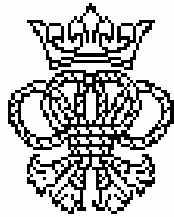


# THE SEALED KNOT



## Militarie Disciplines

For

The Royalist Army of the Sealed Knot

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## Preface

### ***From The Lord Generale:***

When I raised my first company of O'Cahan's pike, in Greenock back in the late 1970's, one of the biggest problems I faced was the almost complete absence of source material on drill. We used regimental tradition almost exclusively, and were none the worse for it. Then came the Sealed Knot drill manual, which proved an invaluable supplement to our own ways. Thirty years on and the challenge for any aspiring company or Regimental officer is quite the opposite: there is a surfeit of drill material in print, most of it authentic and of a high quality. Our challenge in the Royalist Armie however remains the same as it always has been: to be the best seventeenth century re-enactment armie there is.

This important work by Simon Wright, Sergeante Major Generale of Foote, will help us all deliver that challenge. In here, for the first time, the Royalist Armie makes clear what our minimum standards of drill are for pike and shot. This should be adopted forthwith by all units as it will form the basis of all subsequent Regimental evaluations. Use this manual to complement your own tried and trusted ways, and to fill in any blanks in your knowledge. Use it to enhance your Regimental traditions, not replace them.

Ours is a great tradition. This manual, in bringing together all that the years have taught us, is a great enhancement to what we do. I therefore wholeheartedly commend it to you all.

STEVE LANGAN  
LORD GENERALE  
THE ROYALIST ARMIE  
March 2003

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide a baseline of drill movements which regiments of the Royalist Army should be able to perform, along with some more advanced manoeuvres that units might aspire to. The intent is to show the end result required, along with suggested words of command and some guidelines as to how to go about things. On top of this there is a commentary by myself with the intention of giving background and/or putting manoeuvres into context.

What you will not find here the minutiae of individual drill movements. After all it is rare that the manuals of the period listed above all agree on a given topic which would indicate that variety was the norm in our chosen period. On top of this I am well aware that each Sealed Knot unit has its own traditions and ways of doing things. Consequently, this document is not intended to be a prescriptive work, nor does not masquerade as a definitive work. This means that any comments are welcome, along with suggestions for additions or deletions.

To reinforce what is said above, the intention of this documents is to lay down a minimum standard – those units which want to move beyond this are encouraged to do so. In addition every unit should aim to have its own special moves, based of course on the practises of the period we are trying to recreate!

It goes without saying that the contents of this manual are subordinate to existing and future rulings of the Society regarding safe practise. Also the fact that a manoeuvre appears herein does not mean it will always be safe to execute it. In other words think safety first!

Finally, my thanks go to Gary Walling Gentleman of the Armes to His Excellency the Marquess of Newcastle, His Regiments of Foote who fortuitously produced a pair of training manuals just as I was being appointed to the position of Sergeante Major Generale of Foote. Their appearance in my Inbox for comment was the catalyst for the production of this document and they provide the text from which it is derived. In other words Gary did most of the hard work, and I added the Commentary!

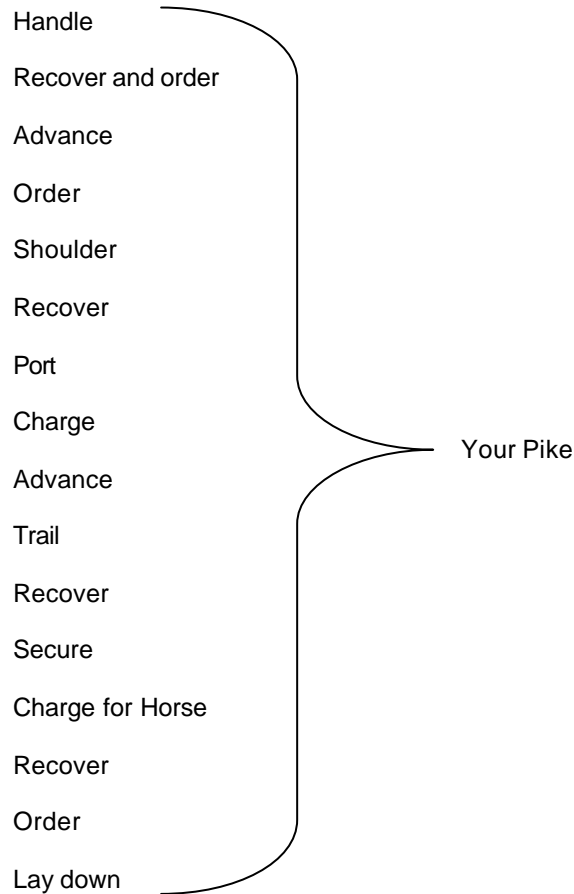
Simon Wright

“... first to be instructed in the Postures and well handling of their Armes” -William Barriffe

## Individual Weapon Handling

### The Pikeman

The following postures are to be taught and practiced:



### The Musketeer

**Commentary:** Whereas the postures for the pike are relatively straight forward, those for the Musketeer are somewhat more complex due to the competing needs of Displays Of Arms and battlefield use, and added complications such as the use of rests and whether powder is used from bandoliers, from belly boxes charges or from measured powder horns. Again common sense should prevail in interpretation or in substitution of alternative commands, but those relating to safety should not be amended in any way or omitted.

Fortunately, this was situation was at least in part recognised at the time, with several period drill book saying that the abbreviated commands given below could be used in the field.

The following postures are to be taught and practiced:

#### Full Postures

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Put on your Bandelieres        | Return your Scouring-stick   |
| Take up your Match             | Recover your Musket  |
| Handle your Musket             | Port your Musket   |
| Order your Musket              | Draw forth your Match  |
| Port your Musket               | Blow your Coal   |
| Open your Pan                  | Cock your Match  |
| Clear your Pan                 | Try your Match   |
| Prime your Pan                 | Guard your Pan and blow on your Match  |
| Shut your Pan                  | Open your Pan  |
| Cast off your loose Powder     | Present  |
| Blow off your loose Powder     | Check your Scouring-stick ( <i>not period but essential for safety reasons</i> ) |
| Cast about your Musket         | Give fire  |
| Open your Charge               | Port your Musket   |
| Charge with Powder             | Uncock your Match  |
| Charge with Wadding            | Return your Match  |
| Draw forth your Scouring-stick | Shoulder your Musket   |
| Shorten your Scouring -stick   | Order your Musket  |
| Ram home                       |  |
| Withdraw your Scouring -stick  |  |
| Shorten your Scouring-stick    |  |

Further postures may be required where the musketeers are using rests.

## Abbreviated postures

Within his Division, the musketeer who is well exercised in the above postures will perform all that is required on receipt of 4 commands:

- Make Ready* - Prime his pan; charge his musket; fix, cock and trie his match; port his musket and guard his pan.
- Present* - Blow on his match, open his pan, raise his musket to his shoulder and aim at the enemy.
- Check your* - Look to see that the scouring stick is in its place and not in
- Scouring-stick* the barrel of the musket (*not period but essential for safety reasons*).
- Give Fire* Holding the musket fast into the shoulder, pull the trigger and discharge his musket. Afterwards, he is to port his musket.

---

*“Having attained use of their Armes, they must be taught their militarie motions. To do this, they must be ordered into a Bodie composed of files” - Directions for Musters*

---

## Forming Bodies

**Commentary:** *The size of files to be used within the Royalist Army is currently 4 men. It is recognised that this is not period with 6,8 and even 10 being mentioned in the drill manuals used as a source for this document. However, it remains that this was a decision consciously taken and is a compromise to enable the numbers on the field to represent larger formations. Should our numbers improve sufficiently, then this will be reviewed.*

*It is interesting to note that the 17<sup>th</sup> Century file, particularly when set at 8 men, is of the same size as both the modern British Army infantry section and the Roman Army’s Contubernium or messing unit. It is also in line with eighteenth century Prussian practise, so it would appear that experience over a long period has shown that this is the optimum size for effective team building in a military context.*

## Files

Files consist of 4 men formed one behind the other:

Place		Number of Dignitie
1	Leader	1
2	Middle-man	4
3	Half File Leader	3
4	Bringer-up	2

Files should not be less than 4 soldiers, with surplus men forming within complete files in front of the Bringer-up. These are accorded the number of Dignity ‘5.’

Soldiers should note their file and always form within it. If it is suitable to the culture of the particular regimente, then the File Leader can be given the extra responsibility of ensuring that that the members of his file forming up in the right place, at the right time and are correctly attired and equipped. In other words they have a role in ensuring the smooth day to day running of the unit.

## Divisions and Ranks

Groups of between three and six files of the same arm come together to form a division. This in turn leads to the formation of ranks that is a row of men, standing one by another in a line.

When in Division:

Men are to form (Dress) behind their file leader.

Unless otherwise ordered Men are to dress themselves in line with the right hand man of their rank. Men may be ordered to dress themselves in line to their left rank marker, or to the centre of the rank.

### Distances Within Divisions

Distance is the space between men in the Division. They are measured as follows:

Open Order -	6ft
Order -	3ft
Close Order -	1½ft
Closest Order	Touching adjacent man

**Commentary:** Rather than use absolute distances Hexham talks about close order being when elbows are touching and when ranks are at sword point distance i.e. a practical measure. He also states that muskets should never use close order, but then goes on to contradict himself when talking about wheeling so he probably means when facing the enemy to allow space for making ready and giving fire.

Distances can be different between files and between ranks.

When forming Division, the orders are given:

**“Stand right in your files.”**

**“Make even your ranks.”**

**“Silence.”**

## The Sealed Knot

The common distances observed are:

	<u>Between Files</u>	<u>Between Ranks</u>
Forming Division	Order	Order
Long March	Order	Open Order
Manoeuvre on the Battaillefield	Order	Order
To close to the Enemy - Pike	Close Order	Order
To close to the Enemy - Shot	Order	Order

Unless otherwise ordered, dressing between files is measured from the rightmost file.

Unless otherwise ordered, dressing between ranks is measured back from the front rank.

### Exercising With Divisions Stationary

Here postures and spacings should be practiced. If soldiers cannot get these right when stationary, how ill they succeed when on the move?

When exercising postures within stationary divisions, open order by file and rank may be appropriate with less experienced troops as this gives room to practice and avoid 'collateral' damage.

Note that when the command to charge pikes is given to a divisions, or divisions, of pike, then the front 2 ranks are to “charge” and the next 2 ranks are to “port.” If the depth is greater than 4, then the rear ranks should remain at the advance.

## Exercising with Divisions in Motion – Basic Moves

### Wheels


**Commentary:** The wheel is probably the area where there is the least agreement between the various sources. The most extreme example is Leslie which talks about doubling ranks before wheeling, in other words, to wheel to the right, face the division to the left, double files to the left, face right, close up files, then close up ranks and off you go, reversing the process at the end of the wheel to regain the original formation.

Alternatively Hexham moves files then ranks close order. This includes musketeers despite what he says elsewhere. And Achesone has another variant with files at close order, but ranks at open order as required by the number of men in the rank, except for a great turn to the rear where all are at close order.

The upshot is clear, wheeling should be done with files at the least at close order. If you think about it, it makes sense as it is much easier for people to keep in line at close order.

#### Wheeling to the Left or Right


“Files close to your left/right to your Close Order (Optional).”<sup>1</sup>

“Wheel your Division to the ”  
left / right /left about/ to right about

The file leader to the left /right (as appropriate) moves round as the pivot of the wheel. The outermost files/ranks move around the pivot and ranks dress to the inner man of the rank

#### Wheeling about the Centre

“Files close to your centre to your Close Order (Optional).”

“Wheel your Division to.......... on the same ground”  
the left (about)/ to the right (about)

The file leader at the centre of the Division moves round as the pivot of the wheel. The outermost files/ranks move around the pivot. The innermost files retire around the pivot. Ranks dress to the centre man.

<sup>1</sup> Where files are moved to close order before commencing a wheel, this should be done towards the intended pivot of the wheel.

### Facings

**Commentary:** Facings are detailed in drill treatises and are useful for minor shifts of ground. Achesone actually makes significant use of facings for example in ‘rear division double to front to the left/right entire’. The rear division faces left/right, moves to the flank, stops, faces left/right, marches up to level its front with the lead division.

Turns may be made to the left, right, left about, right about, left angle or right angle.

All turns to facing pivot on the ball of the left foot, no matter the direction of turn.

Facings are only used when stationary.

All manoeuvres using facings must end by ensuring that the original facing in files is restored to the front proper.

### Suggested Exercises for a Division on Manoeuvre

March

Wheels to left, right and about

Retire

Postures on the march:

Advance

Shoulder

For Pike: Trail

Charge.

Retire at Charge

For Shot: Shoulder

Port

Make Ready

### Exercising with Divisions in Motion – Advanced Manoeuvres

#### Counter-marches

**Commentary:** Counter-marches are performed by stationary divisions, not on the march and are intended to allow divisions to change front and/or move ground whilst retaining the file leaders at the front. There are more forms than those detailed below, such as those to the side which are by ranks rather than files, but let's keep things simple!

Achesone talks about countermarches being carried out with files at open order, but then there may not always be space available to this, so all units should be able to perform such manoeuvres at Order.

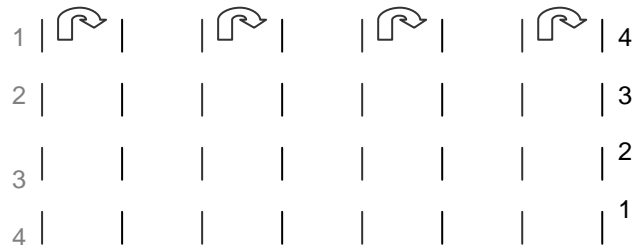
#### Chorean Counter-march to maintain ground

*"Files to the right hand counter-march."*

File leaders turn right and march back to position next to that previously occupied by his Bringer-up.

File members march to place where file leader turned, turn and follow him.

Each file, therefore, occupies the same area of ground as before, but faces to the reere.

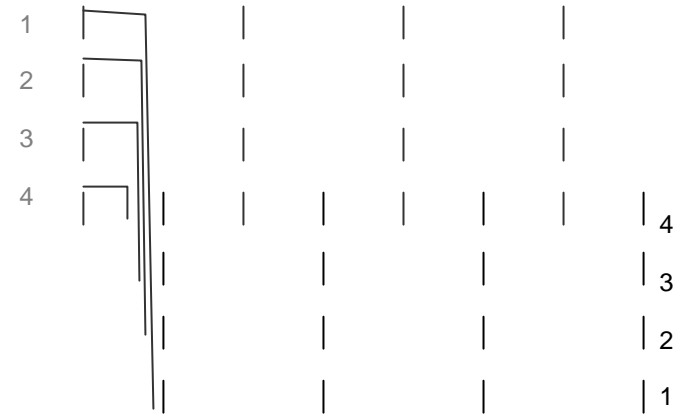


#### The Sealed Knot

#### Lacedemonian Counter-march - to lose ground

*"Files to the right hand counter-march; every man turning after his leader on the ground he stands."*

File Leader turns and counter-marches. The 2<sup>nd</sup> man turns as the file leader passes and follows, the 3<sup>rd</sup> man dost the same to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Bringer-up to the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Bringer-up ends aside his original position, but each file, occupies an area of ground behind that originally occupied and faces to the reere.



**Commentary:** A further development of the Lacedemonian countermarch whereby each man falls on to the rear of file when he reaches it and faces the front is called by some brigades a 'Bastard Countermarch'. Whilst such a thing does exist in drill manuals, this is not what they describe. However, it remains a) a useful motion with a unit to retiring before the enemy whilst maintaining its front and b) closer to the intended use of the countermarch as reflected in the drill manuals of the period than doing so on the march.



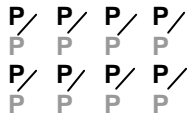
## Doubling

**Commentary:** Doubling of men forming the front of a frontage is useful but reduces the depth of a Division. Given the use of files of four this could lead to bodies with insufficient depth, although the last minute doubling of pike divisions when fighting at point into a close order body with double the frontage has been known to confound the Rebels!

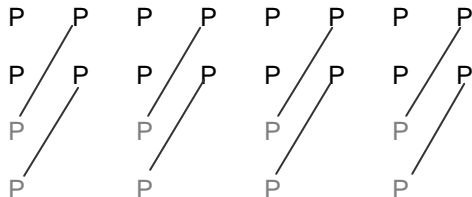
Practice has shown that the first of the doubling methods below is the best way to achieve a doubling on the march, particularly on those occasions where bodies are actually formed in period depth. The Half files or Bringers Up methods are only really usable when stood. If the body is moving forward those at the back can end up having to run to move up which can be detrimental to the good order of the division. Having said this, from the drill manuals consulted doublings, like countermarches, appear to have been performed when stationary.

Half files is useful where a division of more than 16 is marching in column at 4 abreast. The 'half files' could then actually be the even numbered files which simply slot forward into position when the full frontage is required. Remember you need to bear in mind that divisions can be up to 24 in size. This also goes for Doubling by Bringers Up which is not detailed here.

"Ranks to the Right/Left (hand) double"



"Half files double your ranks to the right/left"



## The Sealed Knot

To return to the original formation or to double the depth:

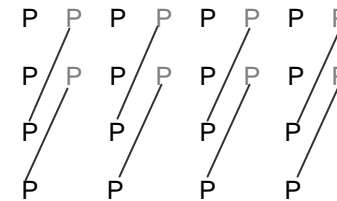
Either:

'Ranks to the right double or 'As you were'



Or:

"Half files face about to the left, march forth into your places" or 'As you were'



(At the end of the manoeuvre, men turn about to face the front)

## Regimental Manoeuvres by Divisions

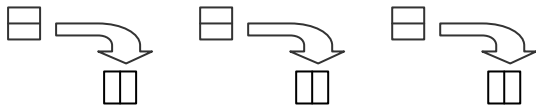
A Regimente must exercise manoeuvring its Divisions, both those of Pike and those of Shotte, together as one entity. In this manner, the methods of manoeuvring are standardised.

When marching in column of Divisions, there is to be 12ft between the rearmost rank of a division and the frontmost rank of the following Division.

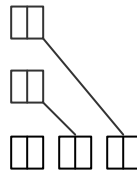
When in line of Divisions, there is to be 12ft between each Division.

### Forming from column of Divisions into line of Divisions

1<sup>st</sup> manner: Wheel Divisions to left or right into line.

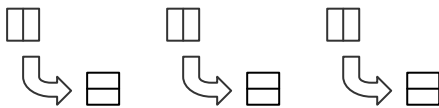


2nd manner: Rearward Divisions form to left or right (as ordered) of the foremost Division.



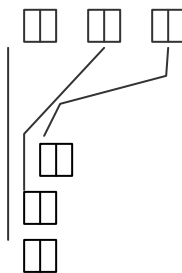
### Forming from line of Divisions into column of Divisions

1<sup>st</sup> manner: Wheel Divisions to left or right into Column.



2nd manner: Rightmost/Leftmost Division (as ordered) marches forth to be

followed by Divisions along the line who fall to the reere.



### Of Pike

#### Pike Engaging Pike

**Commentary:** No doubt this will be the most controversial section of this document.

Both the current and the previous Lord General have stated publicly that all pike divisions must be able and prepared to fight in both point and push styles. It is recognised that individual units may have a preference for one particular style or version thereof. Whilst all efforts will be made to ensure that this is recognised, it remains that units with differing preferences will engage on occasion. In this situation no one style should be used exclusively, and the preferences of both shall be taken into account. Failure to meet a reasonable request to fight in the other style is a gross discourtesy and may result in disciplinary action. It should not be beyond the wit of the respective Division commanders to come to a mutual arrangement, but if this does prove to be impossible, then any dispute should be escalated immediatley through the chain of command.

It is evident from original sources that there were several ways that pike divisions might engage each other, as can be seen from comments in documents such as "Pallas Armata". Fencing with pikes was practised, but was frowned upon by the more experienced commanders who preferred an advance in unison with the objective of bowling over the opposition. Examples of this include "Certain Discourses Military" by Sir John Smythe, the aforementioned "Pallas Armata" by Sir Thomas Kellie and a description of the Battle of Cerisoles by Blaise De Monluc. A good example of what actually happened when both sides held their nerve and their footing is to be found in the description of the Battle of Langside. Here the points lodged in the armour and clothing of the opposition and the two sides ended up "pushing other to and fro with their spears". This also shows just how much of a misconception it is that the front ranks impaled each other. In fact whilst pike fighting was physically robust and undoubtedly dangerous it was not particularly fatal. Whichever style was used it appears that the points tended to get caught in clothing and armour, or else were forced into the air or down to the ground. What followed became effectively a pushing match – hence the name "push of pike". Fatalities mainly occurred when one side broke and ran. Individuals could and did survive with multiple pike cuts on their bodies such as Lord Hume at Langside who was "...strucken to the ground with many stroakes upon his face ... was also wounded with staves , and had many stroakes of spears through his legs ...". I am also aware of another occasion where someone took over fifty cuts from pikes (well that is what you get if you stand in front of a Swiss column!) and survived.

Variations on these themes clearly existed. Barrett for example talks about “push and warde, with the one hand bearing their pike ...”, Smythe talks about the front rank dropping their pikes once they become useles and using swords and daggers, and Wallenstien’s Ritterkunst shows pikemen holding their pikes in the middle and trying to break their opponents pike with their swords. However this reliance on the sword was probably not too prevalent in the Civil Wars given the situation reflected upon by Albemarle, “...if you arm your men with swords, half the swords ... will upon the first march be broken with the cutting of boughs.” His suggested replacement for such swords is a tuck which has no edge!

### Engaging at Point of Pike

At all times, it is vital that the Division maintains its integrity or the enemy will have an opening to victory.

#### Engaging Pike or Shotte

The Division is to “charge/port” their pikes as taught, making them into a strong rampart difficult to force or break. Order must be maintained to ensure that the enemy cannot enter into the body and thus break it up.

On the word of command, files are to move to their Close Order, dressing to the centre file.

The whole Division is to press forward and engage the enemy; no ranks are to fall behind.

The Division is to move into contact with the enemy, so that the file leaders press their shoulders to those of their opposing man; the ranks are to move to Close Order to support their file leader and, if so ordered, to their closest order to brace him.

Should the enemy retire, the Division is to maintain its files and ranks, moving forward or standing as commanded and recover its distance between ranks to Order.

If a man falls as a “casualty” the man behind is to step forward into his place.

Should the enemy retire, the Division is to maintain its files and ranks, moving forward or standing as commanded.

### Engaging at Push of Pike

The soldiers are to be taught the posture of “comport” or “high port” as used by the unit.

On the word of command, files are to move to their Close Order, dressing to the centre file.

On the word of command, the Division is to “comport” or “high port” their pikes as taught.

On the word of command, files are to move to their Closest Order with their shoulders touching.

Manoeuvre is best undertaken with ranks at Order.

When closing to “push,” soldiers must expect to be ordered to move their ranks to Close Order.

In the final move to contact, the ranks will be ordered to move to their Closest Order, pushing those before them forward.

The front rank will often lean back to enforce this and the rear ranks must push forward with determination.

The common orders given are:

*“Files close to your centre to your Close Order.”*

*“Comport your pikes.”*

*“Files close to your centre to your Closest Order.”*

*“Ranks move forward to your Close Order.”*

*“Ranks move forward to your Closest Order”*

At times the exigencies of a situation may mean that these are abbreviated.

This will result in the division becoming compact, with a fl at front and of comparable breadth and depth. The integrity of this formation and its shape should be maintained as far as possible, and the temptation to move into alternative formations be resisted.

At all times, the soldiers must be alert to the instructions of their Division commander as no situation is the same and he must seek to swiftly exploit opportunities. Therefore, the Division commander must continually exercise his men in these skills and tactics.

## **Disengaging**

### *Retiring*

When commanded to "*Retire*", the Division is to open its ranks to Order and retire as a body, if at charge then maintaining their pikes at "charge" In this manner the Division can halt and close its order to meet an enemy advance if necessary. The drum should beat a pace for the retirement.

When commanded to do so, files are to move to Order and pikes are to be moved to the "advance."

### *Rallying Back*

When commanded to "*Reform*," the soldiers are break from their Division and make to the colour with the swiftest haste.

The Division will reform in as directed, but must be ready to engage the enemy again before he is ready to attack or to move to files and ranks at Order in preparation to manoeuvre.

## **Engaging Horse**

It is the duty of the Pike to protect the Shotte from enemy Horse. They must be engaged with determination and confidence.

If the flanks of the Division(s) are secure, the pike may face the Horse in one of 2 manners:

1<sup>st</sup> Manner: The Pike moves their files to Close Order and charge their pikes for horse to the front. The soldiers may kneel to allow Shotte to fire over their heads at the attacking force.

2<sup>nd</sup> Manner: The Pike moves their files to Close Order and Port their pikes. The files then close towards the centre of their ranks to a distance of half a foot between files and advance on the enemy. The order may be given to 'Charge' pikes and to advance on the enemy.

If the flanks of the Pike Division(s) are not secure, there are 2 manners of defence:

1<sup>st</sup> Manner: The Pike form into a circle and move their files to Close Order with their pikes at "Port." Shotte may move to immediately in front of the pikemen. When ordered to do so, the Pike will "Charge their pikes for horse" to protect the Shot. On some occasions, the Shot may fire their weapons from this formation at the attacking Horse.

2<sup>nd</sup> Manner: The Pike form into a circle and maintain their files at Order with their pikes at "Port." Shotte may enter the interior of the circle and the Pike will then move to Close Order. When ordered to do so, the Pike will "Charge their pikes for horse and kneel" to allow the Shotte to fire over their heads.

This method may only be employed when several Divisions are brigaded together to form an 'enclosure' for the Shotte.

## Of Shot

### Methods of Firing

**Commentary:** From reading period drill manuals it becomes apparent that Shot was much more rigid in the way it was employed in the field, often carrying out what in looks, to our modern eyes, cumbersome and constrained manoeuvres such as that typified in the 'Firing by Forlorn Files' and 'Firing by Advancing Ranks' detailed below. Certainly Barriffe makes much more use of files firing then moving off to the side in this manner rather than what we know as Intro/Extroductio which he considered to be a risky manoeuvre. Also both Barriffe and Hexham only show shot manoeuvres with accompanying pike divisions.

To develop this further, the concept of Forlorn Files is different to that of a Forlorn Hope which in turn is different from skirmishing. The first is detailed below and is a manoeuvre which can be carried out at any time as the Divisional officer sees fit and/or is instructed by his commanders.

A Forlorn Hope is a comparatively small body of troops operating in advance of the main army line and consists normally, but not exclusively, of divisions of commanded Shot. As such they were in fact formed divisions which operated in much the same way as when they were in the main line of battle.

This leaves skirmishing. In the sources consulted only Jenner mentions it when he talks about musketeers "ala Disbanda de which is out of order". In other words skirmishing is something distinct from either of the Forlorn moves and the lack of reference to it in other manuals would indicate that its use was probably rare. It is more likely that this was employed in smaller, more fluid actions rather than the setting of a formal battle. Even then the troops would remain under command at all times.

There are diverse methods of giving fire on the enemy, some of which are described below:

### Firing by Forlorn Files

Files are drawn forward on command and led by the File Leader march to their desired position. They then turn in their place to the right /left to form a rank as required and give fire.



They then turn in place to reform the file and follow the File Leader back to their place and make ready their muskets.



In this manner, a sustained fire will be maintained to trouble the enemy.

### Firing by Advancing Ranks

This fire is used when one or both lines of battell close towards the other, enabling injury to be done to the enemy whilst maintaining your main bodie from harm.

The front rank of the Division is drawn forward 10–20 paces under the command of an officer or sergeant so that they come neere enough to the enemy to do certain execution.

The main body of the Division moves forward so that the new frontage occupies the same ground as before.



The advanced rank will give fire on the order of their commander. They will then turn right or left to form a temporary file and march past the flank of their Division to its reere and fall in at the reere of their designated files and make ready their muskets.

When the advanced rank presents its muskets ready to fire, the front rank of the main body may begin to move forward to the place occupied by the advanced rank, so as to be ready to fire when the first advanced rank wheels off to return to the Division.



Each rank repeats manoeuvre as required by the Division commander, although it be preferable for the file leaders to be at the front of the division when the manoeuvre ceases

### Firing by Introduction

**Commentary:** Interestingly Barriffe describes two ways of carrying out Introduction. The one is as currently practised and this is detailed below, The other is where the movement is begun from the second rank.

This fire is used to move a Division towards the enemy whilst seeking to inflict continual injury upon him to break his resolve to stand.

First the files of the Division must be moved to their Open Order to facilitate the movement of soldiers between the files:

*“Musketeers , make ready to give fire by Introduction.”*

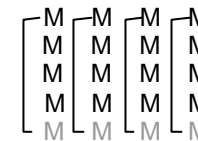
*“Files open to your Open Order.”*

The File Leaders of the Division give fire and then make ready their muskets where they stand.

The Bringers Up then step right into the intervals, march forth between the files to take place in front of the File Leader, give fire and make ready where they stand. The rest of the file do likewise successively until each rank has given fire.

The File Leader then steps to the front, restoring the order of the file.

Although there are other methods of firing by Introduction, this method best preserves the order of the files.



**Commentary:** The following two manoeuvres are not detailed in Barriffe or any other of the drill manuals referred to in the preparation of this document. However, given the presence of Introduction, the variety of drill manuals in use at the time, the fact that they have the “look and feel” of period manoeuvres and the existing familiarity of most units with them, it is not unreasonable they continue in use.

Barriffe’s description of Extraduction is a complicated system whereby the musket shelter behind a pike stand and march ranks around the flank to fire in front of the pikes as a defence against horse, particularly in a situation where the flanks are secure.

### Firing by Ranks

This fire is used when one or both lines of battell have moved close to the other and seek to inflict continual injury on the enemy to break his resolve either to prevent his advance or to withstand a charge upon him.

First the files of the Division must be moved to their Open Order to facilitate the movement of soldiers between the files:

*“Musqueteers , make ready to give fire by ranks.”*  
*“Files open to your Open Order.”*

The soldiers of the front rank of the Division give fire and then each withdraws to his right through the ranks of the division to fall on to the reere of his file and makes ready his musket. As the front rank withdraws, the division advances so that the Division’s frontage remains on the original ground.



Each rank then fires and withdraws in the same manner, with the Division maintaining its ground. It is preferable for the file leaders to be at the front of the division when the manoeuvre ceases.

### Firing by What Some Call Extraduction

This fire is used to withdraw a Division away from the enemy whilst seeking to inflict continual injury upon him to hinder or break his resolve to advance.

First the files of the Division must be moved to their Open Order to facilitate the movement of souldiers between the files:

*“Musqueteers , make ready to give fire by extraduction.”*  
*“Files open to your Open Order.”*

The File Leaders of the Division give fire and then each withdraws to his right through the ranks of the division to fall on to the reere of his file and makes ready his musket. As the File Leaders withdraw, the souldiers in the second rank present and give fire.



Each rank then fires and withdraws in the same manner, with the Division losing ground, until the File Leader be in his rightful place at the head of his file.

### Firing by Salvee

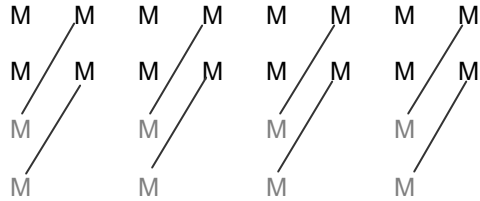
This fire is used to do great execution upon the enemy and to shatter his resolve. It is most commonly used to disorder an enemy before he is charged, but may also disorganise an enemy charge. However, it must be used with care as it leaves the Division unloaded.

First the files of the Division must be moved to their Open Order to facilitate the doubling of the Division's frontage. Then the frontage of the Division is doubled. Finally, the front rank kneels and the reere rank moves to Close Order behind the front rank:

*"Musketees; Make ready to give Fire by Salvee."*

*"Files open to your Open Order."*

*"Half files double your ranks to the right"*



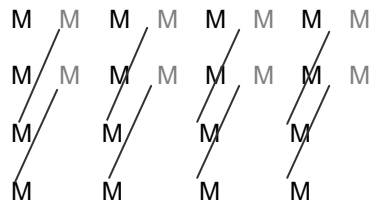
*'Front rank, kneel.'*

*Rear rank close forward to your Close Order'*

In this manner, both ranks may present and give fire at the same time, striking the enemy with a 'wall' of bullets causing great disorder. However, it leaves all the Division unloaded and unable to give fire, rendering them vulnerable to attack from Pike or Horse who press home a charge.

Afterwards, the musketeers may make ready in their position or reform their division in the original files:

*"Half files face about to the right, march forth into your places."*



(At the end of the manoeuvre, men turn about to face the front)

### Engaging the Enemy

At all times, it is vital that the Division maintains its ability to give fire or the enemy will have an opening to victory.

#### Engaging Shotte

The Division is to give fire in the manner directed by the Division Officer. In this manner the opposing shotte will be forced to stand and exchange fire, if it has the means, and cannot close upon the Division for hand to hand combat.

If a man falls as a "casualty" to fire, the man behind is to step forward into his place.

At the discretion of the Division Officer, the Division may close to an unloaded enemy, or to the flank/reere of an enemy, and engage in hand to hand combat. The Division Commander must ensure that all the musketeers are unloaded and that all do pass their match to a non-combatant before closing to the enemy.

Should the enemy retire from either fire or hand to hand combat, the Division is to maintain its files and ranks, moving forward or standing as commanded.

#### Engaging Pike

The Musket Division should give fire upon pike to cause disorder in the ranks of the enemy to hinder their advance and to assist an attack by our pike or horse. Care must be taken to maintain a continuous ability to give fire, for thus the enemy pike cannot advance upon you.

If the Musket Division is unloaded, enemy pike may advance; the Division should then yield their ground to the enemy and not attempt to engage in an uneven hand-to-hand contest.

The Musket Division, at the discretion of their officer, may engage in hand to hand combat with enemy pike using sword and butt if they are able to fall upon their flank or reere, or if there is a disparity of numbers in their favour. The Division Commander must ensure that all the musketeers are unloaded and that all do pass their match to a non-combatant before closing to the enemy.



## Disengaging

### Retiring

When commanded to “*Retire*”, the Division is to retire as a body, facing the enemy with muskets at ‘Porte.’ The Division Officer or drum will direct a pace for the retirement.

### Rallying Back

When commanded to “*Reform*,” the soldiers are break from their Division and make to the place ordered by the Division Officer with the swiftest haste.

The Division will reform in files and ranks at Order and must be ready to engage the enemy again before he is ready to attack.

## Engaging Horse

The stoutest defence for the Shotte against enemy Horse is the Pike; it is their duty to protect the Shotte.

If the Musket are near to the Pike when the enemy Horse attack, the musket should seek their shelter:

If the flanks of the Pike Division(s) are secure, the best defence is:

The Shotte form to the reere of the Pike. The Pike move their files to Close Order and charge their pikes for horse to the front, with the soldiers kneeling to allow Shotte to fire over their heads at the Horse.

If the flanks of the Pike Division(s) are not secure, there are 2 manners of defence:

1<sup>st</sup> Manner: The Pike form into a circle and move their files to Close Order with their pikes at “Port.” Shotte may move to immediately in front of the pikemen. When ordered to do so, the Pike will “Charge their pikes for horse” to protect the shotte. On some occasions, the shotte may fire their weapons from this formation at the attacking Horse.

2<sup>nd</sup> Manner: The Pike form into a circle and maintain their files at Order with their pikes at “Port.” Shotte may enter the interior of the circle and the Pike will then move to Close Order. When ordered to do so, the Pike will “Charge their pikes for horse and kneel” to allow the Shotte to fire over their heads.

This method may only be employed when several Divisions are brigaded together to form an ‘enclosure’ for the Shotte.

If the Musket are unsupported by the Pike when the enemy Horse attack, they have the following options to defend themselves:

If the flanks of the Division are secure:

Stand and give fire to break up the charge. The best fire for this is Salvee, but it requires well-disciplined troops to hold their nerve.

If the flanks of the division are not secure:

1<sup>st</sup> Manner: Rally back to the cover of hedges, walls etc that may break the charge of the horse. This is the most effective option but requires careful timing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Manner: Give Salvee fire to the enemy to disorder their advance and then form a tight bodie facing all round to stand with sword and butt.

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*“The drum is the voice of the Commander, the spur of the valiant, and the heart of the coward; and by it they must receive their directions.” – William Barriffe*

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## Of The Drum

### Drum Calls

**Commentary:** Unfortunately, no record of the drum calls used at the period appears to have survived. However, in some quarters there appears to be the idea that the various marches can be used as calls. This shows a basic misunderstanding of what a drum call is. At the Trooping of the Colour drum calls are used. These cause specific commands to be actioned subsequent to the call. As a result calls need be distinctive and different from marches as their intention is to give a preparatory order to the officers/NCOs who in turn give the verbal orders to the rank and file. To paraphrase a call is an indication of the intent to carry out, and an authorisation to order, a particular movement

It is also worth noting that there were other calls than the basic six detailed below. These included a Parley, Revally and An Allarum. However, a personal favourite gives us the modern word ‘tattoo’ as in military tattoo and is probably very apt given our social proclivities. At the time it was called the Taptoo, which comes from the Dutch “Die den tap toe” or possibly “de tap toe slaan”. This translates as “shut off the (beer) taps” and is reported as being the pneumatic of the beat used by drummers who paraded through the streets to inform publicans it was time to get rid of their military customers! It was certainly in use by at the siege of Pontefract Castle where it was the signal for “every man to his guardes or to his bed.”

Every soldier should learn six calls:

1. **Call** - Gather to your Division commander and form up in Division at Order in files and ranks. Also used when the Division has broken ranks to Rally Back/Reform.
2. **Troop** - Follow Regimental/Division commander to rendezvous with the rest of one’s brigade.

### The Sealed Knot

3. **March** - Open ranks to Open Order and march. The speed of the soldiers’ march is directed by the beat of the drum.
4. **Preparative** - Move both files and ranks to Order in preparation for engaging the enemy.
5. **Bataille** - Press forward towards the enemy, closing files to Close Order when ordered.
6. **Retreat** - An orderly retiring backwards.

The sound of each Call is to be agreed by the Regimental Commander with the Senior Drummer. Each Division Commander is to ensure that the beats are known by their men. Different beats may be used when the brigade manoeuvres as a whole.

### Marching To The Drum

**Commentary:** There are a number of marches in use within the Royalist Army with the English, Scots and French Marches, and the March of the Foot being the most common. There is evidence for many more having existed, including Swiss, Dutch, Irish, Swabian and Allemande amongst others. Practice has shown that the differing pace between marches can be useful in tactical situations. For example, using the Scots March for a slow, measured advance or the French where a quick redeployment of divisions on the field is required.

Having said this, the author would not claim to be an expert on drumming if for no other reason than the fact he cannot read music! As a result further reading is recommended, with sources listed below being a good starting point.

In marching, the drum is used to beat the rhythm to which the soldiers must march, as the majority are not well versed in the military art. A march rhythm contains 8 minims, during which a soldier takes one pace (moves forward using one step of his left foot and right foot): on the first note he places his left foot on the ground, and during the next 3 notes he raises his right foot so as to bring it down on the fifth note. During the next 3 notes he raises his left foot ready to recommence another pace.

There are many variations on the beats and length of notes used within this rhythm, but it is essential that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are emphasised. Frequently a silence of 3 minims length follows the 5<sup>th</sup> and thus helps the soldier to distinguish the beats and keep step.

Marching in step maintains order as men swing their shoulder slightly to the side of the foot that is leading. If one man were to lead with his left foot and an adjacent man with his right, they may collide, whereas, when they march in step all the shoulders incline first to one side and then the other without jostling or hindering one another. That is a great help in performing manoeuvres.

## **Finis**

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**Notes**

*Militarie Disciplines For The Royalist Army*

*The Sealed Knot*  
**Notes**



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