

P A R T III.

O P T H E B A T T A L I O N .

A perfect Uniformity in the Formation and Arrangement of all Companies and Battalions, is indispensable for the Execution of just and combined Movements.

F O R M A T I O N O F T H E C O M P A N Y .

TH E company is always to be sized from flanks to center.

The company is formed three deep.

The files lightly touch when firelocks are shouldered and carried, but without crowding; and each man will occupy a space of about 22 inches.

Close order is the chief and primary order, in which the battalion and its parts at all times assemble and form. Open order is only regarded as an exception from it, and occasionally used in situations of parade and show.—In close order; the officers are in the ranks, and the rear ranks are closed up within one pace.—In open order; the officers are advanced three paces, and the ranks are two paces distant from each other.

Each

Each company is a platoon.—Each company forms two sub-divisions, and also four sections.—But as sections should never be less than five files, it will happen, when the companies are weak, that they can only (for the purposes of march) form three sections, or even two sections.

When the company is singly formed; the captain is on the right, and the ensign on the left, of the front rank, each covered by a serjeant in the rear rank. The lieutenant is in the rear, as also the drummer and pioneer in a fourth rank, at three paces distance.

The left of the front rank of each sub-division is marked by a corporal.—The right of the left sub-division may be marked by the other corporal.

When necessary, the places of absent officers may be supplied by serjeants, those of serjeants by corporals, and those of corporals by intelligent men.

When the company is to join others, and the battalion, or part of it, to be formed; the ensign and his covering serjeant quit the flank, and fall into the fourth rank, until otherwise placed.

S. 70. When the Company is to take Open Order from Close Order.

Rear Ranks take open Order.

At this command, the flank men on the right and left of the rear ranks, step back to mark the ground on which each rank respectively is to halt, and dress at open distance; they face to the right, and stand covered; every other individual remains ready to move.

At

March.

At this command, the rear rank dresses front, and the rear ranks fall back one and two paces, each dressing by the right, the instant it arrives on its ground:—the officers move out in front three paces, and divide their ground: one serjeant is on each flank of the front rank:—the pioneer remains behind the center of the rear rank:—the drummer places himself on the right of the right serjeant.

S. 71. When the Company is to take Close Order from Open Order.

Rear Ranks take Close Order.

The officers, serjeants, drummer, face to the right.

March.

The ranks close within one pace, marching one and two paces, and then halting.

The officers move round the flanks of the company in their respective posts:—the serjeants and drummers fall back, and each individual resumes his place as in the original close order.

The above regards the company when single; but when united in the battalion, other posts are allotted to the drummer and pioneer.

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FORMATION OF THE BATTALION.

length of The battalion is ten companies, $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ Grenadier,} \\ 8 \text{ Battalion,} \\ 1 \text{ Light.} \end{array} \right.$

Each Company consists at present of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ Officers,} \\ 2 \text{ Serjeants,} \\ 3 \text{ Corporals,} \\ 1 \text{ Drummer,} \\ 30 \text{ Private.} \end{array} \right.$

When the companies join, and the battalion is formed, there is to be no interval between any of them, grenadier, light company, or other; but every part of the front of the battalion should be equally strong.

Each company which makes a part of the same line, and is to act in it, must be formed and arranged in the same manner.

The companies will draw up as follows from right to left:—grenadiers;—1st captain and major;—4th and 5th captain;—3d and 6th captain;—2d captain and lieutenant-colonel;—light company.——The colonel's company takes place according to the rank of its captain:—the four eldest captains are on the right of the grand divisions:—officers commanding companies or platoons, are all on the right of the front rank of their respective ones.

The eight battalion companies will compose four grand divisions;—eight companies or platoons,—sixteen sub-divisions,—thirty-two sections, when sufficiently strong to be so divided, otherwise twenty-four, for the purposes of march.—The battalion is also divided into right and left wings.—When the battalion is on a war establishment, each company will be divided into two platoons.—When the ten companies are

are with the battalion, they may then, for the purposes of firing or deploying, be divided into five grand divisions from right to left.

The battalion companies will be numbered from the right to the left, 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.—The subdivisions will be numbered 1. 2. of each;—the sections will be numbered 1. 2. 3. 4. of each;—the files of companies will also be numbered 1. 2. 3. 4. &c.—The grenadier and light companies will be numbered separately in the same manner, and with the addition of those distinctions. These several appellations will be preserved, whether faced to front or rear.

The companies must be equalized in point of numbers, at all times when the battalion is formed for field movement; and could the battalions of a line also be equalized, the greatest advantages would arise; but though from the different strengths of battalions this cannot take place, yet the first requisite always must, and is indispensable.

Ranks are at the distance of one pace, except the fourth or supernumerary rank, which has three paces.

All the field officers and the adjutant are mounted.

The commanding officer is the only officer advanced in front, for the general purpose of exercise when the battalion is single; but in the march in line, and in the firings, he is in the rear of the colours.

The lieutenant-colonel is behind the colours, six paces from the rear rank.

The major and adjutant are six paces in the rear of the third and sixth companies.

One officer is on the right of the front rank of each company or platoon, and one on the left of the battalion; all these are covered in the rear rank by their respective serjeants;

serjeants; and the remaining officers and serjeants are in a fourth rank behind their companies.—It is to be observed, that there are no coverers in the center rank to the officers or colours.

The colours are placed between the fourth and fifth battalion companies, both in the front rank, and each covered by a non-commissioned officer, or steady man in the rear rank.—One serjeant is in the front rank betwixt the colours; he is covered by a second serjeant in the rear rank, and by a third in the supernumerary rank.—The sole business of these three serjeants is, when the battalion moves in line, to advance and direct the march as hereafter mentioned. The place of the first of those serjeants, when they do move out, is preserved by a named officer or serjeant, who moves up from the supernumerary rank for that purpose.

The fourth rank is at three paces distance when halted, or marching in line.—When marching in column, it must close up to the distance of the other ranks.—The essential use of the fourth rank is, to keep the others closed up to the front during the attack, and to prevent any break beginning in the rear; on this important service, too many officers and non-commissioned officers cannot be employed.

The pioneers are assembled behind the center, formed two deep, and nine paces from the third rank.

The drummers of the eight battalion companies are assembled in two divisions, six paces behind the third rank of their second and seventh companies.—The grenadier and light company drummers and fifers are six paces behind their respective companies.

The musick are three paces behind the pioneers in a single rank, and at all times, as well as the drummers and pioneers, are formed at loose files only, occupying no more space than is necessary.

The staff of chaplain, surgeon, quarter-master, and surgeon's mate, are three paces behind the musick.

In.

In general, officers remain posted with their proper companies; but commanding officers will occasionally make such changes as they may find necessary.

Whenever the officers move out of the front rank, in parade, marching in column, wheeling into line, or otherwise, their places are taken by their serjeant coverers, and preserved until the officers again resume them.

When the line is halted, and especially during the firings when engaged, the serjeant coverers fall back into the fourth rank, and observe their platoons.

S. 72. When the Battalion takes Open Order.

Rear Ranks
take Open
Order.

At this command—the flank men on the right of the rear ranks of each company step briskly back to mark the ground on which each rank respectively is to halt. They face to the right, and cover as pivots, being regulated and dressed by the adjutant or serjeant-major on the right.—Every other individual remains ready to move.

March.

At this command—the flank dressers face to the front, and the whole move as follows:

The rear ranks fall back one and two paces, each dressing by the right the instant it arrives on the ground.

The officers in the front rank, as also the colours, move out three paces—those in the rear, together with the musick, move through the intervals left open by the front rank officers, and divide themselves, viz. the captains covering the second file from the right,

There is no separate colour reserve; the pioneers, musick, &c. sufficiently strengthen the center; but in the firings the two files on each side of the colours may be ordered to reserve their fire.

The constant order of the light company when formed in line, and united with the battalion, is at the same close files as the battalion.—Their extended order is an occasional exception.

When the light company is detached, and the grenadier company remains, it will be undivided on one flank of its battalion, whenever there are several battalions in line: but when the battalion is single, it is permitted to be occasionally divided on each flank.

When the grenadier or light companies are detached, and make no part of the line, they may be formed two deep, if it is found proper.

With a very few obvious alterations, these general rules take place when a company or battalion is permitted or ordered to form in two ranks only—and which, on the present low establishment of our battalions, may often be done for the purposes of exercise and movement on a more considerable front: it is also evident that they generally apply whether the companies are strong or weak, and whether a greater or lesser number of them compose the battalion.
