

**FIXED BAYONETS: A
COMPLETE SYSTEM OF
FENCE FOR THE
BRITISH MAGAZINE RIFLE**

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Fixed Bayonets: A Complete System of Fence for the British Magazine Rifle by Alfred Hutton

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ALFRED HUTTON

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Yours very truly
Alfred Hutton

FIXED BAYONETS:

A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF
FENCE FOR THE BRITISH MAGAZINE RIFLE,

EXPLAINING THE USE OF POINT, EDGES, AND BUTT,
BOTH IN OFFENCE AND DEFENCE;

COMPRISING ALSO
A GLOSSARY OF ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN TERMS COMMON TO
THE ART OF FENCING,

WITH A
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL LIST OF WORKS AFFECTING THE BAYONET.

BY

ALFRED HUTTON,

LATE CAPT. KING'S DRAGOON GUARDS;
AUTHOR OF 'SWORDSMANSHIP,' 'BAYONET-FENCING AND SWORD PRACTICE,'
'COLD STEEL,' ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY J. E. BREUN.

LONDON:
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1890.

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PREFACE.

MY recent work, 'Cold Steel,' has received a welcome from many of the most important journals, both English and foreign, so unexpectedly warm and generous, that I feel emboldened to lay before the public a companion to it, the matter of which I was, for various reasons, unable to include in the book itself.

The weapon I select for present discussion is our new British Magazine Rifle and its Bayonet. I add, further, what I hope may prove of interest to the fencing world—since it has hardly been attempted at all in the English language during this century—a glossary of English, French, and Italian terms of fence, together with a list of as many known treatises affecting the bayonet as I have been able to procure, in which, following the example of Gomard, I include English translations of the many foreign titles that occur therein; and I ought to add, that in compiling this latter portion of my work I am much indebted to my friend, Mr. Egerton Castle, for a large amount of valuable information and assistance.

Holland Bro. 26 Jan. 1943

The science of rifle shooting has—thanks to the

talent, energy, and research of the officers of our School of Musketry, at Hythe—attained such a degree of excellence and precision that it would be almost an impertinence on my part, old Musketry Instructor though I am, to offer any suggestions regarding that aspect of the Arm.

Not so, however, when it comes to be viewed in the light of hand-to-hand combat—regarded, in fact, as cold steel; here the musket and bayonet have been for years strangely neglected. A very small number of English works on the subject have from time to time appeared, but they seem to have been for the most part nipped in the bud by official frost, and so are very difficult to meet with; indeed, with the exception of Captain Anthony Gordon's 'Treatise on the Science of Defence for the Sword, Bayonet, or Pike,' 1805, which is more interesting as a curiosity than useful as a work of reference; Lieutenant (now Sir Richard) Burton's 'Complete System of Bayonet Exercise,' 1853; and my own little books, the first of which I printed at Simla in 1862, we have produced practically nothing. The American work by McClellan, 1862, we English cannot, of course, lay claim to; nor need we wish to do so, as it is confessedly not original, but a mere translation of the work of a foreign author.

On the Continent, many such works have appeared

during the present century, mainly in the first half of it—in German, French, Italian, Spanish, and even Russian—but the subject never seems to have found much favour with the teachers of the art of fence; the reason, no doubt, being that the practice weapons heretofore in use have been of a pattern so cumbersome and fatiguing as to appeal but very slightly to the fancy of the denizens of the “Salles d’Armes.”

The weak point of our new weapon is its shortness as compared with its predecessors, the old muzzle-loading Enfield with its bayonet being six feet one inch in length, and the Henry-Martini being five feet seven and a half, while the present rifle with bayonet fixed, measures only five feet one; the difference in point of reach between five feet one and six feet one is obvious, and it should be noticed that certain Continental armies, notably the French, are adhering to the longer arm. As a set-off to this, however, we have, thanks to the reduced weight, a much more handy weapon, and we have, also, a more varied scope of attack, defence, and riposte. We have—first, the point; second, the two edges, to the use of which the new ‘Bayonet Exercise’ does not point in any way, although, be it observed, the small-bore rifle, of which I now write, must have advanced considerably further than a state of mere

contemplation at the time when that somewhat meagre little manual was in process of production; and, thirdly, we have the butt, the use of which is advised, and in a measure explained, by various Continental writers, notably Gomard, Chapitre, and Chatin, and was advanced still further in 1882, by myself, in my 'Bayonet-fencing and Sword Practice,' which I brought out with the distinct purpose of furthering the views of the then Inspector and Assistant Inspector of Gymnasia, who happened to be personal friends of mine, but which the author of this same manual utterly ignores. While for the purpose of defence we have the whole length of the woodwork of the rifle from nose-cap to heel-plate, as in some cases even the butt itself may, nay more, must, be utilised for this purpose; the blade should never be so used, either according to the rules of fencing or according to the dictates of common sense, as it essentially represents the "foible," or weakest part of the weapon, and is legitimately employed solely for attack, and for attack on the person only.

Before entering upon the discussion of the management of our new arm, I shall glance critically at the Regulation Exercise recently brought into authorised use.

ALFRED HUTTON.

ARMY AND NAVY CLUB,
February, 1890.

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