

Two-ended Staff

Johann George Pascha

1673



The half pike, or double-ended staff as it is commonly known, is a sturdy staff about four fingers in girth & as tall as the man who uses it.

It is shod with two caps or edged spikes as shown in no.1, in case one needs to defend oneself against several swordsmen. But do this only if necessary; because it must be advised that you will run a dangerous risk, the same as with other Exercises, such as disarm techniques, fighting and the like which must not be used except when in need & in defence.

Firstly, one must know that the staff can be held in three different ways.

The first hold, this is when you take the staff in the middle with the right hand and under the right arm, as no. 2 shows.

The second hold, hold the staff under the right arm, as before, except you will turn the right hand under the middle of the staff, so that the fingers are on top as no.3 shows.

The third hold, put the staff under the right arm, you place the left hand on the staff & the right hand on the left arm, as shown in no.4.

If you want to do this Exercise in front of someone, salute them, as seen in no.5.

Here are the Lessons

1. Place the left foot to the front & the right foot behind, take up the staff with the left hand two spans away from one of the ends & and the right hand two spans away from the other end, as shown in no. 6, & if someone wishes to attack you from the front, slide it forward with both hands, as shown in no.7, and draw it swiftly back, as shown in no.8.

If you want to slide it to the right side, forwards and backwards, you must advance the right leg, every time that the foot moves forward & your right foot goes backwards & so on in all directions.

If you want to slide it to the right side, forwards and backwards, you must advance the right leg, every time that the foot moves forward & your right foot goes backwards & so on in all directions.

You must always turn your face about, except behind you, including to the sides, where they will want to attack you, slide it to the front, with the right hand next to the end of the staff & with the left about three spans from the other tip, as shown in no. 7.

The two Spanish Thrusts in all Directions

2. Slide the left hand up to the right, up to the tip & with the right hand, slide up to the left hand, & and place the right foot to the front, as shown in no. 9.

Slide the right hand to the left up to the tip, & slide with the left hand above to where the right hand is & place the left foot to the front. Do this in all directions & always turning to the left.

3. Make the two Spanish Thrusts on the half-round. Firstly behind you to the left turning with half-turns until you turn back to the same place, where after turning to the left first, now turn to the right side, finally turning again to the place you started from.

4. Make a half- Spanish Thrust viz.

Make a thrust behind to your left half-turning as no.10 shows, after a Spanish Thrust again instead, or your starting place half turning to the right, on the spot turning left on the left side & finally turning left instead, where you started from & make a thrust.

5. The same two thrusts can be made in all directions in the same way as they are often done to the front & rear.

6. Make the attacks over the head, by adding the Spanish Thrusts; viz;

Slide the right hand to the left, as no. 11 shows; pass the left hand underneath the right, slide the left hand up to the tip of the staff & place the right foot forward, as no. 12 shows, & strike him, make a Spanish Thrust & and place the left foot to the front, & do this in all directions, until you only have hold of the butt, or you get back to the beginning & always turning to the left.

7. Make attacks over the head by adding Spanish Thrusts, using half-turns, as you did in all directions.

8. Make attacks over the head without Spanish Thrusts, half-turning; slide the right hand up to the left, take with the left hand below the right & slide the left up to the tip of the staff, place the left foot, half turning to the left, & strike, as no.13 shows, slide the left hand up to the right, take with the right hand underneath the left & and slide the right hand near the tip of the staff, placing the left foot half-turning to the right and & strike them, again slide the right hand up to the left, take with the left hand, underneath the right & slide the left hand up to place the right foot and turn to the left side, & strike there. Slide around the left hand position up to the right. Take with the right hand underneath the left & and slide the right hand up to the tip of the staff.

Place the left foot half half-turned to the right & strike, finally slide the right hand up to the left & and take with the left hand underneath the right & slide the left hand up to the tip of the staff place the right foot half- turned to the left, which you move instead, or where you started, strike thus & and make a Spanish Thrust.

9. As you made the attacks over the head & the Spanish Thrusts on the square, you can so the same sometimes to the front and rear.

10. Just as you made attacks overhead without Spanish Thrusts so can they be practised to the front and rear.

11. Make parries above and to the front and to the rear; viz; Take up the staff with the right and left hands in the middle, hold the staff as shown in no. 14.

Make the tip that is near the left hand pass above and in front of you beside the left foot, as seen in no. 16, and this is often done by taking a few steps to the front and rear.

Make parries below and in front; viz; Make the point which is by the left hand pass below and in front nearby the left foot, as no.17 shows, after the same tip nearby the right foot, as no.18 shows & and thus more to the front, pass a few steps forwards and backwards, as before.

13. Place the right foot in front & turn the right hand. Slide one tip behind you near the left side, as no.19 shows & and make an attack to both sides in front and behind; viz; Cut a full circle with the right hand turning to the right, & place the left foot to the front, take up the staff with the left hand, so that the fingers are underneath, & again slide one tip behind you near the right side, as seen in no.20, & cut with the left hand, turning to the left a full circle, put the right foot to the front, & take up the staff with the right hand so that the fingers are underneath, & and make again such those blows until at last your right foot comes back to the front. Chop an entire circle with the right hand, turning to the right, & put the right foot to the rear, take up the staff with the left hand so that the fingers are underneath & slide one end tip behind you near to your right side, cut an entire circle with the left hand XXX & place the left foot to the front, take up the staff with the right hand so that the fingers are underneath & make again often such blows.

14. This lesson can always be done in all directions, half-turning, with two blows.

15. This lesson can always be done in all directions, half-turning, with one blow.

16. When at last your right foot is found to the front, take up the staff with the right hand, so that the fingers are above, one span from the left hand & have the left hand by the tip, with the fingers underneath, as no.21 shows, & make the blows with both hands to the front and rear; viz;

Launch the right foot to the front and left side, so that you turn your face to the other side & the feet equal & strike with the hands a full Circle turning to the left of the head, launch the left foot by turning it behind the right so that the feet are again equal & you will find, where you started from & cut with the hands a full Circle to the left turning of the head, making such blows often & advance with each, when the right foot finds itself to the front, make these blows to the front; viz;

Launch the right foot over the left to the left side, so that you turn the face to the other side & strike with both hands a full Circle turning to the left of the head, make also some blows, just as where you started from & place each blow to the front.

17. When your left foot goes to the front make the staff roll on the left arm, which you hold out in front, as no.22 shows, & cut on both sides to the front and rear; viz;

Cut with both hands in front of you to the right side, so that the staff will put itself on the right arm and advance the left foot, as no. 23 shows.

Cut again with the hands in front of you on the left side, so that the staff will put itself on the left arm & put the right foot to the front, & make again such blows & advance with each blow; When at last the right foot finds itself to the front, & the staff lies on the left arm, do the lesson again to the rear; viz;

Cut with the hands in front of you on the right side so that the staff rolls on the right arm, & place the right foot to the front. cut again with the hands in front of you on the left side, so that the staff rolls on the left arm & place the left foot to the front & and thus make again sometimes such blows, so that come back to the place you started from & retreat with each blow.

18. This lesson can be done to all four corners with two blows.

19. This lesson can always be done, half-turning, with two blows.

20. This lesson can always be done in all directions, half-turning, with one blow, and finally done with two blows.

21. Here are the rounding blows turning to the right; viz;

The right foot finds itself to the front, place the left foot to the right side in a corner & cut an entire Circle to the right turning by the head as no.24 shows, & thus in all directions.

22. Make these rounding blows to the left turning in all directions, as no. 25 shows.

If finally you turn your face to where you started your right foot will also find itself to the front, place the right foot to the rear & slide the staff near your right side so that the left hand is at the tip & the right is two spans from the tip, as seen in no. 26.

23. Make blows both high and low in all directions; viz;

Cut from above to below & place the right foot to the front, as no. 27 shows. Slide near to the left side, so that the right hand is at the tip & and the left is two spans from the tip, as no. 29 shows & thus in all directions& always turning to the left, when you have slid nearby the right side.

24. Make these blows from low-to-high and in all directions on the half-turn. Firstly behind you, half to the left, then back again to the same place, where you started from, then half-left to the left side, then half-left turning to the right side, finally again to the left, back to where you began, when you slide nearby the right side.

25. Make a blow from high-to-low in all directions; viz;

Firstly half-left behind you, after again returning to the place you began from at first, and then turning half-right instead, back to where you began & finally making two blows.

26. When the blows are from high to low in all directions, the same can be done to the front and rear.

27. Make blows from low to high in all directions, as no. 30 shows.

In this lesson slide & place the feet, as in the twenty-third lesson, except you will strike the adversary's elbow at distance.

28. Make low-to-high blows in all directions, half-turning.

29. Make a low-to-high blow in all directions.

30. As when the blows are made from low to high in all directions do the same to the front and rear.

31. Make a jumping Thrust; viz;

Make a Thrust & jump with both feet forwards as no. 31 shows. Slide the right hand to the left, pass the left hand underneath the right & slide the left up to the butt & trap it behind you, as no. 32 shows, making a Spanish Thrust turning half-right, as no.33 shows, & do this in all directions.

32. This lesson can be done to the front and rear.

33. Place the staff in the right armpit, as no. 34 shows, & let the staff lie below the left armpit so that you hold the staff in the middle with the right hand, as seen in no. 35.

Make the staff turn about the right hand, so that you receive it again within the right hand, take the staff under the right arm and salute, as done in no. 5.



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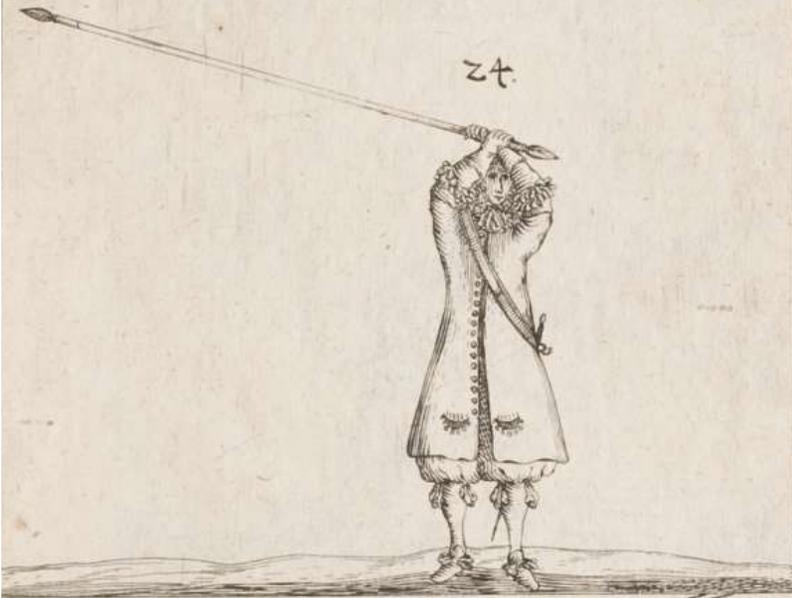
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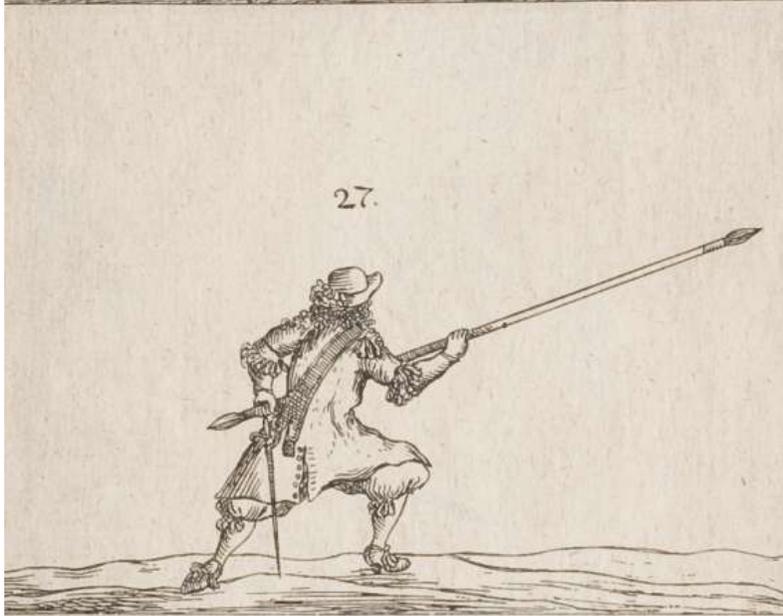


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Partisan

Johann George Pascha

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1. The first salute; viz;

Place the partisan down near the right foot & the point in front of the body, as no. 1 shows.

Roll the right hand at the lowered partisan, take the butt-end below the right hand, & salute with the right foot, as no. 2 shows.

Take the partisan with the right hand to the front, so that you can slide it a little higher, bring back the right foot & grasp with the left hand underneath the partisan, as no. 3 shows, stood still, place the right foot next to the Partisan, as no. 1 was done, &, while doffing the hat, salute with the left foot, as no. 4 shows.

2. Take up the partisan with the left hand, as was done in no. 3.

Turn it about so that the point is to the front, and take the butt-end with the right hand, holding the point low and to the front & the right hand high and to the rear, at the same time, with the point aiming at the ground at the same time, salute with the left hand, as shown in no. 5. Place the left foot forward and take the Partisan to the front, grasp the Partisan up high with the right hand, again place the right foot a little to the front, as was done in no. 3.

Place the partisan low & the right foot to the Partisan, as was done in no. 1 & salute, as was done in no. 4.

3. The third salute.

Take up the partisan three spans from the butt end with a hand turned so that the fingers near the thumb are underneath, as shown in no.6 & turn to the right underneath your head to underneath the right arm, as seen in no.7. Salute, as was done in no.2. Raise the partisan up high, held with a tuned left hand underneath the partisan, as shown in no. 8.

Turn the partisan in front of the body, placing the point to the front, gliding the right hand a little high, and place the right foot a little to the front, as was done in no. 3.

Set down the partisan, place the right foot next to the partisan & salute, as was done in no. 4.

Salute while Marching

4. When you hold the butt of the Partisan as was done in no. 1, slide the right hand down a little, towards the butt, take it under the right arm, as no. 9 shows, step, as always, by advancing the right foot the same distance as high, & advance the left foot the same distance down low; As the right foot goes forward, pass the Partisan underneath the head, take it at the butt end with the left hand, as no. 10 shows, push the Partisan to the front with the left hand.

Place the left foot to the front & grasp the butt end at the same time with the right hand, take the right hand high and to the rear, & the point low and to the front, pass with the right foot to salute, as seen in no. 11, pass further forward with the left and right legs and again place the Partisan to the left side.

Pass the partisan under the body, place the right hand underneath the Partisan, not too far from the point, as no. 12 shows, making the Partisan in the right hand passes underneath the head, so that you receive it under the right arm as was done in no. 9 & place the left foot to the front at the same time, then do the same with the right foot & salute with the Partisan, as no. 13 shows.

5. When you want to hold it up high, place the partisan to the front, during which the left foot goes forward & bring back the right foot again a little, take the Partisan low down with the left hand, & during this slide the right hand up the partisan, place the Partisan low & make a demi-circle towards the left foot & a full circle after that to the front & make a half-turn to the right, so that the feet are in line, set down the Partisan in line with your feet, as was done in no. 1.

6. Push the partisan with outside of the right foot from behind very slowly & clearly in front of you so that the point is low and to the front, as no. 14 shows. Step thus again lowered and salute, as you have done previously.

7. If you go again the butt, push the point of the partisan to the front into space & at the same time put the right foot to the front, as no. 15 shows, place the left foot to the front & hold the partisan to the front, as seen in no. 16.

Place the right foot straight out in front turning the face, or if you prefer the back, & hold the point of the partisan high and to the front, grasp the Partisan with the left hand, and slide it high with the right hand armpit, as was done in no. 3.

Bring it down low, as was done in no. 1.

Parading;
Or various methods of carrying the Partisan

8. Slide the right hand down the partisan, launch the partisan a little in the air take it a low down with a turned right hand, so that the palm & the fingers face to the rear, as no. 17 shows.

Do it so that the point rolls to the right side. behind and in front, up high and down low all on the turn, such that the Partisan will go under the right arm & the point will be behind and high, as no. 18 shows.

Step some paces to the middle, if the left foot goes to the front, make it so that the point rolls high and to the front turns nearby to the right side, such that it goes onto the left hand, as seen in no. 19.

Do it so that it goes under the head, so that you receive the Partisan under the right arm, as seen in no. 20, & walk a few paces, when the right foot is to the front, so that the right hand is in front and make a half-slide with the right hand so that it goes under the Partisan, as was shown in no. 12.

Do it so that the partisan passes under the head, such that you receive it under the right arm & place the left foot to the front & step.

9. When you return to the butt, do not place the partisan over the head, and advance the right foot, taking the butt-end of the partisan with the left hand near to the body, advancing the left foot, making a half-turn to the right, and thus allow the partisan to roll above the head & at the same time place the right foot to the front, place the partisan in the right hand & slide it up a little, set it down, as was shown in no. 1.

10. Slide the right hand a little lower, push the partisan with the outside of the right foot to the rear, such that the butt-end goes high and behind & the point is forward and low, as it was in no. 14 & walk up to the butt.

When the right foot is found to the front, launch the partisan a little upwards, so that the butt-end resides high and to the front & the point low; trap it above the point very near the tassel, as no. 21 shows.

Place it above the left hand; pass it above the head, such that the point goes low, as no. 23 shows.

Advance the right foot, take again the partisan, near to the tassel hold the hand out in front of you to the right side, put the partisan on the right armpit, as no. 24 shows, & walk, during which you turn half-left, towards the centre.

The Following Lessons Serve for Defence

11. Place the left foot to the front, place the Partisan on the left hand, so that the butt-end is to the front & the point is to the rear as no. 25 shows.

Make the partisan roll around the left hand so that the point goes about the butt-end, grasp the Partisan firmly with a turned right hand three spans from the butt-end & do it so that the point rolls low down near the right side, When it returns upright on the right side, advance the right foot & batter thus low and to the front, during which take the butt-end with the left hand, as no. 26 shows, holding the Partisan with the right hand outstretched as seen in no. 27.

12. Making it turn twice about the left hand: viz;

Pass with the left foot all to the left hand, so that the left goes to the front, & so that you are facing as you were at first.

Carry the partisan, pass the point with the right foot to the right foot low from low to high, such that you draw back the left foot, the point near the right leg up high, as the butt-end near the left leg must be well lowered, as no. 28 shows; thus you turn on your toes a little to the left, & make the turn again once more.

13. Two Spanish Thrusts to the front; viz;

Slide the right hand to the left up to the butt-end & with the left hand, slide it outwards until it reaches the right hand & advance the left foot, as in the half-pike.

Slide the left hand to the right up to the butt-end & with the right hand, slide outwards until it reaches the left hand & advance the right foot, as in half-pike. Do this several times.

14. Two Spanish Thrusts to the rear.

Do these as you did the Spanish thrusts to the front, except instead, where you turned always to the front, you will place them this time to the rear.

15. with the left foot to the front & the partisan near the right side. Make two Spanish Thrusts in all directions.

16. Make two Spanish Thrusts; viz;

Firstly behind you, after again half-turning to the same place you started from at first, and then by the left side after half-turning to the right side, finally returning to that place from where you first started.

17. Making a Spanish Thrust on the half-turn; viz;

Make a thrust behind you, turning half left, then a Spanish Thrust again instead, where you make at first a half right turn then to the left side, followed by the right side, half-turning to the right, and finally to the left, returning to the place where you started from & make one more thrust.

18. Make the right hand go along the partisan above, until the left, let go with the left hand and batter with the butt-end of the partisan, advancing the right foot to the front from up high to down low, as seen in no. 29. & done so that it goes down nearby the left side & again up high, so that the point is found to the front & the butt-end outstretched behind & take the butt-end with the left hand three spans from the butt-end of the partisan, then make a Spanish Thrust & this you can sometimes do from up above.

19. Do the eighteenth lesson in the same again to the front, except where you previously advanced, you will retreat presently & finally do not thrust with the point.

20. When you have the right foot to the front & the partisan to the left side, make a Spanish Thrust with the right hand & batter thus, as in the nineteenth lesson & do the same in all directions, turning to the right.

The Great Charge; viz;

When you have the right foot to the front & you place the partisan on the left side, such that the point is forward & the butt is to the rear, let the butt-end (letting go with the left hand) go to the front from down low to up high, also place the right foot next to the left with a half-turn, & make the butt-end go to the front low down and near the right side until the point returns to the front, & again you have the partisan in both hands, and do it thus again turning half-left, back to where you were facing, or where you started from, make two Spanish Thrusts with the right hand, & thus the Great Charge is done this way in front, & in all directions, & finally only one Spanish Thrust as you will have the partisan on the right side.

22. Jump with both feet at the same time to the front & push with the partisan in front of you, place the left hand near the point, but the right about three spans from the butt-end, as no. 30 shows. Let go with the left hand & make the point go to the left turning around the head, take with the left hand underneath the right & beat behind you, as no.31 shows.

Then pass with the left foot up to the right hand, & make a Spanish Thrust, so that you receive the partisan on the right side, & do this in all directions, except that you will not jump as you did the first time.

23. Make this thrust again once more, push the partisan with the right hand only in front of you, so that it goes to the left side & and pass with the right foot, such that the left foot goes to the rear, place the Partisan on the right arm, as seen in no. 32, grasp with the left hand near the butt end of the partisan, turn on your toes turning left & batter with the partisan at the same time turning fully to the left, as no. 33 shows, advance the right foot, make a Spanish Thrust half-turning to the right & after turning twice you will return to where you faced, or where you started from.

24. Do the previous lesson once more, this time holding the butt, until you return to where you started.

25. Take the partisan by the butt with a turned right hand, as no. 34 shows.

Jump with both feet at the same time to the front, & push in front of you, as was done in the twentieth lesson, advance the right foot & slide it over the left shoulder with the right hand, as no. 35 shows. Grasp with the left hand near to the point, do it so that the butt-end goes to the left, turning about the head & batter there, slide the hands together, let go with the left hand, do it so that the point turns below nearby the right side, just as it did when going upwards, place the right foot to the left on the half-turn, as no. 36 shows & batter with the partisan to the front upwards and downwards, until the point is outstretched and level, grasp with the left hand near by the end of the butt, slide the hands together & make the turn two times, so that you will turn your face where you started after this make a Spanish Thrust.

26. Do the previous lesson once more, such that you will hold it in front, where you started from.

27. The Windmill: viz;

When you have the partisan in the right hand, pass it over the right hand to the rear, as no. 37 shows, so that the point goes again to the rear, grasp the partisan with the left hand under the right hand, such that the fingers are above, as no. 38 shows.

Do it so that the partisan goes to the right hand and turns above and behind until the point returns to the front, & advance the right foot, do it so that the partisan goes above the left hand to the rear, so that the point returns to the front, grasp the Partisan with the right hand underneath the left hand, such that the fingers are above, as no. 39 shows.

Do this so that the partisan passes above and behind the left hand, turning until the point returns to the front, & advance the left foot.

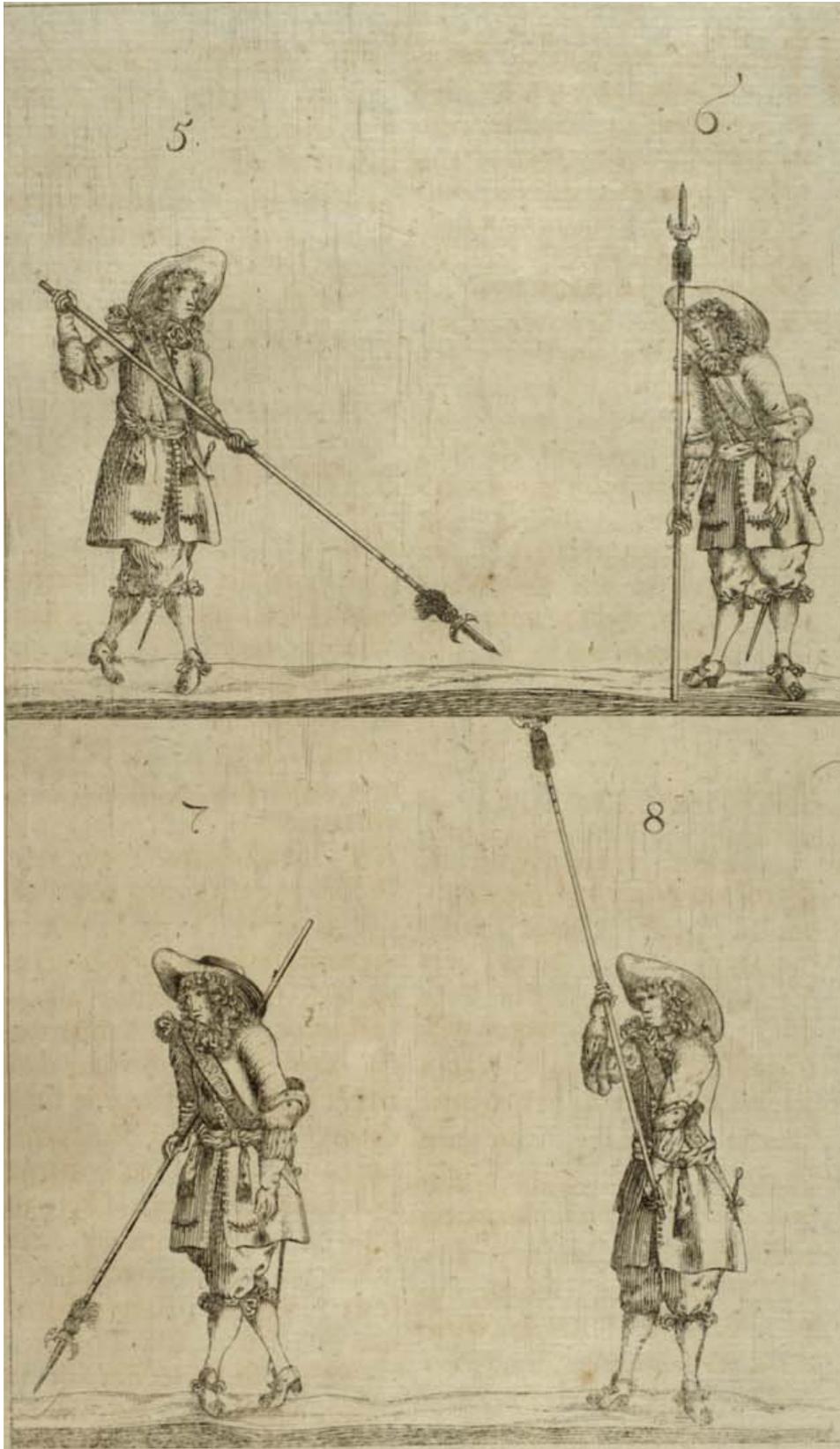
28. You can do the twenty-seventh lesson to the front and the rear, half-turning, & with a pass, also with three steps & a pass.

29. Set down the Partisan low down by the right foot, as was done in no. 1, slide the right hand a little lower, done so that the point passes firstly, after the butt-end is turned about the head by the left hand, such that the partisan puts itself on the right arm, & the point is to the front, at the same time salute with the right foot, as no. 40 shows, done so that the partisan goes the same as the left to the right hand and the rear, so that you receive is underneath the right arm, place the right foot to the right hand, & do this with the left foot & with the point of the partisan make a salute as was done in no. 2.

Place the right foot to the rear & place the partisan to the rear, grasp the partisan with the left hand & slide the right hand up a little, as was done in no. 3.

Place it near the right foot, lowered, join the right foot with the left & salute as was done in no. 4.





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JO



JJ



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J7

J8



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Spontoon

Sir P.J.F. Girard, 1740



Spontoon salute

Nothing has greater connection with the sword than the use of the spontoon; it is this that obliges me, after a tract on the smallsword, to give a method for learning the spontoon salutes, in the way as it is done in the military arts of today; of which I will make the most intelligible & with as much brevity as I am able to do.

Example

Gentleman officers of the infantry posted in a town or some other posting, when placing their guards of honour, must be to the right of the first file or at the head of the troop & salute the king, the princes of the blood, the general officers and governors, going to pass before the aforementioned guards; they must equally salute while at the head of a troop while passing before them. I shall begin by demonstrating the spontoon salute at the head of a guard of honour, followed by that of the head of a troop while marching.



**Spontoon salute
at the head of a guard of honour**

Firstly,

The officer must have his gorget and hat placed worn gracefully, body & head erect & looking straight ahead, shoulders back, placed well on his legs, ankles bent with both heels in alignment & separated by the length of one pace, the left arm hanging in an easy manner, holding his spontoon firmly in his right hand, thump on top, arm extended to shoulder-height, the butt of the spontoon on the ground in a straight line with regards to the butt of the right foot & at a distance of one foot, the point straight up.

See the image of this posture, A.



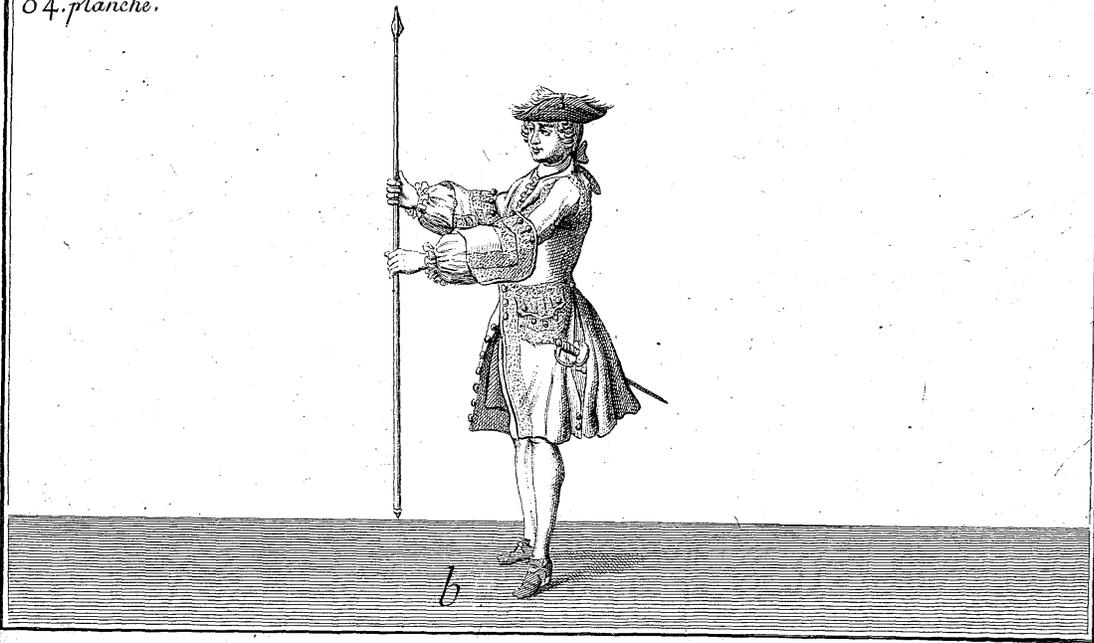
Officer of the infantry at the head of a guard of honour

A

113.

Salut de l'Esponton arresté.

84^e planche.



Decreed spontoon salute

B

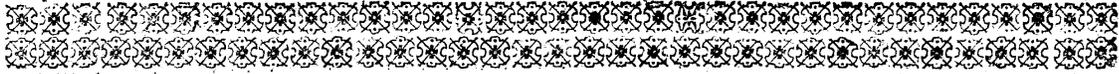


Decreed spontoon salute sequence,

Secondly,

When those who must salute the officer are seven or eight paces away from him he must commence his salute in the correct manner; that's to say, make a right turn while turning the body steadily on the left heel while staying in place, passing the right foot next to the left, heels on the same line, & such that there is a distance of one pace, while carrying at the same time the left hand to the spontoon by a distance of one foot below the right hand, both arms extended, right hand at shoulder height, nails uppermost & the left hand at flank height, nails underneath, in such a way that the spontoon is in a transverse line directly between the shoulder and the flank.

See the image of this posture, B



Decreed spontoon salute sequence,

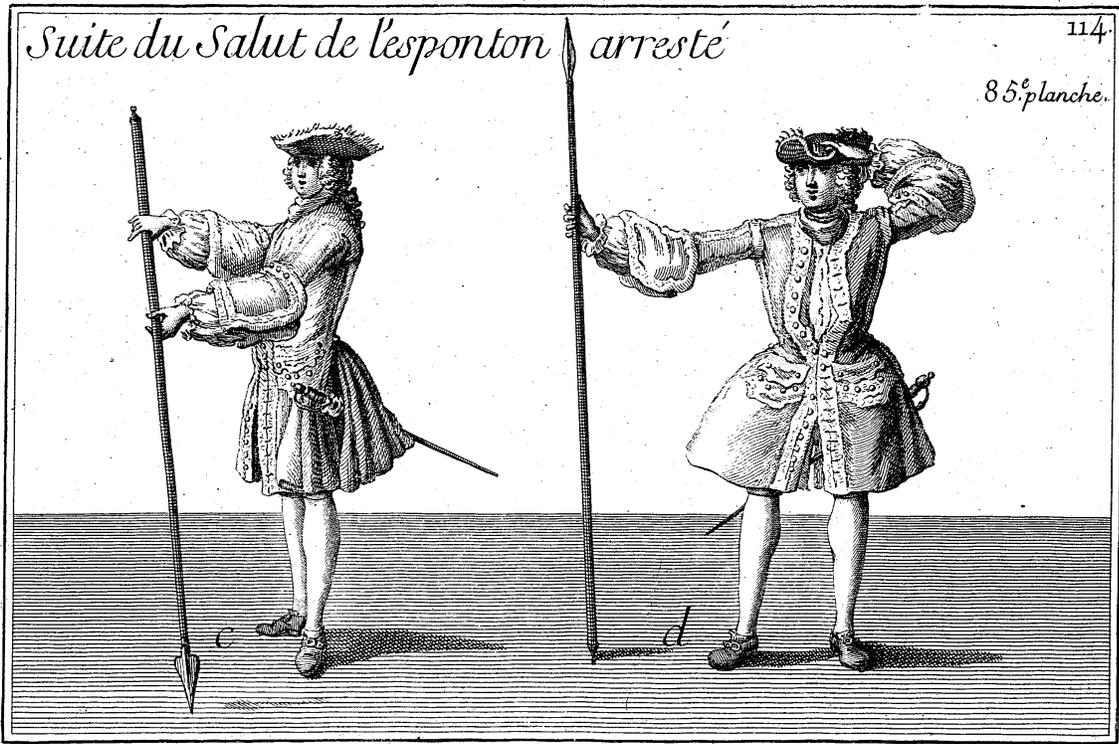
Thirdly,

Next he recovers the spontoon by passing the right hand two feet behind the left hand, so that he turns the nails over while lowering them to flank height, always holding the right hand at shoulder height, nails turned over, the body steady & the arms extended, lowering the tip about one foot off the ground.

See the image of this posture, C

Fourthly,

Next recover the point by putting the right hand on the butt of the spontoon, supporting it with the left hand, & take the spontoon by the said right hand two large feet over the left hand, by letting go at the same time with the left hand, one must at the same time turn to the left & return to the first position, the right arm extended to shoulder height, & the spontoon in a straight line, while carrying the left hand to the hat, with good grace, and the elbow raised.



Decreed sequence for the spontoon salute

C

D



Decreed sequence for the spontoon salute

E



Decreed spontoon salute sequence,

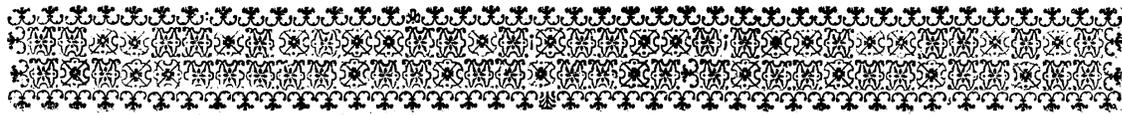
Fifthly,

Next, while in the first position, left hand carried to the hat, he removes it below his head & lets it fall upon his thigh, nails underneath, thrusting at the same time the left foot behind the right heel, making a tilt of the head with an easy manner with a bending of the body, so that the shoulders are near the flanks, maintaining the right hand firmly on the spontoon, always in front of & on the right side of right foot, the arm a little bent, then he recovers easily, with gentility, only replacing his hat after.

See the image of this posture, e

Take care,

That the officer does not replace his hat until the persons he has saluted have passed and are some distance away.



Spontoon salute,

While marching at the head of a troop of infantry.

Firstly,

Officers at the head of a troop must have their gorge on and wear their hats with good grace; they must hold their bodies and heads up straight with a confident manner, bodies steady upon their legs, shoulders back, left arm hanging without swinging, holding their spontoons steady in their right hands, by the middle, thumb on top, the arm hanging & carried at thigh height, & at a distance of four fingers, such that the point is to the fore at eye height, & the butt about one foot off the ground; and in this posture, they will take care on all marches to lead off with the left foot first.

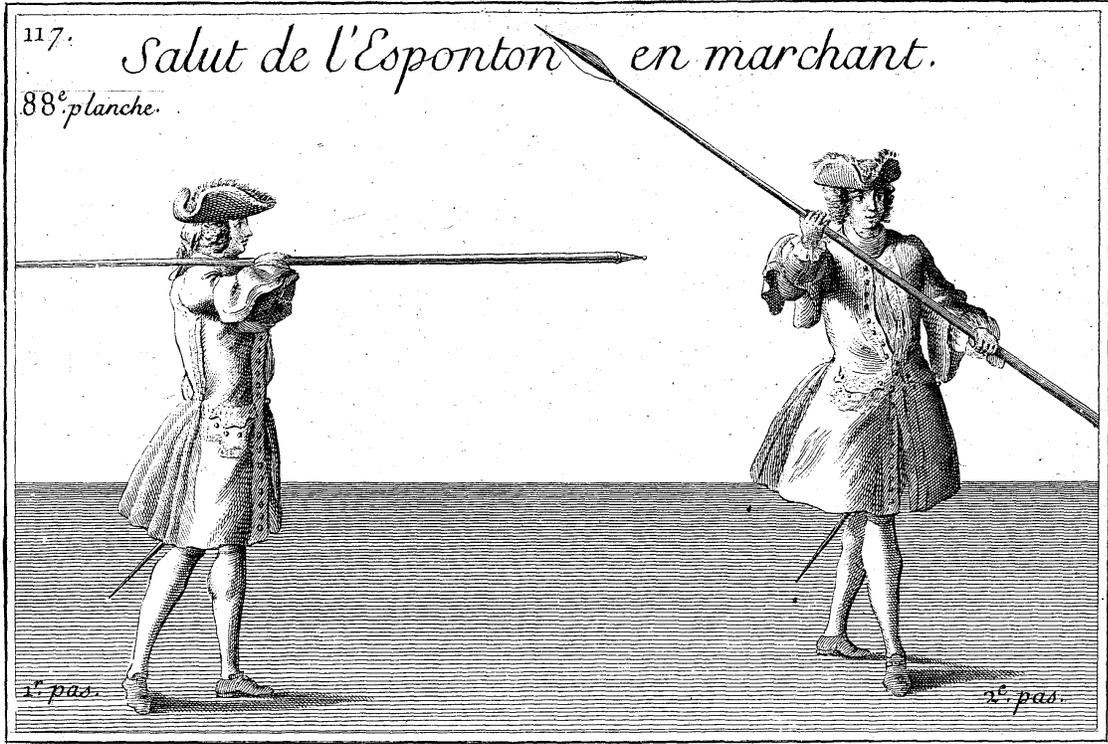
See the image of this posture, a

Officier marchant a la teste d'une troupe d'Infanterie.^{116.}
87^e planche.



Officer marching at the head of a troop of infantry

A



Spontoon salute while marching

1

2



Spontoon salute while marching

Officers must take care, when they are seven or eight paces from the person to be saluted, to commence their salute from the strong, while leading off with the left foot first, as has been said, ankles straight and body steady. In this salute there are seven steps to observe.

Firstly,

They raise their spontoons in front easily, placing it flat on the right shoulder, point to the rear, at the same time as they pass the left foot to the front, the hand holding the spontoon separated by half a foot from the shoulder, with the elbow raised to the same height as the shoulder, the left arm hanging without swinging. See this posture in the first step.

II

Next pass the right foot, ankle straight, body steady, carrying skilfully the left hand to the spontoon, about a foot away from the right hand, left elbow raised, presenting the spontoon in a transverse line in front of him, arm extended, right hand at shoulder height turned with the nails on top & the left at flank height, turned with the nails downwards, see the posture in the second step.



Spontoon salute sequence while marching

Thirdly,

Next, they pass the left foot in front of the right foot turning the body, while making a right turn, at the same time raising the point of the spontoon, letting go with the right hand, carrying also both feet underneath the left hand, holding for a moment the said spontoon upright in front of one, the left arm held at the height of the gorget, & the right arm down at its full length & held away from the body in whatever way does not hinder it.

See the image of the third step.

IV

Next, they pass back the right foot to the fore, always with the body turned & turn the left hand with the nails upwards; lower this hand to flank height, & raise the right hand the nails underneath at shoulder height, letting the spontoon point fall until it is a foot off the ground, with good grace & without hindrance.

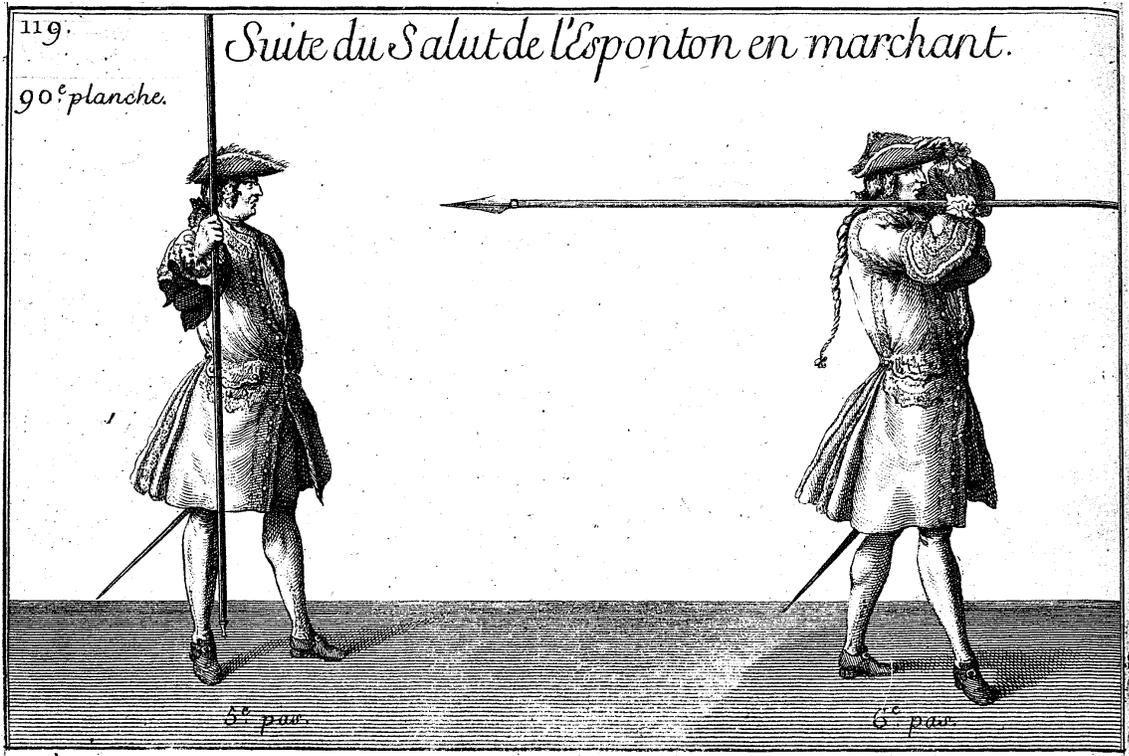
See the image of this posture of the fourth step.



Sequence for the spontoon salute while marching

3

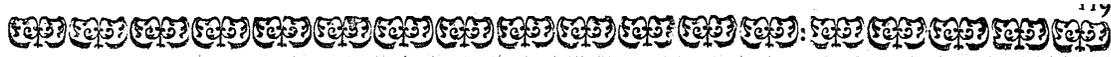
4



Sequence for the spontoon salute while marching

5

6



Sequence for the spontoon salute while marching,

Fifthly,

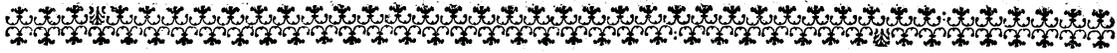
Next, they pass the left foot in front of the right foot, turning the body to the left as in the first posture, putting the right hand on the butt of the spontoon, supporting with the left hand while raising the point up straight, carrying at the same time the right hand, then they take the spontoon a foot below the left hand, which they then also let go while extending the right hand at shoulder height, holding the said spontoon without letting the butt touch the ground.

See the posture of the fifth step.

VI

Next, they pass the right foot in front of the left foot, stepping forward without turning the body, while placing the spontoon flat upon the right shoulder with good grace and the point to the rear, elbow raised to shoulder height & the hand separated by four fingers, nails underneath, carrying at the same time the left hand to the hat, the elbow raised to shoulder height.

See the posture of the sixth step.



Sequence for the spontoon salute while marching,

Seventhly

Next the spontoon is flat on the shoulder, they raise the hat easily with the aforementioned left hand, lowering it along the left thigh, hand turned with the nails underneath, at the same time that they pass the left foot on tip-toe in front of the right foot, the ankles straight, & they bow the head with a bend of the body, gazing with a serious manner & grace to those they are saluting.

See the posture of the seventh step & the last of the spontoon salute while marching.

Officers, after they have saluted, recover with gentility, always holding the spontoon on the shoulder while replacing their hat with good grace, once they have gone a little beyond those they have saluted; then to return to the first posture, they raise the point of the spontoon up straight, placing the other end on the ground, extending the right arm at shoulder height & passing the point in front of them easily at eye height, & the other end a foot off the ground, at the same time that they pass the right foot in front of the left, to continue to march at the head of their troop. See posture 8.

Take care

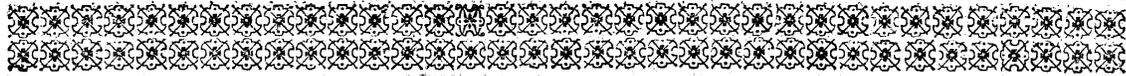
When officers march at the head of their troop, when encountering someone, make sure that they do not fail in their obligation to salute with the spontoon, instead of trying to only salute with their hat, in the same way as is explained in the seventh step; although having the spontoon along the right thigh, & raising the hat, one must make sure that the foot, the bow of the head & bending of the body are done at the same time.



Sequence of the spontoon salute while marching

7

8



Sequence for the spontoon salute and the march

If you have persons to the left and right, of the sort that officers have an obligation to salute with their hats, after having made the first salute with the left foot, in the same way as has been explained, they make two slow steps before commencing to salute with the right foot, then pass the right foot on tip-toe, then do the third step, while raising the hat with good grace, making a bow of the head & bending the body, then recovering with gentility, as has been said, & continue after two slow steps to pass the left foot, to salute as needed, always with a steady body & the ankles straight.





Sequence for the spontoon salute while marching

Gentlemen officers will take care, when they march with the spontoon in the hand at the head of a troop, & when they are obliged to turn to the left or right, to turn with gentility on the left heel, the ankles straight & the body steady, then to maintain the distance which they must have in front of their troop & to not turn at the same time.

End of the spontoon salute while marching at the head of a troop.



Defensive Staves and Flails

Captain Bast, 1836

The practice of the two-ended staff is very useful for making the body supple, fortifying the flanks and arms, and developing health; but one must learn the game in Rouen; the Parisian game is less beautiful; the wielding of such a weapon requires a fairly tiring practice, but it is the most certain; a strong staff-player, holding a cane or staff, will hold his own even if attacked by several individuals armed with knives or swords, and will promptly put them out of the fight.

The threshall is made up of six rods each a half-foot in length, tied together with links of corded gut; it serves only to make attacks, and comprises of no parries.

The flail or flog, which is a rod a foot in length furnished with nine or so gut cords or strips of plaited leather, a metre in length, each terminating in a ball of lead, is a formidable weapon: it comprises only of a single action, which is a twirling of all the balls around the user's head, but the effect is such that when one ball reaches the adversary all the others strike him in the same spot at the same moment. This weapon, which is a good defence, offers no exercise of any use and is very dangerous to the user; one must be strong at the two-ended staff before learning it, otherwise one runs the risk of killing oneself while wielding it.

The grain-flail is the sole weapon which can resist the two-ended staff, when it is wielded ably. He must already be a strong staff-user and have a vigorous arm in order to learn how to use this weapon, making attacks and parries in the same way as those of the two-ended staff, except the twirls to the side are not made with the flail.

The threshing-flail does not differ from the threshall except for an iron ball, topped with a spike at the tip; the parts of this weapon are connected by eel-skin; it is also very dangerous to wield.

Those who are masters of the point argue that, armed with a sword, they have the advantage and can counter staves and flails, while I have gained the conviction that, handled well, these weapons will triumph over all resistance.