

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMES

Instructions
For
**MUSTERS AND
ARMES, AND**

the use thereof:

*By order from the Lord of His Majesty's most
Honorable Privy Council.*



Imprinted at London by BONHAM
NORTON, and JOHN BILL,
Printers to the Kings most
Excellent Majesty.

1623.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

Because the measure of distances cannot be taken so justly by the eye, we take the distance of six feet between file and file, by commanding the Soldiers, as they stand, to stretch forth their arms and stand so removed one from another, that their hands may meet.

And for the Ranks, we make account we take same distance of six feet, when the butt end of the Pikes almost reach their heels that march before. We take the second order or distance of three feet between file and file, by bidding Soldiers set their arms at elbow, and put themselves so close that their elbows may meet. And we reckon we take the same dice between the Ranks, when they come almost to the sword's point.

First of all, it is to be understood that there are three sorts of distances, to wit, *Open Order*, *Order*, and *Close Order*. Open Order or the first distance is, when the Soldiers both in Rank and File stand six foot removed from another.

The second distance, or your Order is, when the Soldiers stand three foot removed both in Rank and File, one from another; and this Order is to be used, when they are embattled, or march in the face of an enemy, or when they come to stand, or when you will wheel. But when you march through any Country, you must observe three foot only from File to File, and six from Rank to Rank. The third distance, or your Close Order is commanded, by this word Close, which is when there is one foot and half from File to File, and three from Rank to Rank, and this is for the Pikes only, and must never be used but when you will stand firm to receive the charge of an enemy. The Musketeers must never clove then the second distance of three feet in square, because they are to have free use of their Arms.

In exercising your motions, you are always to observe your Open Order of six foot in square, in which the company being first placed you are to acquaint them to these terms of directions.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

When you will countermarch to the right hand, the first Rank of Leaders only must advance one step forward with the right leg, and then turn, and all the other Ranks must march first up to the place from whence the first Rank did countermarch before they turn. So likewise if you will countermarch to time left hand, the first Rank must step forwards one step with the left leg, and then turn, and all the other Ranks behind must come up to that place before they turn, as before. The same order is to be observed when you will countermarch your Files.

Stand right in your *Files*.
 Stand right in your *Ranks*.
 Silence,
 To the right hand.
 As you were.
 To the right hand.
 As you were.
 To the right hand about.
 As you were.
 To the left hand about.
 As you were.
Ranks to the right hand double.
 As you were.
Ranks to the left hand double.
 As you were.
Files to the right hand double.
 As you were.
Files to the left hand double.
 As you were.
 Middlemen to the right hand double
 your front.
 As you were.
 Middlemen to the left hand double
 your front,
 As you were.

Ranks { To the right
 or
 Left hand } countermarch

As you were.
 To the right }
 Or left hand } at direction.

It is to be noted when you are commanded to be as you were, you are ever to return by the contrary hand, from whence you came. As for example, if you did turn to the right hand, you are to return as you were to the left hand, and so in the rest.

In countermarching, though both are here set down for distinction sake, you are to name neither their Rank, nor Files: But are only to say to the right hand countermarch, or to the left hand countermarch.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

When you exercise a singular company, you double your ranks before you wheel, in regard the body is small. But in a division or greater body, you close both your files and your ranks to your Order of three feet, and omit the doubling, and so wheel.

This manner of opening is used only in a single company. For in greater bodies where the doubling is omitted, you open first your ranks, and then your files to your open Order of six feet, to bring again back as they were.

Files { To the right
or
Left hand } countermarch

{ To the right
or
left hand } As you were

Before you wheel.

Ranks { To the right
or
Left hand } double.

Files { To the right or
left hand, or to
the middle } close to your Order { to 3 feet
between
File & File

Ranks { close to
your
Order } to three feet
between
Rank and Rank

To the right hand wheel
To the left hand wheel
Or wheel about { which you list
and each as of-
ten as you list

After you have wheeled.

Ranks backward open in double distance.
Files upon to your Order, that is, to 3 foot.
Ranks as you were.

When you will wheel to the right hand, double your Ranks to the left hand, and when you wheel to the left hand, double your Ranks to the right hand. For so the right and left hand Leaders will keep their places on that corner towards which you wheel.

By double distance is meant 12 feet. For so the Ranks (which before did double) falling out again into their first places, come just to the distance of their t open Order of fixe feet, in which they were before they doubled.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

In opening *Ranks* or *Files*, you must make all the *Files* of *Ranks*, saving the outermost on that hand from whence you mean to open (which must stand) to move altogether, till the second *Rank* or *File*, from that which stands, have gotten its distance, and subsequently the rest.

If you will have them close their *Files* to the right or left hand, the outermost *File* on that hand you purpose to close, must be commanded to stand, and all the rest to close to it.

Advance your pikes.
Order your pikes.
Shoulder your pikes
Charge your pikes
Order your pikes.
Trail your pikes
Cheek your pikes

In charging, half the Ranks only must charge their Pikes, the other hindermost half of the Ranks do Port their Pikes, that is they carry them so couched over the heads of the foremost, as may give them no offence, either in charging or retiring. Besides this way the Pikes are not subject to be broken by the shot of the Enemy, as when they are advanced.

These following motions are to be performed both standing and marching.

Charge your pikes.
Shoulder your pikes.
To the right hand charge.
Shoulder your pikes.
To the left hand charge.
Shoulder your pikes.
To the Rear charge.
Shoulder your pikes.
Stand.
Order your pikes.

They must likewise observed when they charge standing, to fall back with the right leg and marching, to step forward with the left.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

For the Musket.

The Postures in his *Excellency's* Book are to be observed: But in Exercising you must only use these three terms of direction.

Make ready.

Present.

Give fire.

Your Musketeers must observe in all their motions to turn to the right hand, and that they carry the mouth of their Pieces high, as well when they are shouldered, as in priming, and also when they hold their panes guarded, and come up to give fire.

In advancing towards an Enemy, when they do not skirmish loose and disbanded, they must give fire by Ranks after this manner. Two Ranks must always make ready together, and advance ten paces forwards before the bodies, at which distance a Sergeant (or when the body is great, some other Officer) must stand, to whom the Musketeers are to come up before they present and give fire. First, the first Rank, and whilst the first gives fire, the second Rank keep their Muskets close to their Rests, and their pans guarded; and as soon as the first are fallen away, the second presently present and give fire, and fall after them. Now as soon as the two first Ranks do move from their places in the front, the two Ranks next it must unshoulder their Muskets and make ready, so as they may advance forwards ten paces, as before; as soon as ever the two first Ranks are fallen away and are to do in all points as the former. So all the other Ranks through the whole division must do the same by twos one after another.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

A manner there is to give fire retiring from an Enemy, which is performed after this sort.

As the Troop marches, the hindermost Rank of all keeping still with the Troops makes ready, and being ready, the Soldiers in that Rank turn altogether to the right hand, and give fire, marching presently away a good round pace to the Front, and there place themselves in Rank together just before the Front. As soon as the first Rank turns to give fire, the Rank next it makes ready and do as the former, and so the rest.

We give fire by the Flank thus; The outermost file next the Enemy must be commanded to make ready, keeping still along with the body, till such time as they be ready, and then they turn to the right or left hand, according to the sight of their Enemy, either upon their right or left flank, and give fire altogether: when they have discharged they don't stir, but keep their ground, and charge their pieces again in the same place they stand. Now as soon as the aforesaid file does turn to give fire, the outermost next it makes ready, always keeping along with the Troop, till the bringer up is past a little beyond the leader of that file that gave fire last, and then the whole file must turn & give fire, and do in all points as the first did, and so all the rest one after the other. A Sergeant, or (if the Troop is greats some other better qualified Officer must stand at the head of the first file, and as soon as the second file hath given fire, and had charged, he is to lead forward the first file up to the second file, and so to the rest one after another, till he had gathered up again the whole wing, and then he is to join them again in equal front with the Pikes.

Last of all the Troop or whole Wing of Musketeers makes ready altogether, and the first Rank without advancing gives fire in the place it stands in, and speedily as it may, yet orderly, falls away, all the Ranks doing the same successfully one after another.

The Arms of a Pikeman are Gorget, Cuirass, Headpiece, word, Girdle and Hangers.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

The Arms of a Musketeer, are a Musket, a Rest, Bandoliers, Headpiece, Sword, Girdle and Hangers.

It is required, that the Muskets be all of a Bore, the Pikes a length: But to the end this course may not by a sudden alteration turn to a general charge and burthen upon the people, the Lords Lieutenants, and the Deputy Lieutenants are rather to use the way of advice and encouragement, as a matter which will be very acceptable to his Majesty, who will take notice of the affection of such as shall most readily provide, Arms according to this order, then to enforce a present general observation thereof. But in case where the Arms shall be decayed, and must be renewed, this order to be strictly observed.

The Arms of Horsemen, Cuirassiers, are a Gorget, Cuirass, Cutases, Pouldrons, Vambraces, a left hand Gauntlet, Taces, Cuisses, a Caske, a Sword, Girdle and Hangers, a case of Pistols, Firelocks, Saddle, Bridle, Bitt, Petrell, Crooper, with the leathers belonging to fasten his Pistols, and his necessary sack of carriage, and a good horse to mount on.

The Arms of a Harquebusier or Dragon, which had succeeded in the place of light horsemen (and are indeed of singular use almost in all actions of war) the Arms are a good Harquebus or Dragon, fitted with an iron work, to be carried in a Belt, a Belt with a Flask, Priming box, Key, and Bullet bag, an open Headpiece with cheeks, a good Buff coat with deep skirts, Sword, Girdle and Hangers, a Saddle, Bridle, Bitt, Petrell, Crooper, with Straps for his sack of necessaries, and a horse of less force and less price than the Cuirassier.

In the exercise of the foot troops, the companies are to be of hundreds only, besides Officers, that they may be so much the nearer together to be trained and exercised with less pains to the soldiers, and less loss of time, when they shall be called together by their Captain.

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

o Leader The Company is to be divided into Files of ten in a File; the File
- is to be distinguished into a Leader, a Bringer up, two Middlemen,
- and three between the Leader and his Middleman, and three
- between the bringer up and his Middleman. When the Companies
o Middle man come together, they are to be exercised ten in depth (as the
o Middle man proportion best fitted to receive all charges, and perform all
- executions). But in cases of necessity in service, and for exercise, it
- will be requisite to reduce them into five in File, and then those two
o Bringer up Middle men become bringers up, and then have a kind of charge over those three
 between the Leader and the Bringer up, and will be of great use in preparing and
 exercising of the soldiers in the practice of their Arms and order. For it is not intended
 that the whole Companies should be drawn together to be exercised: But that upon
 Sundays after Evening prayer, and upon Holidays (as it hath been formerly used for
 Bow) the Leader, Bringer up, or Middlemen should exercise together with his
 whose Fife, or such a part as dwells most convenient for him. And further that once
 in a month, or six weeks, the Captain, Lieutenant or Ancient may (with the
 knowledge of the Deputy Lieutenant that dwells next him) upon a Holiday exercise
 a squadron of his Company, or the whole, as shall seem good to the Deputy
 Lieutenant.

o Leader The like form for the Horse: But it is to be observed, that the Files
- of Horse are never to be above six, but distinguished by the names of
o Middle man Leader, Bringer up, and two Middlemen, and to be doubled to three
o Middle man deep upon occasion. And to avoid the great abuse, that is practiced by
- those that are enrolled to keep horses for the Kings service, That the
o Bringer up leader, Bringer up, or Middlemen of the Files of Horse, do exercise
 the Horse upon Holidays and Sundays after Evening prayer: And that the Captain
 by himself, his Lieutenant, or Cornett, may (with knowledge of the next Deputy
 Lieutenant) upon a Holiday call together some Files or as squadron of his Company,
 to practice them in the exercise of their Arms. The Officers also both of Horse and
 Foot Bands, as well in the chief, as inferiors, Sergeants, Corporals, and Lamprizados,

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

are to have a more special care for the ordinary exercising of the Soldiers of their Company, which dwell next unto them, and properly for them.

A special care and order must be taken that all those that find a man to serve on Horseback, whether they find the Horse of the Man, or both, must not change the Horse or Man at their pleasure: for so it would be every day to practice a new man or a new horse, and the exercise is made vain. But they must take into consideration, that the man and horse designed to the service of the King, has (by the intention of the Law) been dedicated so to the interest of the King, as they must always be in readiness at the call of the King's Officers, and may not be changed without the knowledge and consent of the Captain, or Deputy Lieutenant next adjoining, or by warrant of the Lord Lieutenant. And this with this only limitation, that another sufficient man or horse is supplied in the room of the man or horse made deficient, for a just cause well approved of. And as the Soldier, or Horse may not be changed or discharged, without the knowledge of the Captain, or Superior Officers. So is it not lawful for the Captain to change or discharge any man or horse (once enrolled) without the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant, or his Deputy.

A principal care is to be taken for the provision of the Arms that they may be provided at such rates as they are truly worth, that the people are not subject to the abuse of undertakers for these businesses: And also for the furnishing of every Shire with a competent proportion of Match, Powder and Bullets, to which purpose directions have been heretofore already given. Nevertheless it is not held necessary, until the Soldiers are perfect in their postures, and ready managing of the Pike when they are armed, and the Musket together with the Rest, that there should be any expense of powder at all: And then for some time to be exercised with some false fires, which is only a little powder in the pan: Nor at any time to blow away their powder in vain; but that powder which should be allowed by the Country for training be bestowed only at Marks: In which case, it is to be wished, that little small prizes might be provided at the cost of the Country, to be shot for at the marks, which would give ambition to men to carry them away, and would save the Country more in powder then their value:

Instructions for MUSTERS and ARMS

And a desire in men to render themselves perfect, would make
them to find themselves powder with that money,
which on those days, and in those times,
would be worse spent in an
Alehouse.

Imprinted at London by BONHAM

NORTON and JOHN BILL,

Printers to the King's most

Excellent Majesty.

Anno Dom. 1623.