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Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered

Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House,
37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK

Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including
instructions for authors and
subscription information:

[http://www.tandfonline.com/
loi/rusi19](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19)

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Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Lieutenat-Colonel R. v. Boguslawski & W. Sawyer (1883) Instructions for the Conduct of the Infantry Soldier in Action, Royal United Services Institution. Journal, 27:120, 531-539, DOI: [10.1080/03071848309427120](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071848309427120)

To link to this article: [http://
dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071848309427120](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071848309427120)

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE INFANTRY
SOLDIER IN ACTION.¹

By Lieutenant-Colonel R. v. BOGUSLAWSKI.

Translated by Captain W. SAWYER, Royal Lancaster Regiment.

[The framer of these "Instructions" is the author of the "Tactische Folgerungen" and a number of other valuable works well known to military students. Colonel Boguslawski has most kindly given his permission for the insertion of a translation of the "Instructions" in this Journal.—L. A. H.]

Preface.

IN publishing these "Instructions for the Conduct of the Infantry Soldier in Action," which were originally printed for use in the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Regiment No. 6, in the place of the books of instruction in general use in the Army, I am complying with the request repeatedly made to me to render it accessible to larger numbers.

Notwithstanding the numerous improvements made in the compilation of similar books of instruction during the last decade, a conclusive solution of this difficult though apparently insignificant subject cannot be said to have been arrived at.

Besides general comprehensibility, clearness, and simplicity, a suitable arrangement of the matter and a composition adapted to the perceptive faculties of the soldier are principal conditions to be fulfilled.

Frequently, however, the soldier is still supplied with too much on some points and too little on others. For instance, the following may be regarded as too much:—Tactical details and formations which the soldier learns on the parade ground, or matters connected with troop leading when gone into at any length.

As too little:—When the conditions of real warfare are superficially considered, or perhaps not touched upon at all, which, the rather, should be handed down with all the greater faithfulness, the longer the duration of peace.

The main requirements of theoretical instruction appear to me to be briefly to lay before the soldier simple, easily understood rules for fighting, illustrating the fundamental laws, and representing a true picture of real warfare, and to convey to him only so much of the duties of commanders as actually concerns him.

This is the first object I have had in view. My second object is to assist superiors as much as possible in imparting instruction, for it is an old-established experience amongst troops, that most instructors find great difficulty in adopting a suitable subdivision and following the thread of the subject, especially when giving instruction on "the Battle."

The object of arranging the subject into short subdivisions and numbered propositions is further to facilitate the framing of questions and answers, to enable the instructor to work out the several propositions in his own way and suitably to his men's powers of comprehension, to apply them practically, and to support them by examples.

It need hardly be remarked that this little work belongs to quite a different category than my previous military writings.

¹ "Unterweisung für das Verhalten des Infanteristen im Gefecht." Von A. v. Boguslawski, Oberst-Lieutenant. Zweite Auflage. Berlin, 1882. Mittler und Sohn Pamp. 19 pp. Price 12 pfennings (about 1½d.).

It possesses this, however, in common with the greater part of them, viz., that it is drawn from actual experience.

Besides the maintenance of steady drill, and the continued perfecting of the men's training, endeavours should always be made to obtain a further advance in the province of their intellect, and in the development of their warlike character.

To contribute something to this end cannot be regarded as too paltry a task for anyone.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE INFANTRY SOLDIER IN ACTION.

1. Infantry possesses this advantage over the other arms, that it can fight both on the offensive and defensive under all circumstances, and on every description of ground : on the plain, on mountains, in woods, villages and towns, in close and open country.

Fighting Formations.

2. Infantry fights principally in extended order.

3. Close formations are usually only suitable for marching up troops for the fight. They are, however, occasionally used during the fight, mostly by night, in surprises, and against cavalry. Troops in second and third line are also in close formations.

4. The fighting line is composed of half-companies, groups, and files.

5. An interval of several paces, increased or diminished according to the nature of the ground, is kept between half-companies and groups.

6. The half-company, group, and file, by which the others march, is called the "directing half-company, group, or file."

7. The nearest body of troops in close formation behind the fighting line is called the "support."

The Duties of Half-company and Group Leaders.

8. The duty of the half-company, section, and group leaders is to direct the firing as far as possible.

9. It is consequently for them to decide what object is to be fired at, the distance, the sighting, and the description of fire to be employed.

10. For the better controlling of the firing the half-company leaders name a certain number of rounds, usually between three and five, after the expenditure of which a pause in the firing ensues.

11. The object of this pause in the firing is to allow the smoke to clear off, to subdue the excitement and unsteadiness of the men, and to enable them to receive fresh orders.

12. It is further the duty of the half-company and group leaders to keep their men in the correct formation and to lead them properly to the front or rear.

The Conduct and Movements of the Individual Soldier.

13. The soldier should move in a free and unconstrained manner and at a smart pace.

14. Should he be required to double, he will be specially ordered by word or signal to do so.

15. He will carry his rifle either at the short trail or at the secure. In running the rifle may be held in the right hand, raised.

16. The soldier must never lose the connection with his right and left-hand man. He must carefully observe the direction in which the firing line may be marching, and must conform to the same.

The various Kinds of Fire, and Fire Discipline.

17. The several descriptions of fire are :—

Firing in extended order.
 Rapid firing in extended order.
 Volleys by groups in extended order.
 Volleys in close formation.
 Rapid firing in close formation.

18. With reference to distances, firing is divided into :—

Short-range firing, up to 400 mètres.
 Long-range firing, from 400 to 700 mètres.

19. It is only under very special circumstances that firing is ordered at a greater range than 700 mètres.

20. The soldier must carefully husband his ammunition, as it is easy with the breech-loader very soon to come to the end of it.

21. Firing must cease immediately on the beat of the drum, and on the signal or long-drawn whistle from the half-company leader.

22. In delivering volleys any man who fires in advance of the others will be severely punished.

On the proper Use of the Accidents of Ground.

23. With reference to the "fire fight," the soldier must be posted in such a manner as to have a clear field of fire.

24. He must also understand how to make good use of ground as cover and as a rest for his rifle, *i.e.*, undulations, walls and hedges, fences, large and small trees. He must know how to fire from windows, loopholes, shelter-trenches, and earthworks.

25. The soldier must understand how to stalk the enemy's position, *i.e.*, to approach it unobserved under cover as close as possible.

26. The men may be said to be properly trained when in changing position the groups are able to take up their places in the new position in such a manner as to be well under cover and favourably posted for firing, with great rapidity, and yet with steadiness, and without crowding or unduly opening out.

The Soldier's Position in Firing.

27. The soldier must be thoroughly practised in firing in the several positions.

28. These are—

Lying down without a rest.

Kneeling ,,

Standing ,,

Lying down with a rest, *i.e.*, the shelter-trench parapet.

Kneeling ,, *i.e.*, over walls, fences, and from shelter-trenches.

Firing through loopholes.

Firing standing and kneeling from behind small and large trees.

Firing lying down is the most usual position in action.

On the Range, the Object aimed at, and the Sights.

29. The sights are always aligned on the bottom of the object aimed at, except in the following cases :—

At objects of less than a man's height—

(1.) From 75 to 200 mètres, in which case aim is taken at a point about two estimated men's heights below the foot of the object aimed at.

(2.) From 35 to 75 mètres, when aim is taken at a point only one estimated man's height below the foot of the object aimed at.

¹Up to 270 mètres the backsight is used without adjustment; between 270 and 350 mètres the flap of the backsight is used, and from 400 mètres and upwards the sight is adjusted according to the mark on the leaf. If the range to be fired at exceeds 400 mètres, the half-company leaders will name two distances at which the sight will be adjusted, one for the first and the other for the second rank.

30. The object of this is to sweep a greater depth of space by fire, as well as to neutralize any error in judging the distance.

Signals.

31. The bugle-calls sounded in action are—

Commence fire.
Advance.
Rapid advance.
Fix bayonets.
Form column of attack.
Alert (against cavalry).

32. Those sounded after an action are—

The battalion call.
The close.
Assemble.

33. A long-drawn whistle means—Pay attention to the leader and “Cease Fire.”

34. A roll of the drum means—Halt. The beating of the charge means continuous advance.

35. A forward wave of the sword means—“Advance.” Raising and lowering the sword means—“Halt.”

Supply of Ammunition.

36. The battalion ammunition wagons remain about 1,000 paces in rear of the fighting line.

37. From these ammunition is sent forward in bags to the men in the fighting line.

38. Men who have to return to the ammunition wagon must be careful to note the road back.

The ammunition on the dead and wounded must, as far as possible, be collected.

The General Course of the Attack, of the Defence, and of the Stationary Fire Fight.

39. The object of an attack is to drive an enemy out of his position, and to compel him to retreat.

40. To effect this the enemy is approached at first at a rapid pace, then generally in rushes, with a view to shake him by fire at effective range.

41. The advance by rushes can be carried out either by a simultaneous advance of the whole line at the run for a certain distance, after which it takes up a fresh position, or by the advance of only a portion, under cover of the fire of the remainder.

¹ Note for the instructor :—

In firing at advancing infantry at 350 mètres the flap of the backsight may be used according to instructions; should the enemy's infantry, however, lie down within the distance at which the fixed backsight should be used, the firing would naturally be too high. It appears, therefore, best to use the fixed backsight up to 270 mètres at all objects except cavalry.

42. In small engagements individual soldiers may creep forward and try to approach the enemy's position.

43. At suitable distances, according to the nature of the ground (on an average 200 mètres), the fire is increased by word of command to rapid independent firing. After which, on the command or signal, bayonets are fixed, and the attack is delivered.

44. The attack consists of a rapid advance at the run (at long distances the first part is at the double, the last at the run), accompanied by the beating and sounding of all instruments, and loud hurrahs.

45. The attack may consist of—

1st. The attack by the fighting line.

2nd. The combined attack of troops in close formation and the fighting line.

46. When at the run, no more firing takes place, but when at the double, the ranks advance by alternate rushes and deliver their fire.

47. The object of the defence is to hold a position, the enemy must therefore be kept at a distance as far as possible by fire.

48. Should the enemy, notwithstanding, begin to charge, he must be opposed at the last moment with the bayonet. This is called the Counter-attack.

49. The infantry soldier must be a good, rapid judge of distance. He should be thoroughly practised in pacing the distance and marking it off.

50. He must be able rapidly to obtain cover with the spade. He receives a special training for this.

51. A "Stationary fire fight" is one in which the combatants remain under cover, firing at each other for a considerable time.

Infantry v. Infantry.

52. The fight between infantry consists in reality mainly of an almost continuous rolling musketry fire.

53. The soldier must make every effort to remain cool, notwithstanding the striking of bullets and the noise of the firing.

54. He must invariably take a distinct aim, and must never fire at random.

55. Also, in rapid firing, he should try to take a quick aim at some object.

56. The common object to fire at is usually the enemy's fighting line. Should nothing but its smoke be discernible, then the thickest layer should be aimed at.

57. If Officers and mounted men can be distinguished, they should be fired at, but above all columns should be fired at.

58. At night, volleys and bayonet charges are delivered by companies in close formation.

Infantry v. Cavalry.

59. Infantry possesses a decided superiority over cavalry in action, both in single combat and in bodies, provided it remains cool.

60. Cavalry charges are delivered in échelons, *i.e.*, detachments following each other in rapid succession.

61. The important point is steady firing at short ranges.

62. With the sight adjusted to 400 mètres, and aiming at the foot of the object, the bullet will strike advancing cavalry throughout the distance of 400 mètres.

63. A fighting line occupying a favourable position will not close up to receive a cavalry charge, but will remain in the same, and direct its fire on the advancing cavalry.

64. Should the cavalry, however, approach to within 50 mètres, the fighting line will stand up.

65. This sudden standing up has the effect of startling both man and horse. It is, moreover, easier to aim standing at a mounted man than when lying down.

66. Fighting lines lying down in the open unprotected by any cover form up in line by half-companies, if they are not under a heavy fire.

67. When cavalry appears on the flanks, these are thrown back; when in rear, the rear rank turns about.

68. The usual fire against cavalry is by volleys.

69. When all the ammunition is expended, rallying squares and squares are formed, and these fight with the bayonet.

70. Should a fighting line be really ridden down by cavalry, the men should throw themselves down, but they must jump up again immediately, assemble either in line or rallying squares, and fire after the cavalry or at the approaching cavalry échelons.

71. The infantry soldier must never surrender in a cowardly manner, and allow himself to be taken prisoner.

72. In single combat the infantry soldier allows the cavalry soldier to come up to within 30 mètres and then fires, in case he misses he fires a second time. Should he find himself without ammunition, he jumps aside as the cavalry soldier charges him and makes a thrust at his horse.

Infantry v. Artillery.

73. Artillery is either plied with volleys at long ranges, or better still, a point within short range of the flank of the battery is gained if possible under cover (*i.e.*, folds of ground, bushes, high-standing corn), from which independent firing is delivered. The battery is then charged at the run.

If the guns are on the move or on the point of limbering up, the fire is directed on the horses; if they are in action, the object to be aimed at is the line of guns itself.

74. Rapid advances and diagonal movements are the best protection against artillery fire.

75. In case a battery has to be abandoned after having been captured, the removable part of the breech action is carried off.

The Conduct of Infantry during a Siege.

76. In this case it may occur that infantry has to remain, rifle in hand, in the parallels for days at a time in the presence of the enemy.

77. The individual soldier is then usually provided with 200 rounds and special rations.

78. It may be required to search a particular work in the enemy's lines with long-range firing of masses of troops.

79. The soldiers must in that case aim at the crest of the parapet, which usually stands out clearly, and particularly at the embrasures.

80. If a work has to be taken by assault, precise directions are issued beforehand as to the conduct of the skirmishers and columns, and as to the direction they are to take.

81. The most reckless bravery and the most expeditious crossing of the ditch alone can lead to the desired result.

82. On reaching the foot of the parapet the assailants halt for a moment for the purpose of forming, and then mount the parapet by means of the ladders, as well closed up as possible.

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MEN IN ACTION, AND IN THE VARIOUS INCIDENTS OF THE SAME.

83. When the whistling and whizzing of bullets commences, let the soldiers

constantly bear in mind, even in the most perilous moment of the fight, that every sign of weakness is disgraceful and degrading.

84. It is strictly prohibited to attend to those who fall, dead or wounded.

It is better not to let the eyes rest on them. Men who are slightly wounded are not allowed to withdraw from the fight.

85. Wounded men coming out of the fight and returning to the rear must not dare to dishearten the reinforcing troops by expressions such as "Matters are going badly," or "You won't get off any better."

They must, on the contrary, put up with pain, and should strive to groan as little as possible.

86. Throwing packs away without orders will be severely punished.

87. Should prisoners be taken, none but those specially told off by the Commanding Officer are to take charge of them.

88. Whoever remains behind when marching into action is a dishonourable coward, and nothing but the severest punishment awaits him.

89. Whoever runs away from the fight, or induces his comrades to do so by shouts, or whoever throws away his arms, will be cut down forthwith by the nearest superior Officer.

90. Every soldier must strive to remain with his company, half-company, or group during the fight, as he cannot single-handed effect anything of importance. His concentrated attention must, therefore, be fixed on his leader.

91. Should a soldier, through no fault of his own, become separated from his company, he will join the nearest fighting body of troops and place himself under the orders of the Officer or non-commissioned officer in command of it, to whom he will render the implicit obedience due to his own immediate superiors.

92. Whenever bodies of troops become intermingled in action (which frequently is unavoidable), the superior Officer who assumes command is to be obeyed without hesitation.

93. The soldier must bear in mind that long-range firing rarely does much execution, and that its employment remains a matter of uncertainty; the leaders are responsible for the results obtained thereby.

94. Consequently, during an attack no firing must on any account take place at greater distances than 400 mètres unless it should be expressly ordered.

95. The soldier must, above all, remember to adjust his sights correctly. This is particularly necessary, as the half-company and group leaders are frequently put out of action, and the men are there and then thrown on their own resources.

96. Should the soldiers observe any movements or changes in the enemy's fighting line that may appear to him of importance, he must report them to his superior.

97. Every soldier must be able to convey an order clearly, and to make a clear report in the midst of the fight.

98. During the advance no man is allowed to hesitate or to halt, no matter how heavy the enemy's fire may be, or how severe the losses suffered. It is only when the Officer gives the command—"Halt,"—that a halt is made and a position is immediately taken up.

99. In closing on the enemy at the run, the advance must be continued without a check right up to the enemy's position. Should this not be done, and should the assailants run back, they are as good as dead, as they have to recross the ground under a murderous fire.

100. A determined charge really driven right home will invariably be successful.

101. If during the fight the enemy makes a determined forward movement, the principal thing is not to allow oneself to be intimidated.

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Should some of the men lose courage and run away, they must be immediately brought back and encouraged by their comrades.

102. In the moment of danger the soldier must look to his leader, for he it is who orders what has to be done.

103. The enemy's attack must either be met with a withering fire, or he must be immediately charged.

104. Should the firing be so heavy that the orders of the Officers cannot be understood, attention must be paid to their signals with the sword, and to their personal movements.

105. When the enemy has been driven out of a position, the individual soldier must on no account rush on in pursuit, but must await the orders of his leader, and must in the meantime continue firing on the enemy.

106. The men must be able rapidly to reassemble after such an attack.

107. On the defensive, the men must be determined not to move from the position they are to hold.

108. Also in the attack it is not advantageous to fire at long ranges. The fire should be increased to the utmost from about 500 mètres.

109. The firing is commenced either by order or by signal.

110. The soldier should not allow himself to be intimidated by the enemy's shouts and close approach.

111. Every man should remain lying down and fire away steadily.

112. A position should not be evacuated except by a distinct command.

The enemy will not usually be able to withstand the firing of such a determined body of troops, but will run back.

113. Should the enemy, however, really come to close quarters, the men must be determined to engage him even hand to hand.

114. With equally good arms victory will generally fall to the combatant possessing the greatest courage and coolness, and the best discipline.

115. In close order, the rear-rank man must, above all, keep close to his front-rank man. His principal duty is to pay attention to the orders given, and carry them out accurately. He does not possess the independence of the skirmisher.

116. When the Officers and non-commissioned officers have fallen, every honourable soldier must strive to replace them. The lance-corporals, the oldest and ablest men, take command and lead their comrades on in the fight.

117. Should unfortunate circumstances and the decided superiority of the enemy compel a body of troops to fall back, no soldier must appear discouraged, or retire further than to the spot where the leader orders a halt, or to the pre-arranged place of assembly.

118. Should a soldier find himself separated from his corps after an action, he will proceed in search of it and rejoin it without delay.

All aimless roaming about on the battle-field will be severely punished.

Should a soldier have taken part in the fight in the ranks of another corps, he must carefully remember which it was, for the purpose of producing witnesses as to his conduct.

119. The soldier must behave in a noble and humane manner towards the enemy or prisoners. Under no circumstances whatever should their private property be taken from them, and they should never be ill-used without necessity.

120. The white flag with a red cross denotes dressing stations and hospitals.

A white band with a red cross worn on the arm denotes Medical Officers, bearers, &c.

These, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, are not to be fired on.

121. Firing off "Feu-de-joie" after the battle, plundering captured baggage or any similar misdemeanor, is strictly prohibited.

122. Furthermore, the soldier should be ready after an action, notwith-

standing his exhaustion, to start off in pursuit of the enemy should this be ordered, for it is only by a rapid and active pursuit that the victory is completed and further fighting avoided.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

The Line of Communications. By Lieutenant-Colonel GEORGE ARMAND FURSE. London: Clowes and Sons. 1893. Pp. 239. Size $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{3}{4}''$. Weight under 1 lb. 6 oz. Price 6s.

It will be observed that the author, apparently purposely, abstains from placing on the title-page any letters or words which would remind the reader of the official position he holds on the Headquarter Staff of the Army. Consequently this fact, taken in conjunction with the dedication of the book to the "Black Watch," indicates that the work must be regarded as putting forward the views and opinions of a private individual. The book is not the less valuable on that account. Army administration is a speciality with Lieutenant-Colonel Furse, and anything that he writes on the subject is sure to be thoroughly worth careful perusal, and in this instance he has placed before us in a clear and interesting manner a subject which ordinarily is, to say the least, somewhat dry and puzzling. Military and civilians alike will derive benefit from its perusal, the former in learning from it the principles on which should be conducted work in which at any time they may have to take part, the latter in learning the extent of the organization necessary to render an army an efficient fighting machine.—L. A. H.

Glossary of Navigation. A Vade-Mecum for Practical Navigators. By the Rev. J. B. HARBORD, M.A., R.N., Chaplain of the Fleet. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Portsmouth: Griffin and Co., 2, The Hard. London agents: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1893. Pp. 421. Size $6'' \times 5'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$. Weight under 1 lb. Price 7s. 6d.

It is generally known that the modern naval Officer has to acquire a given amount of knowledge in a large number of subjects connected with the handling, fighting, and navigating his ship. It is tolerably certain that, however good his memory, there are times when, even in those subjects in which he may be strongest, reference must be made to a text-book of some kind. It is at such times that small handy volumes of reference, with exact information gathered from the larger works, and put in a form to quickly reinforce the memory, become so valuable.

One of the most recent contributions to this kind of book is that under review, which, in this edition, Mr. Harbord has considerably enlarged and improved. It contains explanations of the technical terms used in Nautical Geography, Meteorology, and Astronomy; hints to young Officers for systematic study; and information not generally accessible when wanted.

The Terms are arranged alphabetically, and the articles relating to those all-important instruments in Navigation, the Compass, Sextant, and Chronometer, are very complete and contain many hints useful to the Navigator, especially during his earlier essays in practical navigation.

In the articles on Nautical Astronomy, or "Celo-Navigation," as Mr. Harbord terms it in his book, it will be found that clear diagrams, with the necessary formulæ for ascertaining the Latitude, Longitude, and Azimuth, are given in preference to long rules. The author gives his reason for this at page 394, Term "Triangles, spherical": "There is no occasion for any verbal rules in navigation if the formulæ