

Color Guard Drill Manual of the Redlands Chapter SAR

CHAPTER I

OF THE ACCOUTREMENTS OF THE OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND SOLDIERS

The arms and accoutrements of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, should be uniform throughout. The officers who exercise their functions on horseback, are to be armed with swords, the platoon officers with swords and espartoons, the non-commissioned officers with swords, firelocks, and bayonets, and soldiers with firelocks and bayonets.

CHAPTER II

OBJECTS WITH WHICH OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS SHOULD BE ACQUAINTED

The officers and non-commissioned officers of each regiment, are to be perfectly acquainted with the manual exercise, marchings and firings, that they may be able to instruct their soldiers when necessary; they must also be acquainted with dress, discipline, and police of troops, and with everything that relates to the service.

The commanding officers of each regiment is to be answerable for the general instruction of the regiment, and is to exercise, or cause to be exercised, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, whenever he thinks proper.

CHAPTER III

OF THE FORMATION OF A COMPANY

A company is to be formed in two ranks, at one pace distance, with the tallest men in the rear, and both ranks sized, with the shortest men of each in the center. A company thus drawn up is to be divided into two sections or platoons; the captain to take post on the right of the first platoon, covered by a sergeant; the lieutenant on the right of the second platoon, also covered by a sergeant; the ensign four paces behind the center of the company; the first sergeant two paces behind the centre of the first platoon, and the eldest corporal two paces behind the second platoon; the other two corporals are to be on the flanks of the front rank.

CHAPTER IV

OF THE FORMATION OF A REGIMENT

A Regiment is to consist of eight companies, which are to be posted in the following order from right to left.

First Captain's

Colonel's

Fourth Captain's

Major's

Third Captain's

Lieutenant colonel's

Fifth captain's

Second captain's

For the greater facility in maneuvering, each regiment consisting of more than one hundred and sixty files, is to be formed in two battalions (fig. 2), with an interval of twenty paces between them, and one color posted in the center of each battalion; the colonel fifteen paces before the center of the first battalion; the lieutenant-colonel fifteen paces before the center of the second battalion; the major fifteen paces behind the interval of the two battalions; the adjutant two paces from the major; the drum and fife major two paces behind the center of the first battalion; their places behind the second battalion being supplied by a drum and fife; and the other drums and fifes equally divided on the wings of each battalion.

When a regiment is reduced to one hundred and sixty files, it is to be formed in one battalion, with both colours in the centre; the colonel sixteen paces before the colours; the lieutenant colonel eight paces behind the colonel; the major fifteen paces behind the centre of the battalion, having the adjutant at his side; the drum and fife major two paces behind the centre of the battalion; and the drums and fifes equally divided on the wings.

Every battalion, whether it compose the whole, or only half of a regiment, is to be divided into four divisions and eight platoons; no platoon to consist of less than ten files; so that a regiment consisting of less than eighty files cannot form battalions, but must be incorporated with some other, or employed on detachment.

In case of absence of any field officer, his place is to be filled by the officer next in rank in the regiment; and in order that the officers may remain with their respective companies, if any company officer is absent, his place shall be supplied by the officer next in rank in the same company; but should it happen that a company is left without an officer, the colonel or commanding officer may order an officer of another company to take the command, as well for the exercise as for the discipline and police of the company in camp.

When the light company is with the regiment it must be formed twenty paces on the right on the parade, but must not interfere with the exercise of the battalion, but exercise by itself; and when the light infantry are embodied, every four companies will form a battalion, and exercise in the same manner as the battalion in the line.

CHAPTER V

OF THE INSTRUCTION OF RECRUITS

The commanding officers of each company is charged with the instruction of his recruits; and as that is a service that requires not only experience, but a patience and temper not met with in every officer, he is to make choice of an officer, sergeant, and one or two corporals of his company, who, being approved of by the colonel, are to attend particularly to that business: but in case of the arrival of a great number of recruits, every officer without distinction is to be employed on that service. The commanding officer of each regiment will fix on some place for the exercise of his recruits, where himself or some field officer must attend, to overlook their instruction.

The recruits must be taken singly, and first taught to put on their accoutrements, and carry themselves properly.

The position of a Soldier without Arms.

He is to stand straight and firm upon his legs, with the head turned to the right so far as to bring the left eye over the waistcoat buttons; the heels two inches apart; the toes turned out; the belly drawn in a little, but without constraint; the breast a little projected; the shoulders square to the front, and kept back; and the hands hanging down the sides, with the palms close to the thighs.

Attention!

At this word the soldier must be silent, stand firm and steady, moving neither hand nor foot, (except as ordered) but attend carefully to the words of command.

This attention of the soldier must be observed in the strictest manner, till he receives the word

Rest!

At which he may refresh himself, by moving his hands or feet; but must not then sit down or quit his place, unless permitted so to do.

Attention! To the Left- Dress!

At this word the soldier turns his head briskly to the left, so as to bring his right eye in the direction of his waistcoat buttons.

To the Right- Dress!

The soldier dresses again to the right, as before.

The recruit must then be taught

The Facings.

To the Right- Face! Two Motions

1st Turn briskly on both heels to the right, lifting up the toes a little, and describing the quarter circle.

2nd Bring back the right foot to its proper position, without stamping.

To the Left- Face! Two Motions

1st Turn to the left as before to the right.

2d. Bring up the right foot to its proper position.

To the Right about, - Face! Three Motions

1st. Step back with the right foot, bring the buckle opposite the left heel, at the same time seizing the cartridge box with the right hand.

2nd. Turn briskly on both heels, and describe half a circle.

3d. Bring back the right foot, at the same time quitting the cartridge-box.

When the recruit is sufficiently expert in the foregoing points, he must be taught the different steps.

The Common Step

Is two feet, and about seventy-five in a minute.

To the Front, - March!

The soldier steps off with his left foot, and marches a free, easy and natural step, without altering the position of his body or head, taking care to preserve a proper balance, and not cross his legs, but to march without constraints in every sort of ground: the officer must march sometimes in his front and sometimes at his side, in order to join example to precept.

Halt!

At this word the soldier stops short, on the foot then advanced, immediately bringing up the other, without stamping.

The Quick Step

Is also two feet, but about one hundred and twenty in a minute, and is performed on the same principle as the other.

The recruits having been exercised singly, till they have a proper carriage, and are well grounded in the different steps; the officer will then take three men, and placing them in one rank, exercise them in the different steps, and teach them

The March by Files

Which, being of great importance, must be carefully attended to; observing that the soldier carries his body more forward than in the front march, and that he does not increase the distance from his file-leader.

The Oblique Step

Must then be practiced, both in the quick and common time.

In marching obliquely to the right, the soldier steps obliquely with the right foot, bringing up the left, and placing the heel directly before the toes of the right foot, and the contrary when marching to the left; at the same time observing to keep the shoulders square to the front, especially that the shoulder opposed to the side they march to does not project, and that the files keep close.

The recruits being thus far instructed, must be again taken separately, and taught

The Position of a Soldier under Arms.

In this position the soldier is to stand straight and firm upon his legs, with the heels two inches apart, the toes a little turned out, the belly drawn in a little without constraint, the breast a little projected; the shoulders square to the front, and kept back; and the hands hanging down the sides, with the palms close to the thigh, the left elbow not turned out from the body, the firelock carried on the left shoulder, at such a height that the guard will be just under the left breast, the fore-finger and thumb before the swell of the butt, the three last fingers under the butt, the flat of the butt against the hip bone, and pressed so as the firelock may be felt against the left side, and stand before the hollow of the shoulder, neither leaning towards the head nor from it, the barrel almost perpendicular. When exercising, he is to be very exact in counting a second of time between each motion.

THE MANUAL EXERCISE

I. *Poise- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st With your left hand turn the firelock briskly, bringing the lock to the front, at the same instant seize it with the right hand just below the lock, keeping the piece perpendicular.

2d. With a quick motion bring up the firelock from the shoulder directly before the face, and seize it with the left hand just above the lock, so that the little finger may rest upon the feather spring, and the thumb lie on the stock; the left hand must be of an equal height with the eyes.

II. *Cock- Firelock!* Two motions

1st Turn the barrel opposite to your face, and place your thumb upon the cock, raising the elbow square at this motion.

2d. Cock the firelock by drawing down your elbow, immediately placing your thumb upon the breech-pin, and the fingers under the guard.

III. *Take Aim!* One motion

Step back about six inches with the right foot, bring the left toe to the front; at the same time drop the muzzle, and bring up the butt end of the firelock against your right shoulder; place the left hand forward on the swell of the stock, and the fore-finger of the right hand before the trigger; sinking the muzzle a little below a level, and with the right eye looking along the barrel.

IV. *Fire!* One motion.

Pull the trigger briskly, and immediately after bringing up the right foot, come to the priming position, placing the heels even, with the right toe pointing the right, the lock opposite the right breast, the muzzle directly to the front and as high as the hat, the left hand just forward of the feather spring, holding the piece firm and steady; and at the same time seize the cock with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand, the back of the hand turned up.

V. *Half-Cock- Firelock!* One motion.

Half bend the cock briskly, bringing down the elbow to the butt of the firelock.

VI. *Handle- Cartridge!* One motion.

Bring your right hand short round to your pouch, flapping it hard, seize the cartridge, and bring it with a quick motion to your mouth, bite the top off down to the powder, covering it instantly with your thumb, and bring the hand as low as the chin, with the elbow down.

VII. *Prime!* One motion.

Shake the powder into the pan, and covering the cartridge again, place the three last fingers behind the hammer, with the elbow up.

VIII. *Shut- Pan!* Two motions

1st. Shut your pan briskly, bringing down the elbow to the butt of the firelock, holding the cartridge fast in your hand.

2d. Turn the piece nimbly round before you to the loading position, with the lock to the front, and the muzzle at the height of the chin, bringing the right hand up under the muzzle; both feet being kept fast in this motion.

IX. *Charge with Cartridge!* Two motions.

1st. Turn up your hand and put the cartridge into the muzzle, shaking the powder into the barrel.

2d. Turning the stock a little towards you, place your right hand closed, with a quick and strong motion, upon the butt of the rammer, the thumb upwards, and the elbow down.

X. *Draw- Rammer!* Two motions.

1st. Draw your rammer with a quick motion half-out, seizing it instantly at the muzzle back-handed.

2d. Draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it into the muzzle.

XI. *Ram down- Cartridge!* One motion

Ram the cartridge well down the barrel, and instantly recovering and seizing the rammer back-handed by the middle, draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it as far as the lower pipe, placing at the same time the edge of the hand on the butt-end of the rammer, with the fingers extended.

XII. *Return- Rammer!* One motion.

Thrust the rammer home, and instantly bring up the piece with the left hand to the shoulder, seizing it at the same time with the right hand under the cock, keeping the left hand at the swell, and turning the body square to the front.

XIII. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. Bring down the left hand, placing it strong upon the butt.

2d. With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

XIV. *Order- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. Sink the firelock with the left hand as low as possible, without constraint, and at the same time bringing up the right hand, seize the firelock at the left shoulder.

2d. Quit the firelock with the left hand, and with the right bring it down the right side, the butt on the ground, even with the toes of the right foot, the thumb of the right hand lying along the barrel, and the muzzle being kept at a little distance from the body.

XV. *Ground- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. With the right hand turn the firelock, bringing the lock to the rear, and instantly stepping forward with the left foot a large pace, lay the piece on the ground, the barrel in a direct line from the front to rear, placing the left hand on the knee to support the body, the head held up, the right hand and left heel in a line, and the right knee brought almost to the ground.

2d. Quit the firelock, raise yourself up, and bring back the left foot to its former position.

XVI. *Take up- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. Step forward with the left foot, sink the body, and come to the position described in the first motion of grounding.

2d. Raise up yourself and firelock, stepping back again with the left foot, and as soon as the piece is perpendicular, turn the barrel behind, thus coming to the order.

XVII. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. Bring the firelock to the left shoulder, throwing it up a little, and catching it below the tail pipe, and instantly seize it with the left hand at the butt.

2d. With a quick motion bring the right hand down by your side.

XVIII. *Secure- Firelock!* three motions.

1st. Bring the right hand briskly, and place it under the cock.

2d. Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock at the swell, bringing the arm close down upon the lock, the right hand being kept fast in this motion, and the piece upright.

3d. Quitting the piece with your right hand, bring it down by your side, at the same time with your left hand throw the muzzle directly forward, bringing it within about one foot of the ground, and the butt close up behind the left shoulder, holding the left hand in a line with the waist belt, and with that arm covering the lock.

XIX *Shoulder- Firelock!* Three motions.

1sr. Bring the firelock up to the shoulder, seizing it with the right hand under the cock.

2d. Bring the left hand down strong upon the burr.

3d. Bring the right hand down by your side.

XX. *Fix- Bayonet!* Three motions.

1st and 2d motion the same as the two first motions of the secure.

3d. Quitting the piece with your right hand, sink it with your left down the left side, as far as may be without constraint, at the same time seize the bayonet with the right hand, down to the stock, and pressing in the piece to the hollow of the shoulder.

XXI. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Three motions.

1st. Quitting the piece with the right hand, with the left bring it up to the shoulder, and seize it again with the right hand under the cock, as in the second motion of the secure.

2d. Bring the left hand down strong upon the butt.

3d. Bring the right hand down by your side.

XXII. *Present- Arms!* Three motions.

1st and 2d motions the same as in coming to the poise.

3d. Step briskly back with your right foot, placing it a hand's breadth distant from your left heel, at the same time bring down the firelock as quick as possible to the rest, sinking it as far down before your left knee as your right hand will permit without constraint, holding the right hand under the guard,

with the fingers extended, and drawing in the piece with the left hand till the barrel is perpendicular; during this motion you quit the piece with the left hand, and instantly seize it again just below the tail-pipe.

XXIII. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st Lift up your right foot and place it by your left, at the same time bring the firelock to your left shoulder, and seize the butt-end with the left hand, coming to the position of the first motion of the secure.

2d. Bring the right hand down by your side.

XXIV. *Charge- Bayonet!* Two motions

1st The same as the first motion of the secure.

2d. Bring the butt of the firelock under the right arm, letting the piece fall down strong on the palm of the left hand, which receives it at the swell, the muzzle pointing directly to the front, the butt pressed with the arm against the side; the front rank holding their pieces horizontally, and the rear rank the muzzles of theirs so high as to clear the heads of the front rank, both ranks keeping their feet fast.

XXV. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Two motions.

1st. Bring up the piece smartly to a shoulder, seizing the butt with the left hand.

2d. Bring the right hand down by your side.

XXVI. *Advance- Arms!* Four motions.

1st and 2d same as the two first motions of the poise.

3d. Bring the firelock down to the right side, with the right hand as low as it will admit without constraint, flipping up the left hand at the time to the swell, and instantly shifting the position of the right hand, take the guard between the thumb and forefinger, and bring the three last fingers under the cock, with the barrel to the rear.

4th Quit the firelock with the left hand, bringing it down by your side.

XXVII. *Shoulder- Firelock!* Four motions.

1st Bring up the left hand, and seize the firelock at the swell; instantly shifting the right hand to its former position.

2d. Come smartly up to a poise.

3d and 4th. Shoulder.

Explanation of the Priming and Loading, as performed in Firings.

Prime and Load! Fifteen motions.

1st. Come to the recover, throwing up your firelock, with a smart spring of the left hand, directly before the left breast, and turning the barrel inwards, at the same moment catch it with the right hand below the lock, and instantly bringing up the left hand, with a rapid motion, seize the piece close above the lock, the little finger touching the feather spring; the left hand to be at an equal height with the eyes, the butt of the firelock close to the left breast, but not pressed, and the barrel perpendicular.

2d Bring the firelock down with a brisk motion to the priming position, as directed in the 4th word of command, instantly placing the thumb of the right hand against the face of the steel, the fingers clenched, and the elbow a little turned out, that the wrist may be clear of the cock.

3d. Open the pan by throwing back the steel with a strong motion of the right arm, keeping the firelock steady in the left hand.

4th Handle cartridge.

5th Prime.

6th Shut pan.

7th Cast about.

8th and 9th Load.

10th and 11th Draw Rammer.

12th Ram down cartridge.

13th Return Rammer.

14th and 15th Shoulder.

N.B. The motion of recover, coming down to the priming position, and opening the pan, to be done in the usual time, the motions of handling the cartridge to shutting the pan, to be done as quickly as possible; when the pans are shut, make a small pause, and cast about together; then the loading and shouldering motions are to be done as quick as possible.

Position of each Rank in the Firings

Front Rank! Make ready! One motion.

Spring the firelock briskly to a recover, as soon as the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, the right elbow is to be nimbly raised a little, placing the thumb of that hand upon the cock, the fingers open by the plate of the lock, and as quick as possible cock the piece, by dropping the elbow, and forcing down the cock with the thumb, immediately seizing the firelock with the right hand, close under the lock; the piece to be held in this manner perpendicular, opposite the left side of the face, the body kept straight, and as full to the front as possible, and the head held up, looking well to the right.

Take Aim! Fire!

As explained before.

Rear rank! Make ready! One motion.

Recover and cock as before directed, at the same time stepping about six inches to the right, so as to place yourself opposite the interval of the front rank.

Take Aim! Fire!

The recruits being thus far instructed, the officer must take twelve men, and placing them in one rank, teach them to dress to the right and left; to do which the soldier must observe to feel the man on that side he dresses to, without crowding him, and to advance or retire, till he can just discover the breast of the second man from him, taking care not to stoop, but to keep his head and body upright.

When they can dress pretty well, they must be taught to wheel as follows:

To the Right- Wheel!

At this word of command the men turn their heads briskly to the left, except the left hand man.

March!

The whole step off, observing to feel the hand they wheel to, without crowding; the right hand man serving as a pivot for the rest to turn on, gains no ground, but turns on his heel; the officer will march on the flank, and when the wheeling is finished, command,

Halt!

On which the whole stop short on the foot then forward, bringing up the other foot, and dressing to the right.

To the Left- Wheel!

The whole to continue to look to the right, except the right hand man, who looks to the left.

March!

As explained before.

N.B. The wheelings must first be taught in the common step, and then practiced in the quick step.

When the recruits have practiced the forgoing exercises, till they are sufficiently expert, they must be sent to exercise with their company.

CHAPTER VI.

THE EXERCISE OF THE COMPANY.

ARTICLE I. OF THE OPENING THE RANKS

Rear Rank! Take- distance!

March!

The rear rank steps back four paces, and dresses by the right; the officers at the same time advancing eight paces to the front, and dressing in a line; the sergeants who covered the officers, take their places in the front rank; the non-commissioned officers who were in the rear, remain there, stepping back four paces behind the rear rank.

Rear Rank! Close to the Front!

The officers face to the company.

March!

The rear rank closes to within a common pace, or two feet; and the officers return to their former posts.

ARTICLE II. OF THE FIRINGS.

The captain will divide his company into two more sections, and teach them the fire by platoons, as directed in Chapter XIII (Articles 1,2)

The officers must give the words of command with a loud and distinct voice; observe that the soldiers step off, and place their feet, as directed in the manual exercise; and that they level their pieces at the proper height; for which purpose they must be accustomed always to take sight at some object.

The officer will often command, *As you were!* to accustom the soldier not to fire till he receives the word of command.

In all exercises in detail, the men will use a piece of wood, instead of a flint; and each soldier should have six pieces of wood, in the form of cartridges, which the sergeant must see taken out of the pieces when the exercise is finished.

When the company exercises with powder, the captain will inspect the company, and see that all the cartridges not used, are returned.

ARTICLE III. OF THE MARCH.

In marching to the front, the men must be accustomed to dress to the center, which they will have to do when exercising in the battalion; and for this purpose a sergeant must be placed six paces in front of the center, who will take some object in front to serve as a direction for him to march straight forward; and the men must look inwards, and regulate their march by him. The captain must exercise his company in different sorts of ground; and when by the badness of the ground, or any other accident, the soldier loses his step, he must immediately take it again from the sergeant in the center. The officers must not suffer the least inattention, but punish every man guilty of it.

The Oblique March

Must be practiced both in the quick and common step, agreeably to the instructions already given.

The March by Files

Is as important as difficult. In performing it, the officers must be attentive that the soldiers bend their bodies a little forward, and do not open their files.

The leading file will be conducted by the officer; who will post himself for that purpose on its left, when they march by the right, and the contrary when they march by the left.

The Counter March

NOTE: This march must never be executed by larger portions of a battalion than platoons.

Caution.

Take Care to counter march from the Right, by Platoons!

To the Right- face! March!

The whole facing to the right, each platoon wheels by files to the right about; and when the right hand file gets on the ground where the left stood, the officer orders,

Halt! To the Left,- Face! And the company will be formed with their front changed.

ARTICLE 4.

OF WHEELINGS

The captain will exercise his company in wheeling entire, and by sections or platoons, both in the common and quick step, taking care that the men in the rear rank incline a little to the right or left, according to the hand they wheel to, so as always to cover exactly their file-leaders.

ARTICLE 5.

OF BREAKING OFF, AND FORMING BY THE OBLIQUE STEP.

The captain having divided his company in two sections will give the word

Sections! Break off!

Upon which the section on the right inclines by the oblique step to the left, and that on the left, following the former, inclines to the right, till they cover each other, when they march forward.

Form Company!

The first section inclines to the right, shortening its step, and the second to the left, lengthening its step, till they are uncovered, when both march forward, and form in a line.

Two more companies may be joined to perform the company exercise, when they have been sufficiently exercised by single companies, but not till then; the inattention of the soldiers, and difficulty of introducing them, increasing in proportion to their numbers.

CHAPTER VII

EXERCISE OF A BATTALION.

When a battalion parades for exercise, it is to be formed, and the officers posted, agreeably to the instructions already given in the third and fourth chapters.

The battalion being formed, it is then to perform the manual exercise, and the wheelings, marches, maneuvers and firings described in this and the following chapters, of such of them as shall be ordered.

N.B. When a battalion performs the firings, the six center files, (viz. three on each side the colors) are not to fire, but remain as a reserve for the colors; and the officers of the two center platoons are to warn them accordingly.

The battalion will wheel by divisions or platoons, by word of command from the officer commanding:

By {Platoons/Divisions!} To the {Right/Left} Wheel!

March!

When the battalion wheels, the platoons are conducted by the officers commanding them; the supernumeraries remaining in the rear of their respective platoons.

The colors take post between the fourth and fifth platoons.

The wheeling finished, each officer commanding a platoon of division, commands:

Halt! Dress to the Right!

And posts himself before the center, the sergeant who covered him taking his place on the right.

Forward- March!

The whole step off, and follow the leading division or platoon; the officer who conducts the column receiving his directions from the commanding officer. When the battalion wheels to the right, the left flank of the platoons must dress in a line with each other, and the contrary when they wheel to the left.

Battalion! Halt!

By Platoons! To the Left, - Wheel!

March!

The wheeling finished, each officer commanding a platoon or division orders:

Halt! Dress to the Right!

Dresses his platoon, and takes post in the interval, the battalion being now formed in a line.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE POINTS OF VIEW

The use of these is a most essential part in the maneuvers, which, without them, cannot be executed with facility of precision. They are usually some distant objects (the most conspicuous that can be found) chosen by the commanding officer, to determine the direction of his line, which otherwise would be mere hazard.

The commanding officer having determined on the direction of his line, and his points of view BC, sends out two officers, DE, to seek two intermediate points in the same line; the officer E advances; when D finds him in a direct line between himself and the point of view B, he advances, taking care to keep E always between him and point B, which he must do by making him signals to advance or retire; when E finds D in the direct line between him and C, he makes him the signal to halt, and they will find themselves in the intermediate points DE.

CHAPTER IX.

OF THE FORMATION AND DISPLAYING OF COLUMNS, WITH THE METHOD OF CHANGING FRONTS.

ARTICLE I.

THE CLOSE COLUMN FORMED ON THE GROUND BY THE RIGHT, THE RIGHT FRONT.

Caution by the commanding officer.

Take Care to form Column by Platoon by the Right; the Right Front!

To the Right,- Face!

The whole face to the right, except the right platoon; at the same time the leading file of each platoon breaks off, in order to march in the rear of its preceding platoon.

March!

The whole step off with the quick step, each platoon marching close in the rear of that preceding it, to its place in the columns. The officers commanding platoons, when they perceive their leading file dressed with that of the platoons already formed, command

Halt! Front! Dress!

And the platoon fronts and dresses to the right.

ARTICLE II.

DISPLAY OF A COLUMN FORMED BY THE RIGHT, THE RIGHT FRONT.

Caution by the Commanding Officer.

Take Care to display column to the Left!

The officers commanding platoons go to the left, in order to conduct them.

To the Left- Face!

The whole face to the left, except the front platoon.

March!

The platoons faced, step off, and march obliquely to their places in the line; when the second platoon has gained its proper distance, its officer commands:

Halt! Front! To the Right- Dress!

Dresses his platoon with that already formed, and takes his post on the right: the other platoons form in the same manner.

ARTICLE 3.

THE CLOSE COLUMN FORMED ON THE GROUND BY THE LEFT, THE LEFT FRONT

This is formed in the same manner as the proceeding column, only facing and marching to the left instead of the right. The officers will conduct their platoons, and having dressed them, return to their posts on the right.

ARTICLE 4.

DISPLAY OF A COLUMN FORMED BY THE LEFT, THE LEFT FRONT.

This column is usually displayed to the right, on the same principles as the column formed to the right is displayed to the left.

ARTICLE 5.

THE CLOSE COLUMN FORMED ON THE CENTER, OR FIFTH PLATOON, THE RIGHT IN FRONT.

Caution Take Care to form column on the fifth Platoon, the Right in Front!

To the Right and Left,- Face!

The fifth platoon stands fast; the others face to the center; the officers post themselves at the head of their platoons, and break off; and on receiving the word

March!

conduct them to their posts in the column; the four platoons on the right forming in the front, and the three platoons on the left forming in the rear of the fifth platoon.

When this column is to be formed with the left in front, the four platoons on the right form in the rear, and the three on the left form in front.

In all formations and displaying, the officers whose platoons march by the left, so soon as they have dressed their platoons in line or column, return to their posts on the right.

ARTICLE 6.

DISPLAY OF A COLUMN HAVING THE RIGHT IN FRONT, FROM THE CENTER, OR FIFTH PLATOON.

Caution Take Care to display Column from the Center!

At this caution the officer of the platoon in front posts a sergeant on each flank of it, who are to remain there till the platoon on which the column displays, has taken its post in the line, when they retire along the rear of the battalion to their platoon.

To the Right and Left- Face!

The four front platoons face to the right, the fifth stands fast, and the sixth, seventh and eighth face to the left.

March!

The four platoons of the right march to the right, the first platoon taking care to march straight towards the point of view; so soon as the fourth has unmasked the fifth, its officer commands,

Halt! Front! March!

And it marches up to its post in the line; the third and second platoon, as soon as they have respectively gained their distances, proceed in the same manner; and then the first halts and dresses with them; the fifth platoon in the mean time marches to its post between the two sergeants; and the three platoons of the left form by marching obliquely to their posts in the line, as before explained.

ARTICLE 7

THE CLOSE COLUMN FORMED BY THE RIGHT, THE RIGHT IN FRONT, DISPLAYED TO THE RIGHT.

When a column is formed by the right, and the nature of the ground will not permit its being displayed to the left, it may be displayed to the right in the following manner:

Caution.

Take Care to display Column to the Right!

The two sergeants are to be posted, as before, on the flanks of the front platoon.

To the Right- Face!

The eighth platoon stands fast, the rest face to the right, and march, the first platoon keeping the line; so soon as the eighth platoon is unmasked, it marches forward to its post between the two sergeants of the first platoon, left there for that purpose; the seventh platoon, having gained its distance, halts, fronts and marches up to its ground; the other platoons proceed in the same manner, as explained in the display from the center.

ARTICLE 8

THE CLOSE COLUMN FORMED BY THE LEFT, THE LEFT IN FRONT, DISPLAYED TO THE LEFT.

This is performed on the same principles as the display of the column in the seventh article.

A column formed either by the right, left or center, may, according to the ground, or any other circumstance, be displayed on any particular platoon, on the principles before explained.

ARTICLE 9.

OPEN COLUMNS

Are formed by wheeling to the right or left by platoons; and, when indispensably necessary, by marching the platoon by files, in the following manner:

Caution

Take care to form open Columns by the Right!

To the Right,- Face!

The right platoon stands fast, the rest face to the right, and break off to the rear.

March!

Each platoon marches to its place in the column, the officers taking care to preserve the proper distances between their platoons.

Open columns may in the same manner be formed by the left, center, of any particular platoon, the officers taking care to preserve their proper distances.

Open columns are formed again in line, either by wheeling by platoons, or by closing columns and displaying, as explained in the articles on close columns.

If the commanding officer chooses to close the open column, he will command

Close- column! March!

On which the platoons march by the quick step, and close to within two paces of each other; when the commanding officer of platoons successively command

Halt! Dress to the Right!

And the column is closed.

When the commanding officers chooses to open a close column, he commands

Open- column!

On which the front platoon advances, followed by the others successively, as fast as they have their distances. The different manners or forming and displaying columns being the basis of all maneuvers, require the greatest attention of both officers and men in the execution. The officers must by frequent practice learn to judge of distances with the greatest exactness; as an augmentation or diminution of the proper distance between the platoons, is attended with much confusion in forming a line. They must also be very careful not to advance beyond the line, in forming battalion, but dress their platoons carefully with the points of view.

ARTICLE 10

OF CHANGING THE FRONT OF A LINE

The changing the front of a platoon, division, or even a battalion, may be performed by a simple wheeling; that of a brigade must be performed by first forming the open column, then marching it into the direction required, and forming the line. If it be necessary to change the front of a line consisting of more than a brigade, the simplest and surest method is to form close columns, either by brigades or battalions, march them to the direction required, and display.

CHAPTER X

OF THE MARCH OF COLUMNS

The march of columns is an operation so often repeated, and of so much consequence, that it must be considered as an essential article in the instruction of both officers and men.

ARTICLE 1.

THE MARCH OF AN OPEN COLUMN.

Column! March! The whole column must always begin to march, and halt, at the same time, and only by order of the commanding officer. After the first twenty paces he should command

Support- Arms!

When the men may march more at their ease, but keeping their files close. Before the column halts, he should command

Carry- Arms! Column! Halt!

Dress to the Right!

When marching in open column, the officer commanding will often form battalion, by wheeling to the right or left, in order to see if the officers have preserved the proper distances between the platoons.

ARTICLE 2

COLUMNS CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF THEIR MARCH.

When a close column is obliged to change the direction of its march, the front platoon must not wheel round on its flank, but advance in a direction more or less circular, according to the depth of the columns, that the other platoons may follow.

An open column changes the direction of its march by wheeling the front platoons, the others following; in doing which, the officers commanding platoons must be particularly careful that their platoons wheel on the same ground with the front platoon; for which purpose a sergeant should be left to mark the pivot on which they are to wheel.

ARTICLE 3.

PASSAGE OF A DEFILE BY A COLUMN.

A column on its march coming to a defile, which obliges it to diminish its front, the officer commanding the first platoon commands

Break off!

On which the those files which cannot pass, break off, face inwards, and follow their platoons by files, and as the defile narrows or widens more files will break off, or join the platoon: The succeeding platoons proceed in the same manner.

If the defile is difficult or long, so soon as the front have passed and gained sufficient ground, they will halt till the whole have passed and formed, when they will continue the march.

ARTICLE 4

A COLUMN CROSSING A PLAIN, LIABLE TO BE ATTACKED BY CAVALRY.

When the commanding officer thinks himself in danger of being attacked by cavalry, he must close the column, and on their approach, halt and face outwards; the front platoon standing fast, the rear platoon going to the right about, and the others facing outwards from their centers.

In case of attack, the two first ranks keep up a smart running fire, beginning as well as ending by a signal from the drum. The soldiers must be told, that under these circumstances, their safety depends wholly on their courage; the cavalry being only to be dreaded when the infantry cease to resist them. When the column is to continue its march, the officer commands

Column! To the Front,- Face! March!

The platoons face to the front, and march.

ARTICLE 5

A COLUMN MARCHING BY ITS FLANK.

Column! To the {Right/Left} Face!

If the column marches by the left, the officers go to the left of their respective platoons.

March!

The column marches, dressing by the right.

Column! Halt! Front!

The column faces to the front.

CHAPTER XI OF THE MARCH IN THE LINE

ARTICLE I.

THE MARCH TO THE FRONT

Battalion! Forward!

At this caution the ensign with the colors advances six paces; the sergeant who covered him taking his place. The whole are to dress by the colors. The commandant of the battalion will be posted two paces in front of the colors, and will give the ensign an object to serve as a direction for him to march straight forward.

March!

The ensign who carries the colors will be careful to march straight to the object given him by the colonel; to do which, he must fix on some intermediate object.

If many battalions are in the line, the ensigns must dress by the ensign of the center; if only two, they will dress by each other. They must be very careful not to advance beyond the battalion they are to dress by, it being much easier to advance than to fall back.

Should the battalion by any cause be hindered from advancing in line with the rest, the ensign of that battalion must drop his colors, as a signal to the other battalions (who might otherwise stop to dress by them) not to conform to their movements; the colors to be raised again when the battalion has advanced to its post in the line.

The commanding officer of each battalion must be careful that his men dress and keep their files close, and to preserve the proper distances between his own battalion and those on his flanks; and when he finds that he is too near the one or the other he must command

Obliquely- To the {Right/Left!}

When the battalion will march by the oblique step, as ordered, till they have recovered their distance, and receive the command

Forward!

Upon which the battalion will march forward, and the ensign take a new object to march to.

If the distance is augmented or diminished only two or three paces, the commanding officer will order the colors to incline a little, and then march forward; the battalion conforming to their movement.

The officers commanding platoons will continually have an eye over them, immediately remedying any defect, carefully dressing with the center, and keeping step with the colors.

The officers in the rear must take care of the second rank, remedying any defect in a low voice, and with as little noise as possible.

The soldier must not advance out of the rank the shoulder opposite the side he dresses to; he must not crowd his right or left hand man, but give way to the pressure of the center, and resist that of the wings; he must have his eyes continually fixed on the colors, turning his head more or less, in proportion to his distance from them.

Battalion! Halt!

The whole stop short on the feet then advanced.

Dress to the Right!

The men dress to the right, and the colors fall back into the ranks.

ARTICLE 2

OF THE CHARGE WITH BAYONETS

The line marching, the commanding officer, on approaching the enemy, commands

March! March!

On which the whole advance by the quick step.

Charge- Bayonet!

The line charge their bayonets, and quicken their step; the drums beat the long roll; and the officers and men must take care to dress to the center, and not crowd or open their files.

Battalion! Slow Step!

The battalion fall into the slow step, and carry their arms.

Halt! Dress to the Right!

The battalion halts and dresses to the right.

ARTICLE 3.

METHOD OF PASSING ANY OBSTACLE IN FRONT OF A LINE.

When an obstacle presents itself before any division, platoon, or number of files, the officer commanding the platoons, &c. commands

Break off!

On which the files obstructed face outwards from their center, and follow by files the platoons on their right and left; if the platoons on the wings are obstructed, they will face inwards, and follow in the same manner.

In proportion as the ground permits, the files will march up to their places in front, dress, and take step with the colors.

ARTICLE 4

PASSAGE OF A DEFILE IN FRONT, BY PLATOONS

A battalion marching and meeting with a bridge or defile, over or through which not more than the front of a division can pass at a time, the commanding officer orders

Halt!

And then to the two platoons before whom the defile presents itself

March!

On which they pass the defile in one division. As soon as those two platoons have marched, the commanding officer orders

To the Right and Left- Face!

The platoons on the right face to the left, and those on the left side face to the right.

March!

They march till they join, fronting the defile; when the commanding officer of the two platoons commands

Halt! Front! March!

And they pass the defile; the rest following in the same manner. As soon as the front division has passed, it will halt; and the other divisions, as fast as they arrive in the rear, face outwards, and march by files till they come to their proper places in battalion; when the officers commanding the platoon order

Halt! Front! Dress!

And the platoons dress in line with those already formed.

ARTICLE 5.

PASSAGE OF A DEFILE IN FRONT, BY FILES

If the defile will not permit more than four files to pass, the four files before which the defile presents itself enter without any word of command; the rest face inwards, and follow them; the whole marching through by files.

As soon as the files which first entered, have passed, they halt; the others, as fast as they pass, marching to their places in battalion.

ARTICLE 6.

OF THE MARCH IN RETREAT

Battalion! To the right about- Face!

The whole face to the right about; the officers keeping their posts.

Forward- March!

The colors advance six paces, and the whole step off, dressing by them.

The passage of any obstacle in retreat, is the same as in the march to the front.

ARTICLE 7.

PASSAGE OF A DEFILE IN RETREAT, BY PLATOONS.

If it is at any time necessary to pass a defile in the rear, in presence of an enemy, the line must march as near as possible to the defile; when the commanding officer orders

To the Front- Face!

From the Wings- By Platoons- Pass the Defile in the Rear!

The two platoons on the wings face outwards.

March!

The two platoons wheel by files, and march along the rear of the battalion to the entrance of the defile; where joining, their officers command

Halt! To the {Right/Left} Face!

The platoon of the right wing faces to the left; the other platoon faces to the right; and both pass in one division; the other platoons following in the same manner, except those of the center.

When all have entered but the two center platoons, that on the right faces to the right about, and marches twenty paces into the defile; when the officer commands

Halt! To the Right about- Face!

The officer of the other platoon, when he sees them faced, will retire in the same manner; and having passed twenty paces beyond the platoon halted in the defile, comes also to the right about; they continuing in this manner to cover each other's retreat till they have passed, when they face to the front, and cover the defile.

The three platoons of the right wing wheel to the left; those of the left wing wheel to the right; and having gained their proper distances, the commanding officer orders

Halt! - Platoons!

To the Right and Left, - Wheel! March!

The right wing wheels to the left, and the left to the right; which forms the battalion. If the defile should present itself behind any other part of the battalion, the platoons farthest off must always retreat first; and if the defile becomes narrower than at the entrance, the platoons must double behind each other.

ARTICLE 8

PASSAGE OF A DEFILE IN RETREAT, BY FILES.

This maneuver is performed in the same manner as the preceding, except that, instead of forming at the entrance, the platoons pass by files; and having passed, face to the right and left, march till they have their proper distances, and then wheel and form battalion.

The passage of defiles may be executed at first in the common step, for the introduction of the troops; in service, always in the quick step.

The passage of defiles being difficult in presence of an enemy, the officers must be particularly careful to keep the files closed; to be quick in giving the words of command; and not lose any time in the execution.

The maneuver should always be covered by troops posted on each side the defile, and on every advantageous piece of ground that presents itself, to annoy and keep back the enemy.

ARTICLE 9

METHOD OF PASSING THE FRONT LINE TO THE REAR.

The second line, if not already formed in columns, will immediately, on perceiving the first line retire, form in that order by brigades or battalions; and the first line having passed the intervals between the columns, the second line will display; or, if too closely pressed by the enemy, attack in columns the flanks of the battalion which pursue, thereby giving time for the first line to form and take a new position.

CHAPTER XII.

OF THE DISPOSITION OF THE FIELD-PIECES ATTACHED TO THE BRIGADES.

The field-pieces attached to the different brigades must always remain with them, encamping on their right, unless the quartermaster general thinks proper to place them on any advantageous piece of ground in front.

When the army marches by the right, the field-pieces must march at the head of their respective brigades; when it marches by the left, they follow in the rear, unless circumstances determine the general to order otherwise; but, whether they march in front, center or rear of their brigades, they must always march between the battalions, and never between the platoons.

In maneuvering they must also follow their brigades, performing the maneuvers and evolutions with them; observing that, when the close column is formed, they must always proceed to the flank of the column opposed to that side their brigade is to display to; and on the columns displaying, they follow the first division of their brigade; and when that halts and forms, the field-pieces immediately take their posts on its right.

CHAPTER XIII

OF THE FIRINGS

When the troops are to exercise with powder, the officers must carefully inspect the arms and cartridge boxes, and take away all the cartridges with ball.

The first part of the general will be the signal for all firing to cease; on the beating of which the officers and non-commissioned officers must see that their platoons cease firing, load and shoulder as quick as possible. The commanding officer will continue the signal till he sees that the men have loaded and shouldered.

ARTICLE I.

FIRING BY BATTALION

Caution

Take Care to Fire by Battalion!

Battalion! Make ready! Take Aim! Fire!

If there be more than one battalion to fire, they are to do it in succession from right to left; but after the first round, the odd battalion fire so soon as the respective battalions on their left begin to shoulder; and the even battalions fire when the respective battalions on their right begin to shoulder.

ARTICLE 2.

FIRING BY DIVISIONS AND PLATOONS

Caution.

Take care to fire by Divisions!

Division! Make ready! Take aim! Fire!

They fire in the same order as is prescribed for battalions in Article I.

The firing by platoons is also executed in the same order in the wings of the battalion, beginning with the right of each: that is, the first and fifth platoons give the first fire, the second and sixth the second fire, the third and seventh the third fire, and the fourth and eighth the fourth fire; after which they fire as before prescribed.

ARTICLE 3.

FIRING ADVANCING.

The battalion advancing receives the word

Battalion! Halt!

Take care to fire by Divisions!

They fire as before.

ARTICLE 4.

FIRING RETREATING

When a battalion is obliged to retire, it must march as long as possible; but if pressed by the enemy and obliged to make use of its fire, the commanding officer will order,

Battalion! Halt!

To the Right about- Face!

And fire by battalion, division, or platoon, as before directed.

CHAPTER XIV OF THE MARCH OF AN ARMY OR CORPS

The greatest attention on the part of the officers is necessary at all times, but more particularly on the march: the soldiers being then permitted to march at their ease, with the ranks and files open, without the greatest care, these get confounded one with another; and if suddenly attacked, instead of being able to form immediately in order of battle, the whole line is thrown into the utmost confusion.

The order of the march of an army being given, the adjutant general will appoint the field officers for the advanced and rear guards, and issue order to the brigade majors to have ready their respective quotas of other officers and men for the advanced guard, which will consist of the number necessary for the guards of the new camp. These, together with a pioneer of each company, and a sergeant from the regiment to conduct them, must be warned the evening before.

At the beating of the general, the troops are immediately to strike their tents, and load the waggons, which must then fall into the line of march for the baggage.

At this signal also all general and staff officers guards, and those of the commissaries, must return to their respective regiments.

At the beating of the assembly, the troops will assemble, and be formed in battalion on their respective parades.

The guards ordered, must then be conducted by the brigade majors, or adjutants of the day, to the rendezvous appointed for the advanced guard, where the field officers warned for that duty, will form them in battalions, or other corps, according to their strength, and divide them regularly into divisions and platoons. The officer commanding the advanced guard, must take care to have a guide with him, and to get every necessary information about the road.

The camp guards must at the same time retire to the rendezvous appointed for the rear guard, where they must be formed in the same manner.

At the same time also the quartermasters and pioneers of each battalion must assemble on the ground appointed for the advanced guard, where one of the deputies of the quartermaster general must form them in platoons, in the same order as their respective battalions march in the column.

Each detachment will be conducted by its quartermaster, who must be answerable that it marches in the order prescribed; and the quartermasters of brigades will conduct those of their respective brigades, and be answerable for their behavior.

The signal for marching being given, the whole will wheel by platoons or sections, as shall be ordered, and begin the march.

The advanced guard will march at a distance from the main body proportioned to its strength, having a patrol advanced; and must never enter any defile, wood &c. without having first examined it, to avoid falling into an ambuscade.

The pioneers are to march behind the advanced guard, and must repair the roads, that the column may be obliged to file off as little as possible.

The advanced guard, besides its patrols in front, must have flank guard, composed of a file from each platoon, and commanded by an officer, or non-commissioned officer, to march at the distance of one hundred paces on the flank, and keep up with the head of the advanced guard.

If it be necessary to have a flank guard on each side, a file must be sent from the other flank of each platoon to compose it; and as this service is fatiguing, the men should be relieved every hour. The like flank guards are to be detached from each battalion, in the column.

For the greater convenience of the soldiers, the ranks must be opened to half distance during the march.

When the column meets with a defile, or any obstacle, the commanding officer must stop till the column has passed it, taking care that they pass in as great order and as quick as possible; and when one half have marched through, he must command the front to halt, till the whole have passed and formed, when he will continue the march.

When a column crosses a road that leads to the enemy, the patrols or guards on the flanks of the first battalion must form on the road, and halt till the patrols of the next battalion come up, which must do the same: the others proceed in the same manner, till the whole have passed.

When the commanding officer thinks proper to halt on the march, immediately on the columns halting, the advanced, flank and rear guards must form a chain of sentinels, to prevent the soldiers from straggling; and all necessaries, as wood, water &c. must be fetched by detachments, as in camp.

On the beating the long roll, the whole are to form and continue the march.

On the march no orders are to be communicated by calling out, but must be sent by the adjutants from regiment to regiment. The signals for halting, marching slower and quicker, must be given by the beat of drum (see chapter XXI).

The commanding officer of the advanced guard being informed by the quartermaster general, of his deputy, of the ground the troops are to encamp on, will go a head and reconnoiter it; and immediately on the arrival of the advanced guard, post his guards and sentinels as directed in Chapter XXII.

March by Sections of Four

The roads being very often too narrow to admit the front of a platoon, and the troops being therefore continually obliged to break off, which fatigues the men; to prevent this, when the road is not sufficiently large throughout, the battalions may be divided into sections in the following manner: Each platoon is to be told off into sections of four files; if there remain three files, they form a section; if two files, or less, they form one rank. At the word,

By sections of Four!

To the Right- Wheel! March!

They wheel by fours and march, the second rank of each section taking two paces distance from the front rank. The officers commanding platoons take post on the left of their first section; but on the right, if the sections wheel to the left. The file-closers fall in on the flanks.

The officers must take great care that the distance of two paces, and no more, is kept between the ranks. At the word,

Halt!

The front rank of each section stops short and the second rank closes up, which gives the proper distance between the sections; and by wheeling to the right or left the line is formed: or if the commanding officer chooses, he may form platoons by the oblique step.

If a column be already on the march by platoons, and the road becomes too narrow and inconvenient to continue in that order, it may be formed into sections of four, in the following manner:

Caution by the commanding officer:

Take Care to break off by Sections of Four!

Upon which the officers commanding platoons tell them off as before, but without halting.

At the word

Sections of Four! Break off!

The sections on the right of each platoon incline by the oblique step to the left; and those on the left of each platoon, following the former, incline to the right, till they all cover; when they march forward, opening the ranks as before directed. If the number of sections in a platoon be uneven, that in the center is to march straight forward; the sections on the right inclining to the left, and covering it in front; and those on the left inclining to the right, and covering it in the rear.

Source: https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Revolutionary_War_Drill_Manual