

**THE FIELD MANUAL FOR BATTALION
DRILL CONTAINING THE EXERCISES AND
MANŒUVRES IN THE
SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION ARRANGED
IN A TABULAR FORM FOR THE USE
OFFICERS OF THE U. S. INFANTRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649543021

The Field Manual for Battalion Drill Containing the Exercises and Manœuvres in the School of the Battalion Arranged in a Tabular Form for the Use Officers of the U. S. Infantry by Henry Coppée

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HENRY COPPÉE

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ARRANGED IN A TABULAR FORM,
FOR THE
USE OF OFFICERS OF THE U. S. INFANTRY:
TRANSLATED, AND ADAPTED TO THE U. S. INFANTRY TACTICS, FROM
THE LATEST FRENCH AUTHORITIES,

BY CAPT. HENRY COPPÉE,
LATE INSTRUCTOR IN THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.
1864.

KC 3158

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
BY EXCHANGE

Jul 18, 1942

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1861, by

J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

PREFACE.

This little manual is designed to convey the entire amount of instruction on battalion-manceuvres in the simplest and easiest form.

The school of the battalion, reduced to its simplest expression,—that is, relieved of the crowd of details which swell it into a larger volume,—is what is offered to officers of infantry in this little manual.

They will find in it, in the fewest words possible, the essential principles of every movement, as well as the order and relation of the commands of all officers, from the colonel to the chiefs of platoons. It only presupposes a correct knowledge of the school of the company.

It has been translated from General Le Louetrel's *Aide-Mémoire des Chefs de Bataillon et Officiers d'Infanterie*, and has been adapted, wherever it was necessary, to the system now in use in the United States service. The beautiful and varied formations of squares here presented will be found new to our service; but it is thought that the variety will give additional interest to the book. As this was the only point of difference between the U. S. Tactics and the French, the translator has placed at the end of the volume a tabular synopsis of the methods of forming squares from the authorized U. S. Tactics, that the manual may agree in every respect with our system.

The merits of the book will be found in its portable size, in which the whole body of battalion-manceuvres is condensed without injury; and especially in the fact that it simplifies and facilitates both the study and field practice by the manner in which the order and relation of the commands is given in the tables.

Many an officer knows the *rationalé* of the movement, while he is at a loss for the words of the command and the time at which it should be uttered. A glance will show that this tabular arrangement will be of great assistance.

In the table of *Explications* all necessary directions are given as to the positions of the field and staff, guides, colors, &c.

EXPLANATION OF THE TABLES AND THE FIGURES.

1. In the table of *explanations of the movements* will be found only so much exposition as seemed needed. In case of simple movements, the matter is dismissed by a simple reference to the school of the company, with which all officers are supposed to be familiar. This table is adjusted so that the explanation in each case bears upon the command.

2. The tables of *commands* are arranged in such order as to indicate the time of utterance of the relative commands of the colonels, captains, &c. The position of the commands in the table in every case determines their precedence.

3. The dotted figures represent the position of the battalion or subdivisions at the moment when the movement commences.

4. The dotted lines and arrows represent the route of the battalion or subdivisions to execute the movement.

5. The heavy black lines represent their position after the execution of the movement.

6. After reading the title of the movement, a preliminary glance at the figure will make the manner of it manifest, and prepare the mind for the explanations and commands.

7. The movements may be accelerated, the *double-quick* being substituted for the *quick step*: in most cases, indeed, this would be preferable.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
To open ranks.....	9
To close ranks.....	10
Manual of arms, and loading at will.....	10
Fire by the front rank.....	11
To cause the firing to cease.....	12
Fire by the rear rank.....	14
To break by company to the right or left.....	16
To march in column at full distance.....	19
To halt the column, and to form it to the left or right into line of battle.....	22
The countermarch.....	25
Formations to the right or left into line of battle by inversion.....	26
To break by company to the rear by the right or left into column.....	28
Column in route.....	30
To form the column forward and faced to the rear in line of battle.....	32
Column at full distance faced to the rear into line of battle.....	35

	PAGE
To form the column on the right or on the left into line of battle.....	37
To march by the flank, and to form companies and platoons while marching.....	40
The column arriving in front of or behind the line of battle, to prolong it on this line.....	42
Change of front perpendicularly forward on the first company	44
Perpendicular change of front to rear on the first company	47
March by the flank, changes of direction by file, formations by file on the right or on the left into line of battle.....	51
To pass a defile in retreat by the right or by the left flank	52
To break to rear by the right or left into column by division	54
To march in column by division, to break into companies, and to form divisions.....	54
To close the column to half distance on the leading division, or on the rear division.....	54
To march in column at half distance, and change direction.....	58
Dispositions against cavalry.....	58
To form square.....	60
To form column.....	66
To cause the column to march forward and in retreat, to halt it, and to reform the square.....	67
To reduce square.....	68
To form square when the battalion is deployed.....	68
Observations relative to the formation of squares.....	71
Square in four ranks.....	72

CONTENTS.

7

	PAGE
To reduce square.....	75
To close column in mass upon the leading, or rear, subdivision.....	84
To march in column closed in mass, and change direction in marching.....	86
To take distances by the head of column and on the leading, or rear, subdivision.....	88
To break divisions, and to cause to be executed, by company, the movements indicated on pages 54, 58, 68, 84, and 88.....	92
Being in column by companies, to form divisions at a halt.....	93
To form the column by division to the right or left into line.....	95
To play the battalion into close column by division.....	96
To execute the countermarch.....	99
To change direction to the right or to the left by the flank of the column.....	99
To deploy the column.....	101
To play the battalion into column by division at half distance.....	107
To play the battalion into column by company at half distance, and to form it into line.....	107
To play the battalion into double column.....	108
To march in double column and to change direction.....	111
To halt the double column, and to deploy it forward.....	111
To form the double column into line of battle, faced to the right or left.....	114
To march in line of battle forward, or in retreat, and to pass obstacles.....	116
Passage of obstacles.....	122