# $2^{\text {Coy }} 1^{\text {st }}$ Bn $95^{\text {th }}$ (Rifle) Regiment of Foot 



## Drill Manual

## FORMING THE LINE BY SQUADS

ASSEMBLY

FALL-IN

## ATTENTION

STAND AT EASE

SQUAD
(or other caution)

## RIGHT DRESS

Or LEFT/CENTRE

FRONT

FOR INSPECTION
OPEN ORDER
MARCH
REAR RANK DRESS
FRONT
CLOSE ORDER
MARCH

RIGHT FACE

LEFT FACE

RIGHT ABOUT FACE

The right hand marker falls in at the SHOULDER ARMS, the rest of the unit assembles in the rear ready to FALL-IN.

The marker's rear-rank man falls-in behind him, each file then fallsin, in the sequence from the marker at the position of SHOULDER ARMS, 6" asunder to the file next to him, LOOSE FILES.

The Riflemen stands with chin up, shoulders square, chest out, stomach in, heels together and toes out. The free hand is placed on the back of the thigh with palm on the trouser and thumb to the seam.

The Riflemen moves his right foot 6 " to the rear and shifts his weight on to it. The left knee is then slightly bent. The hands are crossed easily in front, with the right on top, the elbow not to bent.

The Riflemen braces up, shifting all his weight on to the left leg ready for the command ATTENTION.

On being ordered to DRESS only the front rank does so. The Riflemen eyes move as directed with the aim of seeing the lower face of the man next to him but one along the rank. He should softly shuffle to position himself accordingly until he is 6" asunder to the man next to him.

Eyes smartly return forward and the rear-rank men dress upon their front rank man.

The right and left flank rear men step back three paces.
The rear rank step back three paces.
The rear rank dresses to the right rear marker.
Eyes smartly return forward.
The rear rank marches back to close with the front rank.

## FACINGS

Place the right instep against the left heel and turn smartly on both heels to right face.

Place the right heel against the left instep and turn smartly on both heels to face left.

Bring the right foot behind and across the left foot with the right toe to the left heel and turn smartly to the right on both heels to face the rear. The left heel remains firmly in place but at the conclusion of the
movement the right foot must come back slightly in order to be in the correct position of ATTENTION.
LEFT ABOUT FACE Bring the right foot forward and place the heel against the left toe and turn smartly to the left upon both heels and face the rear. The left hell will remain firmly in place, but at the conclusion of the movement the right must come forward to assume the correct position of ATTENTION.

## SQUAD WILL CHANGE FRONT BY <br> COUNTER MARCH <br> TO THE FLANKS FACEThe front rank turns right and the rear rank turns left. <br> QUICK MARCH On the word of command both ranks step off and at the flanks wheel sharply onto the ground occupied by the other and carrying on until the files are re-united on the reverse front.

HALT FRONT, DRESS The squad faces to the new front and dresses by the right.

## MARCHING IN LINE AND IN COLUMN

When the command is given for a body of Riflemen to $M A R C H$ it will be prefaced by an indication as to whether the pace will be regulated BY THE RIGHT (marker), BY THE CENTRE (Colours), BY THE LEFT (marker). The line will constantly dress accordingly and neither lag behind nor step ahead of the designated marker.

Irrespective of the direction by which the body of Riflemen will be dressed, on the word MARCH each Rifleman will instantly step forward with his left foot.

Each pace will be 30 " long measured from heel to heel and at the ORDINARY TIME the soles of the feet must always travel parallel with the ground with the toes pointing straight forward. The knees should be kept straight but not uncomfortably rigid and the arms must remain by the Riflemen's sides in the position of ATTENTION.

There are three speeds of marching, but unless otherwise directed the QUICK MARCH is always used for carrying out changes of formation.

ORDINARY TIME 75 paces per minute
QUICK MARCH 120 paces per minute
DOUBLE TIME 140 paces per minute
From time to time it will be necessary to alter the speed or direction of advance/retire in order to conform with other units. When operating with Line Troops all drill will be carried out as per the standard Infantry Regulations.

MARK TIME

STEP SHORT

The Riflemen halts but instead of coming to the position of ATTENTION continues moving his feet forward and then back on the spot, always preserving the time.

The pace is shortened by placing the feet alternately heel to toe, but maintaining the correct pace of March.

STEP OUT

CHANGE STEP
TO THE LEFT/RIGHT
OBLIQUE

Place the right instep against the left heel, them move off on the left foot.

The left/right foot is extended 13 " to the left/right and only 19 " forward in one step while the right/left foot moves straight ahead in the normal manner. The oblique pace continues until the order $F O R W A R D$ is given.

RIGHT SHOULDERS FORWARD

## LEFT SHOULDERS <br> FORWARD

INCLINE TO THE
RIGHT/LEFT
TURN
ADVANCE

The line gradually alters direction to the LEFT, by bringing forward the right shoulder. However strict observance of the marker is always to be kept. This continues until the order FORWARD is given.

As above but alters direction to the RIGHT.

The Platoon makes a half turn to the flank to which they are ordered to incline and continue in the diagonal direction until the is sounded, when they will return to the original front and move forward as before.

## CHANGE OF DIRECTION: WHEELING

This can be compared to the movement of a gate, where the designated marker serves as the hinge or gatepost and each file outwards of him takes a progressively longer pace, with the second man virtually marking time and the outermost man stepping out to the maximum of 33 ".

The pace will however be exactly maintained. From the $H A L T$ it is to be carried out at the QUICK TIME, but if on the MARCH the same pace of MARCH will be maintained.

Unless interrupted by the command HALT-DRESS a wheel may be followed through a full $90^{\circ}$ and it should be noted that the number of paces required to complete the evolution corresponds to the number of files. Thus for example a Platoon of 10 files will take 10 paces to wheel through $90^{\circ}$.

While it is necessary to follow a wheel through the full $90^{\circ}$, this is the maximum allowed. If a greater movement is required the line will HALT-DRESS after the first $90^{\circ}$ and the having dressed, the order to wheel may be repeated.

SQUAD WILL WHEEL

TO THE RIGHT
(pause)
RIGHT WHEEL
(if marching)
HALT
(pause)
MARCH

Preparative command only.
The right marker faces to the right.
If the Platoon is ordered to wheel on the march, the marker will face upon the command $H A L T$ without any further order being given.

The marker stands fast in the position of ATTENTION while the remainder step off together. In so doing the front rank men look out to the left, while the left marker looks to the right and so regulate the
speed and direction. The rear rank follows directly behind their front rank man.

HALT, DRESS, FRONT.The line halts and dresses in the usual manner upon the right marker.

## TURNING ON THE MARCH

## BY FILES RIGHT/LEFT

## TURN

On the command TURN, the front marker turns $90^{\circ}$ and immediately steps off, keeping the pace and dressing, the remaining ranks follow on.

## THE MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE INFANTRY RIFLE

CARRYING THE INFANTRY RIFLE

## PRESENT ARMS

(3 motions)

The Infantry Rifle (rifle) is to be carried in the right hand at arm's length, as in shoulder arms, the cock resting upon the little finger, the thumb upon the guard, and the forefinger under it, the upper part of the barrel close to the hollow of the shoulder, and the butt pressing upon the thigh. The manual exercise being ordered to be performed, the right marker, or Corporal on the right, steps six or more paces to the front, opposite the centre of the company.
$1^{\text {st. }}$. The rifle is raised about two inches by the right hand, and brought forward a little from the shoulder, at the same time the left hand is brought briskly across the body, and seizes the rifle with a full grasp even with the shoulder.
$2^{\text {nd }}$. The right hand brings the rifle even with the face, and opposite the left eye, grasps the small of the stock, turning the lock outwards, the left hand seizes it by the stock, so that the little finger touches the hammer and spring, on a level with the chin, the left elbow close to the butt.
$3^{\text {rd }}$. The rifle is brought in a straight line to the PRESENT, the lock turned inwards, and even with the bottom of the waistcoat, the right foot is placed about three inches behind the left heel, the right hand holding the small of the stock between the forefinger and the thumb, the knuckles upwards, the three other fingers shut in the hand.

## SHOULDER ARMS

 (2 motions)$1^{\text {st. }}$. The rifle is brought quickly across the body to the right side, the right hand slipping round into the original position when shouldered, the left quits its hold, and seizes the rifle again smartly, even with the right shoulder, at the same time the right foot is brought up in line with the left.
$2^{\text {nd. }}$ The left hand quits the rifle, and is brought as quickly as possible flat upon the left thigh.

At the word $A R M S$, the left hand seizes the rifle even with the right shoulder, the right hand quits its hold, grasp the rifle round the muzzle, and brings it gently to the ground, even with the toe of the right foot, the wrist pressing against the side, and elbow as close as possible, the left hand is brought as before on the left thigh.

ORDER ARMS

SHOULDER ARMS

## SUPPORT ARMS

CARRY ARMS

TRAIL ARMS

SHOULDER ARMS
FROM THE ORDER
TO THE TRAIL ARMS

The rifle is brought to the shoulder, as from the order.
The left hand seizes the rifle at the second pipe, the right seizes at the sight, and trails it on the right side at arm's length, and the left falls back on the left thigh.
At the word $A R M S$, the rifle is thrown at once into the right shoulder by a jerk of the right hand, the left catches it till the right seizes the rifle in the proper place, and is then instantly brought to its original position on the left thigh; but must be done with the quickness of one motion. In the performance of this, as indeed of every other motion, the greatest care is to be taken to prevent the rifle falling to the ground, as it is a weapon easily damaged, and in the field, where time and opportunity can not always be found to repair it, the service of a rifleman is lost by every such instance of inattention.

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

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

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

FROM THE TRAIL TO
ORDER ARMS

FIX SWORDS

SHOULDER ARMS
PORT ARMS

The rifle slides gently through the right hand to the ground, when even with the right toe the right hand again grasps the muzzle.

The rifle is pushed forward with the right hand; at the same time the sword is seized back-handed with the left, drawn, and fixed on the piece, when the hand is quickly replaced on the left thigh, and the rifle returned to the order.

As already described.
At one motion the rifle is thrown across the body, the lock turned to the front, and at the height of the breast; the muzzle slanting upwards, so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder; the right hand grasps the small of the stock, and the left holds the piece at the swell, the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle.

CHARGE SWORDS

SHOULDER ARMS

ORDER ARMS
UNFIX SWORDS

SHOULDER ARMS As already described.
SLING ARMS
(2 motions)

SHOULDER ARMS

ORDER ARMS
SLING ARMS

ORDER ARMS
SHOULDER ARMS place on the left thigh.

As already described.

As already described.
As already described. securely around the stock.

As already described.
As already described.

A half face is made to the right and the rifle brought down to nearly a horizontal position, the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the thigh, just below the hip.

The rifleman faxes to the front, and throws the rifle to its position on the shoulder: the left hand quits the rifle briskly, and returns to its

The rifle is pushed from the body, and the left hand (seizing the sword back-handed) presses on the spring; when relieving the sword, it is returned into the scabbard, without shifting the grasp of the hand, and the position of order arms briskly resumed.
$1^{\text {st. }}$. The rifle is brought quickly across the body as the port.
$2^{\text {nd. }}$. The left elbow is put within the sling (in order to do which it is sometimes necessary to slip the hand a little up the stock), the butt is then thrown under the arm, and the sling steadied on the shoulder by the right hand, which, instantly replaced by the left hand, returns to the right thigh, and the rifle is slung with the muzzle downwards.

The rifle is turned with the lock facing to the right by the left hand, holding it by the muzzle. The right hand pulls the rifle sling out into a loop. The rifle is then swung, with due care and attention onto the left shoulder, muzzle upwards, and the left hand grasping the rifle

Excepting the PRESENT ARMS and the SHOULDER that follows (the time of performing which, ought to correspond with that of other troops, who might be drawn up in review order with Riflemen) the orders are generally performed in one motion. Simplicity and facility being great objects in the exercise of light troops, it is certainly desirable, that their versatile and often rapid movements should not be accustomed to wait for the aid of a bugler: slinging and unslinging are, however performed in two motions; it is, therefore, necessary that a Corporal or right marker should step out in front of the Platoon, when the ceremony of PRESENTING $A R M S$, or the MANUAL EXERCISE are to be performed, but no longer. The recruit, never the less, should be taught all parts of each motion distinctly and separately.

## OF LOADING AND FIRING WITH CARTRIDGE

THE PLATOON WILL PRIME AND LOAD

PREPARE TO LOAD The Riflemen half faces to the right, and in the motion brings down the rifle to an horizontal position just above the right hip, the left hand supports it at the swell of the stock, the elbow resting against the side, the right thumb against the hammer, the knuckles upwards, and the elbow pressing against the butt, the lock inclining a little to the body to prevent the powder from falling out. The officer now warns the men in going through the loading motions.

## WAIT FOR THE WORDS OF COMMAND

PAN The pan is pushed open by the right thumb, the right hand then seizes the cartridge with three first fingers.

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

PRIME

SHUT PANS

ABOUT

ROD

HOME

RETURN

The priming is shaken into the pan; in doing which, to see that the powder is properly lodged, the head must be bent; the third and little finger are then placed behind the hammer.

The pan is shut by the third and little finger, the right hand then seizes the small part of the stock between the third and little finger and ball of the hand.

The Riflemen fronts; the rifle is brought to the ground with the barrel outwards, by sliding it with care through the left hand, which then seizes it near the muzzle, the thumb stretched along the stock, the butt is placed between the heels, the barrel between the knees, which must be bent for that purpose: the cartridge is put into the barrel, and the ramrod seized with the forefinger bent and thumb of the right hand.

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

The cartridge is forced down with both hands, the left then seizes the rifle about six inches from the muzzle, the Rifleman stands upright again, draws out the ramrod with the right hand, and puts the end into the pipe.

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

## PRESENT

FIRE

RECOVER

The left hand brings the rifle to the right shoulder; turning the guard outwards, and holds it until the right has its proper hold round the small of the stock, when the left is drawn quickly to the left thigh.

At this word, the rifle is brought by the right hand before the centre of the body, the left seizes it, so that the little finger rest upon the hammer spring, and the thumb stretched along the stock, raising it to the height of the mouth, the right thumb on the cock, and four fingers under the guard; when cocked, which must be done gently, the right hand grasps the small of the stock.

The Riflemen half face to the right, the butt is placed in the hollow of the right shoulder, the right foot steps back about twelve inches behind the left, the left knee is bent, the body brought well forward, the left hand without having quitted his hold, supports the rifle close before the lock, the right elbow raised even with the shoulder, the forefinger on the trigger, the head bent, and check resting on that of the rifle, the left eye shut, the right taking aim through the sight; and awaits the next command.

The riflemen all depress their triggers together and hold the position till the next command.

The rifle is brought back to the ready position.
When the Riflemen are sufficiently perfect in firing by these distinct and separate words of command, they should be accustomed to go through the motions with the following words of command only:

## THE COMPANY WILL PRIME AND LOAD

PREPARE TO LOAD The Platoon half face to the right and bring the rifle down to the priming position.

LOAD
Every motion in loading as described before, is to be performed; here the officer is required to pay particular attention, that no single motion be omitted, as it is of more consequence that a rifle should be properly, than expeditiously loaded.

## COMPANY FIRING ON THE SPOT IN FILES

## THE COMPANY WILL FIRE

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

READY
At this word, the rifle is brought by the right hand before the centre of the body, the left seizes it, so that the little finger rest upon the hammer spring, and the thumb stretched along the stock, raising it to the height of the mouth, the right thumb on the cock, and four fingers under the guard; when cocked, which must be done gently, the right hand grasps the small of the stock.

## PRESENT

The Riflemen half faces to the right, the butt is placed in the hollow of the right shoulder, the right foot steps back about twelve inches behind the left, the left knee is bent, the body brought well forward, the left hand without warning having quitted his hold, supports the rifle close before the lock, the right elbow raised even with the shoulder, the fore finger on the trigger, the head bent, and check resting on that of the rifle, the left eye shut; as soon as the rifleman has fixed upon his object, he fires without waiting for any command. When he has fired, the right hand quits its hold in facing to the right about, the left swings the rifle round into an horizontal position with the barrel downwards; the rifleman resumes his post in the Platoon, in fronting to the left about, bring his rifle into the position to prime and load, half cocks, and proceeds to load, going through the motions as above, without further words of command. When the first file has fired, the next advance, and so through the Platoon. This mode of firing is necessary to prevent the whole from being unloaded at the same time, when the Platoon therefore has fired once according to the above regulations, every file on being loaded again will continue to fire. When it is required that the firing should cease, the signal to CEASE FIRING will be sounded, after which a shot must not be heard. The officers who must invariably remain in the line during this firing, are on no account to stir from the spot, and when the signal to CEASE FIRING is made, and every man loaded and shouldered, they will dress the Platoon.

## OF EXTENDING AND CLOSING

When the Platoon is formed at close order, and is required to extend from the left/right/centre. The words of command will be given as follows:

TO THE LEFT EXTEND

At this word of command the Platoon, except the right hand file, faces to the left, moves on in quick time, casting the eyes over the right shoulder, so that each file when at two paces distant from his right hand file may halt, front, and dress by the right. The rear rank man steps to the right, in order, if necessary, to march or fire without impediment through the intervals of the front rank. This is the usual distance between files, at which light troops when ordered to extend will form. But when they are required to cover the front of a corps, or make a manoeuvre, the commanding officer will signify at what distance the files are to form from each other, before he gives the order for them to extend themselves.

The whole, except the left hand file, face to the right, in taking their distance look over the left shoulder, halt, front, and dress by the left. The rear rank, as in opening to the left, take ground to the right of their file leaders.

## TO THE CENTRE EXTEND

At which the right wing face and move to the right, as in extending from the left; the left wing performs the same movements as when extending from the right, the centre file stands fast.

As soon as the Riflemen are perfect in this mode of extending, the words of command of FROM RIGHT, LEFT, or CENTRE, are laid aside, and the commanding officer takes post on the wing, or point from which the company is to extend; and orders the bugle to sound the signal to extend; and should the distance proposed to be taken between files be more than two paces, he will signify, before the signal to extend is made, at what distance the files are to form, as at 6,8 , or 10 paces. On the signal to extend, the files open from the spot where the commanding officer has placed himself with the bugle. When extended, the Riflemen trail their arms. If detached corps should happen to be without a bugle, the officer must make use of the before mentioned words of command to extend. A Sergeant is placed in the centre of each rank when extended. If it is found necessary to increase the extended order originally prescribed, from either flank or both flanks, or from the centre, a NCO must proceed briskly in the rear of the extended files, and prescribe to each two or three files as he passes, the new distance.

## CLOSE

On the signal from the bugle to CLOSE, every man faces and closes briskly to the point whence the signal is given; the whole shoulder their rifles and dress; in this movement the files must be careful not to intermix, to prevent the confusion that would unavoidably arise from doing so. Should the commanding officer have no bugle with him to give the signal, he must give the word of command CLOSE.

## OF FIRING IN EXTENDED ORDER

## OF FIRING ON THE SPOT WHEN EXTENDED

When Riflemen fire from the spot in extended order, the commanding officer orders bugler to give the signal to commence firing or the words of command. At this signal the front rank makes ready, presents (each man selecting his particular object), and fires: as soon as a rear rank man sees his file leader put the ball into his piece, he makes ready, and fires through the intervals of the front rank; and when the rear rank men have got their balls into their pieces, each man gives notice to his file leader to fire, by the word "ready", or a tap on the shoulder. In this manner the fire is continued on the spot, till the signal is given to cease firing.

## OF FIRING IN ADVANCING

The commanding officer having ordered the bugle to sound the signal to advance and fire, or the words of command. The superior officer with the extended files placing himself near their centre, gives a call with his whistle; whereupon the rear rank advance before the front rank twelve paces, passing to the right of their file leaders, and dress by the centre. Each man sees that his interval is properly preserved, as well as his front. When the Sergeant in the centre of his rank is satisfied as to its being sufficiently dress, he makes a signal with his whistle, upon which each man selects an object, levels, and fires, and immediately proceeds to load; after which the rifle is trailed. When the officer sees that the rank in front has fired, and are loading, he gives another signal with his whistle, upon which the rear rank (formally the front rank) moves forward, passing to the left of the men before them twelve paces, and thus the two ranks proceed alternately advancing until further orders.

## OF FIRING AND RETREATING

On the signal to fire and retreat being sounded, and followed by a call of the whistle, the rank which happens to be in the front fires, goes to the right about, and retreats briskly twelve paces in the rear of the second rank, fronts, and loads; the second rank, upon the next signal of the whistle, proceeds in like manner, and so on alternately until further orders.

References:

1. A Practical Guide for the Light Infantry Officer: by Capt. T.H. Cooper, $56^{\text {th }}$ Regt. Infantry, 1806.
2. Instruction for the Formation and Exercise of Volunteer Sharp Shooters: by Capt. Barber, CO The Duke of Cumberland's Corps of Sharp-Shooters, 1804
3. Instructions for the Exercise of Riflemen \& Light Infantry, Fawcett, 1803.
4. Instructions for Light Infantry \& Riflemen, Campbell, 1813.
5. Rifle Manual \& Firing, Smith, 1804.
6. A System of Drill and Manoeuvres as Practiced in the $52^{\text {nd }}$ Light Infantry Regt., Capt Cross, $52^{\text {nd }}$ Regt., 1804.

Compiled by Andy Blake.

1: FALL IN


2: PLATOON WILL RETIRE BY FILES ON THE LEFT, LEFT FACE.


2: PLATOON WILL RETIRE BY FILES ON THE RIGHT, RIGHT FACE.



PLATOON WILL FORM PLATOON TO THE LEFT, LEFT FORM.


NB: THE TWO DIFFERENT WAYS OF FORMING PLATOON TO THE LEFT IS DEPENDENT ON WHETHER THE PLATOON MARCHED OFF WITH THE RIGHT MARKER OR WITH THE LEFT MARKER TO THE FRONT.

PLATOON WILL FORM PLATOON TO THE RIGHT, RIGHT FORM.

NB: THE TWO DIFFERENT WAYS OF FORMING PLATOON TO THE RIGHT IS DEPENDENT ON WHETHER THE PLATOON MARCHED OFF WITH THE RIGHT MARKER OR WITH THE LEFT MARKER TO THE FRONT.


PLATOON WILL FORM PLATOON TO THE FRONT, FRONT FORM.


NB: THE TWO DIFFERENT WAYS OF FORMING PLATOON TO THE FRONT IS DEPENDENT ON WHETHER THE PLATOON MARCHED OFF WITH THE RIGHT MARKER OR WITH THE LEFT MARKER TO THE FRONT.


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FORMING PLATOON TO THE LEFT ABOUT
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PLATOON WILL FORM PLATOON TO THE LEFT ABOUT, LEFT ABOUT FORM.




## 4 PACES BETWEEN FILES



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2: RIGHT HALF TURN, MARCH
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CHANGE FRONT TO THE RIGHT IN EXTENDED ORDER
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1: PLATOON WILL CHANGE FRONT TO THE REAR ON THE RIGHT FILE


FINISHED POSITIONS


