

SELF HELPS for the NEW SOLDIER

By a United States Army Officer

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THE PLATOON.

In the preceding articles on the school of the company, the platoon has purposely been left out of consideration and the attention confined to the squad and company. The reason was that the principles upon which platoon movements are executed are based on those of the squad and company; for the platoon, consisting of from two to four squads, is simply a company on a reduced scale, or a squad on an enlarged scale, and is handled, generally speaking, accordingly. Moreover, when the new soldier, after drill in the school of the squad, is first placed in the school of the company, he is taught the application of his squad movements in company formation, and this supplies the natural connection between squad and company evolutions.

The platoon, as has been said before, is to the company what the company is to the battalion. In a war-strength company there are four platoons, and in either a peace or war strength battalion there are four companies. It is therefore apparent that such movements as "Company right (left)," which are for the purpose of throwing a column of companies into line of the battalion, are simulated with "Platoons right (left)," by turning the platoons on a fixed pivot into a line of the company.

As pointed out in connection with "Company right (left)," the movement is the same in principle as "Squad right (left)"; but since a platoon consists of two, three or four squads (we shall assume hereafter that the platoon is at the war strength of four squads, or 32 men), in such points as the rules vary between squad and company "right" the platoon follows the rules for the company.

The reason for the subdivision of the company into four platoons, instead of two, as formerly, is that modern battle conditions have demonstrated that from twenty to thirty rifles are as many as can be effectively controlled by one leader. The platoon is therefore the fire unit, as we shall see when we take up extended-order drill for the company.

The platoons are commanded as follows: The platoon on the right of the line, by the first lieutenant; the platoon at the left of the line, by the second lieutenant; the platoon at right center, by the first sergeant, and the platoon at left center, by the sergeant next in rank.

Each platoon has a sergeant for guide, and the file closers are distributed according to their posts behind the line of the company. The musicians march as file closers with the first platoon.

The platoons are numbered consecutively from right to left, and these designations do not change. Since the platoon is the fire unit, its usefulness is most apparent in extended order; but it is also frequently employed in marches, on the parade ground, or in the armory. In parades through the streets of a city a company front of 64 men would generally be impossible; also, a company front of 32, or two platoons, is frequently too wide. The column of platoons formation, therefore, of a war strength company would give a front 16 men wide, and this would accommodate itself to streets which were too narrow for the two-platoon front.

Nevertheless, in garrison or ceremonies, the strength of platoons may, if desirable, exceed four squads. That is, under such circumstances, the company might be divided into two platoons of eight squads each.

PLATOON COMMANDS.

When the company is in line, to form columns of platoons, the command is, "Platoons right (left)." This is executed by each platoon as in the school of the company.

The right flank men in the front rank of each platoon face to the right in marching and mark time. The other front rank men oblique to the right, place themselves abreast of the pivot men, and mark time. In the rear rank, the third man from the right in each platoon (followed in column by the second and first) moves straight to the front until in the rear of his front rank man. Then all three face to the right in marching and mark time. The remaining men of the rear rank move straight to the front for four paces, oblique to the right, place themselves abreast of the third man, cover their file leaders and mark time.

Before executing this movement with platoons, the captain makes it a point to see that the guides on the flank toward which the movement is to turn are covering—that is, are in a straight row, so that the pivot men, whose positions are governed by those of the guides, will also be in a straight row, which will bring the platoons into a precise column. This is effected by previously announcing the guide to that flank.

Following the command, "Platoons right (left), MARCH," the concluding command is to the company as a whole—"Forward, MARCH," or "Company, HALT."

Being in columns of platoons, to change direction, the command is, "Column right (left), MARCH." At the preparatory command, the leader of the first platoon turns to the right on a moving pivot; then its leader commands, "Forward, MARCH," at the completion of the turn. Rear platoons march squarely up to the turning point

of the leading platoon and turn at the command of their leaders.

When a company is in a column of squads, and it is desired to form a line of platoons, the command "Platoons, column right (left)" is given. This is executed by each platoon as already described for the company. The leading squad of each platoon executes a right turn, and four parallel columns of squads advance in line of platoons.

When the company is in line, to form line of platoons, the command may be either, "Squads right (left), platoons, column right (left), MARCH," or "Platoons, column right (left) by squads, MARCH." The first command is explained by reference to the preceding paragraph, while the second is executed by each platoon separately as "Right (left) by squads" in the school of the company.

Being in column of platoons, to form the company line on the right or left, the command is as follows: "On right (left) into line, MARCH." "Company, HALT!" At the preparatory command, the leader of the first platoon gives "right turn." At "March," the platoon turns to the right on a moving pivot. The command "Halt" is given when the leading platoon has advanced the desired distance. At the "Halt" its leader commands "Right dress." The other platoons march exactly as though they were squads when this order is given to the company in column of squads.

"Platoons, right (left) front into line" is executed as described by squads in the school of the company. The dress for "Platoons, right front into line," would be on the left squad of the left platoon.

EXTENDED ORDER.

The purpose of the close order drill through which we have just been put with the company is threefold: In the first place, it confers the benefits cited at the beginning of this series, namely, discipline and uniformity of movement. In the second place, by pleasing the eye with the movements, it not only teaches with concrete example the fundamentals of military precision, but contributes an important moral element known as esprit de corps. A company which is in the height of drilling or marching together has a vastly better spirit than one which, however well trained as individuals, has been assembled but a short time. The third benefit is a practical or mechanical expression of the second. This is "teamwork."

Teamwork is so important to troops in combat that the infantry drill regulations select this athletic term in preference to the whole military glossary to explain the combination of elements required by a unit for successful action. Teamwork is indispensable, and teamwork can only be learned, to begin with, in close order, just as teamwork with a football squad can be properly learned only by signal practice. But well-developed teamwork is the more indispensable with deployed units because the comparatively wide fronts increase the difficulties of control. This brings us to the consideration of extended order.

Because of the increased difficulties of control, noncommissioned officers are given great latitude in the execution of extended order work. We have already seen, in the article devoted to the corporal, how that individual's importance increased the moment the squad was deployed in line of skirmishers. The success of the whole, in fact, in the word of the regulations, "depends largely upon how well each subordinate co-ordinates his work with the general plan."

In further illumination of this statement, officers and men are instructed that "it is far better to do any intelligent thing consistent with the aggressive execution of the general plan than to search hesitatingly for the ideal. This is the true rule of conduct for subordinates—who are required to act upon their own initiative."

But subordinates are immediately warned that independence must not become license. The subordinate officer should at all times have the general plan of action in mind and cause his own acts to conform thereto. The test is for him to ask himself whether he is reasonably sure that his superior in the given circumstances would issue the identical order. If the order he receives is obviously based upon an incorrect view of the situation, it is impossible of execution, or has become impracticable because of changes which have occurred since its promulgation, the subordinate is compelled to use his own judgment and take the responsibility upon himself, if he is unable first to communicate the situation to his superiors.

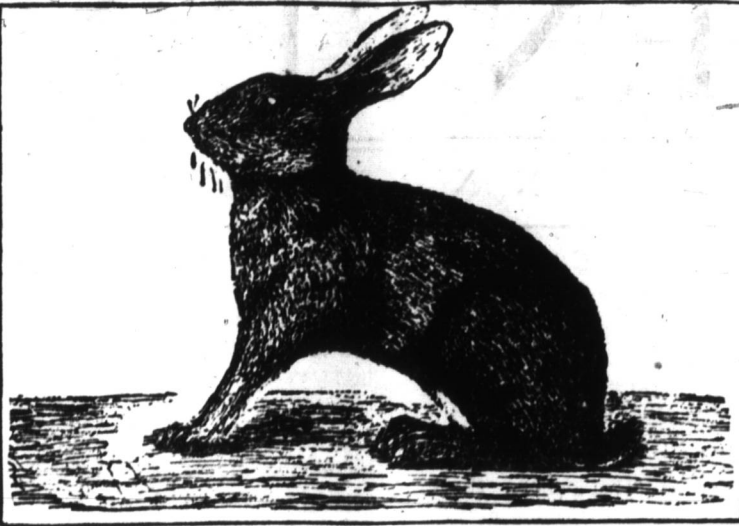
These instructions are directed to officers primarily, but they are relatively true of the responsibility which devolves upon the squad or platoon leader, and for this reason have their places in the consideration of the company when deployed in line of skirmishers.

Are We Living Too Fast?

Life in the great centers of the United States has gained such impetus that it makes few pauses in its rush toward its own destruction. It hurries us along in its current of excitement, battering us against jagged rocks that jut across it from all angles, poisoning us, polluting our blood with emotions that eat up red corpuscles, and draining our sensibilities of their natural responsiveness.

Waste of physical energy is scarcely worse than waste of mental forces. Life ceases to be enjoyable that moment in which we leave off wondering at it, when it no longer surprises us; when it no longer has unexplored vistas, unexpected romances and adventures, when our jaded palates are caloused beyond the possibility of anticipation.—Exchange.

SUPPLEMENT MEAT SUPPLY OF COUNTRY



BELGIAN HARE IS VALUABLE SOURCE OF FOOD.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The meat supply of the country may well be supplemented, biologists of the United States department of agriculture point out, by the raising of rabbits by youths and adults not engaged in military or other national service, or in regular industrial employment. These animals already have proved a valuable source of food in Europe during the present war. In the United States they might be raised in back yards of cities and towns as well as on farms.

The Belgian hare breeds rapidly, matures quickly, and produces a palatable and highly nutritious meat. The cost of production is less than that of any other meat, not excepting poultry. The supply can be greatly increased within a few months, without requiring space that may be needed for the production of crops. Practical experience has demonstrated that rabbit meat can be produced in unlimited quantities at a cost of about six cents a pound; and by utilizing lawn cuttings and other

vegetation that would otherwise be wasted, the cost can be made even lower.

The Belgian and Flemish giant rabbits are recommended for meat production, as the ordinary tame rabbit is smaller and develops more slowly. Stock of Belgian hares may be bought from breeders in nearly all the states at \$1 to \$3 each. They may occasionally be had from pet stock dealers. Fancy pedigreed stock is not required for meat production.

Rabbits are easily kept. They eat hay, grass, lawn cuttings and green vegetation of many kinds. Females should be allowed to breed when eight or ten months old, and during the year should raise four litters of about six young each. Well fed, the young reach marketable size when three to four months old and average from five to six pounds live weight.

The department of agriculture has published a bulletin on raising rabbits which will be helpful to those who wish to engage in this pursuit.

needed and apply at once. It is never so good after it has settled.

Where poisons such as arsenate of lead are to be combined with bordeaux mixture, add the poison after the two solutions are mixed. Then stir well.

Stock Bordeaux Solution.

Those who use bordeaux mixture frequently and in quantity will find it convenient to keep concentrated stock solution on hand, as these keep indefinitely if the water which evaporates is replaced.

Build an elevated platform to hold the barrels. The night before the day you wish to commence spraying, suspend 50 pounds of copper sulphate to dissolve in a 50-gallon barrel of water. Slake 50 pounds of lime in another barrel. Add water to make 50 gallons of lime milk. When bordeaux mixture is needed, stir both stock barrels well and take four gallons from each stock barrel. Dilute the copper sulphate in one barrel by adding enough water to make 25 gallons. Dilute the lime milk in another barrel by adding enough water to make 25 gallons. Stir each thoroughly. Combine the two as in previous directions. Thorough agitation is essential in making good bordeaux mixture.

PORK IS PRINCIPAL MEAT OF AMERICANS

Hog is Most Important Animal to Raise for Meat and Money—Consumes By-Products.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The quickest and surest way of augmenting the meat supply next to the raising of poultry is by raising hogs, the United States department of agriculture points out. The hog is the most important animal to raise for meat and money. He requires less labor, less equipment, less capital, makes greater gains per hundred pounds of concentrates and reproduces himself faster and in greater numbers than any other domestic animal. As a consumer of by-products the hog has no rival. In its fat-storing tendency. The most satisfactory meat for shipping long distances on train, boat or wagon, and for long storage after reaching its destination is mess pork.

Pork finds ready sale because packers have discovered many ways of placing pork on the market in attractive and highly palatable form combined with most excellent keeping qualities. There is no other meat from which so many products are manufactured. Very near 50 per cent of the total value, in dollars and cents, of the meat and meat products slaughtered in the packing houses of the United States is derived from the hog. Our country leads by far all countries in the production as well as in the consumption of meat and meat products. Three-fourths of the world's international trade in pork and pork products originates in the United States in normal times, and the war greatly has increased this proportion. According to the estimates there was an increase of 9,580,000 hogs between 1910, the census year, and 1916, inclusive. The increase at the end of 1915 was \$3,145,000 over the preceding year, while it is estimated that there was a decrease at the end of 1916 of \$12,000 hogs compared with 1915.

LATE NORTH CAROLINA MARKET QUOTATIONS

Western Newspaper Union News Service
Prices Paid by Merchants for Farm Products in the Markets of North Carolina as Reported to the Division of Markets for the Week Ending Saturday, August 18, 1917.

Charlotte.
Corn, \$2.10 bu; oats, 98c bu; wheat, \$2.25 bu; Irish potatoes, \$6 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1 bu.
Butter—home-made 40c lb, creamery 45c lb; eggs, 30c doz; spring chickens, 25c lb; hens, 15-20c lb; hogs, \$15 cwt.
Cotton, middling, 25c.

Durham
Corn, \$2.10 bu; oats, 90c bu; wheat, \$2.15 bu.
Butter—Home-made 40c lb, creamery 50c lb; eggs, 35c dozen; spring chickens, 30c lb; hens, 12.50c lb.
Cotton, middling, 25.50c.

Fayetteville.
Corn, \$2 bu; oats, 90c bu; wheat, \$2.25 bu; peas, \$2 bu; Irish potatoes, \$4 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1 bbl.
Butter—Home-made 40c lb, creamery 45c lb; eggs, 30c doz; spring chickens, 20c lb; hens, 15c lb; hogs, \$15 cwt.
Greenville.

Corn, \$1.80 bu; oats, 90c bu; Irish potatoes, 5 bbl.
Butter—Home-made, 30c lb; eggs, 28c doz; spring chickens, 30c each; hens, 50c each; hogs, \$11 cwt.
Cotton, middling, 26c.

Hamlet.
Corn, \$2.50 bu; oats, \$1.10 bu; wheat \$2.25 bu; Irish potatoes, \$5.25 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1.50 bu.
Butter—Home-made, 35c lb; eggs, 30c doz; spring chickens, 25c lb; hens, 25c lb; hogs, \$16 cwt.
Cotton, middling, 25c.

Lumberton.
Corn, \$2.50 bu; oats, \$1.50 bu.
Butter—Home-made 40c lb, creamery 45c lb; eggs, 30c doz.

Monroe.
Corn, \$2.25 bu; oats, \$1 bu; wheat, \$2.25 bu; Irish potatoes, 4.85 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2 bu.
Butter—Home-made 30c lb, creamery 43c lb; eggs, 25c doz; spring chickens, 30-35c each; hens, 40-50c each.
Cotton, middling, 25c.

New Bern.
Corn, \$2 bu; oats, 92c bu; peas, \$3 bu; Irish potatoes, \$4 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 bu.
Butter—creamery, 44c lb eggs, 30c dozen.
Cotton, middling, 25.50c.

North Wilkesboro.
Corn, \$2.50 bu; oats, \$1 bu; wheat \$2.50 bu; Irish potatoes, \$3 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2 bbl.
Butter—Home-made, 25c lb; eggs, 24c doz; spring chickens, 17c lb; hens, 15c lb.

Raleigh.
Corn, 2.15 bu; oats, 90c bu; wheat, \$2.25 bu; peas, \$1.75 bu; Irish potatoes, \$4 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1.75 bu.
Butter—Home-made 35c, creamery 41c lb eggs, 36-37c doz; spring chickens, 22 1-2c lb; hens, 17 1-2c lb.
Cotton, middling, 25.50c.

Salisbury.
Corn, \$2.50 bu; oats, \$1 bu; wheat, \$2.50 bu; Irish potatoes, \$5 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2 bu.
Butter—Home-made 45c lb, creamery 45c lb; eggs, 35c doz; spring chickens, 30c lb hens, 20c lb hogs, \$14.50 cwt.
Cotton, middling, 25c.

Scotland Neck.
Corn, 2.20 bu; oats, \$1.05 bu; Irish potatoes, \$4 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2 bu.
Butter—Home-made 40c lb, creamery 45c lb eggs, 30c doz; spring chickens, 25c lb; hens, 15c lb hogs, \$15 cwt.
Cotton, middling, 25c.

Statesville.
Corn, \$1.95 bu; oats, 85c bu; wheat, \$2.35 bu; Irish potatoes, \$4.50 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$2 bu.
Butter—Home-made 26-30c lb; eggs, 26c doz; spring chickens, 17c lb hens, 15c lb.

Wilmington.
Corn, \$2.45 bu; oats, 96c bu; Irish potatoes, \$4.50 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1.50 bu.
Cotton, middling, 25.50c.

Winston-Salem.
Corn, \$2.25 bu; oats, \$1 bu; wheat, \$2.25 bu; Irish potatoes, \$3.40 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$1.75 bu.
Butter—Home-made 30c lb, creamery 40c lb eggs, 28c doz; spring chickens, 16-18c lb hens, 14-15c.

Chicago, Ill.
No. 2 white corn, 1.95-\$2.01 (delivered in Raleigh \$1.10-\$2.16); No. 2 yellow corn, \$1.77-\$2.04 (delivered in Raleigh 1.92-\$2.19).
Butter—36-40c creamery; eggs, 31 1/4-34 1/4c firsts.

New York.
Irish potatoes, 3.25-\$3.60 bbl; sweet potatoes, \$5-\$8 bbl.
Butter—41-43c, extra; eggs, 41-43c extra fine.

Well Served.
"I don't see how our candidate can be defeated."
"Why so optimistic?"
"He has idealists to write his speeches for him and practical politicians to direct his campaign."

Cruel Father Time.
"Since our engagement Fred has been perfectly devoted to me. Do you think he will continue to love me when I'm old?"
"Really, dear, I can't say—but you'll soon know."

WOMAN NOW IN PERFECT HEALTH

What Came From Reading a Pinkham Advertisement.



Paterson, N. J.—"I thank you for the Lydia E. Pinkham remedies as they have made me well and healthy. Some time ago I felt so run down, had pains in my back and side, was very irregular, tired, nervous, had such bad dreams, did not feel like eating and had short breath. I read your advertisement in the newspapers and decided to try a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It worked from the first bottle, so I took a second and a third, also a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Blood Purifier, and now I am just as well as any other woman. I advise every woman, single or married, who is troubled with any of the aforesaid ailments, to try your wonderful Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier and I am sure they will help her to get rid of her troubles as they did me."—Mrs. ELISIE J. VAN DER SANDE, 36 No. York St., Paterson, N. J.

Write the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., (confidential) Lynn, Mass, if you need special advice.

GREEN MOUNTAIN ASTHMA

TREATMENT
Standard remedy for fifty years and result of many years experience in treatment of throat and lung diseases by Dr. J. H. Guild.
Free Sample and Practical Treatise on Asthma, its cause, treatment, etc., sent upon request. 25c. \$1.00 at drugstores. J. H. GUILD CO., Rupert, Va.

WINTERSMITH'S CHILL TONIC

Sold for 47 years. For Malaria, Chills and Fever. Also a Fine General Strengthening Tonic.

A New Place for Orderlies.

There is evidence that life in the army has its humorous side even in war time. In a story that recently went the rounds of the English press, a newly appointed officer who was making his first visit to the mess, with the usual inquiry of "any complaints?" arrived at one mess somewhat earlier than he was expected, and the orderly of the day, being taken by surprise, and in his shirt sleeves, dived under the table to save a reprimand. "Any complaints?" asked the officer. The corporal, grasping the situation at once, answered for the absent orderly.

"None, sir."
"Who is this?" asked the officer, suddenly catching sight of the orderly under the table.

The corporal again rose to the situation.

"Orderly of the day, sir," he answered. "Oh!" said the officer, and passed on.

The next mess were quite prepared, with the orderly, spick and span, standing at attention at the head of the table.

"Any complaints?"
"None, sir," answered the orderly. The officer looked him well over. "And who are you?" he asked. "Orderly of the day, sir."

"Then why the dickens aren't you under the table?" was the unexpected retort.

Idleness Makes a Fortune.

"If you sit idly you will lose money every minute," is a liberal paraphrase of a well-known Japanese proverb and serves as a protest against idleness, but the Tokyo Hochi cites the case of the great Buddha at Nara, which, despite inaction, is reaping a fortune. During the year ending June 25 the Buddha received 351,000 visitors, who paid admission fees aggregating \$9,350. The exaction of a fee to visit the big Buddha began in 1911, since which time \$127,500 gate money has been received.

Horse Chestnuts as Food.

An effort is being made to adapt the horse chestnuts to the human dietary. The nuts are more than half starch and sugar, with some protein and fat, and are nutritious. Their value chiefly depends on the elimination of the bitter elements and the irritating saponin-like glucosides.

South African railways in 1916 will expend \$50,815,000, it is estimated.

Portugal this year produces 376,831,577 quarts of grape wine.

"No bowl is too big when it holds Post Toasties"

