

CHAPTER 5

MOVEMENTS IN FORMATION—SQUAD DRILL

Introduction

1. A squad is a small body of men formed for drill or a working party.
2. When a squad is formed for training in foot or rifle drill, instruction is to be given in Open Order, the balance step and movements by number being used initially, so that when proficiency has been obtained cadets are able to judge the time themselves. When a squad is formed for training in marching, instruction is to be given in Close Order but care must still be taken to ensure that the correct length of pace and timing is taught (but *see* Chap 1, para 22 for length of pace variation).
3. A squad can be unarmed or can carry rifles. Obviously, when rifle drill is being taught the cadets must be armed and the squad size will be limited to the number of drill purpose rifles held by the squadron. When carrying rifles:
 - a. The rifle is to be carried at the slope before starting a movement in slow or quick time.
 - b. The rifle may be carried at the slope or at the short trail when moving short distances *eg* dressing, open and close order march, squad movement sideways and for a given number of paces, forming two ranks from three and vice versa.
 - c. The rifle is to be carried at the short trail when sizing.
 - d. The rifle is to be carried at the trail when a squad is marching in double time.

Forming a Squad

4. The squad commander is to select a cadet and inform him that he is the marker. The squad commander then takes up a position three paces in front of the point on which he wishes the squad to form. On the command

RIGHT - MARKER

the marker comes to attention, slopes arms if carrying rifles, marches forward and halts facing the squad commander at three paces from him, orders arms if appropriate, and stands at ease.

5. On the command

ON - PARADE

marker and cadets come to attention. The squad observe a pause equal to one pace in quick time then slope arms if appropriate, and march forward to form up in three ranks. Three ranks are formed by the first two cadets covering the marker at one pace of 75 cms (30 ins) heel-to-heel intervals. These three form the first file. The remaining cadets form up on the left of the first file thus forming three ranks. As each cadet reaches his position he halts, orders arms if appropriate, quickly takes up his dressing, and stands at ease. Incomplete files are to be positioned as the second file from the left flank. If there are only two cadets for the file the centre rank is

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left blank and if only one cadet the centre and rear ranks are to be left blank (Fig 11). A blank file of one cadet in a squad, if halted and turned about, is to take two paces forward.

6. Squads of less than nine cadets are to be formed up in two ranks with the same intervals. The drill movements are the same except that cadets will march in COLUMN OF TWOS instead of COLUMN OF THREES.

7. Once the squad is formed and all cadets are standing at ease the squad commander exercises command by giving the orders

SQUAD ATTENTION
SQUAD STAND AT EASE

Roll-Call

8. On roll-call, when a cadet's name is called he is to come to attention, answer "Flight Sergeant" "Sergeant" or "Corporal" as the case may be; "Warrant Officer" if a cadet warrant officer is calling the roll; or "Sir" if a civilian instructor, ATC warrant officer, or an officer is calling the roll.

Sizing

9. The squad commander selects the tallest cadet and stands him one pace in front of the right marker and then gives the orders

SQUAD ATTENTION
TALLEST ON THE RIGHT, SHORTEST ON THE LEFT,
IN SINGLE RANK - SIZE

whereupon the remaining cadets, holding rifles at the short trail, are to turn to the left, break ranks and fall in, in single rank, according to size, on the left of the selected marker, dressing without interval.

10. The squad commander then gives the order

SQUAD - NUMBER

and cadets are to turn their head and eyes smartly to the right. The right marker is to start the numbering by calling out "ONE", the next cadet on his left is to turn his head to the front whilst calling out "TWO" and so on. The squad commander then orders

ODD NUMBERS, TWO PACES STEP FORWARD - MARCH

the even numbers are to stand fast and the odd numbers are to take two paces forward. On the command

NUMBER ONE STAND FAST, RANKS, RIGHT AND LEFT - TURN

the odd numbers, with the exception of No 1, are to turn to the right and the even numbers are to turn to the left. On the command

FORM SQUAD, QUICK - MARCH

cadets, with the exception of No 1 are to step off, the even numbers wheeling to the right and following the left-hand cadet of the odd numbers rank. No 3 is to halt one pace in rear of No 1; No 5 is to halt one pace in rear of No 3; No 7 is to be to the

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left of No 1; No 9 in the rear of No 7 and so on. Cadets, on reaching their respective places, are to turn to their left and take up their dressing by the right.

Dressing

11. The squad commander then gives the order

SQUAD, RIGHT - DRESS

whereupon each cadet, except the right-hand cadet of each rank, is to turn his head and eyes smartly to the right. Cadets in the front rank are to raise their right arms horizontally (left arms if carrying rifles), hand clenched, the backs of the hands upward with the knuckles touching the cadet immediately on their right (left with arms). After this movement there is to be a pause equal to one pace in quick time (half a second) and then each cadet is to take up his dressing in line by moving with short quick paces until he is able to see the lower part of the face of the second man beyond him. The shoulders are to be kept square to the front without bending the body or head forward or backward. Cadets in the centre and rear ranks are to cover those in the front rank at one pace (heel-to-heel) distance, this distance being measured by the right-hand cadet of the centre and rear ranks who, at the same time as the front rank, are also to raise their arms, hands clenched, to just touch the cadet in front. When dressing with rifles the rifle is to be held at the short trail *ie* at the order with the butt raised one inch.

12. On the command

EYES - FRONT

each cadet, except the right-hand cadet of each rank, is to turn his head smartly to the front. All those with raised arms are to bring their arms smartly to their sides without bending their elbows or striking their thighs.

13. If it were necessary to LEFT DRESS then exactly the same procedure would be followed except that the left arms are to be raised and cadets are to turn their heads to the left.

14. Each individual cadet is responsible for his correct dressing on parade. This applies during all parade movements. Cadets must therefore get used to this dressing and maintain it while marching and manoeuvring.

15. Sometimes cadets are ordered to dress without interval in which case the same principles are followed except that the arm is bent and the clenched hand rested on the right hip at belt level. The bent elbow is just to touch the left arm of the cadet on the right. When it is necessary to dress without intervals, the command

WITHOUT INTERVALS, RIGHT (LEFT) - DRESS

is to be given.

Open and Close Order

16. Open order is used for inspections and for practising drill movements including rifle drill. On the command

OPEN ORDER - MARCH

the front rank is to take two paces forward and the rear rank two paces backward.

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17. On the command

CLOSE ORDER - MARCH

the rear rank is to take two paces forward and the front rank two paces backward. (During these movements, arms are held steady at the sides.)

18. It is usual to RIGHT DRESS after each open and close order.

Marching in Formation

19. The foundation of good marching in formation depends on:

- a. Keeping step.
- b. Maintaining exact covering.
- c. Maintaining dressing.
- d. Maintaining the prescribed distance and intervals between individuals.
- e. Swinging all arms to the same height. When on the march in quick time, the front arm is to swing forward to waist high level, while the other swings to the rear to the same level.

20. A squad marches:

a. In line, *ie* stepping off directly ahead as formed up, keeping dressing by glancing (without turning the head) to the right if ordered to march by the right or to the left if ordered to march by the left. A squad marching in line can change direction right or left by making a right or left turn while on the march (*ie* change from marching in line to marching in column of threes); or retire (*ie* about turn and move in the opposite direction), or can march on an inclined route by all making a right or left incline.

or

b. In column of threes *ie* turning to the right or left and then stepping off following the cadet ahead so that each rank becomes a column of cadets. The squad commander and supernumeraries (if any) maintain their positions. In this formation the "column" changes direction by "wheeling" to the right or left as required

or

c. In column of route in the same way as for column of threes except that the formation commander and supernumeraries (if any) all take up their allotted positions at the head or rear of the column. Thus in column of route no one marches outside the column. The positions taken up by the commander and supernumeraries are not described in this chapter and is left to the chapters on ceremonial drill.

Marching in Line

21. On the command

BY THE RIGHT (OR LEFT), QUICK - MARCH

the squad is to step off (Fig 11). The front cadet of the file on the flank which has been named, is to select points ahead of him so as to maintain direction. The cadets of each rank, with the exception of the directing file, are to glance occasionally to the named flank (without turning the head) in order to maintain their dressing. The cadets in the centre and rear ranks cover off the cadet in the rank in front and

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On the order ABOUT this man marks time 2 paces so that when TURN is given he will be in position in the front rank. If the squad is turned about at the halt, he takes two paces forward (in order to join the front rank) after turning about.

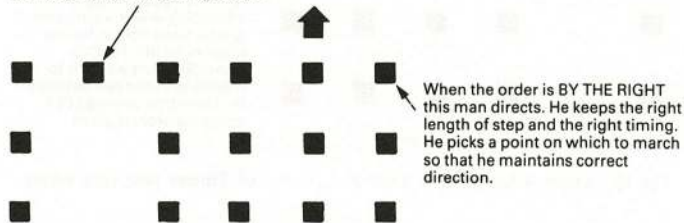


Fig 11 Marching in Line

maintain their correct distance from him—it being particularly important that the three cadets in the file on the directing flank do this.

22. On the command

SQUAD WILL RETIRE, ABOUT - TURN

given when the left heel strikes the ground all cadets turn about stepping off again in the new direction with the right foot. The squad commander then gives the new directing flank

BY THE LEFT (or RIGHT)

and on completion

SQUAD WILL ADVANCE, ABOUT - TURN

followed by

BY THE RIGHT (or LEFT)

23. A squad marching in line can be turned so as to march to the right or left in column of threes (Fig 12). On the command

MOVE TO THE RIGHT (or LEFT) IN COLUMN OF THREES,
RIGHT (or LEFT) - TURN

given when the opposite heel strikes the ground each cadet turns to his right (or left) and continues marching in the new direction. When the move is completed the squad commander gives the new directing flank.

BY THE LEFT (or RIGHT)

24. In the same way a squad marching in column of threes can be turned to march in line. On the command

INTO LINE LEFT (or RIGHT) - TURN

given when the opposite heel strikes the ground, each cadet turns to his right (or

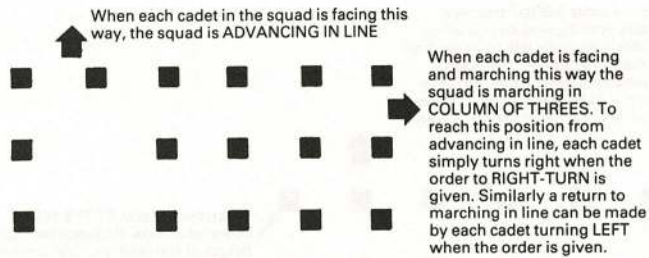


Fig 12 From Advancing in Line to Column of Threes and vice versa

left) and continues marching in the new direction. When the move is completed the squad commander gives the new directing flank

BY THE RIGHT (or LEFT)

25. A test of good marching is indicated by the position of the cadets when they are turned into line. If they have been keeping step, maintaining exact covering, maintaining their dressing and maintaining the prescribed distance and intervals from cadet to cadet, there should be no gaps or irregularities in a line after turning and the squad should occupy the same frontage as before it moved to the flank. Instructors should encourage a high standard in squad drill.

Marching In Column of Threes

26. A squad is in column of threes when it is turned to the right (or left) from the "in line" position. In paras 23 and 24 we have seen how this happens when a squad is marching. But this formation can, of course, be reached from the Halt. If a squad is formed up in line in three ranks on the command

MOVE TO THE RIGHT (or LEFT), RIGHT (or LEFT) - TURN

each cadet in the squad turns to his right (or left) and the squad is then in column of threes. In this formation the squad commander maintains his position three paces to the left of the centre of the front rank. On the command

BY THE LEFT (or RIGHT), QUICK - MARCH

the whole squad steps off and is marching in column of threes.

Changing Direction of March—Wheeling

27. When a squad is marching in column of threes (or column of route) they change direction by "wheeling". On the command

CHANGE DIRECTION, RIGHT (or LEFT) - WHEEL

the right- (or left-) hand cadet of the leading line of three on the inside of the turn is to move around on the arc of a circle (radius 1.4 m (4 ft)) and step short six paces of 30 cms (12 ins) to enable the other two cadets of the file to wheel with him (Fig 13). They are to look inwards towards him as they wheel. When the line has wheeled through a quarter of a circle (90 degrees), it is to lead on in the new direction and the cadets are to turn their heads to the front. The remaining lines of three are to

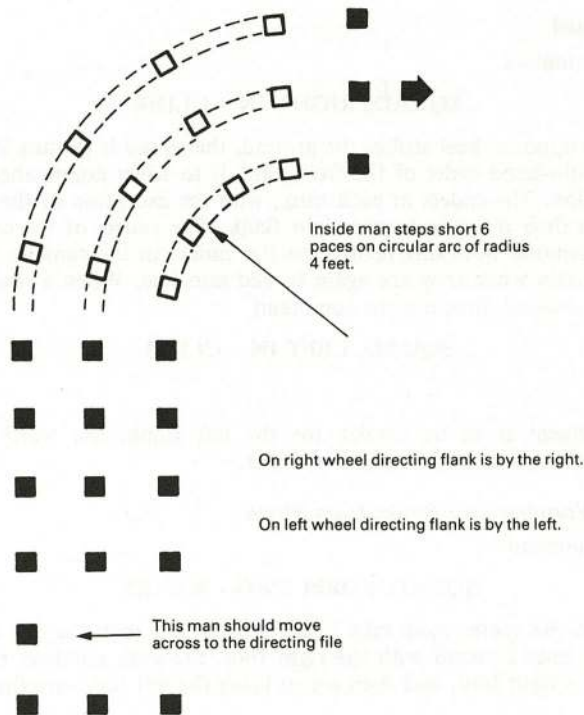


Fig 13 Right wheel

follow the leading line of three without looking inwards. When wheeling the arms to be swung, but cadets on the inside or directing flanks, will be taking short paces. The arms should swing accordingly.

28. When a squad is ordered to halt or mark time and only part of it has wheeled in the new direction, the command

REAR FILES - COVER

is to be given. The lines of three which have not wheeled are to cover those lines of three that have wheeled and are to move to their places by the shortest route.

29. When a squad is required to wheel at an angle less than a complete right or left wheel the command

FOR - WARD

is to be given when the leading line of three is facing in the required direction.

Forming Line From Threes Facing a Flank When Halted

30. When a squad in column of threes (or in column of route) is halted, "in line" formation can be obtained as follows. On the command

INTO LINE, LEFT (or RIGHT) - TURN

each cadet of the squad is to turn in the direction indicated.

Marching Inclined

31. On the command

SQUAD, RIGHT IN - CLINE

given when the opposite heel strikes the ground, the squad is to turn in the direction ordered. The right-hand cadet of the front rank is to select points ahead in order to maintain direction. The cadets of each rank, with the exception of the directing file, are to maintain their dressing by the right flank. The cadets of the centre and rear ranks are to maintain positions relative to the cadets in the rank in front, so that they cover correctly when they are again turned into line. When a squad is required to move in the original direction the command

SQUAD, LEFT IN - CLINE

is to be given.

32. The movement is to be similar for the left flank, the word "left" being substituted for the word "right" and vice versa.

Squad in Line Forming Two Ranks from Three

33. On the command

SQUAD, FORM TWO - RANKS

all the cadets in the centre rank take a pace to the left with the left foot, the odd numbers take a pace forward with the right foot, the even numbers take a pace to the rear, with the right foot, and then are to bring the left foot into the right.

Squad in Line in Two Ranks Forming Three Ranks

34. On the command

SQUAD, FORM THREE - RANKS

the odd numbers of the original centre rank are to take a pace to the rear with the left foot and the even numbers of the original centre rank are to take a pace forward with the left foot then all take a pace to the right with the right foot and the left foot is to be brought into the right.

35. When a squad is in the retired position (*ie* with the rear rank in the front) the movements detailed above are to be reversed.

36. On completion of the movement the command

SQUAD, RIGHT (or LEFT) - DRESS

is to be given

Forming Two Files and Single File From Column of Threes

37. On the command (marching to the right)

FORM TWO - FILES

the odd numbers of the centre rank are to disengage to the left rear and take up their positions behind their respective front rank cadets. At the same time the even numbers of the centre rank are to disengage to the right rear and take up their

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positions behind their respective rear rank cadets. Cadets are to adjust their correct distance in succession from front to rear.

38. On the command (marching to the right)

FORM SINGLE - FILE

cadets of the file on the right are to take up their positions behind the cadet immediately on their left. Cadets are to adjust their correct distances in succession from front to rear without further orders.

Returning to Two Files and Three Files From Single File

39. On the command (marching to the right)

FORM TWO - FILES

the cadets of the original right hand files are to return to their positions on the right of the cadets immediately in front of them. During this movement the leading cadet (of the left file) is to step short. The remainder are then enabled to correct their distance and dressing, then step short. When the squad is re-formed the order is to be given

QUICK - MARCH

40. On the command (marching to the right)

FORM THREE - FILES

the odd numbered cadets of the original centre file are to disengage to their right front and the even numbered cadets of the original centre file are to disengage to the left front and return to their positions abreast of their respective left and right cadets. During this movement, the leading cadets of the left and right files are to step short. The remainder are to correct their distance and dressing and are then to step short. When the squad is re-formed the order is to be given

QUICK - MARCH

Dismissing Without Arms

41. **No Officer Present.** On the command

SQUAD, DIS - MISS

cadets are to turn half-right, observe a pause equal to one pace in quick time (half a second) then break off quietly and leave the parade-ground marching in quick time.

42. **Officer Present.** When an officer requires cadets under his command to be dismissed, he is to order an adult warrant officer, cadet warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or cadet to dismiss them and the officer is to return the salute. On the command

OFFICER ON PARADE, SQUAD, DIS - MISS

cadets are to turn half-right, observe a pause equal to one pace in quick time (half a second) and salute. On completion of the salute (timing equal to two paces in quick time) observe a further pause equal to one pace in quick time and then break off quietly and leave the parade-ground marching in quick time.

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Dismissing With Arms

43. Cadets armed with rifles are to be dismissed at the slope and on the command

DIS - MISS

they are to carry out the procedure detailed at para 41 or 42.

Saluting

44. When a squad is commanded by a cadet, compliments are to be paid to all officers—but cadets in the party do not salute; instead they pay compliments by turning the head and eyes to the RIGHT OR LEFT. The squad commander is to give the command

EYES - RIGHT (or LEFT)

whereupon he is to salute and complete the salute by giving the command

EYES - FRONT

45. Similarly, when a squad is commanded by an officer, compliments are to be paid as for officers moving about alone, *ie* officers below squadron leader rank salute all officers of that rank and above, while officers of squadron leader rank and above salute their superiors.

MARCH DISCIPLINE

Safety

1. **Head and Rear of a Column.** An officer or NCO is to march at the head and rear of each marching unit.
2. **Traffic Safety.** In accordance with JQRs, when troops are moving by foot on public roads in formed bodies, look-out personnel are to be posted at a suitable distance in front and to the rear to warn the drivers of approaching vehicles. In daylight these personnel are to wear the high visibility reflective waistcoat (CH/8415-99-137-9574) and use appropriate hand signals. In darkness or conditions of poor visibility, the high visibility reflective waistcoat is to be worn and, additionally, two white lights in front and two red lights at the rear are to be so positioned as to indicate the width of the column. Instruction on the necessary hand signals is to be given to the look-out personnel. All formed bodies of troops are to observe traffic signals.

Marching in Column

3. Units moving in column of route, which is the normal formation for marching distances, are to march well into the nearside of the road (depending upon the local rule of the road) so as not to impede traffic. The directing flank is similarly to be in accordance with the rule of the road. In all, a marching body is to be conducted on the road in the same manner as a vehicle.

Distances

4. The following distances are normally to be kept between units in column of route:
 - a. Between flights 6 paces (4.5 m)
 - b. Between squadrons 10 paces (7.5 m)
 - c. Between wings 24 paces (18 m)

An increase of intervals may be ordered.

Rate of Marching

5. The rate of marching is normally to be 120 paces per minute (or about 4.5 kph including rest halts). The pace is, however, to be strictly regulated from the head of the column to avoid exhausting those in the rear.
6. Cadets are not to be doubled in order to make up lost distances. These are to be made up gradually, or by halting, or by a slower rate at the column head.

Rules for Marching

7. Files of threes are to be kept dressed, closed up, and covered off. No officer or NCO is to march outside the column.
8. Cadets are to keep step, maintain exact covering and dressing, and maintain prescribed distances and intervals from person to person.

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9. The instruction to march at Ease or at Attention is to be given as a verbal order which is to be passed down the column:

a. *Marching at Attention.* Units are to be marched at Attention when entering or leaving a station or barracks, or passing through a town or when paying compliments. When marching at attention cadets are to carry their arms in a like manner as ordered by the unit commander.

b. *Marching at Ease.* Except when described in sub-para a. above, units may be marched at Ease at the discretion of the unit commander. This means that cadets, while maintaining step, pace, cover, dressing and distance, may otherwise relax and may talk quietly. Arms may be carried in the manner found the most comfortable to the individual.

Moving Off and Halting

10. Units are to move off and halt by sub-units when the order is given.

Long Marches

11. **Changeover Ranks.** On long marches it is desirable to change over periodically the personnel of the inner and outer flanks so that all may share the vagaries of the road surface (smooth, sloping, lower, gutter, rough, *etc*).

12. **Falling Out.** Personnel who through fatigue are unable to keep up are to be instructed to follow in the rear of the column. Permission to do so is to be given by an officer.

13. **Singing.** Organized singing (when marching at Ease) is to be encouraged as it helps cadets to forget fatigue.

14. **Halts.** During long marches, halts are to be made for ten minutes rest after every hour's marching, irrespective of the time of the start or the end of the march. During halts, roads, including crossings and junctions, are to be left clear for traffic. Personnel bearing equipment are to lay this down during each rest halt and take it up again one minute before starting. In suitable conditions, personnel are to be encouraged to lie down and, if possible, raise their feet to permit the blood to circulate.

15. **Longer Halts.** Longer halts may be authorized every few hours, during which time feeding *etc* may take place.

16. **Refuse.** All refuse from a halt is to be gathered up and buried or burnt before moving off.

17. **Drinking and Feeding.** Drinking and feeding are only to take place as authorized by the unit commander at organized halts. Water carried is to be fresh and receptacles clean. Personnel are to be reminded that smoking decreases endurance and that thirst is aggravated rather than reduced by frequent recourse to drinking water.

18. **Foot Inspection.** For any sustained march, the unit commander is to inspect feet before and immediately afterwards. Particular attention is to be paid to the fitting of footwear and the cleanliness of feet and socks, to prevent discomfort and soreness.

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