

Commands and Procedures for Posting Sentinels

The Officer or NCO takes charge of his section after inspection by the Officer of the Guard, and marches it to the guard camp. The first guard mount is formed in a single rank. If there are more than six men, the guard should form in two ranks.

The Officer or NCO in command orders: **FIX YOUR - BAYONETS!**

The Officer or NCO then marches the guard (with firelocks supported) to the first post (each post should be numbered and the guards posted in their numerical order) and halts. (The Officer or NCO should carry his firelock at the **ADVANCE.**)

The Officer or NCO then commands the first man on the right: **FUSILIER SHENKIN, ADVANCE AND RECEIVE YOUR ORDERS.**

The designated soldier advances one pace and brings his musket to **RECOVER.** (An NCO is given the same courtesy as an Officer when in command of a guard). The Officer or NCO then passes on the instructions concerning that post. He then commands: **SENTRY(s) - POST!**

The sentinel(s) **SHOULDERS** his firelock and assumes his post. The Officer or NCO then proceeds to the next post and so on until all sentries are placed. He then returns to camp.

Relieving Sentries

The Corporal of the Guard traditionally commands the Relief which he forms in camp in the same manner as the original guard. He orders the Relief to **FIX YOUR - BAYONETS !** and marches the troops to their respective posts - again, in numerical order. The Corporal should be at the **ADVANCE** and the men, according to Cuthbertson, may be at the **SUPPORT** unless passing an Officer, at which time the Corporal will order the detachment to the **SHOULDER.** Once they have passed the Officer, they may return to the **SUPPORT.**

The Relief is marched to within three or four paces of the sentinel(s) and halted. At the approach of the Relief the sentinel(s) should halt and come to the **SHOULDER.**

The corporal of the Guard then orders the first man on the right: **FUSILIER ap MORGAN, ADVANCE AND RECEIVE YOUR ORDERS!** The designated soldier(s) advance one pace directly in front of the sentinel(s) and both automatically **REST - FIRELOCKS.**

The sentinel on duty passes the instructions concerning that post on to the relieving sentry as well as reporting anything out of the ordinary that has occurred. The Corporal should listen carefully to make sure he gets it right. He may even ask the relieving sentry to repeat the instructions **The Corporal then commands: SENTRY(s) - POST!**

Both soldiers SHOULDER THEIR FIRELOCKS and pass each other by the RIGHT side, the new sentinel taking his post, the relieved sentinel marching to the rear of the Relief, beginning a new rank in the rear. He should automatically UNFIX HIS BAYONET at the same time.

The Corporal then proceeds with the Relief to the remaining posts which are relieved in the same manner. When the last post is relieved, the Corporal should command a detachment of troops with bayonets unfixed. He marches them back to camp and dismisses them. (They will remain in camp until their tour of duty is over.)

Duties of Sentries at Their Posts

Sentries are to stand shouldered to all officers of any service passing by their posts. To any general and field officers, they are to rest their arms. However, when a sentry is posted on a general officer's quarters, he is only to rest to him and those of superior rank. To any of equal or inferior rank, he is only to handle his arms or stand at the shoulder. Sentries are also to rest to the commanding officer - regardless of rank, and to all parties with arms marching by with the beat of drum (or NCO calling cadence). These compliments are to be paid only from the time of reveille-beating in the morning until retreat-beating in the evening; after which sentries are to take no notice whatever of officers.