

ANGELO'S BAYONET EXERCISE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649399659

Angelo's Bayonet exercise by Henry Angelo

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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HENRY ANGELO

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	7
SECTION I.	11
SECTION II.	13
SECTION III.	16
SECTION IV.	17
SECTION V.—Review Exercise	18
SECTION VI.—Attack and Defence against the Sword	20
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	25
PLATES	31

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE Drill Officers are to understand clearly that, when the Recruits have completed the "Preparatory and Drill Exercises," they need no longer follow the precise order in which they are here given, nor seldom be required to repeat them, but more particularly practised in the "Review Exercise," where each movement is shown, and is to be performed with such celerity, as to give the thrust effectively; and every man should be made so perfect in the movements as to be able to give any thrust separately, or to change quickly from one movement to another, with such variation from the regular order of the drill, as the Instructor may require.

A preparatory explanation of whatever portion of the Exercise the Instructor is about to teach, will tend to make his subsequent instructions more easily understood; and he should exemplify them

personally with a musquet in his hands, so as to show, by his own position and movements, what he requires the recruit to perform, who should not at first be too rigorously pressed as to exactness, but gradually brought to it by repetition, or further explanation.

Reference also to the Figures which accompany the Instructions will often point out more clearly the positions, &c., than any verbal explanations would effect; by looking through them also on the reverse side, the position is seen with the *right* shoulder forward; and a well-informed Instructor, at the conclusion of the Drill, may show how the instructions just given, are applicable either for attack or defence.

The tone of commands should be distinct and to the full extent of the voice; those which serve as a caution should be in clear language, slightly dwelling on the last word; and those for execution in a brief and firm manner.

To attain a good and strong position, the limbs should never be rigid, as the least stiffness retards the promptness of action which is so requisite in giving effect to the bayonet, and the soldier who has confidence in knowing how to make a timely use of it, will not only be more daring when his

musquet is unloaded, but more cool in his firing, and when placed as a sentry, or acting as a skirmisher, he may often have recourse to his bayonet, and thereby reserve his fire, until absolutely forced to give it.

To deliver the thrust in a proper direction, a cross bar upon poles may be erected, from which balls are suspended, and a squad being drawn up in front, should be practised in giving point at them.

In the Manual and Platoon Exercises there is no instruction for the bayonet, excepting the upright position of "Charge Bayonet," and how to fix or unfix it, and the soldier is there left to make use of it in action any way he pleases; to obviate this deficiency the present Exercise has been formed so as to give him a knowledge of the advantages to be derived from it, either in the ranks, in the *mêlée* after a charge, or when acting individually, and the movements are such as can be acquired by men of the most ordinary strength and capacity,—in fact it tends to invigorate the limbs throughout, giving additional force and elasticity to the body, and being performed both with the right and left hand and leg to the front, the soldier gains the proper balance of position—becomes stronger and firmer upon his legs—and the musquet itself feels ultimately of less weight in the hand.