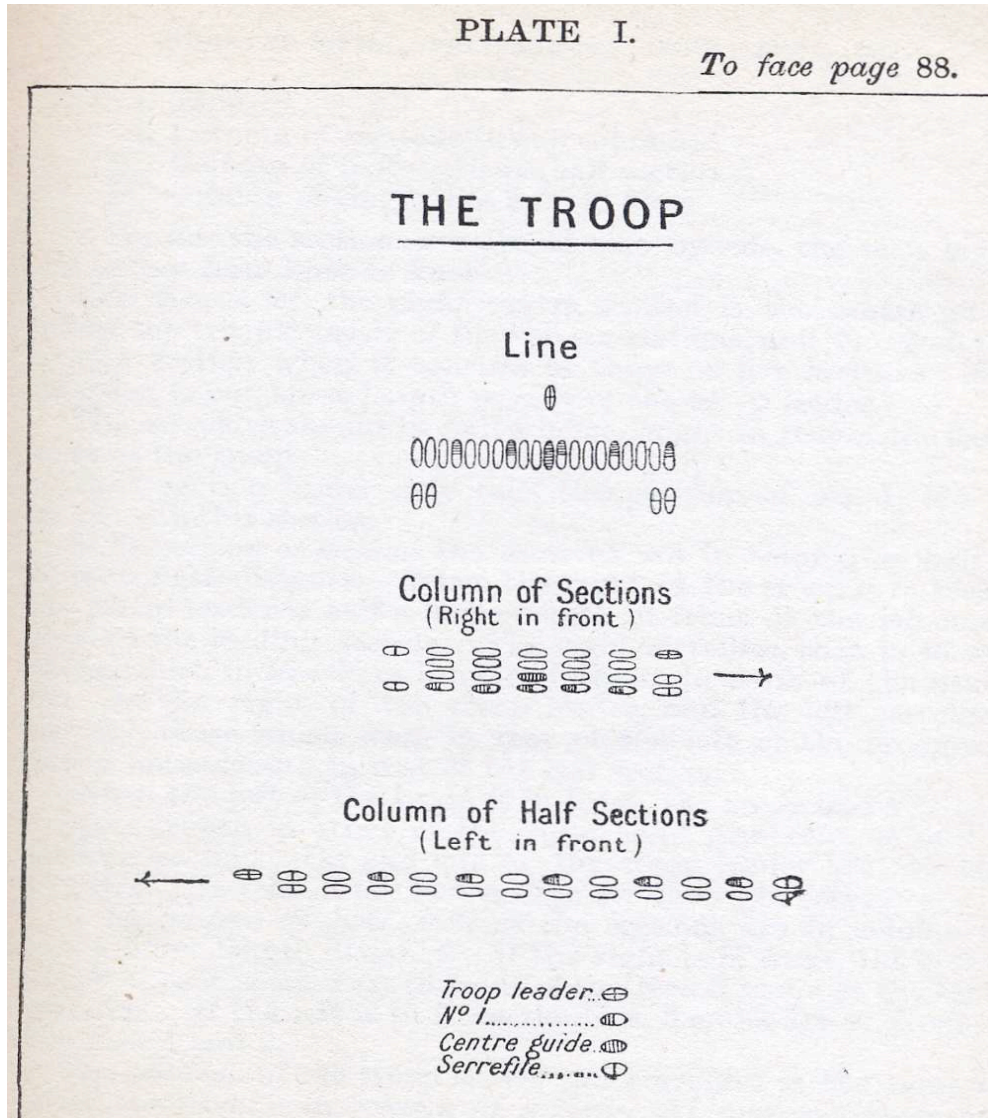


THE TROOP.

78. *Formation of a troop.*



1. The following are the four formations of a troop:

- i. Line.
- ii. Column of sections (troop column).
- iii. Column of half sections (half sections).
- iv. Column of single files (single files).

2. In *line* the sections are placed side by side, the men being six inches from knee to knee.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

The No. 4 of the right centre section is the centre guide when the troop consists of four or six sections, and No. 2 of the centre section when it consists of three or five sections. His position is one horse-length in rear of the troop leader.

The serrefiles should be half a horse-length in rear of the flank men of the troop.

Each section leader may take the position of No. 1, No. 2 or No. 4 in his section.

3. In *column of sections* the sections are in column at half a horse-length distance. When the right of the troop is in front, the troop leader is half a horse-length in front of the left-hand man of the leading section. The right serrefiles, that is to say those which in *line* were in rear of the right flank of the troop, are on the right of the troop leader, and the left serrefiles, namely, those which were in rear of the left of the troop, are half a horse-length in rear of the last section.

When the left of the troop is in front, the troop leader is half a horse-length in front of the right-hand man (No. 1) of the leading section. On the left of the troop leader are the left serrefiles; in rear of the last section are the right serrefiles.

4. In *column of half sections* the sections are in column at half a horse-length distance. If the right is in front, the nos. 1 and 2 of each section are in front of the Nos. 3 and 4 at the same distance. If the left is in front the Nos. 3 and 4 are in front of the Nos. 1 and 2.

The position of the troop leader and serrefiles is the same as when the troop is in *column of sections*. If, however, there are two serrefiles in front of the troop, they will march immediately in front of the leading section, and his troop leader will march in front of them.

If there are three serrefiles, two will march in rear of the troop leader and one by his side.

5. In *single files* the sections are in column and the men of each section are in the order No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, if the right is in front, or in the reverse order if the left is in front. The troop leader is in front of the troop, and is followed by the serrefiles of the flank that is leading. The serrefiles of the other flank are in rear of the troop.

79. *Telling off the troop.*

1. The troop will be told off when in *line*, in which formation it will usually fall in.
2. "FROM THE RIGHT TELL OFF BY SECTIONS." The men of No. 1 section number off 1, 2, 3, 4. No. 2 section does the same when No. 1 section has completed telling off, and so on. "FLANKS OF SECTIONS - PROVE." The men prove as described in Sec. 28. "AS YOU WERE." The men drop their arms. The centre guide and section leaders will be made to prove in the same manner.

80. *The march in line.*

1. Previous to moving off, every horse should be standing collected and square to the front.
2. On the command or the signal of the troop leader to advance the whole troop moves off together, at the pace taken by him.

The centre guide conforms to any change of direction of the troop leader by turning his horse the same degree when he arrives at the point where the troop leader made the change, while the men gradually place their horses in the same direction, and keep the front of the troop square to the leader's front.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

3. If, owing to the restiveness of his horse or from other causes, the troop leader's pace should at any time be very irregular, the centre guide will regulate the pace, so as to ensure the advance of the troop being smooth and uniform.

4. Men stopped by an obstacle will drop back behind the troop without waiting for orders, until the obstacle is passed, when they will at once resume their places. All rushing and hurry must be avoided.

5. Should the troop encounter a passage narrower than its front, the defile may be passed in the following manner: On the command "BREAK", the centre guide and flank men move up on the same alignment as the leader, and according to the width of the defile, the front rank men towards the centre for whom there is room, place themselves between the leader and the flank men; the remainder drop back, rapidly ranging themselves in three or four ranks as may be necessary, with sufficient intervals from knee to knee, but closed up nose to croup, and with their horses' heads opposite the intervals in front. As soon as the defile is passed, the leader gives the command, "FORM RANKS", when the centre and flank guides drop back, and the men resume their original places.

81. Troop wheels. (See Sec. 75.)

1. On the command "TROOP - RIGHT (or LEFT) WHEEL" the leader selects some point in the new direction on which to lead, makes the signal, and (if from the halt) moves off, in the required direction, on the word "MARCH". On completion of the wheel he makes the signal for "HALT" or "FORWARD" as required. He must move at an even pace throughout the wheel.

2. The troop moves up the distance it has from the troop leader before it begins to wheel.

3. The centre guide rides in the track of the troop leader and maintains his distance.

4. Each man glances towards the troop leader and increases or decreases his pace so as to be correctly placed in rear of him, the outer flank man being careful to keep the flank of the troop well closed in.

82. Inclining.

1. The incline of a troop is executed as follows: On the command "RIGHT (OR LEFT) INCLINE," the troop leader makes the signal, turns his horse and marches on a point in the required direction, which should not be at a greater deviation than 20 degrees from the original direction. Each man turns his horse in the same direction as that set by his troop leader, so that his knee is behind the knee of the next man on the flank, towards which the incline is made.

2. The flank man on the directing flank, having ascertained his new direction by observing his troop leader, will make the necessary turn and march steadily forward; the remainder will move parallel to him, each man preserving his position with regard to the next man on the flank towards which the incline is being made.

3. On the command or signal "FORWARD", each man will turn his horse at once to the former front.

4. The incline should be employed only for short distances.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

83. *Diminishing the front.*

1. When a new formation is ordered the troop leader and serrefiles move by the shortest route into their positions (*see Sec. 76*) in the new formation.

2. *From troop to sections.*

“ADVANCE IN SECTIONS” - “WALK - MARCH”. The right-hand section advances to its front, and all the remaining sections move off in succession as it comes to their turn, incline to the right, follow and cover at the proper distance.

3. *From troop to half-sections or single files.*

“ADVANCE IN HALF SECTIONS” (SINGLE FILES) “WALK-MARCH”.

As the *sections* in para. 2 above, substituting the word *half sections or single files* for *sections* where necessary.

4. *From sections to half sections.*

“ADVANCE IN HALF SECTIONS” “WALK-MARCH.”

Nos. 1 and 2 of the leading section advance Nos. 3 and 4, when they have room, incline to the right, follow and cover, the remainder move off in succession in the same manner, keeping their proper distances.

5. *From sections to single files.*

“ADVANCE IN SINGLE FILE” “WALK-MARCH”.

No. 1 of the leading section advances, Nos. 2, 3, and 4 incline to the right when they have room, from and cover, the remainder move off in succession in the same manner, keeping their proper distances.

6. *From half sections to single files.*

“ADVANCE IN SINGLE FILES” “WALK-MARCH”.

No. 1 of the leading section advances, No. 2 inclines to the right and follows, No. 3 marches straight forward as it comes to his turn and follows No. 2, No. 4 inclines to the right and follows No. 3, the remainder move off in succession in the same manner.

7. When no flank is named as above the changes of formation will be made from the right. The front, however, can be diminished in a similar manner by advancing from the left, in which case that flank must be specified in the word of command, *e.g.*, “ADVANCE IN HALF SECTIONS FROM THE LEFT - WALK-MARCH”.

84. *Increasing the front.*

1. *From single files to half sections.*

“TO THE HALT. FORM HALF SECTIONS.” “WALK-MARCH.”

No. 1 of the leading section advances 3 horse-lengths and halts. No. 2 inclines to the left and forms on the left of No. 1: No. 4 inclines to the left and forms on the left of No. 3, all the

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

remainder form in the same manner in their turn, forming half sections first and then closing to their proper distance.

2. From single files to sections.

“TO THE HALT. FORM SECTIONS.” “WALK-MARCH.” No. 1 of the leading section advances 3 horse-lengths and halts; No. 2, 3 and 4 incline to the left and form on the left of No. 1: all the remainder form in the same manner, forming sections first and then closing to their proper distance.

3. From half sections to sections.

“TO THE HALT. FORM SECTIONS.” “WALK-MARCH.”

Nos. 1 and 2 of the leading section advance 3 horse-lengths and halt; 3 and 4 incline to the left and form on the left of 1 and 2; all the remainder form in the same manner, forming sections first and then closing to their proper distance.

4. From sections to form troop.

“TO THE HALT. FORM TROOP.” “WALK-MARCH.”

The leading section advances 3 horse-lengths and halts, the remaining sections incline to the left until opposite their places in line, when they move forward and form on the left of those already formed.

5. From sections, half sections, or single files to form troop.

i. To the halt.

“TO THE HALT, FORM TROOP” - “WALK-MARCH.”

First each section will form as in paras. 2 and 3 and then the troop will form as in para. 4.

ii. When on the move.

“FORM TROOP - REAR TROT (or GALLOP).”

Sections will continue at the original pace until formed, then incline to the left and move up at an increased pace into their places in the troop.

6. In the foregoing it is assumed that the columns of *sections, half sections, or single files* are right in front, when the left is in front the commands will be the same; but, in the instructions, for left read right, and for Nos. 1 and 2 substitute Nos. 4 and 3 and *vice versa*.

85. Formations to a flank.

1. Forming troop to a flank from column of sections, half sections, or single files.

i. From column of sections.

“SECTIONS - (RIGHT) LEFT.” Each section at once wheels to the left; each man halts as he comes into line, if the movement was from the halt.

ii. From column of half sections or single files.

To form troop to a flank, column of sections will first be formed and then the sections will be wheeled to the right or left.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

2. *Forming to a flank from line.*

i. In column of sections.

“SECTIONS RIGHT.” “WALK-MARCH.”

Each section wheels to the right. The whole move off simultaneously.

ii. In column or half sections or single file.

“HALF SECTIONS (OR SINGLE FILES) RIGHT - WALK-MARCH.”

The right half section (or single file) wheels to its right and marches off. The remaining half sections move off in succession in the same manner so as to follow in column at the proper distance.

Moving to the left is done in the same manner, the word left being substituted for right in the above instructions.

iii. If the order to move to a flank in column of half sections or single files is given when the troop is moving, the half section or file on the flank named wheels at once and continues to move at the original pace; the other half sections or files halt until it is their turn to wheel.

86. *Formations to the rear.*

1. From column of sections, half sections, or files.

“SECTIONS (HALF SECTIONS OR FILES) ABOUT.”

Each section (half section or file) wheels about.

2. From line. Line to the rear can be formed by wheeling the whole troop about with the command “TROOP-RIGHT ABOUT WHEEL,” or by wheeling the sections about, the command being “SECTIONS ABOUT.”

When the latter method is adopted, the original right section becomes temporarily the left section. When such is the case and the command “ADVANCE IN SECTIONS (HALF SECTIONS OR SINGLE FILES) - WALK - MARCH” is given, the original right section, half section or file will advance and will be followed in succession by the others.

87. *The march in column of sections, half sections, or single files.*

1. When marching in column great care should be taken that each man keeps the prescribed distance from, and cover exactly, the man in front. Each man should look ahead along the column, in order that he may become aware in good time of any slight change of pace. By careful riding he will be able to avoid increasing the irregularity of pace in the rear of the column, and perhaps to assist in rectifying it.

2. Exact covering and dressing will be maintained when marching at ease.

88. *Extending and closing.*

1. When a troop receives the order to extend, the men will extend to an interval of four yards between files unless another interval is ordered.

2. When the troop is extended the centre guide should be one horse-length behind the leader. Under no circumstances should this distance be reduced, as it is of great importance that every man in the troop should be able to see his leader.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)

3. Those men who have to change their positions when the order to extend or close is given move at the next pace faster than that at which they were marching before receipt of the order, and resume the original pace on arrival at their new positions.

4. *Extending the line:*

i. To both flanks.

“EXTEND” or “TO- YARDS EXTEND.” The centre guide continues to advance, the remaining files turn outwards each man in the direction of the position he will occupy when the troop is extended. They then move out and each man on reaching his position advances in the original direction.

“TO THE RIGHT - EXTEND.” The flank man on the left flank continues to advance, the remainder turn towards their positions in the extended line and move out.

or “TO THE RIGHT TO - YARDS EXTEND.” Each man as he reaches his position advances in the original direction. The dressing and intervals should be taken from the centre as soon as the troop leader has taken up his new position.

Extending to the left is carried out on the same principles.

5. *Closing from extended line.* Closing is carried out on the same principle as extending. If it is desired to close on the centre of command is “CLOSE.” To close to a flank the command is “ON THE RIGHT (LEFT) CLOSE.” To reduce the extension by drawing both flanks closer to the centre without closing completely the words of command are “TO - YARDS CLOSE.”

6. *Extending from column of sections, half sections, or single files.* When extending from column the troop will assume extended line formation; that is to say, if the troop is in column with the right in front, the rear units will extend to the left of the leading unit, and if the left is in front they will extend to the right of it.

The troop leader moves at once to his new position in extended line.

“EXTEND” or “TO-PACES-EXTEND.” In the case of a *column of sections or half sections* the leading section or half section extends; the remaining sections or half sections move direct to the places they are to occupy when in extended line, extending as they advance.

In case of *column of single files*, the rear files move direct to their places in extended line.

Yeomanry and mounted Rifles Training - Parts I & II - 1912(1915)