

PART VI.
REGULATIONS
For
Light Infantry
And
RIFLEMEN.

Gardner 1816

Taken principally from the work of Colonel Neil Campbell of the British Service who commanded a Portuguese regiment in the peninsula. It comprises the exercises and instructions practiced by the Rifle Regiment commanded by Colonel Manningshams and by Lieutenant Colonel William Steward; and of the British Light Infantry brigade under Sir John Moore, which was subsequently distinguished, in conjunction with the 1st and 3rd Portuguese cacadores, during that war, practicing under the same system of instruction.

PART VI.

REGULATIONS FOR LIGHT INFANTRY AND RIFLEMEN.

Founded upon the regulations for the exercise of infantry in close order; additional instructions given for which, as applied to file movements, are also given.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

To regiments of infantry which are separated on a frontier, and may have separate points to defend; to all volunteer corps of state troops, and volunteers to be employed in the United States service as infantry; and more particularly to all militia corps, constituted of the citizens of this country, it is conceived that the light infantry instruction is appropriate. The militia, it is believed, should under no circumstances be united to serve in large bodies as *regulars*—but, their enterprise, which if greater than that of the rank and file of any regulars, might, if assisted by the rifle and light infantry instruction, render them equal to the best disciplined force.—They should operate on covered grounds, and in the vicinity of passes, with which our country abounds in every direction; and, with sufficient skill in this instruction for movements in harmony, and in the commander to ensure a general concert, they could operate in the largest numbers. To defeat an invading army, or subdue a retreating one, the militia regiments of any district—this directed in concert—operating in select situations and so far disciplined—with the addition of a zeal, uniformly ardent in the cause of country—would possess the surest, and, experience will prove it, certain means of success.

From the variety of service to which United States soldiers are particularly liable, the light infantry instruction may be considered applicable to every infantry battalion. A permission to practice *light infantry* movements, must not, however, produce a neglect of, or even relaxation in, those of *time order*. It will be found, upon trial, that men never can attain perfection as *light infantry*, without being thoroughly grounded, in the first place, in *slow movements in close order*: and it is indispensably necessary, that a frequent and regular recurrence should be had to the practice of the latter in order to continue perfect in the former.

SECTION 1. MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE RIFLE.

The light infantry exercise with arms is taught as prescribed in PART II, with instructions for loading and firing when kneeling, sitting, or lying in sec. IV of this PART. In executing maneuvers, the musket is generally carried at a trail, which will be indicated in the words of command.

1. OF SHOULDERED ARMS.

The position of the soldier, the same as in PART I. The rifle is carried in the right hand at arms length as in advanced arms; the cock resting upon the little finger, the thumb upon the guard, and fore-finger under it, the upper part of the barrel close to the hollow of the shoulder; the butt pressing upon the right thigh, and the left hand flat upon the left.

2. Present Arms.

1st. The rifle is raised with the right hand, opposite to the left eye, the ramrod to the front, the cock as high as the lowest waistcoat button; at the same time the rifle is grasped with the left hand, so that the little finger may touch the hammer spring, the thumb upwards along the stock, the fore part of the arm held close to the body, without constraint; and he remains *steady* to the front, without stirring the feet.

2d. The rifle is taken by the right hand at the swell of the stock, between the forefinger and thumb, the other fingers shut, the knuckles upward.

3. Shoulder—ARMS.

1st. The rifle is brought quickly across the body to the right side, the left hand seizing the rifle smartly as high as the shoulder, the right slipping round into the original position when shouldered.

2d. The left hand quits the rifle, and is promptly brought, as before, upon the left thigh.

4. Order—ARMS.

1st. The left hand seizes the rifle even with the right shoulder, the rifle being raised by the right hand about two inches.

2d. The right hand quits its hold, grasps the rifle round the muzzle, and brings it gently to the ground, even with the toe of the right foot, the wrist pressing against the side and elbow as close as possible; the left hand, as the rifle goes to the ground, is brought upon the left thigh.

5. Shoulder—ARMS.

The rifle is thrown at once into the right shoulder by a jerk of the right hand; the left catches it till the right seizes the rifle at the proper place, and is then instantly brought to its original position on the left thigh; but this must be done with the quickness of one motion.

6. In the performance of every motion, and more particularly of this though greatest care is to be taken to prevent the rifle falling to the ground as it is easily damaged. In the field, where time and opportunity can not always be found to repair it, the service of a rifleman may be lost by every such instance of inattention.

7. Support—ARMS.

The rifle is brought across the body with the guard upward, by bending the right arm; the left hand is laid across the right.

8. Carry—ARMS.

The rifle is brought smartly on the right side, and the left hand on the left thigh.

9. Trail—ARMS.

1st. The left hand seizes the rifle at the second pipe, the right seizes it close over the sight, and trails it on the right side at arm's length.

2d. The left hand falls back to the left thigh.

10. Order—ARMS.

1st. The rifle slides gently through the right hand to the ground:—

2d. When even with the right toe, the right hand grasps the muzzle, as before described in the order.

11. Trail —ARMS.

The right hand seizes the rifle as low as possible without constraint; then raises and catches it just above the sight.

12. Shoulder —ARMS.

The rifle is brought up to the advance, as from the order.

PLATOON EXERCISE FOR THE RIFLE

13. For the drill in loading and firing, the cautionary words will be given—*Platoon—load by separate words of command.*: at which the flugelman steps to the front.

14. Prepare to Load.

1st. The rifle is raised about two inches by the right hand, and brought forward a little from the shoulder, at the same time the left hand is brought briskly across the body and seizes the rifle with a full grasp event with the shoulder.

2d. The soldier half faces to the right, and in the motion brings down the rifle to an horizontal position, the left hand supports it at the swell of the stock, the elbow resting against the side, the right thumb against the hammer, and elbow pressing against the butt, the lock inclining a little to the body to prevent the powder from falling out.

15. Load.

1st. The pan is pushed open by the right thumb; the right hand then seizes the cartridge with the three first fingers and draws it from the pouch:—

2d. The cartridge is brought to the mouth, and placed between the two first right double teeth, the end twisted off and brought close to the pan.

16. Prime

1st. The priming is shaken into the pan; in doing which, look to the powder, by bending the head.

2d. The pan is shut by the third and little finger, the right hand then slides behind the cock, and holds the small part of the stock between the third and little finger and the ball of the hand.

17. About.

1st The soldier half faces to the left; the rifle is brought, with the barrel outwards, sliding it with care through the left hand, to the ground, the butt is placed between the heels, the barrel between the knees, which must be bent for that purpose; the left hand takes hold near the muzzle, the thumb stretched along the stock, the cartridge is put into the barrel, and the ramrod seized with the fore finger and thumb of the right hand.

18. Draw—ROD.

The ramrod is drawn out by the right hand, the left quits the rifle and grasps the ramrod the breadth of a hand from the bottom, which is sunk one inch into the barrel,

19. Home.

The cartridge is forced down by both hands; the left then seizes the rifle about six inches from the muzzle, the soldier standing upright again, and seizes with the thumb and fore finger the small end of the ramrod.

20. Return.

The ramrod is drawn out and returned by the right hand, which then seizes the rifle below the left.

21. Shoulder.

1st. The right hand brings the rifle to the right shoulder, turning the guard outwards; the left seizing it above the hammer spring;

2d. The right takes its proper hold round the small of the stock; and the left is drawn quickly to the left thigh.

22. When the men are sufficiently perfect in loading by these separate words of command, they should be put through the motions, with the following words only. —At the caution, *Platoon—load at the command*; the fogleman steps in front.

23. Prepare to LOAD.

To these motions only, the fogleman gives the time-as before.

24. Load

The fogleman falls in. Every motion in loading, is performed, as described in the Nos. 15 to 21: and officers are required to pay particular attention, that no motion be omitted, as it is of more consequence that a rifle be properly, than expeditiously loaded.

25. To fire on the spot, in closed ranks, the following words of command will be given.

Riflemen are ranked and sized, told off and formed into company in the same manner as infantry in two ranks.

26. The Company will Fire.

COMPANY.

At this word the right hand file of each platoon takes three paces to the front, the rear rank man steps to the right of his file leader.

27. Ready.

At this word the rifle of each man advanced on the right of platoons, is brought by the right hand before the centre of the body, the left seizing it so that the little finger rests upon the hammer spring, and the thumb stretches along the stock, raising it to the height of the mouth; the right thumb on the cock and the finger under the guard; when cocked, which must be done gently, the right hand grasps the small of the stock.

28. AIM.

The rifleman half faces to the right, the butt is placed in the hollow of the right shoulder; the right foot steps back about eighteen inches behind the left the left knee bent, the body brought well forward; the left hand, without having quitted its hold, supports the rifle close before the lock. the right elbow raised even with the shoulder, the forefinger on the trigger, the head bent. and check resting; on that of the rifle, the left eye shut, the right taking aim through the sight: as soon as the rifleman has fixed upon his object, he fires without waiting for any command. When he has fired, the right hand quits its hold in facing to the right about, the left swings the rifle round into an horizontal position with the barrel downwards; the rifleman resumes his post in the platoon, and in fronting to the left about, brings his rifle into the position to prime and load, half cocks, and proceeds to load; going through the motions as prescribed, without further words of command.

29. When the riflemen are perfect in this, they will be instructed, that at the signal of the horn to *commence firing*, the two right hand files of each platoon or section, as the company may be directed, are immediately to take three paces to the front, the rear rank men step to the right of their file-leaders, aim, and each fires, as in No. 28, resumes his place in the company, and loads again: when the two first files have fired, the two next advance; and so on through the company.

30. When the company has fired once, according to the last No. *every file* on being loaded again will advance three paces; and each man will aim and fire, and then immediately resume his place in the company, load, &c. When it is required that the firing should cease, the signal of *cease firing* will be made by the bugle, after which not a shot must be heard. The officers must invariably remain in the line during this firing, and on no account stir from the spot, that they *may* preserve the alignment; and when the signal of *cease firing* is given, and every man loaded and shouldered, they will dress their platoons

SECTION II.

FILE MOVEMENTS (IN CLOSE ORDER)

GENERAL RULES.

31. In telling off a company, or battalion, the corps should be well *proved in* wings and grand divisions, or platoons and sections; and particularity in the *right* and *left files of companies, platoons* and *sections*; as all file movements depend so much upon them.—The sections are numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the files, from right to left, as in the FORMATION, at the commencement of this Compend. The numbering of files answers for skirmishing, and for reassembling in case of being dispersed: it also answers for forming four deep as odd numbers are right files, and even numbers are left files.

32. When the companies may be inverted and likely to continue so during any movements, the commanders of divisions will number 1, 2, &c. from right to left *as they stand*; and whenever they resume their original order, they will also resume their original numbers.—If a company be detached to skirmish from any part of a battalion, except the left, the other companies will number off anew.

33. All *formations* from files, are to be executed as rapidly as possible.—The leading files should be particularly correct, intelligent and attentive, as the formations and changes materially depend upon them—In all formations, the men must look to the files first formed, touch in to them, and dress by them as correctly as possible.

34. The *officer* commanding the company, is understood in all movements to *lead* the front rank; yet it is the *sergeant* who places himself immediately *before* the leading front rank man; the officer places himself at the outward hand of the sergeant, to be in a better situation to observe his men —In all formations he remains in front of that flank, to see his men form up, and afterwards correct the dressing.—When acting as light infantry, files may be *loosened* so as to march with ease but not more.

35. As the *speediest* mode of forming and presenting a front is the first object with light infantry, there must be no hesitation in inverting the order of companies in a battalion, or of sections in a company.

36. The different divisions of a company, or battalion, may *file off* in *Indian files* but they never form line in that order. The distances, therefore, between the heads of divisions, are preserved according to the line they will occupy when two deep. They may *form line* two deep, at once (or double order of files) in the *first* place, and afterward to form line.

37. When a column has diminished its front, it is always the pivot flank which falls into the rear, whether it be by breaking into lesser divisions or by breaking off files, so that the regular order of the battalion is always preserved. When a battalion is marching in line, the mode of passing occasional obstacles is described in article fifteenth PART V.

38. When there is a certainty of immediately resuming the original front—as in passing a bridge or short defile in column—it should be done by files. So much of the reverse flank as the defile admits of will pass it in front and such part of the pivot flank as is stopped will receive from the

commander of the division, the order *inward face* and will follow in file. When a battalion from line is to advance or retire by files, it will always be (if no mode be specified at the time) from the right of divisions in advancing and the left in retiring.

OF WORDS OF COMMAND.

40. When a change of movement is performed on the march, the first word of command, *advance* or *retire by files* &c. is sufficient and each file instantly faces.

41. When the men are expert in their movements the first word of command will be sufficient, at any time, without specifying how to face; each captain will see that his own men obey it correctly, by facing upon the word *advance* or *retire* &c and upon the word *Quick March* the whole step off together.

42. If the words of command of the chief of the battalion not be heard by the men, commanders of divisions should repeat them, but not otherwise.

43. Should the chief of the battalion conceive that the extent of the line or the closeness of the enemy may prevent his voice from being distinctly heard, he will give the words of command as cautions, and the captains will give the words necessary for the *execution* of the movements ordered.

44. If an officer perceive a movement made by the company next to him, he will repeat it, (unless from particular circumstances he have reason to conclude that it is not meant to apply to other companies) as from interruptions of ground, or other obstacles, he may have been prevented from hearing the command; or the chief may have intended to perform it in succession. The same discretionary power belongs to subalterns, or non-commissioned officers, detached from companies, whenever acting light infantry.

45. When the battalion is retiring by divisions in files, it may frequently have occasion to form line at once *to the rear* and it becomes necessary to fix a distinct general word of command for this formation *instantly* without any reference to the original front of the battalion, which, in rapid and frequent changes, cannot be recollected; therefore, on all occasions, whether advancing or retiring, the formation will refer to the direction of the *files leading* at the moment. To form to the front upon which the leading files are then marching. the word of command will always be *Front form* and so of other formations.

COURSE OF THE DRILL

46. Advance by files from the right of companies (platoons, or divisions.)

Right-FACE..

The right hand file stands fast; the rest face to the right. The captain (or officer commanding the division) and covering sergeant, come out by the front; the sergeant placing himself in front of the front rank man, ready to lead out, and the officer on the left of the sergeant.

Quick-MARCH.

The rear man of the right hand file •steps to the right of his file leader, and the whole move *off*, front rank men following the sergeant, and rear rank men to the right of their file-leaders.

47. Advance by files from the left of companies.

Left-FACE.

The left file stands fast; the others face to the left: and they proceed as before. The sergeant places himself in front of the front *rank* man of the lead file, and the officer upon the right of the sergeant: in changing from the right, to the leading flank, they both shift by the rear.

Quick-MARCH.

48. Retire by files from the right of companies.

Right-FACE

The whole face to the right, except the leading file, captain, and covering sergeant, who face to the right about, and disengage to the rear.

Quick-MARCH.

They move forward in the same succession as advancing.

49. Retire by files from the left of companies

Left-FACE

The whole face to the left, except the left file, which faces to the left about, and disengages. The captain and covering sergeant shift by the rear to the left.

Quick-MARCH.

50. In performing the preceding movements ON THE MARCH, the captains will, as soon as they hear the caution, give the following words of command – *until the men shall be expert.*

-- Company- Right (or left) FACE.

By file to the RIGHT (or LEFT).

WHEN LEADING FROM THE RIGHT (Whether advancing or retiring).

51. To the front, FORM.

The leading; front rank man halts, the rear rank man covers him: the other files half face to their left (more or less, according to the distance from the front) and form upon the left of the leading file.

52. To the right, FORM.

The right file faces to the rear, and takes one pace to the front, the front rank man goes round to the front, the other files wheel round and form upon the left of the preceding files.

53. To the right about, FORM.

The leading file faces to the *right about*, the front rank man by an oblique step takes the front; every other file wheels round in succession and forms to the left of the first.

Or the whole may face to the left and wheel to the left.

WHEN LEADING FROM THE LEFT

54. To the front, FORM.

The leading front rank man halts; the other files half face to their right and form upon his right; the rear rank man covers.

55. To the left, FORM.

The left file faces to the left and takes one pace to the front forming; and the others form upon them coming round to their right.

56. To the left about, FORM.

The left file face to the left about; every other file follows it, and wheels round forming upon the right of the files first formed.

Or, the whole face to the right, and wheel to the right.

57. Remarks: The first mode shown in Nos. 53 and 56, is the best, as being more conformable to the principles of this exercise, and the other formations. For the other mode, different words of command would be necessary.

58. Advance by Indian file from the right of companies

Right-FACE

The while face, except the right file, and the captain and sergeant form as in No. 46: the leading front rank man follows the sergeant and each rank man follows, in succession, his own file leader. It may be practiced from the *halt* or on the *march*.

59. Form double FILES.

Every rear rank man advances until he is in a line with his file leader. When advancing from the left, the rear rank man goes to the left of his file leader; and when from the right, to the right of his file leader.

60. Form Indian files.

Each rear rank man takes one pace inward to the rear of his file-leader.

61. Advance by files from the centre of companies.

Inward-FACE.

The two centre files stand fast, the rest face inwards; the captain and covering sergeant shift (by the front) to the centre, ready to lead; the captain on the right of the sergeant.

Quick-MARCH.

The two leading front rank men open outwards, to make room for their two rear rank men between; before which last the captain and the (sergeant form, and the rest follow in succession, so that the order of march is in four lines, each front rank being on the flanks, and the rear ranks, in the *center*.

62. To the front, FORM.

The captain and sergeant fall into the rear; the two front rank men, leading each division, close inwards in front of their rear rank men and halt; the rear files of each division half face outward and form upon the men at the centre.

63. Retire by files from the centre of companies.

Inwards-FACE.

Each division faces inwards; the captain and sergeant shift to the rear of the centre.

Quick-MARCH.

They lead on and are followed by the front rank men of the centre, whose file-leaders (rear rank men) disengage outwards until they are in line with the former. They retire in four lines, of which the two outer are the rear rank men, each file and file-leader in line.

64. To the right about, FORM..

The officer and sergeant remain in the rear; the two front rank men in the centre face inwards to the right and left about, the rear rank men wheel round and cover them- each file of the right division wheels to the right about, in succession, from the centre, and each file of the left division, wheels to the left about.

The centre is immediately formed and ready to fire.— The officer and sergeant go to the right of the company by the rear.

65. Remarks: no. 61 is a very good movement when there is a certainty of forming to the original front, as in No. 62 – No. 63 is equally so, when there is a certainty of forming to the original front as in No. 64. But, those movements should never be resorted to, excepting under these certainties, as their formation in any other direction is complicated; particularly as file

movements from either flank of divisions apply to every situation, and admit of a ready and simple formation in every direction, whether advancing or retiring.

66. MARCHING THROUGH A DEFILE FROM THE CENTER OF A COMPANY OR CORPS.

when leading by doable files from the center of a company.

Company, HALT. FRONT.

The company having halted, each division faces outwards. When marching on a road, liable to attack on either or both flank, front or rear, this is a very ready formation. If attacked on one side of the road only, the other platoon is ready to face about and increase the weight of fire, or to load for the platoon in front; or to detach to either flank.

Should the road narrow, each platoon may form Indian files. When it widens, they again form double order of files. This order of march equally applies to a corps of several companies, which may advance by files from the right and left of two center companies, or from the right and left of any two companies, which present themselves opposite to the defile.

67. ADVANCING BY ALTERNATE COMPANIES.

When a short narrow defile, which presents in front of the centre of a battalion, is to be passed, it may also be done by advancing in files by alternate companies.—The fifth company first advances from its left; then the sixth company from its right, the fourth follows the sixth, from its left and so in succession.

68. TO THROW FORWARD A WING IN CLOSE GROUND.

When the ground, occupied by the battalion in line is rough, or abounds with obstacles, • a wing may be advanced or thrown back, by the filing of companies instead of an echelon movement.

In advancing, the companies lead forward, either by companies or platoons and from with flank required and form up to the front when the leading file is on the new alignment; each covering sergeant, previously running forward to take up the distance of his company (see plate No. 18).

69. TO THROW BACK A WING IN CLOSE GROUND.

In throwing *back* a wing, the covering sergeants run out in the same way; each company leads out from the inner flank to the covering sergeant, to wit: that which will be within his post on the new alignment; it leads along the alignment; halts and fronts.

70. TO BREAK THROUGH A VERY THICK WOOD.

A corps of light infantry, when in line, may sometimes have to break through a wood of underbrush, or a thicket, where it is impossible to preserve order, and each individual follow the openings which may appear best. In such situations the officers and sergeants must be among the first to get through it, that each company may form upon them as quickly *as possible*, either facing to the same front, or to the rear with companies inverted.

The sergeant (or officers, when the sergeants have not arrived) place themselves in line, fronting whichever way the battalion is to form *line*, and every man forms in the vacancy of his own company, and commences a fire if required. The men may afterward correct their situations, in their respective companies, or the captain will tell them off anew.—If they are to form in open

column, the sergeants will cover each other in the alignment, right or left in front, as may be required.

71. TO COVER THE ADVANCE OR RETREAT WITH FLANK FILES.

In advancing *in line*, or by divisions in files, any number of each may be thrown forward to skirmish. And in forming line from files, their intervals will be preserved.—In like manner, in retiring, any number of files from either flanks of divisions may cover the retreat.

They *must* conform to the movements of the battalion, attending to the general duties prescribed for *skirmishes*, in dividing their distances along the front; taking care that both front and rear men are never unloaded at the same time. When the halt sounds, they also halt and correct their distances.

If the *assembly* be sounded, they run through any part of the line (the men being instructed to let them instantly pass through) and as soon as possible afterward, find out their own vacancies in the line.

The flanks of the column may be protected in the same manner when advancing in any direction. See Section 4.

72. To fire in a strect or defile, in open column. Advancing or retreating or upon the same ground. Is performed as directed in Art. 21st part V.

To countermarch by close column in a defile by companies on their own ground – is also performed as directed in the last maneuver of Art 21st.

SECTION III.

CHANGES OF POSITION IN DOUBLE QUICK TIME.

Rules and Observations.

75. The double quick time, applicable to these changes of position, is 160 paces per minute, being twice the acceleration of *quick*, beyond the common time of 80 steps to a minute. But in *the drill* the light troops must not be suffered to exceed 150 steps to the minute, and should be kept at this uniform step, on an equal deliberate trot, with a short pace.

74. Every movement to be performed in *double quick* time, will be preceded by the word *Trail arms*; upon which the rear rank takes one pace to the rear, that it may move with ease.

75. When the battalion is marching in common or quick time, and an echelon movement is to be made in double quick, the time should not be increased until after the companies shall be *in echelon*. But if the battalion is already moving in double quick, the turn may be executed in the same time.

76. In all changes of position, the officers halt their divisions four or five paces in *rear* of the line. The men instantly shoulder, and the rear rank closes up, without any additional word of command. The officer dresses his division, and gives the word *March*, with the utmost

expedition, that the other companies shall not be delayed.

77. The two sergeants of the division first formed place themselves with one side to the front rank (upon the right and left of the company); and the sergeants of the succeeding companies cover them until their men shall be dressed.

78. In turning, the men always guide to the side to which the turn is ordered, without any further word: in wheeling, they always guide to the opposite side to which the wheel is ordered: and in the evolutions, in marching, they always guide to the side on which the formation is to be executed, without any special order. When a division is ordered to dress, on halting, it will always dress toward the point of formation.

79. It is necessary for the commander of the battalion, when he commences maneuvering, to designate the size of his divisions—whether he will maneuver by companies, by platoons, or sections.

Over-haste, confusion or noise, is as unnecessary, as in the movements executed in common time.

80. CHANGE OF FRONT ON A FLANK DIVISION IN LINE, WHEN THE BATTALION IS HALTED.

As a commencement to the instructions in double quick time, a change of position may be executed in the following manner from the halt.

The platoon (or division) upon which the change will be made (the right) is to be correctly aligned, the distant points ascertained by markers, and all the other platoons wheeled into echelon: as in Art. VIII, the colonel then commands—

Trail-ARMS.

Double quick—MARCH.

The chiefs of platoons order, in succession, when within ten to twelve paces of the alignment--

Right—TURN.

And when within four or five paces—

Halt--DRESS. MARCH.

And when close to the line-

HALT. DRESS.

81. CHANGE OF FRONT ON A FLANK DIVISION WHEN THE BATTALION IS MOVING IN ORDINARY TIME..¹

The colonel commands—

Battalion, change front to the right, on the right platoon, Trail-ARMS

¹ The expression “in ordinary time” will be used in this instruction to signify either in common or quick time.

Right, TURN.

The platoons turn into echelon and continue at the same step (the guide in the lading files must be well skilled as stated in No. 33 together with being skillfully directed by the officer to turn no more into echelon than is required by the colonel's indication of the change of position to be executed)²

DOUBLE QUICK- MARCH,

The chief of the platoon upon inner flank, turns into the new alignment, according to the directions from the colonel: the other chiefs order, in succession, when ten or twelve paces from the line—**Right Turn**. And when within 4 or 6 paces—**HALT Dress. MARCH**. And when close to the line— **HALT. DRESS**.

Remark. The change of front upon any *central* division may be easily understood from the preceding, except this difference, that *before* double quick time is ordered, it is necessary to halt the battalion, face about the platoons which take ground to the rear, and wheel the whole into echelon.

82. TO FORM LINE TO THE FRONT, ON THE LEADING DIVISION, MARCHING IN COLUMN IN ORDINARY TIME..

The colonel commands—**Battalion, form line to the front, Trail ARMS.**

Left-Wheel. And when the platoons are sufficiently in echelon—**FORWARD-Double quick - MARCH.**

The leading platoon continues its march without changing its direction or time and when the other platoons receive the word "Forward" the chief of this platoon halts and dresses it. A sergeant moves out to give the line as explained inn No. 77 and the guide of the second platoon will take his position as the second sergeant until the line be formed. The other chiefs order "right TURN" as in No. 81.

Remark: In forming line on the rear division, the column should be halted, faced to the right about, before double quick time is ordered.

83. TO FORM ON THE REAR DIVISON, FACED TO THE REAR, WHEN MARCHING IN COLUMN, IN ORDINARY TIME.

The colonel commands— **Battalion, form line on the rear platoon faced to the rear.** If the companies are to be inverted, the caution will be, " Form line on the *left* of the rear"—&c. **Trail-Arms.**

On this the chief of the rear platoon wheels it to the left abort, on a halted pivot, dresses it, and gives his points.

² In the British system from which this is altered (to conform to our own established system in close order) the instruction given for such movements in echelon is, that the order to march is to be given when sufficiently in echelon: but the words of command for forming into echelon is "shoulders forward" which can not be done by a gradual advance of the shoulders any better than the turn can be performed by a gradual circuit: therefore, the instruction for the colonel to order the advance "when sufficient in echelon" is erroneous.

Left-- Turn. The other platoons make a turn and a half.

FORWARD. Double quick MARCH.

The chiefs of platoons, in succession—Left TURN &c into line.

84. TO FORM COLUMN OF PLATOONS (COMPANIES OR SECTIONS) FROM LINE, WHEN MARCHING IN DOUBLE QUICK TIME.

The colonel commands—

Battalion, form column of platoons to the right.

Right WHEEL.

FORWARD. If to the left, by similar words.

85. TO FORM LINE FROM A COLUMN MOVING IN DOUBLE QUICK TIME.

Column—form line.

Left—TURN.

FORWARD. That the left wing may guide by the center.—If the line is to be formed, *by* inversion, to the right, the word will be "Right-wheel"—and the men upon the right flank mark time, the right hand man facing to the right, until the platoons shall be in line.

86. To form echelon of platoons (companies or sections) to either flank, when marching in line.

Battalion, form echelon of platoons to the right.

Right-- TURN

FORWARD.

87. TO FORM LINE FROM ECHELON.

Left Wheel into LINE. The men upon the right flank mark time, the right hand man facing to the proper front, until the whole are in line.

FORWARD.

88. TO FORM OPEN COLUMN IN REAR OF A FLANK DIVISION FROM LINE WHEN HALTED.

Battalion, form open column w rear of the right company.

By section, right wheel—quick-MARCH. The chiefs of sections order **Halt—DRESS.**

Trail ARMS.

Leading sections right wheel—The whole—

Double quick-- MARCH.

The right company stands fast; of the others, each section follows the leading section of its company; which leads to the rear at first and then towards its place in the column; the chiefs of

sections successively after the first order—**Right WHEEL.**

The sections of the 2d company, making an entire wheel to the right. before entering the column, the covering sergeants run out to take up pivots. The chiefs order- **Left TURN.** And when the section is on its ground—**HALT.** The captains order—**Left into line—MARCH. HALT. DRESS.**

Remark. Any movements which, by the regular system, require to be executed *in files*, may be performed in double quick time *by sections*.

89. TO COUNTERMARCH A LINE, BY ITS DIVISIONS UPON THE CENTER. .

Battalion, countermarch by platoons upon the center.

The right center platoon is countermarched by word of command from its officer.

Right Wing, right about—FACE.

By platoons, right wheel—Quick—MARCH.

The chiefs of platoons—**Halt. DRESS.**

Side step to the left—March.³ A few paces

HALT. Trail ARMS.

Double Quick—MARCH.

Chiefs of platoons—**Right TURN.**

of the right wing—**HALT. FRONT. DRESS.**

Of the left wing—**HALT. DRESS.**

Remark. Another mode of changing the front of a line is, to break into column to the right and form line on the right, as in ART. SIXTH—which has this great advantage over the preceding one, that the front of the new line is clear for the divisions *to fire* as quick as they turn into it; but it occupies different ground.

90. TO DISPLAY INTO LINE, FROM COLUMN, AT SECTION DISTANCE, UPON THE FRONT DIVISION.

Display column, upon the front platoon.

By sections, left wheel—quick—MARCH.

The front platoon stands fast, dresses, &c the others wheel into columns to the left.

Trail ARMS.

³ The side step is performed as follows: at the word of execution, the eyes are turned to the side ordered, say the *left*; each man carries his left foot about 12 inches directly to his left (to his neighbors right foot, being in close order) and then instantly brings up his right foot, the heel touching the left heel; he then passes, so as to be in common time, and proceeds to take the next step in the same manner; the whole with the perfect precision of the common time, shoulders kept square, and knees not bent. At the *halt*, they resume eyes front, and remain steady.

Double quick—MARCH.

The platoons take ground to the flank in this order: and when the flank of each rear section has cleared the preceding platoon, the chiefs of platoons order—**HALT. Right into line—MARCH. HALT. DRESS. MARCH &c.**

Remark: The deployment upon a *central* division, is conducted upon the same principles—the sections wheel so as to face outwards, and the division of the centre marches up when uncovered

91. TO FORM THE SQUARE, FROM COLUMN OF COMPANIES.—

Is executed in the same manner as prescribed in the *twentieth article*—except that the captains halt their companies, successively, at the proper distance, and form the flank themselves, by wheeling their sections to the right and left, and closing them.—It should be reduced in the same manner.

FORMATION OF SQUARES BY A BRIGADE OF THREE BATTALIONS.

92. The proper mode of forming a brigade to defend itself against cavalry is, for each corps to form a separate square, in echelon of squares, at distances of fifty or sixty paces. In this situation they can support each other, without the danger of firing into each other.

Suppose a brigade to be in column of route, of companies at full distance.—Each corps forms column at quarter distance, on its own leading company, which stands fast on the ground it occupies in the column. The front corps faces to the right, marches fifty or sixty paces, halts and fronts: the rear corps marches an equal distance, to the left: and the three corps form the square.

93. After the brigade has been formed into echelon of squares, it can advance to the front, retire, or march to the right or left, by being always thrown into column before it is put in movement. The front corps should regulate distances. When again to form squares, the columns can halt, front and wheel up by sections, within one minute.

94. Suppose the brigade in line.—If the direction of march *is* to a flank, the line can break into column and form the squares as in No. 92.— If the direction of march be to the front or rear, the following mode will be preferable :—

Each corps forms column at quarter distance upon one of its own centre companies, right in front. The corps on the right, the first, advances to the front, and the *third* retires, fifty or sixty paces. If necessary, they can close in nearer to the *second*, by obliquing on the march. And each forms its own square.

SECTION IV.

EXTENDED ORDER

TO LOAD AND FIRE, KNEELING, SITTING OR LYING.

95. Men who are to act in extended order, should be practiced in loading and firing in every situation, whether kneeling, sitting or lying.

To load when kneeling. The position of the soldier is, on the right knee with the right leg thrown back, the left side of the knee directly in rear of the right side of the left foot; the left leg perfectly perpendicular.

96. After firing, the soldier comes to the *priming* position, as follows:—the musket in line with the haunch; the elbow as close to the body as possible: after priming—bring round the musket to the left side, and throw the butt to the rear; so that the barrel may be close to the left thigh, and the muzzle three inches behind the left knee. The left hand moves the musket from the right side to the left, and the right hand is brought across the body to accomplish the loading. After loading—the musket is raised and advanced to the front by the left hand, and the position for making ready, the same as for priming, resumed.

97 READY.

The piece is cocked and the right hand replaced upon the small of the butt. From the left arm being brought across the body, the left shoulder is brought forward in a small degree; but the body must be kept as square to the front as possible, without constraint.

AIM.

Each man levels slowly and independently at the particular object his eye may fix on, and fires; as described in No. 88.

98. *To load when sitting*—must be done, either as when kneeling, or by holding the butt firm between both heels and knees.

99. *To load when lying.* After having fired, the soldier turns upon his left side, and rests upon his left elbow, bringing back his piece with both hands until the lock be opposite to his breast, resting the butt upon the ground; and ball' cocks. In this position he takes out his cartridge with the right hand, primes and shuts the pan, still holding his piece in the left hand at the swell, he turns upon his back, and throws it to the rear, placing the butt between his heels, with the barrel up and the muzzle raised above an horizontal position. During this time he holds the cartridge in the right hand, and being very careful not to lose any of the powder, puts it into the barrel, draws the ramrod, and proceeds with the loading. After returning the ramrod, he resumes his former position—lying on his belly, and resting upon both elbows, and makes ready *to fire*, in that situation.

100. In all firings, when in *extended order*, whether upon the spot, or when advancing or retreating, the piece is cocked and brought up to the aim, from the trail.

TO FIRE, UPON THE SPOT, IN SINGLE AND DOUBLE FILES,— WHILE ADVANCING OR RETIRING IN SINGLE FILES—ADVANCING OR RETIRING IN DOUBLE FILES.

101. To fire *upon the spot*, whether extended in *single* or in *double files*, requires no explanation, except that every man fires deliberately at his object, and falls into the rear of his comrade, to load.

See plate no. 18.

102. There are two modes of firing, in *advancing or retiring*, when extended in double files, viz:— 1st. By the whole line of skirmishers *moving together*, every front and rear rank man always keeping near each other, and the one who is loaded, keeping in front.

In *advancing* and firing in this order, the moment that a man in front has fired, he falls into the rear by the left of his file-leader, and loads as quickly as he can upon the march.—In *retiring* and firing, the man in the rear makes occasional short halts, and whenever he perceives an object he gives a deliberate fire, then runs up in front of his file-leader, who in the same way facing about, protects the other in his loading, and fires as soon thereafter as a favorable opportunity shall offer.

103. The 2d mode of firing in *single* files, is by *alternate ranks*, each file-leader passing by his comrade. In *advancing* and firing in this order, upon the sound of the *march* and *to fire*, the whole drop upon the right knee. So soon as the front rank man has fired, the rear rank man pushes forward the number of paces necessary, halts and drops upon his knee. Whenever he has fired, his file-leader runs forward before him; and in this manner they advance and fire alternately.—In *retiring* and firing, the man who is loaded remains in front, facing toward the enemy, upon his knee, while his file-leader proceeds to the rear. As soon as he perceives an object after the latter has loaded, he fires, faces to the left about, proceeds to the rear of his comrade, and loads.

104. There are also two modes of firing, in *advancing or retiring*, when extended in *double* files, viz:—1st By the whole *moving together*, firing at the proper times, and the man of each file, who is loaded, keeping always in front; which is called—*Chain-order*.

In *advancing or retiring* and firing in this order, the two files keep together, the front and rear rank men of each acting in every respect as prescribed in No. 102.

105. The 2d mode, in *double* files, is by each file *mowing in turn*, and passing, by alternate files, beyond the others, both men of the file which is in front firing so soon as they see an object.

In firing by alternate files, (which are numbered off *right* and *left*) the right file advances or retires as the front rank *man* does in No. 103, and the files protect each other in the same way, firing and marching alternately.—Except, in this order, the invariable rule with light infantry when extended, that both the front and rear rank men of the *same file* are never unloaded at once.

General Rules.

106. In all firing *advancing*, by ranks or files, it is the *front rank man*, if in *single files*, or the *right file*, if in double files, that fires first; commencing the instant the order is given, without making any advance.—In firing *retreating*, it is also the *front rank man*, or the *right file*, which begins the fire, and immediately afterwards proceeds to the rear.

107. The distance to be taken by each rank or file in advancing or retiring, will depend upon the movement of the battalion, the nature of the ground and other circumstances.—They will always look for some objects of shelter, before they halt, if any maybe near them. Even furrows or slight waving of the ground will be serviceable.

For *common practice* 12 paces may betaken, when no other distance is specified; but by varying it frequently, it improves the men in a knowledge of distances.

108. When extended in *single* files, and no mode of diminishing is specified, it will be by *alternate ranks*.— When extended in *double* files, it will be by *alternate files*.

109. Should the skirmishers find, either in advancing or retiring, according to No. 103, and 106, that the battalion marches too *quick* for them, they will pass beyond the other rank or file, though they may not have fired.

110. Whenever the *fire* sounds, all skirmishers drop upon the right knee, and whether advancing or retiring, load and fire in *that position*, except when in the order of Nos. 102 and 104, in which, upon this sound, they load and fire *on the march*.

TO EXTEND, TO SKIRMISH AND CLOSE.

111. A *corps* may extend its files from *any part* of the line, and at any distance.

Also by *single* files, or by *double* files.

The extension always takes place from the spot where the bugle sounds.

The worth of command for extending are. *To the right extend—To the left extend—and from the center extend*

112. The moment that to extend is ordered, (either by word of command or by bugle,) the men trail arms; face outwards; and move off in quick time. The front rank man upon each flank immediately takes up the point, and conforms to it as far as the ground will admit.

—Each file follows those in front, and half and fronts when it has taken the necessary distance from the file in the rear of it—The rear rank man will attend to the *distance*, and tell the front rank man when to halt, as the latter is taken up in attending to cover the men before him.

113. They are by no means *then* to attempt to correct their dressing, (as a waving rough line of skirmishers is equally good) but immediately to seize the advantage of ground, to look out for their object of fire, and a place of security behind a tree, a rock, or whatever else may be at hand.

114. When no *distance* is specified, *six paces* will be left between each file, when extended either in single or double files;—and if no particular mode be specified, it will be in single files;—but it is useful often to vary this distance; and that in advancing, in order to teach men how to judge of distances.

115. If it be obvious, that a certain space is intended to be extended upon, either to cover the front of the line, or for any other evident purpose, and that the number of paces ordered are insufficient, officers and men will take it upon themselves to conform to the object in view, dividing their distances accordingly.—A line of skirmishers should always extend *beyond* the flanks of the line they are to protect, being rather retired on both flanks towards the rear; and advanced more in the centre.

116. When the commander specifies the distance at which files are to extend; and whether in single or double files; each officer commanding a division *repeats* it, so that it may pass on in case of not being heard, but though everyone should endeavor to conform to this distance as nearly as possible, yet when the lines have halted, they should remain there and correct their distances afterward upon the march.

117. When a party is ordered forward to cover, in extended order, a space which is then pointed out, the commander should immediately select objects at the extremity of this space for the men on each flank, and one in the centre for the centre file: they should at once take a direction toward those objects, and the other files should take intermediate points selected by the other officers and noncommissioned officers, so that the whole will be extending gradually *as they advance*, and will not have occasion to shift to the right or left by the time they arrive upon the line whereon they are to act as skirmishers.

The *march* and the *extend* will be the sounds for this, where it becomes necessary to have recourse to the bugle.

118. If a party, marching in close order, finds it necessary to retire and extend, either from being surprised by a superior force, or from any other cause, the *retreat* and the *extend* will be sounded, and it will be performed in the same way.

119. In throwing forward or back a wing; the distances of files must be preserved from the *inward* flank, but they must look to the *outward* flank for *drumming*, and bring forward the shoulders gradually, conformably to its progress.

The centre will generally be the point of *direction* as the chief is supposed to place himself near that; but should he place himself in any other part of the line, and make a signal for conforming to that, it will be obeyed.

120. *To close*. When the *close* is sounded from any point in an extended line, the files run in toward that point, in double quick time, shoulder and dress, so soon as they reach the part to form upon.

121. *Reserves*. There should always be a proportion in reserve in rear of the skirmishers, varying in its distribution according to circumstances—sometimes three *supports* in one line, and a *reserve* in rear of the centre support; sometimes two supports, and a reserve in rear of their centre; or three supports in one *line*, of which the centre one is the reserve.

122 *Patrols of communication*. A few men may be detached from each of those supports and the reserve, as patrols, to keep up the communication between the different parties, and to skirmish or patrol upon the flanks if necessary.—If the country be very much enclosed, or if at night, these patrols must be more numerous.

123. The officer commanding the reserve may employ one or two intelligent *non-commissioned officer*, with a few men between the skirmishers, to give them his orders, and to receive information—also to patrol between the column and his *reserve*, in order to receive orders from the commander of the whole, and to communicate the information to him.

124. The officer commanding the party detached should generally be with the *reserve*; and a proportion of subaltern officers and non-commissioned officers with the *supports* and *skirmishers*. They are not to attach themselves to any particular flank, but keep, over their respective parties, a constant superintendence, and go wherever that may be most requisite.

125. In general the skirmishers will conform to the movements of the supports, the supports to the reserve and the reserve to the corps from which it is detached. The skirmishers will also, in many respects, be regulated by the movements of those opposed to them; and on some occasions, must direct the movements of those in rear of them.

126. The commander will (only u a general rule) keep one or two files with himself as a reserve; and in most situations will have *previously* informed his party of one or two places of *rendezvous* in succession, where they are to reassemble (either upon the assembly being rounded, or without any bugle calls), every file making the best of its way to it.

127. If the skirmishers hear the close, they always run in upon the supports in the *first* place; and the assembly afterwards will be the signal for the whole to close in upon the battalion. But if the assembly sounds, without any close, it is a signal for the whole to make the best of their way to the rear of the battalion; in which case they must move as rapidly as they can, as this implies the necessity of greater expedition.

128. *Advanced guard*. This in its complete order, (according to figure, Plate No. 18,) answers for an advanced or *rearguard*: and the general principles of mutual dependence, support, and communication, apply equally, whether acting in front, in the rear, or on the flanks. There can be no established rule for distances; but it will be in general from fifty to two hundred yards.

129. REFERENCE TO FIG. OF THIS NO. PLATE NO. 18.

A company formed in regular order *as* an advanced guard. The same reversed as a rear guard.

A. Line of *Skirmishers*.

B. *Patrols of communication*, between the supports and skirmishers, who withdraw files or reinforce the latter when necessary.

C. Supports.—D. *Reserve*.

Each of those supports also detaches files from its flanks to keep in sight the different parties by which each is regulated, increasing them according to circumstances. or decreasing them.

The *flank supports* are guided by the one in the centre.—and *that is* regulated by the reserve.

The reserve keeps up a communication with the column, and likewise sends an intelligent non-commissioned officer or file towards the *centre support* for the same purpose.

One file and a non-commissioned officer may sometimes be detached in front of the centre of the skirmishers, or in rear of them, to direct the route of the advanced guard.

130. All skirmishers trail arms, without bayonet.— The supports and reserve may trail, shoulder or slope arms, and occasionally fix their bayonets.

As skirmishing and all duties are performed better by *whole* companies than by *portions* of several; this should be attended to, in detaching the parties.

131. If a party of skirmishers be surprised *by cavalry, in open ground*, it must be instantly decided whether they can reach the hedges or other cover, in time, if not, they must run from the flanks to the centre .where the officer should sound the *assembly* to form a round mass, facing outwards; they must support and press against each other from the centre to the circumference,

without making any opening, and steadily wait for the charge, presenting their bayonets to the horses' nostrils.

Whenever the cavalry retire, they will take advantage of their retreat to form in more regular order, or to proceed to the nearest cover without waiting to load again.

132. On the occasion of sounding the *assembly*, it is of the utmost consequence that the *front* of the battalion should be left clear. The skirmishers must therefore endeavor instantly to discover the situation of the battalion, according to which (if halted), or the movement it is performing (if in motion), they will decide in what direction to run in; and adopt that mode which will least impede, and soonest clear it for firing or marching.

133. If the battalion is advancing or retiring *in line*, they will run in towards *each flank* of the battalion, separating from the centre.

If throwing a wing forward or backward, they will make for the outward flank.—If *in echelon*, they will proceed towards the outer or *reverse* flank. In both movements, the inner flank (or that which is first formed) will thereby be left clear for firing; and in the *first* movement they will have less distance to run over.

134. If the open column is forming a *close* column, they will run in toward the rear division.—If the close column is forming *open* column, they may conclude it is meant to wheel into line afterward, and they will therefore run towards the *reverse* flank; proceeding round the standing division of the column, or through the divisions as they open out

OF RELIEVING SKIRMISHERS.

135. In relieving a line of skirmishers, the *new* line *extends* in the rear out of reach of the enemy's fire,—and afterward runs up rapidly to the old line; each file of the new proceeding straight in the rear of the old, so as to be covered from the enemy.

136. If the relief is to take place when *halted*, each file of the old skirmishers runs straight to the rear the instant that a file of the new skirmishers reaches the line of defense; and whenever the old are out of the reach of the enemy's fire, they close in upon their supports.

137. If the relief take place while *advancing*, the new skirmishers will run up in the same way, and pass briskly in front of the old. The old skirmishers lie down until they are out of the enemy's fire, after which they close in upon their supports.

138. In relieving while *retiring*, the new skirmishers *extend* a considerable distance in rear of the old, and each man looks out for a good situation. The old skirmishers continue to retire in their usual order until within twenty or thirty paces of the former: they then run through them to the rear, until they are out of reach of the enemy's fire, after which they close.

139. The men who have been acting as supports may relieve their own skirmishers in this way; in which case the skirmishers form into as many parties of reserve as the others formed, closing to the right and left for the purpose, when out of reach of the enemy's fire.

Any *part* of a line of skirmishers may be relieved in the same manner.

But if the reserves and skirmishers are *all* relieved by fresh parties, the supports of each party preserve the relative position with respect to their own skirmishers, until the two lines have relieved each other.

140. A line of skirmishers may also be *strengthened* by throwing forward one or more companies or sections to particular parts of the line ; in that case they must mix with the others and divide their distances.

If the line of skirmishers is to be *diminished* or weakened, one or more sections will be called in from different parts of the line, and the remaining skirmishers will extend to the right and left so as to cover the vacancies.

While the battalion is performing any movement. if the skirmishers are not called in, they must, with the utmost rapidity, change their position so as to correspond with the new order of the battalion, and their attention and activity are chiefly required in protecting it during the change.

It is impossible to lay down fixed rules for every situation, as much is left to the penetration of *every individual*, when acting as light infantry; but the following movements are selected as those which will generally occur and which will require the *corresponding movements* which follow, of skirmishers; unless impassible ditches, or other obstacles, prevent them. There are also occasional varieties in the ground, the advantage of which may lead to a different movement, by the whole or part of the line of skirmishers, from that which is here prescribed, in order to profit by those varieties.

143. If the line break into open *column*, the skirmishers must face to the right or left, and take ground to the same flank. If this movement is to continue any time, and that no skirmishers are thrown out from the column, the supports and skirmishers on the flanks of the advanced guard must incline, gradually, in either or both directions, to protect the front and rear of the column, still preserving the communication with the centre of the line of (skirmishers, which then become a flanking party: should there have been only two supports to the chain of skirmishers previous to the new disposition, an additional one must be formed, as a reserve for the flanking party, to march between it and the column.

If the column close to *half distance*, the skirmishers must also decrease the distance between their files and some of each section will be called in to the supports.

143. If the column *countermarch* the whole of the skirmishers face to the right about The advance guard then becomes the rear guard, and vice versa. $y < \backslash s$

If the column *changes its front* by the successive march of divisions from the rear (which will change the front of the line when wheeled up) or if from any other cause it become necessary to shift the skirmishers from one flank of the column to the other—they will run through the division and pass to the other flank, reserving as nearly as they can, the same order of files, from right to left in *each company*, which should always be preserved or renewed as soon as possible.

144. Should they meet with bogs, woods. or other impassible ground of any extent, they must not leave it between themselves and the column, for fear of being cut off, or an enemy being conceded within the chain.

145. If the column wheel into line, the skirmishers also change their direction, and the parties which protected the front and rear of the column must gradually incline towards the centre of the skirmishers.

If the battalion in line *countermarch*, the (skirmishers run with the utmost expedition round the flanks, and push forward in front; those who were in the centre of the front line being now on each flank.

146. If the battalion in line is changing *its front rapidly* on a flank division, the wheel on the outer flank is so extensive that the skirmishers should be relieved during the movement by the company on the inner flank, which run out, on the commencement of the change, to cover the front of the new position. The old skirmishers run through the battalion, and afterwards close to the point which was occupied by the other company.

147. If the battalion *advancing in line*, have to pass a bridge or defile in front, the skirmishers gradually draw in as they approach it, then run forward and close up their files, followed by the reserve. So soon as they have passed it they will extend to the right and left in their former order.

148. To pass a bridge or defile *retreating*, the reserve and supports first pass through; the reserve *extends* as a new line of skirmishers, while the supports in close order form at the end of the defile ready to fire upon the enemy and protect the skirmishers until they pass.

The skirmishers draw inwards by degrees, retreating until they get close to the defile, when they run through, pass fifty or sixty paces to the rear of the new skirmishers, and form as a reserve for them.

149. A line which is *extended* may, upon closing, *at once* form line—open column,—or close column,—in any direction, whatever part of the extended line it may close to.

The sergeants, who are nearest to that part of the company which first forms, run forward to take up the *coverings* in good time ; and the commander must likewise endeavor to be up with the first files in order to direct the formation. They will, at once, perceive, from the formation of the preceding company, whether they are to be inverted in the battalion;—but in all those movements the company may be correct within itself.

1st. It may close to the right flank, forming line *to the rear*.

2d. The same, forming line *to the right*, and on the left of the flank division.

3d. The same, and on the *right* of the flank division.

4th. It may close to *the centre*, forming line *to the right*.

5th. It may close to the right, forming *open column* to the right.

6th. The same to the right, forming open column in rear *of the right*.

7th. The same to the right, forming open column in *front of the right &c.*

The formations in close column may also be executed in the same way.

150. The more thoroughly that officers and men are grounded in the United States system of infantry exercise and maneuvers in *close order*, the better will they be enabled to apply them to all formations and changes of position in *extended order*—either with a battalion or company.

161. In occupying the edges of hills, or the backs of fences, whether in *close* or *extended* order, the line will always be formed following their direction, provided the salient angles be not too sudden or too acute—and they must be very careful to fire clear of each other.

POSTING OF SENTRIES AS A CHAIN, MODE OF CHALLENGING, &c.

152. The *chain of sentries* which cover the front of advanced piquets may be posted either by *double files* or by *single files*.

If by *double files*, the two men of one file may sit down with their arms in their hands, but in every other respect equally prepared. One of the men of the other file walks to his right, until he approaches the adjoining files; he then returns to his own party, and his comrade (who in the mean time has been standing up a few paces before the sitting file, vigilantly looking out in front, and on both sides) relieves him, and walks once to the right, taking care never to stop, unless for the purpose of challenging, or otherwise to ascertain any thing suspicious which he may see or hear.

In this manner those two men relieve each other at every turn for twenty or thirty minutes; after which they are relieved by the file which has been sitting down.

153. If the sentry challenges, the sitting file instantly stands up.

If the night be remarkably dark, or there be any other reason to apprehend that an enemy may pass through the chain without discovery, then, *both the men of* one file should walk back and forward between their own party and the next party to the right: and one or both men of the other file must then stand up to look out in front.

154. When the chain of sentries consists of *single files*, neither of the men must sit down; they conduct themselves as described, one walking to the right, while the other looks out in front.

155. *Challenging, &c.* The following instructions for challenging and receiving a relief will be sufficient also for patrols, or any other party or individual approaching a sentry and post.

The moment the sentry sees any person, he calls out—*Halt, who comes there?* at the same time recovers his arms, fronting to the party. If a *double entry*, one stands behind the other, uncovering a little to the right, and also comes to the recover.

ANSWER: *Relief* (or *Patrol, &c.*)

SENTRY. Advance *one, give the countersign*-- at the same time comes to the charge. One of the party advances to the point of his bayonet, and gives the countersign in a low tone of voice. The sentry should not consider this sufficient to let the party advance, but still keeping the point of his bayonet towards the person's belly, he will ask him several common questions, which he is certain ought to be known to the other; for instance;—what is the name of the officer, sergeant or corporal of the piquet, relief, &c.

SENTRY. Advance *relief* (or *Pass patrols, &c.*) at the same time recovering his arms, and if it be a person or party which he permits to *pass* him, he continues to front in the direction they pursue until they are clear of his post. Suppose it the *relief*:—he also continues at a recover; the party approaches and is halted by the non-commissioned officer a few paces from him; the new sentry advances with the non-commissioned officer, and the orders are communicated in a low tone of voice;—the old sentry then joins the relief, which proceeds.

156. Receiving a party at *the piquet*. Whenever a party approaches the post or piquet, the sentry calls out,—*Halt, who comes there?* and recovers his arms, notwithstanding he may be perfectly certain that it is the relief or patrol which may have left there the moment before: he

immediately follows the challenge by calling out, *Turn out the piquet*. He keeps his eye upon the party challenged, who of course stands fast. The piquet stand to their arms and form. The commander sends off a non-commissioned officer with one or two files to the sentry, who, when they join him, calls out, *advance one. give the countersign*, and with the same precaution as already described. The party is accompanied by those detached files to the officer of the piquet, who satisfies himself fully of the nature of their business before he dismisses his own men.

157. *It two patrols, reliefs or other parties meet*, the party which is first challenged sends forward one of his men to give the countersign, and the other party sends a non-commissioned officer, or one intelligent private, a few paces to meet him.

158. *Instruction* —In instructing the men in those duties, they should be taught to challenge in a loud, determined manner, by which they inspire themselves with confidence; but on *service* they should not challenge in too loud a voice.

Every soldier should be completely taught those duties before he is permitted to mount as a sentry, and then he should be posted for a few days (as a *supernumerary*) in company with a steady, intelligent soldier. A non-commissioned officer, upon being *promoted* to that rank, should likewise for several times be posted as a *supernumerary*.

Observations.

159. The *general principles* upon which light infantry act, are fully detailed, and applied to every possible situation which either officers, non-commissioned officers, or men, may be placed, in the following books.

1st. A small book entitled "Hints for Non-commissioned Officers on actual service"—By COLONEL SONTAG. Important also to officers,

2d. "Regulations for the Exercise of Riflemen and Light Infantry, translated from the German"—of Baron EBWALD. Published to the British army as "Approved by H. R. H. the commander in chief.

3d. Instructions concerning the duties of "Light Infantry in the Field"—by General Jarby Approval by the British commander in chief, in the same manner: and published both in French and English.

The author of 2d work referred to commanded a corps of light troops called *Vogers* among the Hessians in the British service, during our revolution; and his observations generally apply to this country. He makes the following remarks:

"Light corps are generally negligently drilled, and are supposed not to require any knowledge of maneuvers: their movements, therefore, must be inconsistent and incorrect. The principle cause of this evil is that these corps are frequently raised in a hurry, and that in instructing them, an improper method is pursued; for the instruction, as in so many other branches of military affairs *begins* where it should *end*. The whole attention is turned to a useless manual exercise and to *trifle* of the same kind, while what is truly useful to such a corps is less untaught."

160. The duties of light infantry (which are explained in these books) may be classed under the following heads, and Captains may exercise their companies, and instruct them in every part of each, as a *lesson*.

- 1st. The mode of posting piquets and their sentries.
- 2d. The *patrols* which are sent to visit the sentries, and to *preserve communication* between them and the piquets, by day and by night.
- 3d. The patrols which are sent *beyond the advanced sentries* for various purposes prescribed to them.
- 4th Communicating patrols between the reserves and skirmishers upon *the march*, of the advanced guard rear guard, and flanking parties.
- 5tb. The *advanced* guard.
- 6th. The *rear* guard
- 7th. *Flanking* parties.
- 6th. *Posting* of sentries and *challenging*

SECTION V.

BUGLE SOUNDS.

APPLICATION OF THEM TO SECTIONS II. III. AND IV.

161. The advantages to be derived from the use of the bugle in a close country, or wherever men are in extended order, are obvious if it word of command cannot be heard.

Signals or sounds are necessary in various situations; but particularly where an officer of light infantry finds it necessary to proceed to an eminence at some distance, in order to reconnoiter the adjacent country, and his enemy; and when advantages could be taken which depend entirely upon immediate execution; but which, by delay, would be lost; or would even afford an increased advantage to the enemy.

162. Being intended, however, only as *substitutes* for the voice, where that cannot reach, these sounds never should be resorted to, except under such a circumstance. as they are liable to be mistaken. They are not to be used therefore when the voice will answer.

163. For this reason, and as the same sound upon a different *key* or in different *time*, is apt to occasion mistakes, they ought to be as few and as simple as possible: and the buglers should be very perfect in these.

164. No movement should be executed until the bugle sound is *entirely finished*:—and in the combinations of sounds with *the fire*, that sound should be last; others wise they may immediately commence a fire upon the spot, and if the march or retreat be to follow, it would not be heard.

166. The only sounds which should be repeated by *all* the buglers upon every occasion, are the *March, Retreat. Halt, Fire, Cease firing, Assembly, and Disperse.*

166. If the men are firing while they hear a sound. they should *slacken* the fire a little, in order to hear it more distinctly; and in case others may not have heard it at all, that the commander may repeat it.

167. If the commander of a *detached* party has a bugler with him, the men under his immediate command should not pay attention to any sounds but those which are *repeated by him*; for the bugler with the commanding officer may sound orders which apply to the battalion or to some *other* detachment, and it will sometimes rest with the judgment of the commander of the party to make this distinction.

168. When no particular time is specified, all light infantry movements in close order, except the formations from files, are in *quick time*; all formations from files, and *closing*, are in *double quick*.—While on the march, a few bars of a tune in common time denote that the time is to be slower: a few bars in quick time denote that it is to be quicker; and those may be repeated or changed, from time to time, as the commander may judge proper.

169. When the battalion, or a line of skirmishers, has been halted, a few bars of either of the marches, before the advance, the retreat, or the close has been sounded, will denote the time in which the movement is to be performed,— *if different* from the above general rule.

170. In conformity to the principle laid down for words of command (No. 45), in *File movements* that “all formations refer to the direction in which the companies are leading *at the moment* without any reference to their *previous* order;”—so it is in the application of the bugle to all movements, whether in line or in files; because in the frequent and rapid changes to which light infantry is exposed, it may be impossible to recollect the former front; and the inversion of companies in the battalion does not signify.

171. Therefore, whether the battalion be advancing or retiring, it invariably halts to the front upon which it is *then* marching; and if marching *in files*, its divisions halt, forming up to that front.—Should they be retiring in *line* with the rear rank in front, if the *Halt* is first sounded, they halt in *that situation*; if the retreat is to be continued, the *March* is sounded, and the battalion proceeds with the rear rank in front.

172. Should they be retiring in line, and it is wished to face about the battalion to its former front, the *Retreat* is sounded; and the *Halt* immediately afterwards, if the line is to halt.

In retiring *by files* they may at any time countermarch and resume the former front by sounding the *Retreat*-- and if they are to form to that front, (namely, what was the original front,) the *Halt* is sounded immediately afterwards.

In short, if marching in line, whether advancing or retiring, the *Retreat* implies “*right about face*,”—and if marching in files, the leading files *countermarch*.—They must take care always to countermarch round the *rear rank*, otherwise they will not be in so ready a situation to form to the front, if the *Halt* follow instantly.

173. The following sounds appear to be sufficient for every situation. See *Plates* Nos. 19 and 20.

SIMPLE SOUNDS OF THE BUGLE.

1. To *Extend*—From that part of the line, whence the bugle sound proceeds'.
2. To *Close*—To the spot from whence the sound proceeds, and for skirmishers to run in to the

supports.

3. *To March*—In the order of the present formation.

4. *To Halt*—In the same order; except when *in files*, advancing or retiring from line, in which case they *form* to the front.

5. *To Fire*:—If *halted*, they fire upon the spot, skirmishers selecting their objects ; if in close order, the battalion fires by platoons or files, as directed by word of command.

—If *on the march*, whether advancing or retiring, it will be, when in *single* files, by alternate ranks, when in *double* files, by alternate files

6. *Cease firing*. Every man to cease firing and load.

7. *Retreat*—To retire immediately in quick time; the line, the reserves, and skirmisher[^] facing to the right about; if no other order or time be specified.

8. *Assembly*—This sound is used on many occasions, as follows:

—For skirmishers, with their supports and reserves, to close in upon the battalions

— To *turn out* a whole corps and form by companies in line or column (according to the places of the first sergeants, and to previous orders) at any time, by day or night.

— When extended *as skirmishers* and surprised by cavalry in open ground; and in many other situations, to where the sound may be heard, as a *place of rendezvous*.

9. *Disperse*—The whole to disperse according to the object and orders given.

10. *Skirmish*—*To send* out any portion to skirmish.

11. *Incline to the Right*—Oblique to the right :—

12. *Incline to the Left*—Oblique to the left :—

—Whether marching in close or extended order, those are obeyed by bringing forward the shoulder gradually.

—It may be equally executed by a line ; by a column filing to either flank; or by the whole of an advanced or rear guard.

—In the case of a rear guard, it always applies to those front it presents *from the enemy* bringing forward the proper shoulder when in motion.

13. *Forwards*—When the direction has been sufficiently altered, the bugle will sound the *March*, which in this situation signifies “*Forward*”.’

14. *Sound to Annul*—Whenever the *Halt* is sounded, it will be considered annulling every previous sound, except the *Fire*. Therefore if men are inclining to the right or left, extending in any direction, or obeying any combined sound, upon the *halt* being sounded, they are to stand fast; and the subsequent movements will depend upon the sounds thereafter given,—without any reference to the former sounds.

COMBINED SOUNDS

15. *March and Extend*—3 and 1, immediately following— To extend while advancing, as explained in Section IV, No. 130.

16. *Retreat and Extend*— 7 and 1.—To extend while retreating—as in No. 131.

17. *March and Close*-- 3 and 2.—To advance and close towards the centre.

18. *Retreat and Close*—7 and 2.—To retreat and close towards the centre.

19. *Fire advancing*—3 and 5.—First the *March*, then the *Fire*: performed as explained in PART V. *Article 21st*.

20. *Fire Retreating*—7 and 5.—First the *Retreat* then the *Fire* as explained in the same *Article*.

21. *Incline to the right and left*— 11 and 12.—These signify that a chain or line of skirmishers, and advanced or rear guard should occupy more space to the right and left: when they have sufficiently increased their distances, the *March* will be sounded. In increasing their distances, they are to continue their front, and other operations should they either be firing or advancing, and extend themselves by degrees.

174. The use of the bugle is considerably increased by adopting the use of three simple Gs as distinguishing sounds.

One G to denote the Right of the line.

Two G s ————— the Centre.

Three G s ————— the Left.

Either of these, preceding any sound, denotes the part of the line to which it will apply. For instance, two G s before the *Extend*, signifies to extend from the centre : one G followed by the *Close*, signifies to close to the right.

175. Should there be a sufficiency of buglers, one may be stationed in rear of each flank, and one in rear of the centre, (under the immediate superintendence of three supernumerary officers) who will be distinguished by each of those designations of G s, and any sound from the commander's bugler will accordingly be repeated by either of the three to which it applies. This arrangement may be used to advantage on many occasions, and applied to different situations and movements taking care, in the first place, that it be well understood by the officers and men, otherwise it may occasion irretrievable mistakes.

And, great care must be taken to increase those sounds by degrees, and with caution, as the troops become more perfect and intelligent.

176. A party may be sent to the front, rear, or flank, to skirmish—but when detached at first, it may be doubtful in what direction afterwards it may be necessary to extend. When the commander has determined upon the disposition to be made, this distinguishing sound from his bugler to that of the officer commanding the skirmishers, will enable him instantly to extend, from either flank or the centre.

177. In like manner when skirmishers are to be called in, one or more G s before the *assembly*

will signify in what direction they are to run in, so as to leave the front of the line, which is entire, clear for firing.

178. Combining either one G for the right wing, or three G s for the left, with a few bars of any march in *common* time, or in *quick* time, will denote that either flank of a line will quicken or slacken its pace.

It may also be combined with the *March, Retreat*, and many other sounds, applying of course to the wing specified only.

179. Previous to the communication of the sound which is to follow the note or notes in G, the bugler to whom it is addressed may be required to repeat this cautionary sound as a *reply* to the commander's bugler; which will serve as a caution, and may frequently prevent mistakes.

180. A short distinct sound may be fixed on for *each company*, applying to it *exclusively*; the commander of the whole may thereby, when at a distance, direct any movement which is to be executed by a particular company only.

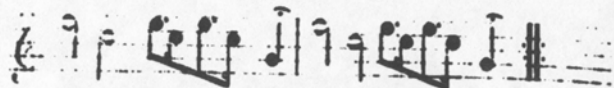
181. It is desirable that the same bugle sounds should be uniformly adopted *by all the corps* in the United States service.—Though these signals have been established in the British army (taken originally from the German service), it was not thought expedient to transpose or alter them. If any advantage can be derived by an enemy from a knowledge of our signals, the advantage will be equally open to us—and we may safely rely upon the intelligence of our officers for a superiority. But, in light infantry maneuvers, if an officer be near enough to profit by any new disposition of the enemy's light troops, he can most safely judge of it, by seeing the first movement of the men: if he can not see them, he will be as little enabled to judge of the movement of the army to which they belong, as he is to profit by distant changes of position—the light infantry signals for partial movements being so frequent, and the bugle so frequently sounded for a separate flank or a detachment.

A more positive reason for making no transposition alluded to is, that those sounds have been adopted from experience in actual service, the only test of practical excellence. The notes of them appear to be particularly and admirably adapted to the movements or orders signified: and any changes would be very apt to render them inconsistent with the various positions of troops, to which they should be applicable in all exigencies.— If an enemy should think it necessary to make any transposition for the lesson suggested, let the inconvenience of it be imposed upon him.—There is also another reason, which applies to the object of this Compend, for preserving these signals unaltered; the militia have among them many excellent buglers who have deserted from the British service, (which nation has made the greatest advances in the instruction of martial music of this kind,) and who are ready, whenever called upon, to practice these signals, as herein prescribed, without mistake or deviation,—and what is of equal importance, to instruct others.

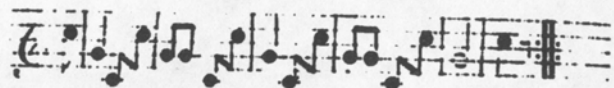
END OF LIGHT MOVEMENTS.

Bugle Sounds

Nº 1. *To Extend.*



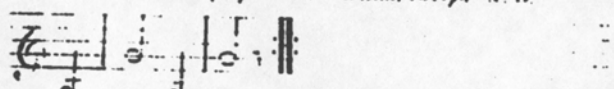
Nº 2. *To Close.*



Nº 3. *To March; also Nº 13.
Forwards after Obligato.*



Nº 4. *To Halt; also Nº 14 To Land;
annuls every previous sound, except Nº 3.*



Nº 5. *To Fire.*



Nº 6. *To Cease Firing.*



Nº 7. *To Retreat.*



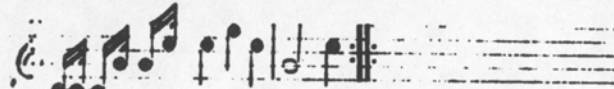
Nº 8. *To Assemble.*



Nº 9. *To Disperse.*



Nº 10. *To Skirmish.*



Nº 11. *To incline to the Right.*



Nº 12. *To incline to the Left.*



Right. Centre. Left.

