

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE 1817 HENRY ANGELO (THE YOUNGER)

The manual presented here was written by Henry Charles Angelo, and is vitally important to the history of British swordsmanship on foot. Angelo came from a line of famous fencing masters. His Grandfather Domenico Angelo started a fencing school in England in the 1750s, and became one of the most famous sword masters in the country. Domenico's son, Henry Angelo (Henry Charles Angelo's father) took over his dynasty and also went on to develop a system of military swordsmanship – Hungarian and Highland Broad Sword (1799), and The Guards of the Highland Broad Sword (1799).



Despite the terms ‘Scottish’, ‘Hungarian’, and ‘Austrian’ being used in a number of texts of this time, this was merely the origin or influence on the style that was intended for British swordsmanship, and all of the swords used in the British army at that time.



The Guards of the Highland Broad Sword (1799)

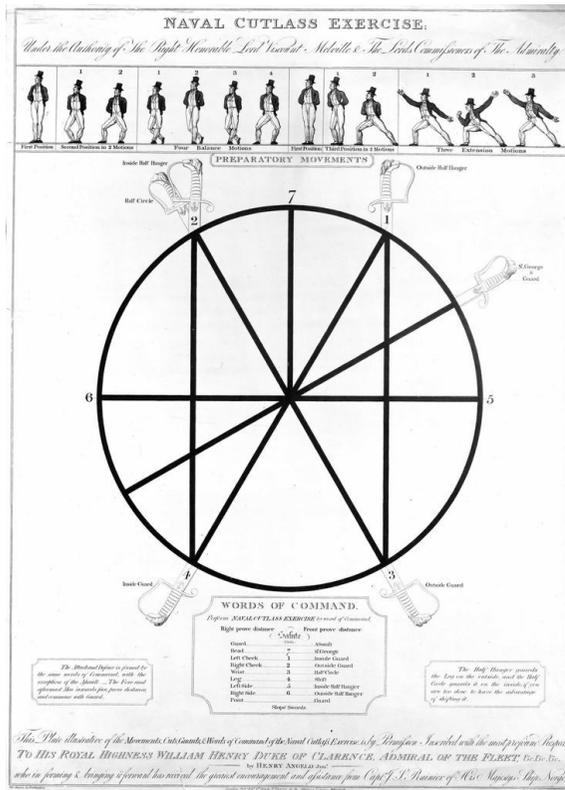
Henry Angelo, the elder (1760-1839), in 1790.

Angelo's (Elder) system was taught to the London and Westminster Light Horse Volunteers (that included light infantry support units). This system was used informally by other units and individual officers, along with the similar and related 'The Art of Defence on foot, with Broad Sword and Sabre,' by Charles Roworth (1798). A number of texts at the time recommended this work to officer's to become accustomed with the swords that they were obliged to purchase and carry.

Henry Charles Angelo (Younger) had begun to teach the military even before taking over his father's fencing school, and during the Napoleonic Wars. Around the year 1813, he began to teach the Royal Navy a form of cutlass exercise. This exercise was based heavily on his father's military system of

the late 18th century. These works were described as a combination of Scottish and Hungarian methods, with a ten-lesson structure introduced by the broadsword master John Taylor (a version of which also appeared in Roworth's third edition, published in 1804).

The cutlass exercise diagram to the left is near identical to the sword exercise diagram seen in the infantry sword manual presented here.



Mounted and dismounted troops of the London and Westminster Light Horse Volunteers. (Notice the sword bayonet worn by the dismounted man, seen in use in the poster on the previous page.)

By 1815, and perhaps sooner, Henry Charles Angelo was teaching an infantry sword exercise to troops serving in France. Finally in 1817, his system was officially accepted as the new standard for the British army, and is the work you see in this document. This was the first ever officially adopted infantry sword exercise for the regular British army. It was re-printed and updated a number of times, and served as the standard and official manual of infantry sword exercise until nearly the end of the 19th century, when a new form of sword and swordsmanship was introduced.

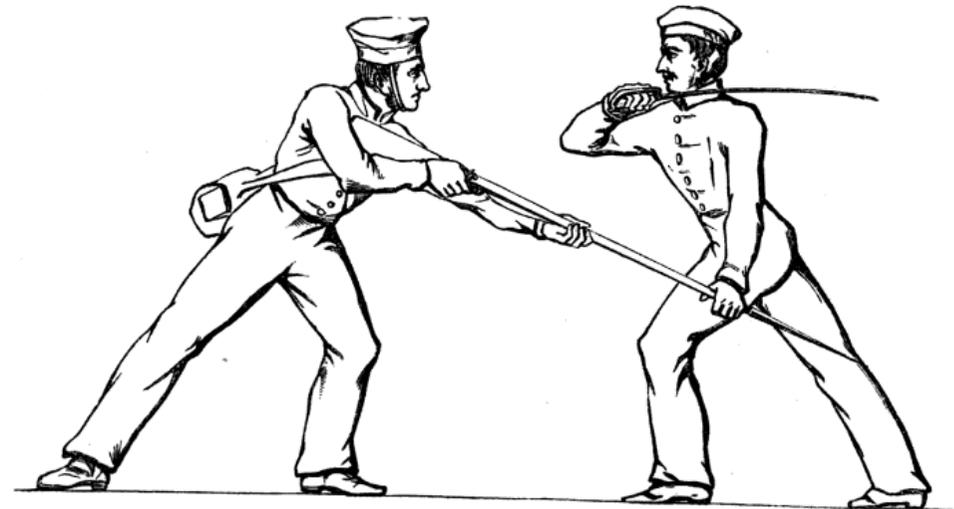
It is worth noting that when Angelo's system was finally replaced, the sword was almost entirely obsolete in military usage, especially for those using the sword on foot. Henry Charles Angelo's system was heavily based on his fathers', and even though some terminology and teaching methods evolved, the principals of the fighting style remained relatively unchanged. Therefore the Angelo's style of infantry swordsmanship, which lasted almost one hundred years, was the military standard from almost the introduction of British pattern swords (1786), until the sword was made obsolete. Below is an anecdote from a British army Sergeant serving in France in 1815, and gives some insight into how the sword exercise was introduced and practiced.

During the brigade's stay near Cambray an order was received that a captain and five sergeants from each regiment should be sent to Valenciennes to learn the sword exercise; so Captain Barnard of my own company was chosen, and amongst the five of our sergeants myself. We started accordingly to Valenciennes, which was about twenty-five or thirty miles from Cambray, and remained there six weeks till we got sick enough of the sword exercise, having six hours a day of it for the whole six weeks except on Sundays. At the end of that time we again joined our regiment, which had been ordered to return immediately to Scotland.



Henry Charles Angelo (1780-1852), in 1839

Note the term 'sword'. In the Napoleonic era, various terms had been used for the different swords in use at the time, such as sabre, spadron & broadsword, but around the year of the publishing of this manual, those terms were dropped, and replaced with the rather more universal one – sword. The weapons used under this system would have been the 1796 pattern Infantry officers spadron (straight and single edged, light cut and thrust, with shell guards), the 1803 Infantry officers sabre (Deeply curved with slotted hilt), and the 1798 pattern Scottish broadsword (brass basket hilt with heavy double edged blade).



From Angelo's Bayonet Exercise, 1857

A great many derivatives of these three swords were also in use, such as earlier and simpler spadron types, non-regulation sabres and regimental patterns. However, this system lasted on until near the end of the century, and was therefore also used extensively with the so called 'gothic' hilt sabres that became standard for infantry officers in 1822. This sword was a middle ground between the 1796 spadron and 1803 sabre, being studier and more curved than the former, and less curved and more agile than the latter.

In 1833, Angelo was appointed as Superintendent of the Sword Exercise of the British army. He also published a bayonet exercise, that like his sword exercise, because the official standard for the army. Angelo continued to produce manuals for the auxiliary and yeomanry forces, included works on the use of the sword for cavalry.



The work scanned and presented here is the first edition of the 'Infantry Sword Exercise', and has been released on the 200th anniversary of its first publishing, and is brought to you by The Academy of Historical Fencing. This file, as well as restored scans of Henry Angelo's work are available at—www.swordfight.uk.

Compiled by Nick Thomas, Instructor and co-founder of the Academy of Historical Fencing.

TYPICAL BRITISH INFANTRY SWORDS USED IN THIS SYSTEM



1- 1796 Pattern Infantry Officer's Sword (Spadroon)

The standard officer and Sergeant's sword, 1796-1822) It was a light bladed sword that was neither particularly good at cut or thrust. Many officers replaced these with sabres such as the 1803 pattern or non-regulation models. Weight - 700-750 grams, 80cm blade. Point of balance 8cm.

2 -1803 Pattern Infantry Officer's Sword

The standard sword for officers of the Grenadier and Light Companies (flank companies), Light Regiments, as well as Fusilier, Rifle and staff officers. It was also popular with other officers, including the Royal Navy. Blade shapes vary substantially in terms of length and curvature. The guard is of slotted hilt type, providing more protection than a stirrup hilt. The blades are often inspired by the 1796 light cavalry sword, but are slightly shorter and usually without flare in the blade profile. The pattern varies from 75-83cm blade, 700-830 grams, point of balance is typically around 15cm.

3 - 1798 Pattern Scottish Infantry Officer's Sword

The (Northern) Scots continued with their tradition of using basket hilt swords, which Englishman had dropped earlier in the 18th century. Blades vary, but are typically straight and double edged. Substantial guards made of brass. 1.1-1.4kg, 81-84cm blade. Point of balance between 10-15cm.

4 - 1822 Pattern Infantry Officer's Sword

In 1822 a new sword replaced both the 1796 spadroon, and 1803 sabre. Initially with a pipe back blade, and later fullered. It is a light curved cut and thrust blade, with brass guard, often referred to as a 'gothic' half basket. 800-900 grams, 82-83cm blade. Point of balance between 10-13cm.

INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.

1817

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE

INFANTRY

SWORD EXERCISE.

By Authority.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CLOWES,
Northumberland-court, Strand.

1817.

GENERAL ORDER.

Horse-Guards,
1st February, 1817.

The following Rules of Instruction for the *Infantry Sword Exercise* are to be practised by the Officers and Non-commissioned Officers of Infantry in His Majesty's Service.

Every Battalion of Infantry will be furnished with Twelve Copies of these Instructions, being in the proportion of one for each Company, one for the Commanding Officer, and one for the Adjutant.

In addition to these, a Target, shewing the various Positions and Directions of the Cuts, with their respective Guards, will be furnished to each Battalion of Infantry, for the more easy Instruction of Beginners, previous to the Exercise being practised by Squads, or in Attack and Defence.

By Order of

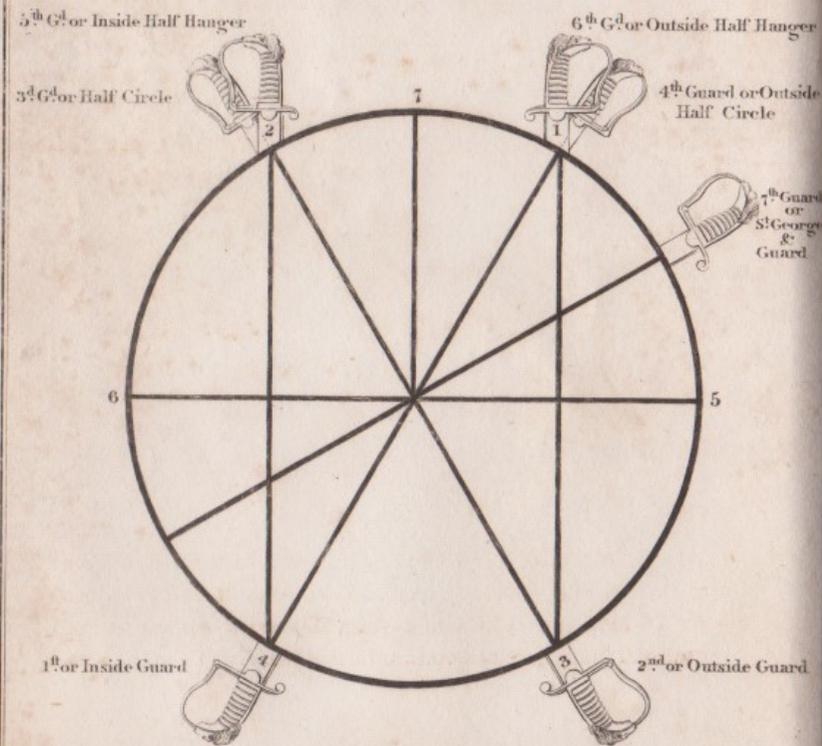
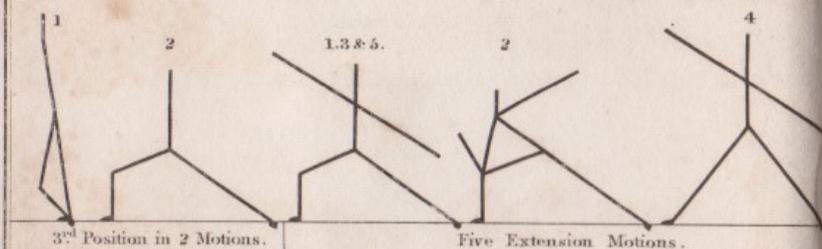
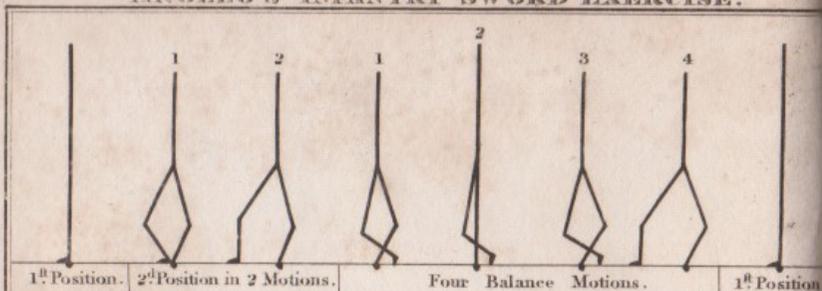
His Royal Highness

The Commander in Chief,

HARRY CALVERT,

Adjutant-General.

ANGELO'S INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.



This Plate is added to assist those who cannot conveniently procure the Regulation Target (in which the Circular Figure is 14 inches diameter) the lines in the upper part are sections of the Figures in the Preparatory Movements.

WORDS OF COMMAND
 FOR
 INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE.

Prepare to perform Sword Exercise.

- Draw Swords..... Guard
- Inside Guard Outside Guard
- Right prove distance (2) .. Front prove distance (2)
- Salute (2)
- Assault 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 { Guards 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th
- Point (2)..... { Parry (2)

	Cuts.	Guards.
Left Cheek	1	Inside Guard or..... 1st
Right Cheek	2	Outside Guard 2nd
Wrist	3	Half Circle..... 3rd
Leg	4	Shift 4th
Left Side	5	Inside Half-hanger..... 5th
Right Side	6	Outside Half-hanger 6th
Head.....	7	St. George 7th
Point (2)		Parry (2)
Guard.		Return or Slope Swords

For Attack and Defence, Inwards face.

N. B. In Attack and Defence only prove Distance from Point to Shell in First Position ; perform the Assault and Point with the Third, giving the Caution which Files are to commence, and continue the Words of Command down the First Column.

INFANTRY SWORD EXERCISE

Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page, including words like 'Guard', 'Point', and 'Parry'.

USE OF THE TARGET

INFANTRY
SWORD EXERCISE,

&c. &c.

THE rules of instruction are divided into three parts, viz.

PART 1.—Preparatory Positions and Movements previous to using the sword.

PART 2.—The Cuts, Guards, Point, and Parry.

PART 3.—The Attack and Defence.

USE OF THE TARGET.

THE target should be placed so as to have the centre rather below the height of a man's shoulder: from below this centre a line is drawn on the ground directly to the front, and at about the distance of ten feet; the Recruit should be placed in the position of *Attention*, with his left heel on the line, so that when he turns to the First Position of the exercise, his right foot may cover it.—The figures in the upper part of the Target represent the *Preparatory Positions*: The circular figure shews the Seven Cuts, and Guards:—The *Cuts* are directed through the centre, distinguished by lines, and named according to that figure from

which each Cut commences:—The *Guards* are performed by holding the sword opposite those lines, which have sword-hilts attached to them.

The *Point* (or *Thrust*) is made by placing the sword horizontally just above the right hip, the edge raised to the right, and the point directed to the centre of the circle:—The *Parry* is formed by holding the sword opposite the centre perpendicular line, the edge to the right; and with the back leading, by forming a circle round the figure, from left to right of your own front.

PART I.

POSITIONS AND MOVEMENTS
PREPARATORY TO USING THE
SWORD.

Words of
Command.



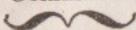
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DIRECTIONS.

Attention. The body erect, the heels close together, and the hands hanging down on each side.

(1st.)
*Extension
Motions.* This serves as a caution, and the motions tend to expand the chest,—raise the head;—throw back the shoulders;—and strengthen the muscles of the back.

Words of
Command.



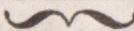
DIRECTIONS.

The whole of these motions, and throughout the *Preparatory Positions*, should be done *gradually*, waiting only for the commencement of each, by the words of command, *One, Two, &c.*

One. Bring the hands and arms to the front, the fingers lightly touching at the points, and the nails downwards; then raise them in a circular direction, till they are stretched to their utmost extent above the head: the ends of the fingers still touching, the thumbs pointing to the rear, and the elbows kept well back.

Two. Separate the arms, forcing them

Words of
Command.



DIRECTIONS.

obliquely back, till they come extended to the line of the shoulder, and as they fall gradually from thence to the original position of *Attention*, endeavour as much as possible to elevate the neck and chest.

Three. Press back the thumbs with the arms extended, and raise them to the rear, till they meet above the head, and the fingers pointing upwards, with the ends of the thumbs touching.

Four. Keep the arms and knees perfectly straight, and bend over till the hands touch the feet.

Five. With the arms flexible and easy

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

from the shoulders, raise the body gradually, so as to resume the position of *Attention*.

First Position in three Motions. This serves for a caution also, as no motion is made till the word—
One, &c.

One. Move the hands smartly to the rear, the left grasping the right arm, just above the elbow, and the right supporting the left arm under the elbow.

Two. Make a half face to the left, turning on the heels, so that the back of the left touches the inside of the right

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

heel; the head retaining its position to the front.

Three. Bring the right heel before the left, the feet at right angles, and the right foot pointing to the front; the shoulders square to the left, and the weight of the body to rest on the left leg.

Second Position in two Motions. Caution as before.

One. Bend the knees gradually, keeping them as much apart as possible, without raising the heels, or changing the erect position of the body.

Two. Step out smartly with the right

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

foot about eighteen inches, in line with the left heel, the weight of the body remaining on the left leg.

Balance
Motions.

Caution as before.

One. Move the right foot about eight inches to the rear of the left heel, the toe lightly touching the ground, with the heel perpendicular to it, and forcing the knees well apart.

Two. Raise the body gradually by the extension of the left leg.

Three. Bend the left knee, resuming the position made previous to the second motion.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Four.

Advance the right leg, and with a smart beat of the foot resume the *Second* Position, from which the balance motions commenced.

*First
Position.*

Extending both knees, draw the right heel up to the left.

*Third
Position
in two
Motions.*

Caution as before.

One.

Incline the right side to the front, with the hip kept in, so that the shoulder and knee are perpendicular to the point of the foot, and raise the heel just clear of the ground.

Two.

Step out smartly to the front

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

about thirty-six inches, with the knee perpendicular to the instep, the left knee and foot kept straight and firm, the heels in line, the body upright, and shoulders well square to the left.

(2nd.)
Extension
Motions.

Caution as before.

One. Bring the arms to the front of the body with the hands closed and the knuckles uppermost, touching each other near the lower button of the jacket: raise them gradually (keeping the elbows on the same line with them) to the pit of the stomach, the knuckles by degrees turning to the front: then by forcing back the shoulders, the hands

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

will be drawn apart, and the motion is completed, by sinking the elbows, and smartly extending the arms and fingers in a diagonal line with the right wrist as high as the head, and the shoulders well kept down.

For beginners, this motion may be divided, by giving the word *Prepare*, for the first part, and remaining perfectly steady when the hands are brought to the breast ready to separate, then give the word *One* for the motion to be completed.

Two. Close the right hand, and draw it in to the shoulder, at the same time inclining the body forward, until the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

right elbow rests upon the point of the knee: the left arm rising gradually, and remaining extended, as the body advances, so as to bring the wrist as high as the head, which must be well kept up.

Three. Raise the body, and when nearly upright, stretch the right arm and hand, with a smart jerk, thereby resuming the position formed by the first motion.

Four. Raise the body by extending the right leg.

Five. Bend the right knee, and advance the body so as to resume again the position in the first motion.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*First
Position.*

Spring up with the arms to the rear, and the right heel close to the left, which forms the *First Position*, as before described.

Front. Come smartly to the position of *Attention*, bringing the hands and feet, in one motion, to their proper places.

In the foregoing Instructions the *Positions and Movements preparatory to using the Sword*, have been explained, giving a separate word of command for each motion respectively. The same positions may now be gone through, naming only in the word of command the position or movement

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

required, and distinguishing it by the numbers *One*, *Two*, &c. It is intended by this to practise the Recruit in changing from the different positions readily, and without losing his balance, which will almost invariably rest on the left leg.

Positions by Numbers. This being merely a caution, wait for the command, *One*, &c.

One. Raising the arms to the rear, and the right heel to the front, come at once to the *First Position*.

Two. Come to the *Second Position*.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Three.

Come to the *Third Position*.

Two.

„ the *Second Position*.

One.

„ the *First Position*.

Three.

„ the *Third Position*.

*First
Balance
Motion.*

Spring up smartly to the position, as shewn in the *First Balance Motion*.

Three.

Move forward the right leg, and stretch the left knee, so as to resume the *Third Position*.

*First
Balance
Motion.*

Spring up again as before.

Two.

Throw out the right leg to the *Second Position*.

Words of
Command.

*Single
Attack.*

DIRECTIONS.
Raise the right foot, and beat it smartly on the ground.

*Double
Attack.*

Raise the right foot, and beat it, as before, twice on the ground; first with the heel, and then with the flat of the foot.

Advance.

Move forward the right foot, about six inches, and place it smartly on the ground: then bring up the left foot about the same distance.

*Single
Attack.*

As before directed.

Retire.

Move the left foot to the rear, about six inches, the whole weight

Words of
Command.

*Double
Attack.*

DIRECTIONS.
and balance of the body still continuing to rest upon it; then move the right foot back the same distance, and place it smartly on the ground.

*Double
Attack.*

As before directed.

Front.

Draw back the right foot, and resume the position of *Attention*.

The object of the preceding portion of the drill, as Positions and Movements preparatory to using the Sword, is to give a free and active use of the limbs: a thorough command of which, with the knowledge of the best mode of position, in applying the force of the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

muscular powers, will not only facilitate, and give great advantage in; the use of the sword, but will tend to ensure a proper efficacy to the Cuts and Guards: enabling the beginner to gain more easily that pliability, as well as strength, in his position, which may be required either for assault, defence, or in quickly returning the attack upon his adversary.—The Instructor should prove the firmness of the Positions, by bearing equally and firmly on the shoulders of the Recruit, and during the changes in forming the Second Position, and Balance Motions;—when in the First of the Second Extension Motions, by taking hold of his right wrist with both hands, and bear-

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

ing upon it in the direction of the left leg, upon the line of which the right arm should be, if properly placed;—and making him also in the Third Position move the right toe up and down, without its motion affecting the body.—In all positions where both knees are bent, the more so they are the better, as a greater spring, and elasticity will be gained in forming quickly any other position. The body must be generally, (and indeed almost always) balanced, and rest, upon the left leg; by which means greater flexibility is allowed to the right leg in moving forward, to gain distance upon an adversary, or *vice versa* in retiring from his reach.—No precise length can be assigned in

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

moving the right leg to the front in the third position, as it depends upon the length, and stride of the person; nor should it be beyond what may allow of his return to the First or Second Position with quickness, and a perfect facility to himself.

The figures on the upper part of the Target representing the Positions, Balance, and Second Extension Motions, are to be referred to on going through this part of the exercise*.

* When this part of the Exercise is practised as a Drill for the Limbs, it should be performed with the left shoulder and foot to the front, as well as with the right.

End of First Part.

PART II.

Words of
Command.

THE recruit being perfectly instructed, in the Preparatory Movements, may now take the Sword,—and be made acquainted with the strong and weak parts of it; the *forte* (strong) being the half of the blade near the guard—the *foible* (weak), the half towards the point; indeed, a knowledge of these distinctions is very material, either in giving, or guarding, a Cut, as much depends upon their proper application: from the guard upwards in opposing the blade of an adversary,

Words of
Command.

the strength decreases in proportion as it is received towards the point; and *vice versâ*, it increases from the point downwards. The forte of the sword ought always to gain the foible of the opponent's weapon, and the Cuts should be given within eight inches of the point, that the sword may clear itself.

In delivering a Cut, it is advantageous if the *forte* meets the adversary's *foible*, as it will, of course, force his Guard. The sword should be held flexible, and easy in the hand, but yet sufficiently firm to resist the Cut of an adversary, and to give a Cut, or Thrust, with proper force and precision. The middle knuckles are to be in the direction of the edge in all Cuts and Guards. If the sword is light, the thumb

Words of
Command.

may be placed along the back of the handle; if heavy, the grip of the handle should be held by the thumb and fingers around it. In this portion of the drill, the Target will become the more necessary, facing which the beginner is to be placed; and supposing the circular figure to be the breadth and height of a man's body, the Cuts and Guards will be regulated according to the lines described upon it; nor should he be practised in any other mode, till he has gained the proper direction of the Cuts, as well as the position of the sword in forming the Guards.

DIRECTIONS.

Prepare to
perform
Sword
Exercise. Being at the position of *Attention*,
turn the body and feet to the *First Po-*

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

sition, the right arm remaining down, and the left hand taking hold of the scabbard of the sword, just below the hilt, which should be raised as high as the hip.

*Draw
Swords.*

Raise the right arm to the front, as high as the shoulder, and move it across the body, till the hand seizes the hilt of the sword, which is to be drawn to the height of the left shoulder.

Guard.

Raise the right arm as high as the head, with the elbow well back, advancing the point of the sword to the front, so as to form an angle, through which you must always see your opponent: the hand being directly over the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

right foot, which is to be advanced to the *Second Position*: the left shoulder brought a little forward, and the hand resting upon the hip with the thumb to the rear.—*By the Target*, place the hand opposite the hilt marked *Guard*, and the point at the extremity of the line attached to it.

*Inside
Guard.*

Lower the wrist with the knuckles down, and over the foot; the point to the front, the edge to the left, and the hand as low as the elbow, which is to be nearly on a level with, and in front of the hip, at the same time make the single attack. *By the Target*, the hand opposite No. 4, the point directed towards No. 1.

Words of
Command.

36

DIRECTIONS.

*Outside
Guard.*

Turn the wrist with the nails downwards, and bring the edge to the right, repeating the Single Attack.—*By the Target*, the hand opposite No. 3, the point towards No. 2.

*Right prove
Distance.*

Spring up to the First Position, raising the sword to the full extent of the arm directly above the shoulder, with the edge to the left; and by a second motion, the edge is to be turned to the right, and the sword lowered in a horizontal direction from the shoulder, with the back of the hand upwards; the arm remaining extended, and the left shoulder brought square to the front.

*Front prove
Distance.*

Bring the point to the front,

37

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

raising it from thence above the shoulder as before, and incline the body forward, as in the first motion of the Third Position. By a second motion the edge is to be turned to the right, and on stepping out to the *Third Position*, the point lowered in a horizontal line from the shoulder. In both the movements of proving distance, the fore finger and thumb should be stretched along the handle, the thumb being on the back.

Salute.

Spring up to the *First Position*, raising the left arm nearly extended to the rear, with the wrist as high as the ear, and the thumb well pressed back; the right arm lowered with the point to the right of the front, the edge to

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

the left, the thumb extended along the upper side of the handle, and the elbow kept in to the hip. By a second motion turn the left hand, the fingers pointing to the rear, the knuckles uppermost, and bring the arm gradually round with a circular motion, till the hand touches the peak of the cap, with the shoulders square to the front.

Assault. Raise the right arm to the front, with the wrist opposite No. 1, in the Target, and the elbow rather bent towards the centre of the circular figure; the back of the sword near the point resting on the shoulder, with the edge inclined to the right, the left hand placed, as before directed, on the hip.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

One.

Extending the arm, direct the Cut to the front, in a diagonal line from right to left, as shewn in the Target from No. 1 to No. 4; and as the point clears the circle, turn the knuckles upwards, and continue the sweep of the sword, so as to bring the point to the rear of the left shoulder, upon which it rests, with the edge inclined to the left, and the wrist opposite No. 2.

Two.

Direct the cut diagonally from No. 2 to No. 3, and turn the wrist, so that the sword continues its motion, till it rises perpendicular to it, with the edge to the rear, and the arm extended to the right, on a level with the shoulder.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Three.

Cut diagonally upwards from No. 3, to No. 2, and continue the motion of the wrist, so as to bring it to the hollow of the left shoulder, with the point of the sword perpendicular to it, and the edge to the rear.

Four.

Cut diagonally upwards from No. 4, to No. 1, and carry the sword to the right, turning the knuckles downwards with the wrist as high as the shoulder, the edge and point to the rear.

Five.

Cut horizontally from No. 5, to No. 6, and turn the knuckles up with the edge of the sword to the left, and point to the rear, over the left shoulder.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Six.

Cut horizontally from No. 6, to 5, and bring the hand in the direction of No. 7, the sword being on the same line over the head, with the point to the rear, and the edge uppermost.

Seven.

Cut vertically downwards from No. 7, to the centre of the circle, and remain with the arm extended, placing the thumb along the back of the handle, with the left shoulder well pressed back.

Point.

Draw in the right arm till the wrist touches the hip; the edge of the sword rather upwards to the right; the point remaining to the front, and the thumb placed along the side of the handle: the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

left shoulder advanced, and the hips well thrown back; by a second motion, extend the arm, and deliver the point smartly to the front, pressing back the left shoulder well to the rear.

Guards. This serves as a Caution for the seven Guards which follow, distinguished in the words of command by *First, Second, &c.*

First. Turn the edge to the left, the thumb resuming its grasp of the handle, and draw in the elbow close to the body: the wrist being kept to the front, and the sword placed opposite the diagonal line as shewn in the Target

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

by the hilt marked *First*, or *Inside Guard*.

Second. Turn the wrist with the knuckles uppermost and the edge to the right, the sword placed opposite the diagonal line with the hilt marked *Second*, or *Outside Guard*.

Third. Turn the wrist and edge to the left with the point lowered to the right, the sword being held towards the diagonal line from the hilt marked *Third Guard*, or *Half Circle*.

Fourth. Extend the arm, and carry the wrist and edge of the sword down to

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

the right and the point to the left, in the direction of the diagonal line from the hilt marked *Fourth* Guard, or *Outside* Half Circle.

Fifth. Bend the elbow, turning the edge to the left, and raise the wrist as high as the shoulder to the left of the body; the sword placed opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked *Fifth* Guard, or *Inside* Half Hanger.

Sixth. Turn the wrist and edge to the right, so as to bring the sword opposite the perpendicular line from the hilt marked *Sixth* Guard, or *Outside* Half Hanger.

Seventh. Raise the wrist above the right ear,

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

the edge of the sword upwards, inclining to the front, the point rather advanced and sloping, the right elbow well kept back, and the left shoulder slightly brought forward.—This is termed the *Seventh*, or *St. George's* Guard, and is marked in the Target with the same hilt as *Guard*, opposite which, and the line from thence, the sword should be placed.

Parry. Lower the wrist nearly close to the right shoulder, with the thumb on the side of the handle, and the edge to the right; the hips well pressed back, and the sword opposite the centre perpendicular line; by a second motion, turn the wrist, so that the point forms a

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

circle from left to right of your own front, and returns to its first position.

The *Cuts* and *Guards* may now be combined, and this portion of the exercise is more particularly intended to practise the Recruit in shewing the *Guard* for each respective *Cut*, so as to impress it on his recollection. The *Cuts* should be given from the wrist to the full extent of the arm to the front, and in the *Third* Position, with the *Cut* directed no further than the centre of the circle, opposite which the point remains.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Left Cheek. Step out to the *Third* Position, and deliver the *Cut One* to the centre of the circle, opposite which the point is to remain steady with the arm extended.

Inside Guard. Spring up to the first position, and form the *First* Guard.

Right Cheek. Deliver the *Cut Two*, and remain as before, &c.

Outside Guard. Spring up to the *Second* Guard, &c.

Wrist. Deliver the *Cut Three*, &c.

Half Circle. Spring up to the *Third* Guard, &c.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Leg. Deliver the Cut *Four*, the point not carried above the height of the knee, &c.

Shift. Spring up to the *St. George's* or *Seventh Guard*, &c.

Left Side. Deliver the Cut *Five*, &c.

Inside Half Hanger. Spring up to the *Fifth Guard*, &c.

Right Side. Deliver the Cut *Six*, &c.

Outside Half Hanger. Spring up to the *Sixth Guard*, &c.

Head. Deliver the Cut *Seven*, &c.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

St. George. Spring up to the *Seventh Guard*, &c.

Point. As before directed, but the second motion given with the *Third Position*.

Parry. Spring up to the *First Position*, and *Parry*, &c.

Guard. As before directed with the *Second Position*.

Slope Swords. Spring up to the *First Position*, the back of the sword resting on the shoulder; the elbow drawn close to the hip; and the edge and wrist, in line with it to the front.

Words of
Command.

Return
Swords.

DIRECTIONS.

This may be done instead of *sloping Swords*, in case the drill is not continued, and is performed from *Guard* drawing back to the *First Position*, and returning the sword into the scabbard, which is then to be held by the left hand.

By a second motion both hands and feet resume the position of *Attention*.

There are two ways to *Stand at Ease* with the sword.—To lower the point between the feet, the edge to the right, the hands together, and the left uppermost; or, to bring the hands together with the left supporting the right, the back of the sword resting on the inside of the left arm; in both ways the right foot is to be drawn behind, with the left knee bent.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

The recruit should be practised to combine the Seven Cuts at the word *Assault*, forming them from the wrist, which is to remain opposite the centre of the Target, in which manner they should be executed, if the exercise is performed with a fleugelman, as it is then unnecessary to name the Cuts and Guards, or where a second motion is to be made.

End of Second Part.

PART III.

Words of Command.

THE Drill being now complete in the formation of the *Cuts*, and their respective *Guards*, may put them in practice, according to a regular mode of exercise, as follows :

The whole are drawn up in one, or more ranks if requisite, so as to be well under the eye of the Instructor and told off by right and left files ; each rank being three paces, and the files two paces and a half, distant from each other.

Words of
Command.

In this formation the whole of the preceding Drill may be gone through, either by separate words of command, or with a fleugelman.

ATTACK AND DEFENCE.

DIRECTIONS.

For Attack and Defence Inwards Face. The right files face to the left; the left to the right, and come to the *First Position*, opposed to each other. Or from the front they may be regularly faced inwards, and at the word of command *Prepare to Perform Attack and Defence*; the right and left files immediately oppose each other in the *First Position*.

Guard. The whole step out to the Guard.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Inside Guard.

With the single attack the files engage on the Inside Guard, the swords joining near the point.

Outside Guard.

Repeating the single attack, change to the Outside Guard, the swords joining, &c.

Proce Distance.

Each file retires half a pace with his left leg, drawing up the right to the First Position, and with the knuckles uppermost extends the arm and sword horizontally in line with the shoulder; so that the point of each blade slightly touches the guard of the other: the hips well kept back, and the right files having their swords above.

Salute.

As before directed.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Assault. The whole place themselves ready
for the assault, as before directed.

Right Files This serves as a caution which files
commence. are to commence the attack.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

One. Cut *One* at the Form the *First*
left cheek, step- *Guard.*
ping out to the
Third Position.

Two. Remain firm in Form the *Se-*
cond *Guard.*
the *Third Posi-*
tion, and deliver
the Cut *Two.*

Three. Cut *Three* at Form the *Third*
the wrist. *Guard.*

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

Four. Cut *Four* at Form the *Fourth*
the leg. *Guard.*

Five. Cut *Five* at the Form the *Fifth*
left side. *Guard.*

Six. Cut *Six* at the Form the *Sixth*
right side. *Guard.*

Seven. Cut *Seven* at Form the *Se-*
venth *Guard.*
the head.

Point. Prepare to *Give* Prepare to *Parry.*
Point.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Right Files.

Left Files.

Two. Give *Point*, and when parried, draw back the wrist ready to *Parry*.

Parry close to the body, with the *forte* of the sword, and instead of completing the circle, draw in the wrist ready to *Give Point*.

Left Cheek. Spring up to the *First* Position, with the *First Guard*.

Step out to the *Third* Position, and deliver the *Cut One*.

Right Cheek.

Step out to the *Return* to the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Right Files.

Left Files.

Third Position and cut *Two*.

First Position with the *Second Guard*.

Wrist. Form the *Third Guard* in the *First* Position.

Cut *Three* in the *Third* Position.

Leg. Cut *Four* in the *Third* Position.

Shift the leg to the *First* Position, raising the sword to *St. George's Guard*.

Left Side. Form the *Fifth Guard*, &c.

Cut *Five*, &c.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.**Right Side.*Cut *Six*, &c.Form the *Sixth*
Guard, &c.*Head.*Form the *Se-*
venth Guard, &c.*Point.*Lower the arm
ready to *Give* *First* Position rea-
Point. dy to *Parry*.*Two.**Give Point* in *Parry* as before,
the *Third* Posi- ready to return
tion, as before di- the *Point*.
rected.Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.**Guard.*Spring up to the
Second Position, *Second* Position,
and form the and form the
Guard. *Guard.**Slope*
*Swords.*The whole draw back to the *First*
Position and *Slope Swords*.

It will easily be observed that the same words of command as used previously in the exercise performed to the front by single files, apply in the same rotation to the *Attack* and *Defence*; and equal practice may be given to all, by the *Caution* which files are to commence.—As this and the following

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

portions of the drill are not intended for loose practice, but to shew the different applications of the Cuts and Guards, both, and particularly the Cuts, should be given with the same precision as at the Target, nor should one sword bear upon the other, but be ready to renew any requisite movement; and most particular attention should be observed, that after proving distance, the files do not move their left feet.

In order to shew the advantage of shifting the leg, the following practice is added for its better explanation, and in the performance of which, during this portion of the exercise, the drill will be warned as follows:—

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Feint with the Point, and shew the advantage of shifting the leg,—in five motions. Right files commence.

Guard. The whole step out to the *Guard*.

Right Files.

Left Files.

One. Prepare to *Give Point*, the fore-finger being along the side of the handle, and remaining in the *Second Position*.

Two. Advance the point towards the *Form the Parry*, which not meeting

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

body, and by a the opponent's
quick motion of blade, rise to the
the wrist, avoid the *First* Guard and
Parry, and give *First* Position.
the sword a sweep
round the head,
ready to Cut *One*,
stepping out to the
Third Position.

Three. Cut *One* at the *Right* Files. Remain steady
left cheek. with the *First*
Guard.

Four. Spring up to Cut *Four* at the

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

the *First* Position, leg in the *Third*
with the sword Position.
over the left shoul-
der ready to Cut
Two.

Five. Cut *Two* at the *Right* Files. Remain steady,
shoulder but with and receive the
caution and light- Cut.
ly, as the left file
does not guard it;
it being merely to
shew the advan-
tage of shifting the
leg, and delivering
a cut at the same
instant.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

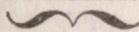
The preceding practice should be afterwards performed in three motions, by combining the second and third motions, into one; and the fourth and fifth into one also.

The same advantage of shifting the leg may be shewn by the three following modes.

(1st.) The whole come to the outside Guard
Engage. in the *Second* Position.

Right Files. *Left Files.*

Leg. Cut *One* at the Spring up to the
inside of the leg in *First* Position and
the *Third* Position. Cut *One* at the
breast.

Word of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

(2d.) The whole come to the inside Guard,
Engage. in the *Second* Position.

Right Files. *Left Files.*

Leg. Spring up to Cut *Two* at the
the *First* Position, leg, in the *Third*
and Cut *Two* at Position.
the shoulder.

(3rd.) The whole come to the *Guard.*
Guard.

Leg. Cut *Four* at the Spring up to the
leg in the *Third First* Position, and
Position. Cut *Seven* at the
head.

It is evident, that to give efficacy

Word of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

the Cuts must be made at the moment of shifting the leg; but in the practice great caution must be observed, and the sword should only be slightly laid along the part where it would naturally take effect.

To exercise the Drill in giving and returning the point quickly, the following practice may be adopted.

Caution.

Give Point in the *second* Position by the numbers *Two* and *One*.—Right files commence.

Guard. The whole step out to the Guard.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

Point. Prepare to *Give* Prepare to *Parry.*

Point.

Two. Advance the *Parry* with the body by the extension of the left leg, and give *Point*, which when parried, draw back the arm ready to *Parry.*

One. Draw back the body, and *Parry*, &c. Throw forward the body, and *Give Point*, &c.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

Guard. The whole come to the *Guard*.

*Slope
Swords.* Both files draw up to the First Position, and slope swords.

This practice and the following may be continued eight or ten times, giving the words of command quickly, according to the ability of the parties engaged; the latter is merely a repetition of giving and returning the *Point*, in a change of position from the former.

Caution.

Give *Point* by the numbers *Two* and *One*—Right files in the *First* Position—Left files in the *Third*—Left files commence.

Words of
Command.

DIRECTIONS.

*Right Files.**Left Files.*

Point. Prepare to *Parry.* Prepare to *Give Point.*

Two. *Parry* and lay *Give Point* step-ready to return ping out to the with the *Point*; and *Third* Position, bend the knees, and when parried, draw back the hand sword on a better ready to *Parry*, level towards the still remaining in the *breast.* the *Third* Position.

One. Return the *Parry* and lay *Point*, extending ready to return the the knees, and re- *Point*, bearing well

Words of
Command.



DIRECTIONS.

Right Files.

Left Files.

cover the arm ready to *Parry*, &c.

Let the blade fall on the shoulder, &c.

Spring up to the *First Position* and slope swords.

The Squad may be formed rank entire, as it is good practice to put them through the *Guards* and *Point* in each Position, particularly in the *First*, and also changing frequently from the *first* to the *third*, and from the *second* to the *third*, in *Giving Point*.

End of the Third Part.

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