

**THE SYSTEM OF FIELD
MANOEUVRES: BEST ADAPTED
FOR ENABLING OUR TROOPS TO
MEET A CONTINENTAL ARMY**

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The System of Field Manoeuvres: Best Adapted for Enabling Our Troops to Meet a Continental Army by F. Maurice

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F. MAURICE

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THE
WELLINGTON PRIZE ESSAY

Erhöhte Feuer-disciplin, gröszere Initiative der Schützenlinie zur Offensive, Vermeiden starrer Formen, dagegen Anpassen der Formation dem Bedürfnis des Augenblicks, Festhalten der taktischen Verbände, und vor Allem Zusammenwirken aller Theile des Batallions, . . . zur Erreichung des gemeinschaftlichen Gefechtszweckes, ohne dabei die persönliche Initiative der Führer zu lähmen."—*Prussian Regulations issued since the War.*

THE SYSTEM
OF
FIELD MANŒUVRES

BEST ADAPTED FOR ENABLING OUR TROOPS
TO MEET A CONTINENTAL ARMY

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NOTE TO READER.

THIS Essay was written in consequence of the following announcement, which appeared about a year ago in 'The Times:—

"PRIZE FOR A MILITARY ESSAY.

"The Duke of Wellington, desiring to promote professional knowledge and the expression of original ideas among Officers of the Army, proposes, with the concurrence of His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, to give £100 as a prize for the best Military Essay, on the following conditions:—

"1. Subject of the Essay—"The System of Field Manœuvres best adapted for enabling our Troops to meet a Continental Army."

"This subject will be treated under the following heads:—

"(a) Mode of forming the columns of march when a collision with the enemy may be expected.

"(b) Mode of covering an army on the march, or in

position, in order to conceal its movements, and to obtain information of those of the enemy.

“(c) Mode of forming, combining, and employing the different arms for attacking an enemy in position.

“(d) Mode of combining and employing the different arms for receiving the attack of an enemy.

“Tactics have lately undergone, and may be expected to undergo, important modifications. The subject, therefore, opens a wide field for the display both of acquired knowledge and of original views. All theories or suggestions should be supported by argument, and, as far as possible, by precedents of recent warfare. Where general principles are laid down, the modifications which circumstances, such as different topographical conditions, may cause, should be explained.

“3. No Essay is to exceed in extent 100 printed pages of the Queen's Regulations.

“4. The competitors to be Officers on full pay or half-pay of her Majesty's Army, without restriction as to rank.

“5. The Essays to be forwarded before the 1st of March next to Col. E. B. Hamley, C.B., Commandant of the Staff College, who has, at the Duke of Wellington's request, undertaken to decide among the competitors. Each Essay will be distinguished by a number and a motto, inscribed by its writer, who will also communicate the number and motto, together with his name, to the Duke of Wellington, at Apsley-

House, Piccadilly, to whom alone they will be known until the Prize is awarded.

“6. Arrangements will be made for the publication (if it be deemed desirable) of the Prize Essay for the benefit of the writer, and his name will also be published.”

The award on the then anonymous essays was announced in a letter from Colonel Hamley to the Duke of Wellington, which appeared in the ‘Times’ in May. As will be seen by the above conditions, the essays were sent in before March 1st. As, therefore, it was impossible that this paper should be made public till some months after it had been written, it seemed well both carefully to revise it, and to add references to a few works which had become available for use in the mean time. These works are noted in the list of books. A few references have been also added to older books, but as these were of no very serious importance, it has not seemed necessary to particularise them. Some delay has been inevitable in thus carrying out a revision of what had been laid aside for several weeks.

