

Under Arms except that the left hand is held close to the left side as is the right one. When under Arms, they would assume the position of a soldier at SHOULDER - your FIRELOCKS.

AS YOU - WERE! This commands the resumption of a former position, countermanding a given command, and is often helpful.

DRESSING THE RANKS

To DRESS is a military expression signifying to arrange troops in a straight line; the point from which the line is to be drawn, being the part they dress by: Thus if they are to be in a line with the right hand file, it is called dressing by the right.

In dressing ranks, the soldiers are to stand upright, and without stooping to look smartly to the right and left, taking care to keep six inches distance between the files. When the Colours are present, always dress to them!

In CLOSE ORDER, the files are shoulder to shoulder (touching the next man).

In LOOSE ORDER, (which can be gauged with the right arms held akimbo so the elbow touches the next man on the right) there are about 6 inches between men. This is the usual interval for drill to prevent the cartridge boxes from clashing during the facings.

In OPEN ORDER the files are a full arms length distance from each other (performed by extending the right arm to full length with the fingers of the right hand fully extended to touch the left shoulder of the next man.)

(Ed. Note: This is not to be confused with "Open Ranks" which are described later.)

Whenever they fail of dressing, the officer or NCO should remind them of it, by giving the word DRESS!

In this regard, if an Officer is exercising the Company, only he shall give the commands (such as DRESS! or MARCH!). If the Serjeant is exercising the Company, without Officers, he shall give the commands. The Corporals never give commands when in ranks, and only if they are exercising their section or replacing a Serjeant for exercise. However, it is ALWAYS the duty of the NCOs to keep the lines dressed at all times. They should do so QUIETLY when on parade.

FROM CLOSE TO OPEN RANKS AND RESUME

During Company inspections and also for performing the firings and inspection at reviews, to move the ranks from close order to the proper distance, the commands are as follows:

REAR RANK(S), TAKE YOUR PROPER DISTANCE! At which command, the rear rank(s) faces to the right-about (180^0 to the rear). At the command: MARCH! the rear rank steps off on the left foot marching 5 paces and halts. If in three ranks (very rare) the middle rank marches 5 paces, the third rank marches 10. When the Serjeant reaches his proper place, 4 paces beyond the rear rank, he halts. Officers, if in ranks are, on command, to march forward 5 paces and halt. If already in front of their companies, they stand fast. The command is given: TO THE FRONT - FACE!. The front rank stands fast and all others face to the right about - towards the front. The Officers, without specific command, PLANT - FUSILS at that time.

To resume a close order, the command is: REAR RANK(S), CLOSE TO THE FRONT, MARCH! At which time the rear rank(s) and the Serjeants close up to their close order distance by marching forward the required number of steps. In all this, the front rank stands fast. (If there are only two ranks the rear rank takes 5 paces). Officers stand fast unless otherwise instructed.

(Ed. Note: Sometimes space constraints require modifications - listen to the commander!)

MARCHING

Marching as to its direction, is either straight forward to the front, or obliquely to the right or to the left. As to its measure, it is either in slow, quick or charging time. In slow time the ranks are usually in close or loose order, unless in the performance of the firings and maneuvers; and in quick time they are usually in close order.

When a body of men are marching obliquely to either flank, they must dress by that flank toward which they are inclining; when marching straight forward to the front, they must dress to the colors, if present, otherwise by command.

It is the custom, not only in all regiments in British service, but also in every European army, for the soldiers to step out with the left foot.

Formations

In slow marching, which is merely calculated for parade, the feet should not be brought too soon to ground, but time should be allowed to point the toes, in which the beauty of slow marching principally consists. It must not, however, be too much protracted, otherwise the equilibrium of the body will be lost. In quick marching the grand intention is to gain ground. The ordinary pace is two feet.

(Ed. Note: Slow time or march step (also called ordinary step) is to be 60 steps per minute. Quick time or step (the normal march step for the flank companies) is 120 steps per minute. Double quick time or charging time is 140 steps per minute and is performed at the command MARCH! MARCH! (Further Note: In battle, other speeds will be needed so take your cue from your commander. At all speeds, dress must be maintained)

The word MARCH given singly, at all times denotes that ordinary time is to be taken: when the quick march is meant, QUICK, with a pause, will precede the word MARCH: - The word MARCH marks the beginning of movements, from the halt.

In marching straight forward, the men are to regulate their steps by their right-hand man (or toward the Colours, if present), neither advancing before, nor falling behind him; they must just feel the elbows of one another. But in marching on a large front, they always regulate their march by the center, for there are placed the Colours. In stepping to music, the left foot should fall on the down-beat of the music.

(Ed. Note: When the command "CHARGE" is given, we do NOT go to a break-neck run! We quick march. Keeping dress is essential both for looks and so an officer may get in front to tell you when to STOP! Dress is a safety issue in this situation.)

THE MANNER OF STEPPING

In marching by the slow measure, the firelock is carried upright, and the right arm hangs motionless down the side (do NOT swing arms while marching!). The feet must be taken gradually off the ground, the knees stiff, the toes pointed forward, and the equilibrium of the body exactly preserved. A momentary pause (which is made just at the instant the leg is extended, and the balance of the body ready to be shifted) greatly facilitates doing it gracefully.

In performing the slow-step, the feet when advancing should be carried over a little to the opposite side, and both let down on the same line, otherwise the body will reel disagreeably. For instance, if you walk on a crack of a floor, at every step you should cover the crack with your heel. The length of the step should, on a plain march, be about 30 inches.

This is usually called the SLOW-STEP, being performed only to slow-timed music, one step to a second of time...the QUICK-STEP, which is taken in half the time, or two of them in a second. (This allows a unit to cover twice the ground in the same amount of time.)

The RWFA has adopted a Parade Step which is used for reviews. It is performed by stepping straight forward with the leg frilly extended to the front; foot parallel to the ground and raised about 12-16 inches. It has been described as a "semi-goose step." The main object is to have the leg straight and to try to have all feet level when full into the step. The command to begin is: PARADE - STEP! which is given while the unit is marching. To return to a common step the command is simply: MARCH!

(Ed. Note: According to J. A. Houlding, Fit for Service page 259: "Marching style - that is, the manner in which the legs were lifted and put down - only assumed a regular fashion in the (British) army at mid-century, after 1748, with the adoption of the 'Prussian Step': taken from the stiff-kneed marching style introduced in Prussia during the reforms of Frederick William I's reign. 't)

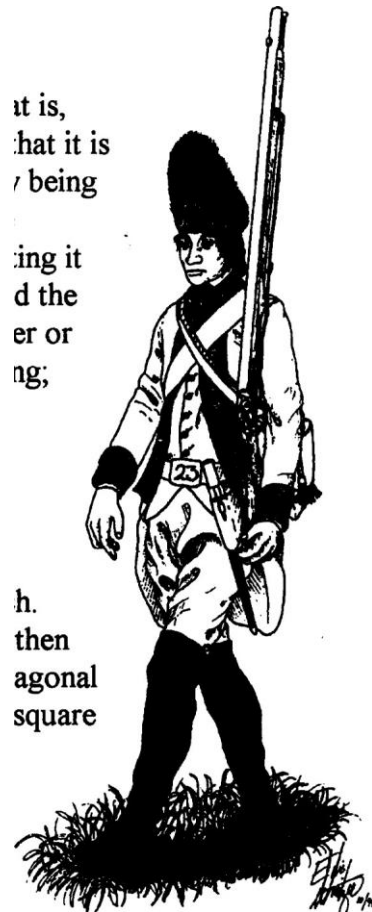
THE OBLIQUE STEP

The oblique step is performed in the same time and manner (that is, either by the slow or quick step) as that straight forward; only that it is made by carrying the feet obliquely to the right or left, the body kept square to the proper front. If you are to INCLINE to the RIGHT, when you step with your left foot, carry it across, setting it down before the right foot, the left toe pointing to the front, and the left heel directly before the right toe, at a distance from it greater or less, in proportion to the length of the steps you take in marching; but careful not to set the left foot down to the right of the right foot, because it will twist you around and prevent your KEEPNG YOUR BODY SQUARE TO THE FRONT. When you step with the right foot, you advance it toward the front, and set it down to the right of the left foot, with the toe pointed directly at the object or place to which you are to march. When you step again with the left foot, as before directed, and then with the right; and so alternately; move toward the front in a diagonal line, inclining to the right, and keeping the body and shoulders square to your proper front.

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The commands are: NCLNE RIGHT! (Incline - Left is performed in the same manner but in the other direction), and to march again to the front: FRONT! or MARCH!

Drawing by Eric Schniter

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WHEELING

Wheeling ranks to change the direction of the front of a unit was the most generally accepted method employed by the armies of the I O century. As with marching, a number of authorities will be quoted so some duplication or reiteration may occur, but are in no way contradictory and only serve to further explain the method.

A rank that wheels, is to be considered as an inflexible straight line. It should move like a swinging door. At the word of command MARCH!, the whole rank is to step off at the same time with the left foot; and every man is to make an equal number of paces, only his paces must be longer or shorter in proportion to his distance from the pivot. In wheeling to the right, therefore, each man's paces must be longer than those of his right-hand man; in wheeling to the left they must be longer than those of his left-hand man. The whole rank is to be governed by the end that has the farthest to go! In wheeling, therefore, to the right, every man in the front rank should look to the left, and regulate his steps by those of his left hand man, in order not to advance before him, or fall back behind him, but bring the rank about even with dress maintained. Likewise, in wheeling to the left, every man in the front rank is to look to the right, and regulate his steps by those of his right-hand man.

Take special note that in all wheeling to the right, the front rank men must cast their eyes to the left, except the left-hand man; and in all wheelings to the left they cast their eyes to the right except the right-hand man, taking care to feel the hand they wheel to, without crowding upon it.

Second and third ranks should incline so that each man remains directly behind the man to his front. Each man, unlike those in the front rank, should be looking straight to the front at the man ahead of him and maintaining his proper distance. He should look slightly to the right (or left) to maintain dress,' but concentrate his attention to the front.

Commands are:

TO THE RIGHT WHEEL!	<u>MARCH!</u> <u>HALT!</u> <u>DRESS!</u>
TO THE LEFT WHEEL!	<u>MARCH!</u> <u>HALT!</u> <u>DRESS!</u>
TO THE RIGHT ABOUT WHEEL!	<u>MARCH!</u> <u>HALT!</u> <u>DRESS!</u>
TO THE LEFT ABOUT WHEEL!	<u>MARCH!</u> <u>HALT!</u> <u>DRESS!</u>

A wheeling motion or command will carry the line in a different direction, by command, while an about wheel will be 180 degrees. Wheeling may be done by ranks or files, and to maintain their respective position in line, the wheeling of each rank or file successively shall be done on the same ground at the same point.