

Chapter 5-part IV

**THE REGIMENT.**

96. *Posts and duties of officers.*

1. *The regimental commander, senior major, and adjutant.* At drill the regimental commander should ride where he can best superintend the movements of his regiment, make his words of command heard, and his signals seen by the squadron commanders. The senior major and the adjutant act as his assistants.

When the brigade is halted on parade his post is one horse-length in front of the commander of his centre squadron. When the regimental commander is for any reason at a distance from the regiment the senior major may be given executive command.

2. *Squadron commanders.* Although each squadron commander must be in a position to hear the orders, and receive the directions of the regimental commander he must not be so far from his squadron leaders that his power of leading it is diminished. Squadron leaders are at all times responsible for the position of their squadrons. The second in command of a squadron assists the squadron leader and takes the executive direction when the latter is at any distance from the squadron.

3. *Troop leaders.* When the regiment is following a directing guide, the directing troop leader of each squadron regulates his pace and direction in accordance with that of the guide.

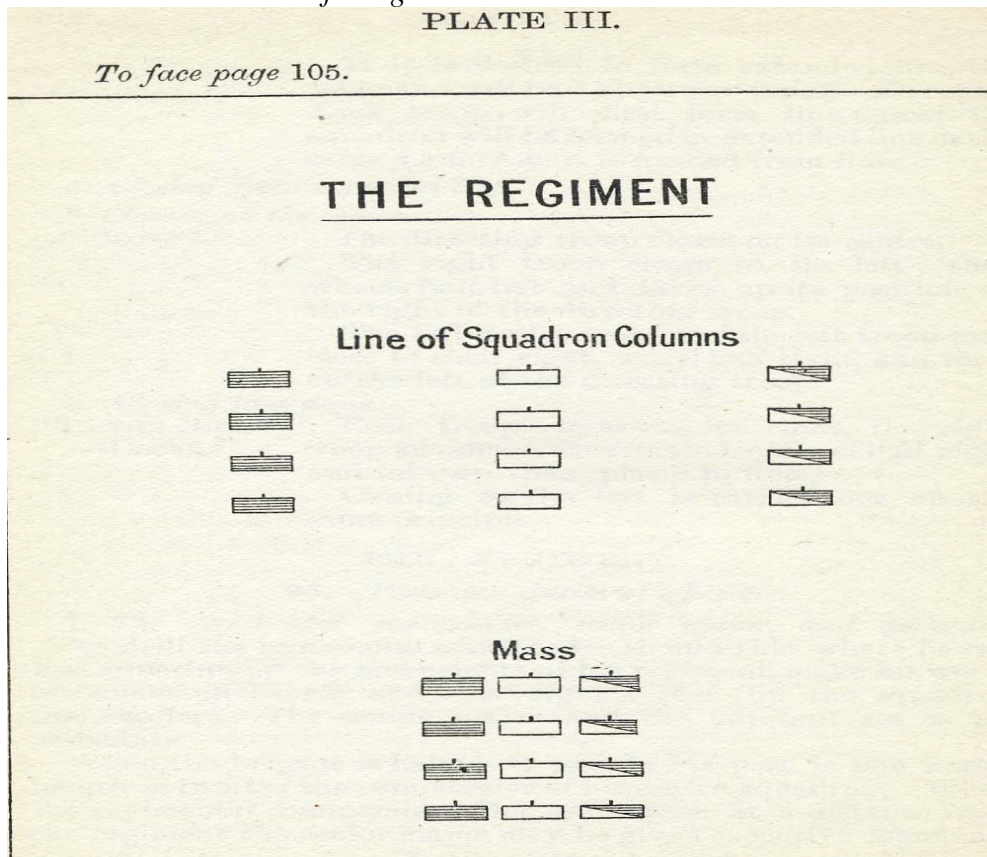
When there is no directing guide specially detailed, pace and direction are taken from the directing troop leader of the directing squadron. In *line of squadron columns*, the leading troop leaders preserve the general alignment and the proper interval between squadrons. In *column* they preserve the distances of their squadrons.

4. *Directing guide.* An officer, usually the adjutant, may be specially detailed as guide to lead the regiment. He will place himself where he can be well seen in front of the directing troop leader, who is responsible for keeping an even pace behind him.

97. Formations of a regiment.

PLATE III.

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1. The following are the formations of a regiment:

- i. Line.
- ii. Line of squadron columns.
- iii. Line of troop columns.
- iv. Mass.
- v. Close mass.
- vi. Column of troops.
- vii. Column of sections, half sections, and single files.

2. In *line* the squadrons each in *line* are side by side with an interval of 8 yards between them. It will seldom be necessary to form line in the field; it will therefore be little practised.

3. In *line of squadron columns* the squadrons, each in *squadron columns*, are side by side at such an interval that when each squadron forms line the regiment is in line.

4. In *line of troop columns* the squadrons, each in *line of troop columns*, are side by side at such an interval that when troops are formed the regiment is in *line*.

5. In *mass* the squadrons, each in *squadron column*, are by side at 8 yards interval.

6. In *close mass* the squadrons, each in *close squadron column*, are side by side at 8 yards interval. This formation should only be used when there is not sufficient space for the formation of *mass*.

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7. In *column of troops* the squadrons, each in column of troops, are in column at such a distance that a wheel of troops to either hand would bring the regiment into *line*.

8. In *column of sections, &c.*, the squadrons, each in *column of sections, &c.*, are in column at a distance of 8 yards (from the rear of one squadron to the leader of the leading troop of the squadron in rear.)

### 98. *Line; change of direction and formation.*

1. Change of direction. A change of direction can be effected by ordering the directing troop leader or the directing guide, if one has been detailed, to change the direction gradually.

Another method is to give the command "RIGHT (LEFT) SHOULDERS."

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

2. Formation of *line of squadron columns* or *line of troop columns*.

Each squadron forms line of squadron or troop columns as detailed in Sec. 91.

3. *Formation of mass.*

"FORM MASS." The directing squadron forms *squadron column*, each flank column forms *squadron column* from the flank nearest the centre, changes the direction of its head, and moves at an increased pace into its position in mass.

4. *Formation of column of troops.* Column of troops can be formed to either hand by wheeling troops to the right or left.

### 99. *Line of squadron columns; change of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* A slight change of direction can be made by *shouldering* or by instructing the directing troop leader to make a gradual change. A greater change can be made by wheeling the heads of the columns and then re-forming *line of squadron columns*. Ground can be taken to the flank by wheeling troops to the right or left.

2. *Formation of line.*

"FORM LINE." Each squadron forms squadron.

3. *Formation of line of troop columns.* On the command

"LINE OF TROOP COLUMNS" each squadron forms *line of troop columns*.

4. *Formation of mass.*

"FORM MASS." The 2<sup>nd</sup> squadron advances; the remainder are conducted into their places in *mass* at an increased pace by changing the direction of their heads. *Mass* can be formed on any squadron (e.g., "MASS ON THE 1ST SQUADRON.")

If mass is to be formed from and to the halt, the 2<sup>nd</sup> squadron advances the depth of the column, the remainder wheel into *line* inwards, and wheel troops to the front when they have their proper interval. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> squadron is not to advance, the remainder may move into position by wheeling troops.

5. *Formation of column of troops.*

"FORM COLUMN OF TROOPS" (or "COLUMN OF TROOPS FROM THE RIGHT"). The directing squadron advances; the remainder wheel heads half-right and half-left, and take the shortest route into their places in column.

"COLUMN OF TROOPS TO THE HALF-RIGHT (or LEFT)." All squadrons wheel heads half-right; the last squadron continues to advance, and the remainder get into column by the shortest route.

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“COLUMN OF TROOPS TO THE RIGHT (or LEFT)”. All squadrons wheel their heads to the right.

### *100. Line of troop columns; change of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* The direction can be changed by instructing the directing troop leader to change his direction gradually or by *shouldering*. Ground can be taken to the flank by wheeling the sections to the right or left.

2. *Formation of line.*

“FORM LINE.” Each troop forms *line*.

### *101. Mass; change of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* The direction can be changed by instructing the directing troop leader to change his direction gradually or by *shouldering*.

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

2. *The formation of line of squadron columns.* *Line of squadron columns* is formed by opening out from the squadron of direction, or other named squadron.

3. *Formation of line.* *Line of squadron columns* will first be formed in the required direction, and the squadrons then deployed.

4. *Formation of column of troops.* As from *line of squadron columns*. (See Sec. 99, 5.)

### *102. Column of troops; change of direction and formation.*

1. *Change of direction.* The direction is changed by command “HEAD OF THE COLUMN, RIGHT WHEEL (HALF-RIGHT).”

2. *Formation of mass or line of squadron columns.*

“FORM MASS” or “FORM LINE OF SQUADRON COLUMNS” The 1<sup>st</sup> squadron advances, the 2<sup>nd</sup> squadron wheels its head half-left, the 3<sup>rd</sup> squadron head half-right and the 4<sup>th</sup> squadron head half-left and as soon as they have got their proper intervals wheel to the front and move up into the alignment.

When the rear squadrons are required to form on a flank the command will be provided by the words “ON THE RIGHT (or LEFT)”.