

**THE NEW GERMAN FIELD  
EXERCISE. PART. I; THE PORTION  
ON DRILL IN EXTENDED ORDER;  
PART II. ATTACK AND DEFENCE-  
COMPLETE**

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The New German Field Exercise. Part I; The Portion on Drill in extended Order; Part II. Attack and Defence-Complete by G. J. R. Glünicke

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**G. J. R. GLÜNICKE**

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## PREFACE.

THE issue of the New German Field Exercise marks an important epoch in Military Science.

After careful persual, I came to the conclusion that the portion of Part I., treating of Drill in Extended Order, and the whole of Part II., would make a very welcome book of instruction to many Military Men, and Civilians, who, as Volunteers, take an interest in Military matters. Part II. especially, contains a vast amount of new and original information and instruction on that important part of military duty, how to manage troops in battle. I obtained the sanction of SIR EVELYN WOOD, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to make and publish a translation of these parts, and this little volume is the result of my work.

I offer it to the military public with the assurance that it will prove useful to many, and in this opinion I am confirmed by the following words used by a leading military paper: "We may observe that the first two parts of the German Infantry Exercise are of so simple and practical a nature that they might usefully be applied with very slight modification to any of our own forces—the Volunteers, for example, who have not time to acquire all that is contained in our red encyclopædia."

G. J. R. GLÜNICKE.

BEDFORD, *November*, 1888.



### **The Strength and Composition of different bodies of Troops.**

The Company of German Infantry, about 250 strong on war footing (120 on peace footing), is divided into 3 divisions called *Züge*, each *Zug* consisting of 2 Half-*Züge*, which are again subdivided into Sections of not more than 6, not less than 4 files each.

The 2 formations for the Company are—

- 1.—In line.
- 2.—In column; the 2nd *Zug* leading, the 3rd *Zug* bringing up the rear; 7 paces distance between 2 *Züge*.

The Battalion consists of 4 Companies, and may be in either of the following 3 formations:—

- 1.—Double Column: 1st and 3rd Companies in front, 1st on the right, both in *Zug* Column; 2nd and 4th Companies behind 1st and 3rd.
- 2.—Deep Column: the 4 Companies one behind the other, each in *Zug* column, the 1st Company leading.
- 3.—Broad Column: the 4 Companies in line of *Zug* Columns, 1st Company on the right.

A Regiment consists of 3 (sometimes 4) Battalions, and is mostly formed up in 2 lines; 2 Battalions in Double Column in one line, 1 Battalion (or 2) in Double Column in the other (either 1st or 2nd line).

## EXTRACT FROM PART I.

### Zug Drill in Extended Order.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

1.—When beginning to drill men in extended order, it must not be done without intermediate steps from the instruction of the single man to the instruction of a Zug, but the men must first be practised in files and small groups, when the individual will get to know what he has to do as a part of a greater body. Not only has he to follow the instructions and hints of the leader of the group, but he must also, halting or moving, pay attention to the men next to him.

2.—A single marksman moving freely over the ground can find cover easily, and may therefore look for it; but in case of a Zug, and still more so in case of larger bodies of troops advancing in extended order, this advantage is attained only under certain circumstances, which it is the duty of the leader to make best use of. The harmonious movement of the whole troop must not be disturbed by considerations for the cover of the individual.

*For this reason connected movements of skirmishing lines form a very important object of instruction.*

The difficulty of executing these movements increases with greater extent and thickness of the line; practice therefore must be started with shorter and looser lines.



### Formation of Skirmishing Line.

3.—*Extending* must be done smartly in any direction and from any formation with the greatest order and quietness.

When a Zug halting or moving is to be extended to the front, the word of command is: "*Extend.*" If in extending, the line is to advance towards a point not straight in front, the required direction shall be pointed out in the words of command, e.g. "*Direction towards Windmill—Extend.*"

The centre advances straight on or in the direction pointed out, at first shortening the pace. The other men draw off with half right and half left at a quicker pace, the rear rank man stepping forward to the right of his front rank man, till all the men are at intervals of between 1 and 2 paces. If greater intervals have to be taken, the Zug leader has specially to order it.

The skirmishers advance until a command is given to halt, kneel or lie down. Each group is led by a sergeant or corporal.

4.—If a Zug is to extend without advancing, the word of command is: "*On the line—extend.*"

In this case the centre stands fast, the other men draw off till the proper intervals are gained.

5.—If a retreating Zug is to extend, the men are first turned to the front and then get the Order: "*On the line—Extend.*"

### Movements of a Skirmishing Line.

6.—The movements of skirmishers are done at an easy but long step and at the usual marching pace; no doubling is to be done without an order. In all commands the word of caution is omitted.

The movements consist of advancing and retreating Züge, or parts of them, moving to half right or half left, and changing direction of movement by pointing out a certain object to march on. Movements with right or left turn (in file) are to be avoided, exact intervals and perfect dressing are not to be demanded. Before moving, the men must unload and lower their backsights; the leaders of Züge and sections are to be in front of their detachments, next to the enemy. A few sergeants, about one for each Zug, remain behind the skirmishers to superintend the movements.

7.—*Advance by rushes.* After naming the detachment, the Command is: "*Rush—Rise! Double!*"

On the word "*Rush*" the skirmishers unload or ease springs, put down the backsights, and get ready to rise. The leaders of Züge and sections step out before the front.

On the words "*Rise! Double!*" the skirmishers rise at once and rush forward. When the new position has been arrived at, the men get the word: *Down!* The distance of each rush is seldom more than 80 yards.

### Fire of a Skirmishing Line.

8.—*A skirmishing line fires only when stationary. During movements firing is limited to special cases.*

9.—Frequent practice is necessary to enable each skirmisher to find the place best suited for himself, whilst acting up to the directions of his leaders and taking into consideration the men next to him. A man must not be allowed to shift away from a spot he has once occupied.

10.—*Even when drilling, care must be taken that the sights are properly adjusted.*

11.—*Words of Command* must be as short as possible, and must mention, first the direction, then the object to be aimed at, the range, and finally the kind of fire. There must be no doubt about the object to be aimed at; hostile troops must be named as they are seen from the skirmishing line, *e.g.*: "The guns farthest to the right," *not* "The left wing of the Battery."

The words of command have to be repeated by the leaders of the more distant groups.

The word "*Ready*" is omitted, except in case of volleys.

Examples: (1) for volleys: *Artillery on green height, at 800 yards, Ready, Present, Fire, Ready.*

(2) for independent firing: *Skirmishers opposite, at 500 yards, Independent fire.*

12.—*To cease firing.* This is ordered by the word