

**THE A.B.C. OF SKIRMISHING:  
BEING THE LIGHT INFANTRY  
MOVEMENTS OF COMPANY**

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The A.B.C. of skirmishing: being the light infantry movements of company by William D. Malton

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**WILLIAM D. MALTON**

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THE  
A B C  
OF  
SKIRMISHING:  
BEING THE  
LIGHT INFANTRY MOVEMENTS OF A COMPANY.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS OF INFANTRY. 1859.

BY  
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LATE 2ND ROYAL KIDDERSEE REGIMENT.  
(Author of "*Company and Battalion Drill Illustrated.*")

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1859.

231. C. 34



## P R E F A C E .

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THIS little work is published under the idea that a short **Manual** of reference on **Elementary Light Drill** may, at the present time, be found useful.

The language of the *Field Exercise*, than which nothing could be more clear or concise, has been closely adhered to throughout.

May 1859.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and financial management. The text notes that without reliable data, it is difficult to assess performance, identify inefficiencies, or ensure that resources are being used effectively.

2. The second part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It highlights that while digital tools and technologies have advanced significantly, the quality and consistency of the data being collected remain a major concern. Inconsistent reporting standards, incomplete data sets, and a lack of standardized protocols can all lead to misleading conclusions and poor decision-making. The document suggests that investing in training and infrastructure to improve data quality is a critical step towards more effective governance.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of leadership in driving organizational success. It argues that strong leadership is not just about setting a vision and providing direction, but also about fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration. Leaders should encourage their teams to think creatively, take calculated risks, and work together to overcome challenges. The text also stresses the importance of communication, as clear and frequent communication is essential for ensuring that everyone is aligned with the organization's goals and objectives.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the impact of external factors on organizational performance. It notes that organizations often face a complex and ever-changing environment, with various external factors such as economic conditions, technological advancements, and regulatory changes all having the potential to impact their operations. To remain competitive and resilient, organizations must be able to anticipate these changes and adapt their strategies accordingly. This requires a high level of flexibility and a willingness to embrace change.

5. The fifth and final part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers some practical recommendations for organizations looking to improve their performance. It reiterates the importance of data-driven decision-making, strong leadership, and a focus on innovation and collaboration. The document concludes by stating that while the path to success may be challenging, it is not insurmountable, and that organizations that are committed to continuous improvement and excellence will be well-positioned to thrive in the long run.



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## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

OR

### SKIRMISHING.

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#### SKIRMISHERS, SUPPORTS, AND RESERVES.

##### (1) *Skirmishers.*

THE movements of Skirmishers must depend, in a great measure, on the position and movements of the Enemy: they should always, however, protect and over-lap the flanks of the main body they are intended to cover.

Skirmishers (whether halted or in motion) when under fire, should take advantage of all cover: taking care, when advancing or retiring, not to get in front of each other, or to retain their places of cover so long as to interfere with their own or their comrades' fire.

All lines of Skirmishers move by their *centre*: except when inclining to a flank (p. 20), in which case they move by the flank to which they are inclining.

The distance between Skirmishers and Supports, on a plain, should be about 240 paces.

Whenever Skirmishers are directed to HALT (whether by word of command or by bugle sound), they will halt and *wheel*, facing to their proper front.

N.B.—Men in extended order will invariably face (or turn) to the *right-about*; whether advancing, retiring, firing, or not firing: when one man of a file has to pass the other, he will always pass him by the *proper left*.