

The Theorike and Practike of Moderne Warres
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Extract from this manual, containing attachment with vocabulary of
foreign terms

A Table, showing the signification of sundry foreign words, used in these discourses.

Gentle Reader, for as much as in these Military discourses, I have used some words and terms, somewhat strange unto such as have not frequented foreign wars, nor have any great insight in foreign languages. I have therefore thought good both to declare the signification of such words, and also to shew my reasons for using the same.

First you are to understand that most of our terms now used in wars are derived from strangers; as the French, the Italian, the Spaniard and the Dutch; wherein everyone almost have their several pronounciation; therefore I hold it good, to use such war terms and words, as we do borrow from strangers (as most languages do borrow some, more or less, one of another) near after the same nature, orthography & accent, as those nations do, from whom they are derived: and not to pronounce and use them over corruptly, as we commonly do. As for example. The word *Caporall*, which is a mere Italian, and also used by the French, we corruptly do both write and pronounce *Coryporall*: for *Caporall* does signify the head and chief of a squadra, or small company of soldiers: and is an officer ensigning and governing (in his degree) the said company: and is in Spanish more aptly called *Cabo de esquadra*, which is the head of a small squadra of 20 or 25 soldiers. And again, we use both to pronounce and write, *Core de guard*; which by the French is written *Corps de guard*, and by the Italian and Spaniard, *Corpo de guardia*; which signifies the body of a watch: which French or Italian word I have rather used in my writing, then our corrupt English term. Moreover we both pronounce and write the word *Canvasada*, the which (in truth) ought to be written and pronounced *Camisada*, being a Spanish term; and does signify the investing a shirt over the soldiers apparel or armor, which is used in the night time when any sudden exploit or piece of service is to be put in practice upon the enemy, unexpected or unseen: to the end, that in the darkness of the night, the attempters may thereby better know and discern

another. These few words and terms, I suppose sufficient for my reasons. And for the significance of all other strange and foreign words used by myself, I will here following particularly set down, in order of alphabet, as I shall call them to memory.

A

- *Abanderado*, is a soldier which carries the Ensign instead of the Ensign-bearer sometimes.
- *Alarma*, is a word used among men of war, at times of the enemies sudden approaching, and at their discovery, and does signify, to arms or weapons.
- *Alferes*, is a Spanish word, and signifies the Ensign bearer.
- *Alvarezil*, a Spanish word, is an officer attendant on the Camp-master General, to apprehend offenders, and to see execution done.
- *Alerta*, an Italian word used unto the soldiers, when there is any suspicion of the enemy; and signifies to be watchful, careful and ready
- *Alvarado*, a Spanish word, and is the discharging of the morning watch, by the sound of the drum.
- *Ambuscado*, a Spanish word, and signifies any troupe or company of soldiers either foot or horse, lodged secretly in some covert, as in woods, hollow ways, behind banks, or such like; to entrap the enemy secretly attending his coming.
- *Aqueducts*, are conduits to carry or convoy water into any City, Castell, or Citadel.
- *Armada*, a Spanish word, is a Navy of ships for war, or one great ship of war.
- *Artillaria*, a foreign word, and is that which we call the great Ordinance.

B

- *Bando*, a Spanish word, and signifies, an act, or law made by the General and Counsel of war, in the Camp, and published by sound of the drum or trumpet unto the soldiers.
- *Bisognio or Bisonnio*, a Spanish or Italian word, and is, as we term it, a raw soldier, inexpert in his weapon, and other Military points.
- *Burget*, a French word, is a certain kind of head-piece, either for foot or horsemen, covering the head, and part of the face and cheek.

C

- *Cabo de esquadra or Caporall*, a Spanish word, is the head or chief under the Captain of a small number of soldiers, in number 20 or 25, or more or less, according as the company is divided into.
- *Caporal*, the Italian word, is as *Cabo de esquadra* in Spanish.

- *Cabo de Camara*, a Spanish word, is a soldier under the Caporall, and is the chief over every 10 or 12 soldiers.
- *Camarada*, a Spanish word, is a small number of 11 or 12 soldiers, and is the one half of a squadra, being united together in their lodging, and diet, and friendship, the chief man of whom is the Cabo de Camara.
- *Camisada*, a Spanish word, and does signify the investing or putting on of a shirt over the soldiers apparel or armor; the which is used in the night time, when any sudden exploit or piece of service is to be put in practice upon the enemy, unexpected or unseen, to the end that the attempters may thereby the better one know and discern another.
- *Campania*, an Italian word, and is a field.
- *Campania Raza*, an open field without hedge, ditch, or other encumbrance, razed plain.
- *Camp-maister*, in Spanish *Maestro del Campo*, is a Colonel: being the chief Commander or officer over one Regiment or Tertio.
- *Camp maister General*, in Spanish, *Maestre del Campo* General, is a great Commander, and is with us the high Marshall of the field.
- *Castellano*, is the Captain or Commander of a Citadel, or Castel, as in Millan, Antwerp, Metz, and such other places.
- *Cannonera*, a Spanish word, and is the place or room where the Cannon is placed in a bulwark.
- *Casamatta*, a Spanish word, and does signify a slaughter-house, and is a place built low under the wall or bulwark, not arriving unto the height of the ditch, serving to scour the ditch, annoying the enemy when he enters into the ditch to scale the wall.
- *Cavagleria*, an Italian word, and is the Companies of soldiers serving on horseback, of whatsoever sort.
- *Cavaglere*, an Italian word, and signifies a Gentleman serving on horseback, but in fortifications, a Cavalier is a mount or platform of earth, built and raised high, either within or without the wall for to plant great Ordinance upon.
- *Cavalliere à Cavallio*, is a high mount or platform of earth raised very high, so that the Artillery upon the same, may shoot over the walls and bulwarks, to score and clear the fields all about.
- *Centre*, a French word, is the middle of a battle, or other things.
- *Centinell*, a Spanish word, and signifies the soldier which is set to watch at a station or post, a certain distance from the Corps de guard, or in a certain little garret or watch house upon the walls, or at certain places in the field without the ring of the Camp.

- *Centuria*, was amongst the Romans, a company of Soldiers to the number of 100: whose Captain was called Centurion.
- *Cohort*, was, amongst the Romans, the 10th part of a Legion.
- *Chieffront*, a French word, is the arming for the forehead of the horse.
- *Convoye*, a French word, is a certain guard of soldiers, sent to conduct and guard, victual, victuals', merchants, munition, and such like, from one place unto another.
- *Contra Round*, an Italian word, is a certain number of commanders and officers going, visiting the Corps de guard, watches, Sentinels, and also the Rounds, to see if they perform their duties and be vigilant and careful.
- *Colonell or Coronell*, a French word, is the commander of a regiment of certain companies of soldiers, called with the Spaniards Maestre del Campo.
- *Contrafront*, or spur, is the inner part of the wall of a bulwark.
- *Citadella*, an Italian word, is a Castell or spacious fort, built, not only to defend the City, but also to keep the same in awe and subjection, as that at Antwerp, Millan, and Naples, &c.
- *Cornet*, a French word, is the ensign which is carried by the Lancers.
- *Corps de guard*, a French word, is the body of a watch, of a certain number of soldiers set for such purposes.
- *Corslet*, a French word, is the armor of a foot soldier, complete.
- *Criniere*, a French word, is the arming of the horseman for neck.
- *Cvisset*, is the arming's of a horseman, for his thigh unto the knees.
- *Cuyrats*, a French word, is the arming of the body, the breast part and back part only, either of horseman or footman.
- *Colors*, a word used by us, for the Ensign, being of variable Colors.
- *Curtine*, a French word, is the long wall running level from bulwark to bulwark.

D E

- *Enginero*, a Spanish word, is one skillful in fortifications, and other machines and stratagems for war.
- *Escalada*, a Spanish vocable, and is the scaling of a wall or fort with ladders.
- *Esquadra*, a Spanish word, is a certain part of a company of soldiers of some 20 or 25 soldiers whose chief is the Caporall.

F

- *Fila*, an Italian word, is the order, row, or line of all such soldiers as do stand or march consequently on after another, in ordinance or array of battle, extending from the front unto the train of the battle.

- *Flancque*, a French word, is the side of any squadron of men.
- *Fronte*, a French word, is the face or forepart of a squadron or battle.
- *Front*, is also the forepart of a wall or bulwark.
- *Forlorne Sentinell*, a compound word of Dutch and French: and is a soldier either horseman or footman, set to watch and espy the enemies designs, near unto the enemy, and without the word: for sundry considerations.

G

- *Garrita*, a Spanish word, is a little watch house or tower, for the soldier to stand in at Sentinel, seated upon the walls.
- *Grueves*, a French word, is the arming for the legs, from the knees downward.
- *Guantlet*, a French vocable, is the arming or glove to the hand.
- *Guidon*, a French word, is the ensign which is borne with the shot on horseback.

H

- *Hargubuzier* a French word, and is the soldier, carrying and using a piece called a Calliver or Harquebus.
- *Hargvulttier*, an Italian and French word, and is the soldier serving on horseback, unarmed, using a Calliver with a snaphance.

I

- *Infanteria*, an Italian word, is all sort of foot soldiers.

K L

- *Launcier*, a French word, is a soldier on horseback, armed and using a Launce for his chief weapon, but not so heavily armed, as is the man at arms, and therefore of some called a Demilance.
- *Legion*, amongst the ancient Romans, was certain companies of their people of war: consisting of 5 or 6000 footmen, and 300 horsemen.

M

- *Maniple*, is a part of so many ranks and files of soldiers' throughout a battalion or squadron of pikes, drawn forth to march thorough any straight or narrow passage.
- *Maestre del Campo*, with the Spaniards, is as our Coronell with us.
- *Mayordome*, is with the Italian and Spaniard, the steward of a house; but in war he is the steward and Guardian of the munition for war.
- *Modern war*, is the new order of war used in our age,
- *Miditerraneall*, is Inland country, or countries distant from the sea.
- *Maritime*, is sea coast country, or country adjacent unto the sea.

NO

- *Orecch one*, an Italian vocable, is the part of a bulwark which is called by some, the pome, guard, or shoulder.

P

- *Parapet*, an Italian word, is the upper part of the wall, which shadowed the soldiers from the sight and annoyances of the enemy.
- *Pendent*, is the bending or sloppiness of the Parapet outward.
- *Pelmell*, a French word, and signifies the mingling of men together, buckling by the bosom one with another.
- *Percluis*, a French word, is the grate, either of iron or wood, framed within a gate or port of a city or Castell, to be let fall or slipped down, to barre the enemies' entrance.
- *Pectron*, a French word: is the arming of the breast of the horse.
- *Place of arms general*: is the place of assembly, where the people of war are ranged in order of battle.
- *Phalanx*, a Greek word: an order of embattling of men in one ground square, used by the Grecians.
- *Pietranelli*, an Italian word, and is the soldiers serving on horseback, well-armed with a pair of Cuirasses, and equipped with a fire-lock piece or snaphance.
- *Pistolier*, a French word; and is the soldier on horseback, armed as the Pietranell, weaponed with a pistol.
- *Pouldron*, a French word, and is the shoulder arming.
- *Posta*, a Spanish word, and is the place or station where the Sentinel soldier is set to stand at guard and watch.

Q

- *Quarter*, is the part of a Camp, whereon any companies, or numbers of horsemen or footmen be quartered and lodged.
- *Quarteret*, is the diminutive of quarter.

R

- *Rank*, is the row, order or array of soldiers standing shoulder by shoulder, extending from flank to flank throughout the battalion or ordinance.
- *Ravelline, or Tenaza*, a Spanish word: and is the uttermost bounds of the walls of the Castell or sconces without the walls.
- *Rampier*, a French word, and is a fortification or wall of earth.
- *Regiment*, a Dutch word, is a number of sundry companies' under the charge of a Colonell.

- *Recoia*, a Spanish word: and signifies the call or assembling of the soldiers together into the place of arms, by the sound of the drum.
- *Ronda*, an Italian and Spanish word: and is a company of certain soldiers and officers, which do go visiting the Corps de guards, Sentinels and watches at sundry hours in the night, to cause them observe order: and to see whether they be vigilant and ready.
- *Roypt*, a French word; and signifies the breaking of a squadron, troupe, or battalion, and turning to flight.

S

- *Sallie*, a French word: and is an issuing forth of men to skirmish or fight: and is also a secret issue for the soldiers to pass out of a wall, bulwark, or fort.
- *Srerée*, a French word: and is when the soldiers in squadron do Rank and lock close together, thereby to become the stronger.
- *Serracenesca*, a Spanish word: and is the preclusive or grate of a gate.
- *Skance*, a Dutch word: and is a small fortress built of turf and earth, commonly used in the Low Countries.
- *Scalada*, a Spanish word, is a scaling of a wall with ladders.
- *Spontone*, an Italian word: is a small long instrument of iron, sharp at the end, to thrust thorough any load of hay, straw, or such like, to prove if any soldiers lie hidden within the same.
- *Squadra*, a Spanish word: and is a certain part of a company of some 20, or 25 soldiers, whose chief is the Caporall.
- *Squadron*, a Spanish word, and is a great number of soldiers pikemen reduced in arraies to march and also is a certain company of musketeers framed in order to march of fight, and is also a certain number of men, arranged in order to march, or charge.

T

- *Taladro*, a Spanish word, and is an instrument or engine to mount any piece of ordinance up into Carriage.
- *Taises*, a French word, and is the arming of the thighs, annexed unto the forepart of the Corselet.
- *Terraplene*, an Italian word, and is the earth that is hampered and filled up unto the inside of any wall or bulwark.
- *Tertio*, a Spanish word, and is a Regiment of soldiers.
- *Tertiare*, a Spanish word, and is to third the pike, either to bear the same upon his shoulder, or to charge the same ever hand.
- *Travessa*, a Spanish word, and is a flanker of a wall.

- *Tragon*, is the rearward of the squadron, or battalion.
- *Trench*, a French word, is the ditch about the wall.
- *Tenaza*, a Spanish word, is a little hold or Keep made of one Curtin or Bulwark.

V

- *Vanbraces*, a French word, and is the arming for the arm from the pouldrons downward to the hand wrest,
- *Vanguard*, a French word, and signifies the forepart of the battalion.
- *Vollie*, a French word, and is when any kind of shot do discharge altogether.

W

- *The Word*, which we call the watch Word, and is by the French called Mot de guet, and by the Spaniard En nombre: which is a word or name delivered by the General or other high Commander, to be given unto other officers and soldiers, standing Sentinel at their posts, whereby their watches are nightly governed, etc.

Toute Puissance, honneur, glory & louange, so it à nostre bon Dieu eternel.
FINIS.