

capacity, or may co-operate with other troops of whatever arm.

In positions secure from surprise by an enemy's cavalry the whole troop may extend in one line of skirmishers, or by divisions in echelon, as may be required.

This may seem a hazardous practice, but I do not separate the rider from his horse further than the few paces necessary for him to see the object of his fire; and I find that a smart man can, from the word **CEASE FIRING** get back 12 paces to his horse, mount, drop his rifle into the bucket, and draw his sword in 30 seconds.

The close to either flank or centre could be done as fast as the enemy's approach, and the latter coming up with their horses blown, would, if not in very superior numbers, perhaps find their match at close quarters.

Or if more prudent to recede from the attack, the enemy could be kept at a disadvantage by our volunteers retiring over a fence or two and resuming their fire before their discomfited pursuers could come up with them or get out of range, for I find that even with a muzzle loader a smart man can, from the word **SKIRMISH**, lift his rifle out of the bucket, dismount, lead up into rank entire, move out 12 paces to the front, load, adjust his sight, and come to the **READY** in 50 seconds, and can deliver three rounds in two minutes and a half, so that in either case the assailant would probably be foiled.

Extending by Fours.

Select an intelligent man as the leading file (No. 1) of each *Four*.

Tell off by *Fours* and prove in the manner laid down, page 11.

The leading files of *Fours* then number off their respective *Fours* from right to left of divisions, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

For example, if there are 48 in the rank, there are six *Fours* in each division. But if the rank is not divisible by 4, say 47, the odd files next to the *Four* on the left of the left division are blank, and the numbering runs thus: —

Left.	Right.
6, 0, 4, 3, 2, 1.	6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

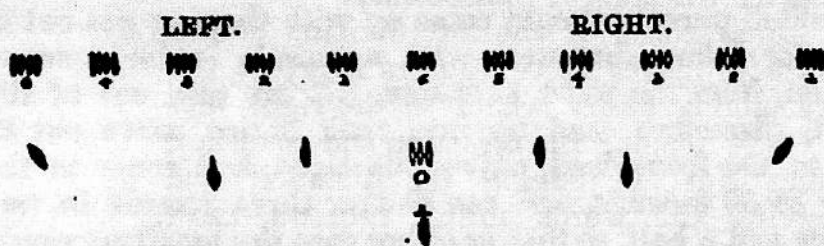
The right division is in this case the stronger, and is so more frequently than not; its left *Four* (No. 6) works as

the centre of the troop. But when the right division is detached and odd files occur, their place will be next to the *Four* on the left of their own division. When the troop "extends," the odd files take post 50 yards, or such distance as may be ordered, in rear of the centre, and are ready to replace casualties in any direction. The same rule applies to divisions. When the troop "closes," the odd files resume their place in the rank.

The limits of extension must be left to circumstances and the discretion of the commanding officer.

A rank of 47 files extended by *Fours* to intervals of 50 to 100 yards would cover from 500 to 1,000 yards.

The position of the subaltern officers of a troop extended is *moving* in rear of their respective divisions, that of the serjeants is (*moving*) in rear of their respective subdivisions, those of the *first* and *fourth* subdivisions keeping a look out on the flanks.



The captain's position is *moving* throughout the line, with the trumpeter in attendance, the guides either serving in the rank or employed as circumstances may require. Communication is thus complete, and orders can pass by word or gesture without any bugling or noise.

In advancing, *Fours* move abreast except when obstacles require the front to be reduced.

In retiring, horses come away move readily in pairs than singly, it is therefore expedient to retire by twos.

When extended by *Fours* the leading file commands his comrades, and may deviate somewhat from precise dressing for the sake of any available cover.

In extending from right to left, Nos. 1 being the pivot, keep the direction and covering, Nos. 4 look out for the distance, upon the same principle as front and rear rank men in dismounted drill, page 31. And in extending from left to right, Nos. 4 keep the direction and covering, Nos. 1 looking to the distance.

A few examples will illustrate the system, which is very simple and easily learned.

BY FOURS
FROM THE
RIGHT TO 50
YARDS EX-
TEND, WALK,
TROT, OR
GALLOP.
MARCH.

If from the *Halt*, *Four* No. 1 of the right division stands fast (or moves up two horses' lengths, according to the nature of the ground), the remaining *Fours* wheel to the left, and move off at the pace ordered.

On approaching the distance, file No. 4 gives the word LEFT INCLINE, which takes his party sufficiently to the rear of the alignment to admit of wheeling up and dressing, and when opposite his front he gives the word RIGHT WHEEL, HALT.

If *Four* No. 1 moves up two horses' lengths, the incline of the remaining *Fours* before wheeling is unnecessary.

BY FOURS
FROM THE
LEFT TO 100
YARDS EX-
TEND, WALK,
TROT, OR
GALLOP.
MARCH.

Four No. 6 of the left division stands fast (or moves up two horses' lengths), the remaining *Fours* wheel to the right, files Nos. 4 keeping the direction and covering, files Nos. 1 judging the distance, and giving the words RIGHT INCLINE, LEFT WHEEL, HALT, or dispensing with the "incline," as explained in the foregoing example.

BY FOURS
FROM THE
CENTRE TO 70
YARDS EX-
TEND, WALK,
TROT, OR
GALLOP.
MARCH.

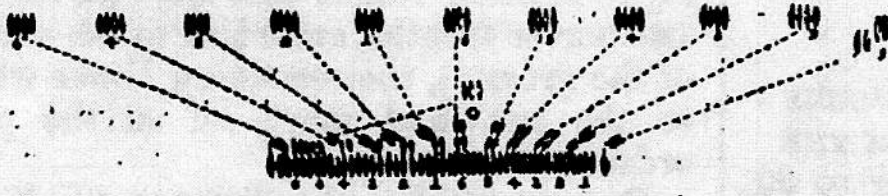
Four No. 6 of the right division stands fast, or moves up two horses' lengths, the remaining *Fours* wheel outwards at the pace ordered, the pivot files keeping the covering, the reverse flank files judging the distance, and wheeling their respective *Fours* in succession into the alignment as explained in the foregoing examples.

In each case the odd files take post in rear of the centre at the pace ordered for the movement, file No. 1 being the leader of the party.

To extend on the move, the *Four* named continues to advance without change of pace, the remaining *Fours* by *Twos* from the right, spring into a trot from the walk, or gallop from the trot, each *Four* being under the guidance of its (No. 1) leading file, who on approaching his point

gives the word FRONT FORM, and the original pace is resumed.

The extend on the move from the centre, for instance, would be effected thus :



Note.—On parade this movement can be done by *Fours* “inclining” or graduating their wheel outwards according to position and the distance to be passed. But on service broken ground and enclosures must be got over, and in working by *Twos* the leading file can see his way better ; his duty being to get to his point as he best can.

