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DRILL FOR MOUNTED RIFLES, 1895.

Part I.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

Alignment.—Any straight line on which the front of a body of troops is formed, or is to be formed.

Point of Formation.—The point on which a formation is based.

Base Company or Battalion.—The company or battalion from which a formation is regulated or dressed.

Battalion.—Four or more companies. It is divided into two half-battalions.

Brigade.—Two or more battalions.

Column.—Bodies of troops placed directly behind each other.

Column of Companies.—Companies formed on parallel and successive alignments, at a distance from each other of their own frontage.

Column of Divisions.—Divisions formed on parallel and successive alignments, at a distance from each other equal to their own frontage.

Column of Sections.—Sections formed on parallel and successive lines, with a distance equal to their own frontage.

Column of Half-sections.—Half-sections formed on parallel and successive lines, with a distance equal to their own frontage.

File.—One man.

Half-column.—Half the distance of column.

Quarter-column.—From one company or division to another; five horses' lengths.

Company.—The eighth part of a battalion.

Division.—Half of a company.

Squad.—A small number of men formed up for drill or fatigue.

Section.—Four men in line.

Half-section.—Two men in line.

Rank.—A line of men placed side by side, each man occupying 4ft. when mounted, and 27in. when dismounted.

Supernumeraries.—Non-commissioned officers, buglers, and farriers, in rear, forming the second rank.

Fire-unit.—Any number of men firing by the executive command of one man.

Defile.—A narrow pass.

To defile.—To pass through in a narrow formation.

To deploy.—To move out from column into a shallower formation.

Depth.—The space occupied by a body of troops from front to rear.

Distance.—The space between men or bodies of troops from front to rear.

Echelon.—A formation of successive and parallel units, fronting in the same direction, each on a flank, and to the rear of the unit in its front.

Diagonal March.—A march by which troops move to a flank at an angle less than a right angle to their proper front.

Drill.—Training preparatory to work in the field.

Flank, Inner.—That nearest the point of formation or direction.

Flank, Directing.—That by which units march.

Flank, Outer.—That opposite to the inner or directing flank.

Front.—The direction of the enemy, real or supposed.

Frontage.—The extent of ground covered laterally by troops.

Change of Front.—Taking up a new alignment either meeting or intersecting the former alignment.

Interval.—The lateral space between men, units, or corps.

Line.—Troops formed on the same alignment.

Manœuvre.—The application in the field of the movements learnt at drill.

Position, Change of.—The movement by which a body of troops moves altogether off its ground, either to the front, rear, or flank, and re-forms on a new alignment.

To dress.—To take up an alignment correctly.

INTERVALS AND DISTANCES—MOUNTED.

Intervals are measured from knee to knee.

Intervals between men, 12in.

Half-open files, 24in.

Open files, 4ft.

Between companies, 12 yards.

Sections, 12in.

Half-sections, 12in.

Horse's length, 8ft.

When sections or half-sections are extended the interval between files will be 1 yard. This interval will also be taken when men in column of sections or half-sections are required to dismount. The command would be given before halting—"From the right (or left), take dismounted intervals"—when the files would at once incline from the hand named.

The object of this extra interval is to enable men to dismount and get under cover ready to open fire with the greatest rapidity if required.

FRONTAGE.

The frontage of mounted rifles is calculated as 4ft. for each horse in the ranks. This includes 12in. from knee to knee when in line.

DISTANCES.

Distances are measured from head to croup.

In Line.—Company commander will be three horses' lengths in front of the centre of the company. Division leaders one horse's length in front of the centre of their respective divisions; supernumeraries the same distance in rear. In ranking past by file the distance from nose to croup will be 6ft.

Part I.

RECRUIT DRILL—MOUNTED AND DISMOUNTED.

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE RECRUIT ON FOOT.

GENERAL RULES.

1. The instructor must be clear, firm, and concise in giving his instructions.

He must allow for the different capacities of recruits, and be patient with them.

The instructor should carry a carbine when the squad is receiving instruction in the manual or firing exercise, and should teach by illustration rather than repetition of explanations.

Recruits should comprehend one part of their drill before they proceed to another. When first taught their position they should be properly placed by the instructor. When more advanced they should not be touched, but taught to correct themselves when spoken to.

They should not be kept too long at any exercise. Marching without arms should be intermixed with instructions with arms.

2. *Duration of Drills.*—Short and frequent drills are preferable to long ones, which exhaust the strength and attention of the recruit.

Recruits should be moved on from squad to squad, according to their aptitude, so that the quick and smart man will not be kept back.

3. *Mutual Instructions.*—A system of mutual instruction should be practised among the smartest men of the squad. It gives the young recruit confidence and interest in his work, and to a certain extent prepares him for the position of non-commissioned officer.

4. *Words of Command.*—Every command must be distinctly pronounced, and be sufficiently loud to be heard by all concerned. Every command that consists of one word must be preceded by a caution. The caution must be given slowly and distinctly. The last, or executive part, which in general consists of one word, must be given sharply and quickly—as, “Company—Halt”; “Half-right—turn.” A pause will always be made between the caution and executive word.

When the last word of a caution is the signal for any preparatory movement, it will be given as an executive word, and separated from the rest of the command by a pause, thus: “Right-form,” “Quick march,” as though there were two separate commands, each with its caution and executive word.

When the men are in motion the executive word must be completed as they are commencing the pace which will bring them to the spot on which the movement has to be executed. The cautionary part of the command must therefore be commenced accordingly.

The cautions and commands herein given are to one flank only. The same principle applies equally to the other flank, and should also be practised.

SQUAD DRILL.

RECRUIT DRILL, WITH INTERVALS.

POSITION OF THE RECRUIT.

The exact squareness of the shoulders and body to the front is the first and great principle of the position of the trained soldier. The heels must be in line and closed, the knees straight, the toes turned out so that the feet may form an angle of forty-five degrees, the arms hanging easily from the shoulders, elbows to the rear and slightly bent, hands partially closed, the backs of fingers lightly touching the thighs, thumb close to the forefinger, the hips rather drawn back, and chest advanced, but without constraint.

The body should be straight but inclined forward, so that the weight may bear principally on the fore part of the feet; head erect, but not thrown back; chin slightly drawn in, and the eyes looking straight to the front.

FORMATION OF SQUADS OF RECRUITS.

1. The squad, standing in line in close files, will receive the command from the instructor, “Take full interval from the right,” “Left—close,” “Quick—march.” On the word “march” the whole squad, except the right-hand man, step off as directed, each file halting as he gets full interval from the man on his right, at the same time raising the right arm direct to the right, and as high as the shoulder, fingers extended, palm up, placing the tips of the fingers on the point of the left shoulder of the man on his right, and glancing the eyes to the right to take up the dressing. As soon as the whole of the squad have gained their intervals the instructor will give the command “Eyes front,” when all except the right-hand man (whose arm was not extended) will drop the arm to the side and turn the head and eyes to the front.

2. If necessary, the squad may consist of two such lines of men, in which case the men in the second, or rear, rank will cover the intervals between the men of the front rank, so that in marching they will have their own points to move on. The mode of forming two ranks is as follows:—

The squad, standing as before in single rank at "close intervals," will be directed to "Number off from the right." The following commands will then be given by the instructor: "Odd numbers, two paces forward," "March." On the word "march" the odd numbers take two full paces direct to their front. The instructor will then give the following commands: "Eyes right," "Dress." On the word "right," the eyes will be directed to the right, the head being smartly turned in the same direction. On the word "dress," each man, except the right-hand men of ranks, will raise his right arm direct to the right as high as the shoulder, fingers extended, palm up, and place the tips of the fingers on the point of his right-hand men's left shoulder. As soon as the squad has got its dressing and full intervals by easing off or closing in by the side-step, as may be required, the instructor will give the command, "Eyes front," when the arms will be dropped smartly to the side, and the head and eyes turned to the front, when each man will resume the position of attention.

3. Recruits will, in the first instance, be placed by the instructor in line without any dressing, and on the commands "Eyes right," "Dress," the whole will glance their eyes to the right, and move into their dressing by short, quick steps, till each man is just able to distinguish the lower part of the face of the second man from him, towards the dressing flank. Care must be taken that the recruit carries his body backwards or forwards with his feet, keeping his shoulders perfectly square to the front. When all are correctly dressed the instructor will give the command "Eyes front," when the men of the squad will turn their heads and eyes to the front, and resume the position of attention.

4. Recruits formed into squads will be directed to observe their relative places, so that while resting between the exercises they may be permitted to fall out and move about. They will be instructed on the command "Fall in" to fall in as they stood at first.

STANDING AT EASE.

1. *By Numbers.*

Caution.—"Stand at ease, by numbers."

One.—On the word "one," open the hands, raising the arms from the elbows, left hand in front of the centre of the body, as high as the waist, palm up, fingers extended, the right hand as high as the right breast, palm to the left front, both thumbs separated from the fingers, the elbows close to the sides.

Two.—On the word "two," strike the palm of the right hand on that of the left, drop the arms to their full extent, still keeping the hands together, passing the palm of the right hand over the back of the left as they fall, at the same time locking the thumbs, drawing back the right foot six inches, and slightly bending the left knee. When the motion is completed the arms must hang loosely and easily, the fingers pointing towards the ground; the body must incline forward, the weight being on the right leg, and the whole attitude without constraint. When the recruit falls in for drill he will be taught to place himself in the position above described.

Squad, Attention.—On the word "attention," separate the hands and spring up smartly to the position of attention, pressing the heels together.

2. *Judging the Time.*

Caution.—"Stand at ease, judging the time."

Stand at ease.—On the word "ease," go through the motions described in the standing at ease by numbers

distinctly but smartly, and without any pause between the motions.

Squad, Attention.—As before described.

No deviation from the position of stand at ease will be permitted unless the command "Stand easy" is given, when the men will be permitted to move their limbs, but without quitting their ground, so that on coming to attention no one will have materially lost his dressing in line. If men are required to keep their dressing accurately they should be cautioned not to move their left feet.

On the word "squad" being given to men standing easy, every man will at once assume the position of standing at ease.

TURNINGS.

In going through the turnings the left heel must never quit the ground, but the recruit must turn on it as on a pivot, the right foot being drawn back to turn the body to the right, and carried forward to turn it to the left. During the turnings the body must incline forward, the knees being kept pressed back. In the following motions the right foot must be carried back or brought forward without a jerk, the movement being from the hip only, so that the upper part of the body may be kept perfectly steady until it commences to turn.

Right-turn.—On the word "turn," place the hollow of the right foot against the inside of the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

Two.—On the word "two," raise the toes and turn a quarter-circle to the right on both heels, which must be pressed together.

Left-turn.—On the word "turn," place the heel of the right foot against the hollow of the left, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

Two.—On the word "two," raise the toes and turn a quarter-circle to the left on both heels, which must be pressed together.

About-turn.—On the word "turn," place the ball of the right toe against the inside of the left heel, keeping the shoulders square to the front.

Two.—On the word "two," raise the toes and swing smartly right-about on both heels.

Three.—On the word "three," bring the right foot smartly back in line with the left.

Half-right or -left turn.—On the word "turn," draw back or advance the right foot lin.

Two.—On the word "two," raise the toes and turn half-right or -left on both heels.

N.B.—At squad-drill with intervals the turning will always be done by numbers, except when the word "front" is given, in which case the recruit will judge the time, making a pause of quick time after each motion.

SALUTING.

1. *Saluting to the Front.*

Caution.—"Salute by numbers."

One.—On the word "one," bring the right hand smartly with a circular motion, fingers extended, palm to the front, point of the forefinger lin. above the right eye, thumb close to the forefinger, elbow as high as and nearly square with the shoulder.

Two.—On the word "two," let the arm fall smartly to the side.

Caution.—"Salute, judging the time."

Salute.—On the word "salute," go through the two motions described in saluting by numbers, making a pause of three beats of slow time between the motions.

2. *Saluting to the Side.*

Caution.—"Right- or left-hand salute, judging the time."

The salute will always be given with the hand farthest from the person saluted. As the hand is brought to the salute, the head will be slightly turned towards the person saluted.

When several men are walking abreast, the one nearest the person to be saluted will give the time.

When a volunteer is meeting an officer he will commence the salute three paces from him, and lower the hand on the third pace after passing him.

A volunteer if sitting when an officer passes will rise and salute.

When a volunteer approaches an officer for the purpose of addressing him, he will halt three paces from the officer and salute with the right hand, saluting again on the termination of the interview, making the usual pause between the motions of the salute.

A volunteer without his head-dress will not salute, but stand to his front at attention till the person who is entitled to the salute passes.

3. *Saluting with Arms.*

When a volunteer passes or addresses an officer, he will do so at the shoulder, with the left arm brought across the body, and the hand with the fingers extended and close together, meeting the carbine level with the right elbow.

In all cases when saluting an officer, while passing him the head will be slightly turned to the person saluted.

MARCHING.

1. *Length of Pace, and Time.*

Length of pace in quick time is 30in., in double time and stepping out it is 33in., stepping short 21in., and side-step 18½in.

2. *Cadence.*

In quick time, 120 paces per minute, or 3 miles 720 yards in one hour; in double time, 165 paces per minute, or 5 miles and 275 yards per hour. Side-step is the same as quick time.

3. *Position in Marching.*

Position of the Body when marching.—In marching, the volunteer must be well balanced on his limbs. His arms will swing naturally from his shoulders, the right arm swinging forward with the left leg, and the left arm with the right leg; the hands are not to swing in advance of the leading foot, nor across the body, nor will they be raised higher than the waist-belt.

The movement of the leg must be from the haunch, and be free and natural.

Both knees must be kept straight, except while the leg is being carried from the rear to the front, when the knee must be a little bent, to enable the foot to clear the ground. The foot must be carried straight to the front, and, without being drawn back, placed firmly on the ground, but so as not to jerk or shake the body, the toes to be at the same angle as when halted.

Although several men may be drilled together in a squad with intervals, they must act independently, and precisely as if they were being instructed singly. Each recruit must be taught to march in a straight line, and to take a correct pace, both as regards length and time, without reference to the other men of the squad.

Before the squad is put in motion the instructor must see that the men are square individually, and in correct line with each other. Each man must be taught to take up a straight line to his front by first looking down the centre of his body between his feet, then fixing his eyes on some object on the ground direct to his front at a distance of about a

hundred yards; he will then observe some nearer points in the line, such as a stone, tuft of grass, or some other object about fifty yards' distance.

4. *The Quick March.*

Squad, by the right (left, or centre), Quick-march.—On the word "march," the squad will step off together, with the left foot, in quick time, dressing to the point ordered. Before the squad is put in motion the centre man must be told off.

Squad, Halt.—On the word "halt" the moving foot will complete its pace, and the other will be brought smartly up in line with it.

5. *Marking Time.*

When men are on the march, and a direct check is required without halting, the command will be given—

Mark-time.—On the word "time" the foot then advancing will complete its pace, after which the cadence will be continued without advancing, by raising each foot alternately about 3in. from the ground, keeping the body steady, the leg and foot only moving.

Foricard.—On the word "forward" the original length of pace will be resumed.

Squad, Halt.—The squad will halt on the last sound of the word.

A squad at the "halt," if required to mark time, for instruction would receive the command—

Quick, Mark time.—On the word "time" each man would raise his left foot about 3in. from the ground, followed by the right foot in the same manner, keeping the cadence of quick time. If the word "forward" was given, the men would move direct to their front, taking the usual pace of 30in., dressing to the point ordered. If the squad was required to discontinue marking time the word "halt" would be given, when the squad would halt, and remain perfectly steady.

6. *Stepping Back.*

—*Paces step back, March.*—On the word "march," each man will take a full pace of 30in. to the rear with the left foot, following with the right in quick time. The number of paces in stepping back should not, as a rule, exceed four.

7. *Changing Step.*

When a body of men are on the march, and it is required that they should change step, the word "Change step" would be given.

Change-step.—On the word "step," the advancing foot will complete the pace, and the ball of the foot in rear will be brought smartly up to the heel of the advanced foot, which will instantly take another pace forward, so that the cadence will not be lost, two successive steps being taken with the same foot.

In changing step when marking time, the man should beat twice with the same foot, the third beat being given with the foot that was on the ground during the first two beats.

8. *The Double March.*

When a squad standing in line is required to move at the double, the command would be given—

By the right (left, or centre), Double-march.—On the word "march," the men would step off together with the left foot; at the same time they will raise their hands as high as the waist, carrying back the elbows and clenching the fists, the flat part of the arm slightly touching the sides; the head to be kept erect, the shoulders square to the front; the knees are to be more bent, and the body more advanced, than in the other marches. When at the double, the ball of the foot only should be brought to the ground.

Squad, Halt.—On the word "halt," the squad will complete the pace with the foot in front, the other being brought