The Gift of

Gen. W. F. Edmunds,

of Boston,

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Thomas P. Edmund

PATTEN'S

INFANTRY TACTICS,

AND

BAYONET EXERCISE.

COMPILED

Agreeably to the Latest Regulations of the War Department,

FROM

STANDARD MILITARY AUTHORITY.

BY GEORGE PATTEN,

LATE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

I cordially approve of this work, and recommend it to the use of Officers of Volunteers.

GEO. B McCLELLAN, Maj-Gen. United States Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26, 1861.

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PREFACE

The design of the following pages, is to furnish in a succinct manner, all the instruction requisite for the soldier, without subjecting him to the necessity of culling it from the more elaborate works; which to the uninitiated have the effect of dampening, rather than increasing, the ardor for military knowledge: and tend to dishearten the beginner in his research, from the simple fact of spreading too much before him at once.

Thorough instruction in that portion of tactics, referring to the individual soldier, cannot fail to produce well-drilled companies, which are the foundation of all military organizations: and which, when secured, will ensure that precision and accuracy of movement, which are requisite for the more advanced evolutions of the Battalion, Brigade, and Division.

The intelligent soldier will here find, fully explained and illustrated, all that he must acquire to enable him properly to fill his place as the unit of military organization. And the Company Officer will receive sufficient information to enable him to fit his command to take its place for instruction in the School of the Battalion.

Besides which, full instruction is given in the deployments and other movements of skirmishers; so far as per-
tains to the general requirements of active service, for this
description of Infantry. Together with the *Bayonet Drill*,
sufficiently described and illustrated, to furnish such in-
struction, as will render the soldier master of his piece and
perfectly self-reliant, when brought singly in conflict with
an antagonist similarly armed or with a mounted enemy.

The Exercises and Drills, herein given, are in strict con-
formity with the latest regulations of the War Department.
Particular care having been taken, to make no innovations
upon what has received official sanction.
NOMENCLATURE OF THE MUSKET.

The principal parts of a musket are—1. The Barrel; 2. The Lock; 3. The Stock; 4. The Rammer; 5. The Mounting. These several parts will be understood by reference to the plate, where they are marked, as follows:

1—The Upper-band. 2—The Middle-band. 3—The Tail-band. 4—The Barrel. 5—The Swell. 6—The Guard. 7—The Swivels. 8—The Small of the Stock. 9—The Butt. 0—The Heel of the Butt. 11—The Toe or Beak of Butt. 12—The Lock. 13—The Rammer. 14—The Trigger. 15—The Blade of Bayonet. 16—The Shank of Bayonet. 17—The Socket. 18—The Clasp. 19—The Lock-plate. 20—The Hammer. 21—The Main Spring. 22—The Sling.

There are also—The Upper, Middle, and Tail Pipe; Butt of Rammer, and Little End of same.

The parts of the Barrel are designated, as; The Muzzle, Breech, Bore, Sight and Tang.
SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER.

General Rules and Division of the School of the Soldier.

The thorough and complete instruction of the recruit in the fundamental principles of tactics is necessary to the proper execution of all military exercises, therefore, too much care cannot be taken by the instructor in teaching the preliminary lessons, which constitute the school of the soldier.

The object of this school being the individual and progressive instruction of the recruits, the instructor never requires a movement to be executed until he has given an exact explanation of it; and he executes, himself, the movement which he commands, so as to join example to precept. He accustoms the recruit to take, by himself, the position which is explained—teaches him to rectify it only when required by his want of intelligence—and sees that all the movements are performed without precipitation.

Each movement should be understood before passing to another. After they have been properly executed in the order laid down in each lesson, the instructor no longer confines himself to that order; on the contrary, he should change it, that he may judge of the intelligence of the men.

The instructor allows the men to rest at the end of each part of the lesson, or oftener, if he thinks proper, especially at the commencement; for this purpose he commands Rest.

At the command Rest, the soldier is no longer required to preserve immobility, or to remain in his place. If the instructor wishes merely to relieve the attention of the recruit, he commands, in place—Rest; the soldier is then not required to preserve his immobility, but he always keeps one of his feet in its place.

When the instructor wishes to commence the instruction, he commands—Attention; at this command, the soldier takes his position, remains motionless, and fixes his attention.
The School of the Soldier will be divided into three parts; the first, comprehending what ought to be taught to recruits without arms; the second, the manual of arms, the loadings and firings; the third, the principles of alignment, the march by the front, the different steps, the march by the flank, the principles of wheeling, and those of change of direction; also, long marches in double quick time and the run.

Each part will be divided into lessons, for convenience of instruction.

**Commands.**

There are three kinds.

The command of caution, which is attention.

The preparatory command, which indicates the movement which is to be executed.

The command of execution, such as march or halt, or, in the manual of arms, the part of command which causes an execution.

The tone of command should be animated, distinct, and of a loudness proportioned to the number of men under instruction.

The command attention is pronounced at the top of the voice, dwelling on the last syllable.

The command of execution will be pronounced in a tone firm and brief.

Commands of caution and the preparatory commands are herein distinguished by italics, those of execution by CAPITALS.

Those preparatory commands which, from their length, are difficult to be pronounced at once, must be divided into two or three parts, with an ascending progression in the tone of command, but always in such a manner that the tone of execution may be more energetic and elevated; the divisions are indicated by a hyphen. The parts of commands which are placed in a parenthesis, are not pronounced.

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**PART FIRST.**

This will be taught, if practicable, to one recruit at a time; but three or four may be united, when the number be great, compared with that of the instructors. In this case,
the recruits will be placed in a single rank at one pace from each other. In this part, the recruits will be without arms.

Lesson I.

Position of the Soldier.

Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit;

The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle;

The knees straight without stiffness;

The body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward;

The shoulders square and falling equally;

The arms hanging naturally;

The elbows near the body;

The palm of the hand turned a little to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;

The head erect and square to the front, without constraint;

The chin near the stock, without covering it;

The eyes fixed straight to the front, and striking the ground about the distance of fifteen paces.

Remarks on the Position of the Soldier.

Heels on the same line;

Because, if one were in rear of the other, the shoulder on that side would be thrown back, or the position of the soldier would be constrained.

Heels more or less closed;

Because, men who are knock-kneed, or who have legs with large calves, cannot, without constraint, make their heels touch while standing.

The feet equally turned out and not forming too large an angle;

Because, if one foot were turned out more than the other, a shoulder would be deranged, and if both feet be too much turned out, it would

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.
not be practicable to incline the upper part of the body forward without rendering the whole position unsteady.

Knees extended without stiffness;

Because, if stiffened, constraint and fatigue would be unavoidable.

The body erect on the hips;

Because, it gives equilibrium to the position. The instructor will observe that many recruits have the bad habit of dropping a shoulder, of drawing in a side, or of advancing a hip, particularly the right, when under arms. These are defects he will labor to correct.

The upper part of the body inclined forward;

Because, commonly, recruits are disposed to do the reverse, to project the belly, and to throw back the shoulders, when they wish to hold themselves erect, from which result great inconveniences in marching. The habit of inclining forward the upper part of the body is so important to contract, that the instructor must enforce it at the beginning, particularly with recruits who have naturally the opposite habit.

Shoulders square;

Because, if the shoulders be advanced beyond the line of the breast, and the back arched (the defect called round shouldered, not uncommon among recruits), the man cannot align himself, nor use his piece with address. It is important, then, to correct this defect, and necessary to that end that the coat should set easy about the shoulders and armpits; but in correcting this defect, the instructor will take care that the shoulders be not thrown too much to the rear, which would cause the belly to project, and the small of the back to be curved.

The arms hanging naturally, elbows near the body, the palm of the hand a little turned to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;

Because, these positions are equally important to the shoulder-arms, and to prevent the man from occupying more space in a rank than is necessary to a free use of the piece;
they have, moreover, the advantage of keeping in the shoulders.

The face straight to the front, and without constraint;

Because, if there be stiffness in the latter position, it would communicate itself to the whole of the upper part of the body, embarrass its movements, and give pain and fatigue.

Eyes direct to the front.

Because, this is the surest means of maintaining the shoulders in line—an essential object, to be insisted on and attained.

The instructor having given the recruit the position of the soldier without arms, will now teach him the turning of the head and eyes. He will command:


At the word *right*, the recruit will turn the head gently, so as to bring the inner corner of the left eye in a line with the buttons of the coat, the eyes fixed on the line of the eyes of the men in, or supposed to be in, the same rank.

At the second command, the head will resume the direct or habitual position.

The movement of *Eyes—Left* will be executed by inverse means.

The instructor will take particular care that the movement of the head does not derange the squareness of the shoulders, which will happen if the movement of the former be too sudden.

In advanced stages of drill this command is given as *Right* (or left) *Dress*, and is the governing principle of all alignments.

The object of turning the head, is for the recruit to assure himself that he is in line, when forming a portion of a line composed of six or more.

On executing the order, if he have but a glimpse of the left cheek of the second man from him, he will be in line; if he see too much of the side face he will be too far to the front; and if no portion of the cheek be seen he is too far
to the rear, in both cases the correction must be made by gradual movement.

When the instructor shall wish the recruit to pass from the state of attention to that of ease, he will command:

REST.

To cause a resumption of the habitual position, the instructor will command:

1. Attention. 2. Squad.

At the first word, the recruit will fix his attention; at the second, he will resume the prescribed position and steadiness.

LESSON II.

Facings.

Facing to the right and left will be executed in one time, or pause. The instructor will command:

1. Squad. 2. Right (or left)—FACE.

At the second command, raise the right foot slightly, turn on the left heel, raising the toes a little, and then replace the right heel by the side of the left, and on the same line.

Figure 3 shows this movement; the dotted lines being the original position of the feet. Figure 4 shows the position of the feet when facing to the left.

Fig. 3. Fig. 4.

The full face to the rear (or front) will be executed in two times, or pauses. The instructor will command:

1. Squad. 2. About—FACE.

At the word about, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from the
left heel, the feet square to each other, laying hold at the same time, of the cartridge box by the corner with the right hand.

At the command "Face," the soldier raising the points of the feet, or toes, and keeping the hams straight, will turn on both heels, and face to the rear, carrying back at the same time the right heel to the side of the left, and quitting the cartridge box.

When the soldier carries arms, at the first command of facing right about, he shall turn his musket with his left hand, as will be explained in the first motion of "Present Arms," and replace the hand and piece at the instant of bringing the right heel to the side of the left.

When the cartridge box is secured to the waist belt, the right hand will not be moved.

The first movement is shown by diagram Figure 5 and by Fig. 7, the dotted lines showing the original positions of the feet. Figures 6 and 8 show the completion of the movement.

LESSON III.

Principles of the Direct Step.

The length of the direct step, or pace, in common time,
will be twenty-eight inches, reckoning from heel to heel, and in swiftness, at the rate of ninety in a minute.

The instructor, seeing the recruit confirmed in his position, will explain to him the principle and mechanism of this step—placing himself six or seven paces from, and facing to, the recruit. He will himself execute slowly the step in the way of illustration, and then command:

1. Squad, forward. 2. Common time.

3. March.

At the first command, the recruit will throw the weight of the body on the right leg, without bending the left knee.

At the third command, he will smartly, but without a jerk, carry straight forward the left foot twenty-eight inches from the right, the sole near the ground, the ham extended, the toe a little depressed, and, as also the knee, slightly turned out; he will, at the same time, throw the weight of the body forward, and plant flat the left foot, without shock, precisely at the distance where it finds itself from the right, when the weight of the body is brought forward, the whole of which will now rest on the advanced foot. The recruit will next, in like manner, advance the right foot and plant it as above, the heel twenty-eight inches from the heel of the left foot, and thus continue to march without crossing the legs, or striking the one against the other, without turning the shoulders, and preserving always the face direct to the front.

When the instructor shall wish to arrest the march, he will command:


At the second command, which will be given at the instant when either foot is coming to the ground, the foot in the rear will be brought up, and planted by the side of the other, without shock.

The instructor will indicate, from time to time, to the recruit, the cadence of the step by giving the command one at the instant of raising a foot, and two at the instant it ought to be planted, observing the cadence of ninety steps in a
minute. This method will contribute greatly to impress upon the mind the two motions into which the step is naturally divided.

It is essential to throw the weight of the body on the right leg, in order to leave the left leg free to be moved forward.

The toe is depressed, that the foot may come flat to the ground, which is necessary to avoid the wavering of the body, that would be the consequence of the heel first reaching the ground.

By keeping the head square to the front, the shoulders are prevented from turning, and the proper direction of march ensured.

It is important, that the instructor assure himself, that the principles of the step are well observed, in order to correct promptly all mistakes; for this purpose he will frequently throw himself ten or twelve paces to the front, when, if he do not see the sole of the shoe while the recruit is raising, advancing, and planting his foot; nor observe any wavering of the shoulders, he may be sure the movement is properly performed.

Common time will be employed only in the first and second parts of the School of the Soldiér. As soon as the recruit has acquired steadiness, has become established in the principles of shouldered arms, and in the mechanism, length and swiftness of the step in common time, he will be practised only in quick time, the double quick time, and the run.

The principles of the step in quick time, are the same as for common time, but its swiftness is at the rate of one hundred and ten steps per minute.

The instructor wishing the squad to march in quick time, will command:


Lesson IV.

Principle of the Double Quick Step.

The length of the double quick step is thirty-three inches,
and its swiftness at the rate of one hundred and sixty-five steps per minute.

The instructor wishing to teach the recruits the principles and mechanism of the double quick step, will command:

1. **Double quick step.** 2. **March.**

At the first command, the recruit will raise his hands to a level with his hips, the hands closed, the nails towards the body, the elbows to the rear.

At the second command, he will raise to the front his left leg bent, in order to give to the knee the greatest elevation, the part of the leg between the knee and the instep vertical, the toe depressed; he will then replace his foot in its former position; with the right leg he will execute what has just been prescribed for the left, and the alternate movement of the legs will be continued until the command:

1. **Squad.** 2. **Halt.**

At the second command, the recruit will bring the foot, which is raised by the side of the other, and dropping at the same time his hands by his side, will resume the position of the soldier without arms.

The instructor placing himself seven or eight paces from, and facing the recruit, will indicate the cadence by the commands, *one* and *two*, given alternately at the instant each foot should be brought to the ground, which at first will be in common time, but its rapidity will be gradually augmented.

The recruit being sufficiently established in the principles of this step, the instructor will command:

1. **Squad forward.** 2. **Double quick.**

3. **March.**

At the first command, the recruit will throw the weight of his body on the right leg.

At the second command, he will place his arms as indicated.

At the third command, he will carry forward the left
foot, the leg slightly bent, the knee somewhat raised—will plant his left foot, the toe first, thirty-three inches from the right, and with the right foot will then execute what has just been prescribed for the left. This alternate movement of the legs will take place by throwing the weight of the body on the foot that is planted, and by allowing a natural oscillatory motion to the arms.

The double quick step may be executed with different degrees of swiftness. Under urgent circumstances the cadence of this step may be increased to one hundred and eighty per minute. At this rate a distance of four thousand yards would be passed over in about twenty-five minutes.

The recruits will be exercised also in running.

The principles are the same as for the double quick step, the only difference consisting in a greater degree of swiftness.

It is recommended in marching at double quick time, or the run, that the men should breathe as much as possible through the nose, keeping the mouth closed. Experience has proved that, by conforming to this principle, a man can pass over a much longer distance, and with less fatigue.

Both Musket and Rifle musket, being used in the service, the manual of both arms will follow in the second part.

PART SECOND.

Manual of Arms for the Musket.

When the recruit shall have been well established in the position of the body, and in marching direct, he will be passed to the second part. For this purpose four men will be placed in the same rank elbow to elbow, and instructed as follows.

Position of Shoulder-arms.

The recruit being in the position of the soldier without arms, the instructor will make him turn up the left hand, without bending the wrist, the part of the arm from the elbow downward only acting, and shall raise the piece perpendicularly, to be placed as follows:

The piece in the left hand, the arm being a little bent, the elbow back and joined to the body without pressure;
the palm of the hand firmly against the exterior rounding of the butt; the exterior edge of the butt resting on the upper joints of the fingers (the inner edge on the lower joints of the fingers, and the ends inside), the heel of the butt between the fore and middle fingers, the thumb on the middle screw of the butt-plate, the remaining fingers under the butt, the butt more or less kept back according to the conformation of the recruit, so that the piece seen from the front or side shall appear perpendicular, and also that the movement of the thigh in marching may not raise or cause it to waver; the stock below the tail band resting against the hollow of the shoulder just within the joint, the right arm hanging naturally, as prescribed in the position of the soldier.

The position of the hand is shown by Figs. 10 & 11; and the position of the piece by Figs. 12 and 13.
Remarks on Shouldered Arms.

Recruits have frequently defects in the conformation of the shoulders, breast, and hips. The instructor should endeavor, as much as possible, to correct these defects, previous to delivering arms to the recruit, and ought afterwards to have a constant attention in regulating his mode of shouldering, according to these defects of conformation in such a way, that the general appearance of the men be uniform, without constraining their positions.

He will remark, that men are very apt to derange the position of the body when arms are placed at the shoulders, and especially to distort the shoulders, which deprives the piece of its point of support, and makes the men sink the left hand to prevent it from falling. This also occasions a sinking of the left shoulder, a curvative of the side, and an extension of the elbows, to restore the equilibrium, etc.

The instructor will take pains to correct all these faults, and continually to rectify the position of the men. He must frequently take their arms from them, in order to replace them properly.

Finally, the instructor ought to bestow much attention in directing that the musket, when shouldered, is not carried either too high or too low. If too high, the left arm, forming a curve at the elbow, would open out from the body, render the position of the piece unsteady, and make the soldier occupy more space in the ranks than he ought. If carried too low he would not have the space necessary for using his arms with freedom, because the fatigue sustained by the left arm, thus sunk down, would affect the squareness of the shoulders, etc.

Before proceeding to the second lesson the instructor should cause the movements of eyes right, left, and front, and the facings to be repeated.

Lesson II.

Manual of Arms.

This shall be taught to three men in a rank with their elbows touching, and the same afterwards in file.
On hearing the last syllable of the word of command, the recruit will execute the intended motion lively and smartly. The swiftness of each motion, with the exception of the motions relative to the cartridge, to the rammer, and to the fixing and unfixing of the bayonet, is fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute.

Second and third motions may be indicated by the command "two," "three."

When the recruits shall know thoroughly the position relating to each motion included in a word of command, they shall be instructed how to execute them, without dwelling on each separately; the mechanism of the time will, however, be observed, to prevent slurring over of the motions, and give the recruit perfect control of his piece.

The manual will be taught in the following order.

The instructor will command: Support—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—With the right hand seize the small of the stock four inches below the lock, slightly raising but not turning the piece. Fig. 14.

Second motion.—Take the left hand from the butt, extend the left fore-arm under the cock upward across the breast, the
hand flat on the right breast. Figure 15. Third motion.—
Drop the right arm to its place at the side. Figure 16.
Figure 17 is a side view showing position of support arms.
Being at support arms the instructor will command:

REST.

The recruits will bring up smartly the right hand to the
small of the stock, as seen in figure 15, when they will not
be required to preserve silence or steadiness of position.
To pass from rest to the prescribed fixed position, the
instructor will command:

1. Attention. 2. Squad.

At the second command the third position of support
arms, figure 16, will be resumed.
The instructor will command:

Carry—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Carry the right
hand to the small of the stock.
Figure 15.

Second motion.—Place the left
hand under the butt as before.
Figure 14.

Third motion.—Let the right
hand fall to the side, and lower
the piece slightly to the position
of shouldered arms. Figure 12.
The command, Carry Arms is
only given when at Support Arms,
in all other cases the command is
Shoulder Arms.

Present.—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Turn the piece
with the left hand, the lock out,
and seize the small of the stock
with the right hand, the piece be-
ing kept vertical and detached from the body, the left hand remaining under the butt. Fig. 18.

Second motion.—Bring the piece erect before the centre of the body, turning it inward, the rammer to the front, the right hand close under the guard. Seize the piece at the same time with the left hand above the lock, the thumb extended along the barrel, the left fore-arm resting on the body, and the hand as high as the elbow. Figure. 19.

To return to the position of shouldered arms, the instructor will command:

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—With the right hand turn the piece, the barrel out, raise and carry it against the left shoulder, drop the left under the butt, the fingers of the right hand extended and resting against the small of the stock. Figure 20.

Second motion.—Drop the right hand smartly to its position. Figure 12.

Order—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Drop the piece smartly by extending the left arm, seize it at the same time with the right hand above and near the tail-band (without the least pause), quit the hold of the left hand, and carry the piece opposite to the right shoulder, the rammer in front, the little finger behind the barrel, the right hand supported against the hip, the butt three inches from the ground, the piece erect the left hand hanging by the side.

Second motion.—Let the piece slip through the right hand to the ground without shock and take the position about to be described.
Position of Order Arms.

The hand low, the barrel between the thumb, and forefinger extended along the stock, the other fingers extended and joined, the muzzle near the right shoulder, the rammer to the front, the toe (or beak) of the butt against and in a line with the toe of the right foot, the barrel vertical as seen in Figure 21.

In this position at the command Rest, the recruits will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness, they will not, however, quit the ranks.

At the command, Attention—Squad, the recruits will resume the position of order arms.

Being at order arms, should the instructor give the command, Parade—Rest.

The recruit will carry back the right foot about four inches to the rear (without moving the left): rest the weight of the body on that leg, bending the left knee but slightly; cross the hands in front of the body, the left hand on top of and supporting the right wrist; shoulders square to the front; head erect and the eyes meeting the ground fifteen paces in advance, Figure 22, in this position he will remain until the instructor gives the command:

Attention—Squad.

At the word, squad, he will bring up the right heel beside the left; drop the hands and take the position of order arms.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece, smartly, with the right hand, carrying it to the left shoulder, and turning it so that the barrel may be outward; place at the same time, the left hand under the butt, letting the right hand fall down to the lock. Figure 23.
Second motion.—Let fall the right hand, smartly, to its position. Figure 12.

Charge—Bayonet.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Make a half face to the right on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, place at the same time the right foot behind, and at right angles with the left, the hollow of the right foot opposite to, and about three inches from the left heel; turn the piece with the left hand, the lock outward, and seize the handle at the same time with the right hand, the piece perpendicular, and detached from the shoulder; leave the left hand under the butt. Figure 24.

Second motion.—Bring down the piece with the right hand into the left, the latter seizing it at little in advance of the tail-band, the barrel up, the left elbow near
the body, the right hand supported against the hip, the point of the bayonet at the height of the eyes. Figure 25.

Shoulder—Arms.

First motion.—Face to the front by turning on the left heel, bring up the right by the side of the left heel; at the same time spring up the piece with the right hand to the left shoulder; place the left hand under the butt. Fig. 26.

Second motion.—Let fall smartly the right hand into its position. Figure 12.

Load in Ten Times.

1. Load.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Drop the piece by a quick extension of the left arm; seize it with the right hand above and near the lower band; and, at the same time carry the right foot forward the heel against the hollow of the left foot. Figure 27.

Second motion.—Drop the piece with the right hand along the left thigh; seize it with the left hand above the right, and with the left hand let it descend to the ground without shock, the piece touching the left thigh and the muzzle opposite the centre of the body; carry the right hand quickly to the cartridge box, and open it. Figure 28.

2. Handle—Cartridge.

One time and one motion.

Seize a cartridge with the thumb and the next two fingers, and place it between the teeth. Figure 29.
3. **Tear—Cartridge.**

*One time and one motion.*

Tear the paper down to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and two next fingers, near the top; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle, the back of the hand to the front.

4. **Charge—Cartridge.**

*One time and one motion.*

Fix the eye on the muzzle; turn quickly the back of the right hand towards the body, in order to discharge the powder into the barrel; raise the elbow to the height of the wrist, shake the cartridge, force it into the muzzle, and leave the hand reversed, the fingers closed, but not clenched. Figure 30.

5. **Draw—Rammer.**

*One time and three motions.*

*First motion.*—Drop, quickly, the right elbow, and seize the rammer between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other fingers shut. Fig. 31.

Draw it smartly extending the arm. Fig. 32.

Seize the rammer again at the middle, between the thumb and fore-finger, the hand reversed, the palm to the front, the nails up. Figure 33.

The eyes following the movement of the hand; clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm. Figure 34.

*Second motion.*—Turn rapidly the rammer between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammers of the rear rank grazing
the right shoulders of the men of the same file in front, respectively, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the butt of the rammer opposite to the muzzle, but not yet inserted, the eyes fixed on the muzzle. Figure 35.

6. **Ram—Cartridge.**

*One time and one motion.*

Extend the arm to its full length to seize the rammer between the right thumb extended and the fore-finger bent, the other fingers closed; with force ram home twice, and seize the rammer at the little end, between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other fingers closed, the right elbow touching the body.

7. **Return—Rammer.**

*One time and three motions.*

**First motion.**—Draw the rammer, reseize it at the middle between the thumb and fore-finger, the hand reversed, the palm to the front, the nails up, clear the rammer from the barrel by extending the arm.

**Second motion.**—Turn the rammer between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the little end of the rammer opposite the first pipe, but not yet inserted. Figure 35.

**Third motion.**—Insert the rammer; and, with the thumb, force it as low as the middle band. Then raise the hand, place the little finger on the butt of the rammer and force it down, at the same time lowering the left hand on the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. **Cast—About.**

*One time and two motions.*

**First motion.**—With the left hand bring up the piece
vertically against the left shoulder, seize it smartly with the right hand at the handle, and slide the left hand down as low as the chin. Figure 37.

Second motion.—Make a half face to the right on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, place at the same time the right foot behind and at right angles with the left, the hollow of the right foot against the left heel; carry the piece opposite to the right shoulder; bring down the piece with the right hand into the left, which will seize it at the tail-band, the thumb extended on the stock, the butt under the right fore-arm, the handle against the body, and about two inches under the right breast, the muzzle at the height of the eye, the left elbow supported against the side, the right hand grasping the handle. Figure 38.


One time and one motion.

Place the thumb of the right hand on the hammer (the fingers remaining under and against the guard), and half-cock the piece; brush off the old cap, and with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand take a cap from the pouch, place it firmly on the cone by pushing it down with the thumb, and seize the piece at the handle.

10. Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Face to the front by turning on the left heel, bring up the right by the side
of the left heel; at the same time bring the piece briskly with the right hand to the left shoulder, and place the left hand under the butt.

Second motion.—Let fall smartly the right hand into its position at shoulder arms.

Ready. (From the position of Shoulder Arms.)

One time and four motions.

First motion.—Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock to the front, seize it at the handle with the right hand, and turn the left toe a little to the front, at the same time place the hollow of the right foot against the heel of the left. Fig. 39.

Second motion.—Bring the piece, with the right hand, to the middle of the body; place the left hand, the little finger just above the lock, the thumb extended on the stock at the height of the chin, the counter plate (or S) almost turned towards the body, the rammer obliquely to the left and front. Figure 40.

Third motion.—Place the thumb on the head of the hammer, the fingers under and on the guard, the elbow at the height of the hand. Figure 41.

Fourth motion.—Close the right elbow smartly to the body in cocking; seize the piece at the handle, let it descend along the body in the
left hand to the tail-band, which will remain at the height of the shoulder. Figures 42, 43.

**Ready.**

(From the position of Prime.)

**One time and one motion.**

Place the thumb of the right hand on the hammer (the fingers remaining under and against the guard), cock the piece and seize the handle with the right hand.

**Aim.**

**One time and one motion.**

Raise the butt to the shoulder; drop, smartly, the muzzle, the left hand remaining at the tail-band, support the butt against the right shoulder, the left elbow down, shut the left eye, direct the right along the barrel, drop the head upon the butt to catch the object, and place the fore-finger on the trigger. Figure 44.

At the command aim, the rear rank man will also carry his right foot about eight inches to the right, to enable him to disengage his piece in firing over the shoulder of the front rank man.

**Fire.**

**One time and one motion.**

Without any other movement, pull the trig-
ger firmly and without jerking, and remain in that position.

After the piece is discharged, the instructor may desire at once to re-load; or, without loading, to resume the position of shouldered arms. If the former be his wish, the command is:

**Load. (From the position of Fire.)**

**One time and two motions.**

*First motion.*—Bring back the piece quickly with both hands, depress the butt strongly by extending the right arm, and carry it, with the arm thus extended, to the left side, the barrel to the front and opposite to the left shoulder, the left hand at the height of the chin, the back of the hand to the front, the left fore-arm touching the stock; at the same time face to the front and carry the right foot forward, the heel against the hollow of the left foot. Figure 45.

*Second motion.*—Let go the handle with the right hand, let the piece descend through the left to the ground, without shock, and take the position of the second motion of *Load*, when loading in ten times. Figure 28.

**Shoulder—Arms. (After firing.)**

**One time and two motions.**

*First motion.*—Bring back the piece with both hands, face to the front, carry the piece against the left shoulder, and place the left hand under the butt.

*Second motion.*—Let fall smartly the right hand into its position—at shoulder arms.

After the word ready and aim is given, if it is desired to bring the musket to the shoulder without firing, the order will be as follows:
Recover—Arms.

One time and one motion.

Withdraw the finger from the trigger, throw up smartly the muzzle, and retake the position of the fourth motion of Ready. Figures 42 and 43.

Shoulder—Arms. (From a ready.)

At the word shoulder, face to the front, bring the piece to the middle of the body, the left thumb at the height of the chin, the piece supported by the left hand, holding it fast above the lock; next place the right thumb on the head of the cock, support the fore-finger on the trigger, sustain at the same time the cock in its descent till it nearly touches the cone, raise the cock to the half-cock notch, and seize the handle of the piece (or small of stock) with the right hand. At the word arms, carry the piece smartly to the shoulder and retake the position of shoulder arms.

To remove the bayonet, when in the position of shouldered Arms, the command will be.

Unfix—Bayonet.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Extend the left arm, seize the piece with the right hand just above the tail-band.

Second motion.—Drop the piece with the right hand along the left thigh, seize it with the left hand above the right, lengthen out the left arm, rest the butt on the ground without shock; carry the right hand to the bayonet, with the thumb lower the clasp against the stop, and seize the bayonet at the socket and shank.

Third motion.—Wrest off the bayonet, place it in the scabbard, and then rest the right little finger upon the butt of the rammer, lower the left hand along the barrel, extending the arm, without depressing the shoulder.
Shoulder—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece with the left hand along the left side, the hand as high as the chin, the fore-arm touching the piece, the barrel to the front; drop the right hand to seize the piece a little above the handle, the fore-finger touching the hammer, and the thumb on the counter-plate.

Second motion.—Raise the piece with the right hand, place the left under the butt. Bring back the right heel to the side of the left on the same line; support the piece with the right hand against the shoulder.

Third motion.—Let the right hand fall to its place.

Secure—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Seize smartly the piece with the right hand, the thumb against the counterplate, opposite to the lock, and the fore-finger against the cock; detach at the same time, the piece from the shoulder, keeping the barrel outward; seize it with the left hand at the tail-band, the thumb extended along the rammer, the piece perpendicular opposite to the shoulder, the left elbow on the piece.

Second motion.—Invert the piece, by turning the butt backward, under the left arm, the left hand remaining at the tail-band, the thumb pressing against the rammer, to prevent it from sliding out, the little finger supported against the haunch, and the right hand falling, at the same time, into its position at the right side. Figure 46.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece carefully with the left hand
seize the small of the stock with the right, to support it against the shoulder; quit the hold of the left hand and place it under the butt.

Second motion.—Let the right hand drop to its place, at the same time dropping the piece slightly in the left, so as to take the position of shouldered arms.

Fix—Bayonet.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—The same as in unfix bayonet.

Second motion.—The same as in unfix bayonet, except that instead of carrying the right hand to the place where the bayonet would be, if fixed, it is carried to the bayonet-scabbard, so as to seize the bayonet by the socket and shank, so that the lower (now upper) end of the socket shall extend about an inch above the heel of the palm.

Third motion.—Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, carry and fix it on the muzzle, turning the clasp towards the body with the right thumb; then lower the left hand along the barrel, in extending the arm.

Shoulder—Arms.

The same as from unfix bayonet.

Trail—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—As the first motion of order arms.

Second motion.—Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, and the butt to the rear, the butt being kept about three inches from the ground; the right hand, supported at the hip, will sustain the piece so that the rear rank men may not touch the front rank men with their bayonets. Figure 47.
Shoulder—Arms.

At the word *Shoulder*, throw back the muzzle, and forward the butt, so that the piece may be perpendicular in the right hand. At the word *Arms*, execute what has been directed in shouldering, from ordered arms.

*To the right shoulder, shift*—Arms.

Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock to the front, seizing it, at the same time, with the right hand at the small of the stock, place it on the right shoulder, the left hand on the butt, the cock above and resting on the shoulder, the muzzle up; keep the piece in this position by placing the right hand on the flat of the butt, so that the toe of the butt rests between the first two fingers, the other two on the butt-plate; let fall the left hand by the side.

Shoulder—Arms.

Raise the piece by extending the right arm, seizing it at the same time, with the left hand above the lock, and carry it to the left shoulder, turning the barrel to the front, the right hand on the handle; put the left hand under the butt, and drop the right into its position.

Arms—At Will.

Carry the piece, indifferently, on either shoulder, with one or both hands, the muzzle always up.

Shoulder—Arms.

Resume quickly the position of shouldered arms.

The recruit being at *shoulder arms* at the command:

Arms—Port.

Throw the piece diagonally across the body, the lock to the front, seizing it simultaneously with both hands, the right at the small of the stock, the left at the tail-band,
the two thumbs pointing towards the muzzle, the barrel sloping upwards, and crossing opposite to the point of the left shoulder; the palm of the right hand above, and that of the left under the piece, the nails of both hands next to the body, to which the elbows will be closed. Figure 48.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Bring the piece to the left shoulder, placing the left hand under the butt.

Second motion.—Drop the right hand.

Inspection of Arms.

From the position of ordered arms, the bayonet being in the scabbard.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Face to the right once and a half on the left heel, carrying the right foot perpendicularly to the rear, at right angles with the left and about six inches from it; seize the piece with the left hand just above the middle band, incline the muzzle to the rear without displacing the heel of the butt, the rammer turned towards the body. Carry the right hand to the bayonet and seize it, as in the second motion of fix bayonet.

Second motion.—Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, carry and fix it on the muzzle; then seize the rammer, draw it as has been explained in loading in ten times, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore.

Third motion.—Face to the front, seize the piece with the right hand and retake the position of ordered arms.

The instructor will then inspect successively the arms of each soldier, by passing in front
of the rank. Each soldier, as the instructor passes him, shall raise or recover his piece smartly with the right hand, and shall seize it, with the left hand, between the tail-band and lock, the lock being outward, the left hand as high as the chin, and the musket opposite to the left eye; as shown in Figure 49.

The instructor shall take, and after having inspected it, shall return it to the soldier, who will take it back with his right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms.

When the instructor shall have passed by the recruit, he shall, of his own accord, return his ramrod, turning into the position prescribed at the commencement of "Inspection of Arms," after which he shall again resume his original front.

To Stack Arms.

The squad will be formed into two ranks at order arms, and the front rank be made to call off from right to left, odd and even files, the first man calling one, the second two, the third one, and so on.

The instructor will then command:

Stack—Arms.

At this command the front rank man of every even numbered file will pass his piece before him, seizing it with the left hand above the middle band, and place the butt outside and near his left foot, the barrel turned to the front, the muzzle opposite the right shoulder. Figures 50, 51.

At the same time the front rank man of every odd numbered file will pass his piece before him, seizing it with the left hand below the middle band, and hand it to the man next on the left; the latter will receive it with the right hand two inches above the
middle band, throw the butt about thirty-two inches to the front, opposite to his right shoulder, inclining the muzzle towards the right shoulder, and lock the shanks of the two bayonets, the barrel remaining to the rear and its shank above that of the first piece. The rear rank man of every even file projects his bayonet forward, the barrel to the right, and introduces it (using both hands) between the muzzles and under the shanks of the two other bayonets. He will then abandon the piece to his file leader, who will receive it with the right hand under the middle band, bring the butt to the front, holding up his own piece and the stack with the left hand, and place the butt of this third piece between the feet of the man next on the right, the barrel to the right. The stack thus formed, the rear rank man of every odd file will pass his piece into his left hand, the barrel towards the front, and sloping the bayonet forward, rests it on the stack.

Fig. 52 shows the formation of the stack; A is the piece of the even front rank man, B, the piece of the odd front rank man, C, the piece of the rear rank man, of the even file. At the command,

**Take Arms,**

the man of every odd-numbered file in the rear rank takes his piece from the stack; the front rank man of every even file will seize his own piece with the left hand, and that of the man on his right with the right hand; the man of every even-numbered file in the rear rank seize his piece at the middle band with the right hand, advancing for this purpose the right foot so that the hollow will be opposite to the right heel of the man in the same file, before him, and these two men raise now the stack to loosen the shanks; the man of every odd file in the front rank receives his piece from the hand of the man next on the left, and the four men retake the position of ordered arms.
MANUAL OF ARMS FOR THE RIFLE MUSKET.

Previous to proceeding further in the school of the soldier, the following instruction in the manual of arms for the rifle musket is inserted; as the succeeding lessons are prescribed for all infantry in the United States Army without respect to arms.

The recruit having become sufficiently proficient in the drill without arms, will be instructed as follows:

Lesson I.

Principles of Shouldered Arms.

The recruit being placed in the position of a soldier, the instructor will cause him to bend the right arm slightly, and place the piece in it, in the following manner:

The piece in the right hand—the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder—the guard to the front, the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body: the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock, which rests on the little finger.

Finally, the instructor will take great care that the piece, at a shoulder, be not carried too high nor too low; if too high, the right elbow would spread out, the soldier would occupy too much space in his rank, and the piece be made to waver; if too low, the files would be too much closed, the soldier would not have the necessary space to handle his piece with facility, the right arm would become too much fatigued, and would draw down the shoulder. Figure 53.
Lesson II.

Manual of Arms.

The manual of arms will be taught to four men, placed, at first, in one rank, elbow to elbow, and afterwards in two ranks, and will be taught in the following progression:

The instructor will command:

Support—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Bring the piece, with the right hand, perpendicularly to the front and between the eyes, the barrel to the rear; seize the piece with the left hand at the lower band, raise this hand as high as the chin, and seize the piece at the same time with the right hand four inches below the cock.

Second motion.—Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the front; carry the piece to the left shoulder, and pass the fore-arm extended on the breast between the right hand and the cock; support the cock against the left fore-arm, the left hand resting on the right breast.

Third motion.—Drop the right hand by the side. Figure 54.

When the instructor may wish to give repose in this position, he will command:

Rest.

At this command, the recruits will bring up smartly the right hand to the handle of the piece (small of the stock), when they will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness of position.

When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:
1. **Attention.** 2. **Squad.**

At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of the third motion of *support arms*.

**Shoulder—Arms.**

*One time and three motions.*

**First motion.**—Grasp the piece with the right hand under and against the left fore-arm; seize it with the left hand at the lower band, the thumb extended; detach the piece slightly from the shoulder, the left fore-arm along the stock.

**Second motion.**—Carry the piece vertically to the right shoulder with both hands, the rammer to the front, change the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and forefinger, slip the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

**Third motion.**—Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

**Present—Arms.**

*One time and two motions.*

**First motion.**—With the right hand bring the piece erect before the centre of the body, the rammer to the front; at the same time seize the piece with the left hand half-way between the guide sight and lower band, the thumb extended along the barrel and against the stock, the forearm horizontal and resting against the body, the hand as high as the elbow.

**Second motion.**—Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand below and against the guard. Figure 55.
Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Bring the piece to the right shoulder, at the same time change the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger, slip up the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

Order—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Seize the piece briskly with the left hand near the upper band, and detach it slightly from the shoulder with the right hand: loosen the grasp of the right hand, lower the piece with the left, re-seize the piece with the right hand above the lower band, the little finger in rear of the barrel, the butt about four inches from the ground, the right hand supported against the hip, drop the left hand by the side.

Second motion.—Let the piece slip through the right hand to the ground, by opening slightly the fingers, and take the position about to be described.

Position of Order Arms.

The hand low, the barrel between the thumb and the fore-finger extended along the stock; the other fingers extended and joined; the muzzle about two inches from the right shoulder; the rammer in front; the toe (or beak), of the butt, against, and in a line with the toe of the right foot, the barrel perpendicular. Figure 56.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece vertically with the right
hand to the height of the right breast, and opposite the shoulder, the elbow close to the body; seize the piece with the left hand below the right, and drop quickly the right hand to grasp the piece at the swell of the stock, the thumb and the fore-finger embracing the guard; press the piece against the shoulder with the left hand, the right arm nearly straight.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

Load in Nine Times.

1. Load.*

One time and one motion.

Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shift the right hand to the upper hand, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand, near the muzzle, which should be three inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge box. Fig. 57.

2. Handle—Cartridge.

One time and one motion.

Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.

3. Tear—Cartridge.

One time and one motion.

Tear the paper to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle—the back of the hand to the front.

* Whenever the loadings and firings are to be executed, the instructor will examine the cartridge box to be brought to the front.

One time and one motion.

Empty the powder into the barrel; disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb, seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.


One time and three motions.

First motion.—Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm; steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

Second motion.—Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

Third motion.—Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.

6. Ram—Cartridge.

One time and one motion.

Insert the rammer as far as the right, and steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand; seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the back of the hand to the front; press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

7. Return—Rammer.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer; clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.
Second motion.—Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.

Third motion.—Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer; pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. Prime.*

One time and two motions.

First motion.—With the left hand raise the piece till the hand is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower hand, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side, the butt below the right fore-arm—the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye. Figure 58.

Second motion.—Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock—remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and fore-finger of the same hand take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

* If Maynard's primer be used, the command will be, load in eight times, and the eighth command will be, shoulder arms, and executed from return rammer, in one time and two motions, as follows:

First motion.—Raise the piece with the left hand, and take the position of shoulder arms.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left hand, face to the front; bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left; grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

Ready.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to, and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.

Second motion.—Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upwards, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm, the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock, the other fingers under and against the guard.

Third motion.—Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock, without deranging the position of the butt.

Aim.

One time and one motion.

Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder; the left elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder; incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse, the front sight, and the object aimed at; the left
eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger. Fig. 59.

When the recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front rank men will raise a little less the right elbow in order to facilitate the aim of the rear rank men.

The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward. Fig. 60.

**FIRE.**

*One time and one motion.*

Press the fore-finger against the trigger, fire, without lowering or turning the head, and remain this position.

Instructors will be careful to observe when the men fire, that they aim at some distinct object, and that the barrel be so directed that the line of fire and the line of sight be in the same vertical plane. They will often cause the firing to be executed on ground of different inclinations, in order to accustom the men to fire at objects either above or below them.

**LOAD.**

*One time and one motion.*

Bring down the piece with both hands, at the same time face to the front and take the first position of load. Each rear rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.
The men being in this position, the instructor will cause the loading to be continued by the commands and means prescribed.

If, after firing, the instructor should not wish the recruits to reload; he will command:

*Shoulder—Arms.*

*One time and one motion.*

Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand and resume the position of *shoulder arms*, at the same time face to the front, turning on the heel, and bring the right heel on a line with the left.

To accustom the recruits to wait for the command *fire*, the instructor, when they are in the position of *aim*, will command:

*Recover—Arms.*

*One time and one motion.*

At the first part of the command, withdraw the finger from the trigger; at the command *arms*, retake the position of the third motion of *ready*.

The recruits being in the position of the third motion of *ready*, if the instructor should wish to bring them to a shoulder, he will command:

*Shoulder—Arms.*

*One time and one motion.*

At the command *shoulder*, place the thumb upon the cock, and the fore-finger on the trigger, half-cock, and seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the command *arms*, bring up the piece briskly to the right shoulder and retake the position of *shoulder arms*.

The recruits being at *shoulder arms*, when the instructor shall wish to *fix* bayonets, he will command:

*Fix—Bayonets.*

*One time and three motions.*

*First motion.*—Grasp the piece with the left hand at the
height of the shoulder, and detach it slightly from the shoulder, with the right hand.

Second motion.—Quit the piece with the right hand, lower it with the left hand, opposite the middle of the body, and place the butt between the feet without shock; the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle three inches from the body; seize it with the right hand at the upper band, and carry the left hand reversed to the handle of the sabre-bayonet.

Third motion.—Draw the sabre-bayonet from the scabbard and fix it on the extremity of the barrel; seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended, the right hand at the upper band.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front; seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the right arm nearly extended.

Second motion.—Drop briskly the left hand by the side.

Charge—Bayonet.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece slightly with the right hand and make a half face to the right on the left heel; place the hollow of the right foot opposite to, and three inches from the left heel, the feet square; seize the piece at the same time with the left hand a little above the lower band.

Second motion.—Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body; seize the small of the stock, at the same time, with the right hand,
which will be supported against the hip; the point of the sabre-bayonet as high as the eye. Figure 61.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand in facing to the front, place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front; turn the right hand so as to embrace the guard, slide the left to the height of the shoulder, the right arm nearly extended.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand smartly by the side.

Trail—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—The same as the first motion of order arms.

Second motion.—Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, the butt to the rear and about four inches from the ground. The right hand supported at the hip, will so hold the piece that the rear rank men may not touch with their bayonets the men in the front rank.

Shoulder—Arms.

At the command shoulder, raise the piece perpendicularly in the right hand, the little finger in rear of the barrel; at the command arms, execute what has been prescribed for the shoulder from the position of order arms.

Unfix—Bayonet.

One time and three motions.

First and second motions.—The same as the first and second motions of fix bayonet, except that, at the end of the second command, the thumb of the right hand will be placed on the spring of the sabre-bayonet, and the left hand will embrace the handle of the sabre-bayonet and the barrel, the thumb extended along the blade.
Third motion.—Press the thumb of the right hand on the spring, wrest off the sabre-bayonet, turn it to the right, the edge to the front, lower the guard until it touches the right hand, which will seize the back and the edge of the blade between the thumb and first two fingers, the other fingers holding the piece; (Fig. 62.) change the position of the hand without quitting the handle, return the sabre-bayonet to the scabbard, and seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front; grasp the piece with the right hand at the swell of the stock as explained in position of shoulder arms.

Second motion.—Drop the left hand by the side briskly.

Secure—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—The same as the first motion of support arms, except with the right hand seize the piece at the small of the stock.

Second motion.—Turn the piece with both hands, the barrel to the front; bring it opposite to the left shoulder, the butt end against the hip, the left hand at the lower band, the thumb as high as the chin and extended on the rammer; the piece erect and detached from the shoulder, the left fore-arm against the piece.

Third motion.—Reverse the piece, pass it under the left arm, the left hand
remaining at the lower band, the thumb on the rammer to prevent it from sliding out, the little finger resting against the hip, the right hand falling at the same time by the side. Figure 63.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and three motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece with the left hand, and seize it with the right hand at the small of the stock. The piece erect and detached from the shoulder, the butt against the hip, the left fore-arm along the piece.

Second motion.—The same as the second motion of Shoulder arms from a support.

Third motion.—The same as the third motion of Shoulder arms from a support.

Right shoulder shift—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Detach the piece perpendicularly from the shoulder with the right hand, and seize it with the left between the lower band and guide-sight, raise the piece, the left hand at the height of the shoulder and four inches from it; place, at the same time, the right hand on the butt, the beak between the first two fingers, the other two fingers under the butt-plate.

Second motion.—Quit the piece with the left hand, raise and place the piece on the right shoulder with the right hand, the lock-plate upwards; let fall, at the same time, the left hand by the side. Figure 64.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece perpendicularly by extending the right arm to its full length, the rammer to the front, at the same time seize the piece with the left hand between the lower band and the guide-sight.
Second motion.—Quit the butt with the right hand, which will immediately embrace the guard, lower the piece to the position of shoulder arms, slide up the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and closed. Drop the left hand by the side.

The men being at support arms, the instructor will sometimes cause pieces to be brought to the right shoulder. To this effect, he will command:

Right shoulder shift—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Seize the piece with the right hand, below and near the left fore-arm, place the left hand under the butt, the heel of the butt between the first two fingers.

Second motion.—Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock-plate upward, carrying it to the right shoulder, the left hand still holding the butt, the muzzle elevated; hold the piece in this position and place the right hand upon the butt the beak between the first two fingers, the other two fingers under the butt plate, and let fall the left hand to the side. Figure 64.

Support—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Raise the piece perpendicularly by extending the right arm to its full length, the rammer to the front, at the same time seize the piece with the left hand between the lower band and the guide-sight.

Second motion.—Turn the piece with both hands, the barrel to the front, carry it opposite the left shoulder, slip the right hand to the small of the stock, place the left fore-arm extended, on the breast, and let fall the right hand by the side.
Arms—At will.

One time and one motion.

At this command, carry the piece at pleasure; on either shoulder, with one or both hands, the muzzle elevated.

Shoulder—Arms.

One time and one motion.

At this command, retake quickly the position of shoulder arms.

The recruits being at ordered arms, when the instructor shall wish to cause the pieces to be placed on the ground, he will command:

Ground—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the left, at the same time seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot, the heel opposite the lower band; lay the piece on the ground with the right hand, the toe of the butt on a line with the right toe, the knees slightly bent, the right heel raised. Fig. 65.

Second motion.—Rise up, bring the left foot by the side of the right, quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop the hands by the side.
Raise—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot opposite the lower band, and seize the piece with the right hand.

Second motion.—Raise the piece, bringing the left foot by the side of the right; turn the piece with the right hand, the rammer to the front; at the same time quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop the hands by the side.

Inspection of Arms.

The recruits being at ordered arms, and having the sabre-bayonet in the scabbard, if the instructor wishes to cause an inspection of arms, he will command:

Inspection—Arms.

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about three inches from the body; carry the left hand reversed to the sabre-bayonet, draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel; grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, seize the rammer with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

Second motion.—Draw the rammer as has been explained in loading, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore, replace the piece with the left hand opposite the right shoulder, and retake the position of ordered arms.

The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank. Each, as the instructor reaches him, will raise smartly his piece with his right hand, seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye;
the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle and after inspecting it will return it to the recruit who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms.

When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command inspection arms, return the rammer, and resume the position of ordered arms.

If, instead of inspection of arms, the instructor, should merely wish to cause bayonets to be fixed, he will command:

**Fix—Bayonet.**

Take the first position of inspection of arms, fix bayonets as has been explained, and immediately resume the position of ordered arms.

If it be the wish of the instructor, after firing, to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged, he will command:

**Spring—Rammers.**

Put the rammer in the barrel as has been explained above, and immediately retake the position of ordered arms.

The instructor, for the purpose stated, can take the rammer by the small end, and spring it in the barrel, or cause each recruit to make it ring in the barrel.

Each recruit, after the instructor passes him, will return rammer, and resume the position of ordered arms.

**Lesson III.**

**To load in four times.**

The object of this lesson is to prepare the recruits to load at will, and to cause them to distinguish the times which require the greatest regularity and attention, such as charge cartridge, ram ourtridge, and prime. It will be divided as follows:

The first time will be executed at the end of the command.

The instructor will command:
1. Load in four times. 2. Load.

Execute the times to include charge cartridge.

Two.

Execute the times to include ram cartridge.

Three.

Execute the times to include prime.

Four.

Execute the time of shoulder arms.

To load at will.

The instructor will next teach loading at will, which will be executed as loading in four times, but continued, and without resting on either of the times. He will command:

1. Load at will. 2. Load.

The instructor will habituate the recruits, by degrees, to load with the greatest possible promptitude, each without regulating himself by his neighbor, and above all without waiting for him.

END OF MANUAL FOR THE RIFLE MUSKET.

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION IS TO BE GIVEN TO RECRUITS WITHOUT REGARD TO ARMS.

When, after some days of exercise in the manual of arms, the four men shall well be established in their use, the instructor will always terminate the lesson by marching the men for some time in one rank, and at one pace apart, in common quick time, in order to confirm them more and more in the mechanism of the step; he will also teach them to mark time and to change step, which will be executed in the following manner:
To mark time.

The four men marching in the direct step, the instructor will command:


At the second command, which will be given at the instant a foot is coming to the ground, the recruits will make a semblance of marching, by bringing the heels by the side of each other, and observing the cadence of the step, by raising each foot alternately without advancing.

The instructor, wishing the direct step to be resumed, will command:


At the second command, which will be given as prescribed above, the recruits will retake the step of twenty-eight inches.

To change step.

The squad being in march, the instructor will command:


At the second command, which will be given at the instant either foot is coming to the ground, bring the foot, which is in rear by the side of that which is in front, and step off again with the foot which was in front.

To march backwards.

The instructor, wishing the squad to march backwards, will command:


At the second command, the recruits will step off smartly with the left foot fourteen inches to the rear, reckoning from heel to heel, and so on, with the feet in succession, till the command *halt*, which will always be preceded by the caution *squad*. The men will halt at this command, and bring back the foot in front by the side of the other.
This step will always be executed in quick time. The instructor will be watchful that the recruits march straight to the rear, and that the erect position of the body and the piece be not deranged.

The squad will now be instructed in the firings, to which great care must be bestowed by the instructor. Particularly when using cartridges, as the recruit is apt to load in an excited manner, and by slurring the motions lose time and interfere with the adjoining files.

Firings.

The firings are direct or oblique, and will be executed as follows:

The direct fire.

The instructor will give the following commands:


These several commands will be executed as has been prescribed in the Manual of arms. At the third command, the men will come to the position of ready, as heretofore explained. At the fourth, they will aim according to the rank in which each may find himself placed, the rear rank men inclining forward a little the upper part of the body, in order that their pieces may reach as much beyond the front rank as possible.

At the sixth command, they will load their pieces and return immediately to the position of ready.

The instructor will recommence the firing by the commands:


When the instructor wishes the firing to cease, he will command:

Cease firing.

At this command, the men will cease firing, but will load.
their pieces if unloaded, and afterwards bring them to a shoulder.

**Oblique Firings.**

The oblique firings will be executed to the right and left, and by the same commands as the direct fire, with this single difference—the command aim will always be preceded by the caution, right or left oblique.

**Position of the two ranks in the Oblique Fire to the right.**

At the command ready, the two ranks will execute what has been prescribed for the direct fire.

At the cautionary command, right oblique, the two ranks will throw back the right shoulder and look steadily at the object to be hit.

At the command aim, each front rank man will aim to the right without deranging the feet; each rear rank man will advance the left foot about eight inches towards the right heel of the next man on the right of his file leader and aim to the right inclining the upper part of the body forward and bending a little the left knee.

Oblique fire to the left is executed as above prescribed except that the left shoulder is thrown back and the rear rank man steps off with his right foot, eight inches towards the right heel of the man on the right of his file leader.

**To fire by file.**

The fire by file will be executed by the two ranks, the files of which will fire successively, and without regulating on each other, except for the first fire.

The instructor will command:


At the third command, the two ranks will take the position prescribed in the direct fire.

At the fourth command, the file on the right will aim and fire.

The men of this file will load their pieces briskly and fire
a second time; reload and fire again, and so on, in continuation.

The second file will aim, at the instant the first brings down pieces to reload, and will conform in all respects to that which has just been prescribed for the first file.

After the first fire, the front and rear rank men will not be required to fire at the same time.

Each man, after loading, will return to the position of ready and continue to fire.

When the instructor wishes the fire to cease, he will command:

*Cease—Firing.*

At this command, the men will cease firing. If they have fired they will load their pieces and bring them to a shoulder; if at the position of ready, they will half-cock and shoulder arms. If in the position of aim, they will bring down their pieces, half-cock, and shoulder arms.

*To fire by rank.*

The fire by rank will be executed by each entire rank, alternately.

The instructor will command:


At the third command, the two ranks will take the position of ready, as prescribed in the direct fire.

At the seventh command, the rear rank will execute that which has been prescribed in the direct fire, and afterwards take the position of ready.

As soon as the instructor sees several men of the rear rank in the position of ready, he will command:


At these commands, the men in the front rank will fire, load, and return to the position of ready.
To fire and load kneeling.

In this exercise the squad will be supposed loaded and drawn up in one rank. The instruction will be given to each man individually, without times or motions, and in the following manner.

The instructor will command:

**Fire and Load kneeling.**

At this command, the man on the right of the squad will move forward three paces and halt; then carry the right foot to the rear and to the right of the left heel, and in a position convenient for placing the right knee upon the ground in bending the left leg; place the right knee upon the ground; lower the piece, the left fore-arm supported upon the thigh on the same side, the right hand on the small of the stock, the butt resting on the right thigh, the left hand supporting the piece near the lower band.

He will next move the right leg to the left around the knee supported on the ground, until this leg is nearly perpendicular to the direction of the left foot, and thus seat himself comfortably on the right heel.

Raise the piece with the right hand and support it with the left, holding it near the lower band, the left elbow resting on the left thigh near the knee; seize the hammer with the thumb, the fore-finger under the guard, cock and seize the piece at the small of the stock; bring the piece to the shoulder, aim and fire. Figure 66.

Bring the piece down as soon as it is fired, and support it with the left hand, the butt resting against the right thigh; carry the piece to the rear rising on the knee, the barrel downwards, the butt resting on the ground; in this position support the piece with the left hand at the upper band, draw cartridge with the right and load the piece, ramming the ball, if necessary, with both hands.
When loaded, bring the piece to the front with the left hand, which holds it at the upper band; seize it, at the same time, with the right hand at the small of the stock; turn the piece, the barrel uppermost and nearly horizontal, the left elbow resting on the left thigh; half-cock, remove the old cap and prime, rise, and return to the ranks.

The second man will then be taught what has just been prescribed for the first, and so on, through the remainder of the squad.

To fire and load lying.

In this exercise the squad will be in one rank and loaded; the instruction will be given individually and without times or motions.

The instructor will command:

**Fire and load lying.**

At this command, the man on the right of the squad will move toward three paces and halt; he will then bring his piece to an order, drop on both knees, and place himself on the ground flat on his belly. In this position he will support the piece nearly horizontal with the left hand, holding it near the lower band, the butt end of the piece and the left elbow resting on the ground, the barrel uppermost; cock the piece with the right hand, and carry this hand to the small of the stock; raise the piece with both hands, press the butt against the shoulder, and resting on both elbows, aim and fire.

As soon as he has fired, bring the piece down and turn upon his left side, still resting on his left elbow; bring back the piece until the cock is opposite his breast, the butt end resting on the ground; take out a cartridge with the right hand; seize the small of the stock with this hand, holding the cartridge with the thumb and first two fingers; he will then throw himself on his back still holding the piece with both hands; carry the piece to the rear, place the butt between the heels, the barrel up, the muzzle elevated. In this position, charge cartridge, draw rammer, ram cartridge, and return rammer.
When finished loading, the man will turn again upon his left side, remove the old cap and prime, then raise the piece vertically, rise, turn about, and resume his position in the ranks.

The second man will be taught what has just been prescribed for the first, and so on, throughout the squad.

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PART THIRD.

When the recruits are well established in the principles and mechanism of the step, the position of the body, and the manual of arms, the instructor will unite eight men, at least, and twelve men, at most, in order to teach them the principles of alignment, the principles of the touch of elbows in marching to the front, the principles of the march by the flank, wheeling from a halt, wheeling in marching, and the change of direction to the side of the guide. He will place the squad in one rank elbow to elbow, and number the men from right to left.

LESSON I.

Alignments.

The instructor will at first teach the recruits to align themselves man by man, in order the better to make them comprehend the principles of alignment; to this end, he will command the two men on the right flank to march two paces to the front, and having aligned them, he will caution the remainder of the squad to move up, as they may be successively called, each by his number, and align themselves successively on the line of the first two men.

Each recruit, as designated by his number, will turn the head and eyes to the right as prescribed in the first lesson of the first part, and will march in quick time two paces forward, shortening the last, so as to find himself about six inches behind the new alignment, which he ought never to pass: he will next move up steadily by steps of two or three inches, the hams extended, to the side of the man next to him on the alignment, so that, without deranging the head,
the line of the eyes, or that of the shoulders, he may find himself in the exact line of his neighbor, whose elbow he will lightly touch without opening his own.

The instructor seeing the rank well aligned, will command:

**FRONT.**

At this, the recruits will turn eyes to the front, and remain firm.

Alignments to the left will be executed on the same principles.

When the recruits shall have thus learned to align themselves man by man, correctly, and without groping or jostling, the instructor will cause the entire rank to align itself at once by the command:

**Right (or left)—Dress.**

At this, the rank, except the two men placed in advance as a basis of alignment, will move up in quick time, and place themselves on the new line, according to the principles prescribed.

The instructor, placed five or six paces in front, and facing the rank, will carefully observe that, the principles are followed, and then pass to the flank that has served as, the basis, to verify the alignment.

The instructor, seeing the greater number of the rank aligned will command:

**FRONT.**

The instructor may afterwards order this or that file for ward or back, designating each by its number. The file or files designated, only, will slightly turn the head towards the basis, to judge how much they ought to move up or back, steadily place themselves on the line, and then turn eyes to the front, without a particular command to that effect.

Alignments to the rear will be executed on the same principles, the recruits stepping back a little beyond the line, and then dressing up according to the principles prescribed, the instructor commanding
Right (or left) backward—Dress.

After each alignment, the instructor will examine the position of the men, and cause the rank to come to ordered arms, to prevent too much fatigue, and also the danger of negligence at shouldered arms.

Lesson II.

The men having learned, in the first and second parts, to march with steadiness in common time, and to take steps equal in length and swiftness, will be exercised in the third part only in quick time, double quick time, and the run: the instructor will cause them to execute successively, at these different gaits, the march to the front, the facing about in marching, the march by the flank, the wheels at a halt and in marching, and the changes of direction to the side of the guide.

The instructor will inform the recruits that at the command march, they will always move off in quick time, unless this command should be preceded by that of double quick.

To march to the front.

The rank being correctly aligned, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march by the front, he will place a well instructed man on the right or the left, according to the side on which he may wish the guide to be, and command:

1. Square, forward. 2. Guide right (or left.) 3. March.

At the command march, the rank will step off smartly with the left foot; the guide will take care to march straight to the front, keeping his shoulders always in a square with that line.

The instructor will observe, in marching to the front, that the men touch lightly the elbow towards the side of the guide.

The men being well established in the principles of the direct march, the instructor will exercise them in marching obliquely. The rank being in march, the instructor will command:
1. Right (or left) oblique. 2. March.

At the second command, each man will make a half face to the right (or left), and will then march straight forward in the new direction. As the men no longer touch elbows, they will glance along the shoulders of the nearest files, towards the side to which they are obliquing, and will regulate their steps so that the shoulders shall always be behind that of their next neighbor on that side, and that his head shall conceal the heads of the other men in the rank. Besides this, the men should preserve the same length of pace, and the same degree of obliquity.

The instructor wishing to resume the primitive direction, will command:


At the second command, each man will make a half face to the left (or right), and all will then march straight to the front, conforming to the principles of the direct march.

To march to the front in double quick time.

When the several principles, heretofore explained, have become familiar to the recruits, and they shall be well established in the position of the body, the bearing of arms, and the mechanism, length, and swiftness of the step, the instructor will pass them from quick to double quick time, and the reverse, observing not to make them march obliquely in double quick time, till they are well established in the cadence of this step.

The squad being at a march in quick time, the instructor will command:


At the command march, which will be given when either foot is coming to the ground, the squad will step off in double quick time. The men will endeavor to follow the principles laid down in the first part of this book, and to preserve the alignment.

When the instructor wishes the squad to resume the step in quick time, he will command:
1. Quick time. 2. March.

At the command march, which will be given when either foot is coming to the ground, the squad will retake the step in quick time.

The squad being at a halt, the instructor will cause it to march in double quick time, by preceding the command march, by double quick.

The instructor will endeavor to regulate well the cadence of this step.

To face about in marching.

If squad be marching in quick, or double quick time, and the instructor should wish to march it in retreat, he will command:

1. Squad right about. 2. March.

At the command march, which will be given at the instant the left foot is coming to the ground, the recruit will bring this foot to the ground, and turning on it, will face to the rear; he will then place the right foot in the new direction, and step off with the left foot.

In marching at double quick time, the men will always carry their pieces on the right shoulder, or at a trail. This rule is general.

If the instructor shall wish the pieces carried at a trail, he will give the command trail arms, before the command double quick. If, on the contrary, this command be not given, the men will shift their pieces to the right shoulder at the command double quick. In either case, at the command halt, the men will bring their pieces to the position of shoulder arms. This rule is general.

Lesson III.

To march by the flank.

The rank being at a halt, and correctly aligned, the instructor will command:

1. Squad, right—Face. 2. Forward. 3. March.

At the last part of the first command, the rank will face
to the right; the even numbered men, after facing to the right, will step quickly to the right side of the odd numbered men, the latter standing fast, so that when the movement is executed, the men will be formed into files of two men abreast.

At the third command, the squad will step off smartly with the left foot; the files keeping aligned, and preserving their intervals.

The march by the left flank will be executed by the same commands, substituting the word left for right, and by inverse means; in this case, the even numbered men, after facing to the left, will stand fast, and the odd numbered will place themselves on their left.

The instructor will place a well instructed soldier, by the side of the recruit who is at the head of the rank, to regulate the step, and to conduct him; and it will be enjoined on this recruit to march always elbow to elbow with the soldier.


At the second command, the rank will halt, and afterwards no man will stir, although he may have lost his distance. This prohibition is necessary, to habitude the men to a constant preservation of their distances.

At the third command, each man will front by facing to the left, if marching by the right flank, and by a face to the right, if marching by the left flank. The rear rank men will at the same time move quickly into their places, so as to form the squad again into one rank.

When the men have become accustomed to marching by the flank, the instructor will cause them to change direction by file; for this purpose he will command:


At the command march, the first file will change direction to the left (or right) in describing a small arc of a circle, and will then march straight forward; the two men of this file in wheeling, will keep up the touch of the elbows, and the man on the side to which the wheel is made, will shorten
the first three or four steps. Each file will come successively to wheel on the same spot where that which preceded it wheeled.

The instructor will also cause the squad to face by the right or left flank in marching, and for this purpose will command:

1. Squad by the right (or left) flank. 2. March.

At the second command, which will be given a little before either foot comes to the ground, the recruits will turn the body, plant the foot that is raised in the new direction, and step off with the other foot without altering the cadence of the step; the men will double or undouble rapidly.

If, in facing by the right or the left flank, the squad should face to the rear, the men will come into one rank, as prescribed for facing to the front. It is to be remarked that it is the men who are in rear who always move up to form into single rank, and in such manner as never to invert the order of the numbers in the rank.

If, when the squad has been faced to the rear, the instructor should cause it to face by the left flank, it is the even numbers who will double by moving to the left of the odd numbers; but if by the right flank, it is the odd numbers who will double to the right of the even numbers.

This lesson, like the preceding one, will be practiced with pieces at a shoulder; but the instructor may, to give relief by change, occasionally order support arms, and he will require of the recruits marching in this position, as much regularity as in the former.

The march by the flank in double quick time.

The principles of the march by the flank in double quick time, are the same as in quick time. The instructor will take care always to give the command double quick before that of march.
Lesson IV.

Wheelings.

General principles of Wheeling.

Wheelings are of two kinds: from halts, or on fixed pivots, and in march, or on moveable pivots.

Wheeling on a fixed pivot takes place in passing a corps from the order in battle to the order in column, or from the latter to the former.

Wheels in marching take place in changes of direction in column, as often as this movement is executed to the side opposite to the guide.

In wheels from a halt, the pivot-man only turns in his place, without advancing or receding.

In the wheels in marching, the pivot takes steps of nine or eleven inches, according as the squad is marching in quick or double quick time, so as to clear the wheeling point, which is necessary, in order that the subdivisions of a column may change direction without losing their distances, as will be explained in the school of the company.

The man on the wheeling flank will take the full step of twenty-eight inches, or thirty-three inches, according to the gait.

Wheeling from a halt, or on a fixed pivot.

The rank being at a halt, the instructor will place a well-instructed man on the wheeling flank to conduct it, and then command:

1. By squad, right wheel. 2. March.

At the second command, the rank will step off with the left foot, turning at the same time the head a little to the left, the eyes fixed on the line of the eyes of the men to their left; the pivot-man will merely mark time in gradually turning his body, in order to conform himself to the movement of the marching flank; the man who conducts this flank will take steps of twenty-eight inches, and from the first step advance a little the left shoulder, cast his eyes
from time to time along the rank, and feel constantly the elbow of the next man lightly, but never push him.

The other men will feel lightly the elbow of the next man towards the pivot, resist pressure coming from the opposite side, and each will conform himself to the marching flank—shortening his step according to his approximation to the pivot.

The instructor will make the rank wheel round the circle once or twice before halting, in order to cause the principles to be the better understood, and he will be watchful that the centre does not break.

He will cause the wheel to the left to be executed according to the same principles.

When the instructor shall wish to arrest the wheel, he will command:


At the second command, the rank will halt, and no man stir. The instructor, going to the flank, opposite the pivot, will place the two outer men of that flank in the direction he may wish to give to the rank, without, however, displacing the pivot, who will conform the line of his shoulders to this direction. The instructor will take care to have between these two men, and the pivot, only the space necessary to contain the other men. He will then command:

Left (or right)—Dress.

At this, the rank will place itself on the alignment of the two men established as the basis, in conformity with the principles prescribed.

The instructor will next command Front.

Remarks on the Principles of the Wheel, from a Halt.

Turn a little the head towards the marching flank, and fix the eyes on the line of the eyes of the men who are on that side.

Because, otherwise, it would be impossible for each man to regulate the length of his step so as to conform his own movement to that of the marching flank.
Touch lightly the elbow of the next man towards the pivot;
In order that the files may not open out in the wheel.
Resist pressure that comes from the side of the marching flank;
Because, if this principle be neglected, the pivot, which ought to be a fixed point, in wheels from a halt, might be pushed out of its place by pressure.

Wheeling in marching, or on a moveable pivot.

When the recruits have been brought to execute well the wheel from a halt, they will be taught to wheel in marching.
To this end, the rank being in march, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to change direction to the reverse flank, (to the side opposite to the guide or pivot flank,) he will command:

1. Right (or left) wheel. 2. March.

The first command will be given when the rank is yet four paces from the wheeling point.
At the second command the wheel will be executed in the same manner as from a halt, except that the touch of the elbow will remain towards the marching flank (or side of the guide) instead of the side of the actual pivot; that the pivot man, instead of merely turning in his place, will conform himself to the movement of the marching flank, and feel slightly the elbow of the next man, take steps of full nine inches, and thus gain ground forward in describing a small curve so as to clear the point of the wheel. The middle of the rank will bend slightly to the rear. As soon as the movement shall commence, the man who conducts the marching flank will cast his eyes on the ground over which he will have to pass.

The wheel being ended, the instructor will command:


The first command will be pronounced when four paces are yet required to complete the change of direction.
At the command *march*, which will be given at the instant of completing the wheel, the man who conducts the marching flank will direct himself straight forward; the pivot man and all the rank will retake the step of twenty-eight inches, and bring the head direct to the front.

**Turning, or change of direction to the side of the guide.**

The change of direction to the side of the guide, in marching, will be executed as follows: The instructor will command:

1. *Left (or right) turn.* 2. *March.*

The first command will be given, when the rank is yet four paces from the turning point.

At the command *March*, to be pronounced at the instant the rank ought to turn, the guide will face to the left (or right) in marching, and move forward in the new direction without slackening or quickening the cadence, and without shortening or lengthening the step.

The whole rank will promptly conform itself to the new direction; to effect which, each man will advance the shoulder opposite to the guide, take the double quick step, to carry himself in the new direction, turn the head and eyes to the side of the guide, and retake the touch of the elbow on that side, in placing himself on the alignment of the guide, from whom he will take the step, and then resume the direct position of the head. Each man will thus arrive successively on the alignment.

**Wheeling and changing direction to the side of the guide in double quick time.**

When the recruits comprehend and execute well, in quick time, the wheels at a halt and in marching, and the change of direction to the side of the guide, the instructor will cause the same movements to be repeated in double quick time.

These various movements will be executed by the same commands and according to the same principles as in quick time, except that the command *double quick* will precede that
of march. In wheeling while marching, the pivot will take steps of eleven inches, and in the changes of direction to the side of the guide, the men on the side opposite the guide, must increase the gait in order to bring themselves into line.

Lesson V.

Long marches in double quick time and the run.

The instructor will cause to be resumed the exercises in double quick time and the run, with arms and knapsacks.

He will cause long marches to be executed in double quick time, both by the front and by the flank, and by constant practice will lead the men to pass over a distance of five miles in sixty minutes. The pieces will be carried on either shoulder, and sometimes at a trail.

He will also exercise them in long marches at a run, the pieces carried at will; the men will be instructed to keep as united as possible, without, however, exacting much regularity, which is impracticable.

The run, in actual service, will only be resorted to when it may be highly important to reach a given point with great promptitude.

End of the School of the Soldier.
FORMATION OF A COMPANY.
SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY.

Posts of Company Officers, Sergeants and Corporals.

The company officers and sergeants are nine in number, and will be posted in the following manner:

The captain on the right of the company, touching with the left elbow.

The first sergeant in the rear rank, touching with the left elbow, and covering the captain. In the manœuvres he will be denominated covering sergeant, or right guide of the company.

The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file closers, and two paces behind the rear rank.

The first lieutenant, opposite the centre of the fourth section.

The second lieutenant, opposite the centre of the second platoon.

The third lieutenant, opposite the centre of the second platoon.

The second sergeant, opposite the second file from the left of the company. In the manœuvres he will be designated left guide of the company.

The third sergeant, opposite the second file from the right of the second platoon.

The fourth sergeant, opposite the second file from the left of the first platoon.

The fifth sergeant, opposite the second file from the right of the first platoon.

In the left or tenth company of the battalion, the second sergeant will be posted in the front rank, and on the left of the battalion.

The corporals will be posted in the front rank, on the right and left of platoons, according to height; the tallest
corporal and the tallest man will form the first file, the next
two tallest men will form the second file, and so on, to the
last file, which will be composed of the shortest corporal
and the shortest man.

Absent officers and sergeants will be replaced—officers
by sergeants, and sergeants by corporals. The colonel may
detach a first lieutenant from one company to command
another, of which both the captain and first lieutenant are
absent; but this authority will give no right to a lieutenant
to demand to be so detached.

The odd and even files, numbered as one, two, in the
company, from right to left, will form groups of four men,
who will be designated comrades in battle.

General rules and division of the School of the Company.

Instruction by company will always precede that by bat-
tallion, and the object being to prepare the soldiers for the
higher school, the exercises of detail by company will be
strictly adhered to, as well in respect to principles, as the
order of progression herein prescribed.

There will be attached to a company undergoing elemen-
tary instruction, a captain, a covering sergeant, and a cer-
tain number of file closers, the whole posted in the manner
indicated above, together with an officer denominated the
Instructor.

The company will always be formed in two ranks. The
instructor will then cause the files to be numbered, and for
this purpose will command.

In each rank Count—Twos.

At this command, the men count in each rank, from right
to left, pronouncing in a loud and distinct voice, in the same
tone, without hurry and without turning the head, one, two,
according to the place which each one occupies. He will
also cause the company to be divided into platoons and sec-
tions, taking care that the first platoon is always composed
of an even number of files.
Lesson I.

Article First.

To open ranks.

The company being at ordered arms, the ranks and file closers, well aligned, when the instructor shall wish to cause the ranks to be opened, he will direct the left guide to place himself on the left of the front rank, which being executed, he will command:

1. Attention. 2. Company. 3. Shoulder.—Arms. 4. To the rear open order.

At the fourth command, the covering sergeant, and the left guide, will step off smartly to the rear, four paces from the front rank, in order to mark the alignment of the rear rank. They will judge this distance by the eye, without counting the steps.

The instructor will place himself at the same time on the right flank, in order to observe, if these two non-commissioned officers are on a line parallel to the front rank, and if necessary, to correct their positions, which being executed, he will command:

5. March.

At this command, the front rank will stand fast.

The rear rank will step to the rear, without counting the steps, and will place themselves on the alignment marked for this rank, conforming to what is prescribed in the school of the soldier.

The covering sergeant will align the rear rank on the left guide placed to mark the left of this rank.

The file closers will march to the rear at the same time with the rear rank, and will place themselves two paces from this rank when it is aligned.

The instructor seeing the rear rank aligned, will command:

6. Front.

At this command, the sergeant on the left of the rear rank will return to his place as a file closer.
The rear rank being aligned, the instructor will direct the captain and the covering sergeant to observe the men in their respective ranks, and to correct, if necessary, the positions of persons and pieces; during the execution of the manual of arms.

To close ranks.

The manual of arms being ended, the instructor will command:


At the command march, the rear rank will close up in quick time, each man directing himself on his file leader.

Article Second.

Alignments, in closed ranks.

The ranks being closed, the instructor will cause to be executed parallel and oblique alignments by the right and left, forward and backward, observing to place always two or four files to serve as a basis of alignment.

In alignments in closed ranks, the captain will superintend the front rank, and the covering sergeant the rear rank. They will habituate themselves to judge the alignment by the lines of the eyes and shoulders, in casting a glance of the eye along the front and rear of the ranks.

The moment the captain perceives the greater number of the front rank aligned, he will command Front, and rectify, if necessary, the alignment of the other men by the means prescribed in the school of the soldier. The rear rank will conform to the alignment of the front rank, superintended by the covering sergeant.

The ranks being steady, the instructor will place himself on the flank to verify their alignment. He will also see that each rear rank man covers accurately his file leader.

In all alignments, the file closers will preserve the distance of two paces from the rear rank.

The alignments being ended, the instructor will cause to be executed the manual of arms.
The instructor, wishing to rest the men, without deranging the alignment, will first cause arms to be supported, or ordered, and then command:

*In place—Rest.*

**Lesson II.**

**Article First.**

The instructor will practice the company at the loading in four times and loading at will, causing the men to execute carefully the motions as prescribed in the school of the soldier.

**Article Second.**

*To fire by company.*

The instructor, wishing to cause the fire by company to be executed, will command:


At the first command, the captain will promptly place himself opposite the centre of his company, and four paces in rear of the line of file closers: the covering sergeant will retire to that line, and place himself opposite to his interval.

*This rule is general, for both the captain and covering sergeant, in all the different firings.*


At the command *load,* the men will load their pieces, and then take the position of ready, as prescribed in the school of the soldier.

The captain will immediately recommence the firing by the commands:


The firing will be thus continued until the signal to cease firing is sounded.

The captain will sometimes cause aim to be taken to the right or left, simply observing to pronounce *right* (or *left*) *oblique,* before the command *aim.*
ARTICLE THIRD.

The Fire by file.

The instructor wishing to cause the fire by file to be executed, will command:


The third and fourth commands will be executed as prescribed in the school of the soldier.

The fire will be commenced by the right file of the company; the next file will take aim at the instant the first brings down pieces to re-load, and so on, to the left; but this progression will only be observed in the first discharge, after which each man will re-load and fire without regulating himself by others, conforming himself to what is prescribed in the school of the soldier.

ARTICLE FOURTH.

The Fire by rank.

The instructor wishing the fire by rank to be executed, will command:


The fifth and sixth commands will be executed as is prescribed in the school of the soldier.

When the instructor sees one or two pieces in the rear rank at a ready, he will command:

1. Front rank. 2. Aim. 3. Fire. 4. Load.

The firing will be continued thus by alternate ranks until the signal is given to cease firing.

The instructor will sometimes cause aim to be taken to the right and left.

The instructor will cause the firing to cease, whether by company, by file, or by rank, by sounding the signal to cease firing, and at the instant this sound commences, the men will cease firing as prescribed in the school of the soldier.
ARTICLE FIFTH.

To Fire by the rear rank.

The instructor will cause the several fires to be executed to the rear, that is, by the rear rank. To effect this, he will command:

1. Face by the rear rank. 2. Company. 3. About—Face.

At the first command, the captain will step out and place himself near to, and facing the right file of his company; the covering sergeant and file closers, will pass quickly through the captain’s interval, and place themselves faced to the rear, the covering sergeant a pace behind the captain, and the file closers two paces from the front rank opposite to their places in line, each passing behind the covering sergeant.

At the third command, which will be given at the instant the last file closer shall have passed through the interval, the company will face about; the captain will place himself in his interval in the rear rank, now become the front, and the covering sergeant will cover him in the front rank, now become the rear.

The company having faced by the rear rank, the instructor will cause it to execute the fire by company, both direct and oblique, the fire by file, and the fire by rank, by the commands and means prescribed in the three preceding articles; the captain, covering sergeant, and the men will conform themselves, in like manner, to what is therein prescribed.

The fire by file will commence on the left of the company, now become the right. In the fire by rank, the fire will commence with the front rank, now become the rear.

To resume the proper front, the instructor will command:

1. Face by the front rank. 2. Company. 3. About—Face.

In executing which the captain, covering sergeant, and file closers, will conform to what is prescribed for facing by the rear rank.
Lesson III.

Article First.

To advance in line of battle.

The company being in line of battle, and correctly aligned, when the instructor shall wish to exercise it in marching by the front, he will assure himself that the shoulders of the captain and covering sergeant are perfectly in the direction of their respective ranks, and that the sergeant accurately covers the captain; the instructor will then place himself twenty-five or thirty paces in front of them, face to the rear, and place himself exactly on the prolongation of the line passing between their heels.

The instructor, being aligned on the directing file, will command:


At this, a sergeant, previously designated, will move six paces in advance of the captain; the instructor, from the position prescribed, will correctly align this sergeant on the prolongation of the directing line.

This advanced sergeant, who is to be charged with the direction, will, the moment his position is assured, take two points on the ground in the straight line which would pass between his own and the heels of the instructor.

These dispositions being made, the instructor will step aside, and command:

2. March.

At this, the company will step off with life. The directing sergeant will observe, with the greatest precision, the length and cadence of the step, marching on the two points he has chosen; he will take in succession, and always a little before arriving at the point nearest to him, new points in advance, exactly in the same line with the first two, and at the distance of some fifteen or twenty paces from each other. The captain will march steadily in the trace of the directing sergeant, keeping always six paces from him; the men will
SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY.

Each maintain the head direct to the front, feel lightly the elbow of his neighbor on the side of direction, and conform himself to the principles prescribed, in the school of the soldier, for the march by the front.

The man next to the captain, will take special care not to pass him; to this end, he will keep the line of his shoulders a little in the rear, but in the same direction with those of the captain.

The file closers will march at the habitual distance of two paces behind the rear rank.

If the men lose the step, the instructor will command:

To the—Step.

At this command, the men will glance towards the directing sergeant, retake the step from him, and again direct their eyes to the front.

The instructor will cause the captain and covering sergeant to be posted sometimes on the right, and sometimes on the left of the company.

Article Second.

To halt the company marching in line of battle and to align it.

The instructor, wishing to halt the company, will command:


At the second command, the company will halt; the directing sergeant will remain in advance, unless ordered to return to the line of file closers.

Oblique march in line of battle.

The company being in the direct march, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march obliquely, he will command:

1. Right (or left) oblique. 2. March.

At the command march, the company will take the oblique step. The men will accurately observe the principles
prescribed in the school of the soldier. The rear rank men will preserve their distances, and march in rear of the man next on the right (or left) of their habitual file leaders.

When the instructor wishes the direct march to be resumed, he will command:

1. **Forward.** 2. **March.**

At the command *march*, the company will resume the direct march. The instructor will move briskly twenty paces in front of the captain, and facing the company, will place himself exactly in the prolongation of the captain and directing sergeant; and then, by a sign, will move the directing sergeant on the same line, if he be not already on it; the latter will immediately take two points on the ground between himself and the instructor, and as he advances will take new points of direction.

In the oblique march, the men not having the touch of elbows, the guide will always be on the side towards which the oblique is made, without any indication to that effect being given; and when the direct march is resumed, the guide will be, equally without indication, on the side where it was previous to the oblique.

**Article Third.**

*To march in retreat.*

The company being halted and correctly aligned; to march in retreat, the instructor will command:

1. **Company.** 2. **About—Face.**

The company having faced to the rear, the instructor will place himself in front of the directing file, and being correctly established, will command:

3. **Company, forward.**

At this, the directing sergeant will place himself six paces in front of the line of file closers, now leading.

The covering sergeant will step into the line of file
closers, opposite to his interval, and the captain will place himself in the rear rank, now become the front.

This disposition being promptly made, the instructor will command:

4. **March.**

The instructor will cause to be executed, marching in retreat, all that is prescribed for marching in advance; the commands and the means of execution will be the same.

The instructor, having halted the company, will, when he may wish, cause it to face to the front. The captain, the covering sergeant, and the directing sergeant, will resume their habitual places in line, the moment they shall have faced about.

The company being in march by the front rank, if the instructor should wish it to march in retreat, he will cause the right about to be executed while marching, and to this effect will command:

1. **Company.** 2. **Right about.** 3. **March.**

At the third command, the company will promptly face about, and recommence the march by the rear rank.

The directing sergeant will face about with the company, and will move rapidly six paces in front of the file closers, and upon the prolongation of the guide. The instructor will place him in the proper direction by the means prescribed. The captain, the covering sergeant, and the men, will conform to the principles prescribed for the march in retreat.

When the instructor wishes the company to march by the front rank, he will give the same commands, and will regulate the direction of the march by the same means.

**Lesson IV.**

**Article First.**

To march by the flank. (Figure 67.)

The company being in line of battle, and at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march by the right flank, he will command:
1. **Company, right—Face.** 2. **Forward.** 3. **March.**

At the first command, the company will face to the right, the covering sergeant will place himself at the head of the front rank, the captain having stepped out for the purpose, so far as to find himself by the side of the sergeant, and on his left; the front rank will double as is prescribed in the school of the soldier; the rear rank will, at the same time, side step to the right one pace, and double in the same manner; so that when the movement is completed, the files will be formed of four men aligned, and elbow to elbow. The intervals will be preserved.

The file closers will also move by side step to the right, so that when the ranks are formed, they will be two paces from the rearmost rank.

At the command **march**, the company will move off briskly in quick time; the covering sergeant at the head of the front rank, and the captain on his left, will march straight forward. The men of each file will march abreast of their respective front rank men, heads direct to the front; the file closers will march opposite their places in line of battle.

The instructor will cause the principles of the march by the flank to be observed, in placing himself, pending the march, as prescribed in the school of the soldier.

The instructor will cause the march by the left flank to be executed by the same commands, substituting **left** for **right**; the ranks will double as has been prescribed in the school for the soldier; the rear rank will side step to the left one pace before doubling.

At the instant the company faces to the left, the left guide will place himself at the head of the front rank; the
captain will pass rapidly to the left, and place himself by the right side of this guide; the covering sergeant will replace the captain in the front rank, the moment the latter quits it to go to the left.

ARTICLE SECOND.

To change direction by file. (Fig. 68.)

The company being faced by the flank, and either in march, or at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to wheel by file, he will command:

1. By file, left (or right). 2. MARCH.

At the command "march," the first file will wheel; if to the side of the front rank man, the latter will take care not to turn at once, but to describe a short arc of a circle, shortening a little the first five or six steps in order to give time to the fourth man of this file to conform himself to the movement. If the wheel be to the side of the rear rank, the front rank man will wheel in the step of twenty-eight inches, and the fourth man will conform himself to the movement by describing a short arc of a circle as has been explained. Each file will come to wheel on the same ground where that which preceded it wheeled.

The instructor will see that the wheel be executed according to these principles, in order that the distance between the files may always be preserved, and that there be no check or hindrance at the wheeling point.

To halt the company marching by the flank, and to face it to the front.

To effect these objects, the instructor will command:

1. Company. 2. HALT. 3. FRONT.

The second and third commands will be executed as prescribed in the school of the soldier. As soon as the files have undoubled, the rear rank will close to its proper distance.
The captain and covering sergeant, as well as the left guide, if the march be by the left flank, will return to their habitual places in line at the instant the company faces to the front. The instructor will then align the company.

**ARTICLE THIRD.**

*The company being in march by the flank to form it on the right (or left) by file into line of battle.* (Figure 69.)

If the company be marching by the right flank, the instructor will command:

1. **On the right, by file into line.**
2. **March.**

At the command *march*, the rear rank men doubled will mark time; the captain and the covering sergeant will turn to the right, march straight forward, and be halted by the instructor when they shall have passed at least six paces beyond the rank of file closers; the captain will place himself correctly on the line of battle, and will direct the alignment as the men of the front rank successively arrive; the covering sergeant will place himself behind the captain at the distance of the rear rank; the two men on the right of the front rank doubled, will continue to march, and passing beyond the covering sergeant and the captain, will turn to the right; after turning, they will continue to march elbow to elbow, and direct themselves towards the line of battle, but when they shall arrive at two paces from this line, the even number will shorten.
the step so that the odd number may precede him on
the line, the odd number placing himself by the side and
on the left of the captain; the even number will after-
wards oblique to the left, and place himself on the left
of the odd number; the next two men of the front rank
doubled, will pass in the same manner behind the first
two, turn then to the right, and place themselves, according
to the means just explained, to the left, and by the side of,
the two men already established on the line; the remain-
ing files of this rank will follow in succession, and be formed
to the left in the same manner. The rear rank doubled will
execute the movement in the manner already explained
for the front rank, taking care not to commence the move-
ment until four men of the front rank are established on
the line of battle; the rear rank men, as they arrive on
the line, will cover accurately their file leaders.

If the company be marching by the left flank, the in-
structor will cause it to form by file on the left into line
of battle, according to the same principles and by the same
commands, substituting the indication left for right. In
this case the odd numbers will shorten the step so that the
even numbers may precede them on the line. The captain,
placed on the left of the front rank, and the left guide, will
return to their places in the line of battle, by order of the
instructor, after the company shall be formed and aligned.

To enable the men the better to comprehend the mech-
anism of the movement, the instructor will first cause it to
be executed separately by each rank doubled, and after-
wards by the two ranks united and doubled.

The instructor will place himself on the line of battle,
and without the point where the right or left is to rest, in
order to establish the base of the alignment.

ARTICLE FOURTH.

The company being in march by the flank, to form it by com-
pany, or by platoon, into line.

The company being in march by the right flank, the in-
structor will order the captain to form it into line; the
 captain will immediately command:

1. *By company into line.* 2. *March.* (Fig. 70).

*Fig. 70. By company into line.*

At the command *march*, the covering sergeant will con-
tinue to march straight forward; the men will advance the
right shoulder, take the double quick step, and move into
line, by the shortest route, taking care to undouble the files,
and to come on the line one after the other.
As the front rank men successively arrive in line with the covering sergeant, they will take from him the step, and then turn their eyes to the front.

The men of the rear rank will conform to the movements of their respective file leaders, but without endeavoring to arrive in line at the same time with the latter.

At the instant the movement begins, the captain will face to his company in order to follow up the execution; and, as soon as the company is formed, he will command, guide left, place himself two paces before the centre, face to the front, and take the step of the company.

At the command guide left, the second sergeant will promptly place himself in the front rank, on the left, to serve as guide, and the covering sergeant who is on the opposite flank will remain there.

When the company marches by the left flank, this movement will be executed by the same commands, and according to the same principles; the company being formed, the captain will command guide right, and place himself in front of his company as above; the covering sergeant who is on the right of the front rank will serve as guide, and the second sergeant placed on the left flank will remain there.

Thus, in a column by company, right or left in front, the covering sergeant and the second sergeant of each company will always be placed on the right and left, respectively, of the front rank; they will be denominated right guide and left guide, and the one or the other charged with the direction.

The company being in march by the flank, if it be the wish of the instructor to cause it to form platoons, he will give an order to that effect to the captain, who will command:

1. By platoon, into line. 2. March.

The movement will be executed by each platoon according to the above principles. The captain will place himself before the centre of the first platoon, and the first lieutenant before the centre of the second, passing through the opening made in the centre of the company, if the march be by the
right flank, and around the left of his platoon, if the march be by the left: in this last case, the captain will also pass around the left of the second platoon in order to place himself in front of the first. Both the captain and the lieutenant, without waiting for each other, will command guide left (or right) at the instant their respective platoons are formed.

At the command guide left (or right), the guide of each platoon will pass rapidly to the indicated flank of the platoon, if not already there.

The right guide of the company will always serve as the guide of the right or left of the first platoon, and the left guide of the company will serve as the guide of the second platoon.

Lesson V.

Article First.

To break into column by platoon, either at a halt or in march.

The company being at a halt, in line of battle, the instructor, wishing to break it into column, by platoon to the right, will command:

1. By platoon, right wheel. 2. March.

At the first command, the chiefs of platoon will rapidly place themselves two paces before the centres of their respective platoons, the lieutenant passing around the left of the company. They need not occupy themselves with dressing, one upon the other. The covering sergeant will replace the captain in the front rank.

At the command march, the right front rank man of each platoon will face to the right, the covering sergeant standing fast; the chief of each platoon will move quickly by the shortest line, a little beyond the point at which the marching flank will rest when the wheel shall be completed, face to the late rear, and place himself so that the line which he forms with the man on the right (who had faced), shall be perpendicular to that occupied by the company in line of battle; each platoon will wheel according to the principles
prescribed for the wheel on a fixed pivot, and when the man who conducts the marching flank shall approach near the perpendicular, its chief will command:

1. Platoon. 2. Halt.

At the command halt, which will be given the instant the man, who conducts the marching flank, shall have arrived at three paces of the perpendicular, the platoon will halt, the covering sergeant will move to the point where the left of the first platoon is to rest, passing by the front rank; the second sergeant will place himself, in like manner, in respect to the second platoon. Each will take care to leave between himself and the man on the right of his platoon, a space equal to its front; the captain and first lieutenant will look to this, and each take care to align the sergeant between himself and the man of the platoon who had faced to the right.

The guide of each platoon, being thus established on the perpendicular, each chief will place himself two paces outside of his guide, and facing towards him, will command:

3. Left—Dress.

The alignment being ended, each chief of platoon will command, Front, and place himself two paces before its centre.

The file closers will conform themselves to the movement of their respective platoons, preserving always the distance of two paces from the rear rank.

The company will break by platoon to the left, according to the same principles.

The instructor wishing to break the company by platoon to the right and to move the column forward after the wheel is completed, will caution the company to that effect, and command:

1. By platoon, right wheel. 2. March.

At the first command, the chiefs of platoon will move rapidly in front of their respective platoons, conforming to
what has been prescribed, and will remain in this position during the continuance of the wheel. The covering sergeant will replace the chief of the first platoon in the front rank.

At the command *march*, the platoons will wheel to the right, conforming to the principles herein prescribed; the man on the pivot will not face to the right, but will mark time, conforming himself to the movement of the marching flank; and when the man who is on the left of this flank shall arrive near the perpendicular, the instructor will command:


At the fourth command, which will be given at the instant the wheel is completed, the platoons will move straight to the front, all the men taking the step of twenty-eight inches. The covering sergeant and the second sergeant will move rapidly to the left of their respective platoons, the former passing before the front rank. The leading guide will immediately take points on the ground in the direction which may be indicated to him by the instructor.

At the fifth command, the men will take the touch of elbows lightly to the left.

If the company be marching in line to the front, the instructor will cause it to break by platoon to the right by the same command. At the command *march*, the platoons will wheel in the manner already explained; the man on the pivot will take care to mark time in his place, without advancing or receding; the instructor, the chiefs of platoon, and the guides, will conform to what has been prescribed.

The company may be broken by platoons to the left, according to the same principles.

**ARTICLE SECOND**

*To march in column.*

The company having broken by platoon, right (or left) in front, the instructor, wishing to cause the column to march, will throw himself twenty-five or thirty paces in front, face
to the guides, place himself correctly, on their direction, and caution the leading guide to take points on the ground.

These dispositions being made, the instructor will step aside, and command:


At the command march, promptly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, they, as well as the guides, will lead off, by a decided step, their respective platoons, in order that the whole may move smartly, and at the same moment.

The men will each feel lightly the elbow of his neighbor towards the guide, and conform himself, in marching, to the principles prescribed in the school of the soldier. The man next to the guide, in each platoon, will take care never to pass him, and also to march always about six inches to the right (or left) from him, in order not to push him out of the direction.

The leading guide will observe, with the greatest precision, the length and cadence of the step, and maintain the direction of his march by the means prescribed.

The following guide will march exactly in the trace of the leading one, preserving between the latter and himself a distance precisely equal to the front of his platoon, and march in the same step with the leading guide.

If the following guide lose his distance, from the one leading, (which can only happen by his own fault,) he will correct himself by slightly lengthening or shortening a few steps, in order that there may not be sudden quickenings or slackenings in the march of his platoon.

If the same guide, having neglected to march exactly in the trace of the preceding one, find himself sensibly out of the direction, he will remedy this fault by advancing more or less the shoulder opposite to the true direction, and thus, in a few steps, insensibly regain it, without the inconvenience of the oblique step, which would cause a loss of distance. In all cases, each chief of platoon will cause it to conform to the movements of its guide.
The changes of direction of a column while marching, will be executed according to the principles prescribed for wheeling on the march. Whenever, therefore, a column is to change direction, the instructor will change the guide, if not already there, to the flank opposite the side to which the change is to be made.

The column being in march right in front, if it be the wish of the instructor to change direction to the right, he will give the order to the chief of the first platoon, and immediately go himself, or send a marker to the point at which the change of direction is to be made; the instructor, or marker, will place himself on the direction of the guides, so as to present the breast to that flank of the column.

The leading guide will direct his march on that person, so that, in passing, his left arm may just graze his breast. When the leading guide shall have approached near to the marker, the chief of his platoon will command:

1. Right wheel. 2. March.

The first command will be given when the platoon is at the distance of four paces from the marker.
At the command *march*, which will be pronounced at the instant the guide shall have arrived opposite the marker, the platoon will wheel to the right, conforming to what is prescribed in the school of the soldier.

The wheel being finished, the chief of each platoon will command:


These commands will be pronounced and executed as is prescribed in the school of the soldier. The guide of the first platoon will take points on the ground in the new direction, in order the better to regulate the march.

The second platoon will continue to march straight forward till up with the marker, when it will wheel to the right, and re-take the direct march by the same commands and the same means which governed the first platoon.

The column being in march right in front, if the instructor should wish to change direction to the left, he will command *guide right*. At this command, the two guides will move rapidly to the right of their respective platoons, each passing in front of his subdivision; the men will take the touch of elbows to the right; the instructor will afterwards conform to what is prescribed.

The change of direction to the left will then be executed according to the same principles as the change of direction to the right, but by inverse means.

When the change of direction is completed, the instructor will command, *guide left*.

The changes of direction in a column, left in front, will be executed according to the same principles.

In changes of direction in double quick time, the platoons will wheel according to the principles prescribed in the school of the soldier.

In order to prepare the men for those formations in line, which can be executed only by turning to the right or the left, the instructor will sometimes cause the column to change direction to the side of the guide. In this case, the chief of the leading platoon will command: *Left (or right) turn*, instead of *left (or right) wheel*. The subdivisions will
each turn, in succession, conforming to what is prescribed in the school of the soldier. The leading guide, as soon as he has turned, will take points on the ground, the better to regulate the direction of the march.

**ARTICLE FOURTH.**

*To halt the column.*

The column being in march, when the instructor shall wish to halt it, he will command:


At the second command, promptly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, the column will halt; the guides also will stand fast, although they may have lost both distance and direction.

If the command *halt*, be not repeated with the greatest vivacity, and executed at the same instant, distances will be lost.

If a guide, having lost his distance, seeks to recover it after that command, he will only throw his fault on the following guide, who, if he has marched well, will no longer be at his proper distance; and if the latter regains what he has thus lost, the movement will be propagated to the rear of the column.

**ARTICLE FIFTH.**

*Being in column by platoon, to form to the right or left into line of battle.* (Fig. 72).

![Fig. 72. Left into line wheel.](image)

The instructor having halted the column, right in front,
and wishing to form it into line of battle will place himself at platoon distance in front of the leading guide, face to him, and rectify, if necessary, the position of the guide beyond; which being executed, he will command:

*Left—Dress.*

At this command, which will not be repeated by the chiefs of platoon, each of them will place himself briskly two paces outside of his guide, and direct the alignment of the platoon perpendicularly to the direction of the column.

Each chief having aligned his platoon, will command *Front,* and return quickly to his place in column.

The disposition being made, the instructor will command:


At the command *march,* briskly repeated by the chiefs of platoon, the front rank man on the left of each platoon will face to the left, and place his breast lightly against the arm of the guide by his side, who stands fast; the platoons will wheel to the left on the principle of wheels from a halt, and in conformity to what is prescribed. Each chief will turn to his platoon to observe its movement, and when the marching flank has approached near the line of the battle, he will command:


The command *halt,* will be given when the marching flank of the platoon is three paces of the line of battle.

The chief of the second platoon, having halted it, will return to his place as a file closer, passing around to the left of his subdivision.

The captain having halted the first platoon, will move rapidly to the point at which the right of the company will rest in line of battle, and command:

*Right—Dress.*

At this command, the two platoons will dress up on the
alignment; the front rank man on the right of the leading platoon, who finds himself opposite the instructor established on the direction of the guides, will place his breast lightly against the left arm of this officer. The captain will direct the alignment from the right on the man on the opposite flank of the company.

The company being aligned, the captain will command:

FRONT.

The instructor seeing the company in line of battle, will command:

Guides—Posts.

At this command, the covering sergeant will cover the captain, and the left guide will return to his place as a file closer.

If the column be left in front, and the instructor should wish to form it to the right into line, he will place himself at platoon distance in front of the leading guide, face to him, and rectify, if necessary, the position of the guide beyond; which being executed, he will command:

1. Right into line wheel. 2. MARCH.

Which will be executed in the manner prescribed above, but inversely.

LESSON VI.

ARTICLE FIRST.

To break the company into platoons, and to re-form the company.

To break the company into platoons. (Fig. 73.)

The company marching in the cadenced step, and supposed to make part of a column, right in front, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to break by platoon, he will give the order to the captain, who will command: 1. Break into platoons, and immediately place himself before the centre of the first platoon.

At the command break into platoons, the first lieutenant
will pass quickly around the left to the centre of his platoon, and give the caution; *Mark time.*

The captain will then command:

2. *March.*

The first platoon will continue to march straight forward; the covering sergeant will move rapidly to the left flank of this platoon (passing by the front rank) as soon as the flank shall be disengaged.

At the command *march,* given by the captain, the second platoon will begin to mark time; its chief will immediately add: 1. *Right oblique; 2. March.* The last command will be given so that this platoon may commence obliquing the instant the rear rank of the first platoon shall have passed. The men will shorten the step in obliquing, so that when the command *forward march* is given, the platoon may have its exact distance.

The guide of the second platoon being near the direction of Fig. 73. To break the company into platoons the guide of the first, the chief of the second will command *Forward,* and add *March,* the instant that the guide of his platoon shall cover the guide of the first.

In a column, left in front, the company will break into platoons by inverse means, applying to the first platoon all that has been prescribed for the second, and reciprocally.

In this case, the left guide of the company will shift to the right flank of the second platoon, and the covering sergeant will remain on the right of the first
To re-form the company.

The column, by platoon, being in march, right in front, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to form company, he will give the order to the captain, who will command: Form company.

Having given this command, the captain will immediately add: 1. First platoon; 2. Right obliquus.

The chief of the second platoon will caution it to continue to march straight forward.

The captain will then command: 3. March.

At this command, repeated by the chief of the second, the first platoon will oblique to the right, in order to unmask the second; the covering sergeant, on the left of the first platoon, will return to the right of the company, passing by the front rank.

When the first platoon shall have nearly unmasked the second, the captain will command: 1. Mark time, and at the instant the unmasking shall be complete, he will add: 2. March. The first platoon will then cease to oblique, and mark time.

In the mean time the second platoon will have continued to march straight forward, and when it shall be nearly up with the first, the captain will command Forward, and at the instant the two platoons shall unite, add March; the first platoon will then cease to mark time.

In a column, left in front, the same movements will be executed by inverse means, the chief of the second platoon giving the command Forward, and the captain adding the command March, when the platoons are united.

Article Second.

Being in column to break files to the rear, and to cause them to re-enter into line. (Fig. 74.)

The company being in march, and supposed to constitute a subdivision of a column, right (or left) in front, when the instructor shall wish to cause files to break off, he will give
the order to the captain, who will immediately turn to his company, and command:

1. *Two files from left (or right) to rear.* 2. *March.*

At the command *march,* the two files on the left (or right) of the company will mark time, the others will continue to march straight forward; the two rear rank men of these files will, as soon as the rear rank of the company shall clear them, move to the right by advancing the outer shoulder; the odd number will place himself behind the third file from that flank, the even number behind the fourth, passing for this purpose behind the odd number; the two front rank men will, in like manner, move to the right when the rear rank of the company shall clear them, the odd number will place himself behind the first file, the even number behind the second file, passing for this purpose behind the odd number. If the files are broken from the right, the men will move to the left, advancing the outer shoulder, the even number of the rear rank will place himself behind the third file, the odd number of the same rank behind the fourth; the even number of the front rank behind the first file, the odd number of the same rank behind the second, the odd numbers for this purpose passing behind the even numbers. The men will be careful not to lose their distances and to keep aligned.

If the instructor should still wish to break two files from the same side, he will give the order to the captain, who will proceed as above directed.

At the command *march,* given by the captain, the files already broken, advancing a little the outer shoulder, will
gain the space of two files to the right, if the files are broken from the left, and to the left, if the files are broken from the right, shortening, at the same time, the step, in order to make room between themselves and the rear rank of the company for the files last ordered to the rear; the latter will break by the same commands and in the same manner as the first. The men who double should increase the length of the step in order to prevent distances from being lost.

The instructor may thus diminish the front of a company by breaking off successive groups of two files, but the new files must always be broken from the same side.

The instructor, wishing to cause files broken off to return into line will give the order to the captain, who will command:

1. Two files into line. 2. March.

At the command march, the first two files marching by flank will return into line; the others will gain the space of two files towards the flank to which they belong.

Any number of files may be ordered from either flank to rear, the proper number being specified in the command; and they may be brought back into line in groups of as many as the instructor may designate.

**Article Third.**

To march the column in route, and to execute the movements incident thereto.

The swiftness of the route step will be one hundred and ten steps in a minute; this swiftness will be habitually maintained in columns in route, when the roads and ground may permit.

The company being at a halt, and supposed to constitute a subdivision of a column, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march in the route step, he will command:


At the command march, repeated by the captain, the two
Ranks will step off together; the rear rank will take, in marching, by shortening a few steps, a distance of one pace (twenty-eight inches) from the rank preceding, which distance will be computed from the breasts of the men in the rear rank, to the knapsacks of the men in the front rank. The men, without further command, will immediately carry their arms at will. They will no longer be required to march in the cadenced pace, or with the same foot, or to remain silent.

The company marching in the route step, to cause it to pass to the cadenced step, the instructor will first order pieces to be brought to the right shoulder, and then command:

1. Quick time. 2. March.

At the command march, the men will resume the cadenced step, and will close so as to leave a distance of sixteen inches between each rank.

The company marching in the cadenced pace, the instructor, to cause it to take the route step, will command:

1. Route step. 2. March.

At the command march, the front rank will continue the step of twenty-eight inches, the rear rank will take, by gradually shortening the step, the distance of twenty-eight inches from the front rank.

Article Fourth.

Countermarch.

The company being at a halt, and supposed to constitute part of a column, right in front, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to countermarch, he will command:


At the second command, the company will face to the right, the two guides to the right about; the captain will
go to the right of his company and cause two files to break to the rear, and then place himself by the side of the front rank man, to conduct him.

At the command march, both guides will stand fast; the company will step off smartly; the first file, conducted by the captain, will wheel around the right guide, and direct its march along the front rank so as to arrive behind, and two paces from the left guide; each file will come in succession to wheel on the same ground around the right guide; the leading file having arrived at a point opposite to the left guide, the captain will command:


The first command will be given at four paces from the point where the leading file is to rest.
At the second command, the company will halt.
At the third, it will face to the front.
At the fourth, the company will dress by the right; the captain will step two paces outside of the left guide, now on the right, and direct the alignment, so that the front rank may be enclosed between the two guides; the company being aligned, he will command Front, and place himself before the centre of the company as if in column; the guides, passing along the front rank, will shift to their proper places, on the right and left of that rank.

In a column, left in front, the countermarch will be executed by inverse commands and means, but according to the same principles.

ARTICLE FIFTH.

Formation of a company from two ranks into four and reciprocally, at a halt in march.

The company being formed in two ranks at a halt, and supposed to form part of a column right in front, when the instructor shall wish to form it into four ranks, he will command:

1. In four ranks, form company. 2. Company left—Face. 3. March (or double quick March).

At the second command, the left guide will remain faced
to the front, the company will face to the left: the rear
rank will gain the distance of one pace from the front rank
by a side step to the left and rear, and the men will form
into four ranks as prescribed in the school of the soldier.

At the command march, the first file of four men will re-
face to the front without undoubling. All the other files of
four will step off, and closing successively to about five
inches of the preceding file, will halt, and immediately face
to the front, the men remaining doubled.

The file closers will take their new places in line of bat-
tle, at two paces in rear of the fourth rank.

The captain will superintend the movement.

The company being in four ranks, when the instructor
shall wish to form it into two ranks, he will command:

1. In two ranks, form company. 2. Company right—Face.

3. March (or double quick—March).

At the second command the left guide will stand fast,
the company will face to the right.

At the command march, the right guide will step off and
march in the prolongation of the front rank. The leading
file of four men will step off at the same time, the other
files standing fast; the second file will step off when there
shall be between it and the first space sufficient to form in-
to two ranks. The following files will execute successively
what has been prescribed for the second. As soon as the
last file shall have its distance, the instructor will command:


At the command front the company will face to the front,
and the files will undouble.

The company being formed in two ranks, and marching
to the front, when the instructor shall wish to form it into
defour ranks, he will command:

1. In four ranks, form company. 2. By the left double file.

3. March (or double quick March).

At the command march, the left guide and the left file
of the company will continue to march straight to the front:
the company will make a half face to the left, the odd numbers placing themselves behind the even numbers. The even numbers of the rear rank will shorten their steps a little, to permit the odd numbers to get between them and the even numbers of that rank. The files thus formed of fours, except the left file, will continue to march obliquely, lengthening their steps slightly, so as to keep constantly abreast of the guide; each file will close successively on the file next on its left, and when at the proper distance from that file, will face to the front by a half face to the right, and take the touch of elbows to the left.

The company being in march to the front in four ranks, when the instructor shall wish it to form into two ranks, he will command:

1. In two ranks, form company. 2. By the right undouble files. 3. March (or double quick—March).

At the command march, the left guide and the left file of the company will continue to march straight to the front; the company will make a half face to the right and march obliquely, lengthening the step a little, in order to keep, as near as possible, abreast of the guide. As soon as the second file from the left shall have gained to the right the interval necessary for the left file to form into two ranks, the second file will face to the front by a half face to the left and march straight forward; the left file will immediately form into two ranks, and take the touch of elbows to the left. Each file will execute successively, what has just been prescribed for the file next to the left, and each file will form into two ranks when the file next on its right has obliqued the required distance and faced to the front.

If the company be supposed to make part of a column, left in front, these different movements will be executed according to the same principles and by inverse means, substituting the indication left for right.

END OF THE SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY.
SKIRMISHERS;

or,

Light-Infantry and Rifle Company Movements.

General Principles and Divisions of the Instruction.

By the general term skirmishers, will herein be understood any company or body of infantry, whether denominated grenadiers, light-infantry, rifle, or battalion companies, thrown out and actually deployed into open files or loose order.

The term will only be applied to the companies while so extended. The moment that either shall be re-assembled or reformed into closed files, it will take its habitual denomination of grenadiers, light-infantry, rifle, first company, &c.

The service of skirmishers will habitually be performed by the left flank companies of battalions (light-infantry and rifle).

Skirmishers will be thrown out to clear the way for, and to cover the movements of the main corps to which they appertain; accordingly they may be thrown out to the front, to a flank, to the rear, or in the several directions, as may be deemed necessary.

The movements of skirmishers should be subjected to such rules as will give to the commander the means of moving them in any direction with the greatest promptitude.

It is not expected that these movements should be executed with the same precision as in closed ranks, nor is it desirable, as such exactness would materially interfere with their prompt execution.

When skirmishers are thrown out to clear the way for, and to protect the advance of, the main corps, their move-
ments should be so regulated by this corps, as to keep it constantly covered.

Every body of skirmishers should have a reserve, the strength and composition of which will vary according to circumstances.

If the body thrown out be within sustaining distance of the main corps, a very small reserve will be sufficient for each company, whose duty it shall be to fill vacant places, furnish the line with cartridges, relieve the fatigued, and serve as a rallying point for the skirmishers.

If the main corps be at a considerable distance, besides the company reserves, another reserve will be required, composed of entire companies, which will be employed to sustain and reinforce such parts of the line as may be warmy attacked: this reserve should be strong enough to relieve half the companies deployed as skirmishers.

The reserves should be placed behind the centre of the line of skirmishers, the company reserves at one hundred and fifty and the principal reserve at four hundred paces.

This rule, however, will not be invariable; the commander, always holding his reserve within sustaining distance, will next take care to profit by any accident the ground may present (such as trees, houses, fences, hollows), to put it under cover from the fire of the enemy.

The movements of skirmishers will be made in quick time; but in circumstances which demand a greater rapidity, double quick time, and even the run will be employed.

In this instruction, the double quick march will be at the rate of one hundred and forty steps in the minute: the rate of the run cannot be equally determined. This extreme swiftness will be reserved for cases of absolute necessity, in order not uselessly to fatigue the men, and to preserve their strength for circumstances in which success may principally depend on rapidity of movement.

In all the movements, skirmishers (that is men, in open files), will habitually carry their pieces as light-infantry, taking care to avoid accidents.

Whenever the company is put in motion in double quick time, or when double quick time is to be assumed on the
march, the men will understand that they are to trail arms.

The movements of skirmishers will be executed, as far as possible, by the voice of the commander; but when the line shall be too extended for his voice to be heard, he will substitute the sounds of the bugle or beats of the drum.

Other conventional signs may, for particular cases (as the want of both drum and bugle), be adopted to express the same commands.

The officers, and, if necessary, the non-commissioned officers, will repeat, and cause the commands to be executed, as soon as they are given; but to avoid mistakes, when the signals are employed, they will wait until the last bugle note is sounded before commencing the movement.

In moving rapidly, the men should economize their strength, keep cool, and profit by all cover that the natural advantages of ground may offer. Officers, and non-commissioned officers, will give particular attention to this, as it is only by continual watchfulness on the part of all grades, that a line of skirmishers can attain success.

This instruction will be divided into four articles.

ARTICLE FIRST.

 Deployments.

A company may be deployed as skirmishers in two ways: forward, and by the flank.

The deployment forward will be adopted when the company is behind the line on which it is to be established as skirmishers: it will be deployed by the flank, when it finds itself already on that line.

Whenever a company is to be deployed as skirmishers, it will be divided into two platoons, and each platoon will be subdivided into two sections; the comrades in battle, forming groups of four men, will be careful to know and to sustain each other. The captain will assure himself that the files in the centre of each platoon and section are designated.

A company may be deployed as skirmishers on its right,
left, or centre file, or on any other named file whatsoever. In this manner, skirmishers may be thrown forward with the greatest possible rapidity on any ground they may be required to occupy.

A chain of skirmishers ought generally to preserve their alignment, but no advantages which the ground may present should be sacrificed to attain this regularity.

The interval between skirmishers depends on the extent of ground to be covered; but in general, it is not proper that the groups of four men should be removed more than forty paces from each other. The habitual distance between men of the same group in open grounds will be five paces; in no case will they lose sight of each other.

The front to be occupied to cover a battalion comprehends its front and the half of each interval which separates it from the battalion on its right and left. If a line, whose wings are not supported, should be covered by skirmishers, it will be necessary either to protect the flanks with skirmishers, or to extend them in front of the line so far beyond the wings as effectually to oppose any attempt which might be made by the enemy's skirmishers to disturb the flanks.

To deploy forward.

A company being at a halt or in march, when the captain shall wish to deploy it forward on the left file of the first platoon, holding the second platoon in reserve, he will command:

1. First platoon—as skirmishers. 2. On the left file—take intervals. 3. March (or double quick—March).

At the first command, the second and third lieutenants will place themselves rapidly two paces behind the centres of the right and left sections of the first platoon; the fifth sergeant will move one pace in front of the centre of the first platoon, and will place himself between the two sections, in the front as soon as the movement begins; the fourth sergeant will place himself on the left of the front rank of the same platoon, as soon as he can pass. The captain will
indicate to this sergeant the point on which to direct his march. The first lieutenant, placing himself before the centre of the second platoon, will command:

Second platoon backward—March.

This platoon will be halted at three paces behind the line, when the flank of the first platoon is unmasked. The second and third sergeants will place themselves on the left and right flanks of this platoon.

At the command march, the left group of four men, conducted by the fourth sergeant, will direct itself on the point indicated; all the other groups of fours throwing forward briskly the left shoulder, will move diagonally to the front in double quick time, so as to gain to the right the space of twenty paces, which shall be the distance between each group and that immediately on its left. When the second group from the left shall arrive on a line with, and twenty paces from the first, it will march straight to the front, conforming to the gait and direction of the first, keeping constantly on the same alignment and at twenty paces from it. The third group, and all the others, will conform to what has just been prescribed for the second; they will arrive successively on the line. The right guide will arrive with the last group.

The left guide having reached the point where the left of the line should rest, the captain will command the skirmishers to halt; the men composing each group of fours will then immediately deploy at five paces from each other, and to the right and left of the front rank man of the even file in each group, the rear rank men placing themselves on the left of their file leaders. If any groups be not in line at the command halt, they will move up rapidly, conforming to what has just been prescribed.

If during the deployment, the line should be fired upon by the enemy, the captain may cause the groups of fours to deploy, as they gain their proper distances.

The line being formed, the non-commissioned officers will throw themselves ten paces behind the right, left and centre of the line.
The second and third lieutenants will promptly rectify any irregularity that may have been committed in taking intervals; they will then throw themselves twenty or thirty paces behind the centres of their respective sections. Each of these officers will have with him four men taken from the reserve before the commencement of the movement.

These dispositions being made, the first lieutenant will march the reserve, by the shortest line, to about one hundred and fifty paces behind the centre of the line of skirmishers, halt, face it to the front, and maintain it steadily at that distance; the reserve will conform itself to all the movements of the line.

The captain will give a general superintendence to the whole deployment, and then throw himself to the distance of about eighty paces from the rear of the line; he will take with him the first bugler, or drummer, and four men from the reserve.

The deployment may be made on the right or the centre of the platoon, by the same commands, substituting the indication right or centre, for that of left file.

The deployment on the right or the centre will be made according to the principles prescribed above; in this latter case, the centre of the platoon will be marked by the right group of fours in the second section; the fifth sergeant will place himself on the right of this group, and serve as the guide of the platoon during the deployment.

In whatever manner the deployment be made, on the right, left, or centre, the men in each group of fours will always deploy at five paces from each other, and upon the front rank man of the even numbered file. The deployments will habitually be made at twenty paces interval; but if a greater interval be required, it will be indicated in the command.

If a company be thrown out as skirmishers, so near the main body as to render a reserve unnecessary, the entire company will be extended in the same manner, and according to the same principles, as for the deployment of a platoon. In this case, the third lieutenant will command the fourth section, and a non-commissioned officer designated
for that purpose, the second section; the fifth sergeant will act as centre guide; the file closers will place themselves ten paces in rear of the line, and opposite their places in line of battle. The first and second lieutenant will each have a bugler near him.

Figure 75 shows the manner of executing the deployment forward.

![Diagram](image)

Fig. 75. To deploy forward.

**To deploy by the flank.**

The company at a halt, to deploy by the flank: the first platoon as the reserve. The captain will command:

1. *Second platoon*—as skirmishers. 2. *By the right flank*—take intervals. 3. *March* (or *double quick*—MARCH).

At the first command, the first and third lieutenants will place themselves, respectively, two paces behind the centres of the first and second sections of the second platoon; the fifth sergeant will place himself one pace in front of the centre of this platoon; and the third sergeant on the right of the front rank as soon as he can pass. The captain will indicate to him the point on which to direct his march.
The chief of the first platoon will cause it to unmask the second platoon by stepping to the rear. The fourth sergeant will place himself on the left flank of the reserve.

At the second command, the first and third lieutenants will place themselves two paces behind the left group of their respective sections.

At the command march, the second platoon will face to the right, and commence the movement; the left group of fours will stand fast, but will deploy as soon as there is room on its right conforming to what has been prescribed; the third sergeant will place himself on the left of the right group, to conduct it; the second group will halt at twenty paces from the one on its left, the third group at twenty paces from the second, and so, on to the right. As the groups halt, they will face to the enemy, and deploy as has been explained for the left group.

The chiefs of sections will pay particular attention to the successive deployments of the groups, keeping near the group about to halt, so as to rectify any errors which may be committed. When the deployment is completed, they will place themselves thirty paces in rear of the centre of their sections, as has been heretofore prescribed. The non-commissioned officers will also place themselves as previously indicated.

As soon as the movement commences, the chief of the first platoon, causing it to face about, will move it to the rear.

The deployment may be made by the left flank according to the same principles, substituting left flank for right flank.

Figure 76 shows the deployment by flank.

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If the captain should wish to deploy the company upon the centre of one of the platoons, he will command:

**Fig. 76. To deploy by the flank.**

1. Second platoon—as skirmishers. 2. By the right and left flanks—take intervals. 3. March (or double quick—March).

At the first command, the officers and non-commissioned
INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS.

Officers will conform to what has been prescribed for deployment by a single flank.

At the second command, the first lieutenant will place himself behind the left group of the right section of the second platoon, the third lieutenant behind the right group of the left section of the same platoon.

At the command march the two sections will face outward, and move off in opposite directions, with the exception of the right group of the second section, which stands fast. The several groups halt at twenty paces from this centre group, and deploy when sufficient interval is obtained. The second and third sergeants respectively, conduct the second and first sections.

The officers will conform themselves to what is prescribed in the preceding cases.

The captain may designate, as the directing file, any interior file other than that on the right of the second platoon; in which case, the deployment will be executed according to the principles which have been just prescribed.

To extend intervals.

If it be supposed that the line of skirmishers is at a halt, and that the captain wishes to extend it to the left, he will command:

1. By the left flank (so many paces) extend intervals. 2. March (or double quick—March).

At the command march, the group on the right will stand fast, all the other groups will face to the left, and each group will extend its interval to the prescribed distance.

The men of the same group will continue to preserve between each other the distance of five paces, unless the nature of the ground should render it necessary that they should close nearer, in order to keep in sight of each other. The intervals refer to the spaces between the groups, and not to the distances between the men in each group. The inter-
vals will be taken from the right or left men of the neighboring group.
If the line of skirmishers be marching to the front, and the captain should wish to extend it to the right, he will command:
1. **On the left group (so many paces) extend intervals.**
2. **MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).**

The left group, conducted by the guide, will continue to march on the point of direction; the other groups throwing forward the left shoulder, and taking the double quick step, will open their intervals to the prescribed distance, by the means indicated for deploying forward.

If by extending intervals, it is designed that one platoon shall occupy the place, previously occupied by two, the men of the retiring platoon, will fall in the rear as they are relieved by the extension of intervals.

### To close intervals.

The line being at a halt the captain will command:
1. **By the left flank (so many paces) close intervals.**
2. **MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).**

At the second command the left group will stand fast; the others facing to the left and closing to the required distance; each group facing to the enemy as it attains its proper interval.

If the line be marching to the front, the captain will command:

1. **On the left group (so many paces) close intervals.**
2. **MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).**

The left group, conducted by the guide, will continue to move on in the direction previously indicated; the other groups, advancing the right shoulder, will close to the left, until the intervals are reduced to the prescribed distance.

Intervals may be closed on the right, or on the centre, according to the same principles.
When intervals are to be closed up, in order to reinforce a line of skirmishers, so as to cause two companies to cover the ground which had been previously occupied by one, the new company will deploy so as to finish its movement at twenty paces in rear of the line it is to occupy, and the men will successively move upon that line, as they shall be unmasked by the men of the old company. The reserves of the two companies will unite behind the centre of the line.

To relieve a company deployed as skirmishers.

When a company of skirmishers is to be relieved, the captain will be advised of the intention, which he will immediately communicate to his first and second lieutenants. The new company will execute its deployment forward, so as to finish the movement at about twenty paces in rear of the line. Arrived at this distance, the men of the new company, by command of their captain, will advance rapidly a few paces beyond the old line and halt; the new line being established, the old company will assemble on its reserve, taking care not to get into groups of fours until they are beyond the fire of the enemy.

**Article Second.**

To advance.

To advance in line, and to retreat in line.

When skirmishers are marching to the front, the guide is in the centre, unless it be particularly specified otherwise, in which case *guide right* or *left*, will be ordered immediately after the command forward.

The captain will command:

1. *Forward.* 2. *March* (or *double quick—March*).

This command will be repeated with great rapidity by the chiefs of sections.

At the first command, three sergeants will move briskly
on the line, the first on the right, the second on the left, and the third in the centre.

At the command march, the line will move to the front, the guide charged with the direction will move on the point indicated to him, the skirmishers will hold themselves aligned on this guide, and preserve their intervals towards him.

The chiefs of sections will march immediately behind their sections, so as to direct their movements.

The captain will give a general superintendence to the movement.

When he shall wish to halt the skirmishers, he will command:

**HALT.**

At this command, briskly repeated, the line will halt. The chiefs of sections will promptly rectify any irregularity in the alignment and intervals, and after taking every possible advantage which the ground may offer for protecting the men, they, with the three sergeants in the line, will retire to their proper places in rear.

The captain, wishing to march the skirmishers in retreat, will command:

1. **In retreat.** 2. **MARCH (or double quick—MARCH).**

At the first command, the three sergeants will move on the line as prescribed above for advance.

At the command march, the skirmishers will individually face about and march to the rear; conforming to the principles of the advance.

To halt skirmishers in retreat, the captain commands

**HALT.**

At this command the skirmishers halt and face to the front.

The chiefs of sections and the guides conform to what is prescribed for halting when advancing.
INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS.

To change direction.

To change the direction of a line of skirmishers the captain will command:

1. **Right wheel.** 2. **March** (or double quick—**March**).

At the command *march*, the right guide will mark time in his place; the left guide will move in a circle to the right. The centre guide will also move in a circle to the right; and will take care that his steps are only half the length of those of the left guide.

The skirmishers will regulate the length of their steps by their distance from the marching flank, being less as they approach the pivot, and greater as they are removed from it; they will often look to the marching flank, so as to preserve the direction and their intervals.

When the commander of the line shall wish to resume the direct march, he will command:

1. **Forward.** 2. **March**.

At the command *march*, the line will cease to wheel, and the skirmishers will move direct to the front; the centre guide will march on the point which will be indicated to him.

If the captain should wish to halt the line, in place of moving it to the front, he will command:

**Halt.**

At this command, the line will halt.

A change of direction to the left will be made according to the same principles, and by inverse means.

A line of skirmishers marching in retreat, will change direction by the same means, and by the same commands, as a line marching in advance; for example, if the captain should wish to refuse his left, now become the right, he will command: 1. **Left wheel.** 2. **March.** At the command **halt**, the skirmishers will face to the enemy.

But if, instead of halting the line, the captain should wish to continue to march it in retreat, he will, when he judges the line has wheeled sufficiently, command:
1. **In retreat.** 2. **March.**

To march by the flank.

The captain will command:

1. **By the right flank.** 2. **March** (or **double quick**—**March**).

At the first command the three sergeants will place themselves on the line.

At the command **march**, the skirmishers and the reserve will put themselves in march; the right guide will direct himself on the point which will have been indicated to him; each skirmisher will take care to follow in the trace of the one immediately preceding, and to preserve, exactly, his distance.

The line of skirmishers will march by the left flank according to the same principles and by the same commands, substituting the indication **left** for that of **right** in the first command; the left guide will throw himself to the side of the leading man, to conduct him.

The skirmishers marching by the flank, to cause them to halt, the captain will command:

**Halt.**

At the command, the skirmishers and the reserve will halt and face to the enemy.

The officers and sergeants will conform themselves to what is prescribed at the command **halt**, marching in advance.

The reserve should execute all the movements of the line, and be held always about one hundred and fifty paces from it, so as to be in position to second its operations.

When the chief of the reserve shall wish to march it in advance, he will command: 1. **Platoon forward.** 2. **Guide left.** 3. **March.** If he should wish to march it in retreat, he will command: 1. **In retreat.** 2. **March.** 3. **Guide right.** At the command **halt**, it will re-face to the enemy.

The men should be made to understand that the signals or commands, such as **forward**, mean that the skirmishers
shall march on the enemy; in retreat that they shall retire, and to the right or left flank, that the men must face to the right or left, whatever may be their position.

If the skirmishers be marching by the flank, and the captain should wish to change direction to the right (or left), he will command: 1. By file right (or left). 2. MARCH.

ARTICLE THIRD.

The firings.

Skirmishers will fire either at a halt or marching.

To fire at a halt.

The captain will command:

Commence—Firing.

At this command, briskly repeated, the men of the front rank will commence firing; and reload rapidly. During this time the men of the rear rank will come to a ready, and as soon as their respective file leaders have loaded, they will fire and reload. In this manner the firing will continue, one man of each file always having his piece loaded.

To fire marching.

This will be executed in the same manner as at a halt. At the command, if the line be advancing, the front rank man of every file will halt, fire, and reload before throwing himself forward. The rear rank man of the same file will continue to march, and after passing ten or twelve paces beyond his front rank man, will halt, come to a ready, select his object, and fire when his front rank man has loaded; the fire will thus continue to be executed by each file; the skirmishers will keep united, and endeavor, as much as possible, to preserve the general direction of the alignment.

If the line be marching in retreat, at the command commence firing, the front rank man of every file will halt, face to the enemy, fire, and then reload while moving to the
rear; the rear rank man of the same file will continue to march, and halt ten or twelve paces beyond his front rank man, face about, come to a ready, and fire, when his front rank man has passed him in retreat and loaded; after which, he will move to the rear and reload; the front rank man in his turn, after marching briskly to the rear, will halt at ten or twelve paces from the rear rank, face to the enemy, and fire, conforming to what has just been prescribed; the firing will thus be continued.

If the company be marching by the right flank at the command, commence firing, the front rank man of every file will face to the enemy, step one pace forward, halt, and fire; the rear rank man will continue to move forward. As soon as the front rank man has fired, he will place himself briskly behind his rear rank man reload while marching. When he has loaded, the rear rank man will, in his turn, step one pace forward, halt, and fire, and returning to the ranks, will place himself behind his front rank man; the latter, in his turn, will act in the same manner, observing the same principles. At the command, cease firing, the rear rank men will retake their original positions, if not already there.

In marching by the left flank, the rear rank men will fire first.

If while firing at a halt, or when marching by flank, the command forward—MARCH, is given; the men whose pieces are loaded will move forward to the front. The others will remain in their places and load before executing the command. The firing will be continued agreeably to the principles prescribed.

If the command, in retreat—MARCH, be given, the men whose pieces are loaded will remain faced to the enemy while the others retreat loading.

If the skirmishers be firing at a halt, advancing, or in retreat, at the command to march by flank, the men whose pieces are loaded will step one pace out of the general alignment, face the enemy, and fire in this position; the men whose pieces are unloaded will face to the right (or left) and march in the direction indicated. The men who
stepped out of the ranks will place themselves immediately after firing, upon the general direction, and in rear of their front or rear rank men, as the case may be.

Skirmishers will be habituated to load their pieces while marching; but they will be enjoined to halt always an instant, when in the act of charging cartridge, and priming.

They should be practised to fire and load kneeling, lying down, and sitting, and much liberty should be allowed in these exercises, in order that they may be executed in the manner found to be most convenient. Skirmishers should be cautioned not to forget that, in whatever position they may load, it is important that the piece should be placed upright before ramming, in order that the entire charge of powder may reach the bottom of the bore.

In commencing the fire, the men of the same rank should not all fire at once, and the men of the same file should be particular that one or the other of them be always loaded.

In retreating, the officer commanding the skirmishers should seize on every advantage which the ground may present, for arresting the enemy as long as possible.

At the signal to cease firing, the captain will see that the order is promptly obeyed; but the men who may not be loaded, will load. If the line be marching, it will continue the movement; but the man of each file who happens to be in front, will wait until the man in rear shall be abreast with him.

**ARTICLE FOURTH.**

**The Rally.**

**To form column.**

A company deployed as skirmishers, is rallied in order to oppose the enemy with better success; the rallies are made at a run, and with bayonets fixed; when ordered to rally, the skirmishers fix bayonets, without command.

There are several ways of rallying, which the chief of the line will adopt according to circumstances.

If the line, marching or at a halt, be merely disturbed by scattered horsemen, it will not be necessary to fall back on
the reserve, but the captain will cause bayonets to be fixed. If the horsemen should, however, advance to charge the skirmishers, the captain will command, rally by fours. The line will halt, if marching, and the four men of each group will execute this rally in the following manner: the front rank man of the even numbered file will take the position of guard against cavalry: the rear rank man of the odd numbered file will also take the position of guard against cavalry, turning his back to him, his right foot thirteen inches from the right foot of the former, and parallel to it; the front rank man of the odd file, and the rear rank man of the even file, will also place themselves back to back, taking a like position, and between the two men already established, facing to the right and left; the right feet of the four men will be brought together, forming a square, and serving for mutual support. The four men will come to a ready, fire as occasion may offer and load without moving their feet.

If the captain shall judge these squares too weak, he will command:

Rally by sections.

At this command the chiefs of sections, will move rapidly on the centre group of their respective sections; the skirmishers will collect rapidly at a run on this group, and without distinction of numbers. The group on which the formation is made, will form square, and elevate their pieces, the bayonet uppermost, to indicate the point of rally. The other men as they arrive, will occupy and fill the open angular spaces between these four men, and successively rally around this first nucleus in such a manner as to form rapidly a compact circle. The skirmishers will take as they arrive, the position of charge bayonet, the point of the bayonet more elevated, and will cock their pieces in this position. The movement concluded, the two exterior ranks will fire as occasion may offer, and load without moving their feet.

The captain will move rapidly with his guard, wherever he may judge his presence most necessary.
INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS.

The officers and sergeants will be particular to observe that the rally is made in silence, and with promptitude and order; that some pieces in each of their subdivisions be at all times loaded, and that the fire is directed on those points only where it will be most effective.

If the reserve should be threatened, it will form into a circle around its chief.

If the captain, or commander of a line of skirmishers formed of many platoons, should judge that the rally by section does not offer sufficient resistance, he will cause the rally by platoons to be executed, and for this purpose, will command:

*Rally by platoons.*

This movement will be executed according to the same principles, and by the same means, as the rally by sections. The chiefs of platoons will conform to what has been prescribed for the chiefs of sections.

The captain wishing to rally the skirmishers on the reserve, will command:

*Rally on the reserve.*

At this command, the captain will move briskly on the reserve; the officer commanding which will cause the half sections on the flanks to be thrown perpendicularly to the rear; and will bring his men to a ready.

The skirmishers of each section will form into groups, and upon that man of each, who is nearest the centre of the section. These groups will move rapidly to the rear forming sections while moving, which their chiefs will direct upon the reserve; taking care to unmask it to the right and left. As the skirmishers arrive, they will complete the formation of the square begun by the reserve; closing in rapidly without regard to their places in line: they will come to a ready, and fire upon the enemy, without command.

If the section should be closely pressed by cavalry while retreating, its chief will halt it, and the men will form a compact circle around the officer, to repel the attack.
The formation of the square in a prompt and efficient manner, requires coolness and activity on the part of both officers and sergeants.

The captain will also profit by every moment of respite which the enemy's cavalry may leave him; as soon as he can, he will endeavor to place himself beyond the reach of their charges, either by gaining a position where he may defend himself with advantage, or by returning to the corps to which he belongs. For this purpose, being in square, he will cause the company to break into column by platoons at half distance; to this effect, he will command:

1. Form column. 2. March.

At the command march, each platoon will dress on its centre, and the platoon which was facing to the rear will face about without command. The guides will place themselves on the right and left of their respective platoons, those of the second platoon will place themselves at half distance from those of the first, counting from the rear rank. These dispositions being made, the captain can move the column in whatever direction he may judge proper.

If he wishes to march it in retreat, he will command:

1. In retreat. 2. March (or double quick—March).

At the command march, the column will immediately face by the rear rank, and move off in the opposite direction. As soon as the column is in motion the captain will command: Guide right (or left).

If again threatened by cavalry, the captain will command:

1. Form square. 2. March.

At the command march, the column will halt; the first platoon will face about briskly, and the outer half sections of each platoon will be thrown perpendicularly to the rear, so as to form the second and third fronts of the square.

To march in advance the captain will command:
INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS.

1. Form column. 2. March.

After the formation of column, the captain will command:


At the second command, the column will move forward, and at the third command, the men will take the touch of elbows to the side of the guide.

If the captain should wish the column to gain ground to the right or left, he will do so by rapid wheels to the side opposite the guide, and for this purpose, will change the guide whenever it may be necessary.

If a company be in column by platoon, at half distance, right in front, the captain can deploy the first platoon as skirmishers by the means already explained; but if it should be his wish to deploy the second platoon forward on the centre file, leaving the first platoon in reserve, he will command:

1. Second platoon—as skirmishers. 2. On the centre file—take intervals. 3. March (or double quick—March)

At the first command, the chief of the first platoon will caution his platoon to stand fast; the chiefs of sections of the second platoon will place themselves before the centre of their sections; the fifth sergeant will place himself one pace in front of the centre of the second platoon.

At the second command, the chief of the right section, second platoon, will command: Section right face; the chief of the left section: Section left face.

At the command march, these sections will move off briskly in opposite directions, and having unmasked the first platoon, the chiefs of sections will respectively command: By the left flank—March, and, by the right flank—March; and as soon as these sections arrive on the alignment of the first platoon, they will command: As skirmishers—March. The groups will then deploy on the right group of the left section.
Should the captain wish to rally the skirmishers on the battalion, he will command:

*Rally on the battalion.*

At this command, the skirmishers and reserve, without regard to the position of the company to which they belong, in line of battle, will rapidly unmask the front of the battalion, directing themselves towards its nearest flank, and form in its rear.

When beyond the line of file closers, the chief of each subdivision will reform it, and place it in column behind the wing on which it is rallied, ten paces from the rank of file closers. These subdivisions will not be moved except by order of the commander of the battalion, who may, if he thinks proper, throw them into line of battle at the extremities of the line, or in the intervals between the battalions.

When the battalion, covered by a company of skirmishers, shall be formed into square, the platoons and sections of the covering company will be directed by their chiefs to the rear of the square, which will be opened at the angles to receive the skirmishers, who will be then formed into close column by platoons in rear of the first front of the square.

*The assembly.*

A company deployed as skirmishers will be assembled, when there is no longer any danger of its being disturbed; this movement will be made in quick time.

The captain will command:

*Assemble on the reserve.*

At this command, the men will assemble by groups; the front rank men will place themselves behind their rear rank men; and each group of fours thus formed, will direct itself on the reserve, and take its proper place in the ranks. The company, when formed, will rejoin the battalion.

It may be proper to assemble the skirmishers on the
centre, or on the right or left of the line, either marching or at a halt.

If the captain wishes to assemble them on the centre while marching, he will command:

_Assemble on the centre._

At this command, the centre guide will continue to march directly to the front on the point indicated; the front rank man of the directing file will follow the guide, and be covered by his rear rank man; the other two comrades of this group, and likewise those on their left, will march diagonally, advancing the left shoulder and accelerating the gait, so as to reform the groups while drawing nearer and nearer the directing file; the men of the right section will unite in the same manner into groups, and then upon the directing file, throwing forward the right shoulder. As they successively unite on the centre, the men will bring their pieces to the right shoulder.

To assemble on the right or left file will be executed according to the same principles.

The assembly of a line marching in retreat will also be executed according to the same principles, the front rank men marching behind their rear rank men.

To assemble the line of skirmishers at a halt, and on the line they occupy, the captain will give the same commands; the skirmishers will face to the right or left, according as they should march by the right or left flank, re-form the groups while marching, and thus arrive on the file which served as the point of formation. As they successively arrive, the skirmishers will support arms.

_END OF INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS._
INSTRUCTION IN THE BAYONET EXERCISE.

In order that the soldier may become perfect master of his piece, and thus attain the confidence that such knowledge can alone give him; it is advisable that he be early instructed in the rudimentary principles, and movements of the Bayonet exercise.

The following lessons will impart sufficient instruction to the soldier, to enable him to use his piece effectively, in withstanding the attack, of either infantry or cavalry. An acquisition necessary for every soldier, but particularly essential to light infantry, whose detached position in skirmishing, frequently obliges the individual soldier to exert all his energies, for the purpose of self-preservation.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE BAYONET EXERCISE.

The Guard.

This is the position most suitable for attack and defence. To be properly on guard, the position of the soldier should be such that he can make any movement of attack or defence, without indicating his intention to his adversary by any preliminary movement.

The means of Locomotion.

In this exercise it is necessary to be able to turn rapidly in every direction, as well as to advance and retreat.

The leap to the rear is intended to remove the soldier, by a rapid movement, from an antagonist who presses too closely.

The volts are employed to turn in the direction whence one is threatened, or to facilitate the attack and defence,
It is not only of use in facing a new enemy, but may be resorted to in order to avoid the shock of a horse at full speed.

_Use of the arms in attack._

The use of arms is independent of the use of legs; the first is often sufficient to reach the body of the adversary. There are three methods of using the arms—the _thrust_, the _lunge_, and the _lunge out_.

The _thrust_:—This is the best, because, since the hands retain their usual position on the piece, the aim is more certain. It should always be used whenever the distance of the antagonist will permit it.

The _lunge_:—This is a rapid and quite sure blow, far preferable to the lunge out; it however exposes the soldier, and should be used with care.

The _lunge out_:—This blow reaches farther than either of the others, but it throws the piece so completely out of control, that it should only be used against an antagonist who is endeavoring to escape; or against the horse of a cavalry soldier, to keep him at a distance.

_The combination of the use of arms and legs._

When the thrust alone will not reach the adversary, it must be accomplished by combining with it the use of the legs; by the _development_ or the _passade_, according to the distance. In the assault, the lunge and lunge out may be accompanied by these movements of the legs; but the recovery of the guard, is so difficult after these combined movements, that they should only be resorted to against an unskilful or flying antagonist.

_The Parries._

A _parry_ is the action of turning aside the weapon of the antagonist from the direction of the body, when he attacks. There are four parries, namely, _prime_, _seconde_, _tierce_, and _quarte_; with the variations upon them.

A _simple parry_ is one which throws off the opponents point in the same line as that in which it presents itself to
reach the body; and the *parry in opposition* is one which throws off the point into a different line from that in which it presents itself.

In order to accustom the soldier to varying the parries according to the direction of attack, the instructor should use a wooden sabre, and cause the soldier to pay particular attention to protecting his hands.

**INSTRUCTION.**

In giving instruction in the bayonet exercise, the squad will be composed of four men, placed at intervals of eight feet.

**THE GUARD.**

The men being at the position of *shoulder arms*, the instructor commands:

**Guard!**

*One time and two motions.*

*First motion.*—Make a half face to the right, on the left heel, bring the left toes to the front; place at the same time the right foot behind and at right angles with the left, the hollow of the right foot opposite to, and about three inches from the left; turn the piece with the left hand, the lock outwards, and seize the handle at the same time, with the right hand, the piece perpendicular and detached from the shoulder, as in the first motion of *charge bayonet*.  

*Second motion.*—Move the right foot quickly, twice its length to the rear, and about three inches to the right; at the same time bend both knees, so that the weight of the body shall rest equally on both legs; the upper part of the body leaning a little forward, the heels on the same line, the feet at right angles to each other, and the left knee vertically over the ankle; at the same time bring down the piece with the hand into the left, the latter seizing it just below the tail band; the lock plate to the right and half turned up; the right hand on a level with, and four inches from the navel; the point of the bayonet opposite the chin; the arms detached from the body.  

*Figure 77.*
If the men are armed with rifles, or rifle muskets, the first motion will be executed by raising the piece with the right hand, and seizing it with the left just below the tail band, when half facing to the right, as above described.

This guard is called the middle guard, because, in it the musket has the middle position between the different directions it assumes in the movements of attack and defence.

Fig. 77.

THE ADVANCE, THE RETREAT, THE VOLT:

The squad at the middle guard, the instructor will command:

ADVANCE!

One time and one motion.

Move the left foot quickly forward its own length, raising it but slightly from the ground, and follow it at once with the right foot, thus resuming the position of guard.

RETREAT!

One time and one motion.

Move the right foot quickly at least its length to the rear, following it immediately with the left, resuming the position of guard.

RIGHT VOLT!

One time and one motion.

Face square to the right by turning on the toes of the left foot, and describing to the left, a quarter of a circle
with the right foot, during the movement the weight of the body sets on the left leg; the knees remain bent, and the feet at the usual distance apart; this direction applies to all volts.

**LEFT VOLT.**

*One time and one motion.*

Face square to the left by turning on the left toes, and describing *to the right*, a quarter of a circle with the right foot.

**RIGHT REAR VOLT!**

*One time and one motion.*

Face to the rear by turning on the toes of the left foot, and describing by the rear, a half circle with the right foot.

**LEFT REAR VOLT!**

*One time and one motion.*

Face to the rear by turning on the toes of the left foot, describing by the front a half circle with the right foot.

*Observations.*

The instructor will take pains to make the men understand that, in the right rear volt, the right foot is moved by the side of the back; and in the left rear volt, by the side of the breast. With recruits he may indicate with his hand, the direction the foot is to move.

**THE DEVELOPMENT.**

The instructor will command:

*Develop!*

*One time and one motion.*

Straighten strongly the right knee, and advance quickly the left foot close along the ground, twice its length, the left knee vertically over the ankle; the right foot flat to the ground; and the body erect on the haunches.
GUARD!

One time and one motion.
Move back the left foot to the position it occupied before the development, bend the right knee, and replace the body in its original position.

THE PASSADE.

PASSADE!

One time and one motion.
Move the right foot twice its length in front of the left, parallel to its first position; at once follow this movement by the development of the left foot, moving it four times its length in front of the right; the right knee is straightened and the position in all respects that of the development.

GUARD!

The same as from the development. On resuming the guard the soldier is five times the length of his foot in advance of the position he occupied before commencing the passade.

THE LEAP TO THE REAR.

Leap to the—REAR!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Lean forward and rest the weight of the body on the left leg.
Second motion.—By a spring from the left leg, leap with both feet as far to the rear as possible; alight in the position of guard, the left foot touching the ground first.

THE THRUST.

Before executing thus and all the subsequent movements, the men will be placed in the position of middle guard.

THRUST!

One time and one motion.
Thrust the piece quickly forward to the full length of
the left arm, and at the same time give it a rotary movement so as to bring the guard underneath towards the ground. The hands maintain their respective positions on the piece; the point of bayonet at the height of the breast. Neither the body nor the legs change position. (Fig. 78.)

**Guard!**

Bring back the piece to the position of middle guard.

**The Lunge.**

**Lunge!**

*One time and one motion.*

Thrust the piece quickly forward to the full length of the right arm, at the same time slide back the left hand until it covers the guard; straighten the right knee, and throw forward the right shoulder upon the same line with the left. The point of the bayonet the height of the breast. (Fig. 79.)
GUARD!
Resume middle guard.

LUNGE-OUT.
Lunge-out!

One time and one motion.

Thrust the piece quickly forward to the full length of the right arm, momentarily abandoning it with the left hand; at the same time straighten the right knee, raise the right foot on the toes, and throw forward the right shoulder in advance of the left. (Fig. 80.)

GUARD!
Resume middle guard.

After suitable proficiency in the previous lessons, the instructor will combine the thrust with the development, and passade, giving the commands:

THrust!—DEvelop!—GUARD!

THrust!—Passade!—GUARD!

all of which will be executed as before prescribed.

The soldier should accustom himself to the proper position of middle Guard, to which he returns after each movement; being careful that the arms are detached from the body, in order that the piece may be easily and rapidly moved to defend any point threatened.
THE FOUR DIRECTIONS OF ATTACK.

IN PRIME.

In prime—Thrust!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Drop the point of the bayonet and move it slightly to the right until it is opposite the right loin.

Second motion.—Thrust as prescribed, the point of the bayonet opposite the right loin.

Guard!

Resume the middle guard.

IN SECONDE.

In seconde—Thrust!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Drop the point of the bayonet and move it slightly to the left until it is opposite the left loin.

Second motion.—Thrust, the point of the bayonet opposite the left loin.

Guard!

Resume the middle guard.

IN TIERCE.

In tierce—Thrust!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Move the point of the bayonet opposite the left shoulder.

Second motion.—Thrust, the point of the bayonet opposite the left shoulder.

Guard!

Resume the middle guard.
IN QUARTE.

In quarte—Thrust!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Move the point of the bayonet opposite the right shoulder.

Second motion.—Thrust, the point of the bayonet opposite the right shoulder.

Guard!

Resume middle guard.

The thrust will be combined with the development and passade, by the following commands:

In prime—Thrust!—Develop!—Guard!

In prime—Thrust!—Passade!—Guard!

Similar combinations will be made with the directions in Seconde, Tierce, and Quarthe.

The lunge and lunge-out will be combined with the four directions of attack, thus—

In prime!—Lunge!—Guard!

In prime!—Lunge-out.—Guard!

The development and passade will also be combined with lunge and lunge-out.

The change of direction, above described, represents a disengagement. The position of the piece in the different directions of attack varies from the middle guard only in the direction of its point.

THE PARRIES.—IN PRIME, IN SECONDE, IN TIERCE, AND IN QUARTE.

THE PARRY IN PRIME.

In prime—Parry!

One time and one motion.

Carry, rapidly, the point of the bayonet opposite the right knee, describing an arc (the convexity to the left) from
above to below, and at the same time give the piece a rotary movement, which turns the rammer square to right. The hammer is opposite the pit of the stomach; the flat of stock under and against the right forearm; the left elbow near the loin and the right elbow as high as the shoulder.  (Fig. 81.)

GUARD.

Resume the middle guard.

THE PARRY IN SECONDE.

In seconde—Parry!

One time and one motion.

Carry, rapidly, the point of the bayonet about one foot outside of the left knee, describing an arc (the convexity to the right) from above to below, and at the same time give the piece a rotary movement, so as to turn the barrel square to the left. At the same time draw in both arms towards the body, so that the hammer rests on the left breast; the flat of the stock under and against the right forearm; the left elbow at the left side, the right elbow at the height of the shoulder.  (Fig. 82.)

GUARD!

Resume the middle guard.
THE PARRY IN TIERCE.

_In tierce_—*Parry!*

*One time and one motion.*

Move the piece quickly to the left, giving it a rotary movement, which turns the rammer to the left, the butt of the piece near the left loin, the left hand opposite and twenty inches from the left shoulder. As the parry is made bring up the right shoulder on the same line with the left. (Fig. 83.)

**Guard!**

Resume the *middle guard.*

---

THE PARRY IN QUARTE.

_In quarте_—*Parry!*

*One time and one motion.*

Move the piece quickly to the right, turning the rammer towards the right and placing the left hand at the height of the breast, and about five inches to the right of its original position. In this parry the right arm does not move, the wrist alone acts. (Fig. 84.)

**Guard!**

Resume the *middle guard.*

The several parries may be combined with the thrust, thus—
In prime—Parry! Thrust! Guard!

The direction of the thrust will depend on the position of the point of the bayonet after the parry.

THE PARRIES.—IN HIGH TIERCE AND HIGH QUARTE.

THE PARRY IN HIGH TIERCE.

In high tierce—Parry!

One time and one motion.

Move the piece quickly to the left, bringing the right hand against the left elbow; at the same time give the piece a rotary movement, which while placing it obliquely in front and to the left of the head, turns the rammer towards the left; the left hand about eight inches from the neck.

Guard!

One time and one motion.

Resume the middle guard.

THE PARRY IN HIGH QUARTE.

In high quarte—Parry!

One time and one motion.

Move the piece rapidly to the right, bringing the left hand to the height of the neck, and the forearm near the breast; at the same time, turn the piece so as to bring the rammer to the right, and the piece obliquely in front and to the right of the head.

Guard!

One time and one motion.

Resume the middle guard.

These parries, which are but modifications of the preceding,
are designed for defence against cavalry; high quarte covering the top and right side of the head, and high tierce, the left, against sabre blows.

**COMBINATION OF THE HIGH PARRIES.**


The thrust will be as prescribed (fig. 78.), except that the point of the bayonet is kept at the height of the head.

The same for *high quarte.*

---

**GUARDS AGAINST INFANTRY AND CAVALRY.**

*Guard against Infantry—Guard!*  

*One time and two motions.*

*First motion.*—Made a half face to the right, turning on both heels; at the same time raise the piece with the right hand, and seize it near the lower band.

*Second motion.*—Carry the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel in the prolongation of the left, the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs; lower the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body; seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock, the arms falling naturally, the point of the bayonet slightly elevated. (Fig. 85.)
Guard against Cavalry—Guard!

One time and two motions.

Both motions the same as for Guard against infantry, except that the right hand will be supported against the hip, and the point of the bayonet held at the height of the eye. (Fig. 86.)

The above instruction is given on the supposition that the soldier is at the shoulder arms of the rifle musket manual. If he be armed with a musket, the first motion will be the same as the first motion of the middle guard for a private.

THE SHORTENED THRUST.

THE THRUST SHORTENED ON THE RIGHT.

On the right—Shorten!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Move the piece quickly to the rear, let go the handle with the right hand, and with it seize the piece just above the left hand.
Second motion.—Let go the piece with the left hand, and throw it back to the full extension of the right arm; at the same time seize it at the muzzle with the left hand. (Fig. 87.)

THRUST

One time and one motion.

Thrust the piece quickly forward to the full length of the left arm, the point of the bayonet at the height of the breast. (Fig. 88.)

GUARD

One time and one motion.

Carry back the left hand to the tail-band just below the right hand, which then seizes the handle, and resume the middle guard.

THE THRUST SHORTENED ON THE LEFT.

On the left—Shorten!

One time and two motions.

First motion.—Turn on the toes of the right foot, describing with the heel a quarter of a circle outwards, and move the left foot rapidly twice its length in rear of the right foot, straightening the left knee; at the same time raise the muzzle of the piece until the barrel is nearly vertical, turn the barrel to the front, pass the butt outside of the left thigh, and rest the right hand against the left loin.

Second motion.—Let go the piece with the right hand, which seizes it again at the muzzle, after the left hand has rapidly thrown it back to the full extremity of the left arm.
THREAT!

One time and one motion.

Thrust the piece forward to the full length of the right arm, the point of the bayonet at the height of the breast.

GUARD!

One time and one motion.

Carry back the right hand to the handle, advance the piece, and bring it back to the middle guard; at the same time resume the proper position of feet and body by turning on the toes of the right foot a quarter of a circle, and advancing the left.

These two shortened thrusts are only used at very close quarters and are delivered when the adversary, in making his attack, has advanced breast to breast.

---

BLOWS WITH THE BUTT OF THE PIECE.

---

THE BLOW TO THE FRONT.

1. Lower the—Stock!

One time and one motion.

Lower the right hand to nearly the full length of the arm, at the same time raising the muzzle until the left hand is on the breast; straighten the right knee, and advance the right shoulder to the same line with the left.

2. STRIKE!

One time and one motion.

Throw the butt rapidly forward.

GUARD!

One time and one motion.

Resume middle guard.
This blow is directed against the belly of the antagonist, and should only be used when he presses close up and throws up the barrel of the piece.

The stock will be used in case of a sudden and close attack on the right or in the rear by turning rapidly in those directions, and using the piece as above set forth. The commands will be—

For blow to the rear.

For blow to the right.

The blows with the butt may be followed by the development. The command will be—

4. Guard!

The foregoing movements of attack and defence will be combined with the advance, the retreat, and the leap to the rear, thus—

REPETITION AND COMBINATION OF THE MOVEMENTS.

1. Advance...2. In prime—Parry...3. Thrust...4. Guard!
1. Retreat!...2. Lunge!.........3. Guard!
1. Retreat!...2. Lunge-out!.........3. Guard!
1. Leap to the—Rear!...2. Thrust!...3. Develop!...4. Guard!
THE DIRECTIONS OF ATTACK COMBINED WITH EACH OTHER.


The volts which place the soldier in a new direction, are combined with the movements of attack and defence, as

*Right—Volt—Thrust—Develop—Guard.*

In order that the soldier may be equally prepared for attack and defence, it is important that in executing the volt, he should keep his feet the proper distance apart, and should not disarrange his guard.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Careful practice in the foregoing lessons will render the soldier fully capable of defending himself with his bayonet, in an individual conflict with any foe, either mounted or on foot.

This branch of military exercise, is most frequently called for, and finds a valuable adaptation, in the light-infantry service; where the isolated and detached positions
in which the men are frequently placed, renders them liable to sudden attacks of cavalry; and individual conflict with the skirmishers and scouts of the enemy.

In the rally to repel an attack of cavalry, the skirmishers form in groups of four, to protect themselves. And on such occasions, skill in the use of the bayonet, as taught in the foregoing lessons, is the great safeguard and reliance.

In order that the soldier may become accustomed to the practical use of this drill, the instructor should habituate the men to the formation of these groups by the comrades of battle, in the manner prescribed in the instruction for skirmishers.

When formed in these groups, the instructor should cause the foregoing exercises to be practised in such order as he may deem proper. And to familiarize the men with the different attacks, he should with a musket or sword engage each individual and cause him to parry the attack.

By careful drilling in this manner, the soldier will soon become as proficient in the use of the bayonet, as in any other part of the military exercise.

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