

**SCHOOL OF THE GUIDES:  
DESIGNED FOR THE  
USE OF THE MILITIA  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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School of the Guides: Designed for the Use of the Militia of the United States by Eugene Le Gal

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**EUGENE LE GAL**

**SCHOOL OF THE GUIDES:  
DESIGNED FOR THE  
USE OF THE MILITIA  
OF THE UNITED STATES**



SCHOOL OF THE GUIDES;

DESIGNED

FOR THE USE OF

*The Militia of the United States.*

BY

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55<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT, N. Y. S. M.



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## PREFACE.

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THE compiler offers the present work to his fellow-soldiers of the Militia, in the hope that it may be of service to the Sergeants in instructing themselves in their particular duty as guides in battalion movements, without the labor of searching through more voluminous works, where the details are combined with the other parts of the military tactics.

He has endeavored to make it as plain and as concise as possible ; and too much importance cannot be placed upon the Sergeants being thoroughly acquainted with this special duty, as upon its correct execution depends, to a great extent, the precision so necessary in battalion movements.

Should it be of any aid in maintaining the standard of our Militia to the honorable position it now occupies among nations, he will be amply repaid for the labor he has bestowed upon this work.

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# SCHOOL OF THE GUIDES.

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## SCHOOL OF THE BATTALION.

### GENERAL RULES.

THERE will be in each battalion one color sergeant and two general guides, (right general guide and left general guide;) there will also be one closing sergeant (left guide of the left company), and one covering corporal.

The color sergeant will be in the centre of the battalion.

The right general guide will take post behind the right of the first or right company and on the alignment of file closers, and the left one in the same manner on the left of the eighth or left company.

The closing sergeant will be in the front rank, on the left of the last company, and the covering corporal behind him, in the rear rank.

The color and general guides serve for the march of the battalion and to take general alignments.

#### *To open and close ranks.*

- 1.—*Prepare to open ranks.*
- 2.—*To the rear open order.*
- 3.—**MARCH.**
- 4.—**FRONT.**

At the second command, the covering sergeants and covering corporal step to the rear, taking the

distance of four paces opposite to their intervals, in order to mark the alignment of the rear rank. The covering corporal will be careful to invert his piece and elevate it perpendicularly before him, to indicate to the major the direction which he has to give to the covering sergeants. At the third command, the rear rank of the battalion will step to the rear and will be aligned by the covering sergeants; the file closers two paces to the rear of the rear rank. The last file closer who is on the left of the battalion will invert his piece in the same manner as the covering corporal, to indicate to the lieutenant colonel the direction he will have to give to the file closers. At the fourth command, the covering sergeants will take their place in the front rank.

The closing of ranks will be in accordance with paragraph No. 476 of Scott's Tactics.

#### *Loadings and firings.*

In all firings, the covering sergeants will place themselves upon the alignment of file closers, opposite to their intervals, and will retake their posts at the tap of the drum.

The file closers, during the loadings and firings, will remain at shoulder or support arms, as the order may be given to them.

In all the firings, the color and its guard fall back, so that the front rank shall be on a line with the rear rank of the battalion. The guard will always carry the musket with bayonet fixed and in the right arm, and will reserve its fire for the defense of the color. At the tap of the

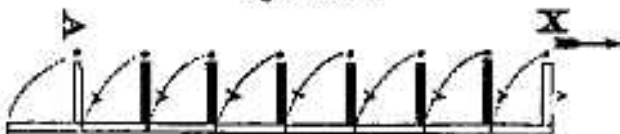
drum, they will retake their place in line of battle.

To execute the fire by the rear rank, the covering sergeants and file closers will conform to what has been prescribed for them in paragraphs No. 512 and 513 of Scott's Tactics. The color sergeant will pass into the rear rank, and the closing sergeant and covering corporal will change places.

In squares, the color sergeant alone retires upon the line of file closers. The color guard will fire the same as the company of which it forms a part.

*To break to the front to the right or left into column.*

Figure No. 1.



- 1.—*By company right wheel.*
- 2.—*Quick—MARCH.*

At the first command, the covering sergeants replace their captains in the front rank.

At the command march, the covering sergeants do not move; the left guides as soon as they can pass, will place themselves on the left of the front rank, to conduct the marching flank.

Each captain of company having given the command *halt*, the covering sergeant will place himself on the right of the first man, the left