

A MANUAL EXERCISE FOR THE MARINES  
Embarked Aboard H.M. Ships and in Service Ashore  
Established by the Admiralty Board MMVIII

FIRST REVISION

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The Lobsterback Society LTD wishes to extend its most sincere gratitude to  
the following persons, each of whom lent their considerable professional  
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WE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOBSTERBACK SOCIETY do hereby establish the following Manual Exercise to provide clarification as to our specific will and pleasure concerning maneuvers and tactics to be employed. It is divided into Chapters, Parts, and Sub-Parts for ease of use and reference.

All terms and definitions applicable to our published Regulations for Marines apply to the text of this manual. No modification to the methods or commands prescribed by this manual may be adopted by our officers for instruction of marines except by our expressed written permission to do so. Recommendations for changes or corrections may be addressed directly to the Admiralty Board, 105 South Union street, Suite 600, Danville Virginia, 24541.

Hereby approved for immediate action and execution this 15th Day of February, MMVIII,

THE ADMIRALTY BOARD

By Mandate and Direction of the Lords of the Admiralty

WE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOBSTERBACK SOCIETY do hereby approve the following revision to our Manual Exercise in order to provide to our marines the best possible method of maneuver and safest practice of arms. Hereby approved for immediate action and execution this 15th day of September, MMVIII,

THE ADMIRALTY BOARD

## CHAPTER I

### Containing General Notes and Advice for the Execution of This Manual

#### Part 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to provide a straightforward yet versatile method of drill for His Majesty's Marines which is easy to use and teach. In many respects, the commands are compatible with and comparable to their counterparts in period manuals, however they are explained in modern syntax and organized for ease of use and reference.

#### Part 2 - References and Recommended Reading

In the interest of meeting the goals of a simplified drill, many variations on the maneuvers listed in this manual have been omitted. For a comprehensive understanding of drill and drill instruction, the following literature will prove indispensable:

1. Simes, Thomas. Military Medley. London, 1768. Facsimile Reprint by King's Arms Press, 2007.
2. Harvey, Edward - Adjutant General. A New Manual and Platoon Exercise, August 1764. Reprint by The Nova Anglia Company, 2005.
3. The Manual Exercise as Ordered by His Majesty in 1764. New York: H. Gaine, 1775. Facsimile reprint by King's Arms Press, 2007.
4. Von Steuben, Frederick. Baron Von Steuben's Revolutionary War Drill Manual, 1794 Edition. Facsimile reprint by Dover Publications, New York, 1985.

#### Part 3 - The Purpose of Drill

A commander uses drill to:

1. Move his unit from one place to another in a standard, orderly manner.
2. Most efficiently give battle to an adversary in open field.
3. Teach discipline by instilling the habits of precision and automatic response to orders.
4. Increase the confidence of his junior officers and sergeants through the exercise of command, by the giving of proper commands, and by the control of drilling marines.
5. Increase the confidence of the common marine in his weapon and the effectiveness of the tactics employed.

#### Part 4 - Definitions

Proper use of the following terms will ensure a more thorough understanding of the principles of this manual:

1. Element. An individual marine, squad, company or other sub-unit which is part of a larger unit.
2. Rank. A single line of elements abreast.
3. File. A single line of elements one behind the other.
4. Line. (1) A straight arrangement of elements; (2) A formation where elements are arranged for distance abreast, or in greater number of files than ranks.
5. Column. Any formation where elements are deployed one behind the other, or in a greater number of ranks than files.

6. Dress. To cover and align elements in a formation.
7. Cover. The straight arrangement of elements in the same file.
8. Alignment, Align. The straight arrangement of elements in the same rank.
9. Point of Rest. The point toward which all elements of a formation establish their dress.
10. Flank. (1) The right or left extremity of a formation, either in line or in column; (2) the element on the extreme right or left of a line; (3) a direction at a right angle to the front of an element or formation.
11. General Guide. The marines on each flank of the front rank of a line.
12. Guide. (1) To adjust the line of march to correspond to a direction, landmark, path or road; (2) To dress while marching.
13. Front. (1) The direction a line faces when its elements are in correct positions relative to each other; (2) The lateral space occupied by an element or a formation, measured from one flank to another. The front of a man is considered to be 22 inches; (3) When used in a preparatory command, the direction toward which a marine should move when marching straight ahead in the direction he is facing.
14. Head. The leading element of a column.
15. Rear. (1) The last element in a formation from its front; (2) The last element of a column; (3) The direction opposite to the front.
16. Center. (1) The middle element in a formation with an odd number of elements; (2) the left center element in a formation with an even number of elements.
17. Depth. The space from head to rear of an element or a formation. The depth of a man is considered to be 12 inches.
18. Interval. (1) The lateral space between elements on the same line; (2) Distance measured between formations from flank to flank.
19. Distance. (1) The measurement between men in a file, or between ranks; (2) the measurement between the front of one formation and the rear of another ahead of it.
20. Cadence. The rate at which steps are taken while marching, as given by the instructor or field musick.
21. Parade. A gathering of marines in their standard formation for purposes of muster, instruction and inspection.
22. Taptoo. A parade of marines conducted prior to retreat or dismissal.
23. Reveille. The appointed time at which all marines are to be woken from sleep.
24. Troop. A parade of marines conducted prior to operations for purposes of establishing or determining readiness for the same.
25. Fuse. To combine two lines end to end, as one.

## Part 5 - Recruits

Private marines are those enlisted men who have been instructed and demonstrated proficiency in the entirety of Chapter II of this exercise, and Chapter III, Sections 1 through 4 of the same as determined by a sergeant dully qualified by the Admiralty Board. Recruits should be allotted special training and the attention of the best instructors, and meeting the afore listed requirements, is summarily advanced to the rank of private marine. No recruit should be assigned to a specific squad or company of marines, be paraded with veteran marines, or participate in any evolution involving the

loading and firing of firelocks until they advance to the rank of private marine.

## Part 6 - Drill Instructors

All commissioned and non-commissioned officers in performance of their duties should be thoroughly acquainted with the principles of this manual for marines and have committed to memory the commands utilized to execute the various maneuvers therein.

Training personnel in drill is an important duty. Each commissioned and non-commissioned officer should take pride in being considered an efficient drill instructor. If he knows the drill regulations and how to instruct, he will gain the respect and confidence of those he commands.

In addition, a good drill instructor must:

1. Follow regulations strictly, as an example to the marines under instruction.
2. Have energy, patience and spirit.
3. Have military neatness and bearing.
4. Watch the marines in his charge constantly, immediately correcting any mistakes noted.

The post of the instructor is that of commander. In drill, he may place himself wherever he can best control his marines, make corrections, and ensure proper performance. Before a drill period, an instructor should thoroughly study the movements to be executed.

The instructor briefly explains and demonstrates each new movement prior to its execution by his marines. The marines should take proper positions unassisted, the instructor touching his marines only when absolutely necessary.

When the instructor corrects a movement, the individual or formation should immediately be required to repeat the movement properly. Each position or movement must be thoroughly understood before another is attempted.

Marines should be reprimanded only as a last resort. Officers and sergeants should not be reprimanded in the presence of subordinates. Care should be taken that those marines who have difficulty in learning the movements or are awkward in their performance are not ridiculed or subject to their instructors' frustration. Rather, these marines should be placed in squads under the tutelage of the best instructors.

Drill periods should be short but frequent. Alacrity should be required in every movement.

## Part 7 - Commands and the Command Voice

There are two types of commands. First, the preparatory command, such as 'Forward' indicates a movement which is to be made. The second, the command of execution, such as MARCH, causes the desired movement to be made. In some commands, such as FALL IN, the preparatory and the command of execution are combined.

In this manual, the commands given are centered on the page. Warnings and preparatory commands are italicized and commands of execution are capitalized. Commas in the commands given indicate a pause one step or beat of cadence in length. When movements conducted by numbers are discussed, the count of the movement precedes the discussion.

Commands may be prefaced by warnings to give further instruction or detail as to the method of its execution. These warnings are commands categorized by the following:

1. Commands which are intended for a specific division or sub-division of the same formation are prefaced by a warning consisting of the nomenclature of the division or sub-division for which it is intended, namely the First Squad, Fourth Company, Battalion &c.
2. Commands which are intended for execution by all divisions or sub-divisions of a formation concurrently are also prefaced by a warning consisting of the division or sub-division intended, namely By Squads, By Companies, &c.
3. Commands which may be particularly important or difficult to execute may be prefaced by an appropriate warning, as given. Such warnings are always given before the preparatory command, as follows:

*Warning: Preparatory Command, EXECUTION!*

In marching from the halt, the cadence is given between the preparatory command and the command of execution and is given in such a way that the word or words of cadence and command of execution are given at the tempo of the desired cadence. The slow march is executed at about 60 steps per minute, and is indicated by the word SLOW. Quick time is executed at about 110 steps per minute, and is indicated by the word QUICK. Double quick time is executed at about 160 steps per minute, and is indicated by the words DOUBLE QUICK spoken in cadence with the command of execution.

Alternate commands for those prescribed are given in parenthesis immediately following them where applicable.

Commanders of companies and squads, when drilling as part of a larger formation, repeat all preparatory commands or give the proper new command or warning. The only exception is that no repetition is necessary for combined commands. When a dash follows a comma it indicates a pause of sufficient length to allow for the repetition of lengthy new commands.

If at a halt, the commands for movements which involve marching in a direction other than forward, such as Column Right, MARCH are not prefaced with the command To the Front.

A command must be loud enough to be heard by all of the marines expected to execute it. An instructor may cancel an improper command with the words BELAY MY LAST.

The position of attention is the proper posture for giving commands. A commander's posture will be noticed by his marines. If it is unmilitary, his marines are likely to copy it. Raising the hand to the mouth to aid in projection is not proper.

Distinct commands inspire marines. Indistinct commands confuse them. All commands can be given correctly without loss of effect or cadence. To give distinct commands the instructor must emphasize enunciation, and give the command in the same manner and tone each time.

## CHAPTER II

### Containing Commands & Explanations of Manuevers for the Individual Marines

#### Part 1 - Indoctrination

Recruits should be instructed in the wearing of their uniforms and carriage of their accoutrements and equipment as soon as possible after they are issued. When familiar with their uniforms and equipment, recruits should be divided into groups of two or three to an instructor and given instruction at drill from this chapter, in the order presented.

#### Part 2 - The Position of the Marine

##### ATTENTION!

The command ATTENTION is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. Achievement of the position of attention indicates that a marine is alert and ready to receive orders or instruction. It may be given at the halt or while marching. At the command ATTENTION immediately assume the position of attention, thereafter moving only as ordered until given EASE, REST, POST or DISMISSED.

To come to attention while at the halt:

1. Bring the left heel against the right.
2. Turn the feet out equally to form an angle of 45 degrees, heels kept on the same line and touching.
3. Keep the legs straight but not stiff at the knees.
4. Keep the hips and shoulders level and the chest lifted.
5. Arms are kept tight against the sides, palms inward against the legs, and fingers straight and joined. The little finger of each hand should rest on the side-seams of the breeches.
6. Keep the head and body erect. Look straight ahead. Mouths are kept closed and chins pulled in slightly.
7. Stand still and do not talk.

To come to attention while marching:

1. Keep the hips and shoulders level and the chest lifted.
2. Arms are kept tight against the sides, palms inward against the legs, and fingers straight and joined. The little finger of each hand should rest on the side-seams of the breeches.
3. Keep the head and body erect. Look straight ahead. Mouths are kept closed and chins pulled in slightly.
4. Do not talk.

##### AT YOUR EASE (EASY)!

The commands AT YOUR EASE or EASY are combined commands, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. They may be given at the halt or while marching, in order to allow the marine a small degree of rest and refreshment. At this position, subtle movements are allowed until the command ATTENTION is given. Do not talk.

## REST!

The command REST is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. At the position of REST, marines may talk quietly and carry their arms at will. They must maintain their places in formation and may sit if the formation is halted. Marines in the position of rest may remain so until the command ATTENTION.

### Part 3 - Facing

#### *Right, TURN (FACE)!*

This command is used to turn the marine 90 degrees to the right. It is performed on the command of execution in two motions, as follows:

- 1st. Raise your left heel and right toe slightly. Turn to the right on your right heel and left toe. Keep the arms against the sides and do not swing them. The left leg is kept straight but not stiff.
- 2nd. Place the left foot firmly beside the right and stand at attention.

#### *Left, TURN (FACE)!*

This command is used to turn the marine 90 degrees to the left. It is performed on the command of execution in the same manner as Right TURN or Right FACE, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

#### *Right About, TURN (FACE)!*

This command is used to turn the marine 180 degrees to the right. At the preparatory command, place the right toe six inches behind and slightly to the left of the left heel. Do not change the position of the left foot. Rest most of the weight on the left heel.

At the command of execution TURN or FACE, turn smartly to the right on the left heel and right toe and face to the rear. The feet should be properly aligned for the position of attention when complete.

It should be well noted that the command FACE may be substituted for TURN at the instructor's discretion. The execution of the command is the same in both instances.

### Part 4 - Marching

When field musick is present, the cadence follows the beat. Instructors must take care that the left foot should fall on the first beat of each measure of musick. When field musick is not present the instructor calls the cadence as necessary, using the commands LEFT and RIGHT to denote the timing of foot placement.

In order to cause a marine to march directly forward in the direction they are facing, the instructor gives the command

#### *Quick MARCH!*

This command may be given from the halt or while marching in obedience to a different command. On the command of execution, step off with the left foot and begin marching squarely to the front.

When marching, the command of execution is given at the fall of the right foot, prefaced by the preparatory command *To the Front*. At the command of execution MARCH, step off with the left foot marching squarely to the front. In order to cause a marine to cease marching and take the standing position of attention, the instructor gives the command

HALT!

At this command, the marine continues to take one step in marching and plants that foot. The opposite foot is then brought up beside it, clicking the heels together smartly.

In order to stop the transit of a marine without quitting the step, the instructor gives the command

*Take Care to Mark Time, MARCH!*

This command may be given from the halt or while marching, at the fall of either foot. If halted, at the command of execution MARCH begin marching in place, raising the left then the right foot alternately in cadence, eight inches off the ground.

If marching, continue to take one further step and plant that foot. Bring the opposite foot up beside it, and click the heels together smartly. Raise the foot planted in the first count, then the opposite foot alternately in cadence, lifting each foot eight inches off the ground. Continue to mark time in this manner until given the command MARCH or HALT.

In order to divert the line of march to the right but keep the marine facing forward, the instructor gives the command

*By the Right Oblique, MARCH!*

On the command of execution, the next step of the left foot is diverted to the right and placed in front of the right foot, the right foot being subsequently placed as in marching as normal. Steps in this sequence continue until the command *Forward MARCH, Mark Time MARCH* or HALT.

*By the Left Oblique, MARCH!*

This command is executed in the same manner as *By the Right Oblique MARCH*, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

In order to cause a marine to march straight ahead in the direction that they are facing when marching in obedience to another command, the instructor gives the command

*To the Front, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the marine steps off marching squarely to the front.

Should the instructor wish a marine or group of marines to follow him, he may command

FOLLOW!

When given, a loose assembly of marines form a single file behind the instructor and follow with no regard to cadence.

## CHAPTER III

### Containing Commands & Explanations of the Exercise with the Firelock Musket

This chapter is intended to serve as an instruction for troops in the handling of their firelock muskets. A well-trained marine carries his firelock with the confidence of an expert, and is easily distinguished from those novices and amateurs who slovenly tote them about. This chapter is divided into nine sections, presented in order of greatest utility to the marine. The untrained recruit should be instructed by those sections in order and verbatim from the text.

The command of execution is pluralized when giving commands to two or more marines carrying firelocks. The command of execution ARMS is substituted for the command of execution FIRELOCKS whenever one or more members of the formation carry any arm other than a firelock.

#### \* ORIENTATION \*

##### Safe Practices

Assume every firelock is loaded and may fire at any second. Firelocks must be treated with the same deference as modern firearms: they are just as dangerous, if not more so.

Never point a firelock at anyone standing less than one hundred yards away. Always keep body parts, especially faces and hands, away from the muzzle unless specifically directed by this manual or an experienced instructor. When in doubt, get control of the firelock as best you can, then put it in a safe position and seek assistance.

##### Safety Hazards

The most common injuries are cuts and scrapes from sharp flints. Treat the edge as if it was a knife - it is often as sharp as one. The second most common injury is powder burns. The priming powder in the pan can leap out during firing and burn you. This is often the result of over priming - too much powder is let into the pan. Take particular care to learn how much powder is required for safe shooting. Any experienced marine can help you. Another common injury is burns from the firelock itself. The wood of the stock is the best insulator from a hot barrel. If in doubt as to your ability to handle the firelock safely, get control of the firelock as best you can, put it in a safe position and seek assistance.

##### Material Safety

Black powder is a dangerous substance which must be handled carefully. Observe all safety instructions when handling cartridges or black powder in bulk. Key among these are to keep it away from open flame or excessive heat, moisture, friction or impact.

As previously mentioned, flints can be sharp and cut flesh easily. Take special care when handling whole flints, shards or flakes.

Any damage to the firelock could result in an unsafe condition. Likewise, damaged equipment or accoutrements can also result in unsafe conditions. Report any damage, no matter how slight, to the instructor immediately.

#### Parts of the Firelock

Before beginning instruction, the marine should be fully acquainted with his firelock. He should be able to identify the following parts of the firelock, describe potential safety hazards associated with each, and review adjustments that are commonly made, as applicable:

Stock	Sling Swivels	Cock
Swell	Sling	Cock Screw
Small	Rammer Pipes	Cock Stall
Forearm	Rammer	Flint
Butt	Head	Pad
Buttplate	Threaded End	Jaw
Wristplate	Ident. Marks	Feather Spring
Sideplate	Crate No.	Priming Pan
Barrel	Firelock No.	Flash Guard
Muzzle	Lock	Tricker
Bayonet Lug	Lockplate	Guard
Breech	Steel	
Breech Strap	Cock	

\* WORDS OF COMMAND \*

#### Part 1 - Shoulder to the Order and Back

##### *Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to hold the firelock at the Shoulder, the starting position at which sections one through seven of this manual begin. It may be given while marching or at the halt, and following any command except Spring Your Rammer or Ground Your Firelock. At the command CEASE FIRE the marine should return to this position instantly.

When this command is accomplished properly it is described as follows: the firelock is held upright against the left shoulder with the left hand gripping the butt end, fingers curled around it, the pinky finger of the left hand against the left thigh. The left arm is bent slightly to facilitate better circulation in the arm, delay fatigue and prevent injury.

##### *Order Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to place the butt end of the firelock upon the ground. As such it reduces the strain on the marine by allowing the weight of the firelock to rest upon the ground. This command may be given from the position of Shoulder Arms and only at the halt. It consists of eight motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small of the stock and turn the lock to the front, keeping the firelock upright against the shoulder.

- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight against the firelock.
- 3rd. (3 motions) Release the right hand. Keeping the firelock upright move it across the body to the right shoulder, guard to the front, sinking the swell to the height of the waist. As the firelock is brought to the right, grasp the muzzle of the firelock with the right hand held at the height of the chin, keeping the right arm tight against the firelock.
- 4th. (2 motions) Release the left hand dropping it briskly by the left side. With the right hand sink the butt of the firelock to the ground such that it comes to rest smartly beside the right foot in line with the toe of the shoe, guard to the front, right elbow tight against the right side.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command described in the beginning of this section, and is achieved from the position of Order Arms by means of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Raise the firelock vertically with the right hand and grasp it at the swell with the left hand at the height of the waist. Keep the right arm tight against the firelock.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Release the right hand and with the left move the firelock across the body to the left shoulder, turning the barrel to the front while keeping it upright. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
- 3rd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 4th. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

Part 2 - Inspection of Arms

*Secure Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to dump residual loose powder and debris in the process of clearing the bore. It may also be used to keep the bore interior dry in the event of rain, sleet or snow. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms, and is performed by means of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. DO NOT turn the lock to the front.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. (2 motions) Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side. At the same time swing the muzzle of the firelock forward keeping the lock to the left, and hold the firelock pointing diagonally downward, the left hand grasping the swell of the stock at the height of the hip. The left elbow is pressed in toward the butt of the firelock rather than extended to the side.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Secure Your Firelock by means of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Raise the muzzle of the firelock, bringing the firelock upright against the left shoulder. Keep the lock to the left and the left elbow tight beside the lock. At the same time grasp the small of the stock with the right hand and with it keep the firelock upright against the left shoulder.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end.
- 3rd. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

*Search Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to demonstrate a clear and clean bore to an inspector. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms and is performed by means of eight motions executed in six counts without regard to cadence, as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. DO NOT turn the lock to the front.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. (2 motions) With the left hand sink the butt end down beside the left leg until the muzzle is eight inches in front of your face and at the height of the chin, the lock facing half-left. Grasp the rammer at the head with the right hand, the back of the hand toward your face.
- 4th. Draw the rammer half way out of the pipes and re-grasp it near the middle of its length, keeping the back of the hand toward your face.
- 5th. Draw the rammer fully out of the pipes and turning the hand such that the back of the hand is to the front, place the head of the rammer in the muzzle.
- 6th. (2 motions) At the passing of the inspector, sound the bore by throwing the rammer into it, allowing the head to drop clear to the breech. Grasp the threaded end with the right hand, the back of the hand toward your face. Repeat this motion as required by the inspector.

*Return Your, RAMMER!*

is the command used to return the rammer to the pipes after use. It may be given only from the position of Spring Your Rammers and is performed by means of seven motions executed in four counts without regard to cadence as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Draw the rammer half-way out of the bore and quickly re-grasp it at the middle of its length, keeping the back of the hand toward the face.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Draw the rammer fully out of the bore and turn the back of the hand to the front. Insert the threaded end of the rammer into the top of the first pipe.
- 3rd. Slide the rammer into the pipes halfway and place the last finger of the right hand upon the head of the rammer.
- 4th. (2 motions) Push the rammer fully into the pipes then turn the firelock with the left hand so the barrel is to the front. With the right hand, press the firelock close against the left shoulder, fingers extended and joined, held against the barrel below the bayonet lug at the height of the shoulder.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Return Your Rammer by means of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) With the left hand upon the swell of the stock, raise the firelock to the left shoulder placing the left elbow tight beside the lock. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 3rd. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

Part 3 - Sequence by Which to Load the Firelock

*Prepare to Prime Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to place the firelock in the best position to prime, also known as the 'priming position'. The first step of the loading sequence, this command may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms. It consists of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small of the stock and turn the lock to the front, keeping the firelock upright against the shoulder.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the guard.
- 3rd. (2 motions) Without changing the position of the hands, bring the firelock to the priming position, small of the stock just below the right breast, the muzzle in front of the left shoulder at the height of the hat. At the same time step back with the right foot placing it perpendicular to the left with the right instep against the left heel.
- 4th. Grasp the cock with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand, the back of the hand turned up.

*Half Cock Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to prepare the firelock for priming. As the second step in the loading sequence, it may be given only after the command Prepare to Prime Your Firelock. It consists of one motion, as follows:

- 1st. Pull the cock back to the half-cock position briskly by drawing the right elbow straight back toward the rear.

*Handle, CARTRIDGE!*

is the command used to draw a cartridge from the cartridge box. As the third step in the loading sequence, it may be given only after the second: the command Half Cock Your Firelock. It consists of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Bring the right hand around to the cartridge box, slapping it hard.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Reach under the flap and grasp a cartridge. Pull it out and bring the folded end to the mouth.
- 3rd. Bite the folded end of the cartridge well off and hold it upright six inches to the right of the face at the height of the chin, keeping the right elbow down.

PRIME!

is the command used to prime the firelock. It is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. As the fourth step in the loading sequence, it may be given only after the third: the command Handle Cartridge. It consists of one motion, as follows:

- 1st. Shake a small amount of powder into the priming pan, taking care to hold the cartridge closed with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand and placing the remaining three fingers behind the steel, with the elbow up and the wrist bent.

*Shut Your, PAN!*

is the command used to close the pan and confine the priming powder. As the fifth step of the loading sequence, it may be given only after the fourth: the command Prime. It consists of five motions executed in two counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Shut the pan briskly with the three fingers of the right hand, drawing the right arm at this motion towards the body, keeping the wrist bent and continuing to hold the cartridge tightly between the thumb and forefinger. With the heel of the right hand, strike the small of the stock sharply three times to set the powder in the pan.
- 2nd. (3 motions) With the left hand sink the butt end down beside the left leg until the muzzle is eight inches in front of your face and at the height of your chin, the lock facing half-left. At the same time bring the right foot up beside the left and hold the right hand to the front of the muzzle with the cartridge held fast between the thumb and forefinger.

*Charge, CARTRIDGE!*

is the command used to deposit the remaining powder of the cartridge into the bore. As the sixth step of the loading sequence, it may only be given after the fifth: the command Shut Your Pan. It consists of four motions executed in two counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Turn up your hand and pour the powder from the cartridge into the muzzle, shaking the cartridge as necessary. Cast away the paper with the right hand and grasp the muzzle.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Turn the firelock with the left hand so the barrel is to the front. With the right hand, press the firelock close against the left shoulder, fingers extended and joined, held against the barrel below the bayonet lug at the height of the shoulder.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is the command used to return the firelock to the position of Shoulder Arms after loading the firelock, an indicator of readiness to fire after performing the loading sequence. From the position of Charge Cartridge it consists of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) With the left hand upon the swell of the stock, raise the firelock to the left shoulder keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 3rd. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

PRIME AND LOAD!

Is the command used to cause marines to prime, load and shoulder their firelocks without giving each of the afore mentioned commands in sequence. It is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms and while at the halt.

Part 4 - Sequence by Which to Discharge the Loaded Firelock

*Poise (Recover) Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to position the firelock in preparation for cocking. Known also as 'the Recover', this position shall be automatically assumed when moving rapidly through crowds for the safety of persons nearby. It consists of four motions executed in two counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small of the stock and turn the lock to the front, keeping the firelock upright against the shoulder.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Bring up the firelock in front of the left shoulder in a quick motion, keeping it vertical and turning the guard to the front. Release the left hand and grasp the stock just above the lock, little finger resting upon the feather spring, the thumb vertical along the stock. Keep the elbows firmly tucked in to the body, the butt of the firelock should be near the left breast.

*Cock Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to fully draw back the cock in preparation for firing. It may be given only at the halt and after the command Poise Your Firelock, and consists of three motions executed in two counts, as follows:

- 1st. Place the right thumb upon the cock, raising the right elbow such that the right forearm is horizontal. Keep the fingers of the right hand open and against the lock plate.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Cock the firelock by drawing the right elbow down, then place the right thumb on the breech pin, curling the fingers around the small of the stock under the guard.

MAKE READY!

is the command to Poise and Cock the Firelock in quick succession and without further command. It is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. It may be given only at the halt and after the instructor has caused the hammer stalls removed from the steels of the firelocks.

PRESENT!

is the command used to point the muzzle of the firelock to the front in preparation for firing. It is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. It may only be given at the halt and after the command Cock Your Firelock or Make Ready, and consists of four motions executed in one count, as follows:

1st. (4 motions) step back with the right foot, placing it perpendicular to the left with the right instep twelve inches behind the left heel. At the same time, point the muzzle forward, bring the butt end of the musket to the right shoulder and place the left hand upon the swell of the stock. Place the right index finger through the guard in front of the trigger.

FIRE!

is the command used to discharge the musket and is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. It may only be given after the command Present and consists of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Pull the trigger briskly.
- 2nd. Bring the firelock down to the priming position, the small of the stock against the body just below the right breast, the muzzle in front of the left shoulder at the height of the hat. At the same time, bring the right foot up behind the left, placing the right instep against the left heel.
- 3rd. Release the right hand and with it grasp the cock screw with the forefinger and thumb, the back of the hand turned up.

#### Part 5 - To Rest or Present Firelocks

*Rest Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command to put the marine in a position to rest when at Shoulder Arms for long periods, and may be given only from that position. It consists of six motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small of the stock and turn the lock to the front, keeping the firelock upright against the shoulder.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Bring up the firelock from the shoulder with a quick motion to a position with the side plate six inches in front of the face, keeping the lock to the front. Release the left hand and place it in front of the musket, little finger resting upon the feather spring, thumb vertical along the stock. On completion the left hand must be at the height of the eyes, the elbows firmly tucked in to the body. On completion, the side plate should be a hand's breadth from your face.
- 3rd. (2 motions) step directly back with the right foot so the right toe is aligned with the left heel. At the same time, sink the firelock downward such that the butt end is against the left thigh and as low down as the right arm will permit without constraint. On completion, the forearm of the stock should be a hand's breadth from your face.

*Present, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to render honors, and may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms and at the halt. It is easily distinguished from the command used to point the muzzle toward an enemy by the addition of the separate command of execution. It is executed in the same manner as the command Rest Your Firelock.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Present Arms or Rest Your Firelock by means of five motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (3 motions) Slide the left hand up and with it grasp the swell of the stock. Turn the barrel to the front and raise the firelock against the left shoulder turning the lock to the left and bringing the left elbow tight beside the lock. At the same time bring the right foot up beside the left.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 3rd. Release the right hand, letting it fall by the right side.

Part 6 - Exercise with Bayonets

*Fix Your, BAYONET!*

is the command used to draw the bayonet from its scabbard and fix it upon the muzzle of the firelock. All other commands in this chapter may be executed while the bayonet is fixed. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms, and is performed by means of nine motions executed in five counts without regard to cadence as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. DO NOT turn the lock to the front.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. (2 motions) With the left hand sink the butt end down beside the left leg until the muzzle is eight inches in front of your face and at the height of your chin, the lock facing half-left. Grasp the rammer at the head with the right hand, the back of the hand toward your face.
- 4th. Seize the bayonet with the right hand keeping the right elbow up, draw it out of the scabbard and fix it upon the muzzle.
- 5th. (2 motions) Turn the firelock with the left hand so the barrel is to the front. With the right hand, press the firelock close against the left shoulder, fingers extended and joined, held against the barrel below the bayonet lug at the height of the shoulder.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Fix Your Bayonet by means of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) With the left hand upon the swell of the stock, raise the firelock to the left shoulder keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 3rd. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

*Charge, BAYONET!*

is the command used to assume the basic position from which to use the bayonet. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms, and is performed by means of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand and turn the lock outwards, keeping the firelock against the left shoulder.

- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. Moving the firelock in front of the right shoulder, sink the butt end until the right hand is at the height of the waist.
- 4th. (2 motions) step directly back with the right foot placing it perpendicular to and twelve inches from the left. Quickly lower the muzzle to the front so that the firelock is horizontal, barrel up at the height of the waist and tight against the right side.

N.B. On this command, marines in rear ranks Recover their firelocks as in Section 4 of this Chapter, and do not execute this command as given.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Charge Bayonet by means of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. Raise the muzzle of the firelock until it is held upright against the right shoulder.
- 2nd. (3 motions) Move the firelock across the body keeping it upright. With the right hand turn the barrel to the front and with the left raise the firelock against the left shoulder, keeping the left elbow tight against the lock.
- 3rd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 4th. Release the right hand, dropping it briskly by the right side.

*Unfix Your, BAYONET!*

is the command used to remove the bayonet from the muzzle of the firelock and return it to the scabbard. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms, and is performed by means of nine motions executed in four counts without regard to cadence as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand. DO NOT turn the lock to the front.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. (4 motions) Release the right hand and with the left sink the butt end down beside the left leg until the muzzle is eight inches in front of your face and at the height of the chin, turned so the lock faces half-left. Detach the bayonet from the muzzle and return it to the scabbard.
- 4th. (2 motions) With the left hand turn the firelock so the lock faces left, and with the right hand on the barrel, press the forearm of the stock into the small of the left shoulder.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Unfix Your Bayonet by means of four motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) With the left hand upon the swell of the stock, raise the firelock to the left shoulder keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock. Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 3rd. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

Part 7 - To Advance Firelocks

*Advance Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to shift the musket from the left shoulder to the right arm, effectively transferring the weight from the left arm to the right. It may be given only from the position of Shoulder Arms, while marching or at the halt, and is performed by means of seven motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Grasp the firelock with the right hand at the small of the stock and turn the lock to the front, keeping the firelock upright against the shoulder.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the firelock at the swell, keeping the left elbow tight beside the lock.
- 3rd. (3 motions) Drawing the firelock to the right shoulder, rotate it such that the guard is to the front. At the same time sink the butt end until the right hand is at the height of the waist, and with it grasp the guard between the thumb and forefinger, the fingers curled under the breech pin.
- 4th. Release the left hand dropping it briskly by the left side.

*Shoulder Your, FIRELOCK!*

has been described previously, but is achieved from the position of Advance Your Firelock by means of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. With the left hand grasp the swell of the stock.
- 2nd. (3 motions) Move the firelock across the body keeping it upright. With the right hand turn the barrel to the front and with the left raise it against the left shoulder, keeping the left elbow tight against the lock.
- 3rd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the butt end of the firelock.
- 4th. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.
- 5th. Part 8 - Grounding and Taking-Up Firelocks

*Ground Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to temporarily set down a firelock in order to free both hands of the marine for other uses, such as to don or remove equipment or uniform articles. It may be given only from the position of Order Arms and is performed by means of ten motions executed in five counts without regard to cadence, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Slide the right hand about eight inches down the stock and lift the firelock vertically the same height, keeping it upright.
- 2nd. (3 motions) step directly back twelve inches with the right foot. At the same time, pivot on the toes and turn squarely to the right. Sink the butt end of the musket to the ground against the right instep, lock facing to the rear.
- 3rd. (2 motions) step to the front thirty inches with the left foot and lower the firelock to the ground with the right hand, placing it there gently, lock upward.
- 4th. (2 motions) stand upright and return the left foot to its previous position. At the same time, pivot to the front on both feet.
- 5th. Lift the right foot and bring it on line beside the left.

*Take Up Your, FIRELOCK!*

is the command used to retrieve a firelock from the ground. It may be given only when the firelock is upon the ground and the marine stands beside and to the left of the butt end, facing a direction parallel to the bore of the firelock. It is performed by means of seven motions executed in five counts without regard to cadence, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) step back with the right foot, placing the instep against the butt end of the musket. At the same time, pivot on the left foot and turn squarely to the right.
- 2nd. (2 motions) step forward thirty inches with the left foot, lean down and grasp the firelock with the right hand.
- 3rd. stand upright, bringing the firelock upright. When standing, lift the firelock eight inches off the ground.
- 4th. Pivot to the front on both feet. At the same time bring the right foot back on line beside the left.
- 5th. Sink the butt end of the firelock down beside the right foot.

## CHAPTER IV

### Containing Commands & Explanations Pertaining to the Composition, Arrangement and Maneuvering of Formations

The commands and maneuvers in this Chapter apply to any assemblage of marines, from formations smaller than squads to battalions. All commands for individual drill given in Chapter II apply while in formations.

#### Part 1 - Creating the Formation

For shipboard applications, marines are assembled into formations for administrative and instruction purposes only. Formations should be composed to fit the specific space allotted for their parade by the Officer of the Deck.

The standard formation of marines ashore is the line of battle consisting of two ranks as this formation permits the maximum effect of firepower upon an adversary. Assemblages of marines in less than company strength may be formed in one rank, at their commander's discretion.

Formations of company strength or less, when operating independently, are composed in ranks arranged in height order such that the tallest marine is on the right flank and the shortest on the left unless otherwise given.

Additionally, files are composed with taller men in the rear, so as to make firing over the shoulder of the first rank men safer and easier.

In order to organize a body of marines into a formation of two ranks the instructor commands

FORM SINGLE FILE TALL TO SMALL!

At this command the private marines form a single file at close distance facing the instructor with arms shouldered, the tallest man nearest the instructor, the remainder in order of decreasing height behind him. When complete the instructor commands

*Left (Right), TURN!*

N.B. - The tallest men in the formation will be subsequently formed on the flank of the formation opposite the direction of this command.

If the formation is to be composed of two ranks, the instructor commands:

*Count, TWOS!*

The private marines count off in twos starting with the tallest. The instructor then commands:

*Twos take one step: Quick MARCH!*

The instructor then directs the tallest man to step behind and cover on the second tallest. The instructor then causes the marines to dress on the taller general guide.

## Part 2 - Dress

The commands to dress right or left are given to adjust the cover and alignment of the formation. Commands to dress are given at the halt while arms are carried at the shoulder or the advance. Marines dress at close interval and distance unless otherwise specified.

When the instructor gives a command to dress right or left, the general guide at that end of the line automatically becomes the point of rest and he and any marines in the same file remain facing straight ahead. The command to dress at close interval is given as follows:

*Dress to the Right, DRESS!*

At the command of execution, marines in the first rank take close interval, aligning themselves where they can see the front of the chest of the third man to their right without stooping or lowering their heads.

*Dress to the Left, DRESS!*

is performed on the command of execution in the same manner as Dress to the Right DRESS, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

When present, marines in rear ranks cover thirty inches to the rear of the front rank men, aligned where they can look straight ahead and between the heads and firelocks of their file leaders.

The instructor makes corrections where appropriate. When properly dressed, the instructor gives the command

*Take Care, FRONT!*

At the command of execution FRONT, the front rank turn their heads and eyes back to the front.

When the formation is properly dressed, the commissioned and non-commissioned officers take their posts. An officer commanding a formation in line takes post as its right general guide. The sergeant takes post behind his officer, even when the formation is drawn into a single rank, so that he may quickly and directly take post behind the line during firing. Sergeants take the posts of absent officers.

\* OPEN INTERVALS \*

Open interval is best for moving over wooded or broken ground, but can be difficult to maneuver. A rank or formation is dressed at open interval when the marines in a single rank are separated at roughly arm's length with fingers extended.

The command to dress at open interval, from closed or extended interval, is given as follows:

*At Open Intervals: Dress to the Right, DRESS!*

At the command of execution, marines in the first rank take open interval, throwing up their free arm as a measurement, at the same time aligning themselves where they can see the front edge of the chest of the third man to their right without stooping or lowering their heads.

*At Open Intervals: Dress to the Left, DRESS!*

is performed on the command of execution in the same manner as Dress to the Right DRESS, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

When present, marines in rear ranks cover where they can look straight ahead and between the heads and firelocks of their file leaders.

The instructor makes corrections where appropriate. When properly dressed, the instructor gives the command

*Take Care, FRONT!*

At the command of execution FRONT, the front rank drops their free arm briskly to the side and turn their heads and eyes back to the front.

\* EXTENDED INTERVALS \*

Extended interval is best to initiate skirmish order, or investigate and search large areas of ground most efficiently. A rank or formation is dressed at extended intervals when its marines are evenly dispersed along a straight line between the right and left general guides. All marching at extended intervals is accomplished without regard to cadence, even when field musick is playing.

The interval may be changed from close or open to extended interval by the command

*Extend to the Right, MARCH!*

This command may be given at the halt or while marching. At the command of execution, the right general guide moves rapidly to the right or left as directed, for example "to the trees" or until the command

HALT THE GUIDE!

The remaining marines in the rank take approximately even intervals between the right and left general guides. The rear rank maintains specified distance and cover on their file partners.

*Extend to the Left, MARCH!*

is performed on the command of execution in the same manner as Extend to the Right, MARCH, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

\* REDUCING & RAISING THE RANKS \*

While dressed at open or extended interval, a formation of up to company size may be reduced to one rank at the command

REAR RANK STEP UP TO THE FIRST!

At the command of execution, the rear rank steps forward and to the right such that they are aligned in a new file to the right of their file partner, the whole dressing on the point of rest. If the formation was dressed in two ranks at open interval, the instructor causes the men to dress at close interval on the conclusion of the movement. If dressed at extended interval, the rank remains at extended interval and no dressing is required. The instructor makes corrections where appropriate. When properly dressed in one rank, the instructor gives the command

*Take Care, FRONT!*

In order to re-form the same formation in two ranks, the instructor commands

*Rear Rank: POST!*

At this command the marines who formed in the rear rank take one step backward and cover behind their file partners. The formation may then be caused to dress as required.

Part 3 - Dismissing, Recalling and Inspecting the Formation

A formation may only be dismissed when arms are shouldered and the formation is dressed at close interval and close distance, using the commands in this part. Before dismissing a formation, commanders should remind their marines to remember their places in line.

In order to release marines from the formation to perform further duties, the duties are explained, then the command given

*To your duties (stations, etc), POST!*

In order to release from duty for an extended period, such as after the Taptoo, the command is given

DISMISSED!

At either of the above commands of execution, the marines execute the dismissal in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Step back thirty inches with the right foot.
- 2nd. Pivot squarely to the right on both feet.
- 3rd. Step off with the left foot as in walking, turning to the rear. The marines disperse.

Marines may be recalled to instantly regain their formation by the command

FALL IN!

The command FALL IN is a combined command, containing both the preparatory and the command of execution. At this command marines will regain the formation from which they were dismissed, taking station to the left of the instructor at the position of attention with all practicable speed and alacrity. Marines will automatically dress right at close interval unless ordered otherwise.

When the formation is in the correct order and properly dressed, the instructor will give the command

*Take Care, FRONT!*

The instructor may make adjustments or alterations to the formation once it is re-formed. Until altered by the instructor, the elements will remain in the same order.

\* OPENING RANKS \*

In order to conduct inspections it is necessary to open the distance between ranks such that inspectors may pass between them. This is accomplished with the command

*Rear rank take distance at five paces, Quick MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the rear rank moves backward five paces. The instructor then causes the formation to dress at open interval. When the inspection is complete, the instructor commands

*Rear rank close distance, Quick MARCH!*

At the command of execution the rear rank or ranks march forward until covered on the rank ahead of them at close distance.

#### Part 4 - Maneuvering the Formation

The line of battle may be cumbersome to maneuver over long distances and is therefore deployed into various columns for that purpose. Regardless of the way in which the formation may be maneuvered, marines maintain the same relative positions when deployed in line.

All marching commands detailed in Chapter II apply when in formation, with the following additions:

1. When marking time, the formation automatically dresses on the point of rest until given the commands HALT, FRONT or MARCH.
2. On the command FOLLOW, a formation of marines follow preserving their ranks and files. At the command HALT, the formation immediately retakes their places at the position of attention and dresses as appropriate.
3. Quick time, or 120 steps per minute, is used in close order formations. Double quick time should rarely if ever be used in close order formations, and the slow march should be reserved for formal ceremonies or when a higher degree of caution is required in a maneuver.

N.B. - A formation dressed at extended intervals, at whatever distance, marches without regard to cadence.

In order to cause a formation to dress while marching, the instructor may command

GUIDE RIGHT!

This command may be given to a formation dressed at any interval or distance. At this command, the right general guide becomes the point of rest, and the formation dresses on him without loss of step or cadence. When the formation is properly covered and aligned, the instructor gives the command Take Care, FRONT at which the marines resume the marching position of attention.

GUIDE LEFT!

This command is executed in the same manner as GUIDE RIGHT with the exception that the left general guide becomes the point of rest.

The instructor may identify incorrect cover of the rear ranks with the command

CLOSE UP!

This command may be given to a formation dressed at any interval. At this command the rear rank will close on the front until they achieve proper distance.

The instructor may cause the line of march to be adjusted slightly to the right with the command

INCLINE TO THE RIGHT!

This command may be given to a formation dressed at any interval or distance. At this command the point of rest alters his line of march to the right slightly, the formation maintaining proper dress and cover on him. The instructor may cause the line of march to be adjusted slightly to the left with the command

INCLINE TO THE LEFT!

This command may be given to a formation dressed at any interval or distance. At this command the point of rest alters his line of march to the left slightly, the formation maintaining proper dress and cover on him.

In order to change the direction of the formation front while the formation is in line, the instructor causes the formation to wheel. This maneuver should not be attempted by formations of greater than squad size when in extended intervals. To wheel to the right, the instructor gives the command

*Right Wheel*, MARCH!

At the preparatory command Right Wheel, the heads and eyes of the marines in the front rank turn to observe the left general guide, who becomes the point

of rest. The left general guide turns his head to observe the front rank, to regulate his pace during the wheel. This action is intended to facilitate the keeping of proper dress during the wheel.

At the command of execution MARCH the left general guide marches so as to describe a wide arc to the right in the approximate radius of the formation front. Shortening or lengthening their step as necessary, the front rank dresses to the left upon the left general guide, the following ranks remaining covered on their file partners in the rank ahead of them.

To cause the formation to wheel to the left, the instructor gives the command

*Left Wheel, MARCH!*

This command is executed in the same manner as Right Wheel substituting "right" for "left" and vice versa.

\* CONCERNING THE COLUMN OF FILES \*

Ranks and files formed in line are preserved when the formation is maneuvered. Therefore, by facing to the right or left a column of files is created.

In order to change the direction of march of a column of files 90 degrees to the right, the instructor gives the command

*Column Right, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the leading files wheel 90 degrees to the right, the column following.

In order to change the direction of march of a column of files 90 degrees to the left, the instructor gives the command

*Column Left, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the leading files wheel 90 degrees to the left, the column following.

In order to change the direction of march of a column of files 45 degrees to the right, the instructor gives the command

*Column Half-Right, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the leading files wheel 45 degrees to the right, the column following.

The direction of march may be changed 45 degrees to the left by the command

*Column Half-Left, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the leading files wheel 45 degrees to the left, the column following.

N.B. - When a division or sub-division of a formation in line is required to march by column of files in a direction which is obstructed by another unit in line, the instructor may preface the command to march with the warning 'Break to the Rear'. In this instance, the head of the column of files shifts to the rear before the command of execution so that their line of march is unobstructed. On the command of execution, they march as normal, following the leading files.

In order to change the direction of march of a column of files 180 degrees, the instructor gives the command

*Countermarch to the Right, MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the leading files wheel 180 degrees to the right, the column following.

The formation may be caused to countermarch to the left by the command

*Countermarch to the Left, MARCH!*

This command is executed in the same manner as Countermarch to the Right substituting "right" for "left" and vice versa.

The formation may be reformed into line from column of files by the command to face right or left toward the front, as appropriate.

\* PASSING AN OBSTACLE OR DEFILE \*

When deployed in line, the line of march of some elements may be blocked by obstructions. In this instance, those files which are obstructed fall out of line, allowing those unobstructed to march on. The marines of the obstructed files take position behind the unobstructed segments of the line and follow them until sufficient ground appears to retake their proper positions in the line. These maneuvers should take place without command. Instructors should take particular precautions to ensure the point of rest marches unobstructed.

Part 5 - Employment of Arms

When in formation, the proper employment of arms in accordance with this part is integral to the safety of all hands. During firing, sergeants take positions in the rear of the formation so as to better monitor the performance of their marines and remain there to direct as safety and efficiency require.

A prudent instructor causes the firelocks of his marines to be primed and loaded well before approaching an adversary. The effect of first volley, loaded into clean bores by calm hands, cannot be underestimated. In firing, the instructor may command the front rank to kneel. In this instance, they will kneel on the command PRESENT, sinking the body down without stooping and throwing the right leg back so as to rest upon the right knee. The position of the left foot does not change. The front rank will remain kneeling until instructed to rise, altering the loading motions by

charging their cartridges with the butt of the musket on the ground to the rear on their left. On rising, arms are shouldered without command. At the command PRESENT, when the front rank has NOT been instructed to kneel, the rear rank steps twelve inches to the right with the right foot and levels their firelocks to the right of their file leader such that the swell of the stock is six inches to the right of their head. If, at any time, any person detects a condition which renders firing unsafe that person must immediately shout the command

CEASE FIRE!

At this command firelocks are immediately shouldered. All persons hearing this call must repeat it loudly and clearly. The signal of a hat upon the end of a raised firelock, sword or pole-arm may also serve to command CEASE FIRE.

If the formation is drawn up in two ranks, and instructor intends that the firelocks should be discharged alternately by rank, he gives the command:

*First Rank:* MAKE READY!  
PRESENT!  
FIRE!  
PRIME AND LOAD!

at which the first rank discharges their firelocks, then loads and comes to the shoulder. When the first rank has completed this, he repeats the same commands substituting 'Second Rank' for 'First Rank', repeating this procedure for each rank in the formation then beginning again at the first.

If the instructor intends the marines of the company to individually discharge and reload their firelocks with all possible speed, he gives the command

COMMENCE FIRING!

at which each marine fires and loads continually until given the command Shoulder Arms or CEASE FIRE.

\* ENGAGING AN ENEMY IN THE REAR OF THE FORMATION \*

Should an enemy suddenly appear in the rear, formations of company size or smaller are caused to face to the right or left and countermarch in the same direction. When the entire line has countermarched in its own length the line is halted then faced toward the enemy, he is then engaged as normal.

\* SKIRMISH ORDER \*

In order to establish a skirmish line, the formation is drawn up in two ranks. The instructor causes both ranks to prime and load their firelocks, then dress at extended intervals across the desired ground. File partners remain dressed at close distance, forming 'skirmishing pairs'.

The primary principle of a skirmish line is that each man in a skirmishing pair protects the other with a loaded musket while the other primes and

loads. When experienced marines comprise a skirmishing pair, they may load concurrently and fire alternately to maximize their rate of fire.

When the commander intends the skirmish line to maneuver without firing, he may give the commands to do so as normal. The commander may also give instructions to the general guides to guide right or left, the intermediate files in this instance automatically dressing at approximately even intervals between them.

When the formation is properly positioned and ready to engage an adversary, the instructor commands

SKIRMISH LINE STAND READY!

From this point until given the command FALL IN or CEASE FIRE, one marine of each skirmishing pair may open fire without orders. The instructor may maneuver the formation as desired in accordance with instructions in Part 4 of this chapter. At the first discharge of a firelock from the skirmish line, the instructor causes the line to halt, the marines automatically taking cover or kneeling, as appropriate. Each skirmishing pair may identify and open fire on its own targets, provided one marine in each pair is primed, loaded and ready to fire at all times.

If the commander intends the skirmish line to advance when firing, he advances slowly, then gives the command

ADVANCE!

At this command, the marine in each skirmishing pair who is primed and loaded advances, aligns on the instructor, picks a target and fires when ready. The other marine of the skirmishing pair finishes priming and loading, moves forward after his partner has fired and aligns on the instructor as best he can. Partners identify targets to each other as they pass. When the commander intends the skirmish line to stop advancing, he merely halts himself.

When the commander intends the skirmish line to retire or fall back, he moves slowly to the rear and gives the command

FALL BACK!

At this command, the marine in each skirmishing pair who is not primed and loaded moves to the rear and aligns on the instructor. When he has finished loading he calls to his skirmishing partner "READY" or another code-word which they have previously arranged, and the forward most partner fires, then moves to the rear and aligns on the instructor. Partners identify targets to each other as they pass.

If at any time a skirmishing partner should become a casualty, the marine left without immediately joins the partners nearest him in the direction of the instructor.

If the commander should be forced to retreat rapidly, he gives the command

RETREAT!

At this command all marines in the skirmish line close rapidly on the commander and follow him. When he reaches ground on which he intends to reform the line, he gives the command FALL IN, at which the marines form in two ranks at close interval and distance with arms shouldered, facing the front.

## CHAPTER V

### Containing Commands & Explanations of Maneuvers for Execution by a Company

#### Part 1 - Formation of the Company

The marine company consists of seventeen to thirty three marines formed in line of two ranks. The ranks are formed in height order in accordance with Chapter IV of this manual.

When assembled, the company is divided equally into two or three squads such that each squad is composed of approximately equal strength and a minimum of eight marines. The squads are numbered in increasing order from the right of the line to left. The first squad is always composed of an even number of private marines.

One sergeant is assigned to each squad in a company. The most senior sergeant is assigned to the first squad, and serves as the Company Sergeant. The next most senior sergeant is assigned to the squad on the left flank. Sergeants in the second and third squads take position depending on the number of private marines in their squad. If an odd number exists, the sergeant takes position behind the right general guide, aligned in the rear rank. If an even number of private marines is present, the sergeant takes positions two paces behind and centered on the rear rank in the squad.

The company commander commands the first squad and takes position as the right general guide of the company line. Subalterns are assigned to squads in order of their seniority, such that the squad on the left flank is commanded by the most senior. Subalterns take position two paces behind the rear rank of their squads, covered on the right-most file.

When a squad is detached from the company line but remains formed in line, the subalterns commanding them take position as right general guide. Sergeants of squads cover on the subaltern commanding them if there is an even number of private marines in the squad, and in the rear rank one file to their left if there is an odd number.

When the officer commanding a squad is absent, or no officer is assigned, the squad sergeant takes the post of the squad commander.

The company drummer, when present, takes position three paces to the rear of the right-most file. Fifers, when present, take position to the left of the drummer at open intervals. During company maneuvers, musicians maintain their positions relative to the first squad unless otherwise directed.

#### Part 2 - Maneuvering the Company

All commands described in Chapters II and IV apply to the maneuvering of company formations. The company line may be formed into a column of files or a column of squads to travel long distances.

\* FORMING COLUMN OF SQUADS \*

A column of squads may be formed in one of two ways. The first and easiest method is wheeling. In order to form a column of squads by wheeling to the right the company commander gives the command

*By Squads: Right Wheel, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the front rank marines turn their heads to observe the left general guide of their squads.

At the command of execution MARCH, the squads wheel to the right and form the column. As the squads wheel, the general guides on the outside of the wheel dress on their counterparts in the squad to their right. When the column is formed, the squads mark time until the squad commander gives the command HALT or Forward, MARCH.

The company may also be formed into a column of squads without changing the direction of the company front. This is accomplished from the halt with the command

*Form Column of Squads on the Right, - Quick MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the squad on the right in the company line stands fast. The commanders of the remaining squads cause them to face to the right, then break to the rear.

On the command of execution MARCH, the squads facing the right step off together. As they clear the adjacent line, squad commanders take position as the right general guide of their squads. When their squads are covered behind the squad head of them in the column, the squad commanders cause their squads to halt and face the front.

The company drummer takes position two paces to the right of the company commander, the remaining musickians taking positions in single file behind the drummer.

When the squads are properly formed one behind the other, the company commander gives the command

*Advance and take Distance: To the Front, Quick MARCH!*

At the command of execution MARCH, the head of the column steps off marching forward, each successive squad commander giving the command to march forward when the squad ahead has reached the distance equal to the length of the front of his squad.

\* MANEUVERING THE COLUMN OF SQUADS \*

The company commander gives commands to maneuver the column of squads. As the first squad wheels to change direction, the squads behind follow it, taking care to preserve proper distance. The point of rest of the head of a column always serves as the point of rest for the entire column.

\* FORMING COMPANY LINE FROM COLUMN OF SQUADS \*

The company line may be re-formed from a column of squads in three methods, each pertaining to the general direction the line must face on deployment. When the company commander intends to form the company to the front, he commands

*Form Company to the Front, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the head of the column stands fast if halted or continues marching straight ahead. The commanders of the remaining squads give the command

*By the Left Oblique...*

At the command of execution MARCH, the following squads march obliquely to the left to cover on their positions in line. If marching, the company commander may halt the head of the column at any time. When the head of the column has halted, the following squads take their place in the company line, and dress right. As the squads approach their places in line, the squad commanders take position behind the file on the flank of their squad which is nearest the point of rest; the company commander remains at his post of right general guide.

When the company commander intends to form the company to the left, he commands

*By Squads: Left Wheel, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the commanders of squads to the rear of the head take care to gain proper distance between their squad and the squad ahead, i.e. the length of the squad front.

At the command of execution MARCH, the squads wheel to the left, take their places in line, halt and dress.

When the company commander intends to form the company to the right, he commands

TAKE CARE TO FORM COMPANY TO THE RIGHT!

*First Squad: Right Wheel, MARCH!*

At the warning take care to form company to the right, the commanders of the second and third squads take care to gain proper distance between their squad and the squad ahead, i.e. the length of the squad front.

At the command of execution, the head of the column wheels to the right then halts. The second and third squads continue marching forward passing behind the first and wheel into line on the left of the first squad.

In order to form the company line facing to the rear, the company re-forms, wheeling by squad to the left. The company line then wheels to the left to face the rear.

### Part 3 - Employment of Company Arms

All regulations given in each of the preceding chapters apply to the employment of company arms. Under normal circumstances, those commands are sufficient to support company operations.

When employed in a narrow street or defile the width of which is the same as the front of one squad, the company may employ its arms while in column of squads. Commonly referred to as 'street firing' this maneuver is often best used in that situation. When the company is formed in column of squads, just before reaching the ground on which to engage the adversary the instructor halts the column and gives the command:

*Squads Advance and Close Distance, Quick MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the first squad stands fast. The second and third march forward and cover on the squad ahead of them in the column at close distance. This is referred to as a closed column and should only be marched along relatively straight lines for short distances. When ready to engage the adversary, the instructor gives the command:

TAKE CARE TO FIRE AND RETIRE BY SQUADS!

After this command the instructor orders the first squad to MAKE READY, PRESENT and FIRE. Immediately after firing the front rank turns to the right and the second rank turns to the left. Once facing correctly, the instructor gives the command

*To the Rear, Quick MARCH!*

At the command of execution both ranks step off marching in column left or right to the rear. The instructor moves with them, and reaching a point ten paces behind the rear of the column, gives the command

*First Squad: FALL IN!*

at which the squad re-forms on the instructor. As soon as the first squad is clear of the second, the commander of the second causes his squad to march to the front until it occupies the same ground as the first when it fired. The instructor may give instructions to advance further if he desires the column to advance, or to stand fast if he should desire it to retire. Once in position the commander of the second squad causes it to fire and retire in the same manner as did the first squad. This cycle repeats as required, then continue to march as a column of squads.

#### Part 4 - Casualties

Designed to simulate men being killed or wounded in action, casualty drill is employed on the company level. Before each engagement, each private marine in the company draws or is issued a slip of paper. Certain slips are numbered from one to nine, with the following frequency:

No.1	No.2	No.3	No.4	No.5	No.6	No.7	No.8	No.9
17-25, 1	17-25, 1	17-25, 1	17-25, 1	17-25, 1	17-21, 2	17-21, 2	17-19, 3	17-21, 2
26-34, 2	26-34, 2	26-34, 2	26-34, 2	26-34, 2	22-29, 3	22-29, 3	20-25, 4	22-29, 3
					30-34, 4	30-34, 4	26-31, 5	30-34, 4
							32-34, 6	

The upper number in each entry is the aggregate number of marines in the company. The lower number is the number of slips marked with the respective number.

When the instructor calls out a number during the engagement, the marines who drew or were issued a slip with that number on it will become a casualty at the next enemy shot or volley. Numbers one through eight represent wounds or death, at the discretion of the individual or individuals affected. Number nine represents panicked flight. When number ten is called, the entire remainder of the company panics and flees.

Non-commissioned officers are not to be voluntary casualties unless the specific circumstances of a situation permit, in order that the company may maintain a source of order and discipline in all instances.

The instructor may call out numbers at his discretion to represent those casualties as he feels appropriate for that moment of the engagement. If desired the instructor may distribute the numbered slips to the marines while in formation so as to organize grouped casualties of artillery hits, etc.

If a marine becomes a casualty during an engagement, the remaining troops of the company will fill his place in the formation by means of the following actions:

1. Vacancies in the first rank are filled by marines in the same file moving forward, if extant.
2. Vacancies in rear ranks, and those in the front when no file partner stands behind, are filled by dressing right or left toward the point of rest.

#### Part 5 - Company Troop

The Troop is conducted every morning at General Quarters to publish daily orders and schedules and inspect the readiness of the company for the day's activities, in accordance with Article XIV of Admiralty Instructions to the fleet.

When a single squad or smaller formation operates independently, it parades in a single rank and adheres as closely to the procedures for the troop of a company as the circumstances will allow.

The company is paraded in two ranks at close interval and distance, wearing all of their accoutrements, including haversacks, canteens and knapsacks. Bayonets are not fixed except during execution of the manual of arms. The company sergeant takes the position of the company commander in line and presents the muster report to him as he arrives.

The company is inspected before orders or schedules are published. To this end the company sergeant causes the company to open intervals, then the rear rank to take distance at five paces. Arms are inspected first in accordance with Chapter III Part 2 of this manual, then the instructor causes the formation to rest their firelocks, and the company commander or inspector moves from man to man, the firelock from each and ensuring that the lock works properly. When the inspection of firelocks is complete, the company sergeant causes the formation to shoulder, then order their firelocks. The company commander or inspector then conducts a personnel inspection.

When the inspection is complete, the company sergeant orders the rear rank to close distance, then the entire company to dress at close interval. The company commander takes post in front of and centered on the company at a distance of ten paces, then exercises the company in the manual of arms. The company sergeant stands two files to the right of the company commander and executes each command as an example to the formation.

On completion of the exercise in the manual of arms, the company commander exercises the company in Chapters 4 and 5 of this manual exercise. The company sergeant may take the post of company commander while the instructor stands at a distance to observe the execution of each command and take notes. Regardless, the company commander should serve as instructor. The company returns to its original position, then the instructor causes the firelocks to be ordered.

The company commander then gives the command:

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

He then reads his orders for the day and publishes the daily schedule of events. He is sure to include notes from his observation of the drill. At the conclusion, he commands:

COMPANY SERGEANT: TAKE CHARGE OF THE COMPANY AND CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS!

The company sergeant shoulders his firelock on being addressed and replies: "Aye, Sir." The company sergeant turns to the right about to face the company and commands:

*Company: Shoulder Your, ARMS!*  
*Present, ARMS!*

After which he turns to the right about and faces the front, and presents his own firelock. The company commander then departs, and the sergeant proceeds with company business, dismissing or posting the troops at his discretion.

Part 6 - Taptoo

Taptoo is conducted on Saturday evenings at a time determined by the Commanding Officer. Most procedures for the Taptoo are the same as the troop, with the exception that the bayonets are fixed for the duration, and neither haversacks nor canteens or knapsacks are worn. Those procedures which are different are given in the following text of this part.

When a single squad or smaller formation operates independently, it parades in a single rank and adheres as closely to the procedures for the company Taptoo as the circumstances will allow.

The company commander and his guests comprise the official party. The official party approaches the designated ground at the appointed time and not before. On arriving at the designated ground, the company commander introduces his subalterns before dismissing them to take their posts in the rear of the formation.

Just before the appointed time, the subalterns take position ten paces in front of and centered on the company if guests are present in the official party and their normal places in the rear of their squads if the company commander is to inspect the company alone.

When the subalterns have taken their posts in the rear of the line, the company commander and official party proceed to inspect the company man by man, starting with the first rank and finishing with the second. Arms are not taken from the man, but rather inspected in place from the position of Rest Your Firelock, if the company commander intends to inspect them at all. When the inspection is complete, the company commander directs the official party to a position ten paces in front of and centered on the company line. The senior subaltern or company sergeant then gives commands to exercise the company in the manual of arms. If no guests are present the company commander may direct the exercise personally.

If he so desires, the company commander may direct a series of maneuvers to exercise and demonstrate the professional prowess of his company. When all are concluded, he causes their firelocks to be ordered and gives the command

AT YOUR EASE!

At this command the company commander addresses the formation, followed by remarks and addresses from guests. When all remarks are concluded, the company commander gives the command

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

He then publishes his night orders and the time of retreat for that evening and reveille for the next morning, then gives the command

COMPANY SERGEANT: TAKE CHARGE OF THE COMPANY AND DISMISS THEM!

The company sergeant advances his firelock on being addressed, salutes and replies "Aye, Sir." The company sergeant shoulders his firelock then commands:

*Company: Present, ARMS!*

The company sergeant presents his firelock with the company, after which the company commander departs with the official party, and the sergeant turns to the right about to face the company, then proceeds to give the command

*Shoulder Your ARMS!*  
DISMISSED!

## CHAPTER VI

### Containing Commands & Explanations of Manuevers Which May Be Executed by a Battalion

#### Part 1 - Formation of the Battalion

The battalion is formed of three or more companies operating under the same command. Grand divisions which carry colors follow the instructions given in this chapter as closely as practicable. The first company takes position to the right of the color guard at two paces distance, the second company taking position in the same manner on the left of the colors. Odd numbered companies take station on the right of the first company, in numeric order increasing toward the flank, even numbers take station on the left of the second company in the same manner.

When a battalion is composed of an odd number of companies, the first company is divided into two squads and posted on the flanks of the battalion. The squad posted on the left flank function as light troops, while the squad posted on the right flank function as grenadiers. Both, though only of squad strength, are referred to as 'flank companies' and function in special capacities during maneuvers. The other companies of the battalion are known as 'line' or 'hat companies' and form the backbone of the battalion.

#### \* MASSED FIELD MUSIC \*

Massed field music is assembled from the musicians of each company. In the battalion line, the massed field music takes position three paces behind the battalion colors, in a formation arranged by the Drum Major. The front of the massed field music must not exceed 180 inches (15 feet).

#### \* COLOR GUARDS \*

The color guard is comprised of the two junior Lieutenants in the battalion and the two senior Sergeants. Whenever the Lieutenants carry their colors they are to remain together and with the two sergeants assigned to the color guard, the sergeants to be armed with halberds, boarding pikes or fixed bayonets. Companies on either side of the colors maintain an interval of two paces between themselves and the color guard.

The color guard forms in a single rank, the lieutenant bearing the King's Color to the right of the lieutenant bearing the Battalion Color, flanked by the sergeants. In the battalion formation, the colors are the point of rest unless otherwise directed.

#### Part 2 - Column of Files

The battalion may be formed into column of files facing the right or left by the command

*Battalion: Form Column of Files to the Right, TURN!*

At the command of execution, the companies formed in line turn to the right together. The color guard wheels in the direction of the turn and the massed

field music disperses, the musicians quickly taking station on the right of the file containing their respective company commanders. The Drum Major takes station behind the color guard with any musicians not assigned to specific companies.

*Battalion: Form Column of Files to the Left, TURN!*

This command is executed on the command of execution in the same manner as Form Column of Files to the Right, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

The column of files marches and maneuvers as instructed in Chapter IV of this manual. When the battalion commander wishes to deploy into battalion line, he halts the column then gives the command

*Form Battalion, FRONT!*

At the preparatory command, the color guard wheels to the front. At the command of execution, the battalion turns to the front and dresses on the color guard. The musicians retake their posts with the massed field music.

When the battalion is to advance by column of files from the center, the command is given

*From the Center of the Battalion Advance by Files, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, company commanders turn their companies toward the colors. The color guard and massed field music advance until the rear of the massed field music is ahead of the battalion line, then halts.

Commanders of companies adjacent to the colors give the commands to march by column in the direction of the battalion front, i.e. Column Left and Column Right as appropriate.

At the command of execution, the battalion steps off together, the colors at the head of the column. The files of adjacent companies in the column march at close interval. The battalion commander takes position ahead of the colors.

When the battalion commander wishes to deploy his battalion in line from a column of files advancing from the center of the battalion, he halts the column, then gives the command

*Take Care to Form Battalion, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command Take Care to Form Battalion, company commanders cause their companies to turn outward and wheel to the front, then give the preparatory to march by the oblique toward the company's position in line with the colors.

At the command of execution the companies step off, marching at the oblique to their places in line.

### Part 3 - Column of Companies

In order to form a column of companies by wheeling right or left the instructor gives the command

TAKE CARE TO FORM COLUMN OF COMPANIES!

*By Company: Right Wheel, MARCH!*

At the command of execution MARCH, the companies wheel right into column of companies. The general guide on the outside of the wheel takes care to align on the corresponding flank of the company ahead of him in column. When the wheel is complete, the company commanders give the command

HALT!

and takes position two paces in front of and centered on the company in column. The distance between companies in column is maintained at the length of the company front. The color guard advances in column to take position behind the company ahead of it at the distance of the front of the color guard.

*By Company: Left Wheel, MARCH!*

This command is executed on the command of execution in the same manner as By Company Right Wheel MARCH, substituting "left" for "right" and vice versa.

#### \* MANEUVERING THE COLUMN OF COMPANIES \*

The battalion commander gives commands to maneuver the column of companies by commanding the head company of the column, whereby the following companies in the column march to follow it, or by giving commands for each unit to maneuver simultaneously. When commands are given to maneuver the column by maneuvering the head, the warning 'Column' is given before the preparatory command. When the companies of the column are required to maneuver simultaneously, the warning 'By companies' is given before the preparatory command, as per Chapter I of this manual.

#### \* FORMING BATTALION FROM COLUMN OF COMPANIES \*

The battalion line may be re-formed from a column of companies by wheeling or marching at the oblique. To re-form the battalion properly facing front, the wheel or oblique must be in the direction opposite the command used to form the column, i.e. a column formed by wheeling by companies to the right may reform the battalion line by wheeling by companies to the left, or marching by the left oblique, and vice versa. On re-forming the battalion line, the company which was the head of the column serves as the point of rest.

When the battalion commander wishes to form the battalion line from a column of companies by marching at the oblique, he commands

*Take Care to Form Battalion to the Front, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the head of the column stands fast if halted or continues marching straight ahead.

At the command of execution MARCH, the following companies march obliquely to cover on their positions in line. The battalion commander may halt the head of the column at any time. When the head of the column has halted, those companies following take their place in the battalion line, and dress right. As the companies approach their places in line, the company commanders retake their positions as right general guide of their companies.

When the battalion commander wishes to reform the battalion line facing to the left of the column of companies, he commands

*Take Care to Form Battalion on the Left, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the commanders of companies gain proper distance between their company and the company ahead, i.e. the length of the company front, and give the preparatory command to wheel to the left. At the command of execution MARCH, the companies wheel to the left, take their places in line, halt and dress.

When the battalion commander wishes to reform the battalion line facing to the right of the column of companies, he commands

*Take Care to Form Battalion on the Right, MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the commanders of companies gain proper distance between their company and the company ahead, i.e. the length of the company front.

At the command of execution MARCH, the first company wheels to the right and halts when it has gained sufficient distance in that direction for the companies following to pass unobstructed, or as otherwise ordered by the battalion commander. The following companies pass behind the company ahead of them in column, then wheel right, advance to take their places in line, halt and dress.

#### Part 4 - Employment of Battalion Arms

All regulations given in each of the proceeding chapters apply to the employment of battalion arms.

When employed in a narrow street or defile the width of which is the same as the front of one company, the battalion may employ its arms while in column of companies. Commonly referred to as 'street firing' this maneuver is often best used in that situation. When the battalion is formed in column of companies, just before reaching the ground on which to engage the adversary the instructor halts the column and gives the command:

*Companies Advance and Close Distance, Quick- MARCH!*

At the command of execution, the first company stands fast. The following companies march forward and cover on the company ahead of them in the column at close distance. This is referred to as a closed column and should only be marched along relatively straight lines for short distances. When ready to engage the adversary, the instructor gives the command:

TAKE CARE TO FIRE AND RETIRE BY COMPANIES!

After this command the instructor orders the company at the head of the column to MAKE READY, PRESENT and FIRE. Immediately after firing the front rank turns to the right and the second rank turns to the left. Once facing correctly, the company commander gives the command

*To the rear, Quick- MARCH!*

At the command of execution both ranks step off marching by files to the rear. The company commander moves with them, and reaching a point ten paces behind the rear of the column, gives the command

*Company: FALL IN!*

at which the company re-forms on its commander. The instructor remains at the head of the column to direct the firing. As soon as the first company to fire is clear of the second, the commander of the second causes his company to march to the front until it occupies the same ground as the first when it fired. The instructor may give instructions to advance further if he desires the column to advance, or to stand fast if he should desire it to retire.

Once the next company is in position the instructor causes it to fire and retire in the same manner as did the company at the head of the column. This cycle repeats as required, then the battalion continues to march as a column of squads.

Part 5 - On the Deployment of Flank Companies

The flank company on the right of the battalion line is known as the Grenadier Company. The flank company on the left of the battalion line is known as the Light Company. Each forms with the battalion in two ranks, in the same manner as the line companies.

Flank companies are de facto squads which must maneuver as companies with the battalion. To accomplish this, they must maneuver differently from other companies which contain twice their numbers.

When the battalion prepares to deploy into column of companies, flank companies must reduce their formation to one rank in accordance with the commands and instructions for doing so found in Chapter IV of this manual at the warning TAKE CARE TO FORM COLUMN OF COMPANIES.

One or both flank companies may be deployed ahead of the battalion, either in line or in column, to screen enemy movements and defend against skirmishers. They do this in Skirmish Order, deployed at extended intervals across the front of the battalion. In the event that the instructor wishes to deploy the flank companies in this manner he will give the command

*Flank Companies (Specific Company): AWAY SKIRMISHERS TO THE FRONT!*

At this command, the commanders of the flank companies cause their commands to advance twenty paces in front of the battalion and extend their intervals across the battalion front. If both companies are deployed, the commander of the Grenadiers, having seniority, assumes command. The skirmish line advances or retires with the battalion line, and should remain within a pistol shot of it at all times unless otherwise ordered.

When the instructor wishes to recall the skirmish companies to the battalion line, he gives the command

*Flank Companies:* FORM ON THE BATTALION!

At this command the commanders of the flank companies quickly retire to the battalion line, forming their men five paces to the rear of it then marching to the front into line.

#### Part 7 - General Parade (Battalion Troop)

A troop is conducted every morning two hours after reveille to publish daily orders and schedules and inspect the readiness of the battalion for the day's activities, in accordance with Admiralty Regulations.

The battalion is paraded in two ranks at open interval and five paces distance by the Sergeants fifteen minutes before the appointed time. A distance of two paces is reserved between companies. The Battalion Sergeant Major takes position ten paces in front of and centered on the battalion. The company sergeants post five paces in front of and centered on their companies. When posted, the Sergeant Major gives the command

REPORT!

At which the company sergeants advance their arms. The company sergeant on the right flank of the battalion takes one step to the front and delivers his muster reports. On receiving the report, the Sergeant Major responds "Very Well". On receipt of his report the company sergeant takes one step to the rear and retakes his previous position. The sergeant of the next company to the left then steps forward and gives his report, followed by the company sergeant of each company present. On completion, the Sergeant Major causes the arms of the battalion to be ordered then turns about and faces the front. The battalion commander and the battalion officers approach the parade at the appointed time, making their entrance from the left flank of the battalion. On their approach, the Sergeant Major causes the arms of the battalion to be shouldered.

The company officers and their subalterns pass to the rear, taking post ten paces behind their companies, company commander behind the right general guide, the subalterns to his left. The battalion commander and his staff pass to the front, the commander taking post fifteen paces to the front of and centered on the battalion and facing it, his staff arranged in a single rank to his right, in order of seniority.

The Sergeant Major makes his salute, then delivers the muster report to the commanding officer. The battalion commander receives the report, then instructs the Sergeant Major

POST YOUR SERGEANTS!

The Sergeant Major replies "Aye Sir", faces about and gives the command:

POST!

then marches around the back of the battalion commander and takes post to the right of his staff, in the same rank. The company sergeants march to the left of their companies and passing around the back, take the post of the company commander. The company commanders pass around the right flank of the company and take position ten paces in front of and centered on their companies.

The battalion is then inspected. To this end the battalion commander causes the rear rank to take distance at five paces. The battalion commander inspects one company of his choice personally. The remaining company commanders inspect their companies, and take their places in line.

When the inspection is complete, the battalion commander returns to his post in front of the battalion and orders the rear rank to close distance. The company commander causes the firelocks to be ordered, then commands:

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

He then reads his orders for the day and publishes the daily schedule of events. At the conclusion of the daily schedule of events, he commands:

COMPANY COMMANDERS: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR COMPANIES AND CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS!

The company commanders salute, and reply: "Aye, Sir!"  
The Sergeant Major faces the battalion and commands:

*Battalion: Present ARMS!*

After which he turns to the front, and presents his own firelock. The battalion commander then departs, and the company officers proceed with company business, dismissing or posting the troops at their discretion.

#### Part 9 - The Square as a Defense Against Cavalry

In order to defend against a sudden attack by a force of cavalry, a battalion is drawn up into a hollow square in which each side faces outward. The formation of the square from the battalion line must be performed quickly and without confusion. When the instructor wishes a battalion to form square, he gives the command:

*Battalion: Form Square,- Quick MARCH!*

The execution of this command depends on the number of companies composing the battalion.

\* FORMING SQUARE FROM A BATTALION LINE OF THREE COMPANIES \*

At the preparatory command company commanders cause their companies to face toward the colors, the flank companies reducing their line to a single rank before turning. The color guard and field music advance five paces and halt.

At the command of execution the line companies march by column right or left to the front, forming the sides of the square. At the same time the line companies begin marching, the flank companies march by column half-right, covering the front and rear of the square in a single rank. When in positions, the companies halt and face outward and dress at close interval. The second ranks of the second and third companies are distributed around the interior of the square, opening their intervals to cover not only their own company but the single rank of the flank company to their left.

\* FORMING SQUARE FROM A BATTALION LINE OF FOUR COMPANIES \*

At the preparatory command company commanders cause their companies to face inward toward the colors. The color guard advances five paces and halts.

At the command of execution, the first and second companies march by column to the right or left toward the front. The second company halts as soon as all of its files are in column facing the front. The first company marches in column to the left when the second company halts, forming the front of the square. The third company follows the first, halting when it does, forming the right side of the square. The fourth company continues to march toward the right, forming the rear of the square. When halted, each company faces outward.

When the square is roughly formed, the officers and sergeants take positions in the center of the square, and the left-most marine in the front rank on each side of the square faces half-left to form the corner of the square. The officers and sergeants make adjustments to the arrangement of the sides of the square when forming and after it is formed as necessary.

\* REDUCING THE SQUARE \*

To re-form the battalion line, the square collapses in the reverse of the manner in which it was formed. To reduce the square, the command is given:

*Battalion: Reduce the Square,- Quick MARCH!*

At the preparatory command, the companies retake their ranks and files and face in the appropriate direction.

In a square composed of three companies, the flank companies face toward the flank nearest their place in the battalion line. The second and third companies face right or left to the rear.

In a square composed of four companies, the second and third companies face left and right to face the rear. The first and fourth companies face to the right, each then facing the flank nearest their place in the battalion line.

At the command of execution, the companies step off in marching, each toward their place in the battalion line. When in place the company commanders cause their companies to step forward into line, dressing on the colors, which will remain in the same place they were in the square.

## CHAPTER VII

### Containing Commands & Explanations of an Exercise for the Navy Standard Boarding Pike

This chapter is intended to serve as an instruction for marines in the handling of the navy standard boarding pike, as well as the use of their firelock muskets and fixed bayonets to repel boarders. This chapter is divided into eight sections, presented in order of greatest utility to the marine. The untrained recruit should be instructed by those sections in order and verbatim from the text.

The command of execution PIKE is replaced by the plural PIKES when giving commands to two or more marines carrying boarding pikes. The command of execution ARMS is substituted for the command of execution PIKES whenever one or more members of the formation carry any arm other than a boarding pike.

#### \* ORIENTATION \*

##### Safe Practices

When moving about, keep the boarding pike at the Shoulder or the Advance, as in the following text. Exercise caution whenever the pike-head is lowered below the heads of persons nearby, to avoid the severe puncture wound a pike will inflict. Be mindful of the length of the pike and the people around you, as most injuries are the result of accidental contact while moving. When in doubt as to the safety of any evolution get control of the pike as best you can, then put it in a safe position and seek assistance.

##### Safety Hazards

The most common injuries in the use of the pike are bumps and bruises from accidental contact while moving the pike rapidly. It may be well recognized that the pointed pike-head may cause puncture wounds, but less so that the heavy hardwood shaft can cause severe bruising and even broken bones with seemingly light bumps. In this regard those persons handling pikes must take careful measure to ensure they are mindful of its position and the positions of people nearby. If ever in doubt as to your ability to handle the pike safely, get control of it as best you can, put it in a safe position and seek assistance.

##### Parts of the Pike

Before beginning instruction, the marine should be fully acquainted with his issued pike. He should be able to identify the following parts and statistics, and describe all potential safety hazards posed by each:

Head, or Pike-head

Shaft

Shoe

Identifying Marks

Weight, overall (approximate)

Length, overall

\* WORDS OF COMMAND \*

*Shoulder Your, PIKE!*

The pike is held in the left hand, the arm being extended at full length; fore-finger under the shoe, which rests on it; the thumb to the front, and the pike kept in a perpendicular position against the hollow of the left shoulder. This position is assumed when any command not applicable to the pike is given.

*Order Your, PIKE!*

This command may be given only from the Shoulder. It is performed on the command of execution and consists of four motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. Seize the pike with the right hand at the height of the waist.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the shaft at the height of the eyes, keeping the left arm tight beside the shaft.
- 3rd. Carry the pike to the right side and lower it until the left hand is at the height of the waist, releasing the right hand and with it grasping the shaft at the height of the eyes.
- 4th. Release the left hand, letting it fall by the left side. With the right hand quickly sink the pike to the ground, keeping the right elbow tight against the right side.

*Ground Your, PIKE!*

This command may be given from the Order. It is performed on the command of execution and consists of nine motions executed in five counts without regard to cadence as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Raise the pike with the right hand, and keeping it vertical bring the right forearm and grasp it with the left hand at waist level.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Grasp the shoe of the pike with the right hand. At the same time move the left foot forward a full pace.
- 3rd. (2 motions) Slide the left hand up the staff as high as it will permit without constraint, and lower the point of the pike to the ground.
- 4th. (2 motions) Drop the left hand letting it fall smartly to the left side. Bending the knee, lower the pike to the ground just to the right of the right foot. On completion the pike is pointing straight to the front and resting upon the ground.
- 5th. Stand and assume the position of attention.

*Take Up Your, PIKE!*

This command may only be given after the command Ground Your Pike and when standing to the right of the shoe of the pike staff as it rests upon the ground. It is executed on the command of execution in ten motions executed in five counts without regard to cadence as follows:

- 1st. (3 motions) Take one pace forward with left foot. At the same time kneel upon the right knee and grasp the shoe of the pike with the right hand.
- 2nd. (4 motions) Standing up, bring the left foot beside the right and lift the shoe of the pike. Grasp the pike shaft with the left hand as near the head as possible without constraint.

- 3rd. (2 motions) Raise the pike vertically and with the left hand bring the pike upright. At the same time, allow the pike to slide through the hands until the butt end rests upon the ground, keeping it upright and near the right side.
- 4th. Release the right hand and with it grasp the shaft of the pike at the height of the shoulder, keeping the elbow tight against the right side.
- 5th. Release the left hand, dropping it smartly by the left side.

*Shoulder Your, PIKE!*

Has been explained previously in this chapter, but is achieved from the Order by means of six motions executed in four counts, as follows:

- 1st. (2 motions) Raise the pike vertically with the right hand and grasp the shaft with the left hand at the height of the waist. Keep the right arm tight against the shaft.
- 2nd. (2 motions) Release the right hand and with the left move the pike across the body to the left shoulder keeping it upright. Grasp the shaft with the right hand at the height of the waist.
- 3rd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the shoe of the pike.
- 4th. Release the right hand dropping it briskly by the right side.

*Charge Your, PIKE!*

This command may be given only from the Shoulder. It is performed on the command of execution and consists of three motions executed in one count, as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the shaft just above the shoe with the right hand.
- 2nd. Without moving the pike, release the left hand and with it grasp the shaft at the height of the face.
- 3rd. Without changing the position of the left hand, move the pike to the right, bringing it horizontal at the height of the face with the pike-head pointing forward. At the same time slide the right hand to the shoe, carrying it to the right side of and slightly behind the face. The left hand is elevated to keep the pike horizontal, the head slightly lowered.

THRUST!

This command may be given only from the Charge. It is performed on the command of execution and consists of one motion executed as follows:

- 1st. Thrust the pike forward to the fullest extent of the left arm without constraint and rapidly return to the Charge.

*Shoulder Your, PIKE!*

Has been explained previously in this chapter, but is achieved from the Charge by means of three motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Lift the point of the pike and carry it to the left shoulder, holding it vertically. At the same time slide the right hand up the shaft until it is six inches above the shoe.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the base of the pike, fore-finger under the shoe, which rests on it, the back of the hand to the front, locking the pike firmly into the shoulder.
- 3rd. Quit the right hand, bringing it down smartly to the right side.

*Present, PIKE!*

The formal salute is made with the pike by means of the present. This command may only be given from the Shoulder and while at the halt. It is performed on the command of execution and consists of three motions executed in one count, as follows:

- 1st. Grasp the shaft just above the shoe with the right hand.
- 2nd. Without moving the pike, release the left hand and with it grasp the shaft at the height of the face.
- 3rd. Without changing the position of the left hand, move the pike to the right, sliding the right hand to the shoe and carrying it to the right side of and slightly behind the face. The pike-head is pointed forward and lowered to within a few inches of the ground.

*Shoulder Your, PIKE!*

Has been explained previously in this chapter, but is achieved from the Charge by means of three motions executed in three counts, as follows:

- 1st. Lift the point of the pike and carry it to the left shoulder, holding it vertically. At the same time slide the right hand up the shaft until it is six inches above the shoe.
- 2nd. Release the left hand and with it grasp the base of the pike, fore-finger under the shoe, which rests on it, the back of the hand to the front, locking the pike firmly into the shoulder.
- 3rd. Quit the right hand, bringing it down smartly to the right side.

## CHAPTER VIII

### Containing Commands & Explanations of an Exercise for the Sword or Hangar Carried by Officers and Sergeants

The command of execution SWORD is replaced by the plural SWORDS when giving commands to two or more officers carrying swords. The command of execution ARMS is substituted for the command of execution SWORDS whenever one or more members of the formation carry any arm other than a sword.

Officers draw and return sword, without command, when the commander of their unit does. Unless members of the commander's staff, they execute all other movements of the sword manual on the commander's command to the unit. Staff members execute all other movements on the commander's separate command to his staff. The sword will be drawn with armed troops, except when at ease, rest, route step, at ease march, or when inspecting troops. A unit commander, after being inspected, will return sword prior to accompanying the inspecting party, except during the inspection of an honor guard.

Carry sword is assumed when:

1. Giving commands.
2. Changing position in formation at quick time.
3. Addressing or being addressed by a senior.
4. The preparatory command to march from the halt has been given.
5. While marching at quick time.
6. Any movement from Chapters 3 or 7 of this manual has been ordered except Order Arms or Present Arms. When in formation with personnel to your front at two paces distance or less, remain at carry sword except during rest or at ease.

Present sword is assumed when saluting with the sword. If in the interior of a formation, remain at carry sword.

Do not hold the scabbard or sling while marching at the slow march or quick time. While marching at the double quick, hold the sword diagonally across the chest with the sharp edge to the front. Hold the scabbard with the left hand just below the frog.

When calling roll, reading documents, or publishing orders to a formation, slip the fingers of the left hand between the sword grip and guard. Keep the left elbow against the side. Hold the document with both hands.

When not in formation, keep the sword in its scabbard. Salute by means of the left hand upon the peak of the hat.

In order to cause the swords to be drawn, the command is given

*Draw Your, SWORD!*

At the preparatory command, grip the scabbard just below the frog with the left hand. Tilt it forward to form a 45-degree angle with the deck. Take the grip in the right hand and raise it about 10 inches from the scabbard. The right forearm should be parallel to the deck and the left hand holding the scabbard against the side.

At the command of execution SWORD:

1st. Draw the sword smartly, raising the right arm to its full extent, directly to the front at an angle of about 45 degrees, the sword in a straight line with the arm, edge down. Drop the left hand briskly by the left side.

2nd. Pause.

3rd. Bring the back of the blade against the shoulder seam of the coat, the blade vertical, back of the grip to the rear, the arm nearly extended, the thumb and forefinger embracing the lower part of the grip, the thumb against the trouser seam, and the fingers joined behind the end of the hilt. This is the position of carry sword.

In order to salute with the sword, the command is given

*Present, SWORD!*

This command may be given from the position of Carry Sword or Order Sword. At the preparatory command *Present*, raise the right hand to the level of and six inches in front of the neck. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight, and elbow against the body. The blade should be perpendicular to the ground.

At the command of execution *SWORD*, bring the point down smartly, without whipping, to a position three inches above the deck and slightly right of the right foot. Straighten the arm so the guard is against the seam of the breeches. The blade is slanted down and to the front, with the sharp edge to the left. The thumb remains on the left side of the grip.

*Order Your, SWORD!*

This command may be given from At the command of execution *SWORD*, turn the sharp edge down. In this position the right arm hangs naturally with the thumb along the seam of the breeches. The blade slants down to the front with the point three inches from the deck.

In order to cause the sword to be returned to the scabbard, the command is given

*Return Your, SWORD!*

At the preparatory command, raise the right hand to a position six inches in front of the neck. At the same time, grasp the scabbard with the left hand below the throat. Keep the thumb on the left side of the grip, wrist straight, and elbow against the body. The blade of the sword is perpendicular to the ground. Lower the sword point to a position just above the opening of the scabbard. Look down at the opening. Guide the point into the opening with the left thumb and forefinger until the right hand is 10 inches from the scabbard. Then raise the head back to attention. The right forearm should now be straight and parallel to the deck across the body. The left hand holds the scabbard against the side.

At the command of execution *SWORD*, push down on the sword, smartly returning it to its scabbard. In the same motion bring the right hand back to the right side and release the scabbard with the left hand.

When marching for long distances, the funeral carry may be assumed. After initially marching at the carry, change the grip of the right hand so that the knuckle bow is between the index finger and the thumb, and the rest of the fingers curled.

To return to the normal carry, reach across the body with the left hand, forearm parallel to the deck, and grasp the blade with the thumb and index finger, and at the same time adjust the right hand. When the right hand is properly positioned drop the left hand briskly to the left side.

Appendix  
List of Standard Maneuvers

N.B. Commands given in boldface print are given for formations in line of two ranks and are omitted when the formation is composed of a single rank.

To compose the formation:

FORM SINGLE FILE TALL TO SMALL!  
Left, TURN!  
Count, TWOS!  
Twos take one step: Quick MARCH!  
Dress to the Right, DRESS!  
Take Care, FRONT!

To dress the formation at close interval at the halt:

Dress to the Right, DRESS!

To open the intervals at the halt:

At Open Intervals: Dress to the Right, DRESS!  
Take Care, FRONT!

To extend intervals:

Extend to the Right, MARCH!  
HALT THE GUIDE!

To change the point of rest, or dress while marching:

GUIDE RIGHT!

To adjust cover of rear ranks on their file leaders:

CLOSE UP!

To adjust the line of march slightly to the left or right:

INCLINE TO THE RIGHT (LEFT)!

To reduce the formation to one rank (must be at open interval or greater):

REAR RANK STEP UP TO THE FIRST!  
Take Care, FRONT!

To post the rear rank men to the second rank:

Rear Rank: POST!

To dismiss the formation:

DISMISSED!

To recall a formation after being dismissed:

FALL IN!  
Take Care, FRONT!

To conduct a personnel inspection:

Rear rank take distance at five paces, Quick MARCH!  
At Open Intervals: Dress to the Right, DRESS!  
Take Care, FRONT!  
Order Your, ARMS!  
(Conduct the inspection)  
Shoulder Your, ARMS!  
Rear rank close distance, Quick MARCH!

Dress to the Right, DRESS!

Take Care, FRONT!

To conduct an arms inspection (proceed with steps as above, conducting the inspection as follows):

Shoulder Your, FIRELOCKS!  
Secure Your, FIRELOCKS!  
Shoulder Your, FIRELOCKS!

Search Your, FIRELOCKS! (Walk each rank and verify that the bore of each firelock is clear)

Return Your, RAMMERS!

Shoulder Your, FIRELOCKS!

Rest Your, FIRELOCKS! (Approach each marine in the formation, take his firelock from him and inspect for proper function and cleanliness of the lock, then return it)

To form a column of files from the line of battle:

Right, TURN!

To change the direction of march of the column of files, use any of the following commands:

Column Right (Left), MARCH!

Column Half-Right (Half-Left), MARCH!

Countermarch to the Right (Left), MARCH!

By the Right (Left) Oblique, MARCH!

FOLLOW!

To re-form the line of battle from column of files (not formed from the battalion center):

Take Care, FRONT!

Commands which require the command Take Care, FRONT to follow before proceeding:

Dress to the Right, DRESS!

Dress to the Left, DRESS!

REAR RANK STEP UP TO THE FIRST!

FALL IN!

GUIDE RIGHT!

GUIDE LEFT!