

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

MILITARY OFFICERS:

COMPREHENDING

A CONCISE SYSTEM OF MILITARY GEOMETRY, FIELD
FORTIFICATION AND TACTICS OF RIFLE-
MEN AND LIGHT INFANTRY.

ALSO

THE SCHEME FOR FORMING A CORPS OF A PARTI-
SAN, AND CARRYING ON THE *PETITE GUERRE*,
BY ROGER STEVENSON, Esq. REVISED,
CORRECTED, AND ENLARGED.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

A NEW

MILITARY DICTIONARY;

CONTAINING

THE FRENCH WORDS, AND OTHER TECHNICAL
TERMS, NOW USED IN THE *ART OF WAR*;

WITH

OTHER MATTER CONNECTED WITH
MILITARY OPERATIONS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES.

By E. HOYT,

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MASSACHUSETTS.

To be prepared for War is one of the most effectual means of pre-
serving Peace. WASHINGTON.

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flow, according to the pleasure of the officer commanding.

When exercising troops that have acquired some expertness, the words of command may be abridged, by omitting some of the cautionary words. The command in the above *example* may be given thus:

Platoon—right—file front—March!

When *platoon* occurs, the first syllable may be flurred, and the word pronounced *P'toon*. Many other words may be flurred in a similar manner; experience will point out to the intelligent officer when and how to apply the rule.

In the exercise, the officers must be very attentive to the words of the commanding officer, and when they perceive that the men do not comprehend the words, they must instantly repeat them, *in a low voice*, to their platoons or divisions.

NOTE—In the following part of this chapter, the words of command, by the exercising officer, are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; those by the commanders of divisions, platoons, &c. in *Italics*.

OF THE BUGLE SIGNALS.

Riflemen and light infantry are very often required to perform their movements in the woods, on broken grounds, and in detached parties, many times so remote that they cannot be regulated by the voice alone. Hence the necessity of some other method of conveying the orders of the commanding officer. The *bugle-horn*, being an audible and convenient instrument, has been adopted for this purpose.

By a system of signals, adapted to this instrument, and well understood by the officers and men, the movements are easily regulated, and the designs of the commander made known in all situations, without the sound of the horn.

EXERCISE OF A COMPANY.

The signals are of two kinds, one for the regulation of the common duties of the camp, viz. the *reveille*, *rouse* or *parade*, *dinner-call*, *retreat*, and *watch*; the other for the exercise and movements, viz.

To Advance.

Halt.

Commence firing.

Cease firing.

Turn out skirmishers.

Call in skirmishers.

Form the line, from file or column.

Retreat in order.

Retreat *a la debandade*.
Rally.

The signals for these should be distinguished by short appropriate names, and the buglers must make themselves perfectly familiar with each, and know which to give for any ordered movement.

OF THE EXERCISE AND MOVEMENTS OF A COMPANY OF RIFLEMEN OR LIGHT INFANTRY.

Under this head, after applying the principles of the drill to the wheelings of divisions and platoons, opening the ranks and files, and performing the other rudimental exercises of the company, the movements peculiar to riflemen and light infantry will be given. These movements, though principally adapted to the company, may, with a trifling variation of the words and explanations, serve for those of a battalion.

In addition to these, light infantry should be taught the exercise and movements of the infantry of the line, that they may manœuvre with them when circumstances render it necessary.

woods, and for communicating discoveries made by the out-parties.

These may be the following :

1st. Signals from the commander.

To march quicker.

To march slower.

Out-parties to approach within view of the columns.

Out-parties to take the ordinary distance.

2d. Signals from the out-parties.

On arriving at a defile, which will alter the order of march.

On meeting with a river, lake, morass, or precipice, which is impassable.

On perceiving signs of an enemy.

On discovering the enemy.

If infantry.

If cavalry.

If both united.

Signals must be *continued* by the party giving them, until they are *repeated*, by those to whom they are directed : this will prevent mistakes and false movements. These signals must be concealed from the enemy, and may frequently be changed by the commander, to prevent their gaining a knowledge of them.

The *combined operations* of infantry and cavalry, might here be added ; but as they depend almost wholly on the nature of the ground, the position and strength of the enemy, and the application of the principles and movements contained in this chapter, and many will be treated of in those which follow, it is left to the skill and judgment of officers to combine and vary the movements and apply them to existing circumstances : And this is easily done, by those who possess a ready *coup d'œil*, joined to a steady intrepidity ; and such only, are capable of conducting troops properly in the field, when opposed to a skillful enemy.

DETACHMENTS AND SECRET MARCHES.

CHAPTER IX.

Of conducting detachments and secret marches.

DETACHMENTS are particular bodies of soldiers taken from a greater body, to guard a post, or to go on an expedition.

When an officer is ordered on a detachment, he should provide himself with a cord, regularly divided, in case he has occasion to intrench, and be early at the parade, to get information from the brigade-major, whether he is destined to relieve a detachment, or to occupy a post for the first time. If to relieve a detachment, he is only to know where the guide is, who is to conduct him. The guide is a soldier sent by the officer, who is to be relieved, as orderly-man to the major general, who, by having been at the post before, can lead a new detachment to it.

If it is a post that is to be occupied for the first time, the officer is to ask the brigade-major for instructions relating to its defence. After receiving these, he must inspect his party, and take care that every soldier is properly equipped ; his firelock loaded, fresh primed, and a good flint well fixed ; his cartouch-box filled with cartridges ; and that he carries provision for twenty-four hours, which is the time that detachments commonly continue on duty. Care must be taken to provide spades, pick-axes, and hatchets, one or two of each ; and if any thing is wanting, to apply to the brigade quartermaster for it, that he may have every thing necessary for intrenching. Perhaps young officers may say that these are unnecessary

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join those on the left. The rear guard continues its position.

If it is determined to attack the enemy, the light companies may advance, to gain and attack the flanks of the enemy, the line advancing as the case may require.

2. TO FORM WHEN THE ATTACK IS ON THE RIGHT FLANK.

Should the enemy, notwithstanding the vigilance of the van, evade a discovery, as may happen, when he forms an ambuscade beyond the reach of the rifle chain, and advance to attack the right flank, the light infantry and supporting party, on that flank, will attack, and if possible, keep him back until the regiment is formed in order of battle. On the first fire, the whole halt; the half battalions countermarch from the right by files, which forms a column of half battalions, right in front. This column may deploy on a flank or centre and form one line; or on the right half battalion, of each battalion, and form two lines. The rifle company, in the mean time, closes files and changes position, by a quarter conversion to the right, and may advance to gain the right flank of the enemy. If the light infantry engaged on the right, are to retire, it will fall back to the right flank of the regiment, and there be joined by the half company, which was on the left. It may then advance to gain the left flank of the enemy. The rear guard, which will now be on the right flank, must change position to the right and form on the right of the regiment, and wait orders. The pack-horses fall back into the rear of the line.

2. TO FORM WHEN THE ATTACK IS ON THE LEFT.

The whole halt; the columns face to the left and deploy into one or two lines, as shall be ordered.

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The rifle company closes, changes position to the left; the light infantry form on the left flank, and both may advance and attack the enemy in flank; the rear guard forms up on the left flank of the regiment, and the pack-horses fall into the rear.

4. TO FORM WHEN THE ATTACK IS ON THE REAR.

At the commencement of the attack on the rear guard, the pack-horses advance and pass the columns. The half platoons of riflemen, E F G H, may be ordered back to support the rear guard, while the regiment forms. This may be done by moving up to the proper front, by the line of science, as in the front attack, and then facing about: Or, to prevent an *inversion* of the flanks, which this formation produces, the battalions may exchange places, if time will permit, as follows. The columns of the first battalion face to the left, those of the second to the left about; the half battalion, B, forms on the right of its rear, files by line of science; A marches past B, in the rear, and forms up in the same manner on the right of B. The half battalions C and D, at the same time wheel by files to the left, and file along the front of B; when C arrives at its ground on the left of B, it halts, falls back, and dresses in line with B. The half battalion D, halts when it arrives at its ground on the left of C, and forms on the same line. The light companies may now take their places on the flanks of the regiment, or advance and attack the flanks of the enemy, and the rear guard fall back as shall be ordered.

ADDITIONAL SIGNALS.

In addition to the bugle signals, for the movements of light troops, given in page 171, others are necessary for regulating the march of troops in the

and manœuvres, and introduce the established system of discipline, throughout the brigade, agreeably to law and such orders as they shall from time to time receive from the commander in chief of the state; to make return to the adjutant general of the state, at least once in every year, of the militia of the brigade to which they belong, reporting therein the actual situation of the arms, accoutrements, and ammunition of the several corps, and every other thing which in their judgment may relate to the government and general advancement of good order and military discipline.

BRIGAND, *Fr.* a free booter; every soldier who, contrary to orders and the acknowledged usages of war, commits acts of plunder.

BRINGERS-UP, an expression to signify the whole rear rank of a corps, being the hindmost men of every file.

BRISURE, in fortification, a line of four or five fathom, which is allowed to the curtain and orillon, to make the hollow tower, or to cover the concealed flank.

BROADSIDE, in a sea fight, implies the discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship.

BROAD-SWORD, a sword with a broad blade chiefly designed for cutting. Among the cavalry, this has in general given place to the *fabre*.

The principal guards with the broad-sword are,

The *inside guard* (similar to *carte*, in fencing) which is formed by directing your point in a line about six inches higher than your antagonist's left eye, the hilt opposite your own breast, the finger nails turned up and the edge of the sword to the left.

Outside guard (resembling tierce in which, by a turn of the wrist from the former position, the point of the sword is directed above your antagonist's right eye, and the edge of the weapon turned to the right, to protect the outside of your body from the attack.

Medium guard, a position between the inside and outside guard, seldom used, as it affords very little protection.

Hanging guard (similar to *prim* and *seconde*) in which the hilt of your sword is raised high enough to view your opponent under the shell and the point directed towards the body.

St. George's guard, this protects the head, and differs from the last described, only in raising the hand somewhat higher, and bringing the point nearer to yourself.

Those officers who have not the opportunity of regular lessons from a professed teacher, may obtain much useful information from an English work entitled *Art of defence with the broad-sword*, &c. in which the spadron, or cut and thrust sword play, is reduced to a regular system.

BROTHER Soldiers, an affectionate and endearing term, used among military men, from the commander to the lowest drum boy, inclusive.

BRUNT. The troops who sustain the principal shock of the enemy, in an action, are said to bear the brunt of the battle.

BUCKLER, a piece of defensive armour, used by the ancients.

BUFF-Leather, a sort of leather prepared from the Buffalo, and used for military accoutrements.

BUGLE-HORN, the old Sax-on horn; it is now used by the light

infantry and rifle corps, for directing their movements, either in advancing or retreating. It is also used by the horse artillery and some regiments of cavalry.

Military BUILDINGS. Powder magazines, bridges, gates, barracks, hospitals, store houses, &c. are so called.

BULLETIN, *Fr.* any official account, which is given of public transactions.

BULLETS, leaden balls where-with all kinds of small fire arms are loaded.

BURIALS Military. In the British army, all officers attending funerals, of even their nearest relations, wear their regimentals and only a black crape round the left arm. The pall is supported by officers of the same rank with that of the deceased: if the number cannot be had, officers next in seniority supply their places.

The order of march is reversed with respect to rank; the youngest ensign marches at the head immediately after the pall, and the general, if there be one, in the rear of the commissioned officers, who take their posts in reversed order according to seniority. The battalion, troop, or company, follow the same rule, with reversed arms.

The salutes used on these occasions differ according to the different grades. Generals are saluted with three rounds from 5 to 15 pieces of cannon, according to rank, attended by several battalions and squadrons. Field officers are saluted with three rounds of small arms from the regiment, or detachment of it, to which they belong. Captains and subalterns, with three rounds from 27 to 70 men of their companies. Non-commis-

sioned officers, musicians, and privates, have three rounds from 13 to 19 men of their companies.

BURREL-Shot, small bullets, nails, and stones, discharged from any piece of ordnance.

BUT, in gunnery, a solid earthen parapet, to fire against in proving guns, or in practice.

BUTTON, the hind part of a cannon or howitzer, made round in the form of a ball.

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CADENCE, in tactics implies a regular and uniform method of marching, with or without music; it may not improperly be called mathematical marching.

CADENCE, or *Cadency*, among cavalry, is an equal measure or proportion, which a horse observes in all his motions.

CADET, a young gentleman who sometimes serves in the army with or without pay, till a vacancy happens for his promotion. Each company of artillery in the service of the United States, has two cadets, who receive pay and rations. The students in the military academy, at West Point, are called cadets, and also receive pay and rations. The proper signification of cadet, is younger brother.

CAISSE, *Fr.* a sort of wooden box in which the charge for the explosion of a mine is deposited.

CAISSON, in military affairs, is a wooden frame or chest, made square, the side planks about 2 inches thick: it is made to contain from 4 to 20 loaded shells, the sides so high that when the cover is nailed on, the fuses may not be damaged. *Caissons* are buried in the ground 5 or 6 feet, under some work the enemy intend