

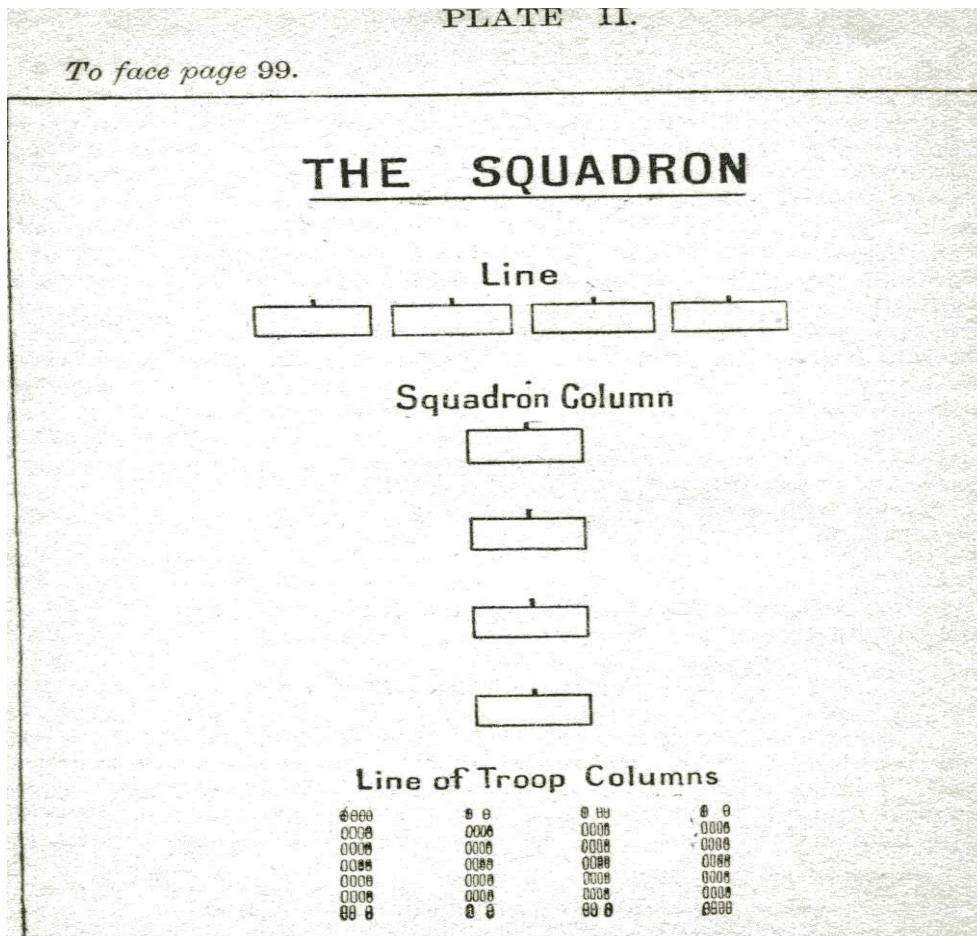
THE SQUADRON.

89. Posts and duties of officers, &c.

1. *Squadron commander.* On parade, when the squadron is in line, the commander's place is one horse-length in front of the line of troop leaders, and opposite the centre of the squadron. In squadron column, one horse-length in front of the leading troop leader.

When manoeuvring great independence must be allowed the squadron commander with regard to his position.

When drilling his squadron he must ride where he can best superintend it during each particular movement.



At drill when his squadron forms part of a regiment he should place himself where he can most quickly receive the orders of the regimental commander and where he can retain complete control over his squadron.

On the march he should usually be at the head of the squadron.

2. *Squadron second in command.* His duty is to assist the squadron leader, and in the latter's absence to command the squadron. He will ride wherever he can best carry out these duties. When not required elsewhere, his position on parade is -

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- i. In *line*, in front of the right file, in line with the troop leaders.
- ii. In *squadron* or *troop column*, a yard from the right flank, in line with the leading troop.
- iii. In *column of sections*, in rear of the squadron.
- iv. On the march, in rear of the squadron.

3. *Serrefiles*. All serrefiles will be attached to troops. Their position is given in Sec. 78.

90. *Formations of a squadron.* (See Plate II).

1. The following are the formations of a squadron:

- i. Line.
- ii. Squadron column.
- iii. Squadron close column.
- iv. Line of troop column (troop columns).
- v. Column of sections, half sections, and single files.

2. In *line* the four troops, each in line, are side by side, the troop leaders being 24 yards from each other. If, however, each troop has more than six sections, the interval between troop leaders must be increased to 28 or 32 yards according to whether there are seven or eight sections.

3. In *squadron column* the troops are one behind the other at such a distance that, if they wheeled to either hand, the squadron would be in line. When therefore the troops consist of six sections or fewer, the troop leaders of the rear troops will each be about 12 yards in rear of the serrefiles of the troop in front of them.

4. In *squadron close column* the troops are in column at a distance of one horse-length; the serrefiles of each troop are in line with the rest of the troop, the right serrefiles on the right flank and the left serrefiles on the left flank; the troop leaders of the rear troops are on the right of their troops. This formation should only be used when space does not admit of the formation of *squadron column*.

5. In *line of troop columns* each troop is in column of sections; the heads of the columns of all the troops are in line and at such an interval that, if each troop formed line, the squadron would be in line.

6. In *column of sections, half sections, or single files* each troop is in column of sections, half sections, or single files. The head of each troop is half a horse-length in rear of the troop in front of it.

91. *Line; changes of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* A slight change of direction may be made by ordering the directing troop leader to alter the direction gradually. A change up to an angle of 45 degrees may be made by giving the command RIGHT (LEFT) SHOULDERS. To change the direction to a greater angle the troops should be wheeled to the right (or left) and line should be formed in the new direction from *squadron column*.

Ground may be gained to a flank by wheeling the sections to the right or left.

2. *Formation of squadron column:*

- i. *To a flank.*

“TROOPS, RIGHT WHEEL - MARCH.” Each troop wheels to the right.

- ii. *To the front.*

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“FORM SQUADRON COLUMN MARCH” The centre troop advances, followed by the left and right troops in succession. Squadron column can also be formed from a flank by the command “FROM THE RIGHT (or LEFT) FORM SQUADRON COLUMN.”

iii. *To the rear.*

“FORM TROOP COLUMNS.” The troop leaders repeat the order; each troop then forms *column of troops*.

3. *Formation of line of troop columns.*

“FORM TROOP COLUMNS.” The troop leaders repeat the order; each troop then forms *column of sections*.

4. *Formation of column of sections, half sections, and single files.*

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

The right centre troop advances in *sections (half sections single or files)*, the left centre troop follows, then come in the right and left troops.

Column of sections (half sections or single files) may be formed from the right (left) of the squadron on the command “ADVANCE IN SECTIONS (HALF SECTIONS or SINGLE FILES) FROM THE RIGHT (LEFT).”

92. *Squadron column; changes of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* The direction can be altered by changing the direction of the head.

“HEAD OF SQUADRON, RIGHT WHEEL (or HALF RIGHT).” The leading troop wheels; the remainder wheel in succession on arriving at the point where the leading troop wheeled.

Ground can be gained to a flank by wheeling the troops or sections to the flank.

2. *Formation of line.*

i. *Line to the front.*

“FORM SQUADRON - MARCH.” The leading troop advances; the rear troops half-wheel at an increased pace. They are wheeled to the front when opposite their places in line, and conform to the pace of the directing troop on arriving in line with it.

If a line is required on the right or left of the leading troop the command will be “ON THE RIGHT (or LEFT) FORM SQUADRON.”

ii. *Line to the flank.*

“RIGHT (or LEFT) WHEEL INTO LINE - MARCH.” The troops wheel to the right together and on coming into line move forward.

iii. *Line to the half front.*

An oblique line to the right (or left) front can be formed by changing the direction of the head of the column and then forming *line* as in i, or by wheeling troops half-right or left and then forming line on the leading troop.

3. *Formation of line of troop columns.*

“FORM LINE OF TROOP COLUMNS.” The rear troops are conducted by their troop leaders into their places in *line of troop columns*, each troop forming *troop column* as it advances.

93. *Line of troop columns; changes of formation.*

1. *Formation of squadron column to a flank.*

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“SECTIONS RIGHT (OR LEFT)” - “MARCH” All sections wheel to the right and on the command “MARCH” move off.

2. *Formation of line to the front.*

“FORM SQUADRON - MARCH” Each troop forms to its front in the usual manner, the troop leaders giving the signal for the formation of *line*.

94. *Formation of line or squadron column from column of sections, half sections and files.*

“FORM SQUADRON” or “FORM SQUADRON COLUMN” Each troop at once forms troop and is led at an increased pace to its position in line or squadron column.

Line in any direction can be formed by altering the direction of the head of the column as desired and giving the command “FORM SQUADRON” when the rear units form as above on the head.

95. *Extending and closing a squadron.*

1. *Extending from line.*

“EXTEND” or “TO-YARDS EXTEND”. The directing troop extends from its centre (see Sec. 88, 4). The troop on the right wheels half right and moves to the flank; as soon as the left hand man of the troop comes opposite his place in extending line the troop leader wheels half left and extends the troop to the right (see Sec. 88, 4). The left centre and left troops wheel half left and move to the flank, wheeling half right and extending to the left as soon as their right flank men come opposite their places in extending line.

“TO THE RIGHT EXTEND” OR “TO THE RIGHT TO - YARDS - EXTENDS.” The left troop extends to its right. The other troops wheel to the right, and, when their left flank men come opposite their places in extended line, wheel half left and extend from the left. Extending the squadron to the left is carried out on the same principle.

2. *Extending from squadron column.*

If The command or signal “EXTEND” is given when the squadron is in *squadron column*, each troop will extend from its centre. If it is desired to form extended line from *squadron column*, the form extended line from *squadron column*, the words of command will be “FORM SQUADRON - EXTEND”; extended *line* will then be formed on the same principle as it is formed from *line* (see paragraph 1).

3. *Extending from column of sections.*

On the command “EXTEND” each troop maintaining the original pace will extend (see Sec. 88, 6).

If it is desired to form extended *line*, the command will be “FORM SQUADRON - EXTEND”. Each troop will first form line; then the squadron will be formed in extended line in the same manner as it is formed from line.

4. *Closing from extended line.*

i. *Closing on the centre.*

“CLOSE.” The directing troop closes on its centre. The right troop closes to its left; then wheels half left and takes up its position on the right of the directing troop.

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The left centre troop and the left troop each close to their right, wheel half right, and form on the left of the directing troop.

ii. Closing to the flank.

“TO THE RIGHT - CLOSE.” Each troop closes to its right, the right troop advances, the right troop advances, the remainder wheel half right and take up their places in line.

Closing to the left is carried out on the same principle.