

INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS

General principles and division of the instruction.

1. The movements of skirmishers should be subjected to such rules as will give to the commander the means of moving them in any direction with the greatest promptitude.

2. It is not expected that these movements should be executed with the same precision as in closed ranks, nor is it desirable, as such exactness would materially interfere with their prompt execution.

3. When skirmishers are thrown out to clear the way for, and to protect the advance of, the main corps, their movements should be so regulated by this corps, as to keep it constantly covered.

4. Every body of skirmishers should have a reserve, the strength and composition of which will vary according to circumstances.

5. If the body thrown out be within sustaining distance of the main corps, a very small reserve will be sufficient for each company, whose duty it shall be to fill vacant places, furnish the line with cartridges, relieve the fatigued, and serve as a rallying point for the skirmishers.

6. If the main corps be at a considerable distance, besides the company reserves, another reserve will be required, composed of entire companies, which will be employed to sustain and reinforce such parts of the line as may be warmly attacked ; this reserve should be strong enough to relieve at least half the companies deployed as skirmishers.

7. The reserves should be placed behind the centre of the line of skirmishers, the company reserves at one hundred and fifty, and the principle reserve at four hundred paces. This

Rally by sections.

136. If the captain or commander of a line of skirmishers formed of many platoons judges the rally by section is too weak, he commands :

Rally by platoons.

138. To rally the skirmishers on the reserve, captain commands :

Rally on the reserve.

160. To rally one or more platoons on the battalion, captain commands :

Rally on the battalion.

173. To assemble on the centre while marching, captain commands :

Assemble on the centre.

END OF VOLUME



ARTICLE SECOND.

- (1.) To advance in line.
- (2.) To retreat in line.
- (3.) To change direction.
- (4.) To march by the flank.

ARTICLE THIRD.

- (1.) To fire at a halt.
- (2.) To fire marching.

ARTICLE FOURTH.

- (1.) The rally.
- (2.) To retreat in line.
- (3.) The assembly.

ARTICLE FIFTH.

- (1.) To deploy a battalion as skirmishers.
- (2.) To rally the battalion deployed as skirmishers.

14. In the first four articles, it is supposed that the movements are executed by a company deployed as skirmishers, on a front equal that of the battalion in order of battle. In the fifth article, it is supposed that each company of the battalion, being deployed as skirmishers, occupies a front of one hundred paces. From these two examples, rules may be deduced for all cases, whatever may be the numerical strength of the skirmishers, and the extent of the ground they ought to occupy.

ARTICLE FIRST.

Deployments.

15. A company may be deployed as skirmishers in two ways—forward, and by the flank.

2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

55. If skirmishers marching to front, captain commands :

1. *On the left (or right) group (so many paces) extend intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

To close intervals.

60. If skirmishers halted, captain commands :

1. *By the left (or right) flank (so many paces) close intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

62. If the line be marching to the front, the captain will command :

1. *On the left (or right) group (so many paces) close intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

To advance in line, and to retreat in line.

71. The captain commands :

1. *Forward.* 2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

79. The captain commands :

1. *In retreat.* 2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

To change direction.

86. To change direction to the right (or left), captain commands :

1. *Right (or left) wheel.*

To deploy forward.

22. A company being at a halt or in march, when the captain shall wish to deploy it forward on the left file of the first platoon, holding the second platoon in reserve, he will command :

1. *First platoon—as skirmishers.*
2. *On the left file—take intervals.*
3. MARCH (or *double quick—MARCH*).

23. At the first command, the second and third lieutenants will place themselves rapidly two paces behind the centres of the right and left sections of the first platoon ; the fifth sergeant will move one pace in front of the centre of the first platoon, and will place himself between the two sections in the front rank as soon as the movement begins ; the fourth sergeant will place himself on the left of the front of the same platoon, as soon as he can pass. The captain will indicate to the sergeant the point on which he wishes him to direct his march. The first lieutenant, placing himself before the centre of the second platoon, will command :

Second platoon, backward—MARCH.

24. At this command, the second platoon will step three paces to the rear so as to unmask the flank of the first platoon. It will then be halted by its chief, and the second sergeant will place himself on the left, and the third sergeant on the right flank of the platoon.

25. At the command, *march*, the left group of four men, conducted by the fourth sergeant, will direct itself on the point indicated ; all the other groups of fours throwing forward briskly the left shoulder, will move diagonally to the front in double quick time, so as to gain to the right the space of twenty paces, which shall be the distance between each group and that immediately on its left. When the second group from

300. At this command, the man on the right of the squad will move forward three paces and halt ; he will then bring his piece to an order, drop on both knees, and place himself on the ground flat on his belly. In this position he will support the piece nearly horizontal with the left hand, holding it near the lower band, the butt end of the piece and the left elbow resting on the ground, the barrel uppermost ; cock the piece with the right hand, and carry this hand to the small of the stock ; raise the piece with both hands, press the butt against the shoulder, and resting on both elbows, *aim* and *fire*.

301. As soon as he has fired, bring the piece down and turn upon his left side, still resting on his left elbow ; bring back the piece until the cock is opposite his breast, the butt end resting on the ground ; take out a cartridge with the right hand ; seize the small of the stock with this hand, holding the cartridge with the thumb and two first fingers ; he will then throw himself on his back still holding the piece with both hands ; carry the piece to the rear, place the butt between the heels, the barrel up, the muzzle elevated. In this position, charge cartridge draw rammer, ram cartridge, and return rammer.

302. When finished loading, the man will turn again upon his left side, remove the old cap and prime, then raise the piece vertically, rise, turn about, and resume his position in the ranks.

303. The second man will be taught what has just been prescribed for the first, and so on throughout the squad.

END OF INSTRUCTION.

the left shall arrive on a line with, and twenty paces from the first, it will march straight to the front, conforming to the gait and direction of the first, keeping constantly on the same alignment and at twenty paces from it. The third group, and all the others, will conform to what has just been prescribed for the second ; they will arrive successively on the line. The right guide will arrive with the last group.

[LeGal] The first, second and third sergeants follow the movement; they will be placed on the right, on the left, and in the centre of the company; one of them will be charged with the direction.

26. The left guide having reached the point where the left of the line should rest, the captain will command the skirmishers to halt ; the men composing each group of fours will then immediately deploy at five paces from each other, and to the right and left of the front rank men of the even file in each group, the rear rank men placing themselves on the left of their file leaders. If any groups be not in line at the command, *halt*, they will move up rapidly, conforming to what has just been prescribed.

27. If, during the deployment, the line should be fired upon by the enemy, the captain may cause the groups of fours to deploy, as they gain their proper distances.

28. The line being formed, the non-commissioned officers on the right, left and centre of the platoon, will place themselves ten paces in rear of the line, and opposite the positions they respectively occupied. The chiefs of sections will promptly rectify any irregularities, and then place themselves twenty—five or thirty paces in rear of the centre of their sections, each having with him four men taken from the reserve, and also a bugler, who will repeat, if necessary, the signals sounded by the captain.

[LeGal] The line being formed, these three non-commissioned officers will throw themselves ten paces behind

APPENDIX A

To fire and load kneeling.
from Hardee's School of the Soldier

H.S. 290. In this exercise the squad will be supposed loaded and drawn up in one rank. The instruction will be given to each man individually, without times or motions, and in the following manner.

291. The instructor will command :

FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING.

292. At this command, the man on the right of the squad will move forward three paces and halt ; then carry the right foot to the rear and to the right of the left heel, and in a position convenient for placing the right knee upon the ground in bending the left leg ; place the right knee upon the ground; lower the piece, the left fore-arm supported upon the thigh on the same side, the right hand on the small of the stock, the butt resting on the right thigh, the left hand supporting the piece near the lower band.

293. He will next move the right leg to the left around the knee supported on the ground, until this leg is nearly perpendicular to the direction of the left foot, and thus seat himself, comfortably on the right heel,

294. Raise the piece with the right hand and support it with the left, holding it near the lower band, the left elbow resting on the left thigh near the knee ; seize the hammer with the thumb, the fore-finger under the guard, cock and seize the piece at the small of the stock ; bring the piece to the shoulder, *aim* and *fire*.

295. Bring the piece down as soon as it is fired, and support it with the left hand, the butt resting against the right thigh ; carry the piece to the rear rising on the knee, the barrel

right group of fours in the second section ; the fifth sergeant will place himself on the right of this group, and serve as the guide of the platoon during the deployment.

35. In whatever manner the deployment be made, on the right, left, or centre, the men in each group of fours will always deploy at five paces from each other, and upon the front rank man of the even numbered file. The deployments will habitually be made at twenty paces interval ; but if a greater interval be required, it will be indicated in the command.

36. If a company be thrown out as skirmishers, so near the main body as to render a reserve unnecessary, the entire company will be extended in the same manner, and according to the same principles, as for the deployment of a platoon. In this case, the third lieutenant will command the fourth section, and a non-commissioned officer designated for that purpose, the second section ; the fifth sergeant will act as centre guide; the file-closers will place themselves ten paces in rear of the line, and opposite their places in line of battle. The first and second lieutenant will each have a bugler near him.

[LeGal] If no reserve be formed, the third lieutenant, fourth and fifth sergeants will take their place in line of battle, abreast with the first, second, and third sergeants.

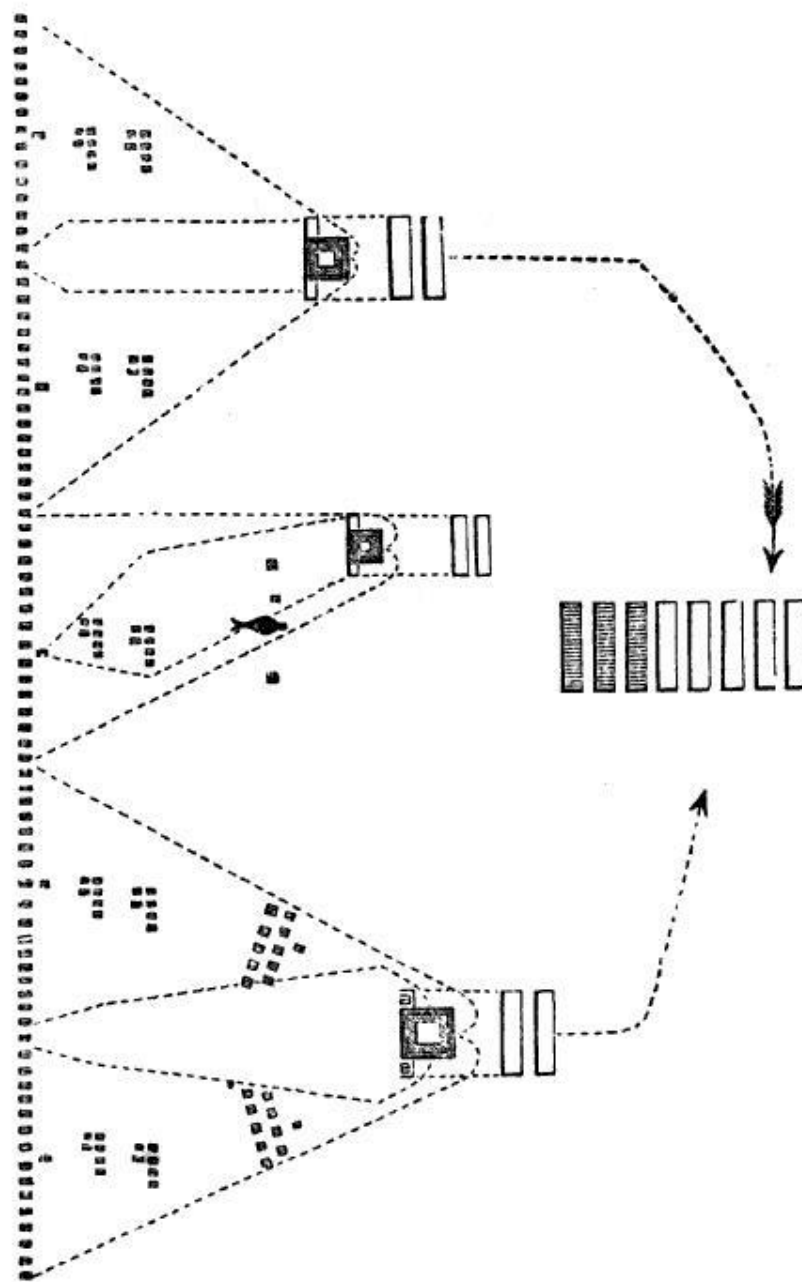
To deploy by the flank.

37. The company being at a halt, when the captain shall wish to deploy it by the flank, holding the first platoon in reserve, he will command :

1. *Second platoon—as skirmishers.*
2. *By the right flank—take intervals.*
3. MARCH (or *double quick—MARCH*).

38. At the first command, the first and third lieutenants will place themselves, respectively, two paces behind the

INSTRUCTION FOR SKIRMISHERS.



42. As soon as the movement commences, the chief of the first platoon, causing it to face *about*, will move it as indicated No. 39.

43. The deployment may be made by the left flank according to the same principles, substituting *left flank* for *right flank*.

44. If the captain should wish to deploy the company upon the centre of one of the platoons, he will command :

1. *Second platoon—as skirmishers.*

2. *By the right and left flanks—take intervals.*

3. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

45. At the first command, the officers and non-commissioned officers will conform to what has been prescribed, No. 38.

46. At the second command, the first lieutenant will place himself behind the left group of the right section of the second platoon, the third lieutenant behind the right group of the left section the same platoon.

47. At the command, *march*, the right section will face to the right, the left section will face to the left, the group on the right of this latter section will stand fast. The two sections will move off in opposite directions ; the third sergeant will place himself on the left of the right file to conduct it, the second sergeant on the right the left file. The two groups nearest that which stands fast, will each halt at twenty paces from this group, and each of the other groups will halt at twenty paces from the group which is in rear of it. Each group will deploy as heretofore prescribed, No. 40.

[LeGal] If the deployment takes place on the centre, the two sergeants, who are on the right and on the left of the company, will be charged with the direction. The right guide will place himself by the side of the right file to conduct it, and the left guide by the side of the left file.

48. The first and third lieutenants will direct the

skirmishers, and thirty paces in advance of the reserve of the sixth company ; the reserves of the seventh and eighth companies, also united, opposite the centre of their line of skirmishers, and thirty paces further to the rear than the reserve of the sixth company.

188. The major commanding the companies comprising the reserve, on receiving an order from the colonel to that effect, will march these companies thirty paces to the rear, and will then ploy them into column by company, at half distance ; after which, he will conduct the column to the point which shall have been indicated to him.

189. The colonel will have a general superintendence of the movement ; and when it is finished, will move to a point in rear of the line, where his view may best embrace all the parts, in order to direct their movements.

190. If, instead of deploying forward, it be desired to deploy by the flank, the sixth and fifth companies will be moved to the front ten or twelve paces, halted, and deployed by the flank, the one on the right, the other on the left file, by the means already indicated. Each of the other companies will be marched by the flank, and as soon as the last file of the company, next towards the direction, shall have taken its interval, it will be moved upon the line established by the fifth and sixth companies, halted, and deployed.

191. In the preceding example, it has been supposed that the battalion has been in the order of battle, but if in column, it would be deployed as skirmishers by the same commands and according to the same principles.

192. If the deployment is to be made *forward*, the directing company, as soon as it is unmasked, will be moved ten or twelve paces in front of the head of the column, and will be then deployed on the file indicated. Each of the other companies will take its interval to the right of left, and deploy as soon as soon as it is taken.

command :

1. *On the left group (so many paces) extend intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

56. The left group, conducted by the guide, will continue to march on the point of direction ; the other groups throwing forward the left shoulder, and taking the double quick step, will open their intervals to the prescribed distance, by what the means indicated, No. 25, conforming also to what is prescribed, No. 54.

57. Intervals may be extended on the centre of this line, according to the same principles.

58. If, in extending intervals, it be intended that one company or platoon should occupy a line which had been previously occupied by two, the men of the company or platoon which is to retire, will fall successively to the rear as they are relieved by the extension of the intervals.

To close intervals.

59. This movement, like that of opening intervals, will be executed according to the principles prescribed for the deployments.

60. If the line of skirmishers be halted, and the captain should wish to close intervals to the left, he will command :

1. *By the left flank (so many paces) close intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

61. At the command, *march*, the left group will stand fast, the other groups will face to the left and close to the prescribed distance, each group facing to the enemy as it attains its proper distance.

62. If the line be marching to the front, the captain will command :

1. *On the left group (so many paces) close intervals.*
2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

177. To assemble the line of skirmishers at a halt, and on the line they occupy, the captain will give the same commands ; the skirmishers will face to the right or left, according as they should march by the right or left flank, reform the groups while marching, and to arrive on the file which served as the point of formation. As they successively arrive, the skirmishers will support arms.

ARTICLE FIFTH.

*To deploy a battalion as skirmishers,
and to rally the battalion.*

To deploy the battalion as skirmishers.

178. A battalion being in line of battle, if the commander should wish to deploy it on the right of the sixth company, holding the three right companies in reserve, he will signify his intention to the lieutenant colonel and the adjutant, and also to the major who will be directed to take charge of the reserve. He will point out to the lieutenant colonel the direction he wishes to give the line, as well as the point where he wishes the right of the sixth company to rest, and to the commander of the reserve the place he may wish it established.

179. The lieutenant colonel will move rapidly in front of the right of the sixth company, and the adjutant in front of the left of the same company. The commander of the reserve will dispose of it in the manner to be hereinafter indicated.

180. The colonel will command :

1. *First (or second) platoon—as skirmishers.*
2. *On the right of the sixth company—take intervals.*
3. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH.)

181. At the second command, the captains of the fifth and sixth companies will prepare to deploy the first platoons of their respective companies, the sixth on its right, the fifth on

ARTICLE SECOND

To advance.

To advance in line, and to retreat in line.

70. When a platoon or a company deployed as skirmishers is marching by the front, the guide will be habitually in the centre. No particular indication to this effect need be given in the commands, but if on the contrary it be intended that the directing guide should be on the right, or left, the command, *guide right*, or, *guide left*, will be given immediately after that of forward.

71. The captain, wishing the line of skirmishers to advance, will command :

1. *Forward*. 2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

72. This command will be repeated with the greatest rapidity by the chiefs of sections, and in case of need, by the sergeants. This rule is general, whether the skirmishers march by the front or by the flank.

[LeGal] The commands of the captain will be repeated with the greatest rapidity by the lieutenants, and if necessary, by the non-commissioned officers. This rule is general, whether the company marches by the front or by the flank.

73. At the first command, three sergeants will move briskly on the line, the first on the right, the second on the left, and the third in the centre.

74. At the command, *march*, the line will move to the front, the guide charged with the direction will move on the point indicated to him, the skirmishers will hold themselves aligned on this guide, and preserve their intervals towards him.

75. The chiefs of sections will march immediately behind their sections, so as to direct their movements.

[LeGal] The non-commissioned officers will scrupulously observe that order is maintained.

angles to receive the skirmishers, who will be then formed into close column by platoons in rear of the first front of the square.

165. If circumstances should prevent the angles of the square from being opened, the skirmishers will throw themselves at the feet of the front rank men, the right knee on the ground, the butt of the piece resting on the thigh, the bayonet in a threatening position. A part may also place themselves about the angles, where they render good service by defending the sectors without fire.

166. If the battalion on which the skirmishers are rallied be in column ready to form square, the skirmishers will be formed into close column by platoon, in rear of the centre of the third division, and at the command,

Form square—MARCH,

they will move forward and close on the buglers.

167. When skirmishers have been rallied by platoon or section behind the wings of a battalion, and it be wished to deploy them again to the front, they will be marched by the flank towards the intervals on the wings, and be then deployed so as to cover the front of the battalion.

168. When platoons or sections, placed in the interior of squares or columns, are to be deployed, they will be marched out by the flanks, and then thrown forward, as is prescribed, No. 157 ; as soon as they shall have unmasked the column or square, they will be deployed, the one on the right, the other on the left file.

The assembly.

169. A company deployed as skirmishers will be assembled when there is no longer danger of its being disturbed ; the assembly will be made habitually in quick time.

170. The captain wishing to assemble the skirmishers

86. If the commander of a line of skirmishers shall wish to cause it to change direction to the right, he will command :

1. *Right wheel.* 2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

87. At the command, *march*, the right guide will mark time in his place ; the left guide will move in a circle to the right, and that he may properly regulate his movements, will occasionally cast his eyes to the right, so as to observe the direction of the line, and the nature of the ground to be passed over. The centre guide will also march in a circle to the right, and in order to conform his movements to the general direction, will take care that his steps are only half the length of the steps of the guide on the left.

88. The skirmishers will regulate the length of their steps by their distance from the marching flank, being less as they approach the pivot, and greater as they are removed from it ; they will often look to the marching flank, so as to preserve the direction and their intervals.

89. When the commander of the line shall wish to resume the direct march, he will command :

1. *Forward.* 2. MARCH.

90. At the command, *march*, the line will cease to wheel, and the skirmishers will move direct to the front ; the centre guide will march on the point which will be indicated to him.

91. If the captain should wish to halt the line, in place of moving it to the front, he will command :

HALT.

92. At this command, the line will halt.

93. A change of direction to the left will be made according to the same principles, and by inverse means.

94. A line of skirmishers marching in retreat will

reserve, the rally will be made by platoon on the ground the most advantageous, behind the line of skirmishers.

155. If a company be in column by platoon, at half distance, right in front, the captain can deploy the first platoon as skirmishers by the means already explained ; but if it should be his wish to deploy the second platoon forward on the centre file, leaving the first platoon in reserve, he will command :

1. *Second platoon—as skirmishers.*

2. *On the centre file take intervals.*

3. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH.)

156. At the first command, the chief of the first platoon will caution his platoon to stand fast ; the chiefs of sections of the second platoon will place themselves before the centre of their sections ; the fifth sergeant will place himself one pace in front of the centre of the second platoon.

157. At the second command, the chief of the right section, second platoon, will command :

Section right face ;

the chief of the left section :

Section left face.

158. At the command, *march*, these sections will move off briskly in opposite directions, and having unmasked the first platoon, the chiefs of sections will respectively command:

By the left flank—MARCH,

and

By the right flank—MARCH ;

and as soon as these sections arrive on the alignment of the first platoon, they will command :

As skirmishers—MARCH.

The groups will then deploy according to prescribed principles, on the right group of the left section, which will be directed by the fifth sergeant on the point indicated.

159. If the captain should wish the deployment made by the flank, the second platoon will be moved to the front by

the captain should wish to halt them, he will command :

HALT.

101. At this command, the skirmishers will halt and face to the enemy. The officers and sergeants will conform to what has been prescribed, No. 78.

102. The reserve should execute all the movements of the line, and be held always about one hundred and fifty paces from it, so as to be in position to second its operations.

103. When the chief of the reserve shall wish to march it in advance, he will command :

1. *Platoon, forward.* 2. *Guide left.* 3. MARCH.

If he should wish to march it in retreat, he will command :

1. *In retreat.* 2. MARCH. 3. *Guide right.*

At the command, *halt*, it will re-face to the enemy.

104. The men should be made to understand that the signals or commands, such as *forward*, mean that the skirmishers shall march on the enemy ; *in retreat*, that they shall retire, and to the *right* or *left flank*, that the men must face to the right or left, whatever may be their position.

105. If the skirmishers be marching by the flank, and the captain should wish to change direction to the right (or left), he will command :

1. *By file right (or left).* 2. MARCH.

These movements will also be executed by the signals Nos. 14 and 15.

ARTICLE THIRD.

The firings.

106. Skirmishers will fire either at a halt or marching.

be done by the reserve as soon as it is unmasked by the skirmishers.

141. If a section should be closely pressed by cavalry while retreating its chief will command,

halt ;

at this command, the men will form rapidly into a compact circle around the officer, who will re-form his section and resume the march, the moment he can do so with safety.

[LeGal] To reduce the circle, the sergeants will pass out; the third lieutenant will align the reserve; the platoons will form on its right and left.

142. The formation of the square in a prompt and efficient manner, requires coolness and activity on the part of both officers and sergeants.

143. The captain will also profit by every moment of respite which the enemy's cavalry may leave him ; as soon as he can, he will endeavor to place himself beyond the reach of their charges, either by gaining a position where he may defend himself with advantage, or by returning to the corps to which he belongs. For this purpose, being in square, he will cause the company to break into column by platoons at half distance ; to this effect, he will command :

1. *Form column.* 2. MARCH.

144. At the command, *march*, each platoon will dress on its centre, and the platoon which was facing to the rear will face about without command. The guides will place themselves on the right and left of their respective platoons, those of the second platoon will place themselves at half distance from those of the first, counting from the rear rank. These dispositions being made, the captain can move the column in whatever direction he may judge proper.

145. If he wishes to march it in retreat, he will command :

1. *In retreat.* 2. MARCH (or *double quick*—MARCH).

113. If the line be marching in retreat at the command, *commence firing*, the front rank man of every file will halt, face to the enemy, fire, and then reload whilst moving to the rear ; the rear rank man of the same file will continue to march, and halt ten or twelve paces beyond his front rank man, face about, come to a ready, and fire, when his front rank man has passed him in retreat and loaded ; after which, he will move to the rear and reload ; the front rank man in his turn after marching briskly to the rear, will halt at ten or twelve paces from the rear rank, face to the enemy ; load his piece and fire, conforming to what has just been prescribed ; the firing will thus be continued.

114. If the company be marching by the right flank, at the command, *commence firing*, the front rank man of every file will face to the enemy, step one pace forward, halt, and fire ; the rear rank man will continue to move forward. As soon as the front rank man has fired, he will place himself briskly behind his rear rank man and reload whilst marching. When he has loaded, the rear rank man will, in his turn, step one pace forward, halt, and fire, and returning to the ranks, will place himself behind his front rank man ; the latter, in his turn, will act in the same manner, observing the same principles. At the command, *cease firing*, the men of the rear rank will retake their original positions, if not already there.

115. If the company be marching by the left flank, the fire will be executed according to the same principles, but in this case it will be the rear rank men who will be first.

116. The following rules will be observed in the cases to which they apply.

117. If the line be firing at a halt, or whilst marching by the flank at the command,

Forward—MARCH,

it will be the men whose pieces are loaded, without regard to the particular rank to which they belong, who will move to the

promptly place himself in the group nearest him in the line of skirmishers.

131. Whenever the captain shall judge these squares too weak, but should wish to hold his position by strengthening his line, he will command :

Rally by sections.

132. At this command, the chiefs of sections will move rapidly on the centre group of their respective sections, or on any other interior group whose position might offer a shelter, or other particular advantage ; the skirmishers will collect rapidly at a run on this group, and without distinction of numbers. The men composing the group on which the formation is made, will immediately form square, as heretofore explained, and elevate their pieces, the bayonets uppermost, in order to indicate the point on which the rally is to be made. The other skirmishers, as they arrive, will occupy and fill the open angular spaces between these four men, and successively rally around this first nucleus, and in such manner as to form rapidly a company circle. The skirmishers will take as they arrive, the position of charge bayonet, the point of the bayonet more elevated, and will cock their pieces in this position. The movement concluded, the two exterior ranks will fire as occasion may offer, and load without moving the feet.

[LeGal] The non-commissioned officers will direct the execution of the movement, and then place themselves within the circle.

133. The captain will move rapidly with his guard, wherever he may judge his presence most necessary.

134. The officers and sergeants will be particular to observe that the rally is made in silence, and with promptitude and order ; that some pieces in each of their subdivisions be at all times loaded, and that the fire is directed on those points only where it will be most effective.

122. In commencing the fire, the men of the same rank should not all fire at once, and the men of the same file should be particular that one or the other of them be always loaded.

123. In retreating, the officer commanding the skirmishers should seize on every advantage which the ground may present, for arresting the enemy as long as possible.

124. At the signal to *cease firing*, the captain will see that the order is promptly obeyed ; but the men who may not be loaded, will load. If the line be marching, it will continue the movement ; but the man of each file who happens to be in front, will wait until the man in rear shall be abreast with him.

125. If a line of skirmishers be firing advancing, at the command, *halt*, the line will re-form upon the skirmishers who are in front ; when the line is retreating, upon the skirmishers who are in rear.

126. Officers should watch with the greatest possible vigilance over a line of skirmishers ; in battle, they should neither carry a rifle or fowling piece. In all the firings, they, as well as the sergeants, should see that order and silence are preserved, and that the skirmishers do not wander imprudently; they should especially caution them to be calm and collected ; not to fire until they distinctly perceive the objects at which they aim, and are sure that those objects are within proper range. Skirmishers should take advantage promptly, and with intelligence, of all shelter, and of accidents of the ground, to conceal themselves from the view of the enemy, and to protect themselves from his fire. It may often happen that intervals are momentarily lost when several men near each other find a common shelter ; but when they quit this position, they should immediately resume their intervals and their places in line, so that they may not, by crowding, needlessly expose themselves the fire of the enemy.

ARTICLE FOURTH

THE RALLY.

To form column.

127. A company deployed as skirmishers, is rallied in order oppose the enemy with better success ; the rallies are made at a run, and with bayonets fixed ; when ordered to rally, the skirmishers fix bayonets without command.

128. There are several ways of rallying, which the chief of the line will adopt according to circumstances.

129. If the line, marching or at a halt, be merely disturbed by scattered horsemen, it will not be necessary to fall back on the reserve, but the captain will cause bayonets to be fixed. If the horsemen should, however, advance to charge the skirmishers, the captain will command,

rally by fours.

The line will halt if marching, and the four men of each group will execute this rally in the following manner : the front rank man of the even numbered file will take the position of *guard against cavalry* ; the rear rank man of the odd numbered file will also take the position of *guard against cavalry*, turning his back to him, his right foot thirteen inches from the right foot of the former, and parallel to it ; the front rank man of the odd file, and the rear rank man of the even file, will also place themselves back to back, taking a like position, and between the two men already established, facing to the right and left ; the right feet of the four men will be brought together, forming a square and serving for mutual support. The four men in each group will come to a ready, fire as occasion may offer, and load without moving their feet.

130. The captain and chiefs of sections will each cause the four men who constitute his guard to form square, the men separating so as to enable him and the bugler to place themselves in the centre. The three sergeants will each