

Style Guide No. 3

Drussian Landwehr DRILL MANUAL Second Interim Version March 2012

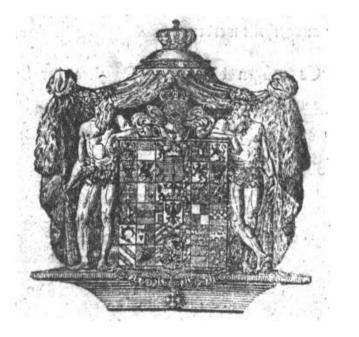


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Kreiges=Katechismus *sür die* **Landwehr**



3te Bataillon - 1. Schlesisch Landwehr Infanterie Regiment März 2012

> Berlín Brown, Cor, George, McCabe, Smith, Scarrott

Introduction

Most professional armies of the Napoleonic period had an official set of drill regulations. They specified arms drill, foot drill, the manoeuvres of the various size formations (usually company, battalion and brigade) and the organisation of the army.

The Prussian drill regulations, the 1812 Exerzir-Reglements für die Infanterie, were the culmination of a reform process that had started after the disastrous 1806 campaign, when the French gave the Prussians a sound thrashing.

When the Landwehr was raised in 1813 it was recognised that the men and the officers were not professional soldiers, or if they were they probably hadn't served since before the reforms. To bring the Landwehr units up to speed as quickly as possible, a simplified version of the 1812 regulations was produced, the Kriegeskatechismus für die Landwehr. Taking this as our guide, we will be keeping our drill as simple as possible. By 1815 the Landwehr were recognised by many senior officers as being as good as the line regiments, so while the drill might be simple, we will aim to execute it with a certain amount of snap and élan, like experienced veterans.

The set of drill regulations which follows enables us to form up, march, deploy and fight in a manner that reflects drill of the Napoleonic period. It is also reflects the irregular nature of our unit and highlights some characteristic features of Prussian drill and tactics.

These regulations do not present an exact translation or portrayal of Prussian Landwehr drill of the Napoleonic period. This is not possible with the information currently available in English - so if you know a friendly translator - please let us know!

The following pages detail the postures, manoeuvres, formations and structures we will use. Also included is some historical background on the period drill and how our drill relates to it.

Orders will be given in German but don't let that put you off, you don't need to be fluent, you just need to be able to recognise them and know what to do when you hear them. The NCOs should know the orders inside out, so, if all else fails - do what they do!

Mit Gott für König und Vaterland

\sim THE ORDERS \sim

A list of all the orders, in German and English (with cross referencing to diagrams).

~ The Orders ~

Construction and Delivery

An order, or set of orders, will consist of three elements:-

1) Formation: The identity of the formation to which the order is directed – e.g., "Zug" (Platoon).

2) Cautionary*: The detail of the order – e.g., "Form Kolonne Rechts ..." (Form column to the right).

3) Executive: The signal upon which the order is to be carried out – e.g., "... Marsch!" (March).

The orders in this drill manual have been constructed this way for the purposes of familiarity and consistency, and to thus enable clear orders to be delivered and understood in German. It is important that the form of the orders is adhered to, as the men will not necessarily understand the precise meaning of the words.

The order should be delivered in a loud, clear and confident voice, with an emphasis placed on the Executive.

* It may be necessary to qualify the Cautionary: when a non-standard manoeuvre is required for example.

\sim FORMING THE ZUG \sim

Diagram Ref	Description	Formation	Cautionary/Executive
FZ3	Section form up	n/a	Burschen, ins gewehr! Men, to arms!
FZ3	Section form up - variation	<eine drei="" zwei=""> Sektion! <1/II/III> Section!</eine>	Herangetreten! Form up!
FZ3	Zug/section – dismissal to duties/ into camp	n/a	Burschen, ins lager! Men, into camp!

~ STANDING RULES ~

Diagram Ref	Description	Formation	Qualifier	Cautionary	Executive
SR5	Face to the <left right=""></left>	Zug/Sektion/Glied/Rotte Platoon/Section/Rank/File	n/a	Wende links/rechts Face to the left/right	Marsch! March!
SR6	Face to the right about	Zug/Sektion/Glied/Rotte Platoon/Section/Rank/File	n/a	Kehrtwende Face to the right about	Marsch! March!
SR7	Section wheel to the <left right=""> - as a separate command</left>	Sektion Section	n/a	Schwenk links/rechts Wheel left/right	Marsch! March!
SR7	Section wheel to the right or left – as an integral part of another order (see Line & Column)	(see Line & Column)	n/a	(see Line & Column)	n/a
SR8	Retire facing the enemy	Zug/Sektion Platoon/Section	n/a	Rückwärts Backwards	Marsch! March!
SR9	Oblique step to the <left right=""></left>	Zug/Sektion/Glied/Rotte Platoon/Section/Rank/File	n/a	Diagonale <links rechts=""></links> Oblique <left right=""></left>	Marsch! March!

~ LINE & COLUMN ~

Diagram Ref	Description	Formation	Qualifier	Cautionary	Executive
LC1	Form line to the left from open column of sections,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form line links Form line left	Marsch! March!
LC2	Form line to the front from open column of sections,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form line front <i>Form line front</i>	Marsch! March!
LC3	Form line to the right from open column of sections,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form line rechts <i>Form line right</i>	Marsch! March!
LC4	Form line to the right – by inversion from open column of sections,	Zug! Platoon!	Auf dem falschen flügel! On the wrong wing!	Form line rechts <i>Form line right</i>	Marsch! March!
LC5	Form column to the left from line,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form kolonne links Form column left	Marsch! March!
LC6	Form column to the right from line,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form kolonne rechts Form column right	Marsch! March!
LC7	Form column to the front from line,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form kolonne front Form column front	Marsch! March!
LC8	Form column to the rear from line,	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form kolonne hinter Form column behind	Marsch! March!
LC9	Form column to the left – by inversion from line,	Zug! Platoon!	Auf dem falschen flügel! On the wrong wing!	Form kolonne links Form column left	Marsch! March!
LC10	Wheel the entire zug forward in line, pivoting about the <left right=""> flank</left>	Zug! Platoon!	<links rechts=""> flügel! <left right=""> wing! (NB: the non-pivot flank)</left></links>	Zug vorwärts schwenk Platoon forward wheel	Marsch! March!
LC11	Wheel the entire zug in line, pivoting about the centre, to the <left right=""></left>	Zug! Platoon!	In der mitte! On the middle!	Zug <links rechts=""> schwenk Platoon <left right=""> wheel</left></links>	Marsch! March!
LC12	Wheel the entire zug backward in line, pivoting about the <left right=""> flank</left>	Zug! Platoon!	<links rechts=""> flügel! <left right=""> wing! (NB: the non-pivot flank)</left></links>	Zug rückwärts schwenk Platoon backward wheel	Marsch! March!
LC13	Form attack column, from open column of sections, or from line (start with LC8)	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form angriffskolonne Form attack column	Marsch! March!
LC14	Form closed column to receive cavalry. from open column of sections, or from line (start with LC8)	Zug! Platoon!	n/a	Form kolonne für die kavallerie Form [closed] column for cavalry	Marsch! March!

~ MUSKET DRILL ~

Order, shoulder and salute

Diagram No.	Step	Description	Order
MD1	n/a	Order musket	Gewehr – ab! Musket – off!
MD2	n/a	Shoulder musket	Gewehr – auf! <u>or</u> Schulter gewehr! Musket – up! <u>or</u> Shoulder musket!
MD3	n/a	Salute To finish the salute, "Ordinair" ("As you were!").	Achtung! Präsentieren das gewehr! Attention! Present arms!

Battlefield loading and firing drill

Diagram No.	Step	Description	Order
MD6	1	Make ready	Geladen! Make ready!
MD6	2	Full cock	Gegenwart! Full cock!
MD6	3	Present	An! Present!
MD6	4	Give fire	FEUER! Fire!

Fire later or Cease fire

Diagram No.	Step	Description	Order
MD7	n/a	Loaded musket – not firing immediately	Schulter gewehr! Shoulder musket!
MD8	n/a	Cease fire	Hahn in ruhe, schulter! Make safe and shoulder!

Diagram Step Description Order No. Prepare to make ready Soll chargieren, geladen! MD5 1 Prepare to make ready! Open frizzen MD5 **Offene** – **Pfanne!** $\mathbf{2}$ Open your pan, half cock! Take cartridge from pouch Nehmen – patrone! MD5 3 Take cartridge! Bite cartridge and prime the pan **Beginnen!** MD5 4 Prime your pan! MD5 Close frizzen Schliessen – Pfanne! 5Close your pan! MD5 6 Cast about to the left Gewehr - links! Cast about to the left! MD5 Charge with powder, ball and Beladen – Gewehr! $\overline{7}$ wadding Load your musket! Withdraw ram-rod MD5 8 Ziehen – ladestock! Pull ram-rod! Ram home MD5 Widder nach Hause! 9 Ram home! MD5 Zurückkehren! Return ram rod 10 Return ram-rod! MD5 Poise musket Fertig! 11 Poise your musket! **Gegenwart!** MD5 12Full cock Full cock! An! MD5 13 Present Present! **FEUER!** MD5 14 Give fire Give fire!

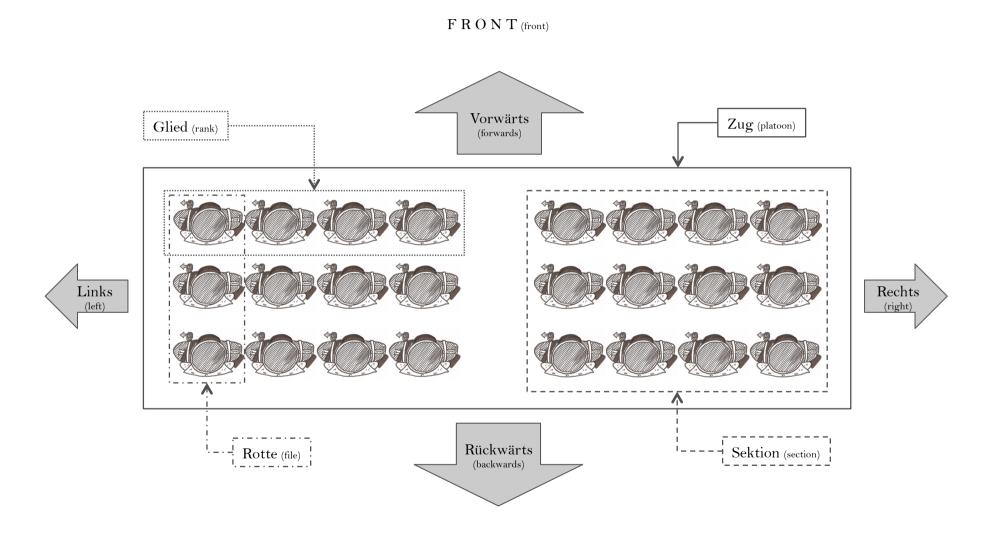
Full loading and firing drill

\sim USE OF THE THIRD RANK \sim

Diagram Ref	Description	Formation	Cautionary/Executive
TR2	Third rank to reform in two ranks and extend the firing line to the left	Dritte glied! <i>Third rank!</i>	Form sektion links! Form section left!
TR3	Third rank to reform as a skirmish line ahead of the zug	Dritte glied! <i>Third rank!</i>	Form schützenlinie front! Form skirmish line to the front!
TR4	Third rank form a body prior to performing a detached duty	Dritte glied! <i>Third rank!</i>	Form sektion hinter! Form section to the rear!
TR5	Third rank reform on original sections	Dritte glied! <i>Third rank!</i>	Ordinair! As you were!

~ USEFUL WORDS ~

~ Useful Words ~ Direction, Ranks, Files and Formations



HINTER (rear)

~ Useful Words ~ Reference & Pronunciation

<u>Movement</u>

Wende = Face Schwenk = Wheel Form = Form Diagonale = Oblique

<u>Deployment</u>

Kolonne = Column Line = Line Schützenlinie = Skirmish line Flügel = Wing/Flank Glied = Rank Dritte Glied = Third Rank Rotte = File Sektion = Section Zug = Platoon

Direction

Hinter = Rear Front = Front Links = Left Rechts = Right Vorwärts = Forwards Rückwärts = Backwards

<u>Ranks</u>

Offizier = officer Feldwebel = Sergeant Major Unteroffizier = Sergeant Gefreiter = L. Cpl/Private 1st Class Wehrman = Private/Militia-man (pronounced "ven-duh") ("sh-venk") ("form") ("dee-ah-go-narla")

("koll-on-uh") ("lee-nuh") ("shoot-senn-leen-yuh") ("floo-gull") ("gleet") ("dritt-uh gleet") ("rott-uh") ("seck-shown") ("zoog")

("heen-tuh") ("fr-on-t") ("leenks") ("wreck-ts") ("four-vurts") ("rook-vurts")

("off-its-eer") ("felt-vee-bul") ("oohn-ter-off-its-eer") ("geh-fry-tuh") ("veer-man")

Numbered Formations

Erste Regiment = 1st Regiment -----Dritte Bataillon = 3rd Battalion

Eins Sektion = I Section Zwei Sektion = II Section Drei Sektion = III Section

Erste Glied = 1^{st} Rank Zweite Glied = 2^{nd} Rank Dritte Glied = 3^{rd} Rank

Erste Rotte = 1^{st} File Zweite Rotte = 2^{nd} File Dritte Rotte = 3^{rd} File Vierte Rotte = 4^{th} File Fünfte Rotte = 5^{th} File Sechste Rotte = 6^{th} File

<u>Kit etc</u>

Gewehr = Musket Lager = Camp Mütze = Landwehr Hat Litewka = Landwehr Coat

<u>Nations etc</u>

Preussen = Prussia Preussische = Prussian Britannien = Britain Frankreich = France Schlesien = Silesia Schlesisch = Silesian ("ear-stuh regg-ee-ment")

("dritt-uh batt-isle-yon")

("eye-ns") ("ss-vye") ("dry")

("ear-stuh") ("ss-vye-tuh") ("dritt-uh")

("ear-stuh") ("ss-vye-tuh") ("dritt-uh") ("fear-tuh") ("funff-tuh") ("zex-tuh")

("guh-vee-uh") ("lar-guh") ("moot-suh") ("lee-teff-kah")

("pruh-oy-sen") ("pruh-oy-sish-uh") ("bree-tan-ee-un") ("frank-rike") ("sh-leez-un") ("sh-leez-ish")

~ FORMING THE ZUG ~

~ Forming the Zug ~			The number of musketeers available will dictate the number of sections that can be created. The standing orders below dictate how they are to be arranged. The commander and the <i>left</i> and <i>right wing gefreiters</i> will review turnout and assess the need for acting NCOs and appoint as necessary.	
FZ1	ROLES		FZ2 FORMING THE SECTIONS	
 The commander (feldwebel), left wing gefreiter and right wing gefreiter roles will normally be filled by those members elected to the roles, as per The Militia Articles. Before form up, the commander and the left and right wing gefreiters count musketeers and decide section splits and whether any additional NCOs are required. The table below details recommended section splits. When turnout is such that the commander needs support in running the block, the left wing gefreiter and/or right wing gefreiter will be appointed Unteroffizier (sergeant). Each section requires a gefreiter as right hand marker – temporary gefreiter(s) will be appointed as required. (The left wing gefreiter is the section's senior gefreiter when the right hand marker of their section is a temporary appointment). 		itia ount are the block, <i>ffizier</i> <i>freiter(s)</i>	 A) Never more than three ranks of musketeers (except as per the table). B) The <i>left wing gefrieiter</i> must be assigned to the rear left position of the leftmost section. The <i>right wing gefreiter</i> must be assigned to the front right position in I Sektion. C) Fill the front two ranks of each section first (except for B above). D) Fill the third rank of I Sektion first, then II Sektion, then III and so on (except for B above). E) Fill the left flank file of the third rank first, then the right flank file, then the centre file(s). F) Ensure non-firers and new-firers are in the front two ranks. G) Ensure the men know which section they are in and who their <i>gefrieter is</i>. 	
No. Musketeers (excl. FW and UOff)	Section Split	<u>FZ3</u> Zug form	FORM UP & DISMISSAL	
Up to 9	1 section (up to 3 files by 3 ranks)	Zug form up will normally be sounded by horn or drum. When there is more than one section, the sections form up independently and march to the form up location to form the z Sektion form up will be ordered by the <i>gefreiter</i>		
10	1 section (3 files by 3 ranks - <i>left wing gefreiter</i> alone in 4th rank)			
11 or 12	2 sections (2 files by 3 ranks each)	Bursch	nen, ins gewehr!" <u>or</u> " <eine drei="" zwei=""> sektion! Herangetreten!" "Men, to arms!" <u>or</u> "<i ii="" iii=""> sektion! Form up!"</i></eine>	
13	2 section (2 files by 3 ranks - <i>left wing gefreiter</i> alone			

in 4th rank)

14 to 24

25 to 27

2 sections (up to 4 files by 3 ranks each)

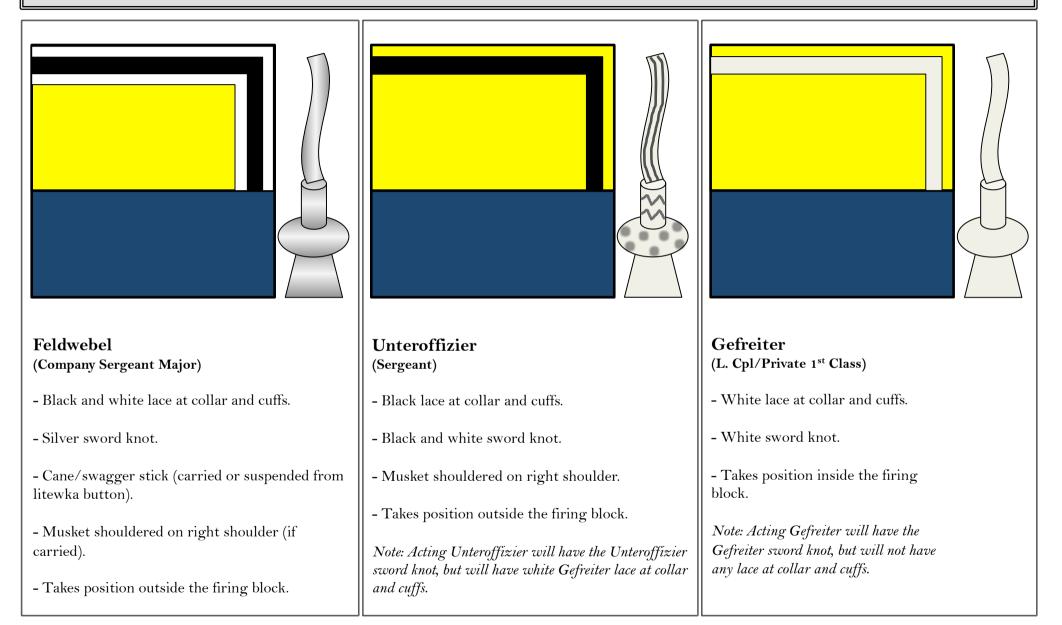
3 sections (up to 3 files by 3 ranks each)

On return to the camp after parade or battle, the men are dismissed to their duties ...

"Burschen, ins lager!" "Men, into camp!"

~ RANK DISTINCTIONS ~

~ Rank Distinctions ~



Note – Wehrmen do not have collar and cuff lace, or sword knots.

~ STANDING RULES ~ to be understood by all wehrmen

~ Standing Rules ~ Ranks and Files. Pace and Speed

The wehrmen must be trained in these standing rules so that they become automatic. This will save on unnecessary orders. The move from close to open order should be integral to deployment from column into line (i.e., the men will be in close order in column and as they move into line they need to automatically spread out into open order) – this will minimise shuffling and save on unnecessary orders.

<u>SR1</u>

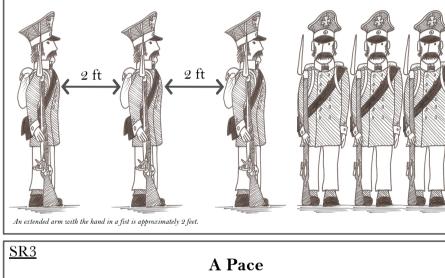
Close Order

<u>SR2</u>

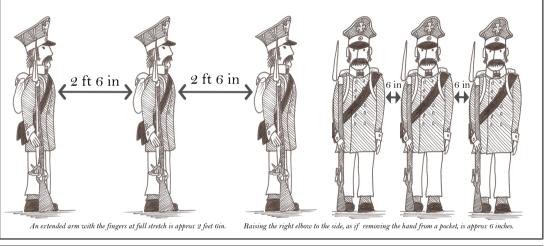
SR4

Open Order

At form up, on parade, when marching in column and in battle line when manoeuvring there are to be 2 feet between the ranks, the files are to be close enough that the men's elbows lightly brush.



A standard pace is key to maintaining formation. The standard pace is 2ft from the heel of one foot to the heel of the other. $\overbrace{2 \text{ ft}}^{}$ When forming in battle line there are to be 2 feet 6 inches between the ranks and a gap of 6 inches between the files. Note: Manoeuvring the sections in battle line is done at *close* order.



Marching Speed

There are three marching speeds:-

1) Ordinairschritt - Slow - 75 paces per minute - training and parade speed

- 2) Geschwindschritt Normal 108 paces per minute standard speed
- 3) The Charge Fast 120 paces per minute attack speed

The pace is given by drum beat, the men march in step and always lead with the left foot. Short distances may be covered at the trot.

~ Standing Rules ~ Facing and Wheeling. Oblique and Retire

SR6

The wehrmen must be trained in these standing rules so that they become automatic. This will save on unnecessary orders. All wehrmen should understand the role of right and left markers when wheeling in section as they may find themselves in that position at any time.

SR8

R L

Lower the

heels and

foot back.

SR9

bring the right

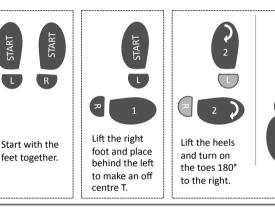
<u>SR5</u> Face Right/Left

The method by which the individual wehrman faces to the right or left. To face right, the wehrman must turn on his left heel 90° to the right and at the same time lift his right foot and place it alongside his left. To face left this action is performed to the contrary.

> "Wende <links/**rechts**, front> ... Marsch!" "Face <left/**right**/front> ... march!"

Right About Face

The method by which the individual wehrman faces right about (never to the left). "Kehrtwende ... Marsch!" "About-face ... march!"



Retire Facing The Enemy

Each rank will place their right hand lightly on the shoulder of the man in front. All will retire, in step.

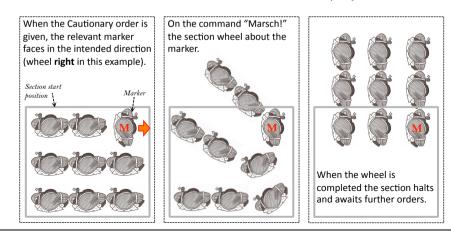
> "Rückwärts ... Marsch!" "Backwards ... march!"



<u>SR7</u>

Wheel In Sections From Stationary

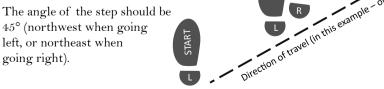
Sections wheel about the left or right marker. When an order that requires the section(s) to wheel is given (LC1,3,4,5,6,9), the marker faces the direction commanded. On the command "Marsch!", the section wheel about him and halt (they *do not* march on).



Oblique Step

Oblique step enables a unit to travel at an angle whilst maintaining its formation.

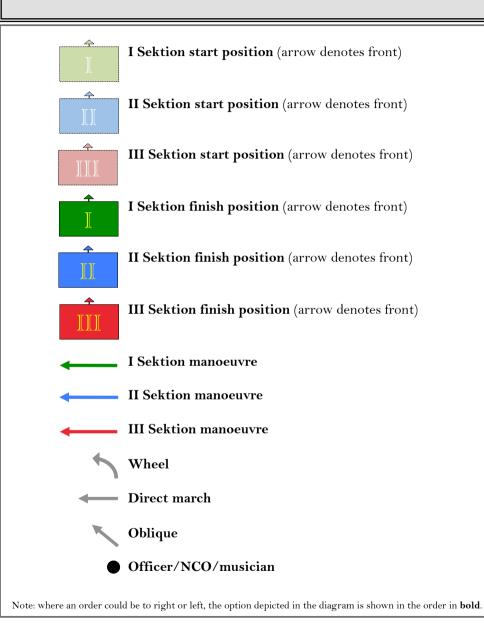
The men *do not* face the direction of travel, their *shoulders must remain square on*, while they step diagonally forward in the direction ordered. The feet are not to cross over at any point, instead, when ordered, the first foot is placed one standard pace in the direction of travel, the second foot is then brought up next to it, then the first foot is placed one standard pace in the direction of travel once again, and so on.



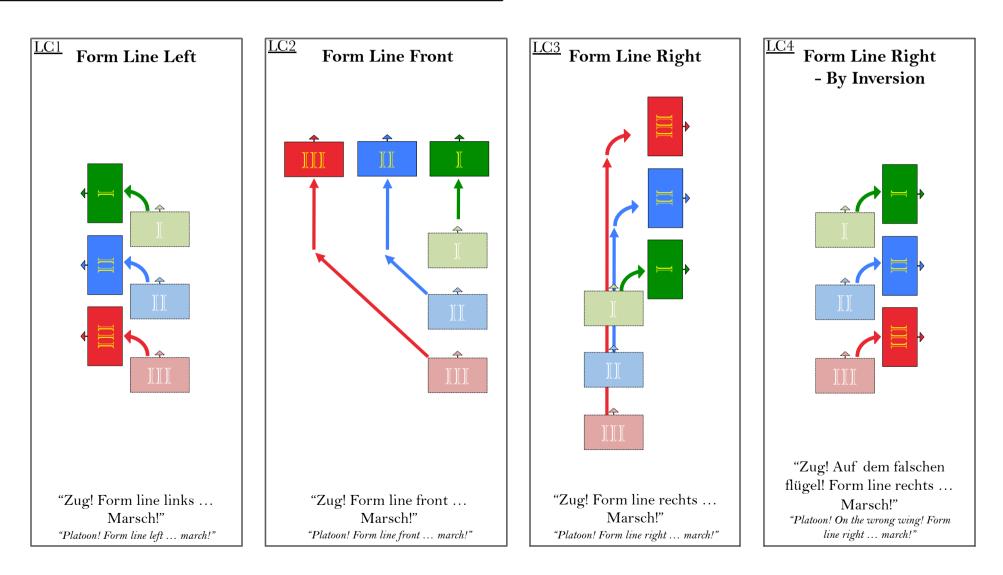
"Diagonale <links/rechts> ... Marsch!" "Oblique <left/right> ... march!"

\sim LINE & COLUMN \sim

Guide to Symbols

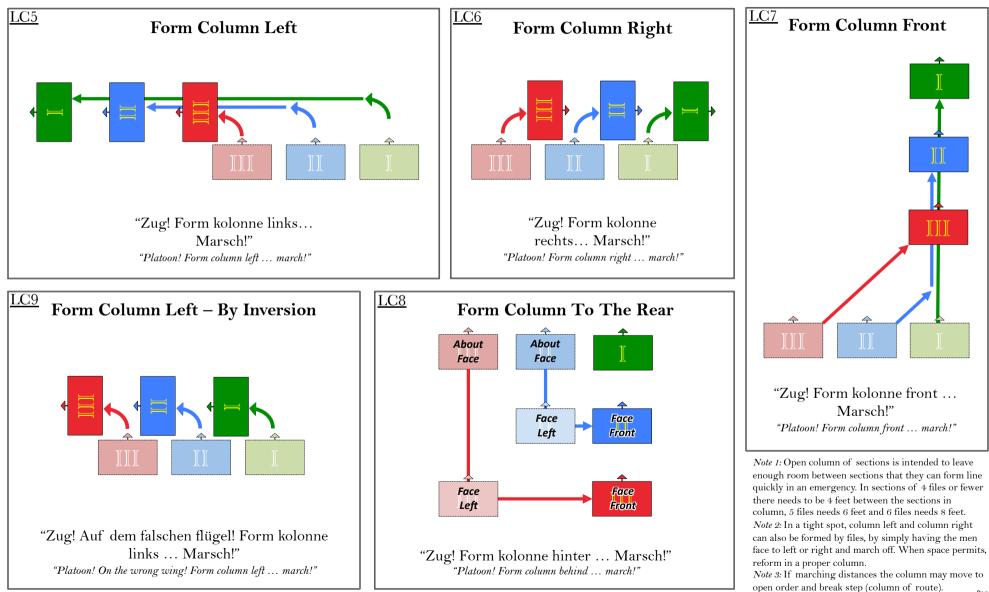


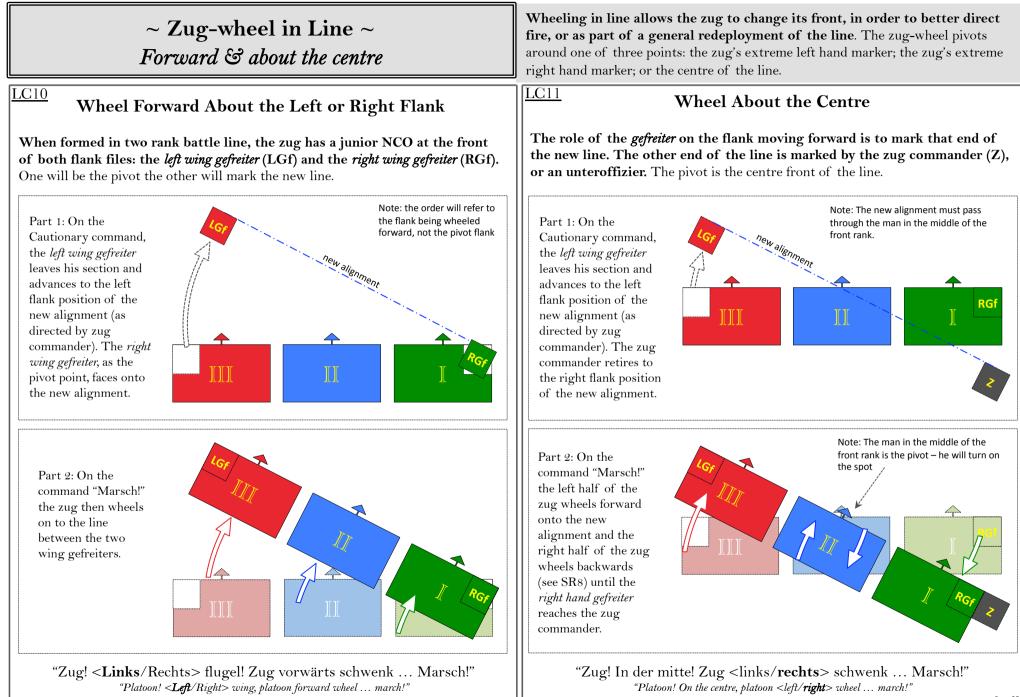
Form Line ~ From open column of sections Line is the standard form up formation and firing formation. The default position of I Sektion is at the right of the line. When circumstances permit, deployment should honour this. Form Line Left, Form Line Front and Form Line Right, below, achieve this. Form Line Right - By Inversion puts I Sektion at the left of the line and should only be used when time or space does not allow the default method, or as a step on the way to another formation.



~ Form Open Column of Sections ~ *From line*

Open column of sections is the standard column formation. The default position of I Sektion is at the head of the column. When circumstances permit, deployment should honour this. *Form Column Left, Form Column Front, Form Column Behind* and *Form Column Right*, below, achieve this. *Form Column Left - By Inversion* puts I Sektion at the rear of the column and should only be used when time or space does not allow the default method, or as a step on the way to another formation.



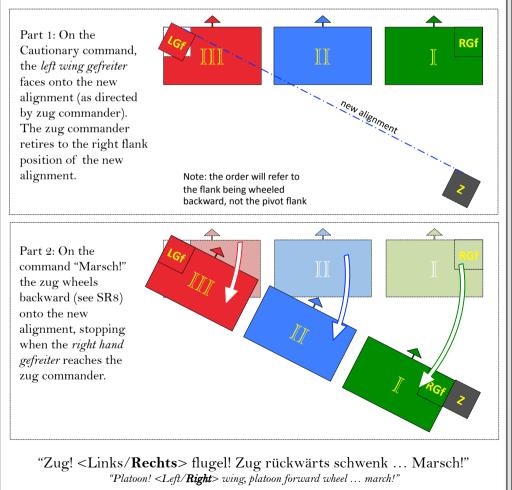


~ Zug-wheel in Line ~ *Backward*

LC12

Wheel Backward About the Left or Right Flank

The role of the *gefreiter* on the pivot flank is to fix the end of the new line. The other end of the line is marked by the zug commander (Z), or an unteroffizier.

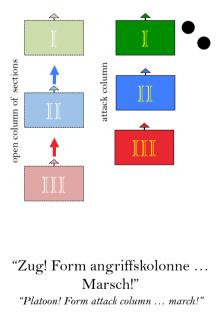


~ Form Attack Column ~ ~ Form Closed Column To Receive Cavalry ~

LC13

Form Attack Column

Attack column is a battlefield column formation. The formation closes the sections up and is used to cross the battlefield prior to deploying into line to fire or fall upon the enemy. To form from line start with LC8.

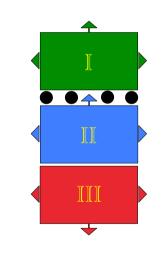


Sections close forwards on I Sektion to form attack column. 3 feet between sections. Officer and musicians at right of front section.

<u>LC14</u>

Form Closed Column To Receive Cavalry

Closed column to receive cavalry is the standard defence against cavalry. It is a solid column. To form from line start with LC8.



"Zug! Form kolonne für die kavallerie ... Marsch!" "Platoon! Form column for cavalry ... march!"

Officers, Senior NCOs and musicians form a rank to the rear of I Sektion. Other sections, close right up on I Sektion, rear section faces about, flanks of all three sections face out and *charge arms* (subject to safety rules). Page 26

~ MUSKET DRILL ~

~ Musket Drill~ Order, shoulder and salute

At sektion form up and at zug form up the default musket position is at the order. When formed up in section or zug the men's default status is at ease – relaxed, but in position, switched on and ready to react.



Order Musket

"Gewehr – ab!" "Muskets – off!"

When the sektion or zug forms up, or when commanded, the wehrman should place the musket by the right foot and place the right hand about the lower stock. He should stand at ease, until ordered to come to attention ("Achtung!") where he is to stiffen his back and look directly ahead until given further orders. The order to stand at ease is "Rührt Euch!"

> "Achtung!" "Attention!"

Related orders:

"Rührt Euch!" "Stand at ease!"



Shoulder Musket

"Schulter gewehr!" or "Gewehr – auf!" "Shoulder muskets!" or "Muskets – up!"

On the order to shoulder musket, the wehrman should lift his musket up with his right hand, bring it across his body to the left with the lock outwards, the left hand grasps the musket butt and the right hand is placed smartly by his right side. The musket is held vertically.

From the shoulder, the wehrman is ready to follow any of three orders: to issue a salute; to load his musket; or, to order his musket.



Shoulder Musket – Senior NCO Variant

Senior NCOs, Feldwebel and Unteroffizier, shoulder their musket on the right, and hold it about the trigger guard/grip rather than by the butt, with the lock facing inwards.



The Salute

"Achtung! Präsentieren das gewehr!" "Attention! Present Arms!"

From the shoulder (MD2) the wehrman brings his right hand across to the grip of the musket and turns the lock outwards (a), he then brings his left hand up from the butt to the underside of the stock (b), before bringing the musket to the centre of the body with the underside facing straight outwards (c) and at the same time placing his right foot behind his left in a T. On the order "Ordinair!" the wehrman returns to the shoulder.

Related order:

"Ordinair!" "As you were!"

~ Musket Drill~ *Full loading and firing drill*

The full loading and firing drill is for training, parade and display and occasional battlefield use.



1) "Soll chargieren, geladen!" "Prepare to make ready!" Bring musket down across body holding it in left hand. Rear rank to step 9 inches to the right.

2) "Offene - Pfanne!" "Open your pan, half cock!" With the right hand move the hammer to half cock and open the frizzen pan.

3) "Nehmen - patrone!" "Take cartridge!"Reach around to the cartridge box with the right hand and take a cartridge.

4) "Beginnen!" "*Prime your pan!*" Bite the top off the cartridge and prime the pan with a small pinch of powder.

5) "Schliessen – Pfanne!" "*Close your pan!*" Close the frizzen pan.

6) "Gewehr - links!" "Cast about to the left!" Drop musket butt next to the left foot, bring right foot back to form an L shape.

7) "Beladen - Gewehr!" "Load your musket!" Pour the main charge into the barrel. 8) "Ziehen - ladestock!" "Pull ram-rod!" Take ram-rod from its hoops and shorten.

9) "Widder nach Hause!" "Ram home!" Place ram-rod in barrel and ram the charge with three solid taps.

10) "Zurückkehren!" *"Return ram-rod!"* Withdraw ram-rod, shorten and replace in its hoops.

11) "Fertig!" "Poise your musket!" Important: "Fertig" tells the commander the gun is loaded Hold the musket vertically with the lock facing inwards at chin level.

12) "Gegenwart!" *"Full cock!"* With the musket in the "Fertig" position pull hammer to full cock using left hand.

13) "An!" "Present!" Move musket down into the firing position

14) "FEUER!" "Give fire!" Pull the trigger

~ Musket Drill~ *Battlefield loading and firing drill*

This quick loading and firing drill is for battle.



1) "Geladen!" "Make ready!"

Load the musket (steps 1 to 11 of the full drill). When loaded the musket must be brought to the "Fertig" position and held there pending further orders.

Important: "Fertig" tells the commander the gun is loaded

2) "Gegenwart!" "Full cock!"

With the musket in the "Fertig" position pull hammer to full cock using left hand.

3) "An!" "*Present*!" Move musket down into the firing position

4) "FEUER!" "Give fire!" Pull the trigger

5) Important: After firing the men return to the "Fertig" position and await orders

~ Musket Drill~ Fire later and cease fire



Loaded musket – not firing immediately

"Schulter gewehr!" "Shoulder muskets!"

When the zug are all loaded and at the "Fertig", the commander will order muskets to be be shouldered (MD2) if they not to be fired immediately. When the time comes to fire, the commander will order "Fertig!" and continue with the firing process.

Related order:

"Fertig!" "Poise your musket!"



Musket fired – cease fire

"Hahn in ruh! Schulter!" "Make safe and shoulder!"

When given this command the wehrman will check his musket and follow any safety measures necessary. When the musket is confirmed safe it is shouldered (MD2).

~ Two Rank Firing Line~ Standing rules

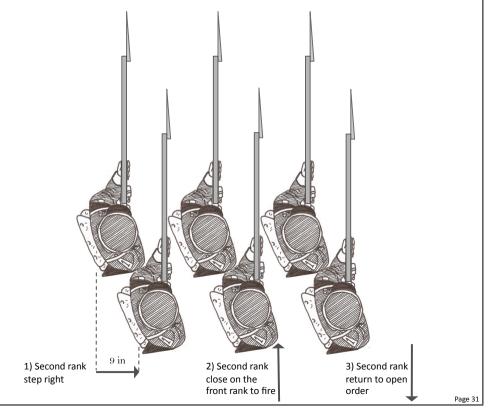
MD9

These rules to be observed automatically without specific command.

1) On the command "Geladen!" ("Make Ready") the men of the second rank step 9 inches to their right and then begin to make ready (priming with their musket to the right of the man in front).

2) On the command "An!" ("Present") the second rank steps forward, so they are close up on the shoulder of the man in front, and lower their muskets *to the right* of the man in front.

3) Having fired, the second rank returns to open order (SR2), 2ft 6 inches behind the front rank and either reload (in which case they stay 9 inches to the right of the man in front), or cease fire (in which case they dress on the man in front).



\sim USE OF THE THIRD RANK \sim

~ The Third Rank ~ Extended line, skirmish line and detached duty

TR2

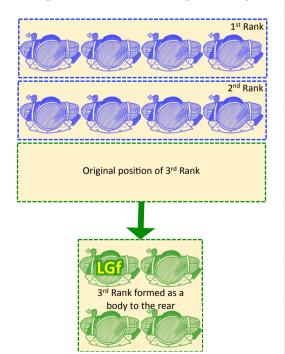
The third rank is used to extend the two rank firing line, or as a separate division, for skirmishing, or other detached duty. On arrival at the battle line the commander will decide how to deploy the third rank and give the appropriate order. The third rank is supervised by the *left wing gefreiter* (LGf in diagrams below). The men of the third rank must remember they are the third rank and respond to orders, wherever in the zug they find themselves.

TR3

<u>TR1</u>

Forming a Body to the Rear

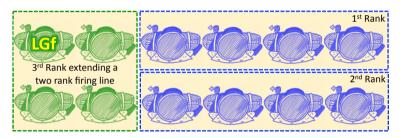
There are three orders that apply only to the third rank (TR2, 3 & 4). Each requires the men of the third rank to form a body to the rear of the zug, as directed by the *left wing gefreiter*. Having formed the body to the rear of the zug they either join on the left end of the battle line (thus extending the two rank line); form a skirmish line ahead of the zug, or are detached on a specific duty.



Extend the Firing Line

When ordered to extend the firing line, the men of the third rank form a body to the rear of the zug and then join the left of the line.

> "Dritte glied! Form sektion links!" "Third rank! Form section left!"



TR4 Detached Duty

When the third rank is required to perform a detached duty (patrol, flank guard, scout, etc) the men the third rank form a body to the rear of the zug and there await specific instruction from the commander.

"Dritte glied! Form sektion hinter!" "Third rank! Form section to the rear!"

TR5 **Reform of the Third Rank**

The men of the third rank could find themselves in a number of places during a battle, but they must remember that they are third rank men, and reform on their section, or respond to another third rank command when ordered (i.e., without reforming on their section first). The command for the third rank to reform on their sections is:

> "Dritte glied! Ordinair!" "Third rank! As you were!"

Skirmish Line

When ordered to form skirmish line, the men of the third rank form a body to the rear of the zug and then advance ahead of the zug to engage the enemy in skirmish order.

> "Dritte glied! Form schützenlinie front!" "Third rank! Form skirmish line front!"

TR6 Planning & Command

Before a battle, the commander and the *left wing gefreiter* should discuss how the third rank will likely be used, so that battlefield orders can be kept simple.

When operating as a detached division, the third rank are commanded remotely by the commander and locally by the *left wing gefreiter*. Commands may be transmitted by horn – the gefreiter must be familiar with the calls.

Appendix 1 ~ HISTORICAL BASIS ~

The Sektion

The History

A regiment was formed of several battalions. The 1st Silesian Landwehr Infantry Regiment, for example, had five battalions in 1813. A full strength battalion would have had around 800 officers and men.

Battalions were broken down into companies. A company would have had around 200 officers and men.

Each company would be commanded by a *Kapitan*, assisted by a *Premier-Lieutenant* and three *Second-Lieutenants*.

In addition to the officers each company would have a senior NCO, the *feldwebel* (company sergeant major).

Companies were split into two *zugs* (very roughly equivalent to a British platoon). Each *zug* had around 100 officers and men.

The *zug* was split into *sektions*. Each *sektion* had around 15-18 men and when formed up would have five or six files of three ranks.

Each *sektion* would have had an *unteroffizier* (sergeant) and a number of more junior NCOs, including *gefreiter* (lance-corporal/private first class).

The *sektion* seems to be the smallest formal unit of a Prussian regiment. It seems likely however that *sektions* were divided into smaller squads for the purposes of bivouacing, billeting and messing.

The battalion could march in a variety of formations, one of which was column of sections. Each *sektion* would be formed up three ranks deep, and the battalion's *sektions* formed one behind the other in a column. This made for a narrow column and was probably used when marching distances.

A similar formation was the *zug* column. This was a wider column used for attacking the enemy line. The *sektions* would form in their *zug* and the *zugs* would form up one behind the other in a tight column.

The 2012 Drill

A good turnout for us would equate to one historical sektion.

Sticking to the formations and roles of a single historical *sektion* would mean that we would miss out on opportunities to use several signature features of Napoleonic drill.

So that we can include these manoeuvres we have scaled down the historical unit sizes and cherry picked representative roles and formations.

We refer to our whole unit as the *zug*. Our *zug* will usually be split into smaller squads which we refer to as *sektions* (or *sektionen* in more correct German).

The first thing that will happen at an event is that the *wehrmen* will be assigned to a *sektion*. Where possible this will be for the duration of the event.

Each *sektion* will be assigned a *gefreiter* (lance corporal/private first class) who will be the junior NCO responsible for that *sektion*.

When the *zug* is called to form up, the *sektion(s)* will assemble independently under their *gefreiter's* command. They will then march to the designated form up location where they will form the *zug* with the other *sektion(s)*.

In camp there will normally be one *sektion* on duty and the others off duty (turnout permitting).

In battle, parts of the *sektion* may be split off and redeployed – but the *wehrmen* must remember which *sektion* they belong to and return to it when ordered.

Depending on turnout, *sektions* might be big enough that an *unteroffizier* (sergeant) will be appointed to assist the *feldwebel* (company sergeant major).

Each wehrman must remember which sektion he is assigned to.

The Third Rank

The History

The Prussians and French formed battle line in three ranks. For all three ranks to fire, without the rear rank shooting the front rank, the front rank had to kneel. But a soldier who was allowed to kneel under fire was difficult to get back up again and by the Napoleonic period only the front two ranks would fire, both standing, the third rank would instead load muskets for the second rank, and fill gaps when men fell.

The third rank was also used to extend the firing line if necessary – by tacking them on the end of the line, thus turning a short three rank line into a long two rank line.

The Prussian third rank was more flexible than this and had an additional job \dots

The infantry tactics of the Napoleonic period relied heavily on men moving in formation. If you could keep your men in formation, prevent them from running and have enough of them left to finish the job, you stood a fair chance of winning the day.

The artillery and the cavalry were long established ways of breaking up formations, disrupting communications and shaking the enemy's nerve. From the mid $18^{\rm th}$ century another method was adopted too – the skirmisher.

Most armies, including the Prussians, had specialist light infantry units for skirmishing. They were deployed ahead of the main formation to take pot shots at the enemy. They tended to operate in pairs, using the terrain to provide cover. By the Napoleonic period many armies were equipping their skirmishers with rifles, which enabled them to shoot at specific targets, such as officers, with great accuracy.

Prussia differed slightly. As well as dedicated light infantry units, they also trained line soldiers in the basics of skirmishing. If skirmishers were required they would detach the men of the third rank into a separate division which would advance ahead of the battalion and establish an advance position. Half of its men would then be sent further forward to the skirmish line. The rest would remain in reserve at the advance position.

The third rank could also be detached for use on detached duties, such as scouting, or to guard the flank of the column.

The 2012 Drill

To reflect the Prussian practice, we will almost always form up and march in *sektions* of three ranks.

We may deploy a three rank firing line in a drill display to demonstrate the Prussian practice.

In battle we won't normally deploy in a three rank firing line, otherwise a third of the *zug* wouldn't have much to do and a third of our firepower would be unavailable. Instead, we will normally redeploy into a two rank firing line. The third rank will effectively become an additional sektion at the left of the line – the commander may choose to fire by section, in which case the men of the third rank will temporarily assume the appropriate section number (e.g., if there are two sections to start with, the third rank men temporarily become a third section and will be referred to as "III Sektion" for the purposes of firing by section).

We will use our third rank as skirmishers and for detached duties. When numbers permit, the deployment of skirmishers will include an advanced reserve position as per the historical drill.

We are essentially a line infantry regiment and our role is generally to fire on the enemy, in formation, from the battle line. However, there will definitely be occasions when we want to deploy the third rank as a detached division.

The term "third rank" refers to all the *wehrmen* who were positioned in the third rank of any *sektion* at form up. They are always the third rank men, even if they are temporarily in a different rank, and wherever they are must respond to an order given to the third rank and return to their original *sektion* when ordered.

The third rank will be assigned a *gefreiter* (lance corporal/private first class) who will be the junior NCO responsible for the third rank when it is detached.

Officers & NCOs

The History

The Landwehr were essentially trained civilians.

The battalions were raised by parishes (*kreis*) on a provincial basis. The 3rd battalion of the 1st Silesian Landwehr Infantry Regiment, for example, was raised by the parish of Sagan, a town that is now in modern Poland.

The men will often have known each other since childhood and the local nature of the Landwehr units was reflected in the command structure. The NCOs were elected by the men and the junior officers were recommended to the army by the parish.

A *sektion* was run by an *unteroffizier* (sergeant) and several junior NCOs - corporals and *gefreiters* (lance-corporal/private first class). The *sektion* was part of a *zug*. The *zug* would be commanded by a junior officer, who was commanded by the company *kapitan*. In addition to the officers, each company had a *feldwebel* (company sergeant major).

The NCOs, including the *feldwebel*, had the same basic uniform as the men, with the addition of lace at collar and cuffs which denoted their rank. The *feldwebel* would have carried a cane or swagger stick and had an officer's silver sword knot.

Officers dressed similarly to the officers of the line regiments, but instead of the shako they wore the same type of hat as their men. Many also chose to wear the litewka like their men. Shoulder strap distinctions denoted their rank.

Each *sektion* of a *zug* had an *unteroffizier*. The *zug* had two additional *unteroffiziers* – one for each flank/wing when in line, or overseeing the front and rear when in column. The *sektion unteroffiziers* formed up to the front of their *sektion* on parade, and to the rear of their *section* when in line or marching in column.

The officer commanding the zug would be positioned to the right of the front rank when marching in column.

The 2012 Drill

So that we can have as many firers as possible and so that we don't become top heavy, we will not have an officer or an *unteroffizier* (although when numbers warrant it we may).

Our unit will be commanded by a *feldwebel*.

The *feldwebel* will be assisted by two *gefreiters* who will very loosely represent the roles of the right and left wing *unteroffiziers*.

At form up, the *right wing gefreiter* will be the right hand marker of the first *sektion*. In this position they will oversee the front of the column/right of the line.

The *left wing gefreiter* will be the rear left marker of the last *sektion*. In this position they will oversee the rear of the column/left of the line. They will also be the junior NCO responsible for the third rank when it is detached.

In addition to the *right and left wing gefreiters* temporary *gefreiters* will be appointed as right hand markers of any additional *sektions*.

With the exception of the *left wing gefreiter* whose role is outlined above, the main battlefield job of all the *gefreiters* is to act as the right hand marker of their *sektion*. All *gefreiters* need to understand the German orders and be able to discreetly translate them for their *sektion* if necessary.

The gefreiters will also be responsible for their sektion in camp.

If numbers warrant it, the *right or left wing gefreiter* will be made a temporary *unteroffizier* to assist the *feldwebel* in running the block.

In keeping with the Prussian practice, the *feldwebel* and the *right and left wing gefreiters* will be elected by the men (as per The Militia Articles).

Line & Column

The History

A unit formed in line can bring all of its muskets to bear on the enemy, but it is difficult to maintain a line on broken ground, or when moving. Line tended to be a relatively stationary deployment used either as a defensive tactic (think Wellington on the ridge at Waterloo), or as the prelude to an assault on the enemy line. Speed and manoeuvrability were the advantage of the column, the downside was vulnerability to artillery, or, as the French found, to disciplined infantry in line.

The Prussians favoured a French style attack column (*angriffs-kolonne*) in which the battalion would be formed up two zugs wide by four deep, with a gap of only a rank between them. This formation allowed the battalion to form line to the front very quickly. In theory the attack column would cross the battlefield at speed, deploy into line close to the enemy, give a volley and then fall on with bayonets and butts. In practice it didn't always work like this and many variations were used, including staying in column and simply smashing into a weak looking point in the enemy line.

At Waterloo, the Prussians who advanced into Plancenoit would very quickly have found columns and lines were useless for street fighting and house clearance – which instead required the "tactics of a massive ale-house brawl where the sergeant and the corporal were of more use than the officer" (Adkin, The Waterloo Companion).

When threatened by cavalry, the Prussians did not form square, instead they formed a closed column, like the *angriffs-kolonne* but with the open ranks filled with NCOs and the flank files facing out.

When not on the battlefield, the open column was the normal marching formation. The units in the column were formed one behind the other, with enough space between them that they could wheel into line to either side in an emergency.

The sub-units (zug, sektion) of a battalion were numbered from the right and wherever possible they formed in the correct order - i.e. with I Sektion at the right of the line, or the head of the columm. The sub-units retained their number, wherever they found themselves.

The 2012 Drill

This manual includes formations for line and column.

Our attack column will be a close order column, one section wide (until we have four or more sections and then we will reflect the historical attack column).

When the zug forms up in line, the default position of I Sektion will be at the right with the other Sektion(s) positioned accordingly.

When the zug forms in column, the default position of I Sektion will be at the head of the column, with the other Sektion(s) positioned accordingly.

The manual includes evolutions which enable us to form line or column by inversion, if it is necessary – these evolutions put I Sektion at the opposite end of the line of column.

When threatened by cavalry we will reflect the historical practice and form a closed column with the flanks facing outwards.

The drill manuals of the period include guides whose role it was to act as markers for large movements, such as wheeling the line. On the command given by the officer, these men would move to the appropriate point and the rest of the unit would then move to them. We will reflect this practice when wheeling the line – the guides' role will be incorporated into the *left and right wing gefrieter* roles (and that of the *feldwebel* as necessary).

Appendix 2 ~ REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ~

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The developments in this manual are based on the sources detailed in the References. Information has been gleaned from each and used to create this interpretation of period Prussian drill.

Any duff assumptions or mis-interpretations are either deliberate so they work in a re-enactment context, or they are a cock-up by the author.

Prost!

Richard Brown March 2012