

Post Visit Information for the “School of the Soldier” Educational Program at the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

The name “School of the Soldier” is taken from the infantry tactics manuals of the day. Normally in three volumes, the first volume contained Title First, Formation in order of Battle and Instruction of the Battalion. Also in the first volume were Title Second, the School of the Soldier and the School of the Company. The second volume of the tactics was the School of the Battalion. The third was the Evolutions of a Brigade and Corps D’ Armée. This program takes information from the Schools of the Soldier and Schools of the Company. Since the entire program is four hours, the original teachings of the tactics manuals must be somewhat abridged. We try to cover the basics enough to give the students a quick idea of what soldier life could have been like. We want them to come away with at least the knowledge that it was hard work and not all “glory”.

Diary Accounts from the Battle of Perryville:

[I] was struck by something . . . could not tell what but was rendered unconscious . . . about this time I discovered the butt end of a steel rammer sticking out of my left breast which was immediately extracted with my own hand . . . was put on an ordnance wagon and carried to Harrodsburg being there what was called a hospital. [I] went in expecting to receive some attention but from that good hour to this never has as much as a wet cloth been applied to that wound.

Private Benjamin A. Hagnewood
Company A, 5th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry
Confederate States Army
Writing in 1901

A Union soldier firing at Hagnewood forgot the seventh motion in “Load in Nine Times”; he forgot to return the rammer.

Excerpts from the Diary of Private Josiah Ayre Company E, 105th Ohio Volunteer Infantry

(Original diary has grammatical and spelling errors with no punctuation)

Saturday, October 11, 1862 (3 days after the Battle of Perryville)

We started on our march again last Wednesday [October 8] morning with one day’s ration of parched corn having no [hardtack] crackers. Leaving our wagons behind us for we expected we should have a fight . . .

As we neared the battleground we saw the wounded coming off. Some [were] wounded one way, and some another. This was a new sight to us but we could not stop to think about it but kept on until we reached the open field where the fighting was.

By some reason or another we could not form into a proper line and after going through several maneuvers in order to do so we became mixed and confused, not knowing what our officers said or anything about it. Finally, we were ordered to load and fire the best we could although I could not see a rebel at the time on account of the shape of the ground.

By this time, every man seemed to be looking out for himself as we were all broken up. For my part, I could not tell whether we had any regiment or not.

I finished loading my gun and started off after [my Captain]. After going a short distance I turned about to see if I could get another shot at [the rebels] but there being two fences between us I could not get much of a chance so away I went again going at a slow run. I did not go far however before a musket or rifle ball struck me in my left leg just below the calf, breaking it and passing clear through. I of course fell and that finished my fighting.

Shortly afterward the rebels passed by me. One of them cut off my cartridge box and took it away from me. The shot and shell flew thick over my head as I lay there making it very unsafe but I lay perfectly still until the fire slackened considerable when I crawled up behind a tree where I remained 'til taken from the field which was not until the next day about the same time I was wounded, then I had to ride on the seat with the driver.

My wound was dressed sometime in the afternoon and has felt pretty east since. It has been wet and cold for the last 36 hours but take it all together I think myself lucky.

Private Ayre died three days later on October 14, 1862, from complications of his wound.

Excerpts from the Original Tactics Manuals:

POSTS OF COMPANY OFFICERS SERGEANTS AND CORPORALS.

- 19.** The company officers and sergeants are nine in number, and will be posted in the following manner:
- 20.** The *captain* on the right of the company, touching with the left elbow.
- 21.** The *first sergeant* in the rear rank, touching with the left elbow, and covering the captain. In the manœuvres, he will be denominated *covering sergeant*, or *right guide* of the company.
- 22.** The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file closers, and two paces behind the rear rank.

Commands.

There are three kinds.

69. The command of *caution*, which is *attention*.

70. The preparatory command, which indicates the movement which is to be executed.

71. The command of *execution*, such as *march* or *halt*, or in the manual of arms, the part of command which causes an execution.

72. The tone of command distinct, and of a loudness should be animated, proportioned to the number of men under instruction.

73. The command *attention* is pronounced at the top of the voice, dwelling on the last syllable.

74. The command of *execution* will be pronounced in a tone firm and brief.

82. The *School of the Soldier* will be divided into three parts: the first, comprehending what ought to be taught to recruits without arms; the second, the manual of arms, the loadings and firings; the third, the principles of alignment, the march by the front, the different steps, the march by the flank, the principles of wheeling, and those of change of direction; also, long marches in double quick time and the run.

Position of a Soldier.

85. Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit:

The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle;

The knees straight without stiffness;

The body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward;

The shoulders square and falling equally;

The arms hanging naturally;

The elbows near the body;

The palm of the hand turned a little to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;

The head erect and square to the front, without constraint;

The chin near the stock, without covering it;

The eyes fixed straight to the front, and striking the ground about the distance of fifteen paces.

Facings.

95. Facing to the right and left will be executed in one *time*, or pause. The instructor will command:

1. *Squad.* 2. *Right (or left)-FACE.*

96. At the second command, raise the right foot slightly, turn on the left heel, raising the toes a little, and then replace the right heel by the side of the left, and on the same line.

97. The full face to the rear (or front) will be executed in two *times*, or pauses. The instructor will command.

1. *Squad*. 2. ABOUT-FACE.

98. (*First time*.) At the word *about*, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from, the left heel, the feet square to each other.

99. (*Second time*.) At the word *face*, the recruit will turn on both heels, raise the toes a little, extend the hams, face to the rear, bringing, at the same time, the right heel by the side of the left.

100. The instructor will take care that these motions do not derange the position of the body.

Principles of Shouldered Arms.

127. The recruit being placed as explained in the first lesson of the -first part, the instructor will cause him to bend the right arm slightly, and place the piece in it, in the following manner.

128. The piece in the right hand-the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder - the guard to the front, the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body; the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock, which rests on the little finger.

129. Recruits are frequently seen with natural defects in the conformation of the shoulders, breast and hips. These the instructor will labor to correct in the lessons without arms, and afterwards, by steady endeavors, so that the appearance of the pieces, in the same line, may be uniform, and this without constraint to the men in their positions.

130. The instructor will have occasion to remark that recruits, on first bearing arms, are liable to derange their position by lowering the right shoulder and the right hand, or by sinking the hip and spreading out the elbows.

131. He will be careful to correct all these faults by continually rectifying the position; he will sometimes take away the piece to replace it the better; he will avoid fatiguing the recruits too much in the beginning, but labor by degrees to render this position so natural and easy that they may remain in it a long time without fatigue.

132. Finally, the instructor will take great care that the piece, at a shoulder, be not carried too high nor too low. If too high, the right elbow would spread out, the soldier would occupy too much space in his rank, and the piece be made to waver; if too low, the files would be too much closed, the soldier would not have the necessary space to handle his piece with facility, the right arm would become too much fatigued, and would draw down the shoulder.

133. The instructor, before passing to the second lesson, will cause to be repeated the movements of *eyes right*, *left* and *front*, and the *facings*.

Support - ARMS.

One time and three motions.

140. (*First motion.*) Bring the piece, with the right hand, perpendicularly to the front and between the eyes, the barrel to the rear; seize the piece with the left hand at the lower band, raise this hand as high as the chin, and seize the piece at the same time with the right hand four inches below the cock.

141. (*Second motion.*) Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the front; carry the piece to the left shoulder, and pass the fore-arm extended on the breast between the right hand and the cock; support the cock against the left fore-arm, the left hand resting on the right breast.

142. (*Third motion.*) Drop the right hand by the side.

143. When the instructor may wish to give repose in this position, he will command:

REST.

144. At this command, the recruits will bring up smartly the right hand to the handle of the piece (small of the stock), when they will not be required to preserve silence, or steadiness of position.

145. When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:

1. *Attention.* 2. SQUAD.

146. At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of the third motion of *support arms*.

Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and three motions.

147. (*First motion.*) Grasp the piece with the right hand under and against the left fore-arm; seize it with the left hand at the lower band, the thumb extended; detach the piece slightly from the shoulder, the left fore-arm along the stock.

148. (*Second motion.*) Carry the piece vertically to the right shoulder with both hands, the rammer to the front, change the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger, slip the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

149. (*Third motion.*) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

Present-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

150. (*First motion.*) With the right hand, bring the piece erect before the centre of the body, the rammer to the front; at the same time seize the piece with the left hand half-way between the guide sight and lower band, the thumb extended along the barrel and against

the stock, the forearm horizontal and resting against the body, the hand as high as the elbow.

151. (*Second motion.*) Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand, below and against the guard.

Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

152. (*First motion.*) Bring the piece to the right shoulder, at the same time change, the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger, slip up the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

153. (*Second motion.*) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

Order-ARMS

One time and two motions.

154. (*First motion.*) Seize the piece briskly with the left hand near the upper band, and detach it slightly from the shoulder -with the right hand: loosen the grasp of the right hand, lower the piece with the left, reseize the piece with the right hand above the lower band, the little finger in the rear of the barrel, the butt about four inches from the ground, the right hand supported against the hip, drop the left hand by the side. If the rifle musket is used, the piece will be seized by the left hand a little above the middle band, and it will be seized by the right hand, just above the lower band.

155. (*Second motion.*) Let the piece slip through the right hand to the ground by opening slightly the fingers, and take the position about to be described.

POSITION OF ORDER ARMS.

156. The hand low, the barrel between the thumb and fore-finger extended along the stock; the other fingers extended and joined; the muzzle about two inches from the right shoulder; the rammer in front; the toe (or beak) of the butt, against, and in a line with, the toe of the right foot, the barrel perpendicular.

157. When the instructor may wish to give repose in this position, he will command:

REST.

158. At this command, the recruits will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness.

159. When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:

1. *Attention.* 2. SQUAD.

160. At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of *order arms*.

Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

161. (*First motion.*) Raise the piece vertically with the right hand to the height of the right breast, and opposite the shoulder, the elbow close to the body; seize the piece with the left hand below the right, and drop quickly the right hand to grasp the piece at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard; press the piece against the shoulder with the left hand) the right arm nearly straight.

162. (*Second motion.*) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

LOAD IN NINE TIMES.

1. LOAD.

One time and one motion.

163. Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shift the right hand to the upper band, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be three inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box. If the rifle musket is used the right hand will be shifted to just below the upper band. The muzzle will be eight inches from the body.

2. Handle-CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

164. Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.

3. Tear-CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

165. Tear the paper to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle-the back of the hand to the front.

4. Charge-CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

166. Empty the powder into the barrel: disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb; seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.

5. Draw-RAMMER.

One time and three motions.

167. (*First motion.*) Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm; steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

168. (*Second motion.*) Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

169. (*Third motion.*) Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand* to the front.

6. Ram-CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

170. Insert the rammer as far as the right, and steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand; seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the back of the hand to the front; press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

7. Return-RAMMER.

One time and three motions.

171. (*First motion.*) Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer: clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.

172. (*Second motion.*) Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.

173. (*Third motion.*) Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer; pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. PRIME.

One time and two motions.

174. (*Fourth motion.*) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side the butt below the right fore-arm -- the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

175. (*Second motion.*) Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand, take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

9. Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

176. (*First motion.*) Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left band, face to the front; bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left; grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.

177. (*Second motion.*) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

READY.

One time and three motions.

178. (*First motion.*) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.

179. (*Second motion.*) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers wider and against the guard.

180. (*Third motion.*) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

AIM.

One time and one motion.

181. Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder; the left, elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder - incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse the front sight, and the object aimed at, the left eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger.

182. When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear rank men.

183. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

FIRE.

One time and one motion.

184. Press the fore-finger against the trigger, fire, without lowering or turning the head, and remain in this position.

185. Instructors will be careful to observe when the men fire, that they aim at some distinct object, and that the barrel be so directed that the line of fire and the line of sight be in the same vertical plane. They will often cause the firing to be executed on ground of different inclinations, in order to accustom the men to fire at objects either above or below them.

LOAD.

One time and one motion.

186. Bring down the piece with both hands at the same time face to the front and take the position of *load* as indicated, No. 163. Each rear rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.

187. The men being in this position, the instructor will cause the loading to be continued by the commands and means prescribed, No. 163, and following.

188. If, after firing, the instructor should not wish the recruits to reload, he will command:

Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and one motion.

189. Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand and resume the position of *shoulder arms*, at the same time face to the front, turning on the left heel, and bring the right heel on a line with the left.

190. To accustom the recruits to wait for the command *fire*, the instructor, when they are in the position of *aim*, will command:

Recover-ARMS.

One, time and one, motion.

191. At the first part of the command, withdraw the finger from the trigger; at the command *arms*, retake the position of the third motion of *ready*.

192. The recruits being in the position of the third motion of *ready*, if the instructor should wish to bring them to a shoulder, he will command:

Shoulder-ARMS.

One time and one motion.

193. At the command *shoulder*, place the thumb upon the cock, the fore-finger on the trigger, half cock, and seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the command *arms*, bring up the piece briskly to the right shoulder, and retake the position of shoulder arms.

230. The recruits being at ordered arms, when the instructor shall wish to cause the pieces to be placed on the ground, he will command:

Ground-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

231. (*First motion.*) Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the left, at the same time seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot, the heel opposite the lower band; lay the piece on the ground with the right hand, the toe of the butt on a line with the right toe, the knees slightly bent, the right heel raised.

232. (*Second motion.*) Rise up, bring the left foot by the side of the right, quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop the hands by the side.

Raise-ARMS.

One time and two motions.

233. (*First motion.*) Seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot opposite the lower band, and seize the piece with the right hand.

234. (*Second motion.*) Raise the piece, bringing the left foot by the side of the right; turn the piece with the right hand, the rammer to the front; at the same time quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop this hand by the side.

4. The company will always be formed in two ranks. The men will take their places in ranks as prescribed in No. 15 Title I., and without any preliminary formation. The instructor will then cause the files to be numbered, and for this purpose will command:

In each rank- Count Twos.

5. At this command, the men count in each rank, from right to left, pronouncing in a loud and distinct voice, in the same tone, without hurry and without turning the head, one, two, according to the place which each one occupies. He will also cause the company to be divided into platoons and sections, taking care that the first platoon is always composed of an even number of files.

To open Ranks.

8. The company being at ordered arms, the ranks and file closers well aligned, when the instructor shall wish to cause the ranks to be opened, he will direct the left guide to place himself on the left of the front rank, which being executed, he will command:

1. Attention. 2. Company. 3. Shoulder-ARMS.

4. To the rear open order.

9. At the fourth command, the covering sergeant and the left guide will step off smartly to the rear, four paces from the front rank, in order to mark the alignment of the rear rank. They will judge this distance by the eye, without counting the steps.

10. The instructor will place himself at the same, time on the right flank, in order to observe if these two non-commissioned officers are on a line parallel to the front rank, and, if necessary, to correct their positions, which being executed, he will command:

5. MARCH.

11. At this command, the front rank will stand fast.

12. The rear rank will step to the rear, wit], out counting the steps, and will place themselves on the alignment marked for this rank, conforming to what is prescribed in the S. S., No. 330.

13. The covering sergeant will align the rear rank on the left guide placed to mark the left of this rank.

14. The file closers will march to the rear at the same time with the rear rank, and will place themselves two paces from this rank when it is aligned.

15. The instructor seeing the rear rank aligned, will command:

6. FRONT.

16. At this command, the sergeant on the left of the rear rank will return to his place as a file closer.

17. The rear rank being aligned, the instructor will direct the captain and the covering sergeant to observe the men in their respective ranks, and to correct, if necessary, the positions of persons and pieces.

To Fire by Company.

48. The instructor, wishing to cause the fire by company to be executed, will command:

1. *Fire by company.* 2. *Commence firing.*

49. At the first command, the captain will promptly place himself opposite the centre of his company, and four paces in rear of the line of file closers: the covering sergeant will retire to that line, and place himself opposite to his interval. *This rule is general, for both the captain and covering sergeant, in all the different firings.*

50. At the second command, the captain will add: 1. *Company*; 2. **READY**; 3. **AIM**; 4. **FIRE**; 5. **LOAD**.

51. At the command *load*, the men will load their pieces, and then take the position of *ready*, as prescribed in the School of the Soldier.

52. The captain will immediately recommence the firing, by the commands:

1. *Company.* 2. **Aim.** 3. **FIRE.** 4. **LOAD.**

53. The firing will be thus continued until the signal to cease firing is sounded.

54. The captain will sometimes cause aim to be taken to the right and left, simply observing to pronounce *right* (or *left*) oblique, before the command *aim*.

ARTICLE III.

The Fire by File.

55. The instructor wishing to cause the fire by file to be executed, will command:

1. *Fire by file.* 2. *Company.* 3. **READY.** 4. *Commence firing.*

56. The third and fourth commands will be executed as prescribed in the S. S., No. 284 and following.

57. The fire will be commenced by the right file of the company; the next file will take aim at the instant the first brings down pieces to reload, and so on to the left; but this progression will only be observed in the first discharge, after which each man will reload and fire without regulating himself by others, conforming himself to what is prescribed in the S. S., No. 289.

To march by the flank.

137. The company being in line of battle, and at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to march by the right flank, he will command:

1. *Company, right-FACE.* 2. *Forward.* 3. MARCH.

138. At the first command, the company will face to the right, the covering sergeant will place himself at the head of the front rank, the captain having stepped out for the purpose, so far as to find himself by the side of the sergeant, and on his left; the front rank will double, as is prescribed in the S. S., No. 363; the rear rank will, at the same time, side-step to the right one pace, and double in the same manner; so that when the movement is completed, the files will be formed of four men aligned, and elbow to elbow. The intervals will be preserved.

139. The file closers will also move by side step to the right, so that when the ranks are formed, they will be two paces from the rearmost rank.

To change direction by file.

144. The company being faced by the flank, and either in march, or at a halt, when the instructor shall wish to cause it to wheel by file, he will command:

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

145. At the command *march*, the first file will wheel; if to the side of the front-rank man, the latter will take care not to turn at once, but to describe a short arc of a circle, shortening a little the first five or six steps in order to give time to the fourth man of this file to conform himself to the movement. If the wheel be to the side of the rear rank, the front-rank man will wheel in the step of twenty-eight inches, and the fourth man will conform himself to the movement by describing a short arc of a circle, as has been explained. Each file will come to wheel on the same ground where that which preceded it wheeled.

To halt the company marching by the flank, and to face it to the front.

147. To effect these objectives, the instructor will command:

1. *Company.* 2. HALT. 3. FRONT.

148. The second and third commands will be executed as prescribed in the S. S., Nos. 370 and 371. As soon as the files have undoubled the rear rank will close to its proper distance'. The captain and covering sergeant, as well as the left guide, if the march be by

the left flank , will return to their habitual places in line , at the instant the company faces to the front.

The company being in march by the flank, to form it on the right (or left) by file into line of battle.

(THIS IS WHAT THE 105TH OHIO WAS NOT TAUGHT)

150. If the company be marching by the right flank, the instructor will command:

1. *On the right, by file into line.* 2. MARCH.

151. At the command *march*, the rear-rank men doubled, will mark time; the captain and the covering sergeant will turn to the right, march straight-forward, and be halted by the instructor when they shall have passed at least six paces. beyond the rank of file closers; the captain will place himself correctly on the line of battle, and will direct the alignment as the men of the front rank successively arrive; the covering sergeant will place himself behind the captain at the distance of the rear rank; the two men on the right of the front rank doubled, will continue to march, and passing beyond the covering sergeant and the captain, will turn to the right; after turning, they will continue to march elbow to elbow, and direct themselves toward the line of battle, but when they shall arrive at two paces from this line, the even number will shorten the step so that the odd number may precede him on the line, the odd number placing himself by the side and on the left of the captain; the even number will afterward oblique to the left, and place himself on the left of the odd number; the next two men of the front rank doubled, will pass in the same manner behind the two first, turn then to the right, and place themselves, according to the means just explained to the left, and by the side of, the two men already established on the line; the remaining files of this rank will follow in succession, and be formed to the left in the same manner. The rear rank doubled will execute the movement in the manner already explained for the front rank, taking care not to commence the movement until four men of the front rank are established on the line of battle; the rear-rank men, as they arrive on the line, will cover accurately their file leaders.

152. If the company be marching by the left flank, the instructor will cause it to form by file on the left into line of battle, according to the same principles and by the same commands, substituting the indication *left* for *right*. In this case, the odd numbers will shorten the step, so that the even numbers way precede them on the line. The captain, placed on the left, of the front rank, and the left guide, will return to their places in line of battle, by order of the instructor, after the company shall be formed and aligned.

153. To enable the men the better to comprehend the mechanism of this movement, the instructor will at first cause it to be executed separately by, each rank doubled, and afterward by the two ranks united and doubled.