



Introduction

Sir Harry Smith (1787-1860), Peninsular War veteran, fresh from burning Washington, DC, in 1814 with MG Ross and New Orleans in 1815 (Brigade Major to Pakenham/Lambert). Served at Waterloo as MG Lambert's Staff, was promoted to LTC and awarded the CB. Later rose to Lt General with service in major wars in Afghanistan, India and Africa. Best known as Mrs. (Juana) Smith's husband.



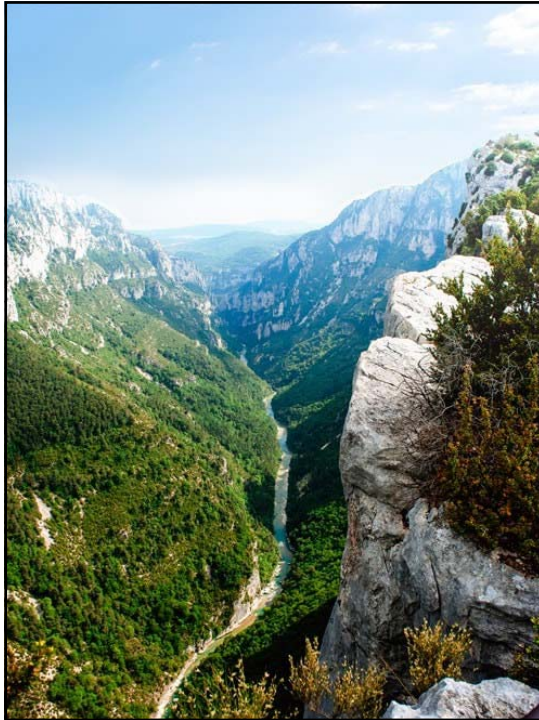
“The Battle of Waterloo has been too often described, and nonsense enough written about the Crisis, for me to add to it. Every moment was a crisis, and the controversialists had better have left the discussion on the battle-field. Every Staff officer had two or three (and one four) horses shot under him. I had one wounded in six, another in seven places, but not seriously injured. The fire was terrific, especially of cannon.”

Sir Harry Smith, *The autobiography of Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Smith, baronet of Aliwal on the Sutlej*, G.C.B. London: John Murray, 1903

Background

- Exiled to the Elba following abdication at Fontainebleau on 11 April 1814 following ten years as Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped in a ship with 1,100 men and four cannon. Sent to arrest him, Marshal Ney and his troops shouted, "Vive l'Empereur!" and Napoleon recaptured the throne.
- Ten weeks later, some 100,000 of Napoleon's mighty 280,000 man army was 1,315 km away in Belgium to crush its only resistance.
- Comment indescriptible! C'est inconcevable! C'est incroyable!*





A near miss?

After arrival in Castellane on 3 March 1815 in time for lunch with Monsieur le maire followed by a rest in a three-storey villa, Napoleon and his band of men made it to the perilous 700 metre deep Gorges de Verdon. It had just begun to snow.

Legend has it that when a mule pack carrying gold, overbalanced and fell into a steep ravine, Napoleon was nearly killed.

Overview of the decisive battle



- Napoleon's French Army was successful in its engagements against Allied forces during the first two days at Quatre Bras and Ligny near Waterloo.
- Marshal Ney's left wing had sent the larger Anglo-Dutch army kilometers back from the commanding cross roads.
- At Ligny, Marshal Grouchy's right wing won a significant but not quite decisive victory over the Prussians whom they now pursued.
- Neither was the decisive victory Napoleon desired, but he had achieved his strategic objective of separated the enemy armies.
- As the sun rose on 18 June 1815, Napoleon had the opportunity to defeat Wellington's Anglo-Dutch and Blucher's Prussians in detail. Complete victory awaited quick and decisive action.

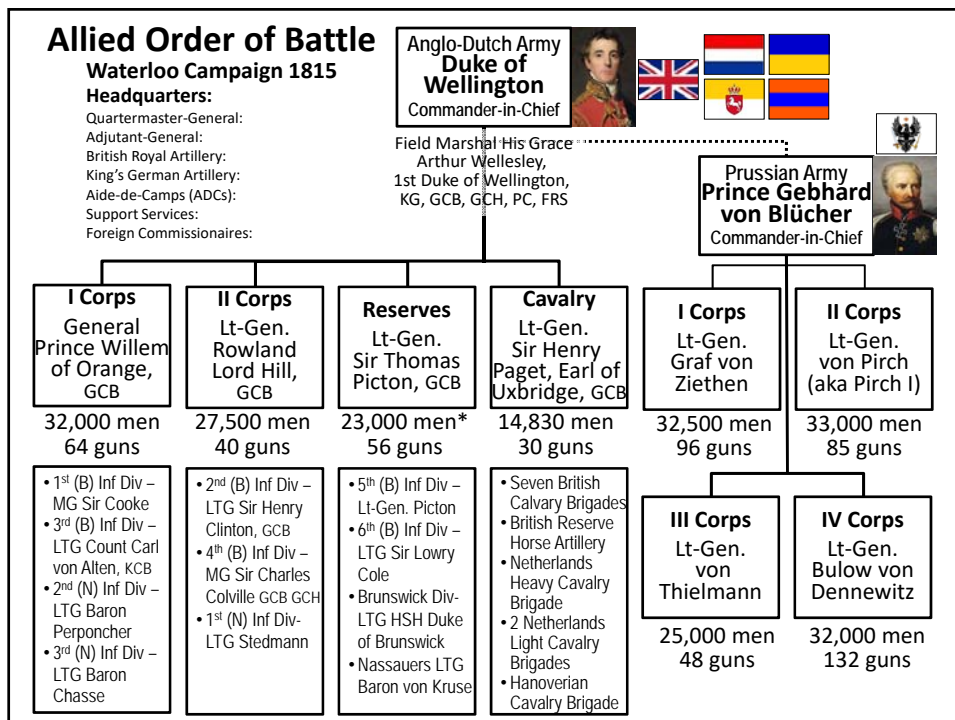
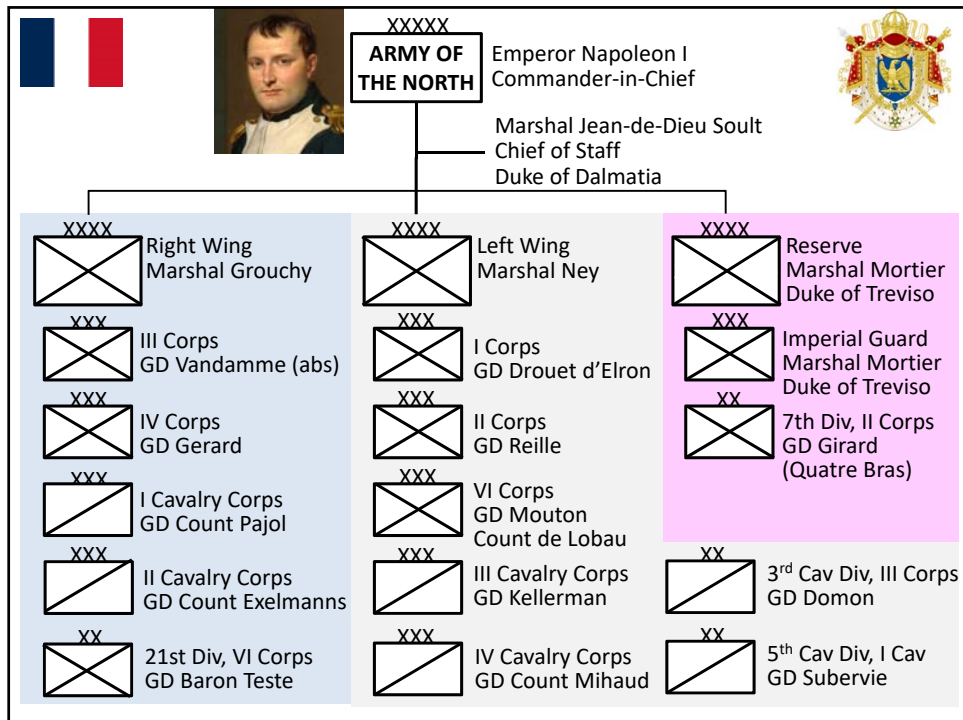


Now the confident Emperor met with his marshals and generals at the farm of Le Caillou to plan the victory over the combined forces of England, the Netherlands, Austria, Prussia and Russia who had pledged 500,000 men to destroy "the Ogre".



Napoleon's battle plan was clear. Rapid advance had achieved surprise. The Prussians were fleeing east and the Anglo-Dutch would first be destroyed by French artillery, then overwhelmed with power.

- The battle would be fought between war-hardened French troops – mostly volunteers loyal to Napoleon and a hastily cobbled together coalition of armies comprised of troops from Britain, newly constituted Netherlands, Hanover, Prussia, Nassau and Brunswick.  vs. 
- Although the French were outnumbered by the Coalition (73,000 facing 118,000), Napoleon's troops were mostly veterans of at least one campaign, while Wellington's troops were, in his own words, 'very weak and ill-equipped'. Britain's experienced troops had been sent to the United States to fight the War of 1812. Allied cavalry was also inexperienced, with a severe shortage of heavy cavalry to call upon.
- Many of Blücher's troops were inexperienced militia (I and II corps, 33% militia; III corps, 50%, and IV (Reserve) corps, 67%). Blücher wrote to his wife on 24 April that 'Ich glaube daß wir den krieg wenn er beginnt balde beendigen werden.'



Napoleonic Era Cavalry

Light Cavalry	Dragoons	Heavy Cavalry
		
Lightly armed and armored mounted troops were used for reconnaissance, escort, raiding, scouting, screening, skirmishing, communication and attacks on unprepared infantry and artillery. They were also known as lancers, light cavalry, hussars, sowars, cossacks, chasseurs à cheval, and uhlans.	Originally mounted infantry, horses provided mobility, but dismounted to fight on foot. By 1815, they were generally used as cavalry, and could be either light or heavy. Their horses were larger than light cavalry, but they were not as heavily armored as heavy cavalry. AKA "medium cavalry".	Heavily armed and armored compared to light cavalry, with large, powerful horses often armored as well, their primary role was to engage in decisive direct combat with enemy forces. Napoleon's relied on his 14 cuirassier regiments.

Horse Carabiniers (Carabiniers-a Cheval)



Initially very elite mounted troops chosen from seasoned and reliable soldiers who could fight on foot as well, the campaign in Russia broke their backbone. In 1815 some carabiniers deserted to Wellington before the campaign began. There were enough carabiniers (and other cavalymen) deserters, that Wellington formed a troop called "Bourbon Cavalry Corps." troops under Chasse. The remaining carabiniers fought very well at Waterloo.

Cuirassiers (Cuirasiers)




Napoleon formed régiments d'Calalerie with the strongest and tallest men and horses, the strongest armor and they were considered as elite troops. Cuirassiers, descendants of the medieval knights, who could turn a battle with sheer weight and brute force. They were dangerous every time they were deployed and were judiciously used by generals

Dragoons (Dragons).



In 1815, Napoleon could mount only part of his 15 dragoon regiments: therefore, he formed 2 divisions of foot dragoons, equipped with infantry-style shoes, gaiters, and drums to supplement their trumpets. When horses were available, they would draw sabers and sling muskets on their backs.



Horse Chasseurs [Chasseurs-à-Cheval]



The dragoons and the chasseurs became Horse Chasseurs, who thought themselves equal as light cavalry to hussars: however, the hussars thought otherwise. Often brigaded together, the Horse Chasseurs were the most numerous French cavalry, because they were the cheapest form of regiment to mount and outfit. Napoleon's escort was made of seasoned veterans from all the chasseur regiments. They were best suited to reconnaissance and small warfare .

Lighthorse-Lancers [Chevau-Légers Lanciers]

In 1815 at Quatre Bras the lances of the lancers created havoc among the Netherlands and British troops, breaking the square of the 42nd and throwing the 44th Foot into disorder, nearly losing their colour. Verden Battalion was similarly destroyed. The Prince of Orange was caught in the rout, but was saved by the speed of his mount. The French lancers, galloping at will over the battlefield, sent saber-armed cavalry fleeing before them, and calmly stopped to finish off the wounded without even having to dismount.


























Hussars

The dash of attire and behaviour of Hungarian hussars displayed on the battlefields in the service of Austria made a huge impression, and in due time Hussar-mania contaminated France after sweeping over Europe. The French army started changing her cavalry regiments into hussars (light infantry), in dress and title and service.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2>Anglo-Allied Army Cavalry Corps</h2> <p>Lt-Gen. Sir Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, GCB</p> </div>  </div>	
1 st (B) Household Cavalry Bde MG Lord Somerset KCB (B) 1st Life Guards (B) 2nd Life Guards (B) Royal Horse Guard " <i>The Blues</i> " (B) 1st Guard Dragoons 2nd (B) "Union" Cavalry Brigade MG Sir Ponsonby (B) 1st Royal Dragoons (B) 2nd Royal Dragoons " <i>Scots Greys</i> " (B) 6th Dragoons 3rd (B) Cavalry Brigade MG Sir Dörnberg (B) 23rd Light Dragoons (G) 1st KGL Light Dragoons (G) 2nd KGL Light Dragoons 4th (B) Cavalry Brigade MG Sir Vandeleur (B) 11th Light Dragoons (B) 12th Light Dragoons (B) 16th Light Dragoons 5th (B) Cavalry Brigade MG Sir Grant (B) 7th Hussars (B) 15th Hussars (G) 2nd KGL Hussars 6th (B) Cavalry Brigade MG Sir Vivian (B) 10th Hussars (B) 18th Hussars (G) 1st KGL Hussars (B) HB [6 guns, 180 men] - Cpt. Sir Gardiner	7th (B) Cavalry Brigade Col. Sir Arentschildt (G) 3rd KGL Hussars (B) 13th Light Dragoons British Reserve Horse Artillery Lt-Col. MacDonald (B) HB - Major Bull (B) HB - Cpt. Mercer (B) HB - Major Ramsey (B) HB - Lt-Col. Webber-Smith (B) Rocket Troop - Cpt. Edward C Whinyates 1 st Hannoverian Cavalry Brigade Col. Baron Estorff (German, Hannoverian) Cumberland Hussars (German, Hannoverian) Bremen-Verden Hussars (German, Hannoverian) Regent Hussars Netherlands Calvary Division – LTG de Collaert 1 st (N) Heavy Cavalry Brigade MG Trip van Zoutlandt (Dutch) 1st Carabiniers (Belgian) 2nd Carabiniers (Dutch) 3rd Carabiniers 1 st (N) Light Cavalry Brigade MG Baron de Ghigny (Dutch) 4th Light Dragoons (Belgian) 8th Hussars 2 nd (N) Light Cavalry Brigade MG Baron van Merlen (Dutch) 4th Light Dragoons (Dutch) 6th Hussars Netherlands Horse Artillery and Train (Dutch) half HB - Cpt. Petter (Dutch) half HB - Cpt. van Pittius

- General Wellington - "I considered our (British) cavalry so inferior to the French from the want of order, that although I considered one squadron a match for two French, I didn't like to see four British opposed to four French: and as the numbers increased and order, of course, became more necessary I was the more unwilling to risk our men without having a superiority in numbers."
- In 1815 (Waterloo Campaign) the French cavalry was impoverished and had considerably scaled back the strength of cavalry regiments. By contrast England had always good horses and the financial means to obtain more of them wherever they might be found. The Russians too had no problems with horses.
- On the final day, Napoleon had the opportunity to achieve complete victory. With Wellington's forces arrayed to his immediate front and to the west ('s 17,000) and east (Blücher's Prussians) the French needed to fight quickly and



Battle of Waterloo			
Belligerents			
 France 		Seventh Coalition:  United Kingdom  Netherlands  Hanover  Brunswick  Nassau  Prussia  	
Commanders and leaders			
 Napoleon Bonaparte  Marshal Soult, Chief of Staff  Marshal Grouchy, Right Wing  Marshal Ney, Left Wing		 Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington  Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher  Prince William of Orange (Slender Billy)  LTG Rowland Hill	
Strength			
Total: 73,000 • 50,700 infantry • 14,390 cavalry • 8,050 artillery and engineers 252 guns		Total: 118,000 (Allies, 68,000; Prussians, 50,000)  Wellington's army (Anglo-Dutch Allies):  •United Kingdom: 25,000 British. 6,000 KGL  •Netherlands: 17,000  •Hanover: 11,000  •Brunswick: 6,000  •Nassau: 3,000  Blücher's army: Prussians: 50,000	156 guns
Casualties			

Allied Chain of Command			
 Field Marshal Wellesley Duke of Wellington Commander-in-Chief	 LTG Henry Paget Earl of Uxbridge Commander of Cavalry	 Willem II (Slender Billy) Prince of Orange General, I Allied Corps	 Prince Gebhard Blücher von Wahlstadt C-in-C, Prussian Army
 MG Sir George Cooke 1 st Div	 MG Sir Thomas Picton 5 th Division (KIA)	 MG Sir Wm Ponsonby 2 nd Cavalry Brigade (KIA)	 MG Sir John Lambert 6 th Division

French Chain of Command



Napoleon I Bonaparte
Emperor of the French
Commander-in-Chief



Marshal Soult
Duke of Dalmatia
Chief of Staff



Marshal Grouchy
Marquis de Grouchy
Right Wing



Marshal Ney
Prince of the Moskva
Left Wing



Marshal Mortier
Duke of Treviso
Imperial Guard



GD Drouet
Count d'Elron
I Corps



GD Reille
II Corps



GD Jerome Bonaparte
Prince of Montfort
6th Division

**NATIONAL
MILITIA STANDARD,**

EMBRACING THE DISCIPLINE OF

**INFANTRY, LIGHT ARTILLERY,
LIGHT INFANTRY, HORSE ARTILLERY,
RIFLEMEN, CAVALRY.**

**PREPARED IN CONFORMITY TO
GEN. SCOTT'S REGULATIONS FOR THE ARMY,
ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS,**

THE WORK IS ILLUSTRATED BY 40 COPPERPLATE ENGRAVINGS, AND COMPRISES RULES
FOR THE FORMATION OF COMPANIES AND REGIMENTS ; THE REVIEW EXERCISE, &c.

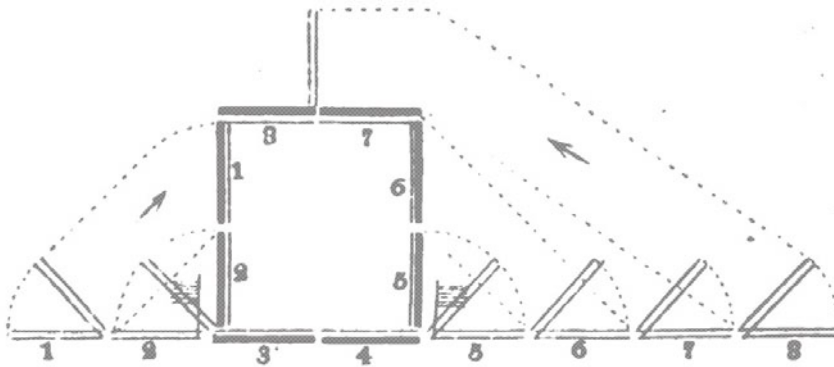
BY COL. PIERCE DARROW.

HARTFORD,
OLIVER D. COOKE

1815

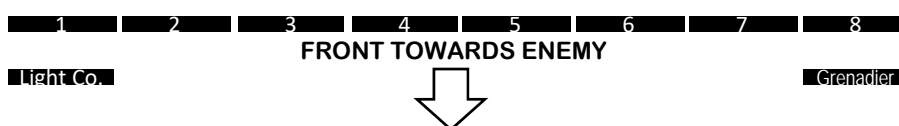
MANOEUVRE No. 29.

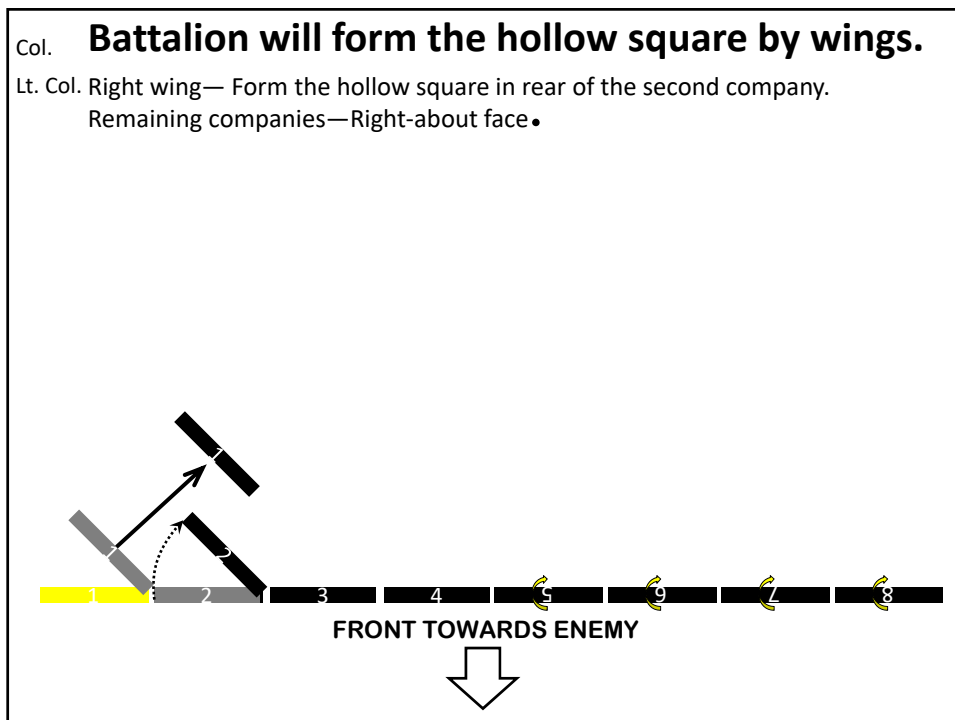
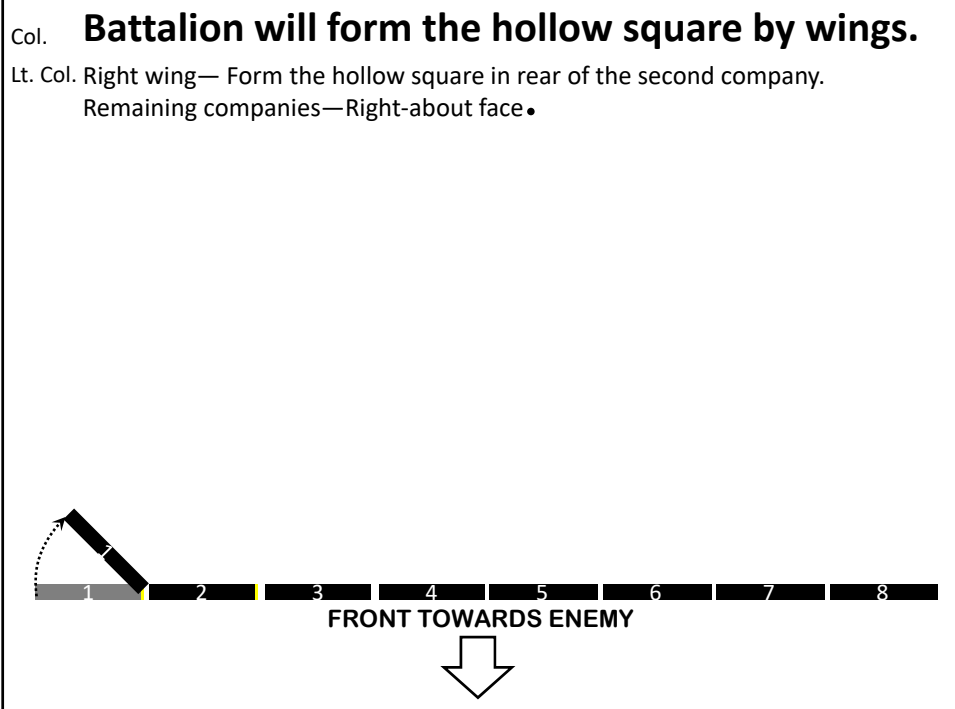
BATTALION WILL FORM THE HOLLOW SQUARE BY WINGS



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.
Remaining companies—Right-about face.

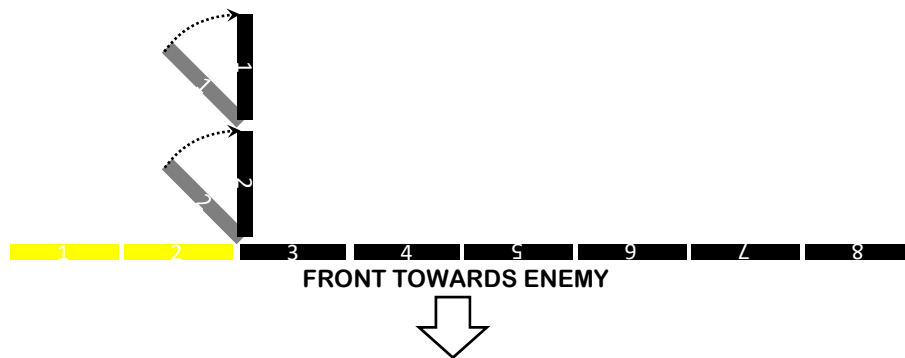




Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face•

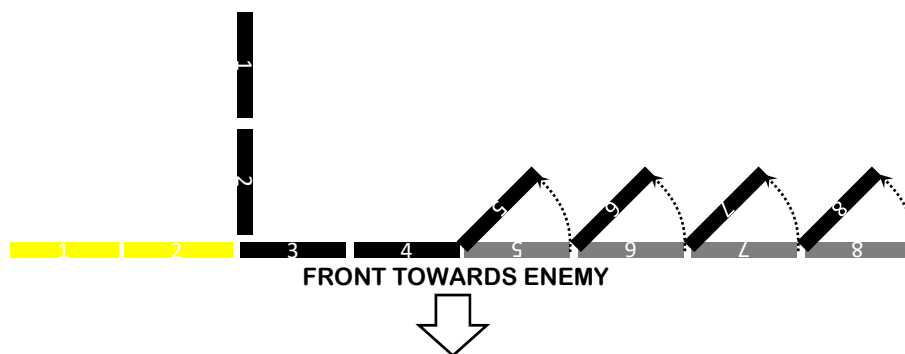


Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face•

By platoons, inward half wheel—March•



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

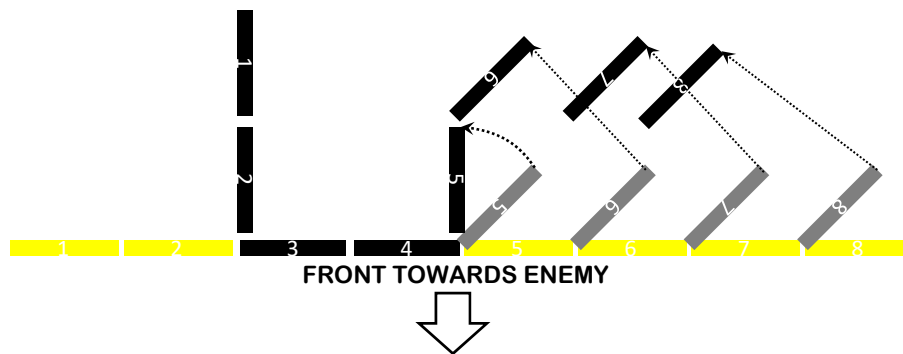
Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face.

By platoons, inward half wheel—March.

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company.

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March.



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

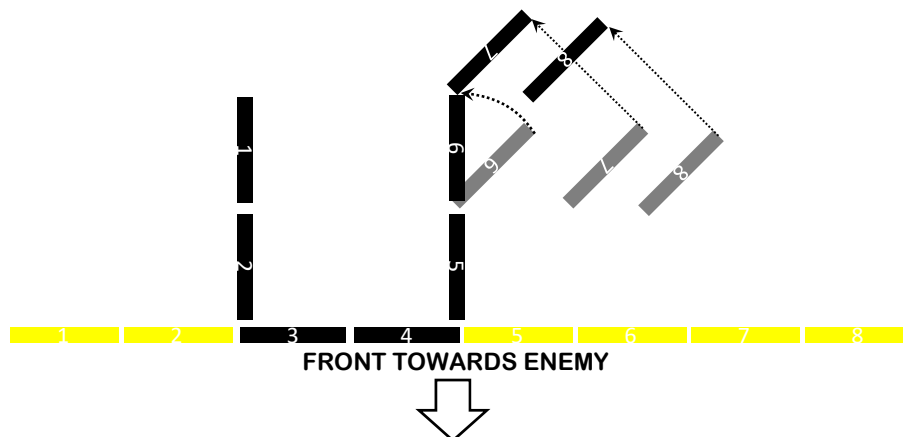
Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face.

By platoons, inward half wheel—March.

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company.

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March.



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

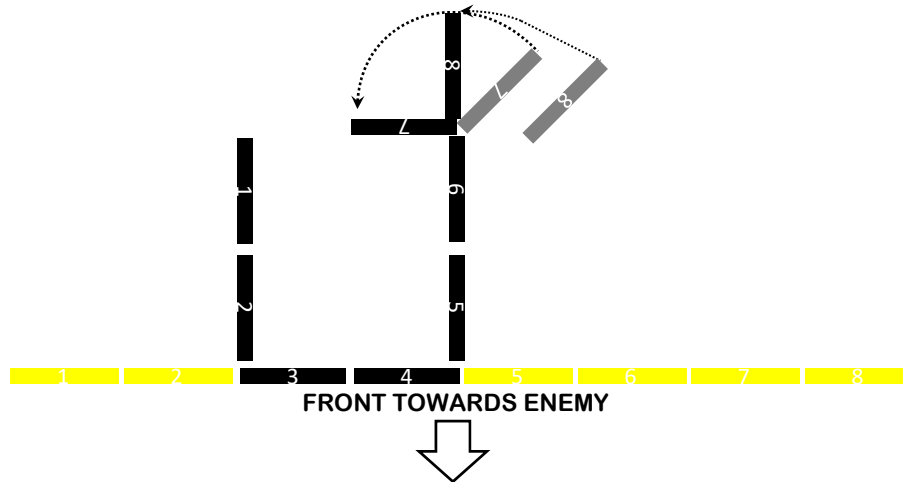
Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face.

By platoons, inward half wheel—March.

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company.

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March.



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

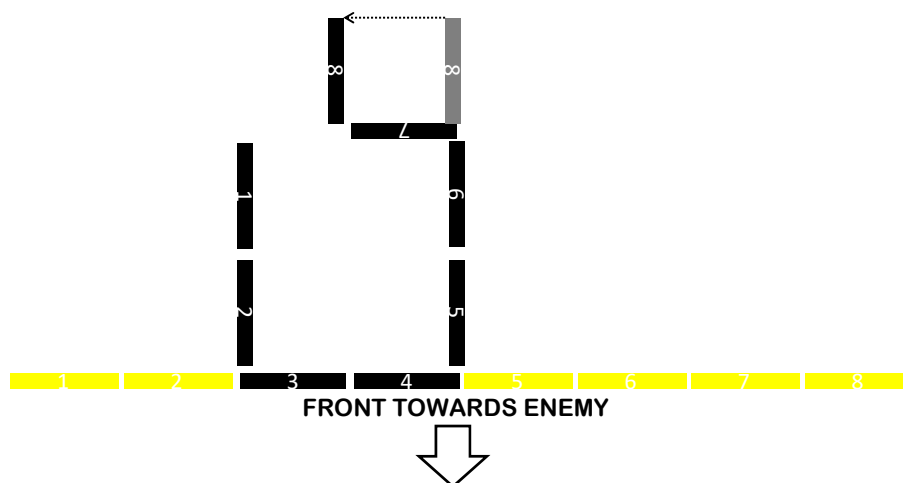
Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face.

By platoons, inward half wheel—March.

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company.

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March.



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

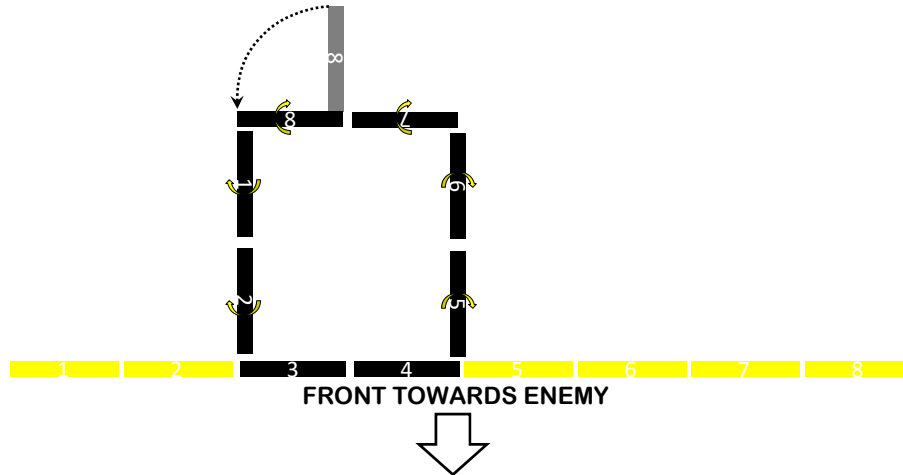
Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face•

By platoons, inward half wheel—March•

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company•

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March•



Col. **Battalion will form the hollow square by wings.**

Lt. Col. Right wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the second company.

Remaining companies—Right-about face•

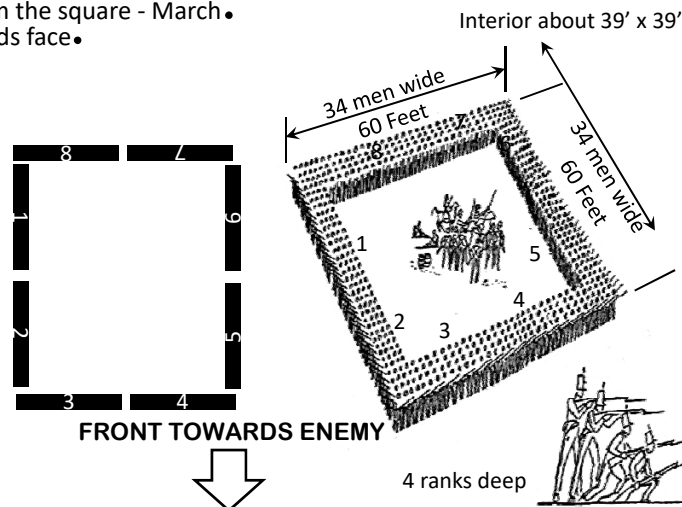
By platoons, inward half wheel—March•

Major Left wing— Form the hollow square in rear of the sixth company•

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form the square - March•

Square outwards face•

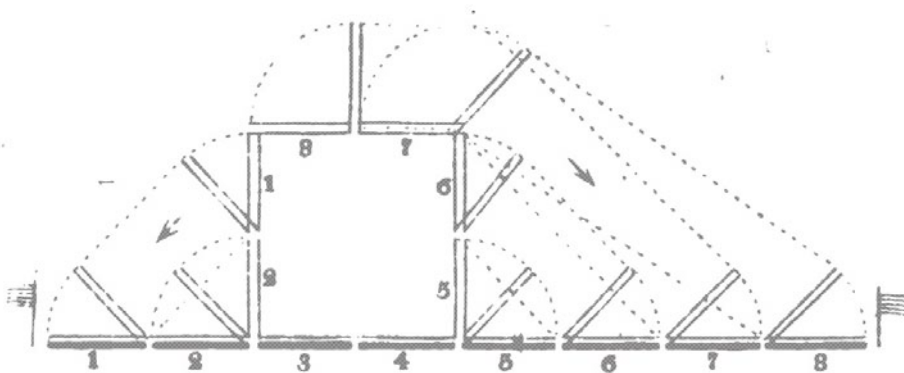
The average British, KGL and Hanoverian battalion had a strength of around 500 men.

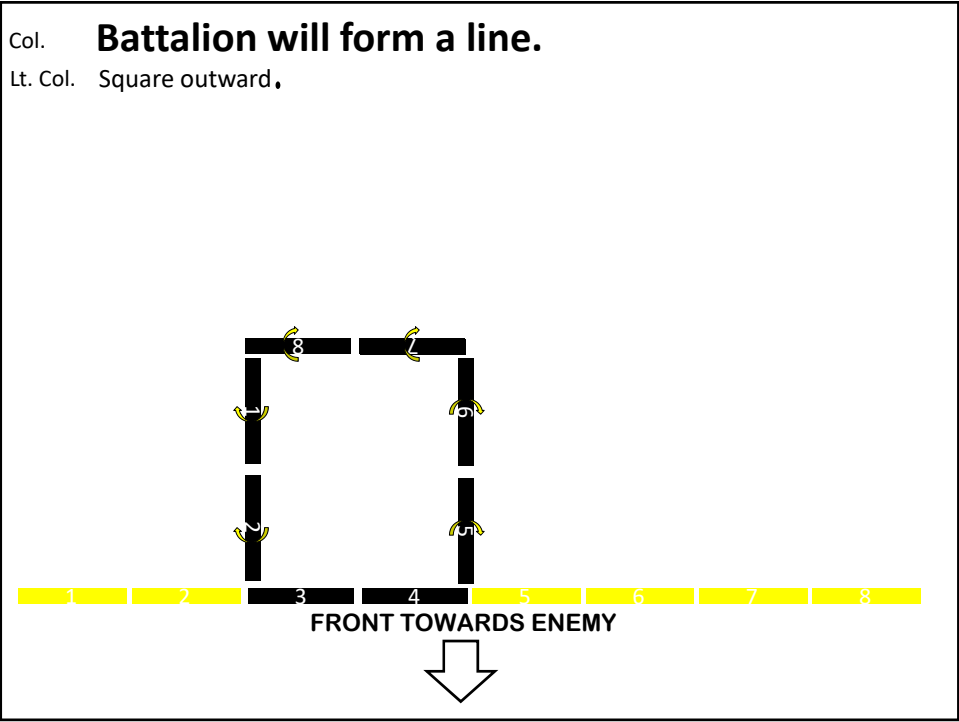
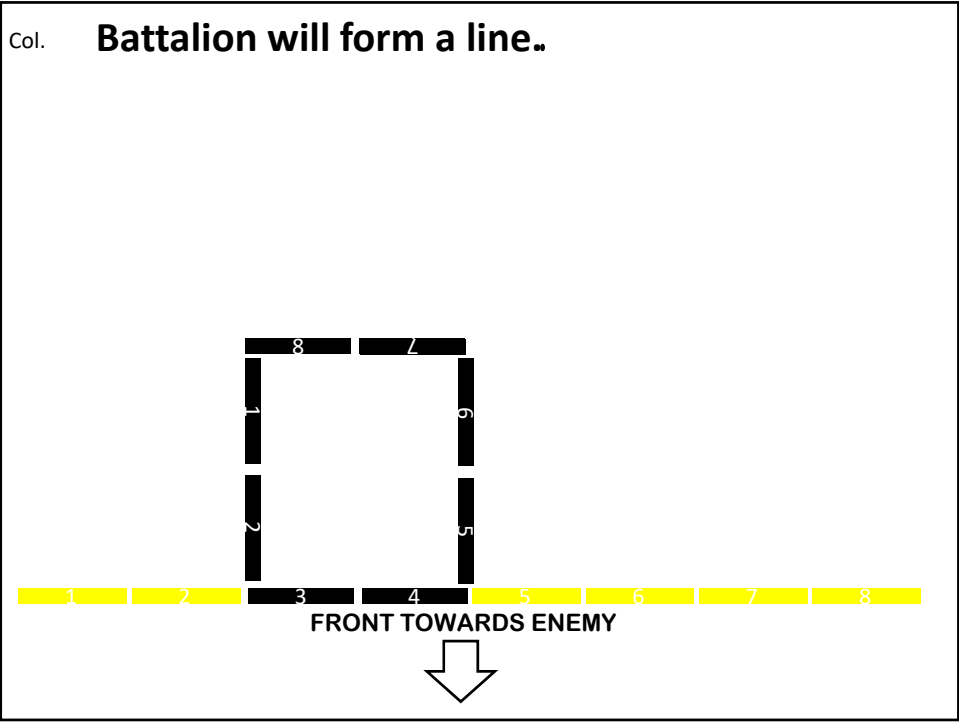


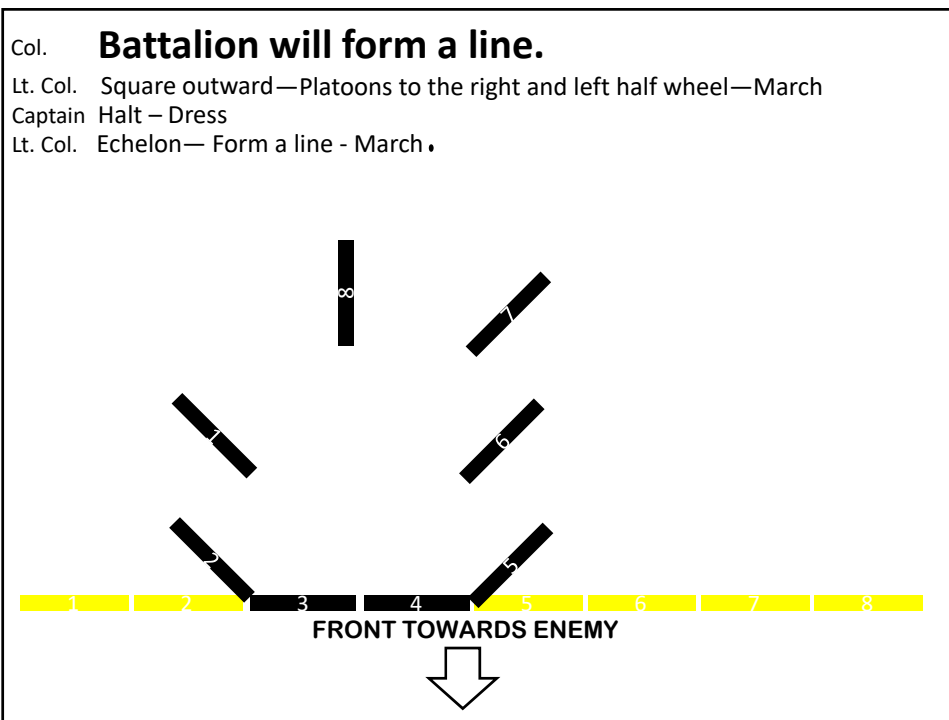
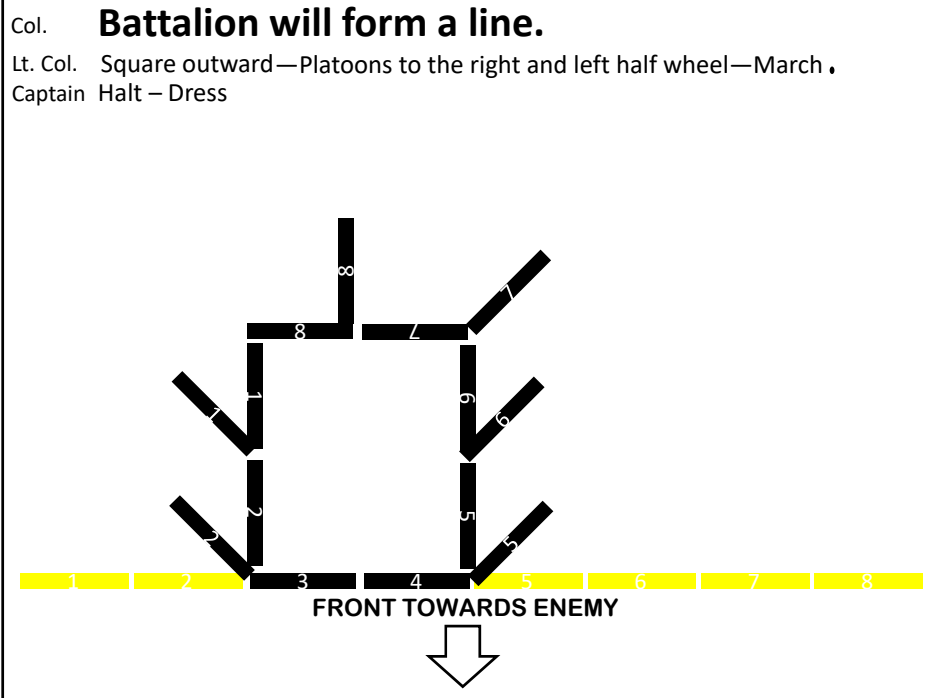


MANOEUVRE No. 30.

**BATTALION WILL REDUCE THE
HOLLOW SQUARE TO FORM A LINE**







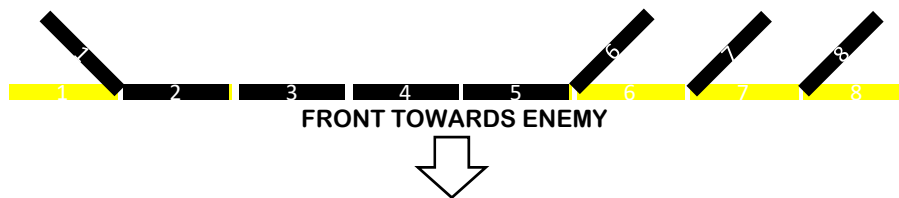
Col. **Battalion will form a line.**

Lt. Col. Square outward—Platoons to the right and left half wheel—March

Captain Halt – Dress

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form a line - March

Captain Right (or left) half wheel—Halt •



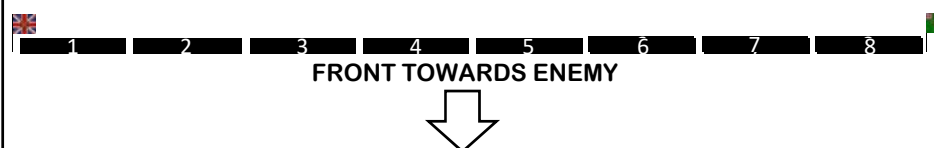
Col. **Battalion will form a line.**

Lt. Col. Square outward—Platoons to the right and left half wheel—March

Captain Halt – Dress

Lt. Col. Echelon— Form a line - March

Captain Right (or left) half wheel—Halt—Right (or left) dress •



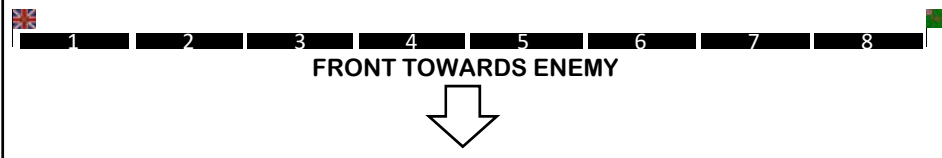
Col. **Battalion will form a line.**

Lt. Col. Square outward face—Platoons to the right and left half wheel—March

Captain Halt – Dress

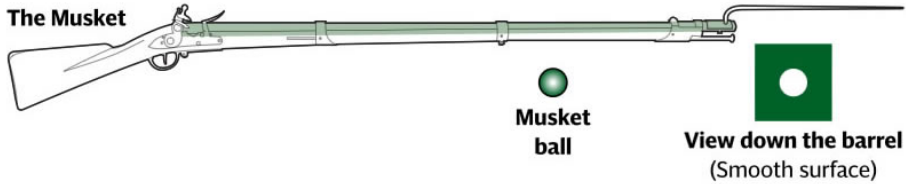
Lt. Col. Echelon— Form a line - March

Captain Right (or left) half wheel—Halt—Right (or left) dress



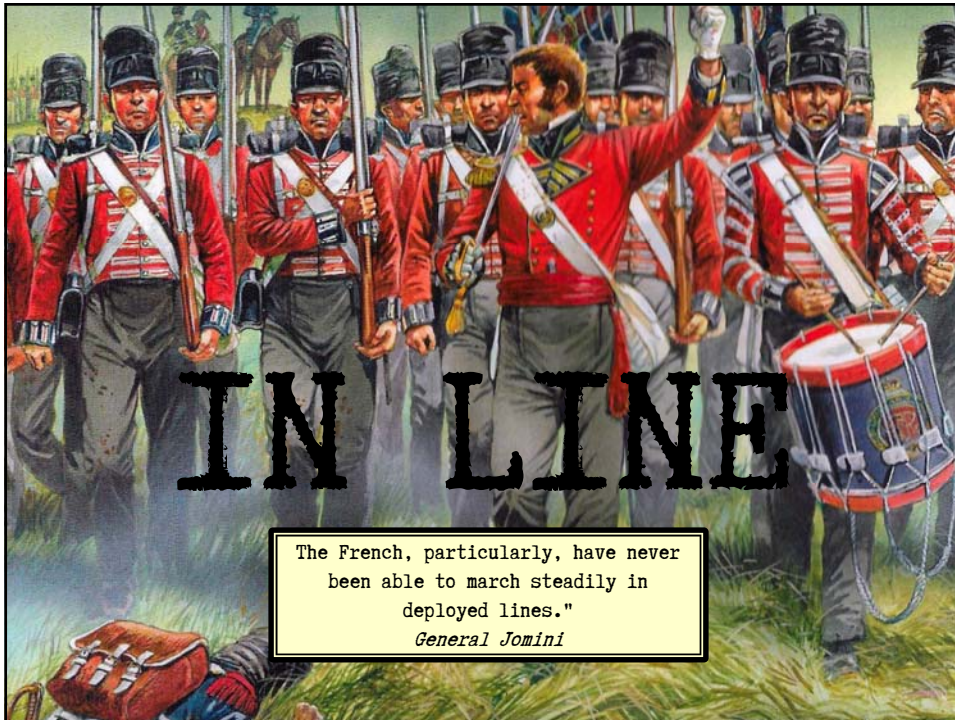
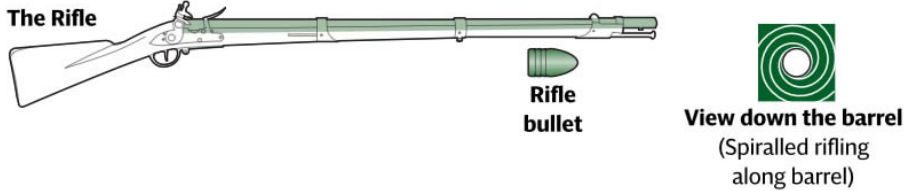
Line infantry provided rapid fire standing in long ranks while facing the enemy at 100 yards. Average troops fired three volleys a minute. It took from 20-30 seconds to reload the 5-foot long muzzle-loading, smooth bore musket. A trained soldier could hit a man-sized target at 100 yards; anything further required luck.

The Musket

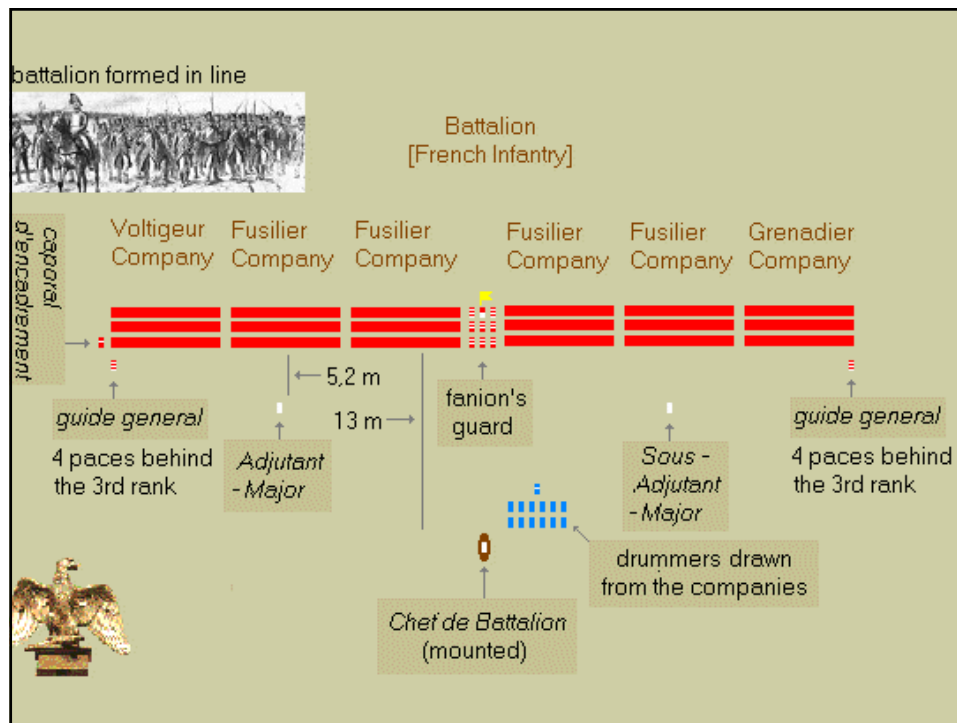
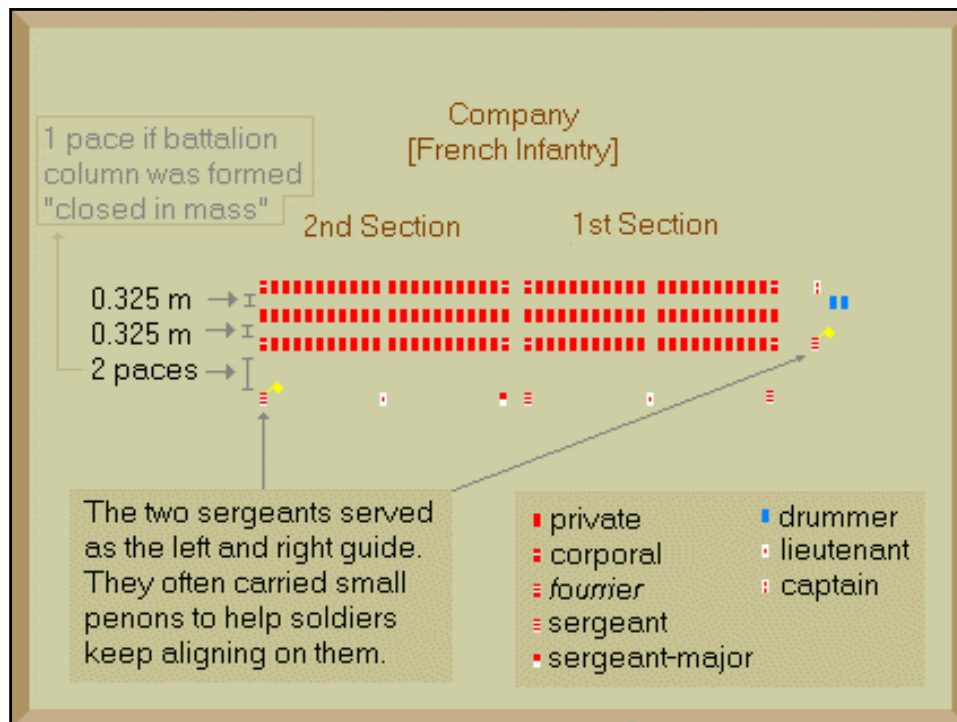


Rifles gradually replaced muskets during the Napoleonic Wars. While taking marginally longer to reload, rifles were appreciably more accurate at greater range because the rifled barrel put spin on the bullet. Napoleon preferred the higher firing rate of the musket. The British utilised the more expensive rifle, creating the elite 95th Regiment (Rifles) and arming many of the Light Infantry units in the bastions.

The Rifle











The French, particularly, have never been able to march steadily in deployed lines."
General Jomini



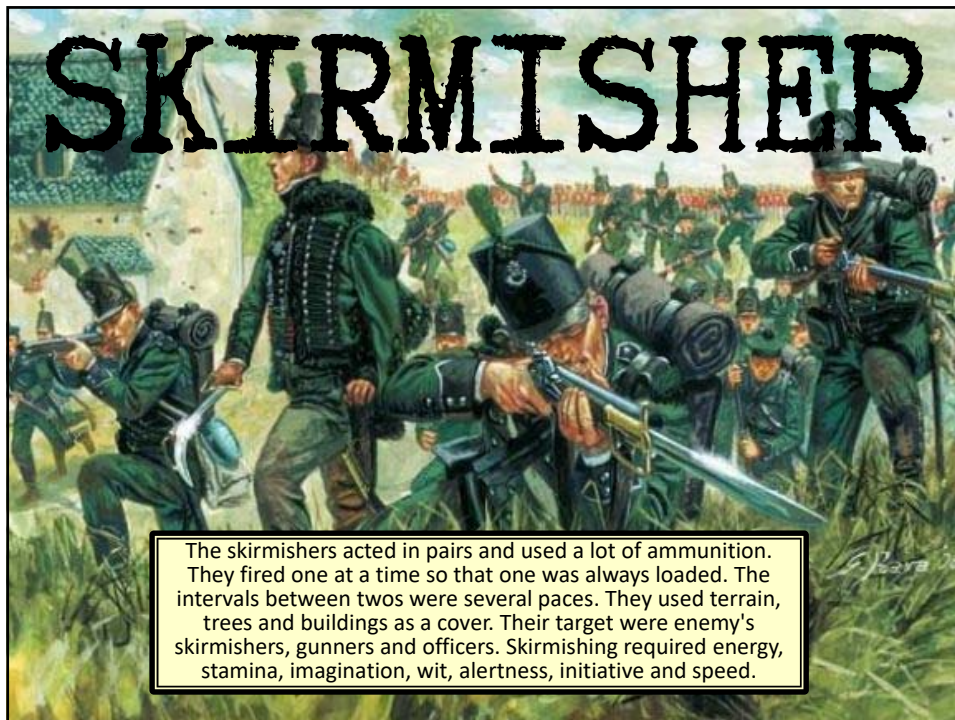




battalion column by division (division = 2 companies) <i>colonne par division</i>		battalion column by platoon (platoon = 1 company) <i>colonne par peloton</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">with full intervals <i>de distance entiere</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">with full intervals <i>de distance entiere</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">with half-intervals <i>de demi-distance</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">with half-intervals <i>de demi-distance</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">at section intervals		<ul style="list-style-type: none">closed column by platoon <i>colonne serre par peloton</i> or <i>colonne en masse</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">closed column <i>colonne serre</i>			







Intervals between pairs were: in the French army 15 paces, in Austrian 6 paces, in Russian 5 paces. Intervals changed depending the on tactical situation. They used terrain, trees and buildings as a cover. They annoyed the flanks of the enemy and created terror when appearing at the rear.



Tirailleur means sharpshooter, a skirmisher in French. Tirailleurs had a quick wit, alertness, and skill and lightness for running, crawling and jumping. They enjoyed great reputation as skirmishers and rightly so.

Company of French light infantry deployed into skirmish chain (*tirailleurs de marche et de combat*) in concert with their parent battalion for which they scouted on the march and covered during battle. They repulsed the first posts of the enemy, probed his position and to foment disorder amongst enemy formations.

- The American riflemen were armed with rifles, war axes and Indian scalping knives. They had the air of men to whom cleanliness was a virtue unknown. It "gave them an air of wilderness and savageness which in Italy would cause them to pass for the brigands of the Appenines."

- John Richardson

- The greatest danger to skirmishers came from the cavalry. Beskrovnyi writes; "[when cavalry attack the skirmishers] The officer ... collects his men into groups of about 10 men. They stand back to back and continue firing and thrust their bayonets into the enemy cavalymen, and everyone should be confident that the battalion or the regiment will come to their aid in a short time."
- One general worried that a number of soldiers is lost to "temporary desertion" while skirmishing. But officer F.N. Glinka wrote that in 1813 after Bautzen: "...Colonel Kern wanted to relieve a chain of skirmishers, who fought for several hours. They responded: don't relieve us ! We can fight till the evening; just give us cartridges!"





Types of French Artillerymen

- **Foot artillery**
 - In 1805 were 8 regiments of foot artillery (régiments d'artillerie à pied)
- **Horse artillery**
 - In 1805 were 6 regiments of horse artillery (régiments d'artillerie à cheval)
- **Pontoon bridge troops**
 - There were 2 battalions of pontoniers. They were assigned by companies to each army corps, the Cavalry Reserve and its field train's headquarters. When their heavy pontoon wagons were held up by bad roads, they could improvise bridges out of any available boats, rafts built from demolished buildings or empty wine barrels. In 1805 were 2 bataillons de pontonniers.
- **Artificers (*ouvriers*)**
 - In 1812 were 19 companies of artificers (the 19th was made of Spanish deserters and POWs). The artificers were specialists in the construction and repair of gun carriages and other vehicles. They served in artillery arsenals and with the artillery batteries in the field.
- **Armorers (*armuriers*)**
 - In 1813 were 6 companies of armorers (the 5th was made of Dutchmen). The armorers repaired weapons of all types. They served in the artillery arsenals and with artillery batteries in the field.

- Raising artillery was beset by some difficulties including lack of time and lack of trained gunners and suitable horses. Napoleon rebuilt the artillery of the Guard but did little to the rest of the artillery.
- Despite the poor shape the French artillery still was able to impress even the enemy. Captain Mercer of British Royal Horse Artillery wrote: "The rapidity and precision of this fire [French guns at Waterloo] was quite appalling. Every shot almost took effect, and I certainly expected we should all be annihilated."

Gun barrel length	Barrel weight Carriage weight	Total	Horses for the gun	Caissons and horses
12pdr foot cannon 2.3 m	985 944	1929	6	3 caissons with 2 horses each
8pdr horse cannon 2 m	583 659	1242	6	2 caissons with 2 horses each
8pdr foot cannon 2 m	583 659	1242	4	2 caissons with 2 horses each
Howitzer 0.71 m	318 839	1157	4	2-3 caissons with 2 horses each



French gunner and heavy gun (*le brutal*)



Gribbeauval 12 pounds gun
(avail in 12-, 8-, 6- and 4-pounds.)

This style of gun was the artillery of choice for Napoleon. They weighed 1/3 less than comparable cannon and provided speed, mobility and in flexibility.

The French army also had vast quantities of 6" and 8" howitzers, mortars, furnace bombs, grape and canister shots, all of which provided substantial support fire.