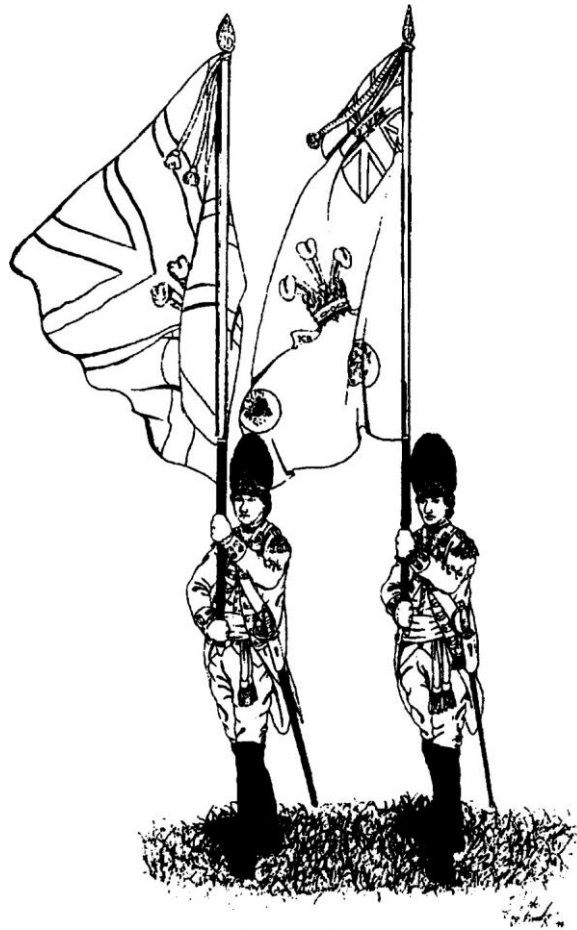


On Formations

Marching Maneuvers



Artwork by Eric Schnitzer

1st Captain 's Company,

Fusilier's Manual

THOUGH it is certain that exercising with exactness, and

performing all kinds of Maneuvers with the highest judgement, does not absolutely determine the real merit of a Regiment, and is rather a proof of its Discipline and Obedience, than of spirit or courage; yet 'till a better opportunity offers, to be distinguished, it is the Duty of Officers to endeavor by such methods to procure the good opinion of the public.

Cuthbertson *System for the Complete Interior Management and Economy of a*
 •s *LOF INFANTRY, a New Edition, with Corrections; BRISTOL, 1776*
 BATTALION-OEINFANTRY, Chapter
 XXVIII, Article 1.

Captain

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Captain's



Captain
Drawing by Joe Lee
Royal Welch Fusiliers in America, L.td

FORMATIONS AND MARCHING MANEUVERS

During the period preceding and during the American War of Independence, when the Manual Exercise as Ordered by His Majesty in 1764 was in use, its brevity of comment and lack of concise explanation led to many additional commands and movements, not only to facilitate the movement of the troops, but also often particular to a certain Regiment or encampment of a

number of them. There was little standardization in much beyond the sequence of the 35 counts of the Manual Exercise performed at reviews, plus some marching movements. Even for the Annual Inspection and Review, during which the Battalion was to be at its very best to be seen and reviewed by other General Officers, and maybe, even the King himself, beyond the appearance of the troops (governed by the Clothing Warrant of 1768), there was no set pattern for the firings or marching exercises.

(Ed Note: When a Regiment had only one battalion, as most did at that time, the word battalion was anonymous with regiment, and so the movements of a regiment are often titled battalion exercises with the caution command of "BATTALION!" given rather than "REGIMENT/" Those Regiments with two battalions normally exercised each battalion separately in any case, so the command was still BATTALION! To be reviewed was to show off. True, there were methods "generally practis'd by the Regiments at Reviews" and as can be seen, "generally" and "usually" practiced, are not to be interpreted as ordered, which the later regulations stipulated.)

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN COMMANDS OF 1792

The famous Drill Manuals, which all commenced with the Rules and Regulations (or the Formations. Field-Exercise and Movements. of His Majesty's Forces, published for the first time in 1792, and came out in a spate of versions during the 1790's, had many practices written down for the first time, that were (or certainly must have been) in use during earlier years.

This conjecture is based on practical thought, as how else would a Serjeant or a Corporal assemble, gain the attention of, or relax men without Arms for the purpose of fatigue details, recruit training in marching maneuvers, or the like? Certainly the simplicity of the following commands are such that little else is necessary for explanation: (underlined parts are for execution).

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FALL- N! The NCO will indicate a point of dressing (such as; ON PRIVATE JONES! or ON ME!) upon which the men will take their places in a rank at their proper intervals, dressing to the right (unless otherwise commanded). If unarmed they assume the Position of a Soldier