The Art of VVarr, Plainlie Detailled:

A Discourse on Militarie Discipline,

Usefull and Necessarie for the Education of All Captaines,

Leiutenants, and Gentlemen-Soldiers,

Wherein is Showne

the most Perfecte and Modernne Mocions in the Handling of the Pyke and Lessor Weapones

Well knowne to Divers Gentlemen as

THE SHEPSHETSHIRE BOOKE OF DRYL

Written and Composed by Captaine William Goode Commander of the Shepshetshire Trayned Companie of Foote, known by e some as Goode's Company, &tc.

Englished from the Base and Savauge Northumbric Tongue

by I.G. Sarjunte

Dungsmouthe, Printed for Bartholomew Savatte to bee sould at his shoppe in the allieway behind St. Nosepickke's at the sign of the Wounded Pizzle.

MDXCVII

THE EPISTLE DEDICATORIE

o the Right Honorable Francis, Earle of

Chappebotham, Lord of the Fields of Dungsmouthe and Spankesworthie, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the

Garter&Belte and Lord High Commander of Scottland, Northumbrica, and Most Thinges within a short walk of Bludgeonton Upon Tyne.

how great and mytie Mars himselfe doth joyous weepe to behold upon his feeld sych a sternne and nobile countennance as yours, my Right and Honorable Lord, borne to the twin artes of vvarre and drynk as if siered in some untold carnale union of Ancuant Bacchys and the nobile (for all that he was a paegan Greeke, if Your Lordship knowes what I mene and I believe Your Loudship does) Achilles. Well knowne it is among all men of militarie lerneing, how Your Loardship's warrlike and nobel champaigns against the savage Scotts and the beastial and frenchlike Irishe have gathered embellishement upon your renowend House. Indeed, even todae in the savagge parts of the North country cannot a mann mention rapyne, dispoylement, and wantone crueltie without divers menne speaking your Gloryous name in termes moste wonderous to perceive. Yet it is to-daye that the practise of the hounorable and gentlle Murther of Turkes, Pope-worshypers, and the Generale Poore has moste ashamedlie fallen fro fashyon among Younge gentlemen, and so is the Science of VVar shorely neglyckted, sadlie leaving vaste quantities of Sword & Pike unshethed in Caltholick buttockes and an unseemely number of Eyrish women unravisched. Thus is it in honore of Your Lordship's wealth, of martale prowes, that I hae caused to bee set into prynt this most perfecte of all instructions in the Artes Militarie,

that I might reflecte some tiney porcion of the blynding radiance of Skille at Armes and Marital Wondriment which doth emminate frome your Right Honorable Selfe.

May Great and Almightie God grant long life and faire helth to Your Illustrious Lardship, yor 6 nobel sonnes, and (hath He time & inclinacion) such wiffe & doghters as you maie chaunce to posefs, aswel.



A Welcome to All Menne of Nobel and Warrelike Disposicion

Aswel those Swept up from the Gutter by the Countie Levvy

Welcome to the oddity that is Goode's Company of Foot. We are a group of eccentrics who are attempting to recreate an Elizabethan pike and shot company circa 1587. In Tudor England a pike and shot company, as its name implies, was a group of soldiers organized around the use of a sixteenfoot spear called a *pike* and matchlock firearms in the form of *muskets* and *calivers* (or *arquebuses*).

The pike, deployed in formations of disciplined soldiers, was a revolutionary military development when it was first deployed by the Swiss at the Battle of Nancy¹ in 1477 and continued to be a core weapon into the 1700's. It provided an effective mobile defense against cavalry and infantry alike. As the sixteenth century progressed, pikes were used more frequently with the other revolutionary weapon of the time: the firearm. By 1600, a company of one hundred men might well consist of sixty shot, thirty pike and ten halberdiers or billmen. Also included in a company of foot would have been halberdiers, billmen, and possibly archers.

In Good's Company we are all pikemen first and foremost, even those of us who carry a musket or halberd or ensign. Thus as a new soldier with the company, your first task will be to master formation actions, marching, and the use of the pike.

Matters Touching the Companie of Foote & the Composition Thereofe

The company is the standard mid-sized unit of organization for a band of footmen. A company formation consists of between one hundred and three hundred men, often equally divided between pike and shot. For the limited purpose of these instructions, we shall consider a company to be sixty-four pike, arranged in eight files of eight men each, and a like number of shot, whom we will ignore for the moment because they are drunk. A company is commanded by a captain, assisted by his lieutenant. The company colors are carried by an ensign who, while technically third-in-command, has no command authority unless both the captain and his lieutenant are incapacitated. In addition to these officers, a company maintains a surgeon and up to three drums.

A company is divided into two units of fifty men, called *sergeantries*, each commanded by one of the company's two *sergeants*. Each sergeantry is divided into *squadrons*, each with a *corporal* to lead it. A corporal may be assisted in his duties by a *lanspresado*. Neither the sergeantry nor the squadron is a unit of maneuver but is used for logistical and administrative purposes, like scheduling watch-standers and distributing pay and rations.

How a souldier shall know his Rankes & Files and the Manner in whiche these same are Maintained in Goode Ordeur

The Renaissance Formation

A formation (historically also referred to as an array) is an organized group of men, irrespective of size. A formation has a consistent front, rear, left flank, and right flank. You will always have a specific place within the formation and it is important that you remain at all times aware of both the size and shape of the formation and your position within it. The space between two ranks or two files is called the interval.

When you first assemble in formation you will be facing the formation's front. To your left is the left flank, to your right the right flank, and the rear will be behind you. Thus the directions—"left",

¹ Also known as "The Battle of Charles the Bold Getting His Ass Kicked by a Bunch of Peasants."

"right", "front" or "rear"—given in all commands will be relative to you, not the officer giving the commands.

All formations are composed of *ranks* and *files*. A rank is a line of men running parallel to the front of the formation, while a file is a line of men that runs from the front of the formation to the rear. Every man in a formation is a member of one rank and one file.

When entering combat or on the march, the foremost man in each file will serve to lead those behind him. Thus the man at the front of a file is known as the File Leader and is often the most experienced man in the file. The man at the end is the Bringer Up, and is the next most experienced. Files whose length can support it are subdivided into two half-files and equipped with a Half-file Leader and a Half-file Bringer Upⁱⁱⁱ. This allows the file to be split into two smaller files, a technique which can be useful on occasion, as we will see later.

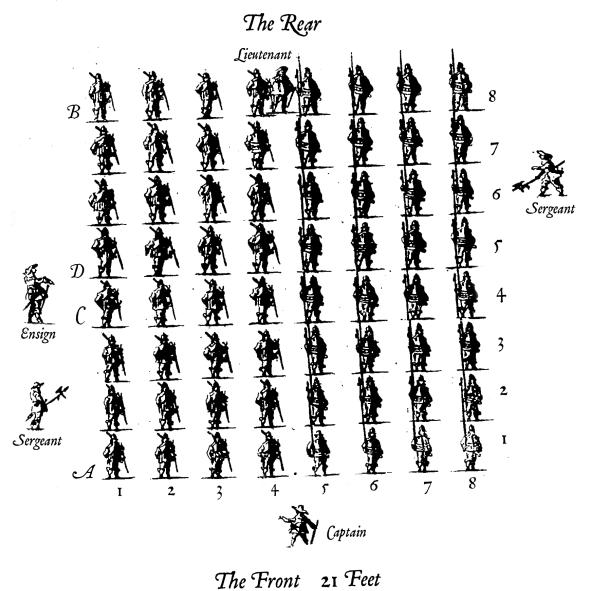


Figure 1, a square of sixty-four men showing the File Leaders (A), File Bringers-Up (B), Half-File Bringers-Up (C), and Half-File Leaders (D). The numbering of ranks and files is also illustrated. ^{iv}

In the illustration above, all the men in the formation are facing the front, with their File Leaders at the fore. This is the ideal orientation in which to engage the enemy because it puts the most experienced—and presumably deadliest—soldiers into contact with the enemy first. The front of the formation in this orientation is called the *front proper*. Sometimes, however, it is necessary to maneuver or engage with the formation facing in a different direction. Were the men in formation

all to face the opposite direction, the second most experienced soldiers, the Bringers Up, would be in front. In this orientation, the front is given the intuitive name of the *front of the rear*. In either case, a reliable man is at the head of each file. Less useful is the case in which the men in the above formation all turn in place so that they face 90° to their left or right. In that case, the direction they face, which was once the flank, becomes the *front accidental*. The front accidental places inexperienced men in front, so it is not generally used for complex maneuver or engagement. Note that when facing the front of the rear, File Leaders and Half-File Leaders will temporarily assume the duties of their Bringer Up counterparts, and vise versa.

Be aware that a formation may temporarily be split into two or more smaller formations, called *divisions*. For our purposes, we will only address splitting a formation in half. Formations are usually divided in such a way as to maintain files intact.

Questions of Whose Answers the Goode Souldier shall Maintaine Constant Knowledge

How many ranks and files are there?

When in larger formations you may have to cover more ground more quickly for some maneuvers.

What number rank am I in? What number file am I in?

Some motions will require odd-numbered ranks or files to do one thing and evennumbered ones another. Also, your commander may address your rank or file by number when issuing commands.

What half-file am I in?

Commands may be addressed to half-files, so you should know if you are in the front or rear half-file.

Where is the center of the formation?

You may be ordered to move or face toward or away from the center of the formation, so you will need to know both what direction it is and how many ranks and files away from it you are.

Where are the butt and point of my weapon?

Bludgeoning, tripping, or impaling your fellow soldiers is frowned upon.

A Soldier's Dignity (or lack thereof)

In this context, *dignity* refers to the relative importance of any given place within a formation and thus, by extension, the seniority of the man chosen to fill that place. As mentioned earlier, the front rank contains the most experienced and well-equipped soldiers because it is intended to make contact with the enemy first. The rear rank gets the next-most-experienced men to serve as an anchor and to safeguard the formation's rear. The places in between are each assigned a level of dignity as well. The exact order of dignity for a company of one hundred men is illustrated below.

The Table of dignity for 100. men.

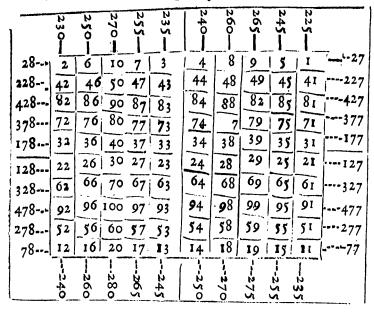


Figure 2, Positions of dignity within a company. The number 1 signifies the highest dignity in the formation, and 99 the lowest. Note the relative balance in the sums around the edge of this table.

Regardless of the size of the formation, the place of highest dignity within a file is that of the File Leader, followed in order by the Bringer Up, the Half-File Leader and the Half-File Bringer Up. Files themselves are also arranged according to dignity; the file of greatest dignity being the rightmost one, followed by the leftmost, then the one immediately to the left of center, then the one to the right of center. Other places are accorded dignity based on the pattern in the illustration above, but don't spend your time trying to remember anything more than the summary above.

Expect to be assigned a place of dignity by your commander based on your experience and level of activity. Alternately, you can determine the relative importance of your position in the formation by the dignity it commands in the table above.

The Proper Distances

Distance refers to the interval between ranks and between files. The greater the distance, the more spread out the formation will be. There are five distances you should know:

- 1. *Closest Order* Shoulder-to-shoulder. Not used as a distance between ranks.
- 2. Close Order One and a half (1½) feet between men. With your hand on your hip, your elbow should tough the man beside you. Seldom used as a distance between ranks.
- 3. *Order* Three feet between men. An arm extended straight out should touch the shoulder of the man beside or in front of you.
- 4. *Open Order* Six feet between men. An arm extended straight out should touch the extended arm of the man in the next file.
- 5. Double Distance Twelve feet between men. Often used between ranks while on the march.

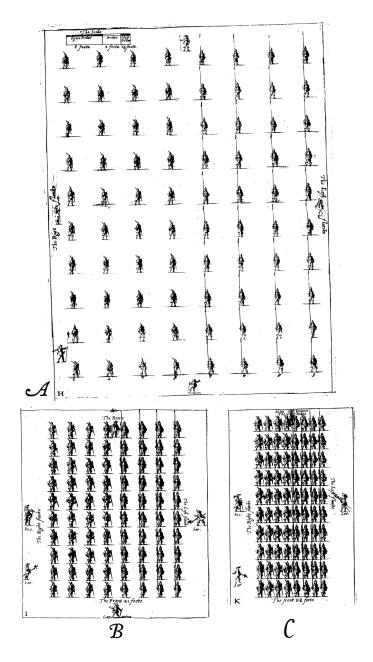


Figure 3, A comparison of Open Order (A), Order (B), and Close Order (C) for 80 men. vi

Of the Commaundments Given by Captaines, Sargeaunts, &tc.

Timing, Cadence, and Unified Motion

One of the major goals in drilling a formation is to develop *unified motion*. In a formation with unified motion, every man performs the individual steps of a command at the same instant and in the same proportion as those around him. This improves safety—by minimizing collisions of men and pikes—and at the same time presents a more imposing appearance to both friend and foe. To this end a formation will maintain a rhythm to which each member becomes attuned and to which each should match his motions. This rhythm is called the *cadence*, and may be most readily recognized in the rhythmic steps of a formation on the march.

The cadence is often guided by the drum and may be slower or more rapid as circumstances warrant. In describing the motions that comprise an organized movement, individual beats of this cadence are often referred to as *counts*. Keep in mind that a count is not always a single beat of the drum; often a drummer will double or triple the tempo, keeping the cadence on the downbeat, or halve the tempo,

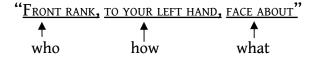
as in the case of a march where the drumbeat only comes on the left foot. Determining the cadence from a drumbeat is not hard, but may take some practice. Moreso with some drummers than others.

In the absence of a drum, your commander may inject a rhythm into the tone of his command. Listen for it.

How Words of Command Are Given

In modern martial drill, a command is generally understood to contain two parts: the *preparatory command*, which tells what to do, and the *command of execution*, which signals the moment at which you are to begin the action. In period drill the command of execution is signaled by a pair of rapid drumbeats, the drum being one of the few things that has a hope of being heard over the din of a sixteenth-century battlefield. In rare cases your commander may give verbal commands of execution; the word used—"move", "now", "march on", or even "allez"—is not important so long as it gives you a beat on which to move. In a perfect world, you should not receive both a drumbeat and a verbal command of execution, since that would be both confusing and stupid, qualities which are never found in a commander.

The period version of the preparatory command can be more complex than its modern counterpart, but all will have the same basic elements. Each command will specify **who** the command is addressed to, **how** it is to be performed, and **what** you are being ordered to do. For example:



Here, the first rank would turn to their left to face in the opposite direction from their original position. You will learn more about the details of this command later.

In some cases, parts of this command may be implied. For example, you should assume that a command issued without a specific "who" applies to the entire formation. Often, the "who" will be simply "Company". Also, there may be a default "how" as well for some commands. You will learn later, for example, that the convention for the above command is that in the absence of a "how", you would turn to the right. Thus the simple command, "FACE ABOUT" would instruct the entire formation to turn around to their right.

When used in a command, "half-files" always refers to the rear half-files in a formation. To specify the front half-files, your commander will say "front half-files".

Displaying Commands in Print

In these instructions we will use the following conventions when giving example commands:

- The entire command will be in small caps and enclosed in quotation marks.
- Optional parts of commands will be enclosed in square brackets []
- Multiple options will be enclosed in parenthesis () and separated with slashes /
- If an option has a default, it will be bold. In many cases, defaults don't make sense.

An example would be:

"[TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT/RIGHT AND LEFT),] OPEN TO YOUR (ORDER/OPEN ORDER/DOUBLE DISTANCE)"

Mocions to be Performed within the Array Stationarie

When standing in formation, you should stand in a posture that is distinctly different from modern "attention". There is only one posture, and it has no name so we will refer to it simply as your *right*

posture. Stand with your right foot in front, pointed straight ahead, and your left foot eight or ten inches behind and slightly to the left. This should give you a stable base while remaining comfortable. Stand erect and place your left hand on your hip. Let your right hand—which would ordinarily carry a weapon—hang at your side. This is your right posture.

Standing Right

"STAND RIGHT IN YOUR (RANKS/FILES/RANKS AND FILES)"

At this command, you should check that you are at the proper distance from the man in front of you and the one to your right. The man on whom the entire formation bases its distance is the man at the extreme right and front of the formation. By no coincidence, he will usually be the man of greatest dignity—and thus, presumably, experience and skill—within the formation. Always check your distance against the man to your right and the man to your front; the men to your left and rear will be checking against you. In general, this command is issued to the entire formation.

You should develop the habit of constantly checking your distance with your peripheral vision and adjusting as needed. While you can reasonably check your distance by raising your arm as described above, you will be expected to learn to judge distance by eye alone. Adjust your distance, if necessary, as inconspicuously possible.

Once you have settled into your position in the formation, take note of were you are: this is your *First Order*. If your commander gives you the command "To your first order" he will expect the entire formation to return to their current position, no matter how they have been maneuvered since.

Changing Distance

"FILES, TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT/INSIDE/OUTSIDE), OPEN TO YOUR (ORDER/OPEN ORDER/ETC.)"

"Files, [TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT/INSIDE/OUTSIDE),] CLOSE TO YOUR (ORDER/OPEN ORDER/ETC.)"

"RANKS, [TO YOUR (FRONT/REAR/INSIDE/OUTSIDE),] OPEN TO YOUR (ORDER/OPEN ORDER/ETC.)"

"RANKS, TO YOUR (FRONT/REAR/INSIDE/OUTSIDE), CLOSE TO YOUR (ORDER/OPEN ORDER/ETC.)"

If you are receive a command that addresses both ranks and files—as in the third example above—a good rule is that you should move directly toward or away from the rightmost man in the front rank. This will close or open your distance in both rank and file simultaneously and in roughly the correct proportion.

Unless commanded otherwise, you should open your ranks in such a way as to avoid moving the man of highest dignity. Thus, open ranks to the rear and close them to the fore; likewise open files to the left and close them to the right.

Facing Motions

A facing is a simple turn of 90° or 180° . When performing a facing, always keep your right foot planted, since it marks your position in the formation.

"To your (right/left/front/rear/flanks), face"

To face to your left, turn left on the balls of your feet and step back with your left foot. To face right, step forward with your left foot and turn right on the balls of your feet. Facing right or left should take two counts. For facing your flanks, simply turn to the right or left edge of the formation, whichever is closest. If there is an odd number of files the center one faces right. 'Cause why not?

"[To your (RIGHT/LEFT) HAND,] FACE ABOUT"

Simply perform two facing motions in the direction you are ordered to turn, which should end with you facing 180° from your start. Do not attempt a modern "about face" while carrying a long, heavy pole on potentially rough terrain. If a direction is not indicated in the command, turn to your right.

"FACE SOUARE"

The first two ranks face forward (i.e. stand still), the last two ranks face about to the right, and everyone in the middle faces to their outside. "To your inside face" is a reducement of this.

The Basick Postures of the Pike

The pike is the basic weapon of our company, so becoming skilled in its basic use is vital. The "postures" below are the standard actions of the pike that you will be expected to know as a pikeman in Goode's Company. Don't worry if you don't understand them after first reading this text; we will give you plenty of practice. Also note that some of the postures we use in Goode's Company have been modified slightly from the historical ones in order to make them easier to assume and hold for men of smaller stature. Thus some of the illustrations are at slight variance with the text, especially with regard to the placement of the left hand under the chin. Don't sweat it.

The Posture of Order

"ORDER YOUR PIKE"

Assuming your right posture, set the butt of your pike on the ground outside your right toe and grip the haft of the pike slightly below shoulder level. The pike should be vertical, not sloped in any direction, and your right arm should be bent.

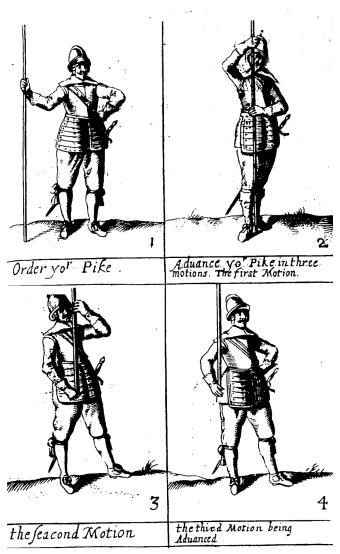


Figure 4, The transition between the Posture of Order and the Posture of Advance vii

The Posture of Advance

"ADVANCE YOUR PIKE"

The Posture of Advance is the second most frequently-used posture after Order. Almost every other action is done from Advance, so getting it right is important.

From the Posture of Order, you may assume Advance in three (3) counts:

- 1. Reach across your body with your left hand and gasp the pike loosely with your left hand just below your right. As you do so, lift your pike with your right hand until your right arm is as high as it will go. Your pike should slide through your left hand as it moves. The motion should end with the pike butt at your upper thigh.
- 2. Grip the pike firmly with your left hand, releasing your right hand and moving it smartly to the cup the butt of your pike. Be sure to grasp the pike butt so that your knuckles are facing forward (this rolls your hand in front of the pike, helping to ensure that the pike is nestled securely into your shoulder).
- 3. Lower your left arm to your left hip. Be sure that the butt of the pike is close to your hip; it is easy to let it slide forward and end up with a pike tilted backward.

If, in step 2, you find that the pike butt is too low to get your hand under, this means that your right hand is too high on the pike when you are at Order. It may take practice to get a feel for just how far to lift the pike in each step so that the butt is neither too high nor low for your right hand to grip in the next step. As a rule, it is easier to recover from bringing the pike butt a little too high than a little too low. Also remember that, unlike modern drill, you should maintain a reasonable distance (8-10 inches) between your feet to provide more stability when shifting a potentially unwieldy pike.

To return to the Posture of Order, simply perform the same steps in reverse:

- 1. Grasp the pike with your left hand just below shoulder level.
- 2. Release the pike butt with your right hand and grasp it as high over your head as you can comfortably reach.
- 3. Lower the pike with your right hand, guiding it with your left. As the motion ends, return your left hand to your hip. Do not allow the pike to land on your toe, leading you to blasphemy.

The Posture of Secure

"SECURE YOUR PIKE"

While this is a motion used in the course of assuming other postures, it is not a historical posture, per se, but one that we include here for safety and utility purposes. This posture is the same as the Posture of Advance, with the exception that your left hand grasps the pike haft at your right shoulder, stabilizing it.

To assume this posture from Order, proceed as if to the Posture of Advance, but stop after step 2 above. Do not drop your left hand to your side at the end. From Advance, simply grasp the pike with your left hand just below shoulder level.

Always feel free to come to this posture if you feel you do not have enough control over your pike. It is much better to have you in this posture than to have someone bashed with a runaway sixteen foot pole.

The Posture of Shoulder

"Shoulder your pike [AND CARRY IT LEVEL]"

We may choose to carry our pikes shouldered if we are on a long march or are moving through mildly wooded and secure terrain.

From the Posture of Advance, you may assume the Posture of Shouldered Arms this way: proceed as if you were changing to Order, but allow the pike butt to slide forward as you lower it, ending with the pike at a rough 45° angle.

To return to Advance from Shoulder simply reverse the action, essentially taking the pike handover-hand up your shoulder until you can grasp the butt.

On the completion of this motion your pike should be slanted at 45° and the butt of your pike should be a foot or so off the ground and distant enough from the heels of the man in front of you that he will not entangle himself while marching. Your commander should have arranged your distance such that the butt of your pike will not go past the legs of the man in front of you, but if this is not the case you should pass your pike haft to the right of the man in front of you. When carrying your pike shouldered, always maintain control of it with your right hand and be sure to keep your thumb on the pike.

A variant of this posture exists in which you will be instructed to carry your pike level. In this case, simply proceed as above, but bring your pike horizontal resting on your shoulder. Your commander should have your ranks at Double Distance for this.

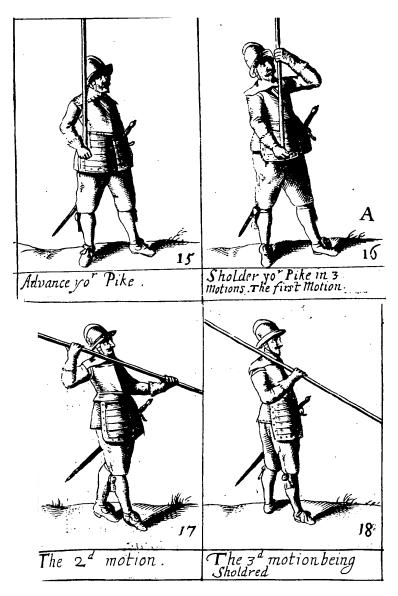


Figure 5, Shouldering the pike from the Posture of Advanceviii

The Posture of Port

"PORT YOUR PIKE"

From the Posture of Advance, you may assume the Posture of Arms at Port in two (2) counts:

- 1. Grip your pike with the left hand near your chin.
- 2. Pass forward with your left foot, rotating your shoulders and hips to the right as will feel natural. Bring your left fist—still full of pike—under your chin as you allow the pike point to drop, rotating around your left hand. Keep your right arm on top of the pike as a counterweight as the butt rises behind you. In this way, lower the point of your pike until it points up and to the front at a 45° angle.

Be sure to tuck your left fist as close under your chin as you can, and to push your elbow out somewhat. This will spread the load among more muscles so your biceps do not have to support the pike on their own.

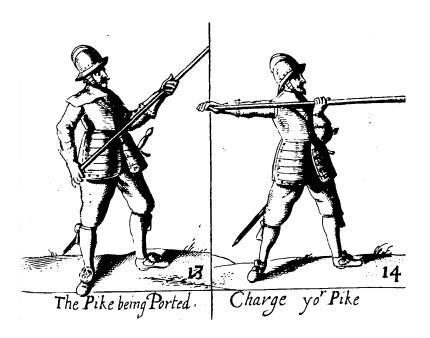


Figure 6, The Postures of Port and Charged Pikeix

The Posture of Charge

"CHARGE YOUR PIKE [AND CARRY IT (HIGH/LOW)]"

From the Posture of Advance, you may assume the Posture of Charged Pike in two (2) counts by simply assuming Charge, but continuing until the pike is horizontal rather than angled.

Both for this posture and that of Charged Pike, as you extend your right hand backward, rotate your palm down so that as much of your arm as possible rests on top of the pike. The weight of your arm will then help counterbalance the weight of the pike. Also be sure to keep the pike haft tucked tightly against your chin and your forearm vertical to minimize strain on your biceps.

If you are not at the front of your file, place your pike shaft to the right of the man in front of you. Do not worry if this forces your pike into a slight rightward angle. This just means that the horses and men will die in a slightly asymmetrical fashion.

If you are instructed to carry your pike high (also called Swiss Carry), follow these steps:

- 1. Come to Secure, but grip the pike with your palm facing away from you and thumb down.
- 2. Allow the point to descend and, as it does so, lift the butt of the pike (in your right hand) over your head. The pike should rotate about your left fit, which you bring slightly in front of your face. In the end, your point should be descending in such a way that you could thrust downward into an opposing pikeman or targeteer.

If you are instructed to carry your pike low, follow these steps:

- 1. Come to Secure as usual.
- 2. Lower your pike point, but allow your left hand to extend down to the level of your waist. Your right hand, full of pike butt, should extend downward as far as it can go. In the end, you should be prepared to thust up into an opposing pikeman or targeteer from underneath.

The Posture of Charge for Horse^x

"Charge for horse [and draw your sword]"

From the Posture of Advance, you may assume the Posture of Charged for Horse in two (2) counts:

- 1. Assume the posture of Order.
- 2. Step forward deeply with your left foot, keeping the pike butt against your right instep. Your pike should now make a shallow angle with the ground.
- 3. If directed, reach over your left arm and draw your sword.

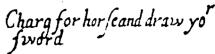




Figure 7, The Posture of Charged for Horse with sword (almost) drawn.xi

As you finish the motion, the tip of your pike should be at horse-wishbone level. This posture can be very taxing; to make holding the position easier, you can:

- Bend your left arm and rest your elbow on your left knee.
- Lay your right knee on the pike haft, letting it take some of your weight. Beware that persons of generous stature can snap some pike wasters using this technique.
- Remember that horses is good eatin'.

You may be commanded to draw your sword during this motion. If so, your sword should be held to the right of, and roughly parallel to, your pike once it is drawn.

Of Palming the Pyke

Key to the postures below is the concept of palming your pike. This is simply feeding your pike backward or forward, hand over hand. When palming your pike in either direction, your hands should be near waist level on your right side. The pike should pass to the right of your filemates. Always keep an eye on the head and butt of your pike when palming it, to avoid stabbing the man in front of you or bludgeoning the one behind. Often—indeed preferably in the case of palming backward—this motion is done on the march, so that instead of moving the pike you simply walk down its length.

The Posture of Cheek

"CHEEK YOUR PIKE"

The pike is cheeked preparatory to trailing it, as outlined below. Pike heads are often reinforced by a pair of metal straps that extend downward from the point and are nailed to the shaft; these straps are called "languets" or "cheeks". To cheek your pike, palm your pike backwards until your left hand comes to rest just below the pike's head and your right grips the pike a foot or eighteen inches below your right. You are now gripping the pike by its cheeks.

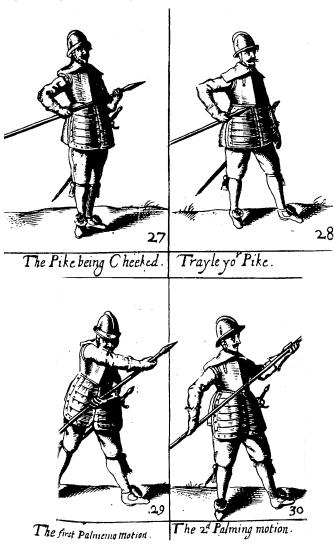


Figure 8, The Postures of Cheeked and Trailed Pike, and an example of palming forward.xii

The Posture of Trail

"TRAIL YOUR PIKE"

You may trail your pike while on a march or in preparation to lay it down. To trail your pike, palm it backwards until you grip it just below the head with your right hand.

Note that to assume almost any other posture, you will need to palm your pike forward.

How Shall a Man Take Up and Laye Down His Pike

Your commander may have you lay your pikes down when dissolving a formation and take them back up when reassembling. The postures referenced below are described later in these instructions.

Standing to Your Arms

"STAND TO YOUR ARMS"

This command indicates that you should assemble in formation with your weapons and armor. If your pike is racked, draw it from the rack in a quick and orderly fashion, and then assume your position in formation at the Posture of Order . If your formation has previously laid down their pikes, as below, you should Stand Right with your right foot a half pace—roughly eighteen inches—behind the butt of the pike, in preparation for taking up your pike.

Taking Up Your Pike

"Take up your pike" (or, simply "advance your arms" if your pike is on the ground)

You should be standing to your arms when given this command. If you are not standing to your arms, do so before beginning the steps below^{xiii}.

- 1. Leaving your right foot in place, step forward with your left and kneel on your right knee. Your left instep should be even with the pike butt.
- 2. As you kneel, bend your right elbow and grasp the haft of the pike at the butt with your right hand. Your palm should face to your right and your thumb and forefinger should be at the very end of the pike butt. Cup that butt with your hand. You know you want to.
- 3. Stand. As you do so, pull your right arm back and rotate your forearm in a clockwise arc at the elbow. Allow the butt of the pike to roll into your palm as you place your arm over the shaft as per Charge or Port. Take a hold of the pike shaft with your left hand and prepare to bring it into your chin just as you did with Charge or Port. At the end of this motion you should be standing, left foot forward, supporting the pike butt in your right hand, palm down, with your right arm extended behind you over the pike shaft. This position should remind you of the Posture of Charge, though the pike head should still be on the ground.
- 4. Stepping back with your left foot, raise the head of your pike through the posture of Charge, then Port, and finally to the Posture of Secured Arms. Be careful of your filemates as you do so.
- 5. Lower your left arm to your left hip to assume the Posture of Advance.

Your pike should pass to the right of the man in front of you. Immediately after taking up your pike, you should ensure that you are standing right in your rank and file. You may also encounter a variation of this motion^{xiv} that splits the action into two commands. The command "Handle your pike" indicates that you should kneel and grip the pike (the first two steps above), which is followed by "Raise up your pike" to complete the motion.

Laying Down Your Pike

"LAY DOWN YOUR PIKE"

You may lay down your pike in the following manner.

- 1. Assume the Posture of Charged Pike, with the pike passing to the right of your filemates.
- 2. Thrust the pike out as it passes through Charge. Your goal is to have the butt even with your right foot as you lay it down. Allow the point to touch the ground.
- 3. Kneel on your left knee, placing the pike butt on the ground. It should come to rest at around your right instep.
- 4. Stand, passing back with your left foot, and Stand Right. The pike butt should be just outside your right toe.

Your pike should pass to the right of the man in front of you. Also, be sure that you are standing right in your rank and file when you finish this motion.

Storing Your Arms

"(RACK/STACK/STORE) YOUR ARMS"

Arms are entered into storage—of whatever kind—by files. When given this command, file leaders will take charge of their files, lead them to the arsenal, and see that the arms are stored in a safe and orderly fashion. Unless otherwise specified, file #1 (the right hand file) marches out of formation first, followed by file #2, etc.

Of Receiving, Marching, and other Warre-like Mocions

Killing Men & Horses

The offensive postures above are used differently depending on the circumstances.

"Prepare for foot"

Without changing facing, the first rank assumes Charge, the second assumes Charge High, the third assumes Charge Low, and all others assume Port. The pikemen at Port are keeping their pikes out of the way but should be prepared to come to whatever version of Charge seems appropriate if the men in front of them need assistance.

"PREPARE FOR HORSE"

Without changing facing, the first rank assumes Charge for horse, the second assumes Charge, and all others assume Port.

Marching

Marching is the unified motion by which a formation moves from place to place. There is nothing magic about the step that you use when marching, but there are a few things to remember. When marching, you should maintain a step that is thirty (30) inches from left foot to left foot. This is a length adopted from modern martial drill, and is readily achieved by men and women of all builds. While just how widely the practice of marching in step may have been in the 16th century is open to debate, it simplifies a great man actions so we practice it in Goode's Company.

To stay in step with the formation, use your peripheral vision to watch the steps of the man to your right. If there is no one on your right or you cannot see the man to your right, watch the man in front of you. If there is no one to your right or front, i.e. you are the right-hand File Leader, you are setting the pace for the entire formation. Also, use your peripheral vision to ensure that you maintain your proper distance and alignment.

Some tips for the right-hand File Leader: Err on the side of shorter steps; longer-legged members of the formation can shorten their steps but the shorter-legged ones cannot increase theirs reasonably. The single most common bad habit among those who set the pace in formation marching is "running

away" by taking steps that are too large or by marching at an increased cadence. Do not try to increase your speed by increasing the length of your pace. If your commander wants more speed, he will increase the cadence himself, either by chanting it or via the drum. Your pace must remain controlled and of moderate length at all times.

The Pikeman's Prayer

May God protect the Captaine from arrow, pike and balle, Yet tis surely c'est le guerre should either Sargent fall. And if the Drummer knowe his trayde with cadence sweet and true, We pray that Divyne Providence will see him safely throough. But if the drumme hath little arte and leade the foot astraie, Lord God do save the Ensigne, and Billmenne have their way.

Charge-Marching

It is difficult to maintain a standard march when at the Posture of Charge because of the angle at which your body is turned. Therefore, often when the formation is ordered to this posture, the entire formation will slow to charge-march.

The charge-march is accomplished by stepping forward with the left foot, then on the next count bringing the right foot up to just behind the left, then extending the left foot on the next count to begin the process again. Those not in the Posture of Charge may bring the right foot up beside the left instead of behind, to allow for their more forward-facing stance.

Half Steps

You may be called upon to march at the half-step, the command for which will include "At the half-step". This is simply a matter of taking half-length steps of fifteen (15) inches. Note that you keep the same cadence as regular steps.

Marching Commands

"PREPARE TO MARCH"

This command begins the formation marching forward. Begin by stepping forward with the left foot. Your foot should land on the next count after the drumbeat or verbal command of execution.

"PREPARE TO STAND"

This command halts the formation. This command may come as you step down on either foot. If, for example, you receive the drumbeat on your right foot, you should come to a halt by finishing your next step (the left foot) and then bringing your right foot forward to assume the Posture of Advance. Thus you should finish your movement two counts after you receive the drumbeat or command of execution. Immediately after halting you should discreetly ensure that you are standing right in your rank and file.

"TO THIS GROUND" OF "ON THIS GROUND"

This is not a command itself, but rather a "how" part of a command which is often used in marching. Your commander may indicate a position (and facing) with his halberd and issue a command like "To this ground, prepare to march". On the drumbeat, simply begin marching and, when you reach the position specified, march in place.

Countermarching

The countermarch is designed to reverse the order (and direction, if on the march) of a file or group of files. Countermarches can end with the file(s) either on the same ground, slightly forward, or slightly behind the starting position. In addition to their more intuitive names, each of these three kinds of countermarch also may be referred to by its presumed source in antiquity. For our

purposes, we will use the more intuitive names. Note that if no type of countermarch is specified, you should perform the countermarch to maintain ground below. In the absence of a specified direction, perform countermarches to your right.

Be aware that after a countermarch the files of a formation will be reversed from right to left, which means that the left-hand file leader has become the right-hand file leader—on whom you will be basing your distance.

Countermarching to Maintain Ground

"[TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT)] [TO MAINTAIN GROUND], COUNTERMARCH"

Also called the *Chorean* (or *Cretan*) *Countermarch*. To perform this countermarch to the right, the leader should step forward with his left foot, turn to his right, step with the left foot again, step to the right again so that he is facing opposite his original direction. He should continue marching, passing to his filemates' right. His filemates will simply follow him, marching to his original position and duplicating his movements until the entire file has reversed direction within (theoretically) the same space it occupied before.

All countermarches performed on the march are done in this fashion.

Countermarching to Lose Ground

"[TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT),] TO LOSE GROUND, COUNTERMARCH"

This countermarch—sometimes called the *Lacedemonian Countermarch*—is performed exactly as the countermarch to maintain ground, except that instead of following the file leader through his original place, each member of the file will stand his ground until the man who was ahead of him has passed in the opposite direction, at which point he will turn and march behind him.

Countermarching to Gain Ground

"[TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT),] TO GAIN GROUND, COUNTERMARCH"

In this countermarch—otherwise known as the *Macedonian Countermarch*—the file leader faces about and the rest of the file simply marches forward and around him in the direction indicated, each man assuming his same relative place behind the leader as he reaches that position.

Wheeling

A wheeling maneuver rotates the entire formation around a single pivot point, which brings the front of the formation to a new facing.

"TO YOUR (LEFT/RIGHT), PREPARE TO WHEEL"

For this example we will assume a wheel to the right. To understand this motion, imagine that we have nailed the right foot of the rightmost file leader to the ground. When given the command to wheel, the entire formation will swing to the right *en masse*, maintaining its shape and order, with the unfortunate file leader as its pivot point. Keep wheeling until you receive another command. When the formation has reached the desired facing, your commander will either order a STAND or direct you to MARCH ON. At this point we will remove the nail and our rightmost file leader may limp along with the formation and wondering if the Spanish pay better. Hint: they don't.

Be aware that the men on the outside edge of the wheel will have to move very quickly indeed to keep up with the rotation. If you are on or near the pivot point of a wheeling motion, you effectively control the rate of rotation; try to keep your turn slow enough that the man at the other end of your file does not have to hurry his movements. Remember that however fast *he* has to move, the bringer-up of his file has it worse. So err on the side of slow, even with a nail through your foot.

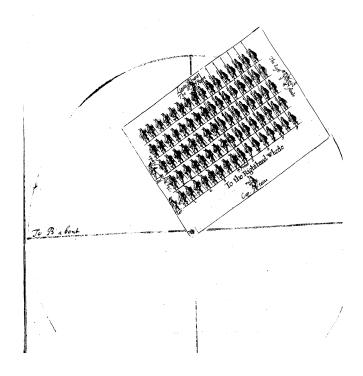


Figure 9, A wheel to the right.xv

Below are some "how" parts of the wheel command with which you should be familiar:

"AT THIS GROUND"

This qualifier to the wheel command means that the formation should begin its wheel at the spot indicated by the commander. The command "Ranks, at this ground, to your (LEFT/RIGHT) PREPARE TO WHEEL" would indicate that each rank should wheel independently as it reaches the indicated spot.

"ON THE SAME GROUND" OF "BY THE CENTER"

This qualifier indicates that the formation should pivot about its center as it wheels.

"TO THIS FACING"

The commander will indicate a facing at which the wheeling should end. Once the formation has reached this facing, it should march in place and await instructions.

For those familiar with modern drill, the command "By ranks, at this ground, to your (LEFT/RIGHT) at the half-step, prepare to wheel" would be closely equivalent to a modern column movement.

The Manner How a Captaine Shall Double his Rankes and Files

A *doubling* of files is a motion by which two files are merged into a single file containing twice the number of men, spaced at half the distance as the original file. Ranks can also be doubled the same way. The concept can be confusing. Remember that the "double" in doubling of a file refers to the density of the file; it doubles the number of men per file, and halves the number of files in formation. Doublings are very important because they allow the commander to quickly increase the men along a given axis of the formation while simultaneously closing their distance.

A *reducement* is essentially an "un-doubling". The simplest reducement is via the command "As you were", which means that you should return to your original position within the formation. In the case of this doubling: "To the fore, double your ranks", the reducement would be "To your right hand, double your files"; the one un-does the other.

Doubling

"[TO THE] (RIGHT/LEFT) DOUBLE YOUR RANKS"

When doubling ranks to the left (the default), even-numbered ranks will move; when doubling to the right, odd-numbers. To perform this doubling:

- 1. Note the man in your file in front of you.
- 2. March into the space to the left or right of that man, as the command indicates.

"[TO YOUR (RIGHT/LEFT) HAND] DOUBLE YOUR FILES"

When doubling files to the right (the default), even-numbered files will move; when doubling to the left, odd-numbers. To perform this doubling:

- 1. Note the man in your rank to either your right or left, as the command indicates.
- 2. March into the space behind that man.

Note that in both cases, this action will put you at half the distance you were maintaining before: if you were at Open Order between ranks/files, you will now be at Order (actually slightly less).

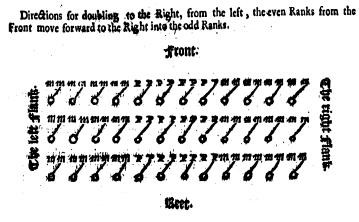


Figure 10, Doubling as per "Ranks, double to your right". Note that the circles are the original positions and the lines indicate movement. *vi*

Note that in terms of dignity, this doubling results in two File Leaders at the front of every file, two Bringers-Up at the rear, etc.

Doubling by Half-Files

"Half-files, double [your Ranks] [to your (right/left)]"

In this doubling (only done for ranks) Half-File Leaders simply march up to the front—passing to the right or left of their file as commanded—their half-files following behind. One downside is that this places men of lesser dignity (and thus experience and armor) at the front.

Directions. If to the right, the half file-leaders must pass through (or move forwards) to the right into the Front, and the succeeding ranks are to follow them.

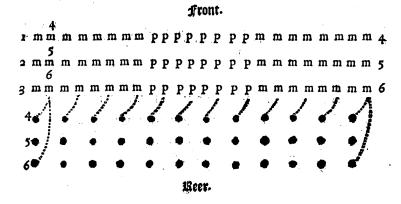


Figure 11, Doubling to the right by half-file

Doubling by Bringers-Up

"Bringers-up, double [your ranks] [to your (right/left)]"

The men of highest dignity after File Leaders are the Bringers-Up. To double ranks while bringing these men—with their strong experience and armor—to the front, we essentially double by countermarch. To perform this doubling, the Bringers-Up face left or right as commanded and march to the front, each member of their half-file falling in behind as they are passed as per the countermarch to gain ground.

Directions for doubling to the right: Bringers up move forwards with your right legs, and pass through ranking themselves even with the Front, the rest following successively and placing themselves even with the standing ranks.



Figure 12, Doubling to the right by Bringers-Up

The Hollow Square

When faced with an assault from all sides, the pike company can form a defensive posture called a hollow square. It faces all the pikes outward while providing a protected inner area where the ensign and drums can shelter.

On this command, the formation as a whole faces square. The middle section (those who have faced the flanks) take two steps forward. The resulting formation is cross-shaped, with a hollow area in the middle and pockets in the four corners into which musketeers can be placed. Do not assume any pike posture (like Charge, etc) when given this command.

[&]quot;FORM HOLLOW SQUARE"

		р	р	р	р	р	р	р	р		
		р	р	р	р	р	р	р	р		
р	р	р	р					р	р	р	р
р	р	р	р	е				р	р	р	р
р	р	р	р		d	d		р	р	р	р
р	р	р	р					р	р	р	р
		р	р	р	р	р	р	р	р		
		р	р	р	р	р	р	р	р		

Figure 13, A formation of 64 men in hollow square with ensign and drums in the center

On this command the company will form hollow square and assume postures as in Prepare for horse. Pikemen on the corners may angle their weapons to cover the corners, but be aware that musketeers may be rushing in to fill those spaces.

This command is often delivered in a hurry, and care should be taken to perform it swiftly since there is very likely a troupe of horsemen bearing down on you with lances couched and blood in its collective eye. That said, be careful not to brain the musketeers in your hurry: they're carrying explosives and a lit match.

Here Endeth the First Parte

[&]quot;RECEIVE CAVALRY"

Glossary of Terms

Arquebus - A matchlock firearm, lighter than a musket.

Bill - Or "Forest Bill", a pole arm with a cutting edge, point, and hook.

Bringer-up – The last man in a file.

Cadence - The rhythm of the drum or marching footsteps.

Caliver – See "Arquebus".

Captain - Commander of a company.

Cheeks – The metal strips of a pike head, used to secure it to the pike and prevent the head being chopped off.

Chiurgeon - See "Surgeon".

Close order - An interval of roughly 18 inches.

Closest order - An interval of zero inches. That is, shoulder-to-shoulder.

Command of execution - The word or drumbeat upon which a command is carried out.

Corporal – Rank below sergeant. Commands a squadron.

Dignity - The relative value of a soldier in terms of experience, equipment, and fitness.

Double distance – An interval of roughly ten feet.

Doubling – The act of increasing the number of men in each rank/file while halving the number of ranks/files.

Drum – The thing that goes "boom," thereby setting cadence, communicates signals, etc.

Ensign – The flag that identifies the unit. Also, the man who carries it.

Facing – Motions to change orientation while not on the march.

File – A line of men perpendicular to the front of the formation.

File leader - The man at the front of a file.

Formation – A group of men in a specific order and position.

Front accidental – Created when a formation faces to its flank. Places men of uncertain dignity in the front, which is bad.

Front of the rear - Created when the formation faces its rear. Places second-best men in front.

Front proper – Created when the company is facing with File Leaders in front. Best position to engage the enemy.

Halberd - A pole arm with an axe blade, a spearpoint, and a hammer-spike.

Half-file – Half a file, either front or rear. Each half-file has its own leader and bringer up.

Half-file bringer up – last man in the front half-file.

Half-file leader – the first man in the rear half-file.

Half-step – a step of fifteen inches.

Interval – The distance between ranks or files.

Lancepresado – a corporal's assistant.

Languets - See "cheeks".

Lieutenant – Second in command of a company.

Musket – A large matchlock firearm. Generally requires a shooting-stick.

Open order – Roughly five feet between ranks or files.

Order – Roughly thirty inches between ranks or files. Also a posture of the pike.

Pike - A long spear, often 16-18 feet, used in formation against both horse and foot soldiers.

Preparatory command – The descriptive element of a command, followed by the command of execution.

Rank – A line of men parallel to the front of the formation. Also a position in a military hierarchy.

Reducement – A method of "un-doing" the results of a specified command.

Right posture – The correct way to stand in formation.

Sergeant – The rank below lieutenant (or possibly ensign). A company has two sergeants.

Surgeon – A medic specializing in physical injuries. Not to be confused with a doctor, who is a higher class of person and who deals mainly with illnesses.

Swiss carry – A way of bearing the pike over your head so as to thrust downward.



Bibliography and Suggested Light Reading

Many of these slide later into the 1600's and a few hail from earlier, but they all bear on what we do in some form or another. Most are available for download from the Goode's Company website in the member's area.

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- This office is often spelled "chirurgeon", but spellings consistent with the modern pronunciation can be found in Garrard, who uses the spelling "surgean" and "chyrurgion" in the same section (Garrard, p.52).
- ii Barriffe, p.49
- Some sources, notably Markham ("The Soldier's Grammar", p.13), refer to the Half-file Leader and the Half-file Bringer-Up simply as "middle men".
- iv Hexham, p.21
- v Barrife, p. 9
- vi Hexham, p. 22-23
- vii Hexham, p. 11
- viii Hexham, p. 11-13
- ix Hexham, p. 11 (modified)
- This posture is scorned in Elton, p. 2-3: "This way of charging to the Horse, I have set down, as being practiced sometimes amongst us in our private meetings, but I conceive it to be of little use to receive a desperate charge of the Horse, for by these charges the Soldiers are in so lame and weak a posture, that the Horse cannot choose, if they come on with a full career, but to beare the Pikes and Pike-men down to the ground..."
- xi Hexham, p. 13
- xii Hexham, p. 11-13 (modified)
- xiii Achesone, p. 7
- xiv Elton, p. 4. Elton also adds "to your (close order/order/open order)" to this command.
- xv Hexham, p.27
- vi Venn, p.54