

CAVALRY TACTICS

SINGLE RANK FORMATIONS

and

SKIRMISH DRILL FOR MOUNTED
RIFLES

CAVALRY TACTICS

SINGLE RANK FORMATIONS

The principles which govern the movements of mounted forces formed in the ranks are equally applicable when there is but one rank.

The words of command remain the same, except that those which can only be executed by two ranks, are omitted.

At the signal, *Boots and Saddle*, the horses are saddled, bridled, and prepared to be led out to the parade or drill ground.

The call *to horse* being sounded the 1st Sergeant orders the troopers to *lead out*.

When the "last call only" is sounded, (as is proper in the case of sudden alarm,) the troopers saddled, bridle and mount with utmost celerity; and form mounted at the place of assemble, which must always be previously designated.

The platoon is composed of 16 troopers as a maximum, 12 as a minimum.

It is preferable to divide into platoons of 16 although this may require the number of platoons to be diminished; platoons of 16 are divisible into sections, but not those of 12.

"Two, three, or four" platoons united may practice the squadron exercises.

A company divided into four platoons of 16 men will require 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, and 60 privates. When the latter fall below 60 in number, they may be divided into 3 platoons and one section of 8; or into four platoons of 12 men each.

When the number is more than sufficient for a front of 48 or 64, some of the more expert troopers will act as corporals the later acting as Sergeants.

In the assignment of posts with the supposition that 48 or 64 "rank an file" are present, we will

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designate the Captain as No. 1, next in rank No. 2, and so on to the 4th Corporal, who will be No. 11.

The Company, formed in line of battle the positions will be as follows:

No. 1, 1 yards in front of centre of Company
“ 2 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1st platoon
“ 3 “ “ “ “ “ “ 4th “
“ 4 “ “ “ “ “ “ 2nd “
“ 5 “ “ “ “ “ “ 3rd “
“ 6, on the right flank, not counted
“ 7 “ “ left “ “ “
“ 8 “ “ “ of the first platoon,
“ 9 “ “ right “ “ 2nd “
“ 10 “ “ left “ “ 3rd “
“ 11 “ “ right “ “ 4th “

Experienced troopers should be assigned to the flanks of platoons and sections.

The troopers conduct their horses to the drill ground and having arrived there, the Captain commands.

ATTENTION! *One Rank*---FORM SQUADRON*,

The Captain and chiefs of platoons are now mounted; all at the rest “stand to horse,” that is to say they take the position of the trooper dismounted. The Captains and chiefs of platoons face the centre of their respective commands at 10 yards distance measured from head to head.

At the above command the Company is formed with the tallest on the right. The Captain having ascertained that their positions have been taken as directed. **He commands;

- In practicing the squadron movements, the word
- “squadron” is used in the commands.

5.

ATTENTION! *Right--Dress*

The dress being completed, he commands: Front, and directs the Orderly Sergeant to call roll; which having been done and absentees reported, the Captain Commands: in each platoon--Count by fours.

The Captain cautions the troopers to recollect their numbers, and then commands:

Prepare to Mount.

At the command prepare to mount, all other cavalry than mounted riflemen will be governed by the principles laid down in the drill for the troopers.

mounted Riflemen will observe the principles explained in the Mounted Rifle drill.

The same remarks are applicable to the execution of the next following command, viz:

MOUNT; also to the execution of the commands, "prepare to dismount" and "dismount."

Having mounted, all will take posts as about prescribed, for battle order; mounted riflemen conforming to the rules prescribed for that class of mounted troops

The company being, to execute a movement by the files from one of the flanks, the Captain commands:

1 "By files to the right (or left.)

2 MARCH

At the first command, the chief of the platoon which should begin the movement, with the right (or left,) particular guide following him, will place himself facing in the direction indicated on the prolong-

+The position of all besides the Captain and chiefs of platoons are the same as in line of battle; the trumpeters 25 yards (unless otherwise ordered) in the rear of the centre; the file closes one yard in the rear of the 3rd files from the flanks.

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tion of the flank, the croup of the Sergeant's horse being one yard from the boot of the flank man.

At the word march, the trooper on the flank indicated will turn and follow the Sergeant guide on that flank. All others will turn in succession, each one opening the rein and closing the leg, on the side indicated, promptly, so as to take and preserve the distance of 2 feet from the file in front of him.

The chiefs of (all except the leading) platoon will march one yard from their leading files, abreast of them and on the side of the guides.*

The guide of that flank which has now become the rear will now march 2 feet behind the last file in the column

The Captain will march on the side of the guides 4 yards from the centre.

When 3 Lieutenants are present, the 3rd in rank will command the second platoon, and corresponding change will be made in the posts of the non-Commissioned officers. The music will turn to the right (or left) when the centre files turn, maintaining the same relative position as in line, except when ordered to the front or rear, or when obstacles require a change.

One bugler will follow the Captain at 3 yards distance.

In the column of route, passing along highways or streets, or marching in review, the music will move six yards in front of the leading officer. Columns of four, twos, and files are formed to the front from either flank, by the commands on

- The "side of the guides" is the left when the right is in front, and right when left is in front

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the principles prescribed in the drills of the Platoon and squadron.

The column of files being in motion, right in front, to form line facing to the left, without gaining ground to that flank, the Captain commands:

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| 1. FRONT | 3. RIGHT DRESS |
| 2. HALT | 4. FRONT |

At the word “front” the leading officer and Sergeant turn promptly to the left, and halt at the word. All the rest move forward in the original direction of the column, each trooper commencing in his turn to the left when 2 yards from his place in the new line, halting 1 yard short of the line, and the gradually dressing up, without passing over it.

The chiefs of platoons will take their posts as soon as half of their platoon have come up to the line.

The Captain taking position near the right flank, will direct the alignment, not giving the word “front” until the last file is aligned.

The column of files left in front will be formed facing to the right of the column, without gaining ground to the right, on the same principles, but by inverse means, at the commands.

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| 1. FRONT | 3. LEFT DRESS |
| 2. HALT | 4. FRONT |

The movements, “right into line” and “left into line,” are executed as directed in the following commands of this volume. The latter movements require 30 yards

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to be gained to the flank, but in other respects are similar in execution to the "front halt.

The Company marching in column right in front, to form line to the front, the Captain commands:

1. FRONT INTO LINE
2. MARCH
3. HALT
4. RIGHT—DRESS
5. FRONT

At the command MARCH, the (twos or fours) first files continue to march forward; the other rank of twos (or fours) oblique to the left, marching in the direction, and make a quarter turn to the right on coming opposite the place they are to occupy in the Company.

When the first files, have marched 20 paces the instructor commands HALT. At this command, they halt square to the front; the other files come up and form successively on their left, and dress to the right.

At the command FRONT, turn the head to the front.

The instructor gives the command RIGHT—Dress immediately after that of HALT, and commands FRONT when the last rank of twos or fours is aligned.

The columns marching left in front, the movement is executed following the same principles, but by inverse means, at the command;

1. FRONT INTO LINE
2. MARCH
3. HALT
4. LEFT DRESS
5. FRONT

9.

At the command MARCH, the two (or four) first files turn to the left and move forward; the other ranks of twos (or fours) continue to march on, and at three paces before arriving opposite the place they are to occupy in the company, turn successively to the left.

When the first files have marched 20 paces, the instructor commands, HALT. At this command, the first files halt; the others come up and form successively on their left, and dress to the right.

At the command FRONT, turn head to the front.

The instructor gives the command RIGHT—DRESS Immediately after that of HALT, and commands FRONT When the two (or four) last files are aligned.

The column marching left in front, to form line upon its right flank, the movement is executed following the same principles, but by inverse means, at the commands;

1. RIGHT INTO LINE
2. MARCH
3. HALT
4. LEFT—DRESS
5. FRONT

The column marching right in front, to form lines upon the prolongation, and in advance of its right flank, the instructor commands;

1. ON RIGHT INTO LINE
2. MARCH
3. HALT
4. RIGHT—DRESS
5. FRONT

At the command “march” the two (or four) first files turn to the right and move straight forward; the other ranks of twos (or fours) continue to march on and each turns successively to the right, at 3 paces beyond the point where the preceding rank had turned.

When the first files have marched 20 paces the instructor commands HALT. At this command, the first files halt square upon the line, the other files come up and form successively on their left, and dress to the right.

At the command “front” turn the head to the front. The instructor gives the command “right—dress” immediately after that of “halt” and commands “front” when the two (or four) last files are aligned.

The column marching left in front, to form line upon the prolongation and in advance of its left flank, the movement is executed following the same principles, but by inverse means, at the commands;

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. ON LEFT INTO LINE | 4. LEFT DRESS |
| 2. MARCH | 5. MARCH |
| 3. HALT | |

The foregoing explanations have been given for movements twos or by fours, in order to avoid repetition ; but they are executed by fours only after obtaining the necessary precision in the exercises by twos. When these movements have been executed with regularity “at the walk,” they are repeated “at the trot” and “at the gallop.”

Corps of cavalry designed exclusively for mounted riflemen, will form and maneuver altogether on the following principles.

With such corps, the actual engagement being principle on foot , the light infantry exercises of the schools of the soldier, and the company should be well understood.

REMARKS.—The large size bowie knife or the word bayonet, is perhaps preferable to the saber for the mounted-rifle service, and the rifles should be breech loader of long range.

SKIRMISH

DRILL FOR MOUNTED RIFLES

ARTICLE 1>

1. Composition of a company acting singly, and post of officers, non-commissioned officers, &c.

A company consists of one Captain, one first Lieutenant, one second Lieutenant, one brevet *second Lieutenant, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Farrier, one Blacksmith, two Buglers, and sixty-four Privates minimum, seventy-four maximum.

A company is divided into two platoons, which are numbered from the right, FIRST platoon and SECOND platoon.

Each platoon contains two sections. The first and second sections make up the first platoon; the third and fourth sections make up the second platoon.

The sections are called from the right, in the order in which they stand—first, second, third, and fourth sections.

Each section is made up of “sets of four,” which are called in the order in which they stand in their respective sections, from the right, “first set,” “second set,” “third set,” &c.

Post of officers and non-commissioned of a company in line of battle, viz;

No 1. Captain, ten yards in front of centre of first platoon.

No 2. 1st Lieutenant, five yards in front of centre of platoon.

No 3. 2nd Lieutenant, five yards in front of centre of 2nd platoon. (measured from face to face)

- or junior second Lieutenant.

12.

No 4. Brevet second Lieutenant, five yards in centre of company, (not replaced when absent)

No 5. 1st Sergeant, on right of 1st section, not counted in rank.

No 6. 2nd Sergeant, on right of 2nd section, not counted in rank

No 7. 3rd Sergeant, on right of 3rd section, not counted in rank.

No 8. 4th Sergeant, on right of 4th section, not counted in rank.

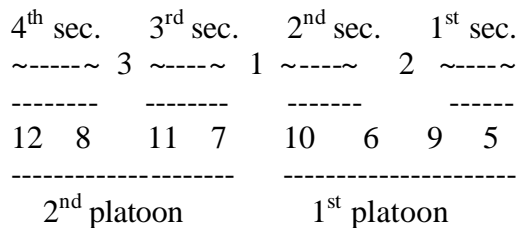
No 9. 1st Corporal, on left of 1st section, not counted in rank.

No 10. 2nd Corporal, on left of 2nd section, not counted in rank.

No 11. 5th corporal, on left of 3rd section, not counted in rank.

No 12. 4th Corporal, on left of 4th section, not counted in rank.

Farrier and Blacksmith in the rank, Buglers near and behind the Captain, or on the right of 1st Sergeant and one yard from him.



In line of battle there will be interval of one yard between the corporal on the left of each section and the Sergeant on the right of the next section. In column of platoons the same interval will be observed.

In columns of platoons the Captain will be habitually on the side of the guide, and about ten yards outside of the centre of the column. The other officers

non-commissioned , &c., will occupy the positions above indicated.

In column of sections the Captain will be ten yards outside the flank of the column on the side of the guides.

The first Lieutenant will be five yards outside the flank of the column on the side of the guide, and opposite the centre of the interval between the 1st and 2nd sections.

The second Lieutenant will be five yards outside the flank of the column on the side of the guide, and opposite the centre of the interval between the 3rd and 4th section.

The Sergeants will be one yard in front of the centre of their respective sections, and will command them. The corporals will be in the rank of their respective sections. The buglers will accompany the Captain, or will be on the right of the leading Sergeant of the column.

In column of fours, twos, or files, the Captain will be ten yards outside the centre of the flank of the column, on the side of the guide.

The first Lieutenant will be five yards outside of centre of the flank of his platoon, on the side of the guide.

The second Lieutenant will be five yards outside of the flank of his platoon, on the side of the guide. The Sergeant (Except the Sergeant of the leading section) will be abreast of the leading four, two or file, of their respective sections, and on the side opposite the guide.

The Sergeant of the leading section will be in front of its leading four.

In all columns the brevet second Lieutenant when there is one serving with the company, will be five yards outside of the centre of the flank column

14.

and on the side opposite the guide.

The Corporal will in all columns of fours, twos, or files, be on the side opposite the guide, abreast of the last set, two, or file. In columns of companies, platoons, or sections, he remains in ranks.

The company having been thus formed, will be drilled by the means and directions laid down in cavalry tactics for the squadron. The section will be drilled by the means and directions laid down in cavalry tactics for the platoon.

The only change necessary in order to make the one answer for the other, are those which result from the diminished depth of the rank and the use of the words "company" and "section," instead of "squadron" and "platoon." (e.g.)

In forming to left into line from column of fours, the command must be changed to, "by fours left wheel."

TO MOUNT

2.—The command being dismounted in line of battle, the men standing to horse, to mount, the commands of the chief are;

1. PREPARE TO MOUNT 2. MOUNT

At the first command, the Sergeant and numbers two and four of each section move five yards to the front. Stepping off with their left foot, and regulating by the right. The Corporals and numbers one and three stand fast until the others have cleared them; all then prepare to mount according to the principles laid down in cavalry tactics, except that they take the end of the rein in the right hand, draw them through the left, which holds them above the middle of the neck of the horse between the thumb and

hand, with the palm down, until the horse just feels the bit' then with the right hand adjust the stirrup to the left foot, and with the left hand take up a lock of the mane so that its end comes out by the thumb; then take the surplus part of the reins in the right hand with the palm up, and seize the right side of the pommel with the right hand.

At the second command, all mount together, and the corporals and numbers one and three immediately move forward, and place themselves boot to boot with the Sergeants and numbers two and four.

The chiefs correct the alignment, if it be necessary, commanding "RIGHT—DRESS." The assistant places himself at his command on the right of the line, looking along it, and correcting the files who are out of place.

The chief remains in front, in order to superintend the alignment. The assistant commands "steady," when the files are all correctly aligned; and then the chief commands "front."

TO DISMOUNT

3. The command being mounted in line of battle, to dismount it the commands are;

1. PREPARE TO DISMOUNT 2. DISMOUNT

At the first command, the sergeant and numbers two and four of each section move to the front five yards; the corporals and numbers one and three stand fast. All then prepare to dismount in other respects as laid down in cavalry tactics, except that they take the reins in the left hand with a lock of mane, and carry the right hand to the right side of the pommel.

At the second command all dismount, leaving the

reins over the pommel; the sergeants and numbers two and four stand to horse, while the corporals and numbers one and three lead forward and form rank with them.

TO LINK

To link after dismounting, the man stands to horse face about to the rear, takes the link which hangs from the halter ring of the horse of his left file in his right hand, seize his own horse by the bit near the mouth, and draw the horse of his left file towards his own until he can hook the snap into the curb ring; in hooking; the nails of his right hand are down. When he dismounts he leaves his reins over the pommel of the saddle. To facilitate the linking, the horse holder should bear his horses head well towards number three.

4.—Form end course of inspection for single rank formation; The company being formed in line, in one rank, mounted, the officers and non-commissioned officers in their places,9 section 7,) to inspect it, the commands are;

1. FOR INSPECTION__PREPARE TO DISMOUNT
2. DISMOUNT

At the first command, the first and second Lieutenants Move forward ten yards. The brevet second Lieutenant places himself upon the line with them, in front of the left file of the company; they all then return saber and prepare to dismount.

The non-commissioned officers move forward ten yards and prepare to dismount.

Numbers two and four move forward five yards, and prepare to dismount.

Numbers one and three prepare to dismount in

their places.

At the second command all dismount and stand to horse. They then shift the pistol holster towards the front of the body sufficiently to enable the inspecting officer readily to withdraw the pistol. The men then unsling rifles, order arms, and spring rammers without noise, with the right arm passed through the rein; they then allow the rifle to fall across the body obliquely into the hollow of the left arm, which holds it with the forearm extended down, the barrel between the thumb and closed fingers. In this position they await the inspection. As soon as the inspecting officer perceives that the second command has been executed, he returns his saber, dismounts, gives his horse to a trumpeter to hold, and commences his inspection on the right of the line of officers. He passes along the front of the line, around its left, and along its rear ;he then passes to the front of the line of non commissioned officers, which he inspects in the same manner. He draws and inspects the pistol of each man as he comes to him, and, after inspecting, returns it to the holster. He the passes to the right of the front line of men, draws and inspects the pistol of the man on the right of that line, returns it to the holster, takes the rifle from the position in which it rests, and after inspecting, returns it to that position, and so on throughout the line. Each man slings his rifle and readjusts his pistol, as soon as the inspector has passed one file beyond him. After having completed his inspection of the men, horses, arms, and equipments He then inspects the rear line of men in the same manner.

After which he mounts and commands;

18.

1. PREPARE TO MOUNT
2. MOUNT
3. FORM RANK
4. RIGHT_DRESS
5. FRONT

At the first command all prepare to mount, in their places. At the second command all mount, and the rear line of men move forward to their places, boot to boot with the front line of men. All then move together to the line of non-commissioned officers in which they are aligned by the fourth and fifth commands.

The sabers are then inspected, as directed in cavalry tactics, by the command;

1. INSPECTION OF SABRE

If the company be in tents or other quarters, the valises or saddle bags and clothing are inspected in the quarters.

If in the field, the men will unstrap and display them on the ground at their feet, as the stand to horse, before they unsling rifles.

The trumpeters will be near and in the rear of the inspecting officers when he gives the first command.

They will dismount with the rest, one of them holds the horse of the other, who goes to take that of the inspector.

SKIRMISH DRILL FOR MOUNTED RIFLES

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

ARTICLE II

For this drill the men should be dressed as to secure the greatest freedom of action, as in the blouse or sack, and in the forage cap, with the chinstrap down. The revolver will be worn in belt holster upon the right side of the man. The gun will be slung across the back, with the bulk near his right hip. In addition to the usual equipment of a cavalry soldier, each man will be provided with a "link," for the purpose of securing his horse whenever he dismounts. It will be buckled in the halter ring of the headstall, and when not wanted for immediate use, will be hooked up by the snap in the same ring.

At the signal "boots and saddle," the horse will be saddled and bridled. At the signal "to horse," the command will be formed according to the instructions already given in section 2.

Should the command be less than a complete company, the officers in charge of it will make such changes in the organization as are necessary in consequence of the absence of members.

Every command be it a full company or a scouting party less than a company, will be divided into four equal sections if possible. A section must contain at least eight men.

Some fourteen of every command will be held in

reserve, unless it is so small as to manifestly render it unwise to divide it. Any section may form the reserve; and its commander will be assigned by selection and not according to rank.

A "set of four" means the four men who tell off Together. A "chief of four" is the right file of the set, or "number one" of the set, and will be habitually the guide of the set; when in columns of fours, he will command the set to which he belongs.

He will be responsible for the men of his set never separate from each other, and for the interval, distance and alignment.

The senior officer on drill is termed the "chief," his next in rank is termed "assistant."

Before skirmishing, two or three men will be detailed to accompany and protect the chief.

Preparatory to skirmishing, a section will take open order.

The interval between men in open order, measured from boot to boot, is twenty seven inches.

In columns of fours in open order, the distance between the sets of four, from croup to head, is four yards.

In a column of twos, open order, the distance from croup to head is eighteen inches.

In a column of "by the file," the distance from croup to head is eighteen inches.

The distance and interval are reduced from the length and breadth of the horse, and from the agreement which must exist between the depth of a column, and the length of the line into which it will wheel.

The interval of twenty-seven inches will be found in practice ample to enable the men to mount in their places in line or in column, without the necessity of the alternate files moving out to the front for that purpose.

21.

In an enemy's country or when in danger of sudden attack or ambuscade, the leading section of the company or scouting party should march in open order, so as to be able to get at once into action.

TO TAKE OPEN ORDER

6. Being in line, right in front, the commands of the chief are;

First section (or second or third as the case may be.)

1. OPEN ORDER—CALL OFF 2. MARCH

At the first command all gather their horse; at the second command all take the gallop, except the centre file of each section which trots out directly to the front, those on the right of the centre oblique to the right, each man contriving to oblique until he has an interval of twenty-seven inches between him and the next file on his left, those on the left of the centre continue to oblique to the left until each man has twenty-seven inches interval between him and his next file on his right. They all then oblique themselves on the centre, take up its gait, and continue to move to the front until the next command of the chief.

TO RETURN TO CLOSE ORDER

Being in line, right in front, or open order, the command of the chief are;

1. CLOSE ORDER—FRONT 2. MARCH
2.

At the first command all gather their horses; at the second command the centre file moves to the front at the walk, the others close in towards him at the

trot; each in succession taking up the walk and obliquing on the centre as he gains his position in the line.

7. The section being in line, right in front, open order, breaks into columns of fours, by the commands;

1. BY FOURS—TROT(or gallop) 2. MARCH

At the first command the first set of fours gathers its horses, and takes the trot and take the trot together at the second.

After the first set has cleared the front of the line, march three yards, the second set moves out at a trot, (or gallop,) marches straight to the front until clear of the line, and then obliqués to the right until in position in column exactly behind the first set; and at four yards distance from it, when it marches to the front to take its place in column. The third set follows the second, and so on throughout the section, according to the foregoing directions.

Care must be taken to avoid losing distance in this movement. The sets of fours must move out promptly in turn, and oblique together. The chief commands “guide right” when the first set is out.

A column of twos and files may be formed on the same principles and by the same means, except that the distances in these cases is only eighteen inches from head to croup.

In all formations of this drill, the same principles will be observed in regard to increasing the gait as are now established in cavalry tactics.

When columns of fours, twos, or files, the various method of forming into line (front, right, or left,) can be executed by the commands and means laid down in cavalry tactics for the platoon.

Observe: that as there is no rear rank, lines can be formed at once on either flank by wheeling by fours to the right or left.

23.

When the right of the column is in front, and the wheel is made by fours to the right, the sets will be in line by inversion. The men of each set will not be inverted.

When the men are not well instructed in the drill, the deployments from close order into open order and from open order into skirmishing order, should be made at the walk or trot. Habitually they should be executed at the gallop; and in action, with the greatest celerity compatible with steadiness.

In deploying, the officers and non-commissioned officers will fall to the rear of the line in order to superintend the movement. Every movement not fully described in the following pages will be understood to be executed, as now ordered, in the system already in use.

8. To form column of twos, open order, from column by file, marching at the walk, right in front, the commands are;

1. FORM TWOS, OPEN ORDER—TROT
2. MARCH

At the second command numbers two and four oblique to the left at the trot, and move to the front when in rear of their places in columns of twos, until in line with their respective ones and threes. The leading set of twos then being at a walk, all the others close up at the trot to their places, with the distance of eighteen inches, and an interval from boot to boot of twenty-seven inches.

9. To form columns of fours, open order, from column by file, when marching at the walk, right in front, the commands are;

1. FORM FOURS, OPEN ORDER—TROT
2. MARCH

At the first command number one of each set continues to march at the walk to the front; twos, threes, and fours of every set oblique to the left at the trot, each moving to the front when in rear of the place he will occupy in his set of four; when they have gained their places in line with number one, the leading set being at a walk, the others take up the trot, which they keep until each has arrived at the distance of four yards from the one preceding it, each in turn then takes up the walk. The chief commands, "guide right," when the first set is formed.

10. To form columns of fours, open order, from columns of twos, open order, when marching at the walk, with right in front, the commands are;

1. FORM FOURS—TROT. 2. MARCH
- 2.

At the second command threes and fours oblique to the left at the trot, until opposite their places in the set of four, when they move to the front; taking up the walk when in line with ones and twos. The chief commands; "guide right," when the movement is completed, ones and twos preserve the walk and direction during the movement ; and after the other files have moved out, must take care not to diminish the distance left by them. If the column is trotting when the movement is ordered, it will be executed at the gallop.

11. To break from columns of fours into columns of twos, open order, marching at the walk, with right in front, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS
2. MARCH

At the second command numbers three and four halt until numbers one and two have cleared them,

25.

when they oblique to the right, into their places in columns of twos. The chief commands, "guide right," as soon as the movement is completed.

12. To break a column of two, in open order or in close order, into column by file, when marching at the walk, right in front the commands are;

1. BY FILE—TROT 2. MARCH

At the second command number one of the leading set takes the trot. As soon as he has cleared number two, of the first set, number two obliquely to the right at the trot, and enters the column behind number one. Number three then moves to his place in column at the trot, followed by number four, who, by obliquing at the trot, takes his place in rear of number three; and so on throughout the column, each even numbered file obliquing at the trot as soon as the odd numbered file on his right has cleared him. The files must move promptly and exactly in their proper time, so as not to lose distance in this movement.

Being in columns of twos, wheels to the left may be executed when the right is in front; and to the right with the left in front, but not the reverse of these, for then the twos would be inverted in their respective files, and confusion would result on account of the change in position of the horse holder.

13. To deploy forward as skirmishers, from a line right in front, halted or marching at any gait, the commands are;

1. ON (such) SET—DEPLOY AS
SKIRMISHERS—GALLOP
2. MARCH

At the second command all take the gallop except

the designated set, which trots out to the front. Those on the right and left of it oblique at the gallop to the right or left, each set taking up the trot when on line with the directing set, and at fifteen yards from the nearest file of the next set on the side of direction.

In this movement the chief of four will be held responsible for the direction and interval and alignment of the men of their respective sets; and will see the sets are at proper intervals from each other. The chief will halt the line when it has reached the gait where it is to act.

The following movements will enable cavalry, when on a march, to get into action with the least possible delay, in case of an attack when passing a ambuscade.

It is understood that always, when dismounted to fight, the horse holders remain mounted, unless other-wise ordered.

In all maneuvers of this article the commands numbered "1" are cautionary.

ARTICLE III

14. To dismount to fight when in column off fours, open order, right in front, halted or marching at any front, to meet an enemy on the left and front, the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. ACTION FRONT AND LEFT
3. COMMENCE FIRING

At the first command all halt, spring to the ground, link horses, unsling rifles, and step one yard to the front. At the second command the first set moves forward four yards, and at the third command commences firing. The other set moves at the double

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quick obliquely to the left, and take their places on the line with the first set, each set, as soon as it arrives upon the line, commences firing.

In case it is desired to form the line towards the right of the head of the column, the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. ACTION REAR AND LEFT
3. COMMENCE FIRING

All the sets except the first will then gain their place in the line by obliqueing to the right. The sets will be in line according to inversion, the men in each set will be in direct order.

15. Being in columns of fours, open order, right in front, marching at any gait, or halted to meet an attack on the left or rear, the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. ACTION REAR AND LEFT
3. COMMENCE FIRING

At the first command all halt, spring to the ground, link horses, unsling rifles, and step one yard to the front. At the second command the men of the rear set face to the right, and led by their chief, file to the right around the rear set of horses to line five yards in rear of their croups.

At the second command all the other sets face to the left, and move at the double quick. Each man as he clears the column moves obliquely to the left and rear to his place in line with the rear set.

If it be desired to get at once into action, the chief commands, "commence firing," as soon as the set first on the line is established. The set the commences the fire; and each of the others take it up in

28.

succession as it arrives upon the line; and in all of the following movements the same rule will be observed.

16. Being in column of fours, open order, right in front, marching at any gait, or halted to meet an attack from the right of the column, the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. ACTION RIGHT

At the first command all halt, spring to the ground, link horses, unsling rifles, and step one yard to the front. At the second command all move briskly upon a line five yards outside the right flank of the column, where they take their places, in line of battle, face to the right, the sets will be in order by inversion; but the men in each set will be in direct order, the chief being on the right. From this position they may deploy forward as skirmishers, if it be desired.

17. When columns of fours, open order, the right in front, halted or marching to meet an attack from the left the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. ACTION LEFT

At the first command all halt, spring to the ground, link horses, unsling rifles, and step one yard to the front. At the second command all move briskly to the left, and place themselves on line five yards outside the left flank of the column, facing to the left of it, and in their proper places in line of battle. From this position they may be deployed forward as skirmishers, if desired.

18. Being in columns of twos, with right in front, marching at any gait, or halted, to meet any enemy on left or in front, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS LEFT WHEEL—MARCH
2. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
3. ACTION FRONT AND LEFT
- 4.

At the first command, the twos wheel to the left and halt. At the second command all dismount, link horses, unsling rifles, and step one yard to the front. At the third command the leading set moves to a line five yards to the right of the right flank, as now formed, and facing in that direction. The others move obliquely to the right and front, at double quick, and take their places on the line with the first.

If it be desired to form the line towards the right of the head of the column, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS, LEFT WHEEL—MARCH
2. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
3. ACTION FRONT AND RIGHT
- 4.

Each of the sets in rear of the leading set will then gain its place in the line by passing through the interval on the right of its set of horses, and moving obliquely to the right and front, to its place in line with the leading set. The sets will be in line by inversion.

19. Being in column of twos, right in front, marching at any gait, or halted, to meet an enemy in rear, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS, LEFT WHEEL—MARCH
2. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
3. ACTION REAR AND LEFT

At the first command all wheel by twos into line to the left and halt. At the second command all dismount, link horses, step one yard to the front,

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and await the next command. At the third command the rear set faces to the left, and moves at the double quick to its place on a line five yards to the left of the left flank, as now formed and facing in that direction. The other sets face obliquely to the left, and move off at the double quick to their places in the line with the rear set.

If it be desired to form the line to the right instead of the left, the first two commands are the same as in the other case; the third command is, "action rear and right," at which the rear set takes its place in the line as before, and the others pass through the intervals to the left of their sets of horses, respectively, and take their places in succession on the left of the set first established. The sets will then be in line by inversion.

29. Being in columns of twos, marching at any gait, or halted with right in front, to dismount to fight, in order to meet an enemy on the right flank, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS, LEFT WHEEL—MARCH
2. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT—ACTION RIGHT

At the first command the twos wheel into line to the left and halt. At the second command all dismount and link. In linking, the men remain faced to the front, and take the link in the left hand, and the bit in the right. After linking the face about, unsling rifles, and take their places in a line five yards outside the croup of the horses. The cautionary words, "action right," should be uttered immediately after "dismount to fight."

The method of linking is changed in this instance to avoid the inconvenience which might result from the men having to stoop under the links, after linking, in order to pass to their positions in rear of the horses.

31.

21 Being in column of twos, right in front, marching at any gait, or halted, to dismount to fight, to meet an enemy on the left, the commands are;

1. BY TWOS, LEFT WHEEL—MARCH
2. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT

At the first command wheel by twos into line to the left and halt. At the second command all dismount, link horses, unsling rifles, step five yards to the front and stand fast.

In case it should be desired in any of the preceding maneuvers to form the line in an oblique direction, the commands would be the same; but the set first in line would be placed in the desired direction, and the others would conform to it. The chief will judge from the circumstances which of the maneuvers to adapt, whether the flank, the front, or the rear.

In all cases of this article and command “commence firing” will be the signal for the first set on the line to open fire. The other sets if not on the line when it is given, will commence firing as soon as it is practicable after they arrive on the line.

ARTICLE IV

22. To deploy as skirmishers, when dismounted, the command is;

1. ON (such set) DEPLOY—FORWARD

At this command the sections spring forward at the double quick. The set on the right of the directing set move obliquely to the right until opposite their places in the line of battle, when they move to the front, aligning by the left.

The sets on the left of the directing set move

32.

obliquely towards the left until opposite their places in line of battle, when they move to the front. The directing set, aligning by the right. All move forward until halted by the chief.

When in proper position in line of battle, thus deployed there will be an interval of fifteen yards between sets, and three feet between files in each set,

The firing will commence at the command of the chief.

If it be desired to deploy on the line already occupied, the command will be, "ON (such set) DEPLOY."

The directing set stands fast; the sets to the right and left face to their right and left respectively, and move at the double quick to take their intervals; then face to the front, and align themselves in the directing set.

23. To deploy as skirmishers, mounted, from a column of fours, right in front, the commands are;

1. ON (such) SET—DEPLOY—GALLOP
2. MARCH

At the second command the directing set trots out at the front; those in rear to the left at a gallop; and all take the trot when they have gained their intervals of fifteen yards, aligning themselves by the directing set.

The chief will halt the line when it has arrived where it is to act.

To assemble the skirmishers into line or column again, the chief will place himself at, or otherwise indicate, the point at which the directing set is to rest, and have the rally sounded. At this signal the sets will close in at a gallop upon the indicated point, and take their places in line of battle.

When the line is formed, it will be broken into

33.

column in order to advance or retire as may be necessary.

24. Having been thus deployed into line for skirmishing, to commence actions, the commands are;

1. DISMOUNT TO FIGHT
2. FORWARD
3. HALT
4. COMMENCE FIRING

At the first command all except the horse holder dismount, link horses, unsling rifles, step one pace to the front, and await the next order. At the second command the line moves forward at the double quick until halted. At the fourth command the right file of each set delivers his fire, and he is followed in succession by the other two.

The chief of four will take care that there is always one gun loaded in his set; this will never be neglected, whether in advance or retreating. The files of each set must depend upon each other for support and assistance, they must never separate, every kind of cover must be seized and occupied by the skirmishers; each chief of four must be alert to perceive such advantages for his set, taking care however, that in attempting to secure them he does not separate to far from the other sets of the line to receive or give support when necessary.

The horses will be habitually be kept about one hundred yards to the rear of their riders, though they should be nearer, when they can find shelter from fire which will permit it. Fifty yards will be enough when the enemy does not use firearms.

They will be under charge of a non commissioned officer; and when it is desired to remount rapidly, should be advanced to meet their riders. The reserve will be kept mounted and where it can best protect the horses of the dismounted men and get into action best.

34.

The deployed line will be maneuvered by the commands, signals, and means provided in the cavalry tactics.

If it be desired to fight mounted, the chief will command the charge. The men will then draw saber or pistol and charge.

25. The section being in column of fours, open order, right in front, and at the walk, to take close order, the commands are;

1. CLOSE ORDER—TROT 2. MARCH

At this command number one of the leading set marches to the front at the walk; the other men of his set closing upon him at the trot until each has gained his place in the set of four in close order. The set then walks. The other sets close at the trot in the same manner, each walking when it has closed to eighteen inches from that in his front.

26. The section being in column of twos, right in front, open order, to take close order, the commands are;

1. CLOSE ORDER 2. MARCH

At this command, numbers two and four incline to the right slightly, quickening the gait and place themselves boot to boot with numbers one and three.

27. To form columns of fours, in close order, when marching in column of file at the walk, with right to front, the commands are;

1. FORM FOURS 2. TROT—MARCH

At the second command, number one of the leading set continues to march to the front at the walk. All others oblique to the left at the trot;

35.

each man ,marching to the front when in rear of his place in his set of fours in close order, and aligning by number one of his set. All of the sets (except the leading set,) continue the trot until they have closed up to within eighteen inches of each other, and then take the walk.

ARTICLE V

28. To sling rifles, from carry arms, the command is;

1. SLING RIFLES

At this command, raise the piece with the right hand a little higher than the hip, inclining the barrel over the right shoulder, and in rear of the head; at the same time, with the left hand near the right shoulder, move the sling out from the barrel, thrust the head, right shoulder and right arm through the opening; let the piece fall into its position, steadying it with the right hand, and drop the hands by the side.

To unsling rifles, the command is

1.UNSLING RIFLES

At this command pass the right hand through the opening between the sling and the piece near the right hip, bear the piece towards the front with the right arm, seize it with the right hand as in carry arms, and raise it a little above the right hip; at the same time, with the left hand, free the sling from the head, and lower the piece to the position of carry arms.

29. All of the movements described herein are supposed to be executed when the right is in front. It will be understood that they can all be executed when the left is in front, upon the same principles by inverse means.

