

**THE THEORY OF
MUSKETRY ADAPTED FOR
THE USE OF THE TROOPS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649014828

The theory of musketry adapted for the use of the troops by J. Clark Kennedy

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J. CLARK KENNEDY

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THE
THEORY OF MUSKETRY,

ADAPTED FOR THE

USE OF THE TROOPS.



BY

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LONDON :

PARKER, FURNIVALL, AND PARKER,

MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.

1855.

251. C. 110.



INTRODUCTION.

THE following course of Instruction in the Theory of Musketry, was arranged for the use of the School of Musketry, at Hythe; and a trial of several months has proved its utility as a means of instruction.

It is published with the view of facilitating the labours of the Officers, and Non-commissioned Officers, Instructors of Regiments and Depôts.

The great aim has been simplicity, and to express in plain language, so much of the Theory of Musketry, as is absolutely essential to be known by the Soldier, before he can be held to understand, the proper use of the perfect weapon, with which he is now armed. The Theory of Musketry is, however, the same for all fire-arms; and the following pages are equally applicable to the smooth-bore musket, (as far as its power goes), the line, or the sea-service Minié rifle, the Ordnance carbine, or the last new rifle musket.

In teaching the theory, I should recommend Instructors to use a black board, of any convenient size, with a movable section of a musket attached, such as that in Diagram 6, made either of pasteboard, tin, sheet-iron, &c.; and the position of the various lines, marked by means of a chalked string, held in the required direction across the board, which will leave a white line, when drawn up by the middle, and suddenly let go. The curved lines, must of course be drawn by hand.

Each Section will take from ten to fifteen minutes' to explain; and I cannot too strongly urge, the system of teaching, by means of question and answer, in small squads, of ten or a dozen men. The Instructor should satisfy himself, by means of the men's answers, that the Section has been thoroughly understood, before the men are dismissed; and should commence each succeeding Section, by questioning the men, on the subject of the previous lesson.

It is not intended, that the illustrations introduced into the following pages, should always be used. Many others, will doubtless suggest themselves, to an Instructor; and if one does not seem to be understood, try another. The more familiar an illustration is, the easier will the point, to explain which it is used, be understood. Above all, let me recommend patience and perseverance; remember, that to an uneducated man, you may be offering ideas, which, though simple, are strange and new; therefore, give time, and be not vexed or disappointed, if what is so clear to you, should not at once be understood.

It is intended, when time and opportunity allows, to publish two or more additional parts, for the use of Officers, and those Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, who may be better educated than their comrades.

J. C. K.

SCHOOL OF MUSKETRY,
HYTHE,
DECEMBER 2ND, 1854.

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THEORETICAL INSTRUCTION

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MUSKETRY.

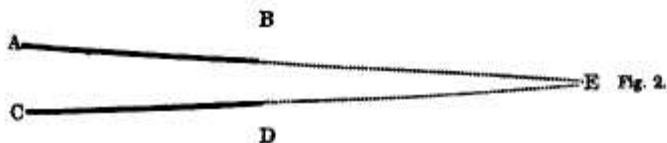
SECTION I.

THE meaning of the terms, a straight line, a curve, and a circle, is so well known, as to need no explanation; but it is also necessary, clearly to understand, what are lines parallel, and what is an angle.

Straight lines are called parallel, when placed at the same distance from each other, keeping so throughout their length, neither coming nearer, nor separating further.

A———B For instance, the lines A B and C D
C———D being equally distant, are parallel to each other. It is plain, that however far you draw or continue these straight lines, they never can meet, for they will always be at the same distance from each other, whether they are an inch or a mile, or ten, or a hundred, or any number of miles long.

Any two lines, not parallel, must meet, if continued far enough, for not being at the same distance from each other, one must slope towards the other, and, however slight the slope may be, must at last meet, as A B and C D do at E.



Parallel Lines.

Fig. 1.

Lines not parallel must meet.

Fig. 2.