

## Marching

<p>Front. C M M M M M M M M S.4 M M M M D.2. M M M M M M M M M M M M E. P P P P P P P P D.1. P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P S.1. P P P P P P P P D.4. P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P S.2. M M M M M M M M M M M M D.3. M M M M M M M M S.3. M M M M L</p>	<p>Colonel Barriffe calls this the 'Deep March.' Spacing from one file to the adjacent must be at Order and spacing from one rank to another front is to be at Open Order.</p> <p>Note the divisions within the column. Musketeers are formed into two groups, one at the front and one at the back, with pike in the middle. In this configuration, the marching column can quickly and readily be converted into a battle formation.</p> <p>Study the placement of the officers, sergeants, drummers and ensign. Although the commander leads and the lieutenant is at the rear, as in the battle formation, the sergeants and drummers are in particular places in the march based on their ranking or "Dignitie." The number-one sergeant is in the center whereas the number-four sergeant is at the front right, near the commander. Likewise, the number-one drummer is near the center, in front of some pikemen who precede the number-one sergeant.</p> <p>The ensign is NOT at the front end with the commander. Instead, he is about a third the way back, behind the first division of musketeers. Musketeers and pikemen march between the ensign and the nearest drummers. It is in battle formation the ensign comes to the side of the commander.</p> <p>Aware that companies come in assorted sizes, Colonel Barriffe offers: "If the Company be but small, then it is best to make but two Divisions, one of the Muskettiers, another of the Pike... If you have but three Drums, let the Drum in the second Division of Pikes be wanting: If only two, then upon a march the first between the third and fourth Rank of the Front Disivion of Muskettiers. The second between the third and fourth Rank of the second Division of Pikes."*</p> <p>And on a final note: "...that between each Division in march there ought to be a twelve-foot distance, six foot before the Officer and six foot behind him."</p>
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A lexicon of symbols used in the above diagram:

C - captain or commander  
D - drummer  
E - ensign  
L - lieutenant  
M - musketeer  
P - pikeman  
S – sergeant

Sergeant Subtleus says:

The captain is to be at the front of the column to lead it, to be the body's head. The ensign, however, bearing the essence of the company's spirit, is within the body of the company where the spirit thrives.

## Moving Wide Ranks Through Narrow Passages

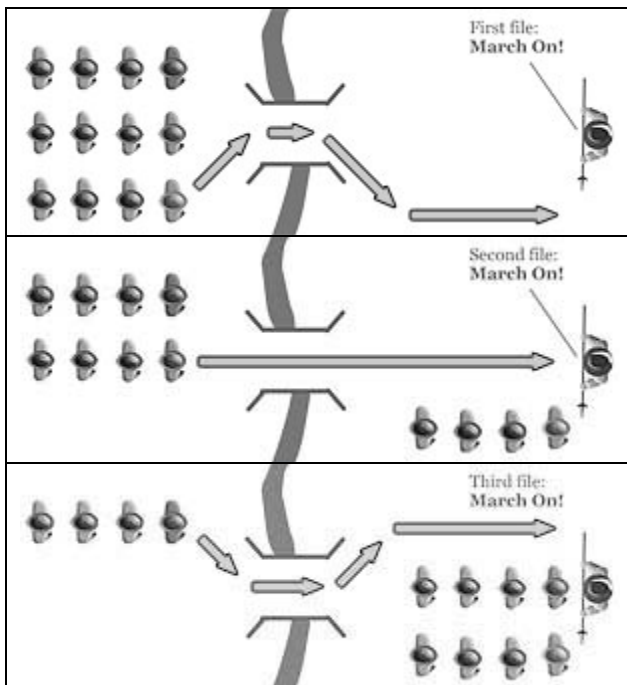
Commands:

Several in sequence, the first being: **"One file by the right, [proceed] and resume your order [at that ground]."**

Frequently encountered in a march is the space too narrow for full ranks of soldiers to pass through. One method, albeit crude, is to tell the troops to break formation and regroup on the other side of that space. A more orderly method is to have the unit pass through the space file by file (or two files by two files, etc., space permitting) and resume the formation on the other side.

Notes WITHIN the Flash animation:

1. The officer or sergeant would state firmly something like: **"Upon my command, one file by the right cross that bridge, and resume your order on the other side."**



Sergeant Subtleus says:

After going through the passage, the File Leader for each file may be shown where to stop by the officer or sergeant holding in front of himself his partizan, halberd or drawn sword at that place 90o to the files and parallel with the ground. (Or he can merely point.)

## Moving Wide Ranks Through Narrow Passages

Commands:

Two, the first of which is: **"Files, file to the right."**

The second of which is: **"File leaders, lead up your files as you were to this ground."**

After soldiers have sufficiently drilled for proceeding a file at a time, they may expand their repertoire by understanding this command: "Files, file to the right." It means one file at a time, beginning with the right-most file, proceeds forward and then without further commands the next file falls in behind, and so on. Of course they need to be informed where to stop and whether or not to resume their former order at that place. The animation above has the soldiers resuming their former order; if the officer or sergeant wishes them to remain in one file, the command could be as: "Maintain one file and march on."

Notes WITHIN the Flash animation:

To have all files proceed without pause, one immediately behind the other, the command should be: "Files, file to the right." Before the first file reaches the regrouping area, that command would be followed by: "File leaders, lead up your files as you were to this ground."

The pictured procedure is the same as "One file by the right, [proceed] and resume your order," but without the commander ordering each file at a time to proceed. As one file is coming to its place, the next follows behind without prompting.

Sergeant Subtlellus says:

If the officer or sergeant is feeling adventurous, he could make one file from BOTH sides with the command: "Files, file to the right AND LEFT." After the right-most file has moved and is clear, the left-most file falls in behind it, then the second right-most file falls in behind that one, and so on, narrowing the unit down on both sides, alternating from side to side. This is one way to bring musketeers who had been sleeves on both sides of the unit into one division at the front, with the pike, who had constituted the center, becoming the second and following division.

Chapt. 32, The Young Artilleryman...

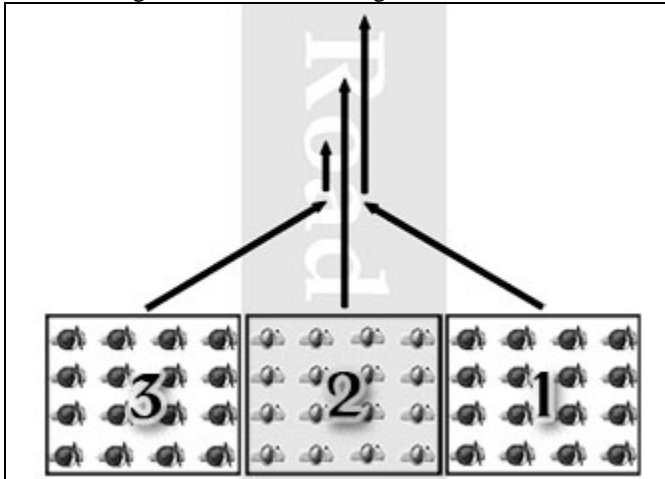
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## From Battlefield Formation to a Marching Column

The width of a battlefield formation will not fit the width of the usual road (unless a re-enactment officer orders all out onto a multi-lane freeway). Hence, a narrowed column is required for the march. In today's army, the battlefield formation could simply face left or right then march away. In 17th Century armies, this could cause confusion because the direction all faced on the battlefield could be 90o to the soldiers' orientation during the march. Think where such a movement places all the File Leaders for the march (you're right, one behind the other). To resume the proper placement of File Leaders to their respective files, the column would have to re-turn 90o in the other direction. If a unit performed several right faces and left faces, then the confusion could be so much that, well, recall the old Abbott and Costello routine, "Who's on First?" An officer's jovial demeanor would quickly burn away.

17th Century armies simply enlarged on that concept already illuminated in the little lesson on passing a wide unit through a narrow space. The ranks of the battlefield formation could be divided into divisions clearly delineated and everyone made to understand. Division by division, one behind the other, the entire unit could proceed with the march, as illustrated below.

Since the right-most division (#1) below has the greatest "Dignitie," it is the first to move. It is followed by the division with the next highest "Dignitie," (#2), thence by the last division (#3). All three divisions will make a single column of four long files.



Notes WITHIN the Flash animation:

1. As with moving a wide unit of soldiers through a narrow passage file by file, the same method can apply to converting a battlefield formation into a marching formation. In this type of situation, several files may march together, the width of the rank determined by the width of the space - and confirmed by the officer before proceeding.
2. However the officer elects to divide the ranks, the right hand division always takes the lead and the division to its immediate left follows - and so on. The battlefield formation may be reformed by undoing this procedure similar to the bridge-crossing example except on a larger scale.

In addition, be aware of the position of musketeers in relation to pikemen in the battlefield formation and thence on the march. The pike form the center of the formation in both situations. With pike in the middle of the marching column, the entire force may then readily assume a battlefield formation without any division having to cross the path of another.

By the way, prior to giving the command for the march, the officer should widen the distance between ranks to Open Order (an appropriate command for that is "Ranks open forward to your Open Order!").

Sergeant Subtlelus says:

Since the battlefield formation is the *raison d'être* of an assembly of soldiers, good sense would have this also be the form-up formation. Each soldier can then become familiar with his placement and everyone else's before confronting pike, shot, horse and artillery.

Chapt 7, the Young Artilleryman...

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## From Marching Column to a Battlefield Formation

Not surprising, the usual method for moving a unit of soldiers to where the battle may take place is by the march. Once there, the unit must then be arrayed for battle, which means transforming the unit from narrow and long to wide and short, all in an orderly fashion so as not to present a moment's opportunity for

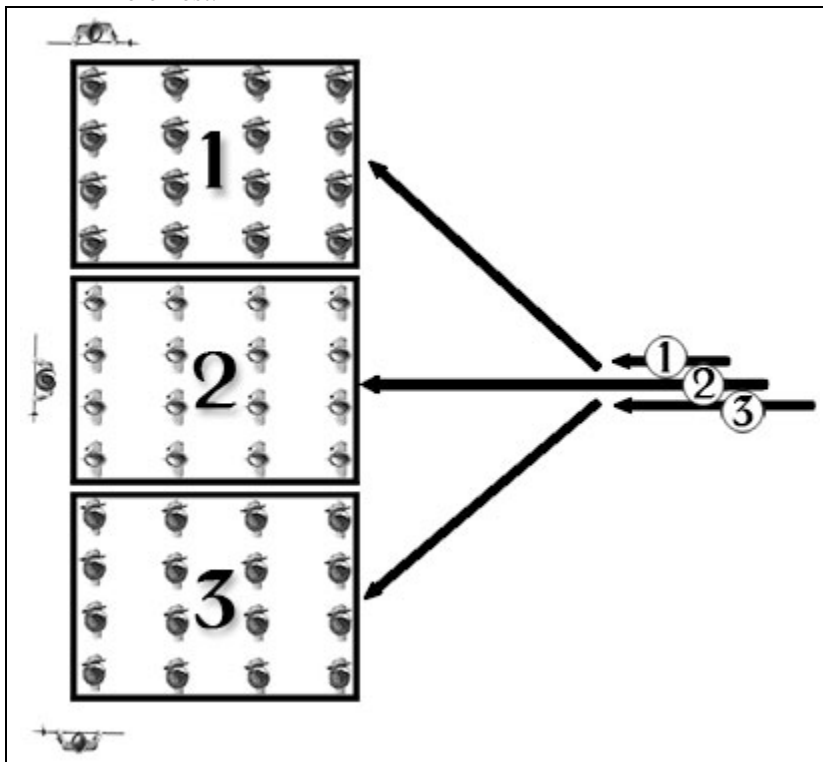
the enemy to strike. The procedure is essentially the reverse of a battle-arrayed unit forming up for the march.

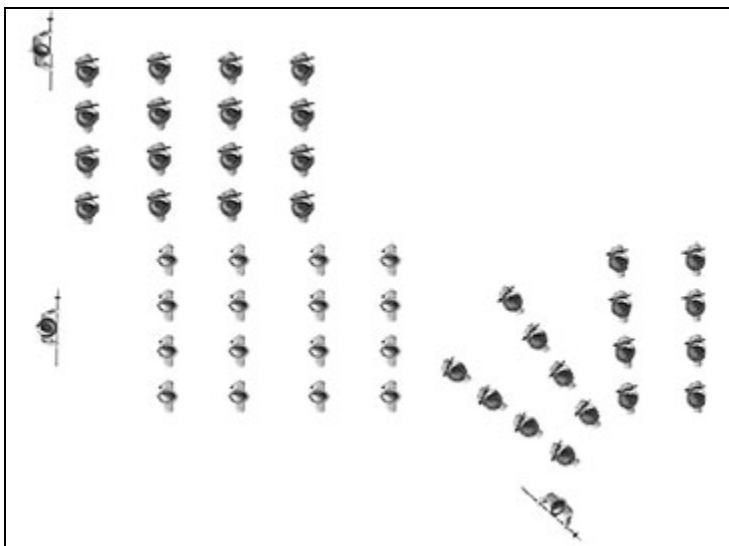
Divisions within the unit are predetermined by the commanding officer and every soldier has been told to which division he belongs. At the place that officer selects, the column is told to "Stand!" The commander directs the divisions into battle formation, which are then guided to their places by sergeants and one of their commands being "To this ground!"

1. The column for the march was formed in anticipation of the unit arraying itself properly for battle later. For this, the officer wished to have the musketeers be the sleeves (a.k.a. wings) of the battlefield formation. Therefore, he formed the column with the sleeves-to-be at each end, dividing musketeers into the two groups (divisions), with the division of pikemen in the column's middle to become the core of the battlefield formation. Upon the officer's command, the marching column will array itself into battlefield formation according to its divisions.
2. The lead division, which is the first group of musketeers, takes the place of highest Dignitie, which is the right side of the battlefield formation. Each division in its turn takes its position to the left of that first division; in this case the division of pikemen moves into place immediately to the left of the leftmost file of the first division of musketeers, and then the second division of musketeers moves into its place to the left of the leftmost file of pikemen.

Note that no division crosses in front of any other division (to do so would be inviting the enemy to: "Attack now and throw us into disarray."). Once in battlefield formation, the direction the entire unit faces is its Front Proper with all File Leaders at the heads of their respective files.

Colonel Barriffe places sergeants at each corner of the battle formation and the commander foremost.





Note that with the pikemen in the center of the column, they can readily assume the center of the battle formation (which Colonel Barriffe referred to as "Battel").

By the way, after the divisions have taken their respective positions for battle, an officer should decrease the depth of the unit (an appropriate command for which is "Ranks close forward to your Order!").

Sergeant Subtlelus says:

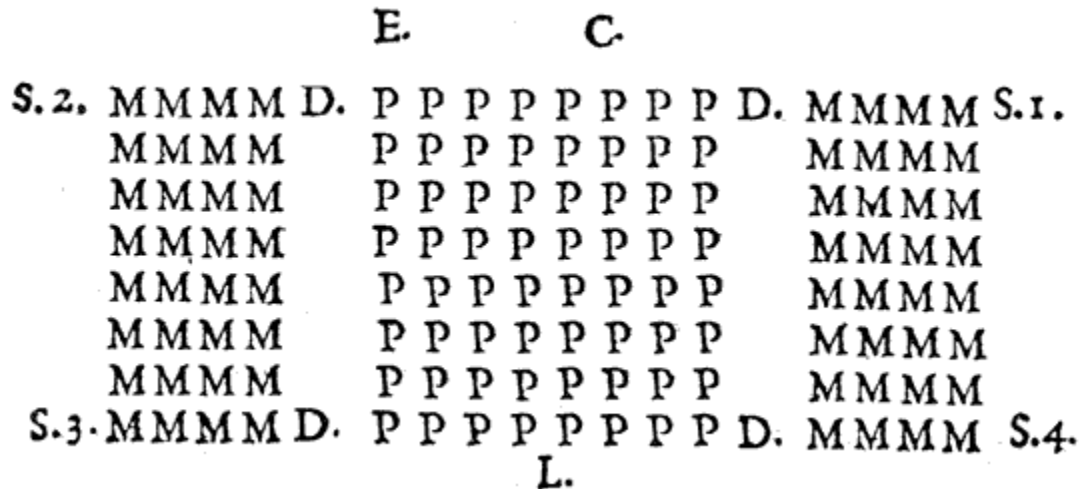
When soldiers are on the march, they have their weapons shouldered, and may keep them in such manner even when divisions are deploying to Battel. But before the command is uttered, "Ranks close forward to your Order," all should be told to bring their arms to advance or a battle-ready posture. Any soldier would be somewhat inconvenienced by being tripped, poked or prodded by his file mate's shouldered weapon.

Chapt. 8, The Young Artilleryman...

## Battle Formation

Colonel Barriffe provides this\* to illustrate the way all members of a unit should be arrayed in preparation for battle. Not only are pikemen and musketeers represented here but so are others: captain or commander, lieutenant, drummers, sergeants and ensign (flag bearer for those new to this).

Note and remember the positions of each kind in relation to the others.



The commander and ensign are at the front to lead, to orient and to inspire the soldiers (plus the commander has to see what to do next). Sergeants are at each corner to coordinate and to be sure all soldiers within shouting distance obey the commander's orders. Drummers are at the front and rearmost ranks, here between the musketeers and the pike. Drummers, with their drumbeats, repeat and emphasize the commands. At the rear is the lieutenant, placed there primarily to keep him protected so that he would be available to step forward to take command should the commander fall. The lieutenant can also provide guidance from his position and be sure no soldier shirks his duty.

A lexicon of symbols used in the above diagram:

- C - captain or commander
- D - drummer
- E - ensign
- L - lieutenant
- M - musketeer
- P - pikeman
- S – sergeant

\*Chapt. 7, Military Discipline...

Sergeant Subtleus says:

The new soldier in his first battle will quickly come to understand that the ensign and drummers are not mere ornaments for the unit. With the copious smoke produced by musket and cannon, and their din, plus the shouts and cries across the battlefield, the ensign and drummers provide sometimes the only communication that can reach a soldier.

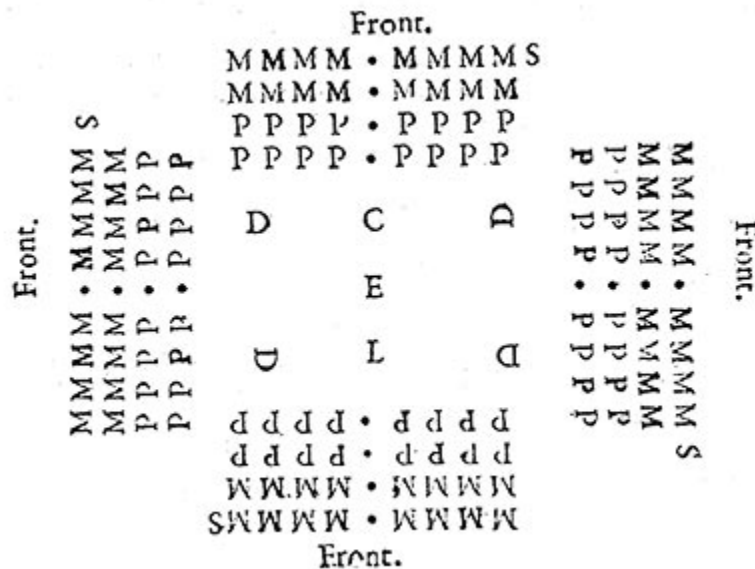
## The Hollow Square

Commands: "**Form a Hollow Square!**" followed immediately by "**Charge for Horse!!!!**" plus other commands and expletives

In a tone rather subdued for the topic, Colonel Barriffe recommends this defensive formation "...be used in times of necessity..." A situation demanding the hollow square does not allow a leisurely consideration of options and advisement from committees. Especially when charging cavalry bears down on the soldiers, there is VERY little time to assume the hollow square; from 50 meters a horse at a gallop can close the gap faster than a frightened soldier can wet his breeches. Every soldier must scramble as fast as possible to get into place.

And the order may be given at any time with any arrangement of troops, from the march to a wheel to musketeers skirmishing. Therefore, no animation can serve as an example of every instance. An illustration of the final configuration from Colonel Barriffe's work is presented instead.\*

Soldiers on each side of the square face out. All assume battle postures, with the front ranks of pike at Charge for Horse. Colonel Barriffe has the musketeers position themselves before the pike, but can be behind if the commander so chooses: "...the Musquettiers may more commodiously fight before their Pikes, and with lesse danger to their own body: therefore I conceive it fittest at first to place them in front of their Pikes. And if the enemy shall too hotly press them with his Horse, then at the discretion of the Commander, they may safely retire behind their Pikes..."



A lexicon of symbols used in the above diagram:

C - captain or commander  
D - drummer  
E - ensign  
L - lieutenant

M - musketeer  
P - pikeman  
S - sergeant  
Note the positions of each relative to one another

\*Chapt. 105, The Young Artilleryman...