

How they Did That

*Insights into how a British Regiment
functioned during the War of 1812*

By Tom Fournier, 41st Regiment of Foot



STANDING ORDERS

AND

REGULATIONS

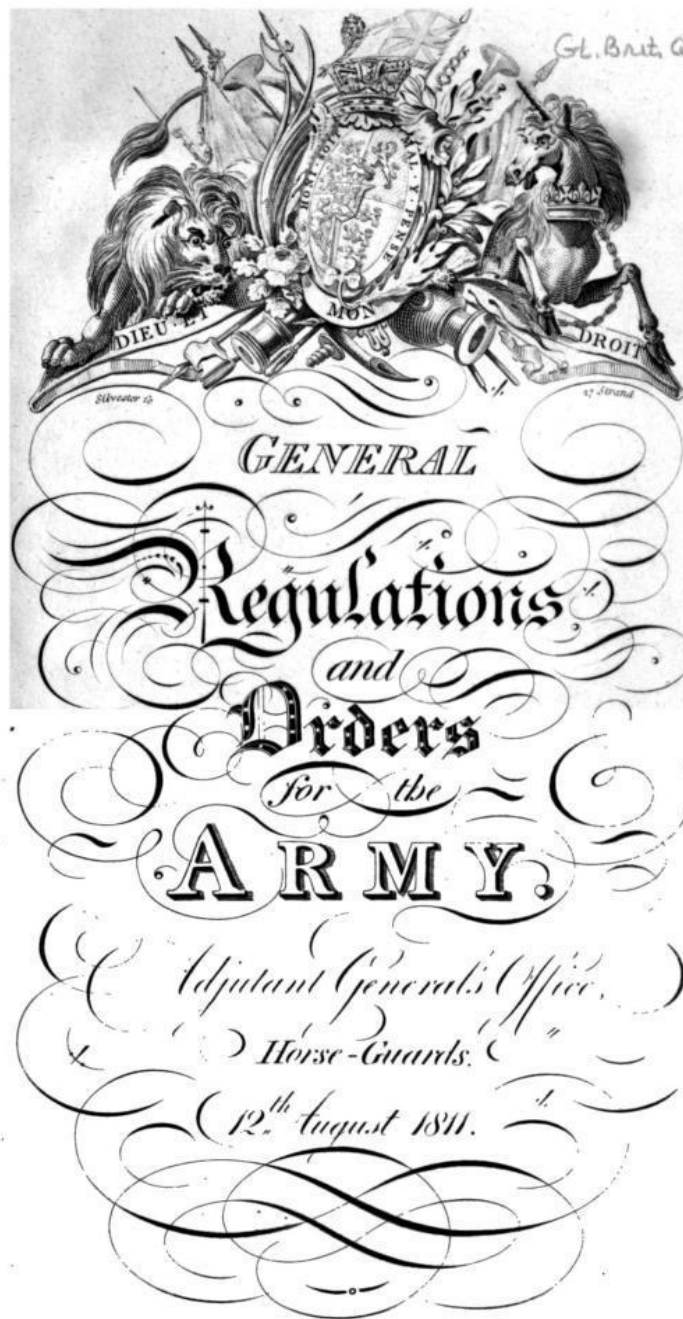
FOR THE

85TH LIGHT INFANTRY.
66441

London,

PRINTED FOR T. EGERTON,
MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL.

1813.



Why?

Having a determined plan of discipline, a settled rule of conduct, by which every man may know to a certainty what is his duty, and what is expected from him, seems to be, at all times, indispensably necessary.
(85th p.1)

Orders & discipline reflect the Colonel's "interest and welfare of each individual of it" (85th p. 2)

So Thoughtful!

Ready compliance to orders “surest means of diffusing that cheerfulness and happiness” (85th p.3)

It is recommended that the best means of being sure of the conduct of their men is for an Officer or Non-Commissioned Officer to never suffer them to be a moment out of their sight (85th p. 43)

Dress & Behaviour

A general attention to Dress, and to an outward appearance of cleanliness and comfort, is a part of the military system ... dressing well and with smartness, the principle object is, first, cleanliness and afterwards a Certain degree of self pride. (85th pg. 85)

A feeling that should be particularly encouraged in a soldier, for, in the end, it will make him a better man (85th pg. 86)

The men are enjoined to observe at all times a decent, civil, and proper behaviour to every body – no excuse can ever be made for rudeness or ill language. (85th pg. 93)

Obedience and Deference

Example of Officers, by ready obedience to all orders ...together with a regular and orderly conduct ...ensure the same exactness and regularity from the Non-commissioned Officers and Private Men and deprive them of every possibility of excuse for acting otherwise

(85th pgs. 4&5)

Every inferior, whether Officer or Soldier, shall receive the lawful commands of his Superior with deference and respect ...every Superior ...shall give his orders in the language of moderation, and of regard to the feelings of the individual under his command; abuse, bad language, or blows being positively forbid

(85th p. 7)

RULES AND ARTICLES
FOR
THE BETTER GOVERNMENT
OF
ALL HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,

From the 24th Day of MARCH 1807.

Published by His Majesty's Command:

L O N D O N :

Printed by GEORGE EYRE and ANDREW STRAMAN,
Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty.

1807

Articles of War and General Orders to be read once in every Two Months at least.

The Articles of War are to be read once in every Two Months to the Officers and Men in presence of the Commanding Officer; the Officers are to be at the head of their respective Troops or Companies: The strictest Silence is to be kept, and that respectful Attention given ...

In like manner, whatever parts of the present or future General Orders are meant to regulate the Conduct of the Officers and Men, are to be read and carefully explained to them, at least, once in every Two Months. The Obedience of this Order is to be regularly certified by the Commanding Officer.

(GRAO pg. 98)

Divine Worship

GEORGE R.

RULES AND ARTICLES

*For the better Government of all
Our Forces,*

SECTION I.

Divine Worship.

ALL Officers and Soldiers, not having just Impediment, shall diligently frequent Divine Service and Sermon, in the Places appointed for the assembling of the Regiment, Troop, or Company, to which they belong; such as wilfully absent themselves, or being present, behave indecently or irreverently, shall, if

ART. I.
Divine Service
and Sermon to
be frequented.

The Penalty
of absenting
from Divine
Service, and
of irreverent
Behaviour.

A 2

Com-

Great attention will be had to a strict observance of Sundays, and of those religious duties which are required of every Officer and soldier who professes himself to be a Christian (85th p. 93)

Divine service is most properly the first subject in the Articles of War (85th p. 93)

And they have BOOKS!

Captain's Books

Day or Memorandum Book

Ledger

Order Book

Description Book

Clothing & Accoutrement Book

Weekly Mess Book

Target Roll & Target Practice Book

Book of Merit/Distinguished Soldiers

Book of Division or Brigade Orders

(85th pg. 26)

Regimental/Public Books

Maintained by Adjutant & Serjeant-Major

General, Division, Brigade Order Books

Regimental Order Book

Description and Succession of Officers

Description of Soldiers

Letter Book

Monthly Return Book

Miscellaneous Return Book

Effective and Daily States

Registry of Furlows

Description of Deserters

Account of Defaulters

Court Martial Book

Registry of Deceased Soldiers

Record Book

Target Roll or Marksmen List Book

Dundas Regulations

Dundas Upon Light Infantry Movements

Standing Orders of the Regiment

Standing Orders of the Army

Adye and Tytler on Courts Martial

The Articles of War

The Annual Army List

And they have BOOKS!

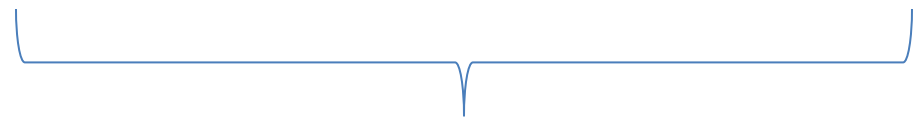
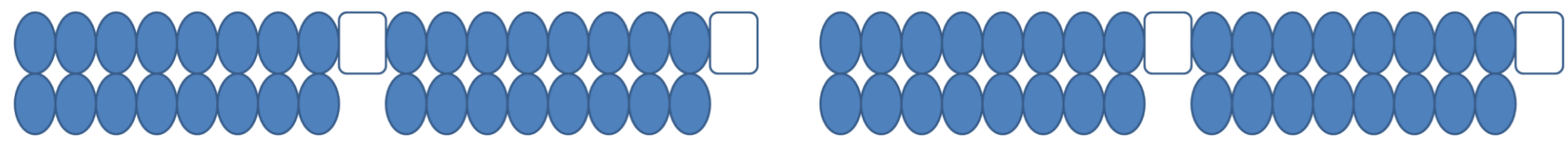
Quartermaster and Surgeon are to have their own distinct set of Books

(85th pg. 29)

Captain
First/Senior Lieutenant
Senior Sergeant/Acting Sergeant Major

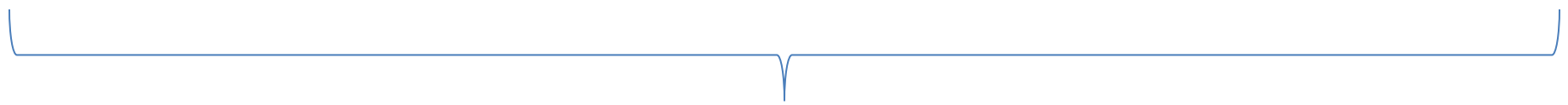
Ensign

Second/Junior Lieutenant



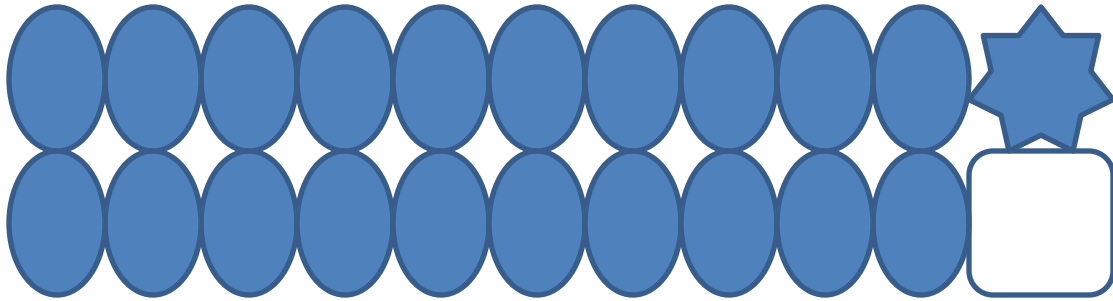
Half Platoon/Squad

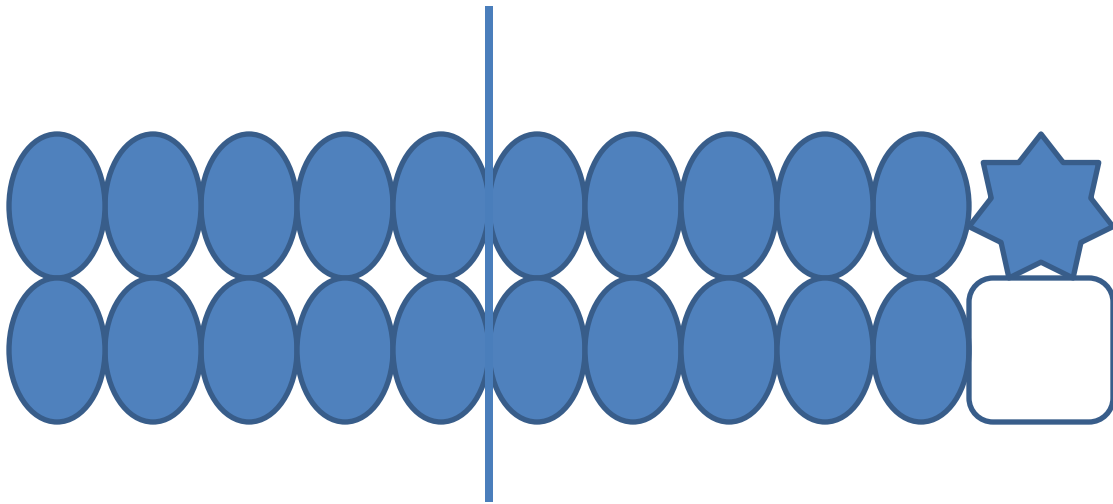
Platoon

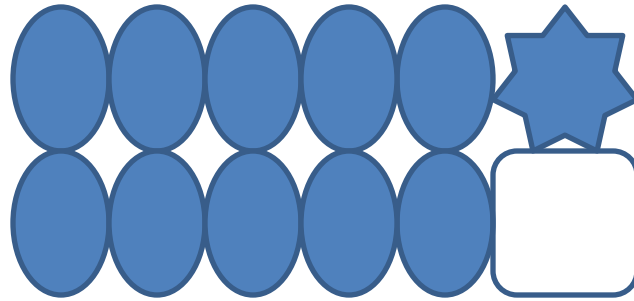
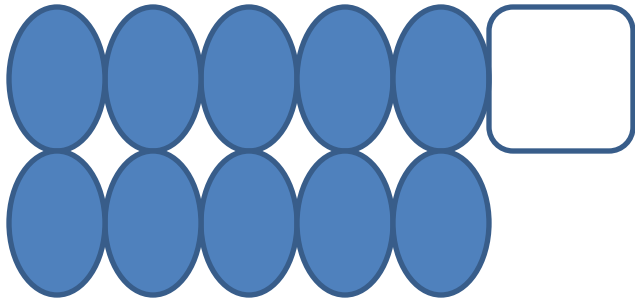


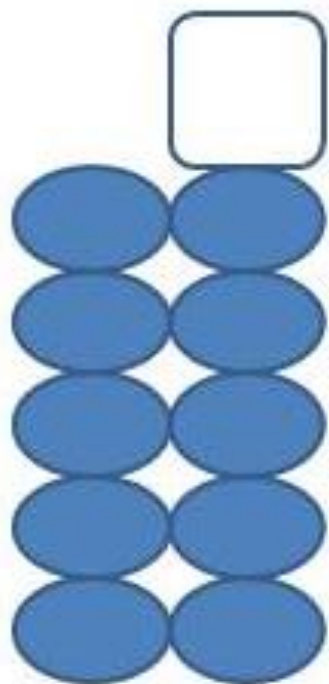
Company

(85th pgs. 12 & 13)









Parade

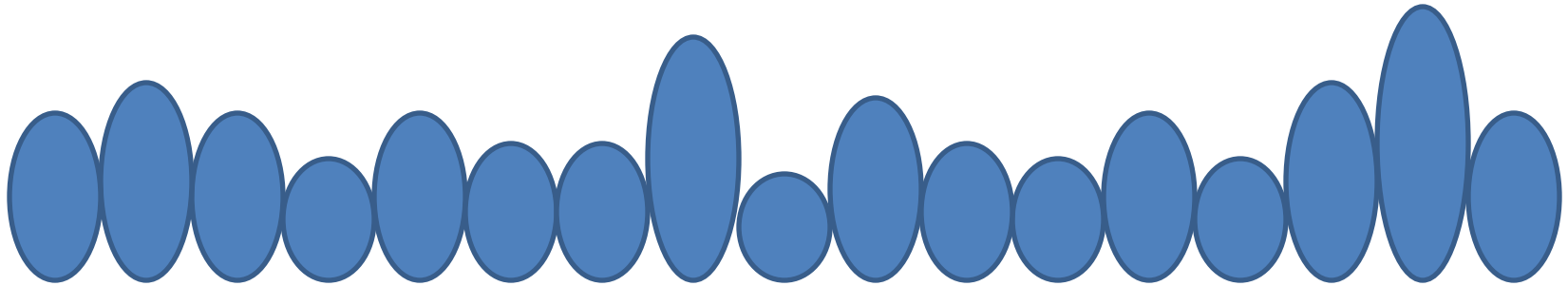
Two hours before morning parade, the order Serjeants of companies carry to the regimental officer the Morning States.

(85th pg. 58)

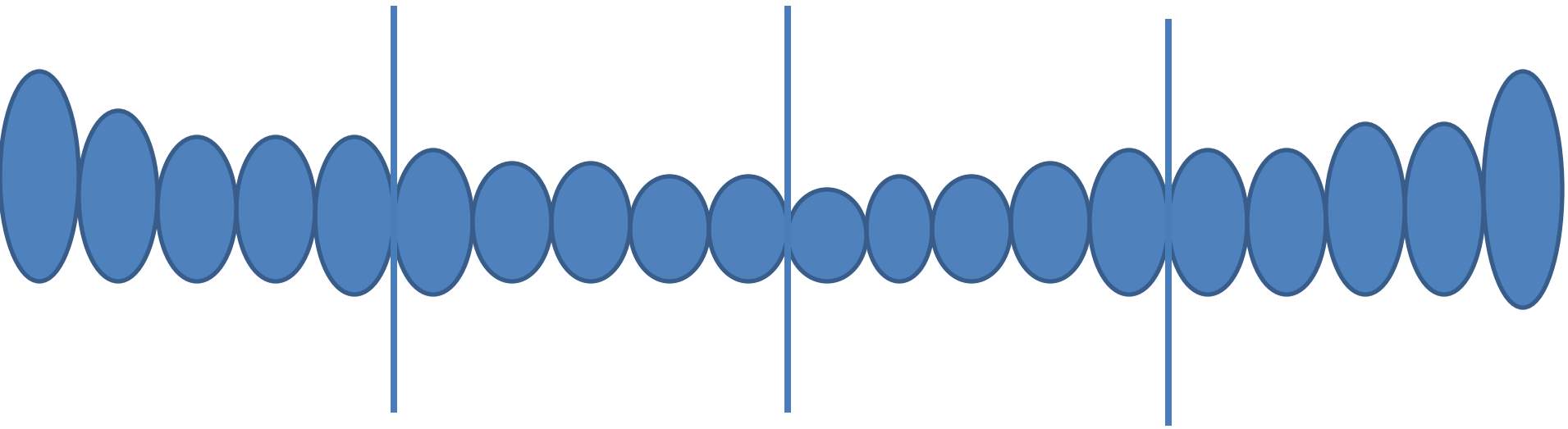
At $\frac{3}{4}$ of hour before parade, the Bugler's call is to be sounded and the Non-commissioned Officers, Buglers and Band are to turn out for the inspection of the Adjutant. This inspection is completed so that at half hour before parade the warning Bugles can be sounded.

(85th pgs. 59 & 60)

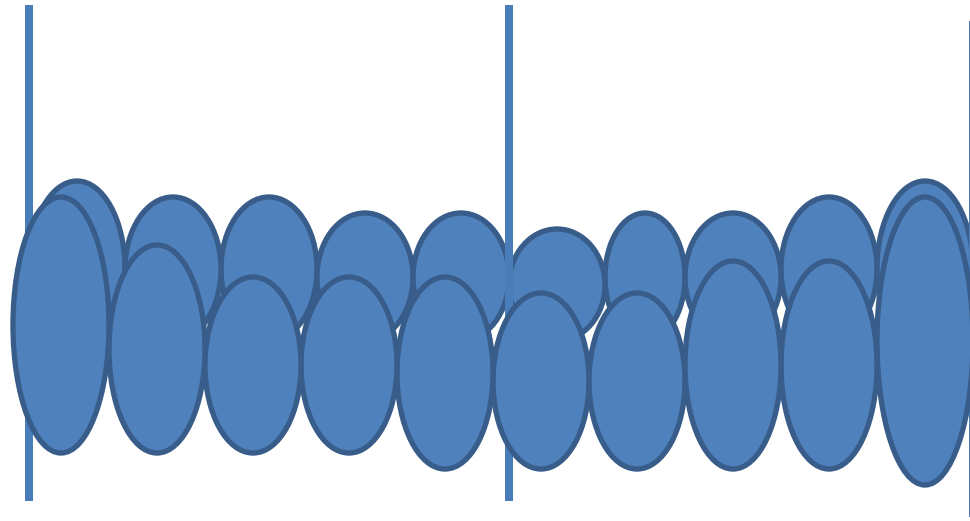
Sorting a Company for Parade



(85th pg. 60)



(85th pg. 60)



(85th pg. 60)

Parade

At the punctual hour the parade bugles are sounded by the Whole corps of buglers, at which time the Captains will form their companies and march to the place of the general parade, having each previously detached a Serjeant to mark The company's ground which had been arranged under the Adjutant's direction

(85th pg. 61)

The parades are always formed in open column of companies

(85th pg. 62)

Salutes

All inferiors salute **first** to their superiors

(85th pg. 33)

Salutes and compliments are to be returned by Officers.

Neither Neglect or indifference is to prevent the salute or exterior mark of Respect being returned.

(85th pg. 37)

Salute – General Rules

Hand salute is given on the side opposite of the Officer (85th p. 35)

Sentries give General and Field Officers a Present Arms. All other Officers a steady Carry. (85th p. 35)

No soldier is to ever pass an Officer without the simple Salute (85th p. 35)

No soldier is to be off the position of Attention or to continue sitting when met by Officers or visited in their quarters until he is by such Officer directed to the contrary. (85th p. 36)

Salute – How?

Without Arms:

Hand with back part upwards is carried out upon a line with the shoulder to the full extent of the arm.

It is then brought slowly round with an extended arm until the hand touches the cap

A smart turn of the wrist , the inside of the hand is turned outwards with the back of the fingers touching the cap

When the honour has been completed, the hand is brought slowly back to its original position, and then dropped to the side

Salute – How?

With Arms:

When advanced, upon meeting Officers, left hand is carried across body with a smart motion to set the fuzee firm against the shoulder, and immediately brought back after passing.

If arms are sloped, trailed or supported, they must be brought to the carry and held firmly in place with the right hand.

(85th p. 34)

Salute – When?

When Addressing an Officer:

Without arms, raise the right hand to cap and then drop to the Attention position, raising it once more on leaving the Officer

With arms, Recovers first, returns to Carry and only Recovers again when parting with the Officer

(85th p. 34)

Salute – When?

When Meeting an Officer:

When within a few paces of them, Halt, front, and Salute in the manner pointed out (85th p. 34)

Shows respect and a readiness to bear inspection (85th p. 35)

In garrison or encampment, due to the frequency of being met, a simple Salute of the cap or arms without halting and fronting is appropriate. (85th p. 35)

Start of the Day

At dawn the reveille is to be sounded by the Buglers
(85th pg. 55)

The orderly Bugle is to sound the Rouse throughout the Barracks when the men will immediately rise, and commence folding up their beds.

(85th pg. 55)

A half hour after the Rouse, the bugle will sound again and every man is to fall in on their regimental parade

(85th pg. 56)

Start of the Day

At 10 minutes before breakfast, the bugle will sound and the orderly Officer of the day is to go through the respective companies' rooms to see that every man is present, the rooms are clean and the beds folded up as ordered for the morning earlier inspection.

Also checked are that the caps are touching each other upon the pegs or shelves for that purpose, the accoutrements put uniformly on the racks, with the bayonet belts under the pouch-belts. The arms are to be in the racks with cocks let down, and the greatcoats neatly rolled or folded, with each man's knapsack in their proper place

(85th p. 56 & 57)

Guards and Sentinels

All Sentinels are to be posted with Shouldered Arms; neither the relief nor the sentinel is to Slope them, until the former is Gone ten or twelve yards from the post. (85th pgs. 47, 48)

A sentinel is to walk briskly backwards and forwards on his post; he is not to sit down, read, sing, whistle, smoke or do any thing but his duty (85th p. 49)

The common but unmilitary practice of conversing with other people, while sentinel is strictly forbidden. (85th p. 49)

Guards and Sentinels

When there are double sentinels, they must do all their motions together with the sentinel on the right giving the time

(85th p. 50)

Sentinels on a rampart or a wall are to face outwards at all time, even when they Carry their arms to an Officer.

(85th p. 50)

Sentinels posted on General or Field Officers are not to Present unless to a rank superior to that of which they are posted.

(85th p. 50)

Guards and Sentinels

A sentinel must Carry his arms to all Officers of the army or navy and Present to all of Field Officer rank or higher (85th p. 49)

Sentinels are to Present arms to all parties that beat a Drum. They Carry to all other parties. (85th p. 50)

No compliment is to be paid after the beating of the Retreat (85th p. 50)

When a sentinel is ordered to challenge in the night-time, it is to be brisk and loud and at the distance of 20 yards (85th p. 51)

Posting and Relieving of Sentinels

If guard/relief is less than 4 men, it is to be formed in a Rank entire, under the command of a Corporal with his Arms advanced.

The men are to march regularly, are silent, and the rear Rank is well locked up.

On approaching those to be relieved, Relief is halted at the distance of 10 or 12 paces from the Post, and remain with their Arms carried.

Corporal advances with those going on the Post, who, with ported Arms, approach the Sentinels to be relieved, and from them, in the hearing of the Corporal only, receive the Orders of the Post. The relieved Sentinels take their place in the Relief.

(GRAO pg. 108)

Provosts

On actual Service the Provost-Marshal or his Deputy acting with the Army will frequently make the Tour of the Camp, and its Environs, and will have Orders to seize such persons as are committing Disorders.

The Regiments encamped near Villages must send frequent Patrols into them, to apprehend such Persons as may be there without Passes, or who, having Passes, may behave improperly

Any Person committing Waste in Gardens, Orchards, Plantations, Fields, or Inclosures, will be most severely punished.

If any Soldier is base enough to attempt to desert to the Enemy, on Being apprehended he will suffer immediate Death.

Discipline

For the attainment of discipline and good order, two modes are to be adopted, Encouragement and Punishment (85th p. 127)

Two kinds of punishment, private punishments and public ones (85th p. 133)

Private Punishments

Crimes which do not come under a positive Article of War, or are not of a very serious regimental nature.
(85th p. 134)

Private company Court Martials are to be held. Corporals will face a court of three Serjeants and two Corporals; Privates and Buglers the court will be composed of a Corporal as President, a chosen man and three privates (85th p. 134 - 135)

Private Punishments

Extra duties, confinement to Barracks, turned Coats, fines for the benefit of the Messes, and **Cobbing** , are permitted punishments in private.

(85th p. 135)

***Cobbing**: form of spanking using a type of paddle known as cob or in full cobbing-board, typically used as a disciplinary measure, often by comrades, in the military*

Public Punishments

Public punishment follows for cases where a more public injury is done to the service or corps in general (85th pp. 135)

It falls in one of four categories:

- confinement to barracks or quarters
- confinement with a turned coat
- disgraced confinement in the black-hole
- punishment at the triangle

(85th pp. 135 - 136)

Public Punishments

Non-commissioned Officers are to suffer a total or partial reduction or suspension in their several ranks (85th p. 136)

The first three punishments can be imposed by a sentence of Court Martial or the discretion of the Commanding Officer or the Captain of the company. (85th p. 136)

The triangle and reduction and suspension of a Non-commissioned Officer is only through the sentence of a Court Martial (85th p. 136)

Confinement with Disgrace

For confinement to quarters with disgrace, the Serjeant of the squad takes the soldier to the Taylor's work-shop where the coat is turned and the letter "C" is sewed on the right arm in distinguishing cloth.

(85th pp. 136 – 137)

Confinement in the Black Hole

Confinement in the Black-hole is not to be for more than 8 days unless supported by the sentence of Court Martial (85th p. 138)

For confinement to the Black-hole, the Serjeant of the squad takes the soldier to the Taylor's work-shop where the coat is turned and the letter "C" is sewed in black on the back of his jacket. All soldiers confined in the Black-hole are to be fed on bread and water and taken out constantly for drill and relodged immediately after. (85th p. 138)

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment requires the Sentence of a Court Martial assembled either peremptorily as a Drumhead Court Martial or formally as by detailed and written proceedings.

(85th p. 139)

Schools

A school will be established for the instruction of those who wish to fit themselves for the situation of Non-commissioned Officers (85th p. 120)

The school master is to be a Serjeant of abilities, good character, and exemplary conduct. (85th p. 120)

All of the soldiers' children of the Regiment, whether boys or girls, will regularly attend. (85th p. 121)

All scholars of whatever rank will attend at the same hours, but be arranged by themselves in separate classes, at different tables in the school. (85th p. 122)

Applicable Odds & Ends

Alarm Posts: must be immediately fixed in Cantonment, the troops must be made acquainted with the Regimental Alarm Posts, and the Officers Commanding Regiments, with that of the Brigade.

Marketing People: any Soldier using them ill, or attempting to defraud them, will be punished in the most exemplary manner.

Foraging Parties: for Marketing, for Wood, Water, or Straw, are to be attended by a Non-commissioned Officer per Company, and if the Party exceeds Eighteen Men, and is to March any distance from Camp, it must be under the command of A Subaltern Officer.

(GRAO pg. 115)

Miscellany

Serjeant's wives must learn to wash sufficiently well for the Officers, for they are recommended to be alone employed for this service.

The washing of all soldiers to be distributed in equal proportions among the Serjeants' wives (when their work for Officers is not sufficient) and the other women of the companies.

(85th p. 102)

All women of immoral or drunken characters, or who refuse to work for the men, are warned that they will not be permitted to remain

(85th pg. 101)

Miscellany

Captains and other Officers of the corps, are requested to show every encouragement to their men, to amuse themselves at the games of cricket, hand or football, leap frog, quoits, vaulting, running, foot races ...in short at all manly and healthy exercises ... dancing is a most excellent way of passing long evenings.

(85th p. 113)

Four branches of trades or handicrafts are to be encouraged: Armourers, Taylors, Shoemakers and Carpenters. Each company will have an Armourer who will act when required under the instructions of the Armourer-Major (a Serjeant who will wear a distinguishing dress)

(85th p. 106)

Miscellany

Boxes and trunks: positively forbid among the Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers

(85th pg. 142)

Officers' Signature: all Officers in making written Reports, or Applications are to specify under their signatures, their Rank and Regiment

(GROA pg. 50)

Servant or Batman: all Commissioned Officers are to be allowed the

indulgence of having one Soldier as his Servant or Batman (not an NCO)

(85th p.142)

Miscellany

No locks are to be taken off, on pain of punishment, by any man who is not one of those who are permitted men by the Captain.

(85th p. 106)

Each company will have a board of **barrack regulations** always hung up with it. A **roll of each company**, by squads, to be hung on a board, which is to be in the company's possession at all times (85th pg. 21)

www.fortyfirst.org

tom4141fournier@yahoo.ca

<http://books.google.com/books?id=LsMrAQAAIAAJ&dq=general%20rules%20and%20orders%20of%20the%20army&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=db9CAAAAYAAJ&dq=standing%20orders%20%2B%2085th%20light%20infantry&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>