

The Soldier's practice

Warlike Directions:

or The

SOLDIERS

PRACTICE.

Set forth for the benefit of all
such as are, or will be Scholars of
Martiall Discipline.

But especially for all such officers as
are not yet settled, or rightly grounded
in the Art of War.

By a Practitioner in the same Art, T.F.

The second Edition; corrected and
amended.

LONDON

Printed by Thomas Harper, and are to be sold

At his House in Little Britain, 1643.

The Soldier's practice

THE PREFACE.

These endeavors of mine while I have formerly learned, and practiced twenty six years in the Low Countries: and having diver years instructed and exercised the trained Bands within the County of Kent, Do I present to all such as are inclinable and willing to profit themselves in the Art of VVar. But especially to all officers of the selected Bands of the Kingdom, which do yet fail in the delivering of the right words of command. My purpose is not in this small Tract., to treat of the highest principles, or speculative part of military discipline; but descend willingly to the lowest and meanest capacity: thereby to instruct by sure and evident rules in the point of practice and obedience an unexperienced Soldier: and those Officers also who in a private Band are not so well and fully satisfied as they themselves desire, and the good and welfare of their Country necessarily requires. For whose better satisfaction and instruction, I have also drawn some small Maps: for smaller and greater bodies, as you may perceive at the end of the Book: that what I have written may be the better conceived and fixed in their memories. Leaving all strange and foreign discourses which other painful Bands have excellently and learnedly within these few years set forth, and well deciphered. Applying myself wholly into these modern times. Wishing that everyone that loves his King and Countries good, the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the safeguard of himself, and all his, being able and fitting for this service, would practice this noble Art, and to have some of those Books which have been set forth upon this subject, to meditate on them at their best leisure. For the Theoretic part is good, the Practice better. But Theoretic and Practice both together is best of all. He that hath neither Theory nor Practice, cannot be best, better, nor good. So with my best wishes for the furtherance of the good desires of all such as love this Subject, I humbly take my leave: remembering this old Proverb, In time of Peace provide for war: that Peace may continue in these, and all other His Majesties Dominions in our days, and forever, our most merciful God grant, Amen.

The Soldier's practice

THE OFFICERS of a Company of Soldiers.

Captain.

Lieutenant.

Ensign.

Sergeants 2.

Drummers 2.

Corporals 3.

Masters of the Arms

Corporal of the Gentlemen

Clarke of the Band.

Provost.

In a place of duty.

Lansprezadoes 3.

Note that in Colonel's companies are more Sergeants, and as many Drummers.

The Soldier's practice

Instructions for young Soldiers, agreeable to that discipline which is now practiced within the Netherlands, under the command of the Prince of Orange.

I will first begin with several beats of the Drum, because every soldier is bound of necessity to learn to know and observe them; for when the Commanders voice cannot be heard unto the whole company, the Drum denounces and expresses the fame. The gathering of the company unto their colors: when to

Troop, March, Charge, Retreat, and such like. The beats or sounds which are to be learned are these that follow.

Instructions for the Drum.

A gathering.

A Troop.

A March.

A Battle.

A Charge.

A Retreat.

A Battery.

A Call for proclamation.

The Soldier's practice

A gathering.

The gathering is the first which is to bring the company together to their Colors, or place appointed by the superior Commander.

A Troop.

A troop is that when the company is come to the place appointed, the Commander intending to keep them close in their order, which is three foot, the readier with advanced Pikes to troop up to the Court of guard, or place appointed for watch. Likewise to charge the enemy, or receive a charge, and is as the voice of the Commander to all, to advance their Pikes, & shoulder their muskets, if they are at any other posture.

A March.

A March is; if the company is at a stand or trooping, charging, or retiring, as the voice of the Commander, to shoulder their arms and to march, if the march is beaten in a longer distance of time than is usual; then they must open their files and ranks to the next distance which six feet, the body marching very leisurely, but if the march is beaten swifter, then they are to close their files and ranks, and to march with a quicker pace; so that a skillful Commander instructing the Drummer by signs, may at his pleasure march, troop, stand retreat, charge, in front, in rear in right or left flank o in front and rear, or right and left at once, or every.

A Battle.

It is the uniting of divisions in battle form. Likewise a preparation, the enemy being in fight or at hand, giving notice to all to prepare themselves for skirmish or battle.

A Charge.

It is when the body is come to push of pike, or near at hand, joining body to body with the enemy, that no retiring is made from the place, during the charge.

The Soldier's practice

A Retreat.

It is a retiring backward leisurely without disorder, either to give way to other battalions, to relieve them, or for gaining some advantageous ground, or to draw the enemy in an Ambush, or such like, which the superior Commander may sometimes upon policy direct,

A Relief.

It is a relieving of the watch, and dismissing of Sentinels from extraordinary places in daylight.

A Battery

It is most used in places of work, as in Trenches, Batteries, Half-moons, Horn works Redoubts, Sconces, Counterscarps, and such like, that those therein employed should be diligent in their employment.

A call

It is only to proclaim the Commanders will concerning the well ordering of the Army, and of such military Lawes, which ought to be kept, that all should give ear unto that which the Drummer either reads or speaks.

For the beating of the March.

I have thought meet for the benefit of each Drummer which is not yet perfect in the March, to prick down the old English March newly revived in the plainest form I could invent. Wishing that al Drummers would leave off other forms invented, either by themselves, or others here in unskillful, that there may be a uniformity in this Kingdome, as in all other Nations.

Within the March are 9 several lines, or ranks, which must be known, and distinctly beaten dividing line from line by a certain distance of time, deciphered in short i. and long l. In r. and half r.

Note that these 2 former letters, short i. and long l stands for single strokes: the long l. for the right hand stroke; the short i. for the left hand stroke. The next two letters, the whole r. for a full ruse, the half r. in this manner, 2. for half a ruse.

The Soldier's practice

Where the . joins with the r. in this manner. lr. the single stroke with the ruse must be joined together. The r, and half in this manner r 2 is ruse and half ruse joined.

There is also a preparation to the March, which is only to be beaten once, and no more, at the beginning of the March.

The first is the preparation, the March follows.

The preparation.

i i l i r l . r i l l r l .

l i l i l .

l i l r l .

r i l r l .

r r l r l .

r r i l r i l .

i l r i l r l .

r r r r l .

r r 2 l r 2 l .

i l r i l r l .

I have insisted somewhat long in the office of the Drummer, for that I find a great defect in that place, and would wish a more information.

The Soldier's practice

Instructions for those that are ignorant in arming and disarming themselves.

Each soldier having brought his arms into the field, standing with them at their first order as may be observed the following notes of the postures and motions. Then the Commander gives the Word.

Disarm, or Lay down your Arms.

First, lay down your musket, stepping forward one pace with your right foot, then recover your foot to its place: then receive your Match into your right hand out of the left. Next lay down your Rest, stepping forward with your left foot, recover your foot back again. Take your Match into your left hand, between the two lowermost fingers, as formerly: then lay down your Match with your left foot stepping forward, on the right hand of your Rest recover your foot as before. Afterward in upright form of body put off your Hat with your left hand, and holding it by your left side, take off your Bandoliers with your right hand laying it down between your Musket and your Match; the charges from ward you. Afterwards retire three paces backward, that you may the more gracefully come to the stand where you were, to arm yourself.

The next word of command is.

Arm, or Take up your Arms

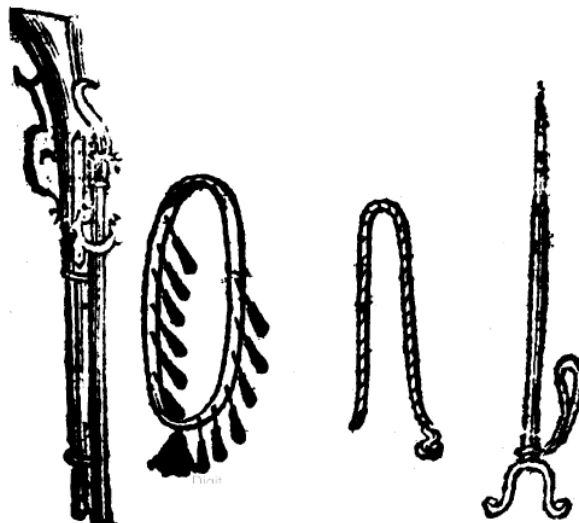
First, take up your Bandoliers, putting them on as you did take then off: then your Match as formerly, then your Rest; last your Musket. Perform these directions, and all other with a graceful and handsomely carriage of body.

The Soldier's practice



The word of command: Foot your arms.

The arms being laid down, the Soldier standing three paces back.



The Soldier's practice



Arming, and standing at his first order.

Being armed, and standing at your first order, then follows the preparation to the Postures.

The word of command is.

Prepare.

Join your Musket with your Rest, open your pan, blow your pan, prime your pan. Shut, Cast off and so forward, as you may perceive by the following notes until you have shouldered and sloped: then begins your postures.

The first motion in the Postures is, Slip your Musket: the last motion is, Give fire. Note, all the rest of the motions that follow after giving fire until you have sloped your Musket, are dependences unto the Postures: but more especially to the first Posture.

The Soldier's practice

Now follows the action of Soldiers being prepared, their Muskets being charged, as all ought to be, the enemy being not far from them, only waiting for the Word from the Commander, as you may observe in the next place.

The Postures and Motions of a Musketeer, the Musket being charged, first sanding then marching.

1. Hand your Arms order your Musket and Rest, even with your body in the rank you stand in, which is called your first order.
2. Join your Musket with your Rest.
3. Poise your Musket, and breast it.
4. Shoulder your Musket.
5. Slope your Musket.
6. Slip your Musket.
7. Poise your Musket.
8. Rest your Musket.

Falling back with your right foot observe in this and most of all your Motions, to keep the mouth of your Musket high and strait over your Leaders right shoulder.

9. Hand your Match.
10. Blow your Match.
11. Cock your Match.
12. Try your Match.
13. Guard your pan.
14. Blow your Coal.
15. Open your pan.
16. Present your Musket breast or rather middle high removing back your left foot unto your right, then your right foot slipways back standing with a full and upright body, your left knee bending your right elbow even with your shoulder.

The Soldier's practice

17. Give fire.
18. Recover your ground, with your feet.
19. Return your Match.
20. Blow your pan.
21. Prime your pan.
22. Shut your pan.
23. Cast off your loose powder.
24. Recover your Rest.
25. Blow off your loose powder.
26. Bear about your Musket unto your left side, falling back with your left foot, trail your Rest between your Musket and body.
27. Hand your Charge, and open it.
28. Charge your Musket.
29. Draw out your scouring stick, and shorten it against your breast.
30. Ram down your Bullet.
31. Return your stick.
32. Recover your Musket and Rest.
33. Poise your Musket.
34. Rest your Musket with your left foot forward again.
35. Your saluting posture.
36. Your burial posture.

1. Your guard posture
2. Your Order posture
3. Your sentinel posture

These three last are in the number of the former, but remembered because they are to be used upon several occasions.

The Soldier's practice

Shoulder your Musket, and march with your Rest in your right hand.

Note that the three general postures do begin, the Musket, being charged and shouldered.

The names of the 3 general postures are these that follow.

1 Make ready, 2 Present, 3 Give fire.

which are to be performed in 12 Motions.

If marching then gracefully with an eleven paces especially to the front.

Note that all the rest of the Motions which follow after giving fire, are dependences unto the first Posture.

In the first Posture are 8 Motions, in the second 3, in the third 1 Motion.

The first Posture, Make ready.

Slip your Musket,
Poise your Musket.
Join your Musket with your Rest.
Hand your Match.
Blow your Match.
Cock your Match.
Try your Match.
Guard your pan.



The second Posture, Present.

Blow your Coal.
Open your Pan.
Present breast high.



3 Motions

The third Posture, Give fire.

Give fire. 1 Motion.

The Soldier's practice

When you have given fire, winning or maintaining ground, recover your Rest with your right foot stepping forward. But losing ground, recover your Rest unto your foot, joining it with your Musket falling about into your file, and rank, making ready again as you go.

If you observe 3 paces in the presenting Posture, as some Regiments do then to the Front or right Flank: begin your first Motion with your left foot stepping forward. But to the Rear or left Flank, with your right foot pacing first.

Note that there are many Regiments that observe but 2 paces in the presenting Posture.

Note, when you give fire to the Rear, turn right about.

The Postures and Motions of a Pikeman, standing and marching.

1. Hand your pike
2. Advance your pike.
3. Lay down your Pike.
4. Take up your pike.
5. Order your pike.
6. Shoulder you pike.
7. Level your pike
8. Slope your pike.
9. Advance your pike.
10. Port your pike.
11. Comport your pike.
12. Cheek your pike.
13. Trail your pike.
14. Recover your pike.
15. Shoulder your pike.

The Soldier's practice

Note, when you bear your pike shouldered, it must be sloped, except you are commanded to level it.

Observe when you charge at a stand, fall back with your right foot: if marching advance yourself forward, your body upright, your left knee bending.

16. To the front charge

17. As you were.

18. To the right charge.

19. As you were.

20. To the left charge.

21. As you were.

22. To the rear charge.

23. As you were.

24. To the front and rear charge.

25. As you were.

26. To the right and left charge.

27. As you were.

28. Every way charge square.

29. As you were.

30. Quarters every way charge.

31. As you were.

32. Advance your ground and charge to either hand at discretion.

Between every charge, march.

33. Retreat charging.

34. Your breathing posture.

35. Advance forward again.

36. Stand, order your Pike.

37. Open order at foot.

Now follows the charge against horse.

38. Close order at foot.

The Soldier's practice

39. Draw your sword over your left arm: join it close unto your Pike.
40. To the front charge at foot.
41. To the right charge.
42. To the right charge.
43. To the right charge.
44. To the right charge.
45. Right about charge.
46. Left about charge.
47. To the right and left charge.
48. To the front and rear charge.
49. Every way charge square, or quarters at discretion.
50. Stand, sheath your sword.
51. Order your Pike.
52. Your burial posture.

Three general postures of the Pike, in thirteen great and/mall motions: three standing, seven marching, and three charging.

The first posture.

- 1 Lay down your Pike.
 - 2 Take up your Pike.
 - 3 Order your Pike.
- } 3 Standing.

The second posture.

- 4 Advance your Pike.
 5. Shoulder your pike.
 - 6 Level your Pike.
 - 7 Slope your Pike.
 - 8 Comport your Pike.
 - 9 Check your Pike.
 - 10 Trail your Pike.
- } 7 Marching.

The Soldier's practice

The third posture.

- 11 Port your Pike.
 - 12 Charge overhand.
 - 13 Charge at foot.
- } 3 Charging.

All these postures and motions both of Musketeers and Pike men in a body or Battalion great or small, may be performed without words, by fingers of the Commander, and the beating of the Drum, the Drummer observing every motion from the Commander.

Now follows the motions of Facing, Doubling, Countermarching, Wheeling, and such like, in a gross body or Battalion.

Note and remember well that there are several forts of distances to be observed for several uses, upon variety of occasions: for Marching, for Exercising for Skirmishing, for battle, in front, in flank, in rear, which every Commander do, ought to know.

Close order: Order: Open order: Double distance: double double distance: the first, one foot and an half: the second, tree feet: the third, six feet: the fourth, twelve feet: the fifth, twenty four feet.

Now to begin with that which is first put in practice, which is open order, fixe foot.

Open order fixe foot square: that is, six foot, file from file, and six foot, rank from rank, which is the first distance that a Company is framed unto, especially for exercise. Next there is order, three feet square both in file and rank, for exercise, or for battle. Thirdly, there is closest, or close order, which is one foot and half, file from file, and is only used for the Pikes when they come to the push. There is likewise a double distance, twelve foot square, either in file or rank, and a double double distance, twenty four foot, which two last are practiced, sometimes upon extraordinary occasions. There is likewise a marching order, three foot file from file, and six foot rank from rank, or to oppose an enemy only in front, and an open order, six foot file from file: twelve foot rank from rank, which leave to the discretion of the Commander.

The Soldier's practice

Now to make some use of part of these, I will only at this time set down the plain and true words of command, with some few remembrances joined to them wishing all Officers which yet fail in the right delivering of the words of command, to observe and follow these directions: for if a Commander speaks them not right, as the Proverb is, setting the cart before the horse, the soldiers although skillful, do act them many times wrong.

The company being come to the appointed place, neither yet in file nor rank, the Commander gives the word as follows.

Leaders, lead forth your Files, join them into a body, or frame a body.

Note that a file is a number or sequence of men standing one behind another at a certain distance, as you may read after more at large, being ten deep, as most nations have in use; yet they may be eight, or fixe, or fewer, or more, as the occasion offers. But before we frame our body or battalion.

Let all Soldiers observe, but especially all Officers, how a body or battalion is distinguished or named in each several part as follows.

First, there are files and ranks, these files & ranks annexed or united together, make a body or Battalion.

A file is a sequence of men standing one behind another, at a certain distance, whose faces are directly placed one way, the back of the former, to the face of the follower: subsisting commonly of ten in depth, according to the modern use of the Netherlands, but may be brought to more or fewer as I have said before.

This file is distinguished into a Leader, a bringer up, and two middle men, with fix other between. The first man of the file is called the Leader, the last man a bringer up; the two that are in the middle of the file, are called by the name of middle men, which are the leaders of the half files, when they are to double on the other, and for other uses.

The Soldier's practice

A Ranke is a row, or a number of men above one, few or many stand one by another, side by side, or pouldron to pouldron, their faces being directed all one way. Of these Files and Ranks as I have set down before, being connected together, is framed a Battalion by these names distinguished as follows.

The front, the rear, the right flank, or half ranks, the left flank, or half ranks; the right wing, the left wing.

The front are the half files that are before, being ten deep, the foremost five Ranks.

The rear are the half files that are behind.

The right flank are the half ranks on the right hand.

The left flank, are the half Ranks on the left hand.

The right and left wings are the divisions of Musketeers, which are on both hands of the Pikes, but especially when they are to act their own part, being appointed to move or to skirmish, in front, flank, or rear.

Stand at your open order square: mark your directions.

Silence.

Note, facing any way at a stand, remove your right foot turning upon your left toe.

To the right hand.

As you were.

To the left hand.

As you were.

Right about.

As you were.

Left about.

As you were.

Note that in all doublings, if you double to the right, fall off to the left into your first place: if you double to the left, fall back to the right.

The Soldier's practice

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.

Half Files or middlemen to the right hand double your Front.

As you were.

Half files to the left hand double your front.

As you were.

Bringers up to the right hand, double your front.

As you were.

Bringers up to the left hand, double your front.

As you were.

To the right hand Countermarch maintaining ground.

As you were, to the left Counter.

To the right hand Countermarch losing ground.

As you were, to the left Counter.

To the right hand Countermarch winning ground.

As you were, to the left Counter.

Now follows some things to be acted in a closer distance, namely, order, three foot both Files and Ranks.

The Word of Command.

Files close, that is, to the middle, or to the right close, or left, at discretion.

Ranks close forwards.

The Soldier's practice

Half files or middle men to the right hand entire, double your Front.

As you were.

Half Files to the left hand entire, double your Front.

As you were.

Half Files to the right, and left by division, double your Front.

As you were.

The body, to the right hand wheel, moving on the right corner man.

To the left hand wheel moving on the left corner man.

To the right hand wheel, moving on the middle man, or men in Front, which are Leaders, or wheel about, at discretion.

Now follow some things which are to be performed at a double distance, 12 foot rank from rank, or double double distance 24 foot, agreeable to the number of men that are in rank.

Ranks open to your double distance, keeping their files at their order.

Ranks to the right hand by conversion.

As you were.

Ranks to the left hand by conversion.

As you were.

Ranks to the right, and left by conversion.

As you were.

Ranks close.

These Motions which I have repeated, of Facing, Doubling, Countermarching, and Wheeling, are commonly known, and practiced by the Officers and Companies in the Netherlands, and in other places where the wars are: there are not many that knew, or for some reasons teach any more.

The Soldier's practice

Now to satisfy those that desire to learn and understand more than common things of this subject, I have joined with these some other, which are of great importance in time of advantage, or disadvantage, to be practiced against a skillful enemy. Therefore I will begin again, setting down the additions in their places.

Where the word Note stands in the Margent there follows a change of that which went before.

The Company being framed into a square open order as is set down before.

Note that all the Musketeers must be in one division of the right hand of the pikes, a double distance from the body of pikes.

The Commander standing at the head of the company before the middle file Leaders giveth the word.

If it is the Captain, then the Lieutenant ought to be at the rear, the Ensign at the head of the pikes, the Sergeants on both the Flaks, the Drums even with the foremost rank, on both the Angles.

Facing

To the right hand.

As you were.

To the left hand.

As you were.

Right about.

As you were.

Left about

As you were.

To the right and left.

As you were.

To the Front and Rear.

As you were.

The Soldier's practice

Every way square.

As you were,

Every way quarters.

As you were.

Ranks doubling.

Ranks to the right hand double.

As you were.

Ranks to the left double.

As you were.

Files doubling

Files to the right double.

As you were.

Files to the left double.

As you were.

Files to the right and left double.

As you were.

Files to the Center double.

As you were.

When middle men is named to double, it is the oldest used word of Command, for the Rear to double the Front, which I do now follow: because when I name half Files, it is to be understood that the half Files in the Front are to double the half files in the Rear.

The Soldier's practice

The Rear doubling the Front by Middlemen.

Middlemen to the right hand double your Front.

As you were.

Middlemen to the left double your Front.

As you were.

The rear doubling the Front by Bringers up.

Bringers up to the right double your front.

As you were.

Bringers up to the left double your front.

As you were.

Half files in the Front doubling the Rear by middlemen.

Half Files to the right hand double the Rear.

As you were.

Half files to the left double the Rear.

As you were.

The Front doubling the Rear by Leaders

Note.

Leaders to the right double the Rear.

As you were.

Leaders to the left double the Rear.

As you were.

The Soldier's practice

Half ranks doubling the flank.

Note. Doubling the flank.

Half ranks to the right double your flank.

As you were.

Half ranks to the left double your flank.

As you were.

Countermarching, maintaining, losing, and winning ground.

Note.

Countermarch to the right hand, and Motto maintain ground: Chorean or modern.

As you were to the left.

Countermarch to the right, & lose ground, Macedonian.

As you were to the left.

Countermarch to the right, and win ground, Lancedemonian.

As you were to the left.

You may if need require countermarch your Leaders and bringers up into the center, or your flanks, or angles, or wings, into the center, or midst of the body, or change your angles, or double your wing, or flanks, by Countermarch.

**Now follow some things which are to be performed in the second distance,
namely, order; 3 foot**

Note.

Files close, that is, to the middle, or to the right or left, at discretion.

Ranks close forwards.

Ranks to the right hand entire double.

Note. Entire doubling.

As you were.

Ranks to the left entire double.

The Soldier's practice

As you were.

Ranks to the right and left by division double.

As you were.

Files entire doubling.

Note.

Files to the right hand entire double.

As you were.

Files to the left entire double.

As you were.

Files to the right and left entire double.

As you were.

Files advance to the right entire double.

Note.

As you were.

Files advance to the left entire double.

As you were.

Files advance to the right and left entire double.

As you were.

The half files in the rear entire doubling the half files in the front.

Note

Middlemen to the right entire, double your front.

As you were.

Middlemen to the left entire; double your front.

As you were.

Middlemen to the right and left, by division, double your front.

The Soldier's practice

As you were.

The Half files in the front entire, doubling the Rear.

Note.

Half files to the right entire, double the Rear.

As you were.

Half files to the left entire, double the Rear.

As you were.

Half files to the right and left by division, double the Rear.

As you were.

The Half ranks entire doubling the flank.

Note.

Half ranks to the right hand entire, double your flank.

As you were.

Half ranks to the left entire, double your flank.

As you were.

Half ranks by division, double your right flank.

As you were,

Half ranks by division, double your left flank.

As you were. .

Right flank advance to the left entire, double your flank.

Note.

As you were.

Left flank advance to the right entire, double your flank.

As you were.

The Soldier's practice

The body wheeling.

The body to the right wheel, moving on the right corner man. Note.

Wheeling. To the left wheel, moving on the left corner man.

Even so right or left about.

To the right wheel, moving on the middle leader or leaders, or left, or about at discretion.

The front or flanks wheeling into the center, or midst of the body. Note.

Front wheel into the center, then face to the Leader or Commander: if need require, wheel again the front into the center or midst of the body, then face as before: the first wheeling brings all the Musketeers before the body of Pikes: the second wheeling into the midst of the Pikes: the third wheeling unto the rear of the rear of the Pikes: the fourth, wheeling on the flanks, as at first they were,

The use of the manner of wheeling Note. The use of wheeling.

Suppose there were three or four files of Musketeers on each hand of the Pikes, they could deliver but six or eight shot at once in the front. This first wheeling, brings the Musketeers that they may deliver twenty shot at once, being ten deep. The second wheeling brings them into the midst: delivering them from the violent charge of horse, charging in the flanks, especially when their powder is spent, or upon some policy to cover the Musketeers from fight of the Enemy. In like manner the rest of the wheelings are by a skillful Commander put in practice at convenient time, as the occasion offers.

Likewise you may wheel the front to the right and left by division, to receive the Enemy who is ready to charge both the flanks at once.

Now follow some forms of doublings, which must be performed at a wider distance, six, twelve or twenty four feet, at the discretion of the Commander.

Remember always the manner and form of opening and closing of files and ranks.

Note. Files close.

The Soldier's practice

Being in open order, the word being given, files close, without naming any hand, is thus performed: the two middle leaders close unto the next distance, which is three feet, the rest of the files likewise close towards the middle leaders, until they are at the distance commanded.

If the word is files to the right close, then the right hand file does not move, but stands fast: all the rest of the files close, towards the right file, till they are at their distance appointed.

If the word be files to the left close, then the left file stands fast; the rest of the files close towards the left hand, until they come to the distance commanded.

If the word be files to the right and left close, then the one half of the files close to the right hand file, which stands fast, the other half to the left, opening in the middle of the body, leaving a space between, the two Half bodies, which is done for some special use best known to the Commander.

Note.

Observe that at whatsoever distance the company stands in, if the word is Close, not naming any order, whether files or ranks, then they must close to the next distance, being at twelve foot, they close to six foot, being at six, they close to three foot: in the same manner; files opening, or ranks opening.

Files opening.

Being in close order, if the words are files open, not naming any hand, then the middle leaders open one from the other unto six foot both ways, the rest of the files on both flanks take their distance from them.

Note.

If the word is Files to the right hand open, then the left file or angle does not move; the next file to the left hand first takes its distance, the rest of the files in like manner pressing upon their right hand files, till the distance commanded is obtained in opening.

The Soldier's practice

If the word is Files to the left open, then the right file stands fast, the rest of the files opening to the left hand, still pressing upon their left hand Files, till they are in the distance and order commanded.

Ranks closing.

Note.

If the word is Ranks close, then the first rank does not move, namely, if they are at a stand, all the rest of the ranks close forward, till they are at the appointed distance.

If need require, you may close your ranks backward, from the front to the Rear, with this word of command. Ranks close backward, then the last rank does not move, all the rest of the ranks go backward towards last rank, taking their distance, rank by rank, from the Rear or last rank.

Ranks opening.

You may likewise open your ranks from the leaders to the Rear, or from the bringers up to the front: But if the word is without addition, as this that follows:

Ranks open.

Then the first rank does not move, the rest of the ranks fall back, till they have gained that distance commanded: the second rank stands first, the rest in like manner, one after another, till they have all performed it.

If the word is Ranks open forwards, then all the body advances forward, except the last rank, which stands firm, the second to the last takes the distance first, then the rest, till they have all performed it.

Files and ranks close.

Note. Closing files and ranks.

Sometimes it is convenient to close Files and Ranks both at once, then it is performed marching; being before at a wider distance, at a sudden to give way unto horse or foot to pass, or to enter into a narrow passage, or such like.

The Soldier's practice

The body being at their close order, both files and ranks, and you would have them open: the word of command.

Files and ranks open.

Opening files and ranks.

Which is from the same distance that they did close, do they open unto again or unto any other distance commanded both together. If they are at a stand, then the ranks open first, and then the files, and in closing, the files close first, then the ranks.

If the word is Files and Ranks, close to the center.

Note.

Then the Half files and ranks, close to the middle of the depth of the Body: the half files in the front moving backward, the Rear Half files forward: till they are at their distance commanded.

So likewise opening from the center; which may be done in the like manner, as is directed before.

Inversion.

If the Commander have occasion to bring all the ranks into one file, or into two, the Body being at their order: three foot.

The word, Ranks open to 6 foot, 12. More, as the number are in Rank, then Ranks to the right hand file, or by inversion.

As you were.

Ranks to left by inversion.

As you were.

Ranks to the right and left by inversion.

As you were.

Ranks to the right by conversion.

Note. Conversion.

As you were.

The Soldier's practice

Ranks to the left by conversion.

As you were.

Ranks to the right and left by conversion.

As you were.

Now follows the closing of the ranks, and opening of the files, that which the Ranks performed in File, may the Files perform in Ranks.

Ranks close, to your order.

Note.

Files open, to 6 foot, 12 foot or more, agreeable to the depth, always having in memory, that 6 foot, is named open: 12 foot double distance, 24 foot double double distance.

Files to the right hand rank by conversion.

As you were.

Files to the left rank by conversion.

As you were.

Files to the right and left rank by conversion.

As you were.

Files close, to what distance the Commander judges fit or convenient.

If you would, occasion being offered, draw out your Files in depth at a passage, or such like, into one or two Files, or rank your Files, or rank your Ranks. The word of Command.

Files to the right file on in sequence.

Note. Sequence

As you were.

Files to the left file on.

As you were.

The Soldier's practice

Files to the right, and left file on.

As you were.

Files to the right rank, 2, 4, 6 or more.

Note. Files upon files.

As you were.

Files to the left rank, 3 or more.

As you were.

Files to the right and left Rank, 5, 6 or more, or fewer.

As you were.

Ranks to the right rank, 3, 5, or more.

Note. Ranks upon ranks

As you were.

Ranks to the left rank, 2, 4.

As you were.

Ranks to the right and left rank, 3, 5, 6.

As you were.

The manner how to perform these last, and most of all those things which are written before in this Book, which bear only the words of Command, and are not there explained, may you find after in another place unfolded, and more at large set forth for the manner of acting them.

Many other things of this subject might be added, but I suppose these are sufficient for all such as are willing and inclinable to follow them, and for any understanding Officer to work on, and make trial of their further skill: wishing a happy issue unto their good endeavors.

The Soldier's practice

As I have said before concerning the performance of the Postures and Motions of Musketeers, and Pike men particularly, by signs of the Commander, and the beating of the Drum: So likewise may be performed the most of all other Motions, of Facings, Doublings, Countermarches and Wheelings, Opening, Closing, Marching fast, or leisurely, Retreating, and such like, by signs of the Commander, and the beating of the Drum.

Here follows some short remembrances for the acting of these particulars, concerning distance, and form.

First for facing.

Facing any way is command at a stand, some teach to remove the fame foot, as the hand is named; which is a very good way, but for some respects, I follow the ancient's and known manner practiced in most parts.

Which is at a stand to remove the right foot, either when you face to the right, or left. Right about, or left about, turning up on the left toe, or heel: but the toe is the best, the Pike at the order, the Musketeer his Musket shouldered, or rested, at the discretion of the Commander.

If the body is marching, then facing any way that foot which is furthest from the hand named ought first to remove, the Pikes and Muskets shouldered.

The body trooping, the pikes advanced, the muskets shouldered.

For all Doublings.

Observe likewise, that in all moving, hand and foot ought to go together: although some do teach that the contrary foot to the hand which is named should first remove: but the best way is the fame hand which the Commander names, the same foot first remove: the right hand, the right foot: the left hand, the left foot.

The Soldier's practice

Observe likewise, that in all moving, or doublings at a stand no above three paces, the Pike at the order, the Musket rested, or shouldered; But if they move above 3 paces, then the Pike ought to be advanced, the Musket shouldered, ported, poised, or breasted, at discretion, the whole body moving, or any part thereof. All those which are in the ranks, or files that move must observe their Leaders, and bear their Arms as they do. The leaders, or foremost men, receiving the word or sign from the Commander.

Observe, when you double to the right hand, you must return back to your place turning to the left: If you double to the left, return back to the right.

When ranks, middlemen, or bringers v are up are to double, each man in those ranks, which are to move, must observe the right hand man in that rank they stand in, moving with him pace by pace, unto the place appointed, and so likewise back again unto their own places if it is so commanded, neither going before, nor after one another, but even altogether.

Doubling of files, half ranks, flanks, wings, or angles, each man in the file he stands in, must observe his file leader, and move even with him pace by pace, the file leader looking down his file, setting forth the same foot, the hand is named, the rest of his file seeing him will do the like, although they heard not the word of command.

To know by sign without words, the several Countermarches, maintaining, losing and winning of ground that which follows will instruct you.

Countermarching, maintaining ground, is known by the Leaders turning upon the same foot as the hand is named, neither pacing forwards nor backwards, till he is turned: then marches down the file unto the rear, the Leaders observing the Commander, and all the rest of the files moving together at their distance, turning at the same place, where the Leaders turned, till the front be turned, and brought into the same place where the rear was, and the rear where the front was.

Countermarching again to the contrary hand, in the same manner brings everyone in his first station.

The Soldier's practice

Losing ground is known when the Leaders step forwards one pace, and turning to the hand named, then standing still, the second Rank with all the rest that follow, pass on their leader's right hand, if the right be named, and place themselves behind their own Leaders at their distance.

Winning ground is known when the Leaders step backwards with the right foot, if the right be named or signed: the Commander and being two paces past the second rank, then that second rank likewise steps back, following their Leaders at their distance, and so subsequently all the rest, winning of ground towards the enemy, who marches after them to charge their Rear, or bringing their front in the most sudden manner to follow the Enemy retiring, or to double their own Rear in the quickest form to receive the Enemy over winging them.

In all sorts of Countermarches, they may bear their Arms, Pikes advanced or comported, if shouldered: then at the turning, they must advance, port, or charge, or arm their Pike with their right hand only: being turned, shoulder again, the Muskets shouldered or breasted, at discretion.

There are other manner of ways to perform these. Countermarches, either for files or ranks. But these here set down, are the plainest, and as I suppose, the best, which may suffice for this time.

Note that you must not countermarch if the Enemy is near at hand, lest the Body be brought in disorder, and so easily overthrown.

Wheeling.

When you are to wheel, if the Body is great, and stand at their open order, the best way is to close both Files and Ranks, especially the Files to their order: if the body is small, then double either Ranks or half files; the Pikes advanced, the Muskets shouldered or breasted: the several forms of wheeling is set down before, fol. 32 33

The Soldier's practice

The difference in the acting of Inversion and Conversion.

Where you read Inversion, or Conversion, that you may the better understand the meaning of them; and how they differ, in former times there has been made no difference in the form, but only in the name; which was an error, they differ as follows.

The Commander giving the word.

Ranks to the right file, or by Inversion.

Observe that the right file stands firm, and does not move: all the rest of each rank turning their faces towards the right hand, move all till they become into that file that stands still, placing themselves each man behind his right hand man, & so become all one file. Note that all the whole rank that moves, must place themselves between their own right hand man that stood still, and the next that stands after him: the first Rank between the leader of the File that stands, and the second in that file: the second Rank between the second and third in that File, and so the rest, an even distance one from the other.

If the word be Ranks to the left by inversion; then the left file stands fast, and does not move, the rest of every Rank moves till they become into the left File, making one file, in the like manner as they did on the right hand.

The Word.

Ranks to the right and left by inversion.

Then half the Ranks falls behind their Sidemen to the right, and half to the left hand, making two files, marching with them in that form over Bridges, or through Woods, or narrow passages, or to deliver volleys against horse or foot, facing inward on outward, as the Commander directs.

The Word.

The Soldier's practice

Ranks to the right by conversion.

Then the whole Rank wheel towards the right hand, moving on the outmost right hand man, in that Rank they stand, till all the Ranks become even with the right File, whose faces being turned to the right hand, they all become one rank, either to give a volley against horse or foot by a River, Marsh, or Wood side, and many other uses may these inverting or converting afford us when occasion is offered.

Ranks to the left by conversion.

Then all the Ranks wheel to the left hand in the same manner as they did to the right, on the outmost left hand man in their own rank: who facing likewise to the left, become altogether one rank, and when they have performed that which is commanded: As you were brings every man in his own first place.

Ranks to the right and left by Conversion.

Then half the Ranks wheel to the right, and half to the left hand: then facing right and left, are become two Ranks; and so, as you were, when you have performed what you intended.

As the Ranks are converted into one File or two, so may likewise the Files be converted into one Rank or two, as the occasion offers.

Observing, when the Ranks are to file by conversion, or inversion, you must open your ranks to such a distance agreeable to the number which are in the rank, that they may have room to come into the file commanded.

When you would convert your Files into one rank or two, you must close your Ranks, and open your Files to that distance as the File is in depth, they may have sufficient room to come into the rank, and to use their Arms as they are directed.

To give you some light how to perform it, because it is not commonly known, neither hath been practiced much in former times. It is thus performed as follows.

The Soldier's practice

The word of Command.

Files to the right hand rank, or by Conversion.

The first man, or leader of the File, stands fast, the second man in the file comes upon the right hand of his Leader; the third man in the file on the right hand of the second; and so subsequently all the rest, each man of the right hand of him that did stand in the same file next before himself, till they are all in one rank: performing that which they were commanded; as you were brings every man to his first place.

Files to the left hand rank, or by conversion.

Which is performed in the like manner as the other, the whole file coming up and placing themselves on the left hand of their Leaders making one Rank.

Files to the right and left by conversion.

The foremost rank as they did before, stands fast: the rest of the body divide itself going up, placing themselves, the right half ranks on the right hand of their leaders; the left half ranks on the left hand of their leaders, leaving an open space in the midst of the ranks, for Horse, Wagons, Ordnance, and such like to pass through.

Likewise by converting one rank at once into file, you may march by a narrow passage giving fire against the enemy rank after rank, when the rank alone is converted into a file either by wheeling; or falling after one another, and has given fire, marching forward, and being by the passage rank again as they were.

This may be performed to the right, or left, or to both, by dividing the rank.

The Soldier's practice

File in sequence.

The word of Command.

Files to the right file, on, or in sequence.

That is, to draw all your files into one file; if the right be named, then the right file of the whole body, or of that whole division, advances first forward, the second file follows the first; the third, the second; and all the rest in that manner, one after another. One use amongst many is to pass over a bridge, or to free themselves from great Ordnance playing at them, and alike. When they are through that passage, they draw up their Files into one even Front, making one entire body again.

Here follows another form either for a passage, or to free themselves from danger of shot, or alike.

The Word.

Files rank 2, 4, 6 or more according to the breadth of the passage, if it is to the right hand, then the right file advances first forward, and fall in rank, the same number commanded, the first file being ended, the next file doth the like, advancing forward, falling in rank after the former: the rest of the Files perform the same order till they are all ranked.

If the word is to the left hand, then the left hand file first advances forward, ranking as it is appointed. The rest of the Files observe alike form, till it is finished as is commanded.

There is another form out of the ranks, to rank 3.5.7, or more, as need requires.

The word.

Ranks to the right rank, 3, 5, 8, and alike.

The Soldier's practice

If there are ten in rank, and they are commanded to rank three, those three that stand in the first rank on the right hand advance forward making the first rank; the next 3 in the same rank make the second rank; the next 3 the third rank: the tenth man that is left in the first rank, takes his place first after the right hand man in the third Rank: then the two right hand men in the second Rank advance forward, ranking with him, making the fourth rank, the rest of the ranks do the like, till they have all finished what was enjoined.

If the left be named, then the left hand man with the other two next him advance forward and make the first rank; and so the rest as they did to the right, till all have done it.

In the like manner whatsoever number is aimed may be performed.

Note, when the Company is at the appointed place to exercise, or else to be joined with other Companies, place all your Musketeers in one division, as I have set down before, on the right hand of the Pikes.

If the Company is in number one hundred, or fewer, Half Pikes, Half Musketeers, then you ought to march with all your Musketeers in one division before the Pikes: the Files both of pikes and muskets being ten deep, as most Nations have in use, or in case of necessity 8 deep. When you make a stand draw up your Pikes on the left hand of the Muskets, till they are all even in front.

But if the number is greater, so that you can make six files of Musketeers or more, then you may divide them. When you march half before the Pikes, and Half behind, you must at all times observe to keep the depth of the File, ten or eight at the least, if you possibly may, observe that you do not march at any time two in rank, if you can any otherwise choose: for it is no way convenient nor comely in fight: but three, or more, when you come to a stand with the first division of Musketeers, the rest of the body marches until the first division of Pikes is even in front with the Musketeers that stand, then the second division of Pikes, if there are so many, fronts with the former that stand, and last the Rear division of Musketeers advances forward until they are even in rank and file with the former divisions.

The Soldier's practice

Observe that all marching companies, or battalions, great or small, when they come to a stand or hold, order their Pikes, and rest their Muskets, standing even in File and Rank.

When the Commander gives the word

March,

Observe that all must shoulder their arms, both Pikes and Muskets, and bear them sloped, except it is otherwise commanded.

In trooping the Pikes must be advanced.

In charging especially to the front, being ten or eight deep; the half Files in the Rear must bear their Pikes ported over the heads of the foremost half Files, as may give them no offence, either in charging or retreating. Likewise the Pikes are not so subject to be broken by the enemy's shot, as when they are advanced.

Observe likewise in going through any port or gate, the Pikes at the entrance ought to be ported: if it is a small gate or door, the Musketeer is to join his Musket with his Rest, and enter porting his musket. Being through the passage to bear their Arms as they did before.

Now follows the uniting of many companies together.

When many Companies are brought together to be joined into one, two, or three, or more bodies, or battalions.

The Colonel, or eldest Captains Company, takes the first place on the right of all the rest. All the Musketeers of that company are to be placed on the right hand of the body of Pikes, standing at their open order; the division of Musketeers, a double distance from the Pikes. So likewise all the rest of the Companies in that manner, according to the degree of the Captain. Every Company twenty foot one from another.

The Soldier's practice

Then, draw back all the Musketeers fifty foot behind the Rear of the Pikes, dividing them into Maniples, or divisions of four files by themselves: the files at their order, three foot, and each maniple from other six foot: then join all your Pikes in one body, or two, or three, according to their number, or at the discretion of the Sergeant Major, or superior command. The Files of Pikes likewise at their order, then flank each body of Pikes with two wings of Musketeers, having divided them as you did your Pikes, for one, two, or three bodies.

When all the Officers have taken their places according to their antiquity, as the Sergeant Major directs; then march either in hearse form, or in square battalion, if there are three battalions. The first march, then the other two, even with one another in front, but divided one from the other, as far distant as the length of the first battalion is, so that the left File of the second battalion which is on the right hand, must be directly after the right File of the first battalion: and the right File or Angle of the third and last battalion, directly after the left File of the first battalion: both these, second, and third battalions, if the ground will permit, sixty paces after the first battalion. When the first marches, all march, when the first stands, all stand: they must all move together; march, wheel, or stand, by example of the first, if not directed other ways by the superior Commander.

Observe if there be but one division of Musketeers on each hand of the body of Pikes, then the right wing after they have given fire in front, wheels off to the right hand into the Rear of their own files.

In like manner, the left division of Musketeers after they have given fire, wheels off to the left hand into the Rear of their own Files.

But if the body is greater, so that there are more divisions than one of Musketeers on each hand of the body of Pikes, then after they have given fire, must all, both those on the left hand, as well as those on the right hand, wheel off to the right, through the distances which are left open for that purpose, between the divisions into the Rear.

The Soldier's practice

Observe when the battalion advances towards an enemy, being yet a Musket shot off, the two first Ranks makes ready, advancing ten paces before the body directed by a Sergeant, as the first Rank presents, two Ranks more marches forward, making ready as they go; giving fire rank after rank: Wheeling off to the right hand through the divisions unto the Rear of their own Files, making ready again as they go, and subsequently all the rest. But when the Battalion come near ready to the push of pike, then the ranks give fire even with the foremost rank of pikes: and being forced to give back, then all the Musketeers makes ready together resting their Muskets, standing with their pans guarded, giving fire rank after rank, and suddenly with all speed falling off into the Rear.

Marching from an Enemy.

Observe, when you are to give fire to the Rear, two ranks after two, makes ready, giving fire even with the last rank of pikes, as soon as the rank hath given fire, it wheels to the right hand marching a good round pace through the divisions into the Front; placing themselves before their own Files, and so in like manner the rest. This is to be performed when the Battalion marches from an Enemy, the Enemy pursuing them.

Now follows the giving fire in Flank.

There are three several ways to give fire in Flank, the body marching: the first is:

The body, or Battalion marching by a River side, or Marsh, or Wood, or in plain Champagne ground, either assaulted sometimes with horsemen, or with foot, if it is on both the Flanks at once. Then the outmost File on each hand, that is on both the Flanks make ready; the Commander gives the word: To the right, and left present; then the outmost File on each hand turns at 3 motions to the hand commanded, and presents, giving fire, stands fast, only turning their faces as they were towards the Front, until such time as the second File, who marched along with the Body, has given fire, in the same form as the first did. Then the first File marches up even with the second, both standing fast, till the third File hath given fire, and so subsequently all the rest one after another. A Sergeant must stand at the head of those files that have given fire: or if the division is great, a superior Officer takes that place; gathering up again that whole wing joining them in equal front with the pikes.

The Soldier's practice

The second form to give fire in Flank.

If it is on both Flanks, the outmost File on each Flank being ready, at the word of Command, presents. Having given fire, faces again towards the Front, standing fast, till the leader of that File which gave fire last, be free from the marching Body, one pace behind the bringers up, then leads his file a round pace up on the other side of that division of Musketeers next unto the pikes, till he is equal in Front with the rest of the Leaders, his whole File even in rank with the rest; in like manner all the rest of the Files must do in all points, as the first did. Remembering that as soon as the File hath given fire, presently prepares again, whether it is to stand or move.

The third form of giving fire in Flank.

The outermost file next the Enemy being commanded to make ready, keeping still along with the Body till such time as they are ready, and then at command they turn to the hand directed, according to the sight of their enemy either on the right or left Flank, or both together, and give fire all together. When they have discharged, they stand not still as they did the two former ways, but speedily joining their rests unto their Muskets, turning their faces towards the Rear; the rear man or bringer up being then a leader, turning short about the Rear of that division of Musketeers, going a speedy pace, yet orderly next unto the pikes up unto the Front, placing himself with the rest of the leaders: so he who was the Leader before, is now the bringer up of the File.

Observe all ways in every form of giving fire in Flank, that as the first presents, the next file makes ready, keeping still along with the Body, presenting not till they be free of the File that gave fire last.

Two times giving fire in this last form, the first leader with every man in that File comes in his first place again.

In this manner of giving fire two hundred Musketeers may deliver as many shot in as short a time, as three hundred any other way.

The Soldier's practice

I could very much enlarge myself in this subject, but I hope these will content my friends for this time, who have honest hearts, and judge charitably: and because I know that there have been many very excellent Books of military Discipline set forth within these few years in this Kingdome, namely, the Instructions for Musters and Arms by order from the Lords of his Majesties' most Honorable Privy Council, and thirteen other, written by skillful and painful Gentlemen Soldiers, as I have set down in my Preface.

If I had appointed me any command, with the horse troops as I have with the foot companies, I should likewise set down some observations concerning the exercising and embattling of them. But for this, and some other reasons at this title I omit. Only remembering the Officers of the troops of Horse which are yet unskillful, or not as skillful as they would desire to be, to observe the form and manner of the exercising of the Foot Companies, which will in some measure teach them their duties. For in the exercising of Horse and Foot, there is not much difference.

Before I pass any further, let me remember the Ensign bearer in few words, concerning his place and duty, and the displaying of the Colors.

The Ensign or Colors, is the honor and reputation of the Captain and Soldiers: therefore the Ensign bearer ought not only to be a good soldier, bold and valiant, but likewise discreet and wise in counsel, and in the absence of the Captain and Lieutenant, have the same authority the Captain has.

Where the company is appointed to gather together, he ought to be one of the first, and to be careful of his Colors: and at all times see that they be well guarded, and be ready to do anything to further the service.

Within these few years, a Supreme Commander in setting down the duty of each Officer in his place, speaks of the Ensign these words following.

The Ensign shall never turn his face out of his order, start from any danger, nor forsake his Ensign, upon pain of death.

The Soldier's practice

In a march, he may bear his Colors flying, rested upon his shoulder, before the head of the Pikes. And being in a battalion, his Colors sometimes advanced and breasted, flying, in the midst of the Pikes, between the halves of Files.

In a troop, the Colors furred, or rolled.

In presence of the General, or supreme Commander, must bear his Colors flying, and passing by him, voile them; the point even with his knee, once and no more for that time, without any other ceremonies.

But if he pass by the King or Prince, he shall likewise, with all, bow somewhat one of his knees.

The Soldiers ought not to forsake or leave their Colors, before they are lodged, and then with leave of the Captain, may depart.

The Soldier's practice

The postures of the Colors.

Note, that in these parts where the wars are, especially within the Laager, or any Army in the field, the Ensign ought not to display his Colors, but only to bear them flying, marching, skirmishing, or at a stand, or to voile them as I have shown before.

But with the trained bands in those parts, and likewise within this kingdom, the Ensign does use at their meetings or Musters, some more gestures in displaying his Colors.

The Ensign may perform most part of the postures and notions with the Pikes, except laying down, cheeking, and trailing, for which two last, he may use comorting.

1. Hand your Colors.
 2. Order your Colors.
 3. Shoulder your Colors.
 4. Advance your Colors.
 5. Port your Colors.
 6. Comport your Colors.
 7. Charge your Colors.
 8. Brest your Colors.
 9. Vaile your Colors.
- Display your Colors.
1. The first posture from hand to hand.
 2. The second, overhead, ps. with one hand
 3. The third, twice over head. ps. changing hands.
 4. The round overhead, ps.
 5. The back. ps.
 6. The Cross, pr.
 7. The retreating ps. losing ground.
 8. The advancing ps. winning ground.
 9. Furl, or roll up your Colors.

The Soldier's practice

Now follows those small Maps which I promised in the Preface, of small and greater bodies, that such things which I have written, may be the better conceived and fixed in the memory of all.

Observe these letters following, for each Officer, standing in their right places, and for the Front, Rear, and Flanks,

C Captain.

L Lieutenant.

E Ensign.

S Sergeant.

D Drummer.

Fr. Front.

Re. Rear.

Rf. Right flank.

Lf. Left flank.

P. Pikes.

M. Musketeers

The Captain leading before the Front, into the field, or advancing towards the enemy.

Out of the field, or skirmishing in the rear, or marching from the enemy, at the Rear, at all times nearest the enemy.

The Lieutenant has place is at the Rear, if the Captain is at the front, or in the front, if the Captain is at the Rear.

The Ensign before the head of the Pikes, and sometimes in a battalion between the Half Files of Pikes.

The Soldier's practice

The Sergeants on the outside of the flanks, and in skirmish leading up the Ranks or Files of Musketeers to give fire.

The Drums in a march, hearse form, between the third and fourth Ranks. In a battle, on the corners, flanks, and in the midst with the Colors.

Observe, that in the Maps are plain squares, Oes and small pricks.

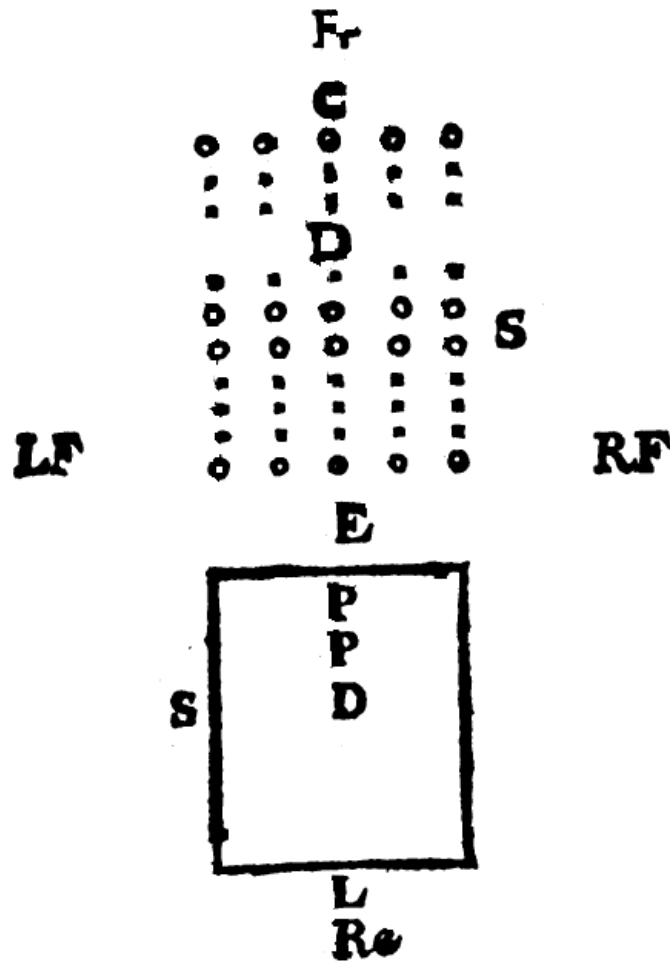
The plain squares are the Pikes, the Oes and small pricks the musketeers; the Oes, leaders, bringers up, and middlemen.

Observe, when many companies are united or joined together, making an entire body: the Sergeant Major directs every Officer what part of the body he shall be at, to make good that place.

The Table at the end of this Book, directs unto all the special things contained in this Book.

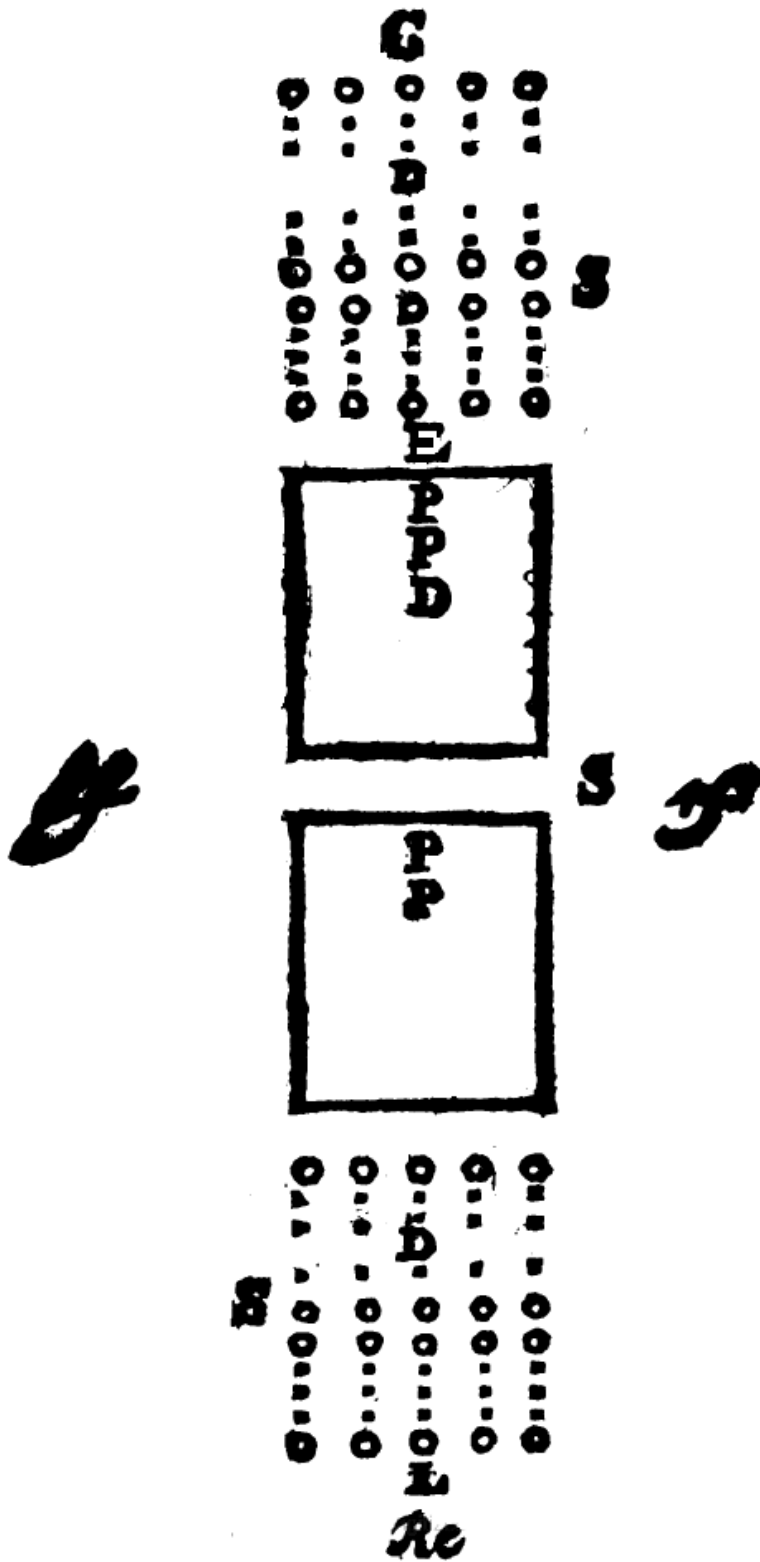
The Soldier's practice

A company of 100 marching, half Pikes, half Musketeers



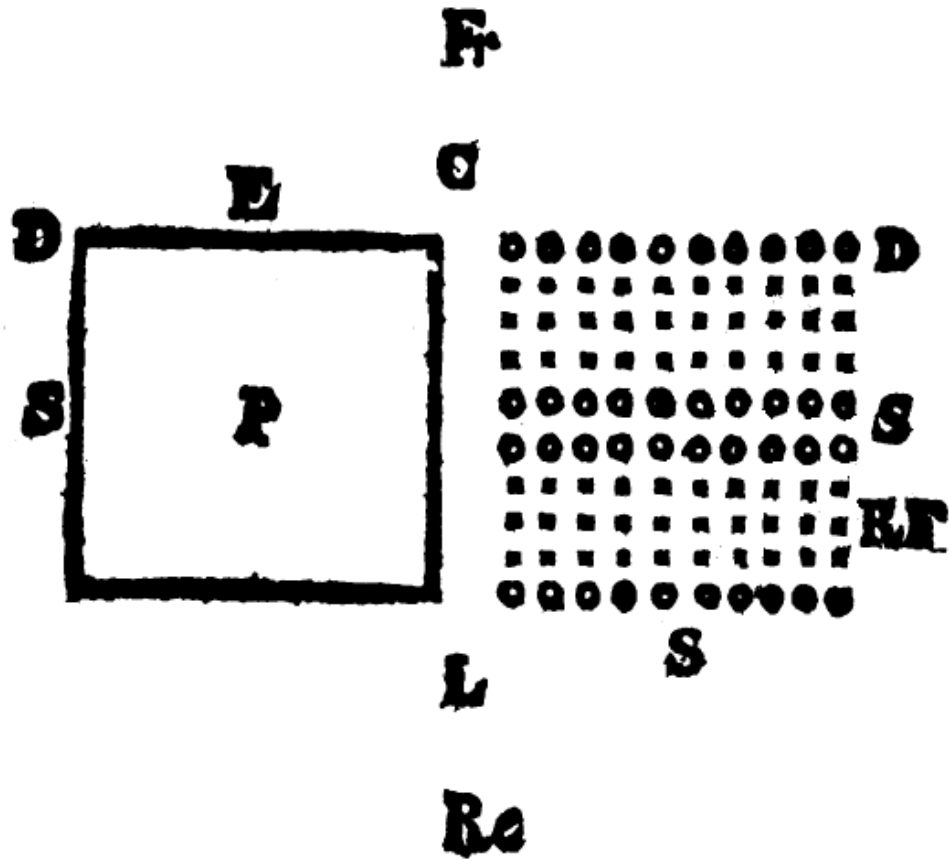
The Soldier's practice

A Company of 200 marching



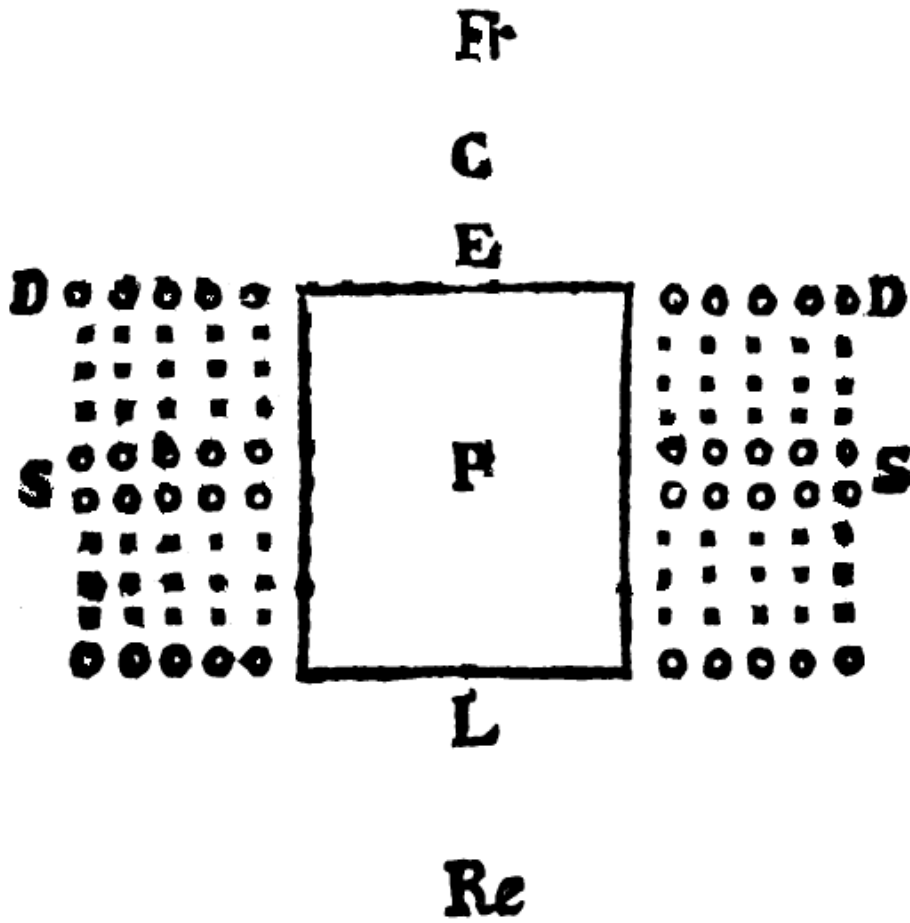
The Soldier's practice

The form of company exercising all their Officers in their places.



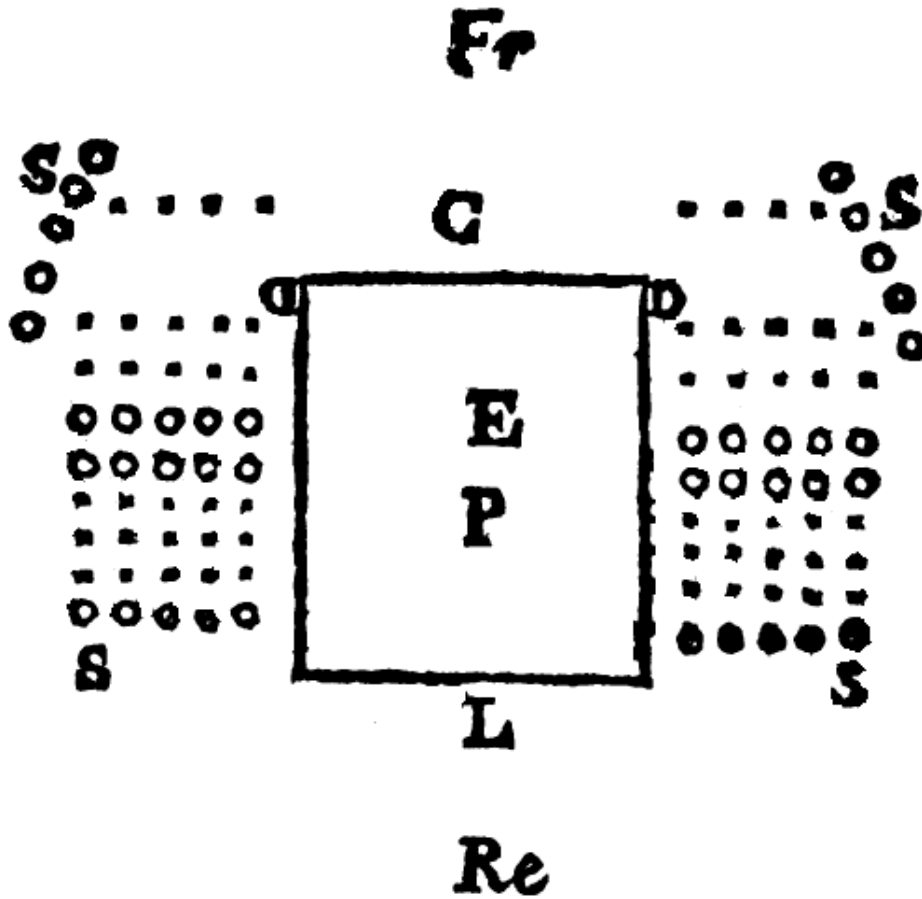
The Soldier's practice

A body standing in battle form, with all their Officers in their places



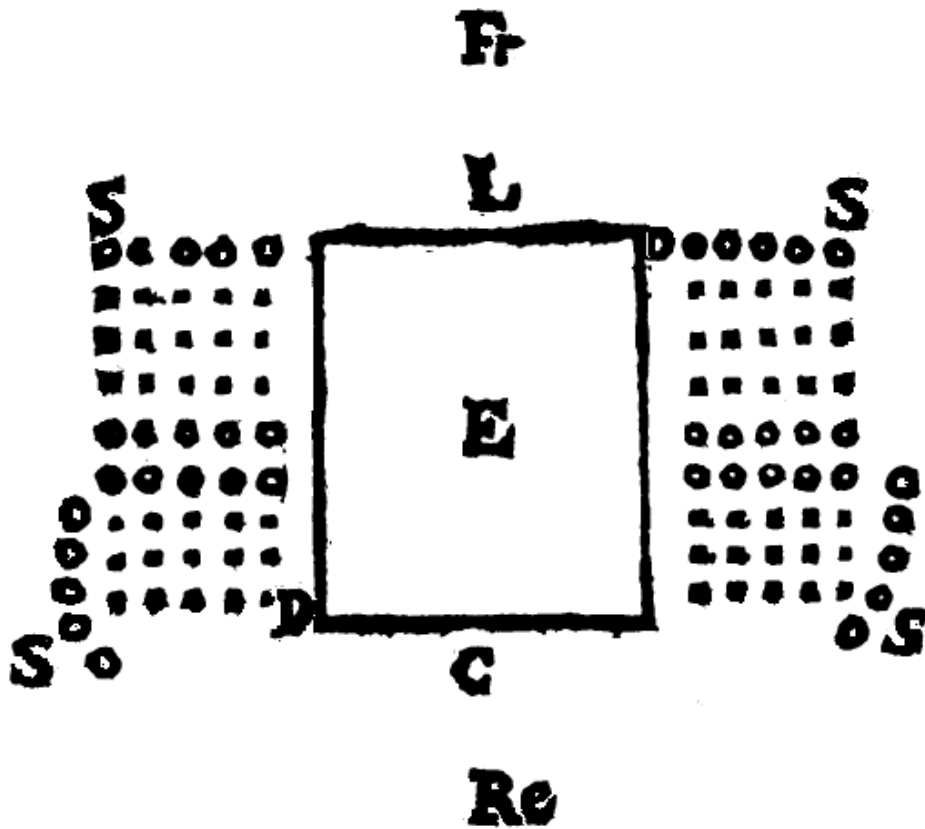
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion of 200 approaching towards the enemy, giving fire in the front; the first rank having given fire, wheels off to the right and left hands into the Rear.



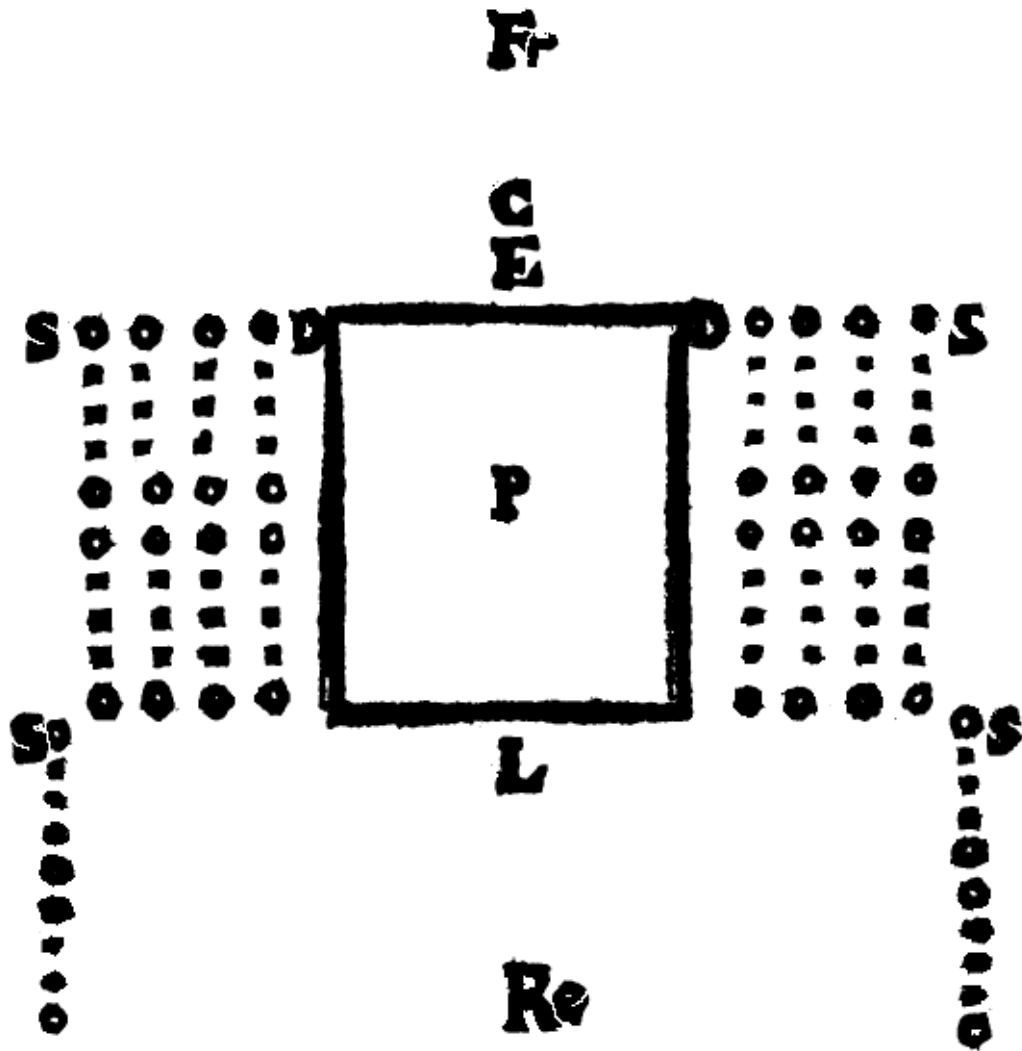
The Soldier's practice

A Body marching from the enemy, giving fire in the rear, falling off to the right and left, going up a round pace into the front.



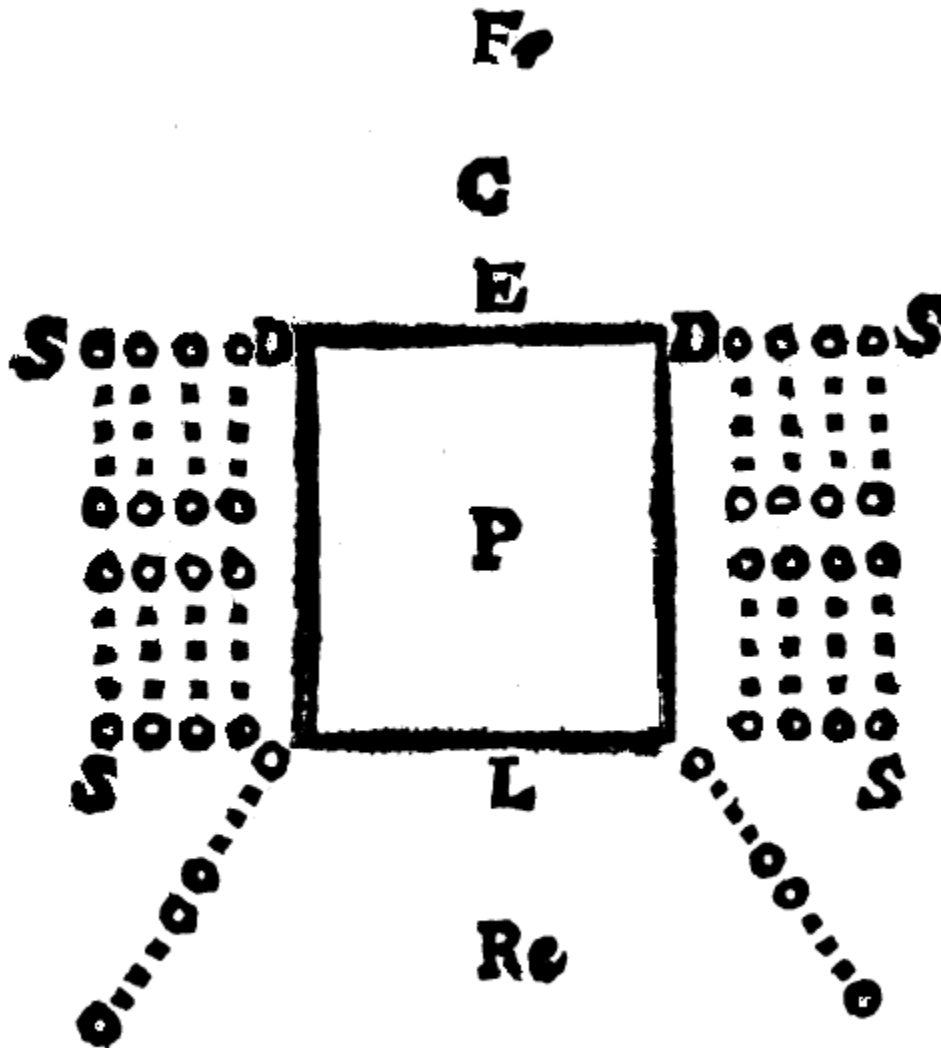
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion marching, giving fire in both the flanks: the first File having given fire, stands fast, only turning their faces again towards the front; until the second File has given fire, then advances forward even with the second, in its first place: in the like manner all the rest.



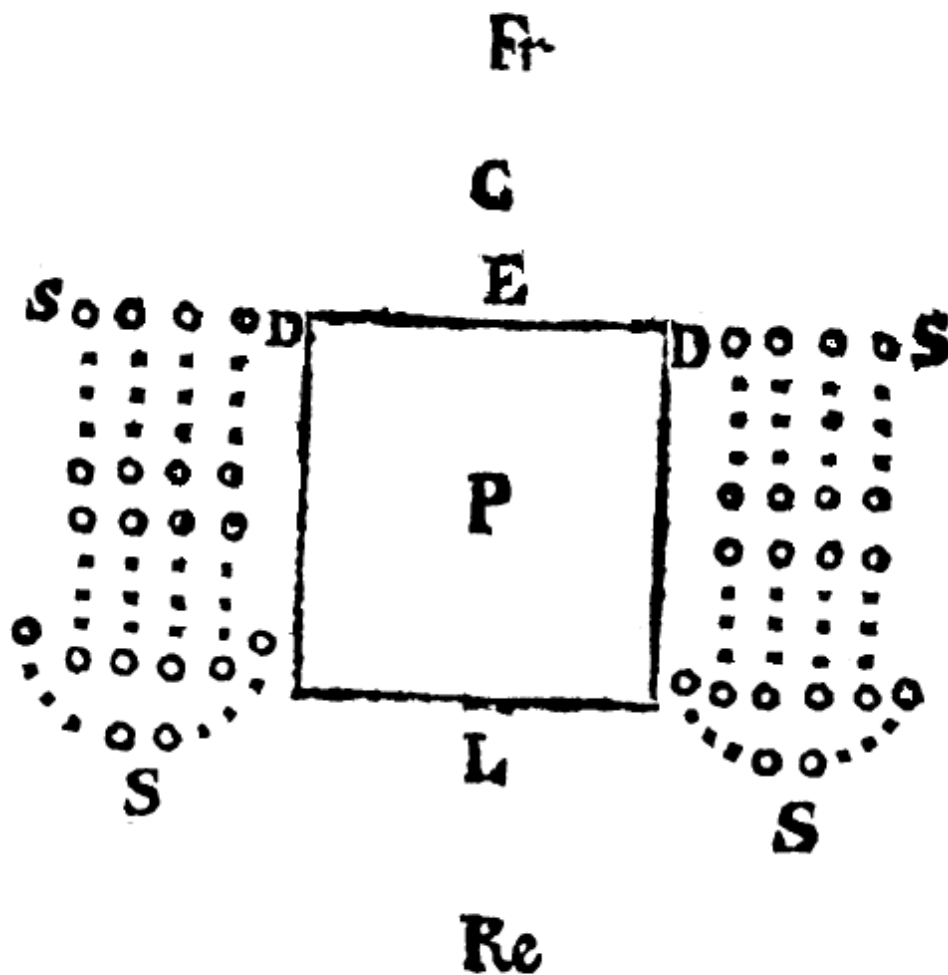
The Soldier's practice

The second form of a body marching, giving fire in both flanks, the outermost Files in both the Flanks having given fire, stand fast as they did before, till the bringers up of that division are one pace past them, then marching up a round pace next the Pikes till they be joined with the rest in a File and Rank.



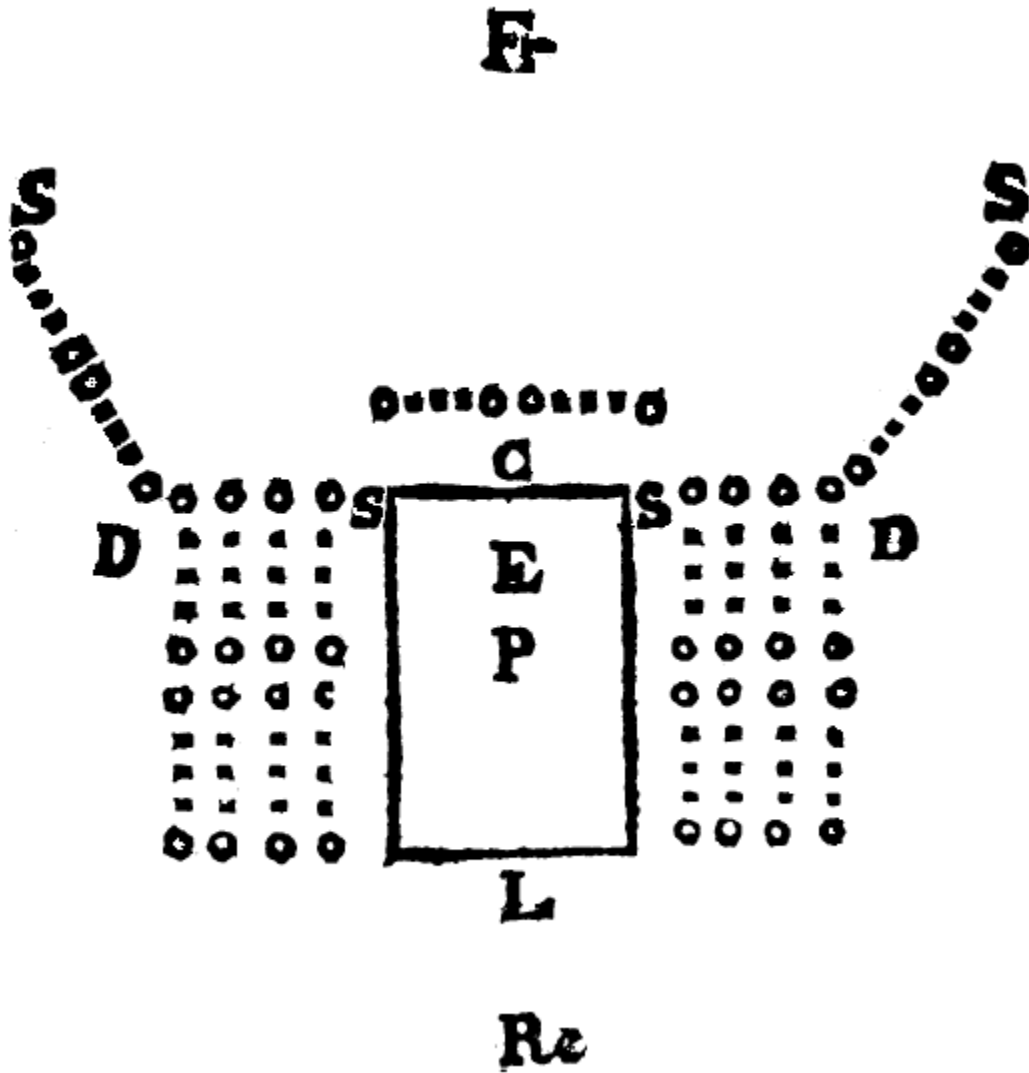
The Soldier's practice

The third and best form of body marching, giving fire in both flanks, the outmost file having given fire, turn their faces to the rear; the bringers up being then Leaders, leading: File up next unto the Pikes, joining himself with the rest of the Leaders; the rest of that File standing right behind him, even with the rest in Rank, two times giving fire, in this manner every man Comes in his place.



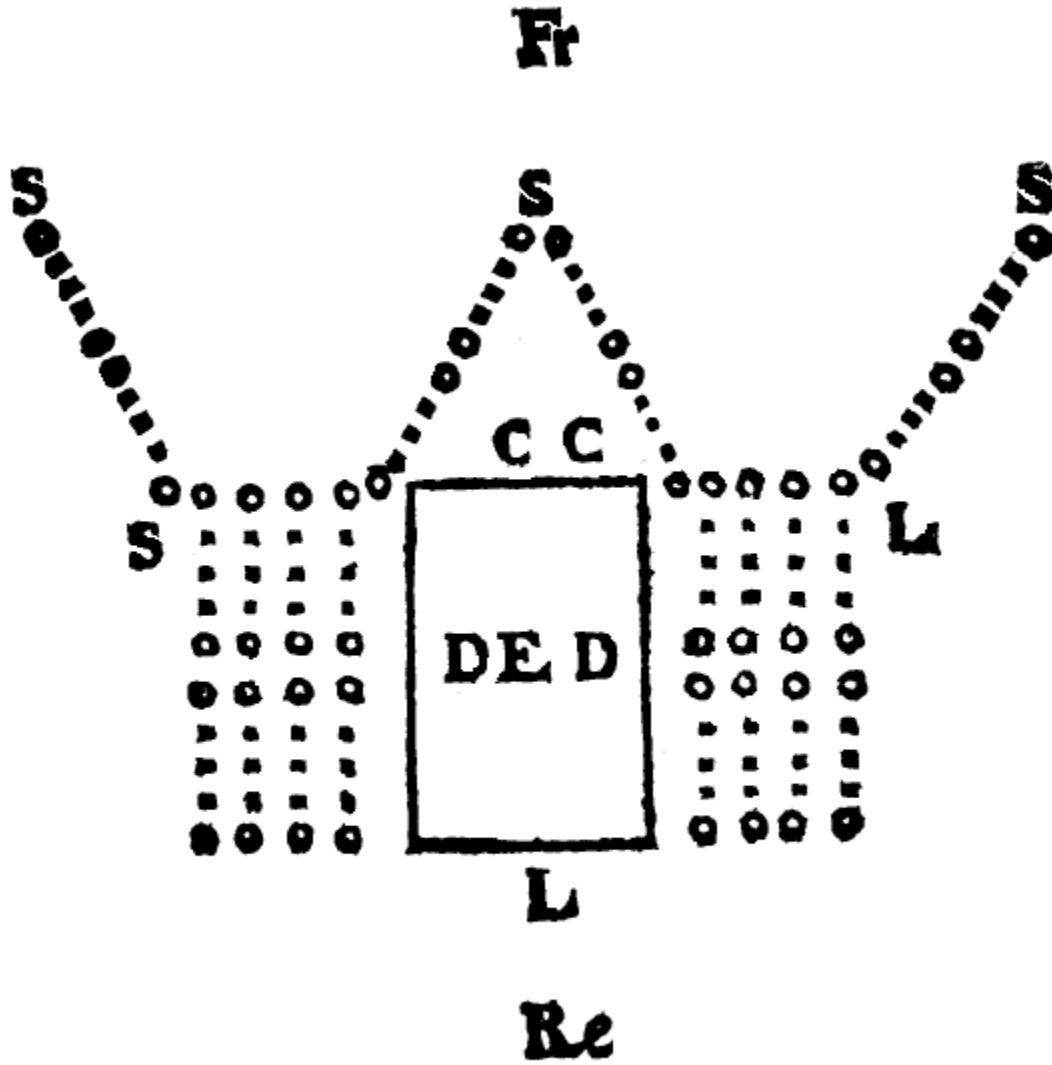
The Soldier's practice

A battalion giving fire in front, with three files at once, having given fire, face to the rear, the bringer up leads back the file into its own place, then facing to the front again.



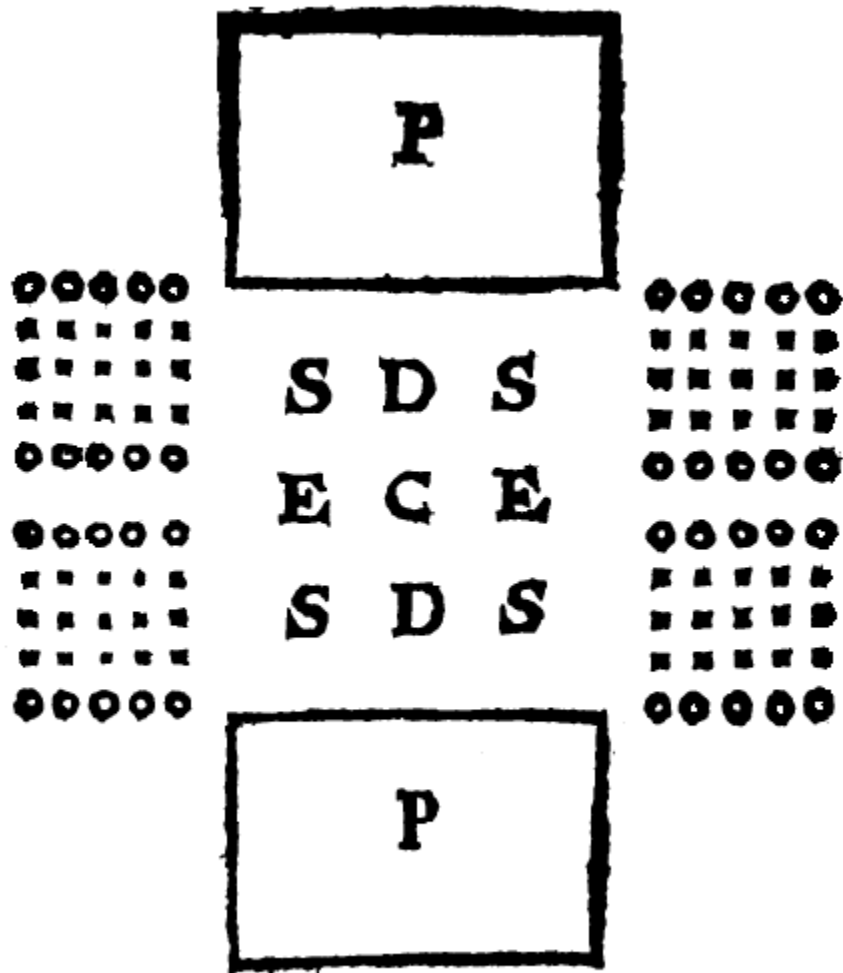
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion giving fire in front, with four Files at once.



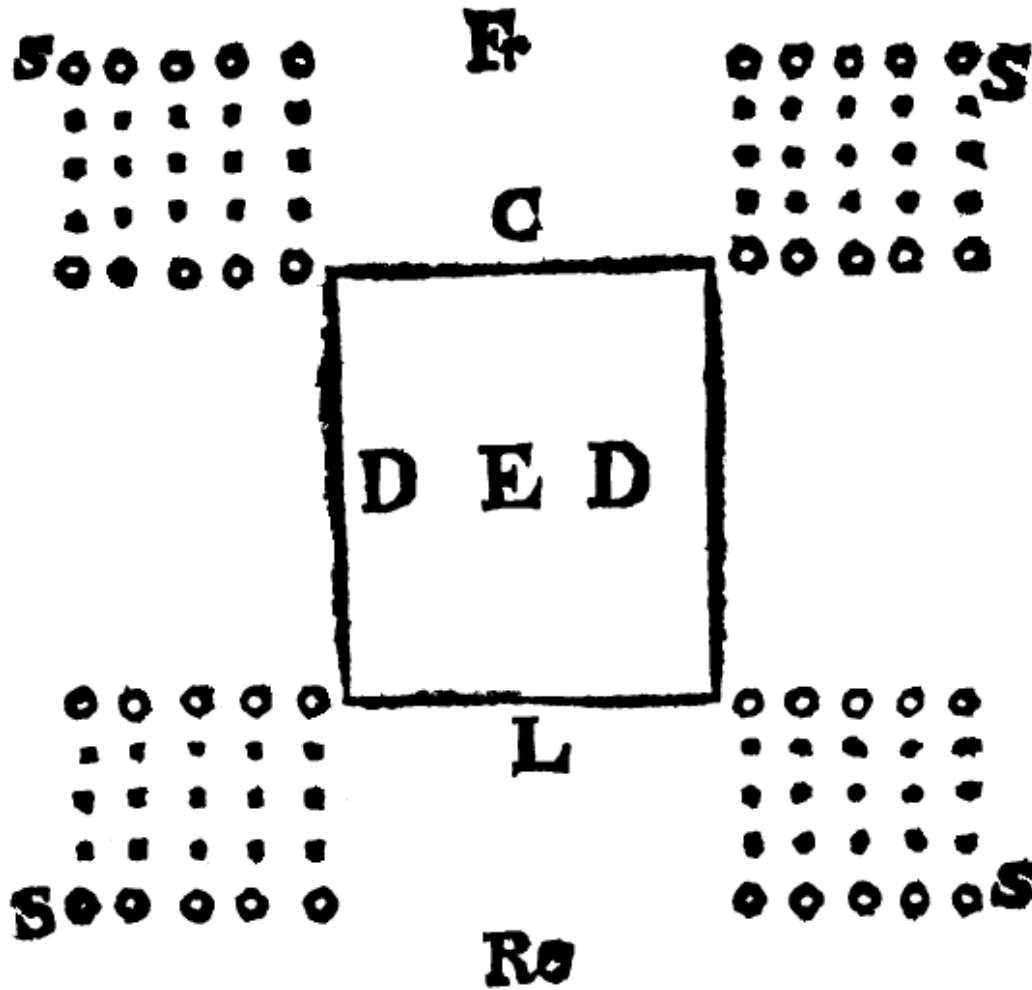
The Soldier's practice

A hollow body for a parley, or to march conveying treasure in the midst, and for other uses.



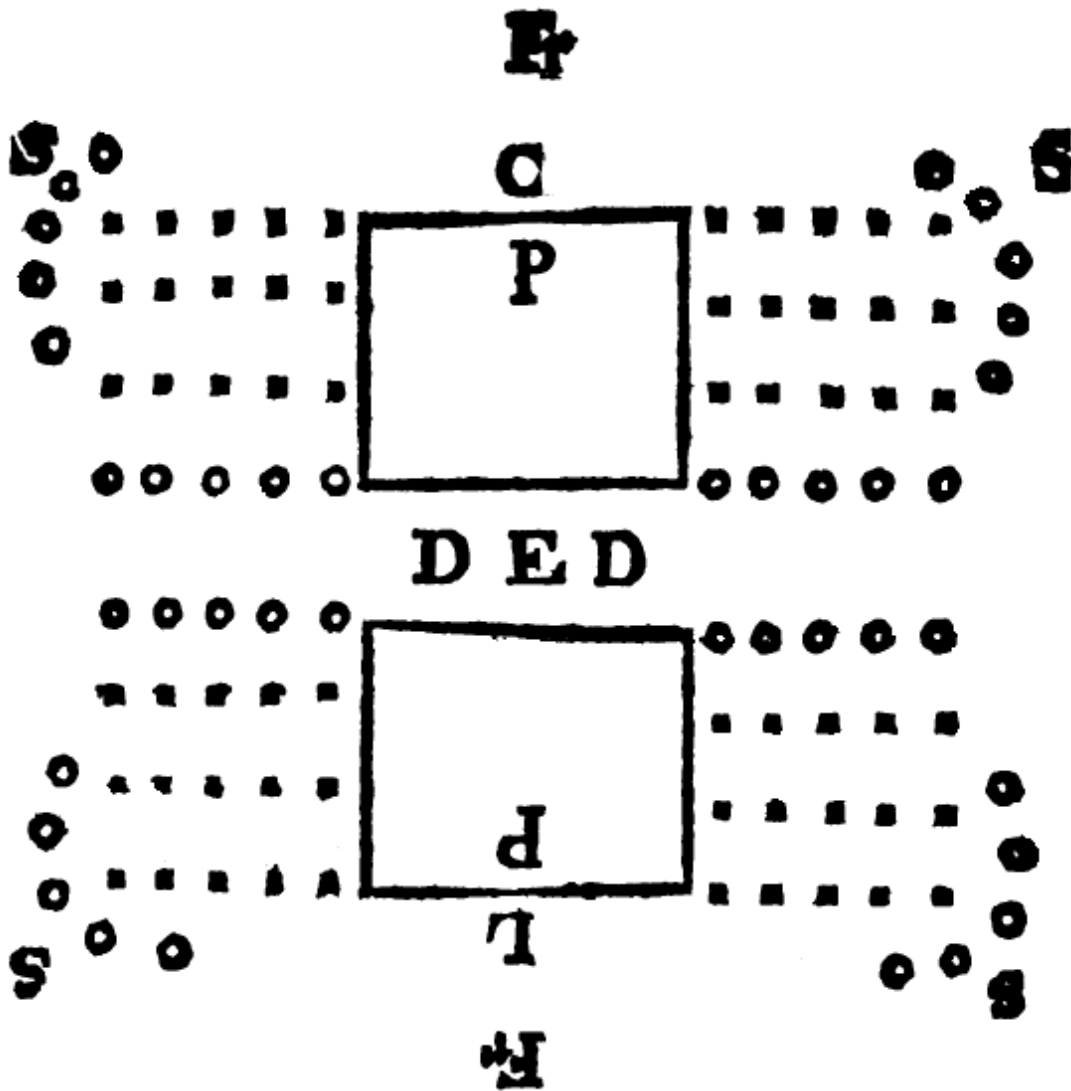
The Soldier's practice

Scouse battalion marching ready for all assaults, if the enemy should suddenly assail them.



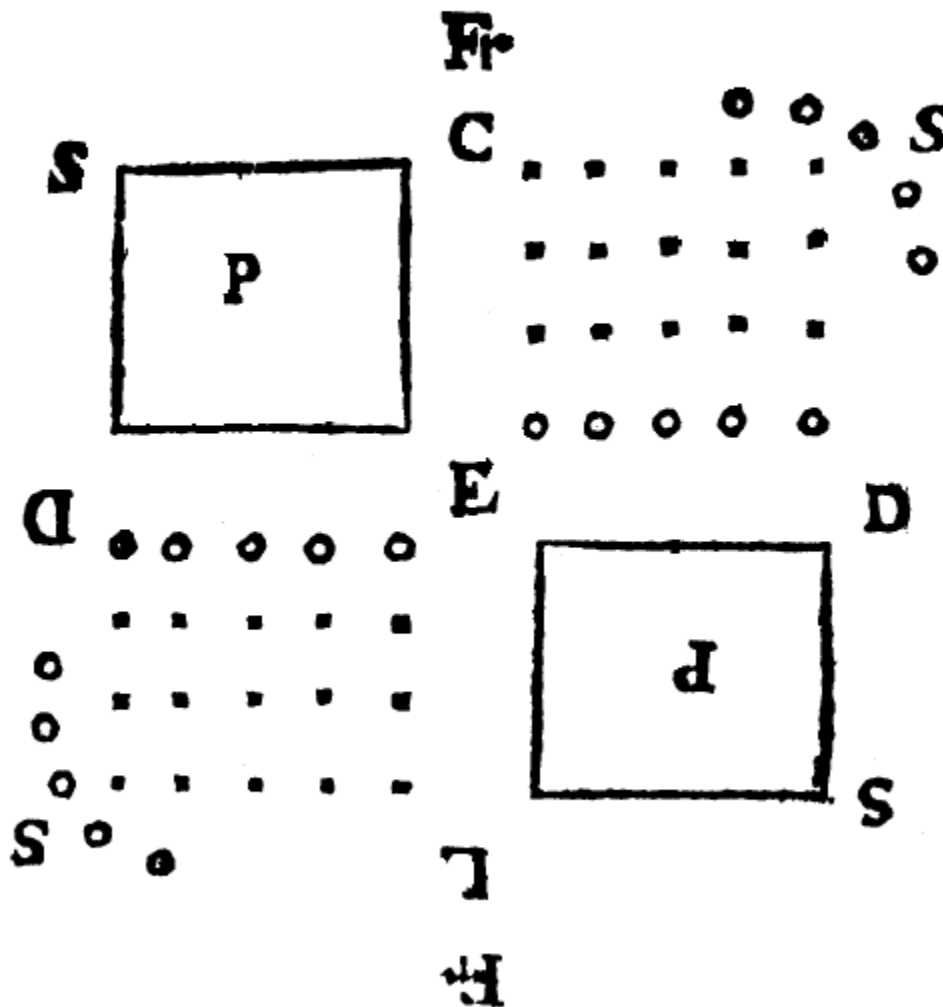
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion giving fire in front and rear both at once, falling off to the right and left, into the rear of their own half Files



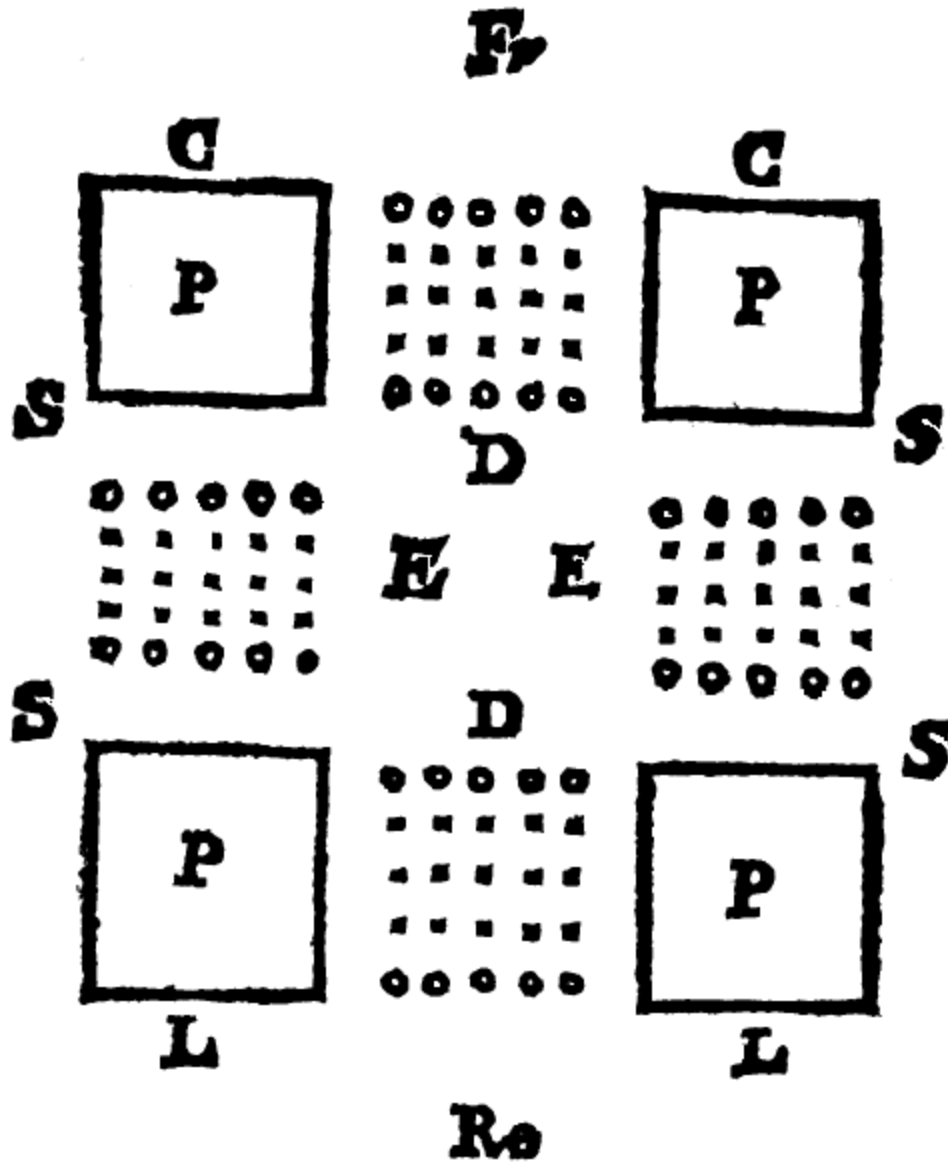
The Soldier's practice

Another form of giving fire in front and rear, or on both flanks at once: having given fire, wheel off to the right hand, behind their own half Files, or else to flank the other half body of Pikes, if need require:



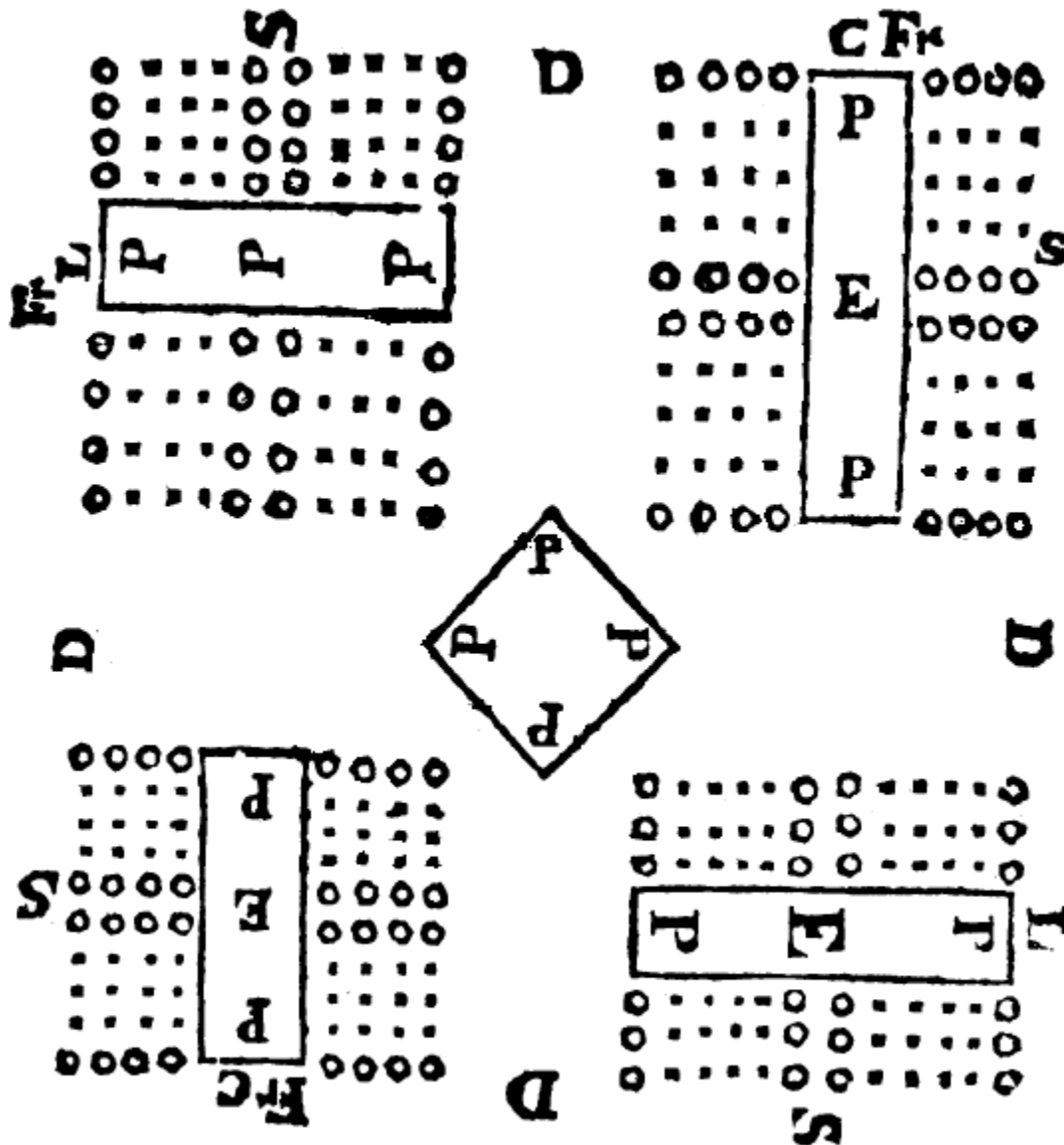
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion marching, prepared to receive an enemy, in Front, Rear, Right and Left one time.



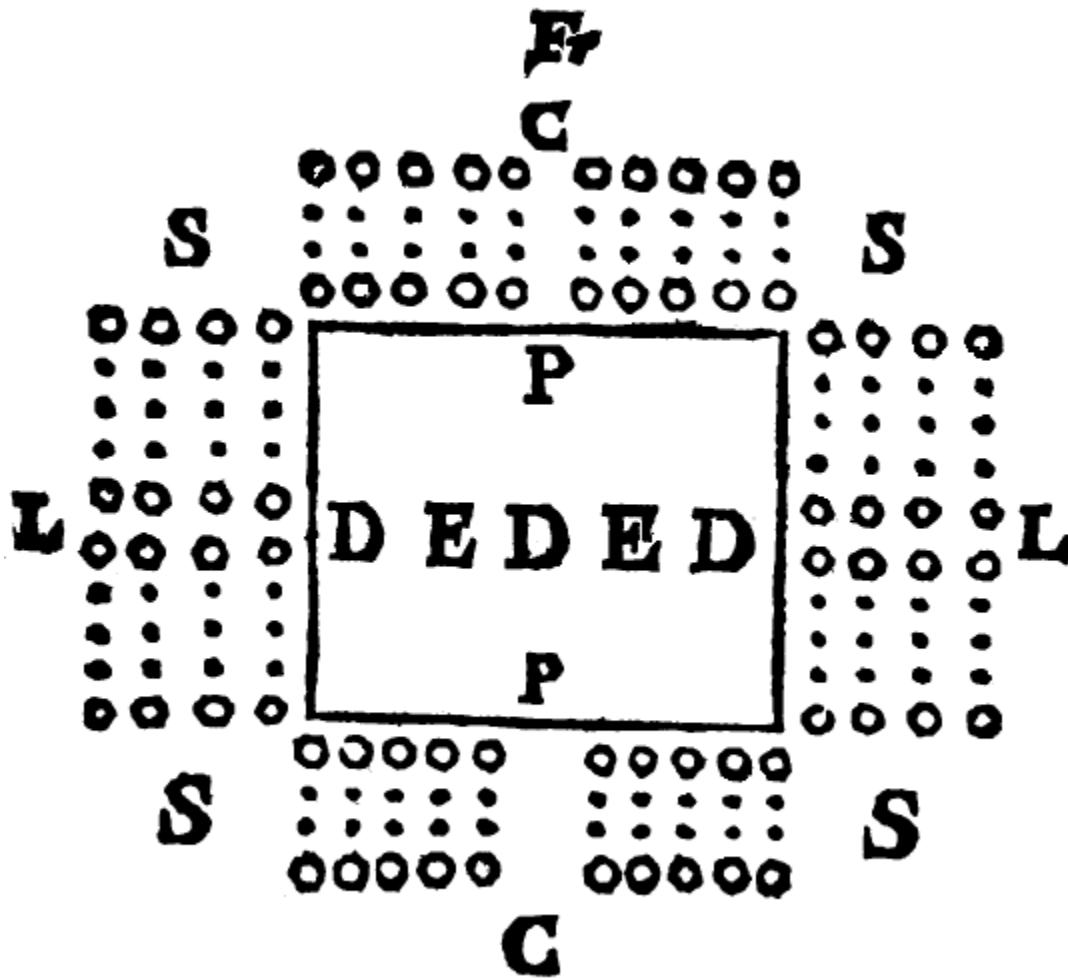
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion divided into four squares, every division of Pikes being flanked with two wings of Musketeers, and fronting every way with a Diamond of Pikes in the midst to defend the open places.



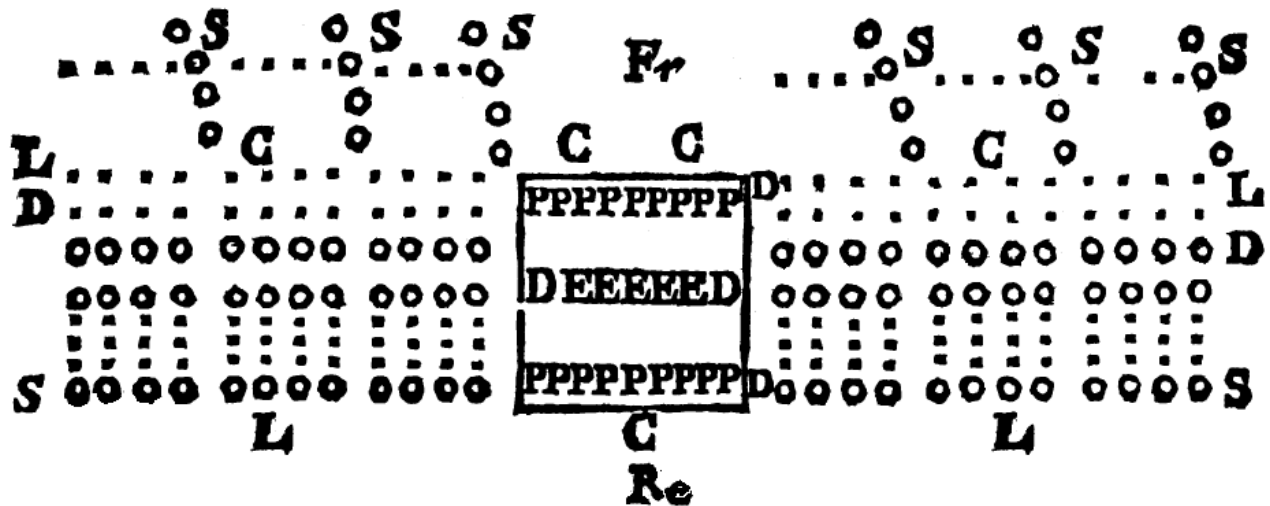
The Soldier's practice

A Battalion of 320, one of the strongest forms of that number that may be framed, either for march, or for a stand, in the night or day, against foot, horse, prepared with Musketeers in the front, rear, and flanks, to receive a desperate enemy.

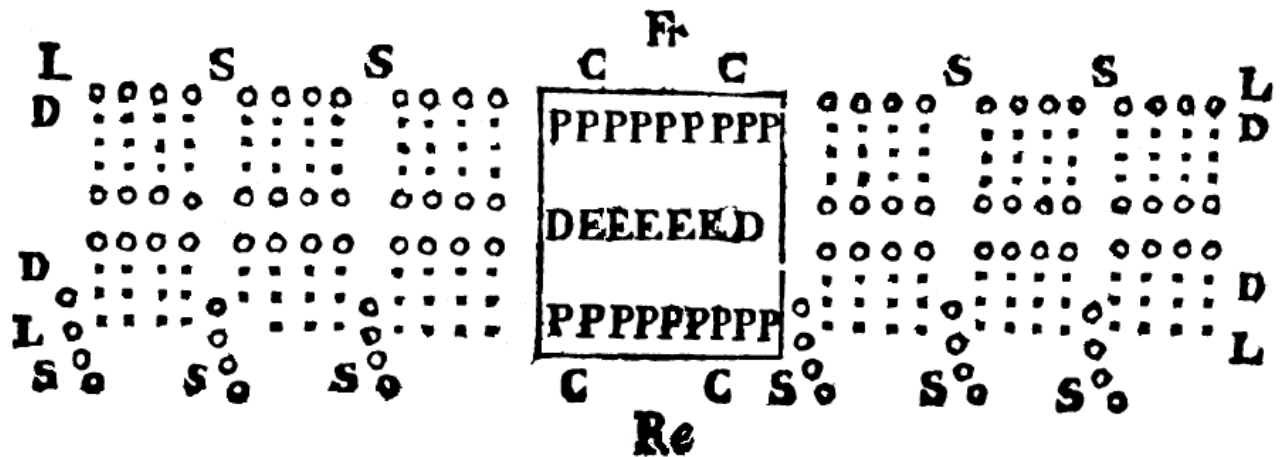


The Soldier's practice

A Battalion of 500, with all their officers in their places, giving fire in front. The Ranks of Musketeers after they have given fire, as you may perceive, wheel off to the right hand, through the open distances between the divisions into the rear.



A Battalion of 500, marching from the enemy, giving fire in the rear: having given fire, turning all to the right hand, through the open spaces between the divisions, up unto the front, placing themselves before their own files.

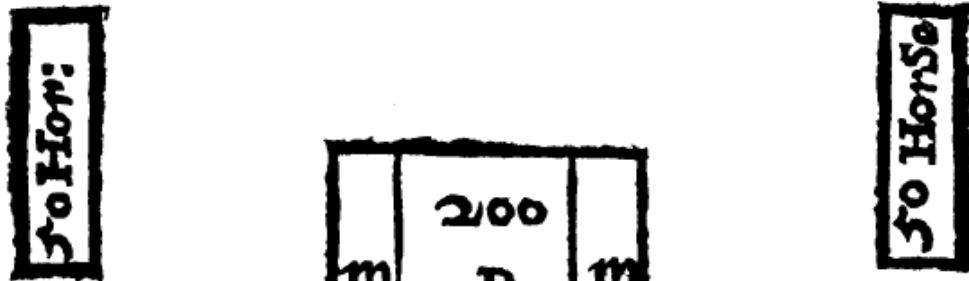
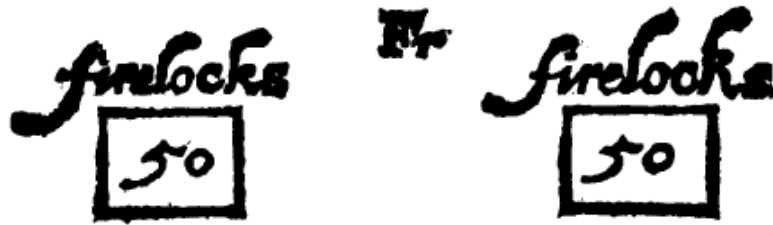


The Soldier's practice

These squares that you see on the other leaf, are 1000 men divided into four Battalions, in every Battalion you may perceive their number of figures placed at such distance as they may best second on the other if need require, with 100 horse on both flanks, with 100 fire locks in two parties, scouting out before for the approach of the enemy. The P. stands for Pikes, the M. for Musketeers.

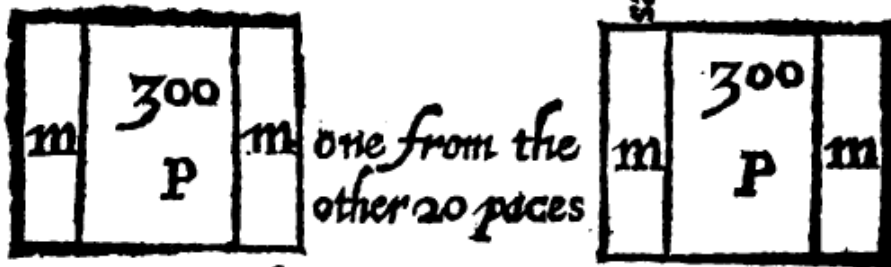
On the other side of the leaf, as you may observe a greater Army divided into many Battalions with their number, in each square, with their horse on the flanks, and their forlorn hopes before; and the distance as you may perceive from one Battalion unto the other, standing removed one from the other, in the best and surest manner for the relieving of one the other, or for any other exploit when the superior Commander shall see fit occasion, with Ordnance and Wagons.

The Soldier's practice



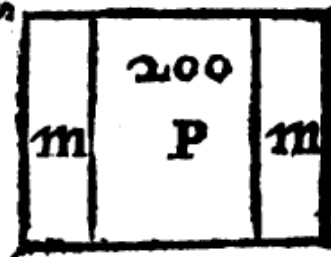
60

60 paces



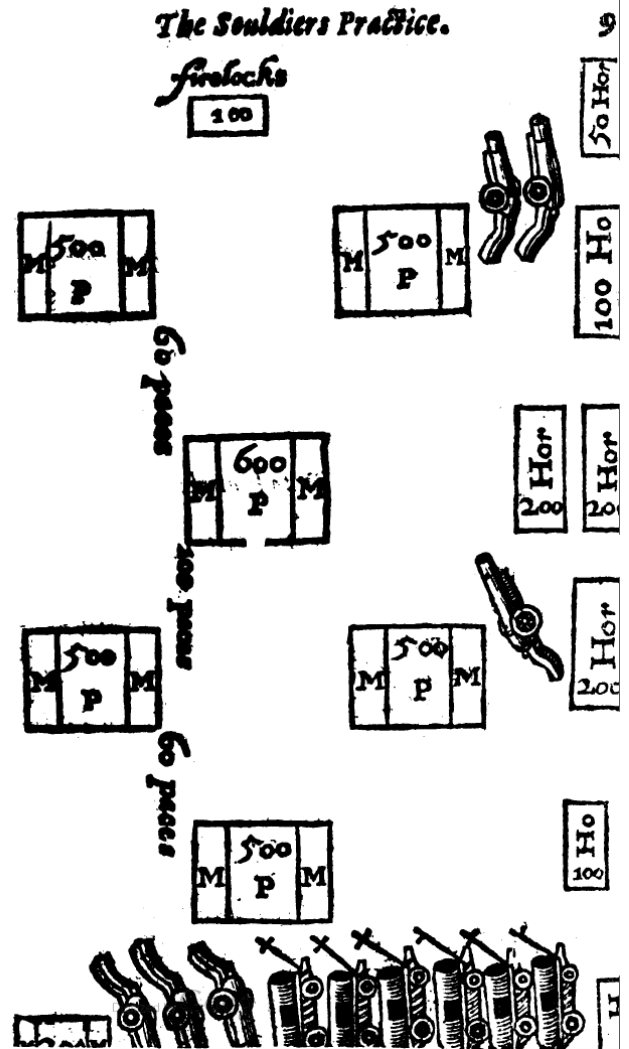
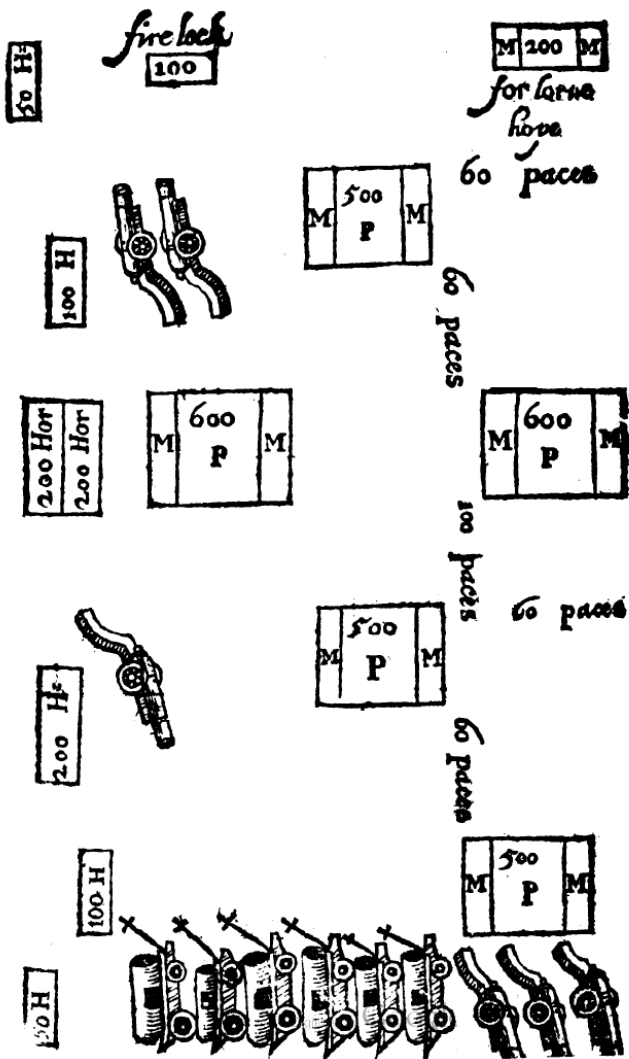
30 paces

8



Re

The Soldier's practice



The Soldier's practice

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