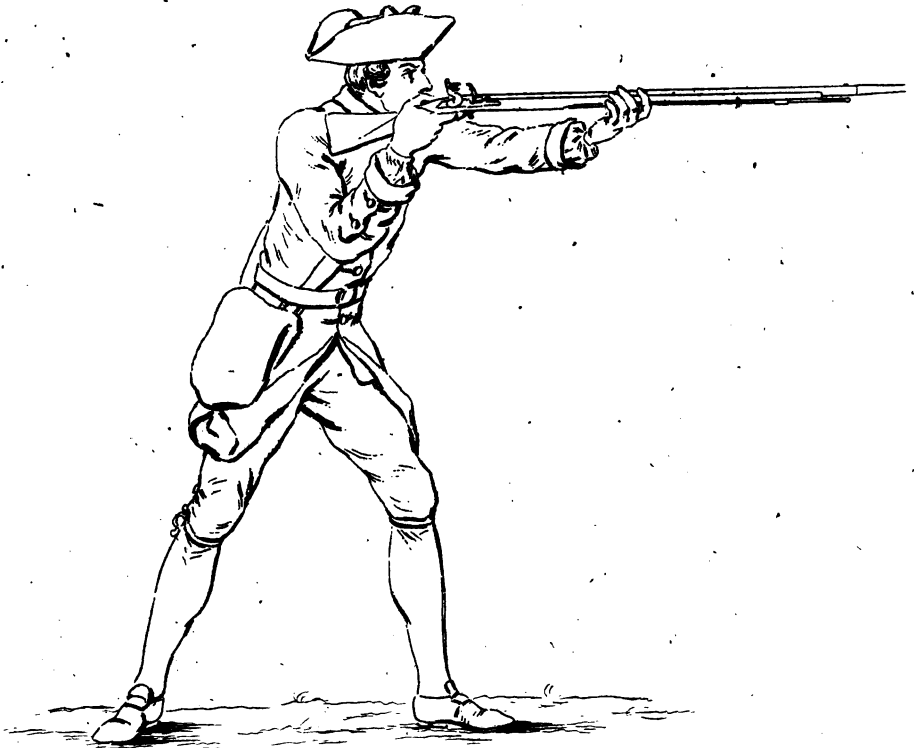


XXX. As Center rank; Make-ready, 3<sup>d</sup> Motion.

for 1<sup>st</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 3<sup>d</sup>.  
for 2<sup>d</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 4<sup>th</sup>.



Pl. 33.  
XXXI. Present, as Center-rank, a side View.



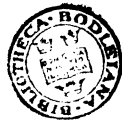
N.B. This is nearly the Position of Capt. 35<sup>th</sup>



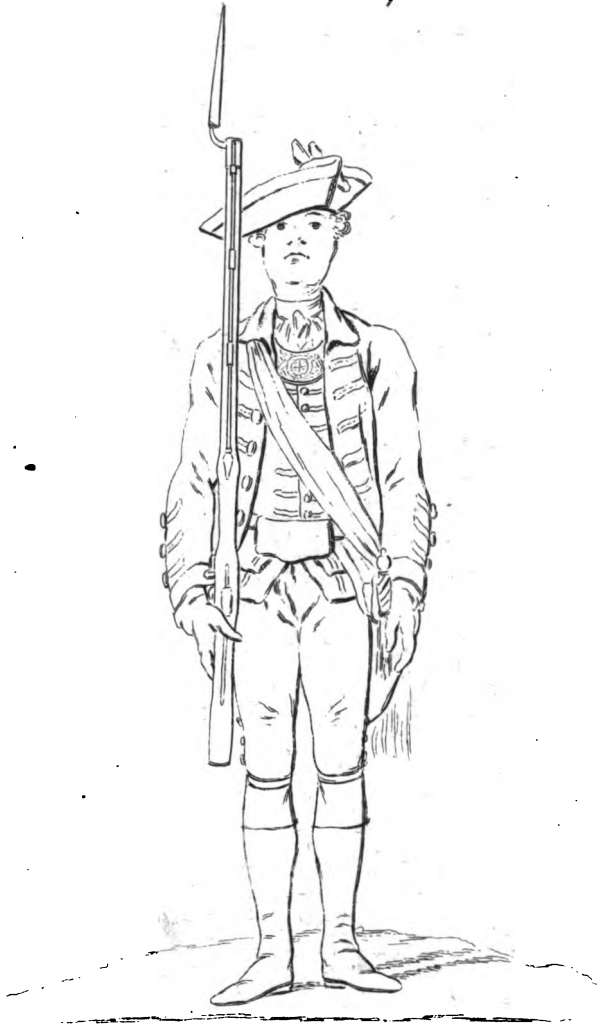
XXXIV. as Rear-rank, make ready, 3. Motion. Pl. 34.

for 1.<sup>st</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 3<sup>d</sup>  
for 2.<sup>d</sup> Mot: vid. Pl. 4.<sup>th</sup>





*This shows the Position of* { *Explan: 2<sup>d</sup> Motion 3<sup>d</sup>*  
*Explan: 4<sup>th</sup> Motion 3<sup>d</sup>*



*Position of an Officer carrying his Fusée on his right Arm.*



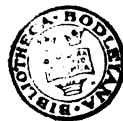


This shows the Position of

Explan: 2<sup>d</sup> Motion 2<sup>d</sup>  
 Explan: 3<sup>d</sup> Motion 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Explan: 4<sup>th</sup> Motion 2<sup>d</sup>  
 Salute, Motion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup>



Order your Fusee. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion.



*This shews the position of Explan. 2. Motion 1.<sup>st</sup>*



*Order your Fussee, 2. Motion.*







*For 1<sup>st</sup> Motion, vid. Pl. 36.  
This shows the position of Expt.<sup>n</sup> 4 Mot.<sup>n</sup> 1.<sup>st</sup>*



*Carry your Fusee in your right Hand 2<sup>d</sup> Mot.<sup>n</sup>*







*Carry your Fusée in your Right Hand, 3. Motion.*



*For 1.<sup>st</sup> Motion, vid: Pl. 36.*



*Salute, 2.<sup>o</sup> Motion.*

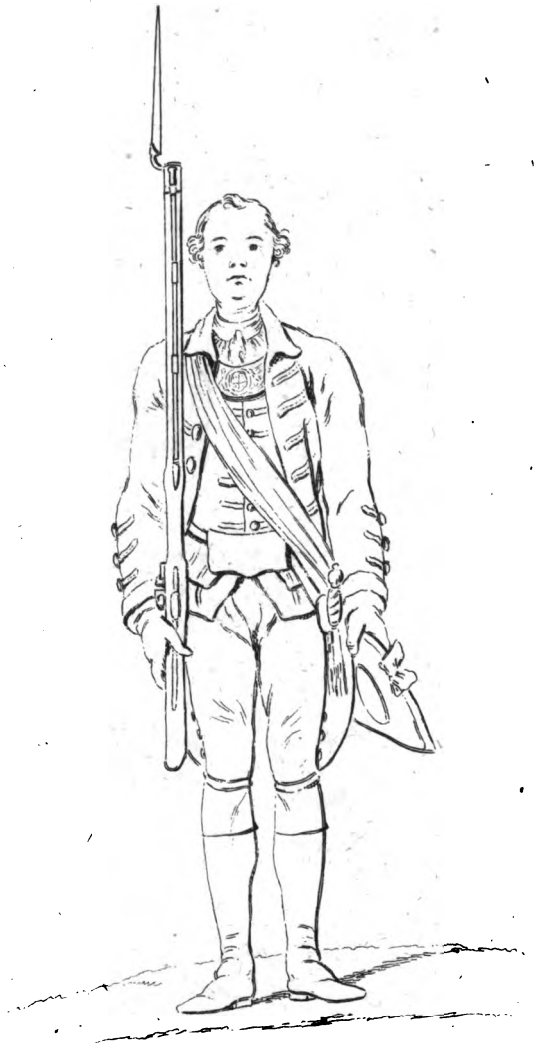


*For 3<sup>d</sup> Motion, vid: Pl: 36.*



*Salute, 4<sup>th</sup> Motion.*





*Salute, 5<sup>th</sup> Motion.*







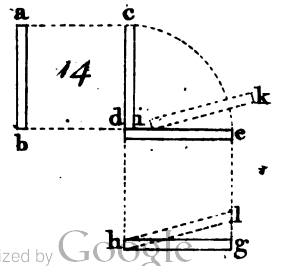
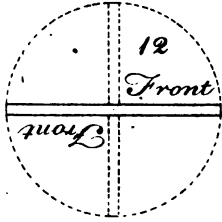
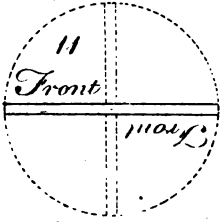
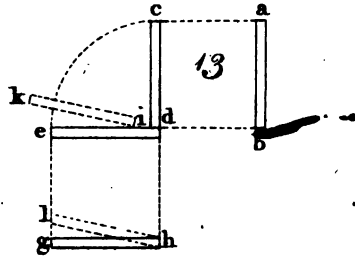
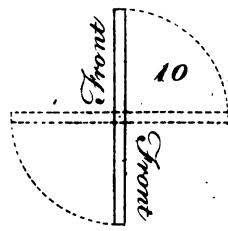
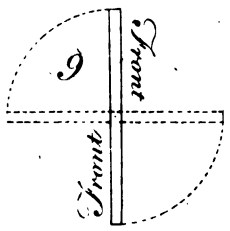
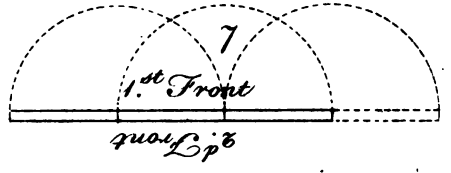
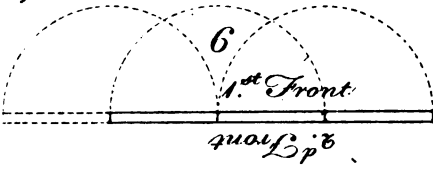
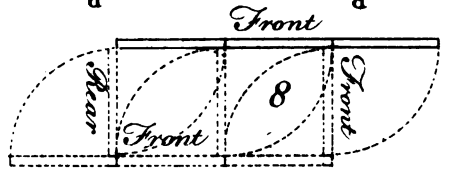
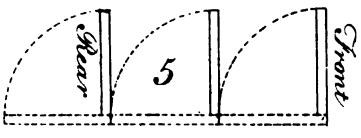
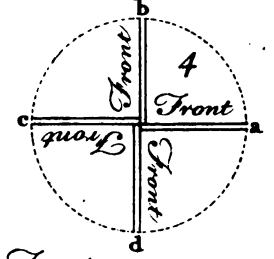
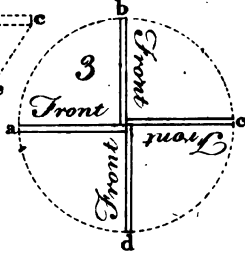
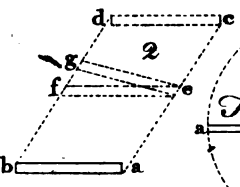
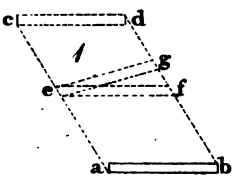
*An Officer marching at the Head of his  
Company, shewing y<sup>e</sup> manner of the Step.*



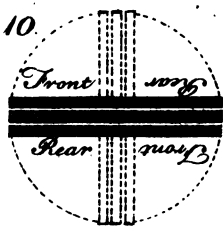
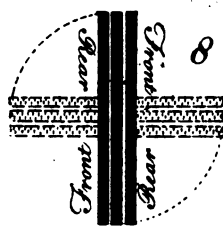
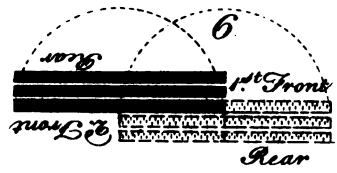
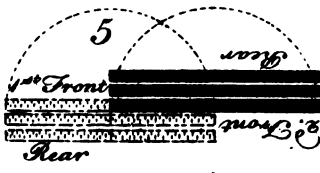
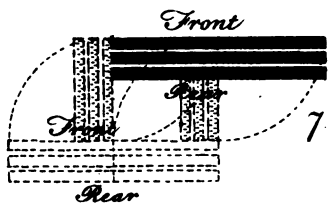
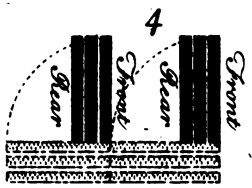
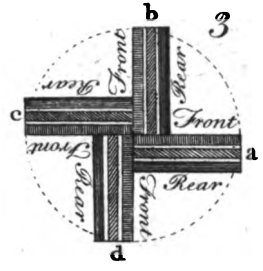
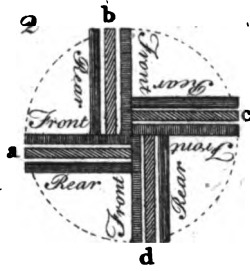
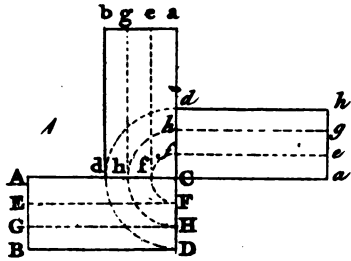


*Ensign carrying the Colours.*





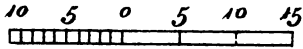








*Scale of Paces of 2 feet each*



- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Ensign

- ▬ Front
  - ▬ Center
  - ▬ Rear
- } Ranks

- ⊕ Serjeant
- Drummer
- ⊞ Hatchetman

