



Drill Manual

Forward

There is no surviving Roman drill manual, thus it is impossible to reconstruct a wholly authentic drill display. However, a system of simple movements has been assembled and couched in the Latin vocabulary used by contemporary writers on military subjects.

Drill commands are given in Latin, but before classics scholars wince, they are mostly in the “camp” or “dog” Latin of soldiers rather than that spoken by the literate and well schooled upper classes. Most military men closer to our modern age have shown a remarkable ability to abbreviate or destroy the native language to sharpen up their drill movements. We have therefore followed the same practice, believing it unlikely that human nature has changed so much even after 2,000 years.

The aim of drill is to produce a soldier who is proud, alert and obedient. It also provides the basis of teamwork.

Whenever drill is taught or practised those in command must stress its object. It must never be used as a punishment, but always as a means of raising standards within a body of men. Smart drill is, however, dependent upon a number of factors: discipline, practice and the correction of faults. Correction should not be taken as criticism but rather as assistance. Each man must become aware of his own contribution to the squad. He must be able to maintain his enthusiasm and cheerfulness no matter how many times he is corrected and despite tiredness and discomfort.

Equally important for our portrayal of Roman soldiers is to remember that military discipline is founded on drill. However, such discipline is also based on mutual trust and respect, and derived from pride: pride in the unit and its performance, and pride in your personal appearance and behaviour.

So, while we do this for fun, don't forget that to represent a well drilled, disciplined body of men, the discipline **must** also come from within.

The Training Ethos

The drills in this manual are laid out and designed to be used as a set of increasingly difficult skills lessons. In common with modern practice, and although not formally stated, the skills lessons are intended to be delivered under the following conditions:

Place and time:	As appropriate.
Conditions:	Field or Indoor Arena.
Equipment:	See the GENERAL heading to each set.
Level:	To the instructor's satisfaction.

It is imperative that every member of the Drill Squad gives unhesitating and unquestioning obedience when representing the unit before the public. Military discipline, drill practice and showmanship must, and will, be maintained at all times while you are representing the group, in kit or out of it.

The standards for the Drill Squad are set deliberately high in both equipment and performance. It is up to every member to uphold these standards and also to ensure that, where possible, they are improved.

It is intended to use Songs, Chants, Battle Cries and Drill Commands in Latin to help create the illusion to the public of a shift in time. Explanation, demonstration, imitation and practice will be given in due course, but the sooner you can learn them, the sooner you will be on parade.

The Art of Giving Commands

All words of command must be clear and powerful since the way in which they are given affects the reaction which they inspire. A word of command is divided into three parts:

Introductory: This tells the squad what movement they are about to carry out, i.e. *Dextrorsum vos...*

Cautionary: The drawn out and loud continuation, i.e. *Desponi...*

Executive: The high pitched, sharp command, i.e. *...Te!*

Sometimes there is no need for an introductory word of command, where parts 2 and 3 are often telescoped into each other, e.g. *Inten...Te!*

Importantly, where there are conjoined parts, the rhythm of command should not be broken. The time intervals between parts 2 and 3 should be ideally two paces and one pace; but this can altered by many other factors.

A typical command sequence may be "VEXILATIO INTENTE" given as:

Vexilatio! Snapped out, loud and clear!

Inten... Loud and clear but with a drawn out last syllable...

...Te! Barked out!

The Executive word of command **MUST** be given on the correct foot when marching, thus avoiding unsightly straggles & imprecise alignments.

When, later on, you are chosen to command a squad, individual instruction in giving words of command will be provided.



Definitions

Alignment:	A straight line on which a squad is formed or is to form.
Covering:	The act of placing oneself directly behind another body.
Depth:	The space occupied by a squad from front to rear.
Distance:	The space between men or bodies from front to rear.
Dressing:	The act of aligning oneself with and covering others within a squad.
File:	Either two or three men in different ranks who are covering each other, or A squad in two ranks facing a flank.
Single File:	Men one behind another on a frontage of one at normal marching distance.
Blank File:	A file in which there is no centre and rear man, or no rear man, due to the inequality of numbers within a squad. This file is the second from the left in two in ranks.
Flank:	Either side of a squad as opposed to its front or rear.
Directing Flank:	The flank by which a squad takes its dressing.
Frontage:	The extent of ground covered laterally by a squad, measured from flank to flank.
Interval:	The lateral space measured between men or squads on the same alignment.
Line:	Troops formed on the same alignment.
Markers:	Soldiers employed to mark points on which a movement is to be directed or by which a formation is to be regulated.
Order (Close or Open):	The distance between ranks in line which is either 750mm (30") or 1500mm (60") depending on circumstances.
Rank:	A line of men side by side.
Supernumerary Rank:	The extra rank, third in two ranks, formed by the squad's officers depending on circumstances.



Foot Drill at the Halt: Unarmed (1)

Foot drill at the halt forms the basis for all other manoeuvres. The intention from hereon is to present the elements of a typical drill session in a readily understandable format, providing step-by-step instructions to speed up your inclusion in the Drill Squad.

As all words of command are in Latin, the English meaning is relegated to a secondary place, but retained for your information. Do not worry about the Latin at this stage as it only *looks* hard. With practice, reacting to Latin words of command becomes second nature. The agreed pronunciation of Latin words and phrases are given in the brackets.

The term “unarmed” means not carrying a *Pilum* (javelin) or *Hasta* (spear), or *Scutum* (shield). If available, a *Gladius* or *Spatha* (short and long swords, respectively) should be worn - as should a *Tunica* (tunic) and *Lorica* (armour). It is always preferable to train in the clothing and equipment you will be wearing for displays. Where such items are not available, however, do try wearing something like them, e.g. a large t-shirt, shorts and sandals, as this will accustom you to what might be a somewhat unfamiliar feeling.

Intente

(In-ten-tay)

Attention

“INTENTE” is otherwise known as the position of Attention and is the position from which all other drill movements can originate. Both feet are flat and firm on the ground, heels in line and touching, with the feet set at an angle of 45° from a line, front centre of the body (see below), both knees are braced. Arms are straight and held into the sides of the body, the forearms forced in behind the hip bones and the wrists straight. The hands are closed with the thumb vertical and facing to the front, the backs of the fingers touching the thigh. The shoulders are held down and back to bring the chest to a normal position without straining or stiffening. The head is held up with the chin raised and the mouth closed. The eyes are open - still, and looking just above their own height. The body is now in the position of Attention.



Quiete

(Kwee-ay-tay)

Stand at Ease

"QUIETE" is only a slightly relaxed position of alertness. Immediately on receipt of the executive word of command the left foot is moved smartly to a position 300mm (12") from the right foot. Both knees are braced. At the same time, the arms are forced behind the back by the shortest possible route keeping the arms straight. Place the back of the right hand in the palm of the left hand, the right thumb crossed over the left thumb, fingers straight together. As for the position of Attention, the remainder of the body is held erect and square to the front. **Do not tense the body**, however, as you may be stood "At Ease" for long periods.



Otiose

(Oh-tee-oh-say)

Stand Easy

"OTIOSE" is a very relaxed position of alertness. On the word of command, the body is allowed to relax, while still at the At Ease position. Small movements of the body are acceptable (to relax muscles and joints) but not the feet. The officer in command may permit quiet conversation (i.e. cannot be overheard by the public) within the ranks, if appropriate.

Vexilatio!

(Wex-ee-lah-tee-oh)

Stand at Ease from Easy

Immediately on the word of command "*Vexilatio!*", the body is braced up to the position of "QUIETE" (At Ease).

Intente

(In-ten-tay)

Stand to Attention from At Ease

Immediately on the executive word of command "INTENTE", the left foot is moved smartly to beside the right to resume the correct position of Attention. At the same time, the arms are forced to the side of the body to resume the correct position of Attention. The body is frozen in this position.



The basic positions of INTENTE (Attention), QUIETE (Stand at Ease) and OTIOSE (Stand Easy) have been used to introduce foot drill. More importantly, these movements enable an individual or body of men to form a base from which other drill movements can originate in a smart, uniform manner. The next words of command are used to form and dress the basic drill squad.

Miles Dexter!

(Mee-lez Dex-ter)

Right Marker!

At the command "MILES DEXTER!" ("Right Marker!"), the nominated soldier steps forward and assumes the position of "OTIOSE" (Stand Easy) in the place indicated to him. The *Miles Dexter* will normally be an experienced squad member.

Ad Signa!

(Ad Sig-nah)

Fall In!

The basic formation consists of two ranks (front and rear) in close order, as shown opposite. *Auxilia* normally fall in to the left of the *Legionarii* in the squad.



On receiving the command "AD SIGNA!" (lit. "to the standard", but for our purposes meaning "Fall In"), each man moves quickly to his assigned place. If no such place has been assigned, then always fall in to the LEFT of the designated *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker). There will be an interval of about one arm's length (with hand clenched) between each man and a distance of 750mm (30") between the two ranks (measured from the heels of one rank to the toes of the rank behind it). The distance in close order may be measured by the men in the right hand file raising their right arm in line with and in front of their right shoulder. The knuckles of the clenched hand should just reach the shoulder of the man in front. Having fallen in to the squad, each man automatically assumes the position of "OTIOSE" (Stand Easy).

Where there is an inequality of numbers within the squad, the file second from the left in two in ranks is left blank (as shown above).



Dextrorsum vos Disponite

Right Dress

(Dex-traw-soom vos Dis-pon-ee-teh)

Within the drill squad, every man must be in line with, and at the correct interval from, the man to the left or right of him; he must also be directly behind, and at the correct distance from, his equivalent in the rank in front of him. The words of command "DEXTRORSUM VOS DESPONITE" enable an individual or squad to take up alignment correctly in a smart, uniform manner. This is Dressing.

Immediately on the executive word of command (-te!), the:

Miles Dexter (Right Marker): Stands fast in the position of "INTENTE".

Front Rank (only): The head and eyes are turned through an angle of 90° to the right so that they look squarely over the right shoulder. At the same time, the right arm is forced upward through 90° to the right, hand clenched. The feet are moved in short, quick paces until the body is correctly aligned with the man to the immediate right and the clenched right hand is in a position behind the latter's shoulder blade. Throughout the movement, the remainder of the body is held erect and square to the front.

Rear Rank (only): The head and eyes are turned through an angle of 90° to the right so that they look squarely over the right shoulder. The feet are moved in short, quick paces until the body is correctly aligned with the man to the immediate right. Ensure the file is correctly covered with the man to the immediate front.

Note: The right arms of those in the rear rank are not raised through 90°.

Remain frozen in this position until the word of command "INTENTE". Immediately, the head and eyes are forced through an angle of 90° to the front and the front rank return their right arm smartly to the side of the body.

Ordines Aperite

Open Order

(Ord-ee-nays Aper-ee-teh)

The command "ORDINES APERITE" is used at the Halt to open a gap between the ranks equivalent to half a Roman *passus* (pace). Immediately on the executive word of command (-te!), the:

Front Rank: Stands fast in the position of "INTENTE".

Rear Rank: One full pace of 750mm (30") is taken backwards with the left foot, placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. The right foot is moved smartly to beside the left to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".

Note: The Roman *passus* (pace) is equivalent to two full paces of 750mm (30"). The number of paces given in the command must be doubled therefore, e.g.:

Unum Passus (Oo-num Pas-oo's): Two paces of 750mm (30").

Duos Passus (Do-oo's Pas-oo's): Four paces of 750mm (30").

Tres Passus (Trays Pas-oo's): Six paces of 750mm (30").



Ordines Claudite

Close Order

(Ord-ee-nays Clow-dee-teh)

The command "ORDINES CLAUDITE" is used at the Halt to return to close order. Immediately on the executive word of command (-te!), the:

Front Rank: Stands fast in the position of "INTENTE".

Rear Rank: One full pace of 750mm (30") is taken forwards with the left foot, placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. The right foot is moved smartly to beside the left to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".

The next stage in foot drill are the Turns at the Halt. These movements are taught to enable an individual or squad to turn to the Left, Right or About at the Halt, in a smart, uniform manner.

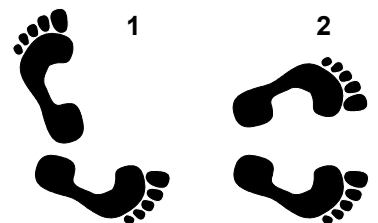
Dextrorsum Vertite

Right Turn

(Dex-traw-soom Wer-tee-teh)

(1) Immediately on the word of command, lift the right foot clear of the ground, turn it through an angle of 90° to the right and place the foot flat and firm on the ground, with the right heel behind the heel of the left foot.

(2) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 90°, while at the same time the left foot is placed flat and firm on the ground alongside the right. The body is frozen in the position of "INTENTE".



Sinistrorsum Vertite

Left Turn

(Sini-straw-soom Wer-tee-teh)

As for "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE" except the left foot is moved first and the body rotated through an angle of 90° to the left.

Ad Tergum Vertite

About Turn

(Add Ter-goom Wer-tee-teh)

The command "AD TERGUM VERTITE" enables an individual or squad to turn through an angle of 180° to the right at the Halt, in a smart, uniform manner.

Immediately on the word of command, perform two consecutive right turns, as for "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE", to face in the opposite direction.



Dextrorsum Flectite

(Dex-traw-soom Flekt-ee-teh)

Right Incline

(1) Immediately on the word of command, lift the right foot clear of the ground, turn it through an angle of 45° to the right and place the foot flat and firm on the ground, with the right heel behind the heel of the left foot.

(2) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 45°, while at the same time the left foot is placed flat and firm on the ground alongside the right. The body is frozen in the position of "INTENTE".

Your feet do this...



...the Squad does this:



Note: The usual rhythm to the words of command is broken, i.e. "Flekt-ee-tay" instead of "Flek-tee-tay", to help distinguish this command from that of "VERTITE" (turn). This is particularly pertinent when marching as commands can sometimes be misheard.

Sinistrorsum Flectite

(Sini-straw-soom Flekt-ee-teh)

Left Incline

As for "DEXTRORSUM FLECTITE" except the left foot is moved first and the body rotated through an angle of 45° to the left.



Foot Drill at the Halt: Unarmed (2)

This section contains some slightly more advanced foot drill where the commands generally require a larger squad to carry them out properly.

Unum Ordinem Facite

(Oo-num Ord-ee-nem Fak-ee-teh)

Form One Rank

Note: The movement depends on how the squad is formed and the individual's position within it. You will need to remember whether "UNUM ORDINEM" (one rank) was formed from two *ranks* or two *files* throughout the subsequent drill, as eventually you will reform "DUOS ORDINES" (two ranks).

When in two Ranks:

The Front Rank stands fast.



(1) The Rear Rank takes one pace forward with the left foot but to the left at an angle of 45°.



(2) Without pausing, the right foot is brought towards the left but forward one pace and placed flat and firm on the ground in the interval between the men in the front rank.



(3) Finally, the left foot is moved smartly to beside the right, flat and firm on the ground, to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".

Unum Ordinem Facite

(Oo-num Ord-ee-nem Fak-ee-teh)

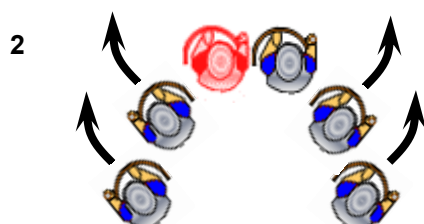
Form One Rank



When in two Ranks:

The Front Rank stands fast.

(1) The Rear Rank takes one pace forward with the left foot but to the left at an angle of 45°.



(2) Without pausing, the right foot is brought towards the left but forward one pace and placed flat and firm on the ground in the interval between the men in the front rank.





(3) Finally, the left foot is moved smartly to beside the right, flat and firm on the ground, to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".

Duos Ordines Facite

(Do-oos Ord-ee-nays Fak-ee-teh)

Form Two Ranks

From "UNUM ORDINEM", the command "DUOS ORDINES FACITE" reforms the squad to its original starting position, either two ranks or two files.

To re-form Two Ranks:

The Rear Rank, i.e. those who moved to form one rank, takes one pace directly rearward with the left foot. Without pausing, take one extended pace with the right foot rearwards and sideways to the right at an angle of 45°. Finish in the original place covering the front rank by closing the left foot to the right foot at the position of "INTENTE".

From "UNUM ORDINEM", the command "DUOS ORDINES FACITE" reforms the squad to its original starting position, either two ranks or two files.

To re-form Two Files:

All except the two men in the original front rank return to their original positions. Those moving a significant distance rearwards may turn around to reach their position.

Note: It is more common to re-form the squad in Two Files by using the command "DUOBUS ORDINIBUS, PROCEDITE". This command re-forms the two files and allows the squad to march off in one movement (see "Basic Foot Drill - on the March").

Par, Impar Clamate

(Pah, Im-pah Clam-ah-teh)

Call Even or Odd

The command "PAR, IMPAR CLAMATE" is used to divide the squad by files into odds and evens. The command is normally used with the squad formed in "UNUM ORDINEM".

On the word of command "IMPAR", the head and eyes are forced through an angle of 90° square over the right shoulder.

Immediately on the executive of the command "CLAMATE", the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) shouts "IMPAR". The man to the left of the *Miles Dexter* shouts "PAR" at the same time snapping his head and eyes to the front. Each man shouts "IMPAR" or "PAR" in succession from the right while snapping head and eyes to the front. The last man indicates the end of the line by adding the rank of the officer in command, i.e. "PAR, CENTURIO".

Note: Do remember whether you are "IMPAR" or "PAR" as the next command will often direct one or the other to move.

Unum Passum Procedite

(Oo-num Pas-oom Prok-ee-dee-teh)

One Pace, Forward March

One full pace of 750mm (30") is taken forwards with the left foot, placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. A further full pace of 750mm (30") is taken forwards with the right foot, again placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. The left foot is moved smartly to beside the right to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".



Unum Passum Recondite

One Pace, Rearward March

(Oo-num Pas-oom Rekon-dee-teh)

One full pace of 750mm (30") is taken rearwards with the left foot, placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. A further full pace of 750mm (30") is taken rearwards with the right foot, again placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. The left foot is moved smartly to beside the right to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".

Note: The Roman *passus* (pace) is equivalent to two full paces of 750mm (30"). The number of paces given in the command must be doubled therefore, e.g.:

Unum Passus (Oo-num Pas-oos): Two paces of 750mm (30").

Duos Passus (Do-oos Pas-oos): Four paces of 750mm (30").

Tres Passus (Trays Pas-oos): Six paces of 750mm (30").

The previous commands apply equally to ALL ranks unless a particular rank is named in the introductory word of the command, e.g.:

Par / Impar	(Pah / Im-pah):	Even / Odd Files.
Primus Ordo	(Pree-moos Or-doh):	Front Rank.
Novissimus Ordo	(No-wis-see-moos Or-doh):	Rear Rank.

Ab Signis Discedite

Dismiss

(Ab Sig-nis Dis-Kay-dee-teh)

The command "AB SIGNIS DISCEDITE" (lit. "break the ranks") enables an individual or squad to dismiss or fall out from a parade, in a smart, uniform manner.

Immediately on the executive word of command, perform a "DEXTRORSUM FLECTITE" as previously described. Once the movement is completed, pause for a count of three, then fall out of the squad.



Foot Drill on the March: Unarmed

Put simply, Marching is walking in step with others. However, each individual must maintain the correct dressing, aligning oneself with and covering others within a squad. Marching therefore needs practice - and concentration - to do perform it smart and soldierly fashion.

Unless otherwise instructed the squad always Marches at Attention, i.e. "ITE INTENTE" (Ee-tay In-ten-tay). "ITE QUIETE" (Ee-tay Kwee-ay-tay) - March at Ease - may be ordered when conditions allow, in this position the body may be relaxed and the head turned sideways, if desired. "ITE OTIOSE" (Ee-tay Oh-tee-oh-say) - March Easy - is similar except that quiet conversation is also permitted.

When carrying a *Gladius* or *Spatha*, the right hand is used to steady it on the March by curling the fingers round the handgrip, back of the hand facing outward. The right hand is always returned smartly to the side at the Halt.

The Roman *Passus* (pace) has a total length of 5 Roman feet. Each *passus* was therefore equivalent to two regulation British Army paces of 750mm (30"). However, the Roman Army had two types of pace depending on circumstances:

The Long Pace - the normal marching pace of 750mm (30").

The Military Pace - a short clipped pace of 375mm (15") used mainly for manoeuvring in the *Testudo* and similar formations.

Procedite

Forward

(Prok-ee-dee-teh)

Immediately on the command "PROCEDITE", the left foot is forced forward, a full 750mm (30") marching pace. At the same time, the right arm is forced forward to waist height and the left arm to the rear (unless carrying a sword). The fingers are clenched to form a fist, knuckles facing outward, and the body held erect and square to the front. Successive paces mirror the first.

Dressing is maintained by glancing, or briefly turning the head, towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker). The March, using the Long Pace, is at about 116 paces per minute.

Consistite

Halt

(Con-sis-tee-teh)

Immediately on the command "CONSISTITE", as the right foot strikes the ground, a further pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot, at the same time the arms are alternated. The right foot is brought smartly alongside the left, placing the foot flat and firmly on the ground. The arms are forced to the sides of the body in a scissor-like manner. The body is frozen in the position of "INTENTE", erect and square to front.

Pulsum Pedibus Date

Mark Time

(Pul-soom Ped-ee-bus Dah-teh)

The command "PULSUM PEDIBUS DATE" (lit. "give the beat with your feet") enables an individual or squad to remain in the same position while on the march in a smart, uniform manner. 'Marking Time' in this manner may be used to enable a squad to close up if the intervals between the men have become extended. The movement may also be used if the squad encounters an obstacle to its front and no other command has been given.

Immediately on the executive command "DATE", which is given as the right foot strikes the ground, a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot, at the same time alternating the arms. A short pace of 375mm (15") is taken with the right foot, at the same time forcing the arms into the side of the body in a sharp scissor-like motion. The left foot is then raised and lowered to the ground at the normal marching rate of the Long Pace. As the



left foot takes the weight of the body the right foot is raised and marking time continues. The remainder of the body is held erect and square to the front.

Procedite

Forward

(Prok-ee-dee-teh)

Immediately on the executive command "PROCEDITE", given as the left foot is at its highest point, on the next right foot striking the ground, the left foot is forced forward a full pace of 750mm (30"). The right arm is swung forward and the left arm is swung to the rear and the March continues.

The next stage in foot drill is to learn Turning to a Flank while Marching. These movements are taught to enable an individual or squad to turn through an angle of 90° to the right or left without first being halted, in a smart, uniform manner.

Dextrorsum Vertite

Right Turn

(Dex-traw-soom Wer-tee-teh)

(1) Immediately on the word of command, given as the right foot strikes the ground, a 750mm (30") pace is taken with the left foot to check forward motion.

(2) As the right foot is brought to the left foot, it is turned through an angle of 90° to the right. The left foot is placed flat and firm on the ground, with the right heel behind the heel of the left foot to form an "L" shape.

(3) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 90° to the right, while at the same time a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot. Marching continues in the new direction, with each man dressing towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).



Dextrorsum Flectite

Right Incline

(Dex-traw-soom Flekt-ee-teh)

(1) Immediately on the word of command, given as the left foot strikes the ground, bring the right foot to the left. At the same time turn the right foot through an angle of 45° to the right and place the foot flat and firm on the ground, with the right heel behind the heel of the left foot.

(2) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 45° to the right, while at the same time a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot. Marching continues in the new direction.



Sinistrorsum Vertite

Left Turn

(Sini-straw-soom Wer-tee-teh)

(1) Immediately on the word of command, given as the right foot strikes the ground, a 750mm (30") pace is taken with the left foot to check forward motion.

(2) As the right foot is brought to the left foot, it is turned through an angle of 90° to the left. The right foot is placed flat and firm on the ground across the toes of the left foot to form an "T" shape.

(3) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 90° to the left, while at the same time a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot. Marching continues in the new direction, with each man dressing towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).



Sinistrorsum Flectite

Left Incline

(Sini-straw-soom Flekt-ee-teh)

As for "DEXTRORSUM FLECTITE" except the command is given as the right foot strikes the ground. As the left foot is brought to the right it is turned through an angle of 45° to the left. Likewise, the head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 45° to the left, while at the same time a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the right foot. Marching continues in the new direction.

Ad Tergum Vertite

About Turn

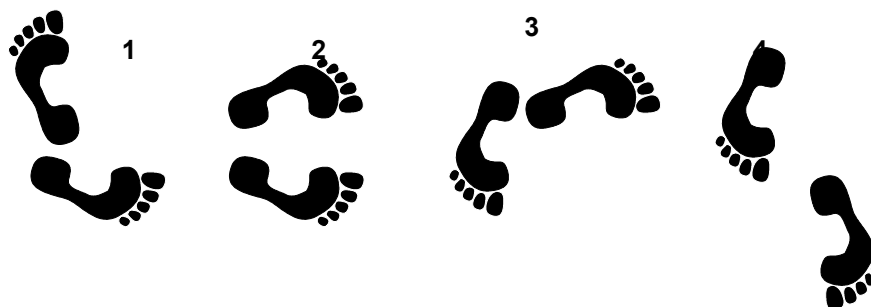
(Add Ter-goom Wer-tee-teh)

(1) Immediately on the word of command, given as the right foot strikes the ground, a 750mm (30") pace is taken with the left foot to check forward motion.

(2) As the right foot is brought to the left foot, it is turned through an angle of 90° to the right. The left foot is placed flat and firm on the ground, with the right heel behind the heel of the left foot to form an "L" shape.

(3) The head, shoulders and body are forced through an angle of 90°, while at the same time the left foot is placed flat and firm on the ground alongside the right, as for "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE".

(4) A second "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE" is performed at the conclusion of which a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot. Marching continues in the reverse direction, with each man dressing towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).



Dextrorsum Signa Convertite

(Dex-traw-soom Sig-nah Con-wer-tee-teh)

Right Wheel

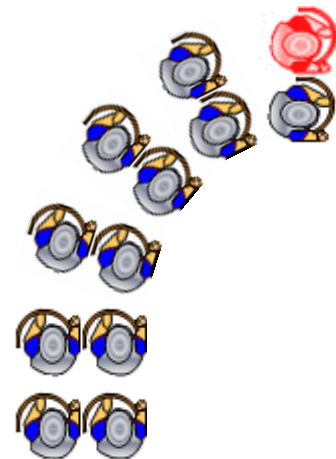
Wheeling is a method by which a body of men may change direction while retaining dressing within ranks or files.

The right hand man of the leading rank or file will change direction through 90° on the circumference of a circle with a radius of approximately 600mm (24"). He must regulate his length of pace to allow those to his left to change direction without losing dressing. Those to the left change direction through 90° by lengthening their pace, without losing their interval or dressing. Those behind the leading rank or file will follow on covering the same ground as them.

If the wheel is to be through more than 90°, i.e. to reverse direction by 180°, the command will include "BIS" (lit. twice), e.g.:

"DEXTRORSUM SIGNA *BIS* CONVERTITE"

Note: At the pivot point of a wheel, the pace of the right hand man can be reduced to almost marking time. This does not apply when wheeling about. The right hand file does NOT turn on the spot as this forces the left hand file too far to the left. The files must wheel round 180° such that they follow a 'U' shaped path.



The officer in command may need to stop the change of direction before the wheel reaches 90°. If so required, the word of command "PROCEDITE" will be given and marching will continue in the direction faced.

Sinistrorsum Signa Convertite

(Sini-straw-soom Sig-nah Con-wer-tee-teh)

Left Wheel

As for "DEXTRORSUM SIGNA CONVERTITE", but to the left.

Simplicem Ordinem Facite

(Sim-plee-kem Ord-ee-nem Fak-ee-teh)

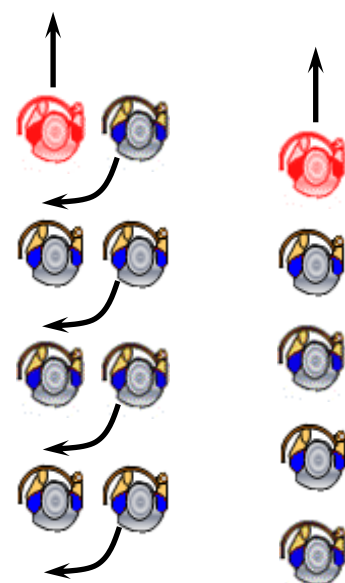
Form Single File

The words of command "SIMPLICEM ORDINEM-FACITE" (Form Single File) are used to change the formation from two files to one file for passing through obstacles, narrow openings, etc.

Immediately on the word of command, given as the right foot strikes the ground, the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) maintains the Long Pace. At the same time all others shorten their pace, without losing dressing.

The leading man on the right hand file (the right hand man of the front rank) steps behind the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker). Each successive man in the right hand file steps behind his opposite number in the left hand file until a single file is formed.

Note: Each man progressively shortens his pace until they can step into the correct place. The men at the rear of the column may have to mark time for a short while.



Unum Ordinem Facite

(Oo-num Ord-ee-nem Fak-ee-teh)

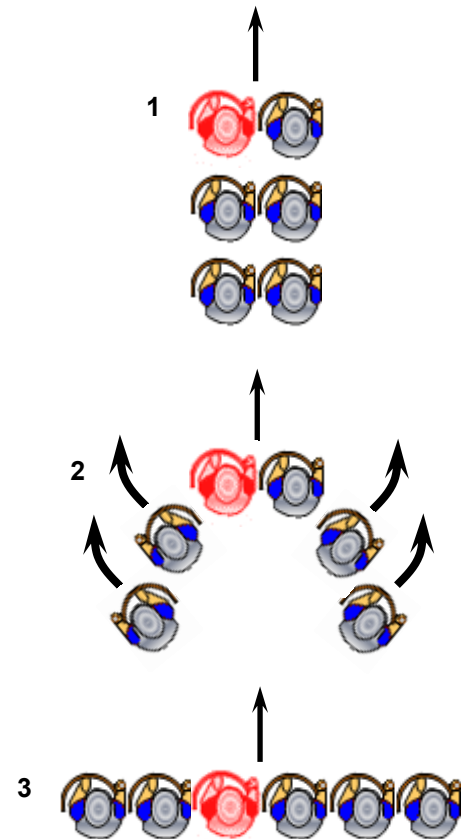
Form One Rank

Forming One Rank on the March is similar to the movement at the Halt:

- (1) The two file leaders shorten their pace but continue marching forward.
- (2) The succeeding ranks turn outwards at an angle of 45° (i.e. "FLECTITE") and march forward to form a single rank.
- (3) Once in position, check the alignment to the CENTRE, i.e. towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).

The shortened pace continues until the one rank is formed. This will be indicated by the officer in command calling the cadence, whereupon the normal marching pace (the Long Pace) is resumed.

Note: Once in position, check you are still in step and always dress to the CENTRE through any subsequent moves until "DUOS ORDINES", i.e. a column of two files, has again been formed. Unfortunately, there is no easy way to remember the difference between "UNUM ORDINEM" and "SIMPLICEM ORDINEM"; **practice** and **concentration** are the only ways!



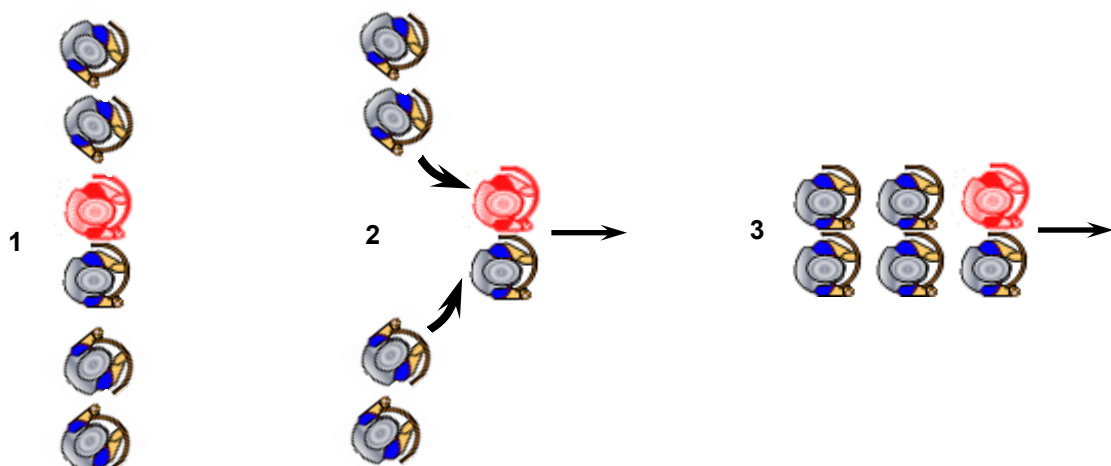
Duobus Ordinibus, Procedite

(Duo-bus Or-dee-nee-bus, Pro-kay-dee-teh)

In 2 Files, Forward

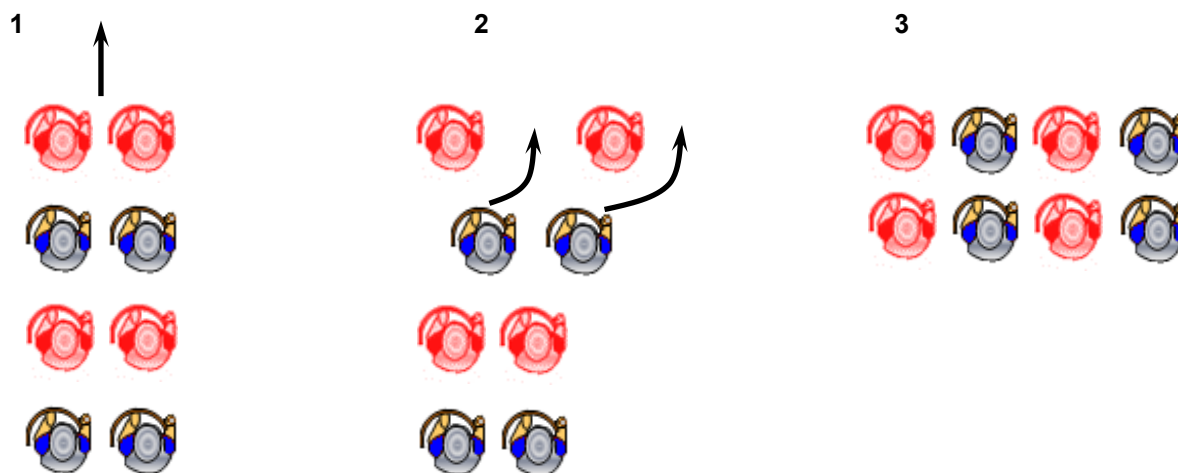
The command "DUOBUS ORDINIBUS, PROCEDITE" is used to reform a column of two files from "UNUM ORDINEM" (One Rank) and march forward in a single movement.

- (1) Immediately on the command, "ORDINIBUS" all except the two centre men turn inward at an angle of 45° (i.e. "FLECTITE").
- (2) Immediately on the command "PROCEDITE", the left foot is forced forward, a full pace of 750mm (30"), with each man marching forward until covering the men in the Front Rank (3).



(Kwa-tor Ord-ee-nays Fak-ee-teh)

The command "QUATTUOR ORDINES FACITE" forms a typical column of two files into four. Essentially, the odd numbered ranks (coloured red) shorten pace, while the even numbers (coloured blue) in the succeeding files step out to the right and forward.



Front Rank: Left hand man of the first rank, the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) shortens his pace but continues marching forward (1). The leading man in the right hand file shortens his pace while stepping out to the right to create a man-sized interval between himself and the *Miles Dexter* (2).

Second Rank: The men in the second rank perform a "DEXTRORSUM FLECTITE" and step out to the right. The man in the left hand file moves into the place just vacated by the right hand man of the front rank, and the right hand man moves out to the extreme right hand end of the line (2). When in position, turn to the front and dress the rank towards the *Miles Dexter*.

The men in the third and subsequent odd numbered ranks follow, and close up on, the men of the front rank. The men in the fourth and subsequent even numbered ranks follow the men of the second rank into the spaces left in the preceding ranks (3).

Any odd rank at the rear takes up position at the extreme ends of the formation. Once in position, check the dressing towards the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).

The shortened pace continues until the Four Files are formed. This will be indicated by the officer in command calling the cadence, whereupon the normal marching pace (the Long Pace) is resumed.

Top Tip: The simplest way of determining your final position in the formation is to follow the man in the rank next but one preceding your rank. Be prepared to move smartly otherwise the manoeuvre becomes very ragged. If you make a mistake, do not try and correct it yourself. Rather, stand still and let the officer in command correct the error (but be prepared for a "beating"!).



(Do-oos Ord-ee-nays Fak-ee-teh)

The command "DUOS ORDINES FACITE" is used to reform two files on the march from either "SIMPLICEM ORDINEM", "UNUM ORDINEM" or "QUATTUOR ORDINES".

From "SIMPLICEM ORDINEM" (Single File):

Immediately on the command, the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) leading the file shortens his pace. At the same time, the second man performs a "DEXTRORSUM FLECTITE" (Right Incline), marching smartly forward to alongside the right of the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker). All those in the odd numbered ranks - the original left hand file - simply follow the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker), each man successively reducing the length of his pace until the movement has been completed. All those in the even numbered ranks - the original right hand file - follow the second man.

The shortened pace continues until "DUOS ORDINES" (Two Files) is reformed. This will be indicated by the officer in command calling the cadence, whereupon the normal marching pace (the Long Pace) is resumed.

From "UNUM ORDINEM" (One Rank):

Immediately on the word of command, given as the right foot strikes the ground, the two centre men continue marching forward at the Long Pace.

The succeeding ranks turn inwards at an angle of 45° (i.e. "FLECTITE") slightly shortening their pace but marching forward until covering the men in front.

Once in position, resume the normal marching pace (the Long Pace) , checking the dressing.

From "QUATTUOR ORDINES" (Four Files):

Immediately on the word of command, the rear ranks shorten their pace, while the left hand man of the front rank, the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker), continues marching at the Long Pace.

The third man in each rank steps successively to his left one place to resume Close Order. At the same time, the second and fourth men in each rank drop back behind the two men to their front. In this manner, the column of four files reverts to a column of two files.

Having got this far, to the satisfaction of your instructor, you are now nearly halfway through your "basic training" and ready to progress to carrying weapons...

...Legionarius: find a *scutum* and *pilum*; Auxiliarius: a *clipeus* and *hasta*!



Foot Drill at the Halt: Armed

The term “armed” means carrying a *Pilum* (javelin) or *Hasta* (spear), *Scutum* or *Clipeus* (shield). Again, a *Gladius* or *Spatha* (short and long swords, respectively) should be worn - as should a *Tunica* (tunic) and *Lorica* (armour). If there is a mixed squad of armed and unarmed men, commands given to the armed men should be ignored by the unarmed, who should remain at the last relevant position.

Note: Except where noted, the terms *Scutum*, *Pilum* and *Gladius* are used for brevity and thus refer equally to the terms *Clipeus*, *Hasta* and *Spatha*. All foot drill movements while “armed” are essentially the same as those in the “unarmed” state. The significant difference is the carriage of heavy or awkward weapons, which needs practise in managing and moving!

Otiose

(Oh-tee-oh-say)

Stand Easy

“OTIOSE” while “armed” remains a very relaxed position of alertness, as described on page 4, but with the following changes:

The butt of the *Pilum* is grounded next to the right foot. The shaft is held in the right hand, thumb uppermost. Although the right arm need not be straight, the *Pilum* is angled away from the body diagonally towards the right.

The *Scutum* is grounded beside the left foot with the left hand resting on its top edge.

Quiete

(Kwee-ay-tay)

Stand at Ease

As described on page 4, “QUIETE” is the slightly relaxed position of alertness, but with the following changes:

From the “OTIOSE” position, the right arm is straightened, with the *Pilum* still angled outwards; the butt and the right hand do not otherwise move.

The *Scutum* is carried in the left hand with an overhand grip, like carrying a suitcase. If not already held in the left hand, the knees are bent lowering the body sufficiently for the right hand to grasp the handgrip of the *Scutum*. Brace the knees and resume the position of “QUIETE”. The *Scutum* is carried at full arms length, close to the side of the body.

Intente

(In-ten-tay)

Attention

Immediately on the executive word of command “INTENTE”, the left foot is moved smartly to beside the right to resume the correct position of Attention.

At the same time, the shaft of the *Pilum* is brought smartly to the vertical, butt resting on the ground. The right forearm is held horizontal, elbow close to the side, with the thumb uppermost and fingers of the right hand curled round the *Pilum* shaft. The body is now frozen in the correct position of “INTENTE”.



Pilum Portate

(Pee-lah Por-tah-teh)

Carry Javelins

The command "PILA PORTATE" is often extended to include *Hasta* with the inclusion of the words "ET HASTA", i.e. "PILA ET HASTA PORTATE".

1. On the introductory command "PILA", move the thumb of the right hand to the right hand side of the *Pilum* shaft. On the informative command "PORTA" reverse the grip on the shaft, pointing the thumb to the ground with the knuckles facing outwards. At the same time, slide the hand down the shaft to the full extent of the arm, while bending the knees and lowering your body 75-100mm (3"-4").
2. On the executive word of command "-TE", grasp the *Pilum* firmly and brace the knees to resume the position of "INTENTE". Allow the *Pilum* to settle at an angle in the crook of the right arm, with the butt positioned naturally about 100mm (4") ahead of the right foot, and slightly outside it, so as not to interfere with any foot drill movements.



Pila Demittite

(Pee-lah Dem-ee-tee-teh)

Lower Javelin

Immediately on the informative command "DEMITTI-", allow the javelin to slide through the hand until the butt strikes the ground by the right foot.

On the executive command "-TE", the shaft of the *Pilum* is snapped to the vertical, butt resting on the ground. The right forearm is held horizontal, elbow close to the side, with the thumb uppermost and fingers of the right hand curled round the *Pilum* shaft. The body is now frozen in the position of "INTENTE".

Turns at the Halt

As explained earlier, Turns at the Halt are taught to enable an individual or squad to turn to the Left, Right or About at the Halt, in a smart, uniform manner. The Turns are the same with or without arms.

Left, Right or About Turns at the Halt are now performed with the *Pilum* carried, i.e. "PILA PORTATE", and not from the position of "INTENTE". If stood at the position of "INTENTE" and a command to Turn is given, immediately perform the "PILA PORTATE" movement before executing the Turn.



Foot Drill on the March: Armed

All Foot Drill commands given on the March while carrying weapons are identical to those already taught. The difference now is being encumbered with a *Scutum* and *Pilum*. The Foot Drill movements need to be practiced again to become accustomed with the additional weight and the restrictions of carrying weapons.

Practice will improve co-ordination so as not to cause accidents or embarrassing mistakes. Moreover, being practiced at drill will distinguish RMRS soldiers from other less well trained groups.

Having been taught Foot Drill on the March while Armed and demonstrated your competence to the *Centurio* or *Optio*'s satisfaction, you will be approximately 65% of the way through basic training. You will probably be included in the Drill Squad during public displays so...

...don't relax just yet - there's still more to learn!



Foot Drill: Other Commands

The words of command given in this section are not used to alter formations. Rather, these commands are intended to maintain the squad's cohesion and, importantly, its military bearing. Learning these commands is as important as all others.

Ut Fuistis

As you were...

(Oot Foo-is-tis)

Used to correct mistakes or poorly performed drill, on the command "UT FUISTIS!" return to the last position or place before the order was given.

Exspectate

Wait for it...

(Ex-pek-tah-teh)

A cautionary word of command used when it can be seen that an individual or body of men are reacting too quickly.

Animum Attendite

Pay Attention

(An-ee-moom At-ten-dee-teh)

Both a generalised exhortation to look at what an individual or body of men are doing, and by inference the way they are doing it, and a word of command under training.

Gradum Servate

Keep in Step

(Gra-doom Ser-wah-teh)

Used to correct an individual or body of men out of step. On the command "GARDUM SERVATE", all members of the squad are to check they are in step with the *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker).

Note: This is more usually achieved by simply calling out the cadence.



Foot Drill: Paying Compliments

The paying of compliments derives its origin from the gestures symbolising trust and loyalty to the Emperor and Rome. The salute with the hand and the salute with the *gladius* (or *spatha*) are methods by which the person paying the compliment could show the person to whom it was paid that no offence was meant. Compliments are therefore paid to:

The Emperor;
Members of the Imperial Family;
Governors and others to whom the Emperor has delegated authority;
All *Signa* (Standards), *Imago* (Images) and *Vexilliae* (Flags);
All officers, as representatives of the Emperor.

Salutate

(Sal-oo-tah-teh)

Salute

Immediately on the command, the right arm is raised forward until it is angled upwards at 45°, palm down, fingers straight and the thumb keeping them together. The body is now in the correct position of the Salute and is held erect and square to the front.

With the compliment paid, the arm is forced down to the side of the body, with the fingers and thumb curled into a fist. The body is now back in the position of "INTENTE" and is erect and square to the front.

Note: The salute as described will undoubtedly be misidentified as that performed by Nazi party members in 20th century Germany. Sadly, the association is the wrong way round. Even the most cursory look at Nazi symbols will identify their Roman origins and that a calculated act was intended to associate the "Reich" with a powerful historical precedent. The *Aquila* (eagle), *Vexillum* (Flag) and the Salute were Roman first and foremost and we should take every effort to educate the public accordingly.

Paying compliments may also be performed with the *Gladius*, *Spatha*, *Pilum* and *Hasta*. The specific commands and movements are included in the later section on Weapon Drills.

Oculus Dextrorsum¹ Adicite

(Ok-oo-los Dex-traw-soom Adik-ee-teh)

Eyes Right

A formed body of men on the march pays compliments by giving "Eyes Right/Left" and "Eyes Front". The words of command "OCULUS DEXTRORSUM (or SINISTRORSUM) ADICITE" are therefore used to enable a marching individual or body of men to pay the correct compliment in a smart, uniform manner. Only the officer in command performs a Salute.

Immediately on the executive word of command, which is given as the right foot strikes the ground, a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot. As the left foot strikes the ground, the head and eyes are forced through an angle of 90° square over the right or left shoulder.

Note: The *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) will look to his front throughout to guide the squad.

1. For "Eyes Left" the informative word of command "DEXTRORSUM" is replaced with "SINISTRORSUM".



Frontem Aspicite

(Fron-tem As-pik-ee-teh)

Eyes Front

The executive part of the command "FRONTEM ASPICITE" (lit. "Face the Front") is given as the right foot strikes the ground. Immediately, a full pace of 750mm (30") is taken with the left foot and as it strikes the ground, the head and eyes are forced through an angle of 90° to the front.



Weapon Drill: *Gladii* and *Spathae*

The term *Gladii* (sing. *Gladius*) used throughout this section should be taken to include *Spathae* (sing. *Spatha*) unless stated otherwise. The basic drill commands are included in the sections FOOT DRILL - AT THE HALT or ON THE MARCH - ARMED where they more properly belong and are thus not repeated.

Gladios Destringite

(Glad-ee-os Des-trin-gee-teh)

Draw Swords

- (1) On the introductory word of command “GLADIUS”, the handgrip is grasped by the right hand, with the back of the hand close to the body and palm facing outwards.
- (2) Immediately on the executive command “-TE”, the *gladius* is drawn sharply upwards and forwards, being rotated clockwise in front of the body. The arm and *gladius* are raised until angled upwards at 45°.
- (3) Shout “IOVI OPTIMO MAXIMO” (Yo-wee Op-tee-mo Max-ee-mo; lit. “Jupiter Greatest and Best”).
- (4) The right arm is brought smartly to the side of the body, with the hand close to the waist. The *Gladius* is held horizontally, with the blade projecting in front of the body. At the same time, adopt the “SCUTA TOLLITE” position. The *Gladius* blade should just touch the right hand edge of the *Scutum*.



Note the hand position which enables the quick and smooth drawing of the sword blade.



This is also the position adopted when saluting with a *gladius/spatha* (see page 26).





The fighting stance on a relief from Mainz, Germany.

Salutate (*Gladius/Spatha*)

Salute

(Sal-oo-tah-teh)

Note: Saluting with the sword follows the initial movements as for the command "GLADIOS DESTRINGITE". Throughout the whole movement the body is held erect and square to the front.

On the introductory word of command "GLADIOS", the handgrip is grasped by the right hand, with the back of the hand close to the body and palm facing outwards.

Immediately on the executive command "-TE", the *gladius* is drawn sharply upwards and forwards, being rotated clockwise in front of the body. The arm and *gladius* are raised until angled upwards at 45°.

Immediately on the command "INTENTE", the *gladius* is brought to the right side of the body to adopt the position of the Carry, i.e. the forearm is horizontal, elbow close to the side, the blade vertical.

Gladios Recondite

Sheath Swords

(Glad-ee-os Rek-on-dee-teh)

- (1) On the cautionary word of command "RECONDI-", the *gladius* is drawn upwards to the full extent of the arm and rotated anti-clockwise in front of the body. The right hand is rotated until the palm and fingers face outwards. The sword point is guided into the *vagina* (scabbard) and *gladius* returned to the scabbard until almost completely home.
- (2) Immediately on the executive command "-TE", the *gladius* is forced fully into the *vagina*. The right hand and arm are returned smartly to the side of the body to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".



Weapon Drill: *Pila* and *Hasta*

The term *Pila* (sing. *Pilum*) used throughout this section should be taken to include *Hastae* (sing. *Hasta*) unless stated otherwise. The basic drill commands are included in the sections FOOT DRILL - AT THE HALT or ON THE MARCH - ARMED where they more properly belong and are thus not repeated.

Pilum Portate

(Pee-lah Por-tah-teh)

Carry Javelins

The command "PILA PORTATE" is often extended to include *Hasta* with the inclusion of the words "ET HASTA", i.e. "PILA ET HASTA PORTATE".

The drill movement is described in full on page 21.

Salutate (Pilum/Hasta)

(Sal-oo-tah-teh)

Salute

On the cautionary word of command "SALUTA-", the handgrip is reversed so that the finger lie on top of the *pila* shaft.

Immediately on the executive command "-TE", the arm and *pilum* are thrust upward at an angle of 45°. The *pilum* forms a natural extension of the right arm, with the butt tucked under the arm pit.

Immediately on the command "INTENTE", the *pilum* is returned to the position of "PILA PORTATE". The handgrip is again reversed and the shaft settled at an angle in the crook of the right arm, with the butt positioned naturally about 100mm (4") ahead, and slightly outside, of the right foot.

Terram Pilis Ferite

(Ter-ram Pee-lis Fer-ee-teh)

Ground Javelins

Facing to the Front:

On the command "TERRAM PILIS FERITE" (lit. "strike the ground with your javelins"), perform a Right Turn at the Halt ("DEXTRORSUM VERTITE"). Extend the right arm at shoulder height and sharply drive the *pila* butt-spike into the ground, standing the *pila* vertically. The right arm is brought smartly back to the side of the body. Face the front by executing a Left Turn at the Halt ("SINISTRORSUM VERTITE"). The body is held erect and square to the front in the correct position of "INTENTE".

Facing to the (Right) Flank:

On the word of command, those in the right hand file extend their right arm at shoulder height and sharply drive the *pila* butt-spike into the ground, standing the *pila* vertically as above. Those in the left hand file pass their javelins or spears to the right whereupon the men in the left hand file ground them as before. On completion, all are to adopt the correct position of "INTENTE" facing the flank.

The command "PILA SUMITE" is used to recover the javelins and spears, with the sequence of movements described being reversed.

Note: Some *hasta* may not be shod with a butt-spike and must therefore be grounded using the spear tip. Care should be taken when rotating the *hasta* to avoid striking anyone in the ranks.

Note: For safety's sake, i.e. on paved areas or when the ground is too solid, it will sometimes not be possible to stand *pila* or *hastae* vertically. Such circumstances will dictate that javelins and spears be laid on the ground.



Terram Pilis Ferite

(Ter-ram Pee-lis Fer-ee-teh)

Ground Javelins

(Variation)

Immediately on the words of command "TERRAM PILIS FERITE", allow the javelin to slide through the hand until the butt strikes the ground by the right foot. Take a short pace of 375mm (15") with left foot, placing the flat of the foot firmly on the ground. Bending both knees, slowly lower the *pila* to the ground, the remainder of the body is held erect and square to the front. Resume the correct position on "INTENTE" by straightening the knees while simultaneously taking a pace of 375mm (15") to the rear with the left foot.

Pila Sumite

(Pee-lah Soom-ee-teh)

Take Up Arms

(Variation)

Immediately on the words of command "PILA SUMITE", take a short pace of 375mm (15") with left foot, placing the flat of the foot firmly on the ground. Bend both knees to lower the body until the *pila* are within easy reach. Grasp the javelin or spear while holding the remainder of the body erect and square to the front. Straighten the knees while simultaneously taking a pace of 375mm (15") to the rear with the left foot and rotating the *pila* to the vertical. The butt is to remain in contact with the ground throughout, acting as a pivot. Resume the correct position on "INTENTE".

Ad Pila Procedite

(Ad Pee-lah Pro-kay-dee-teh)

Forward to the Javelins

Self explanatory - advance towards the javelins.

Pila Tollite

(Pee-lah Tol-lee-teh)

Ready Javelins

On the command "PILA TOLLITE", rotate the *pila* forward, about a point level with the right shoulder, until horizontal. The right arm is bent 90° at the elbow and hand's grip adjusted so that the palm faces upwards and supports the shaft at the natural balance point. Fingers curl lightly over the top, thumb to the rear. The *pila* shaft may be rested on the right shoulder for additional stability.

Notes: Unlike javelins, *Hasta* are not normally thrown. On the command "PILA TOLLITE", therefore, *hastae* are couched in an under arm grip ready for thrusting at the enemy.

During displays the next words of command will begin an advance on the 'enemy', i.e. the crowd, while preparing to throw javelins. Immediately on the command "PROCEDITE", the left foot is forced forward a full marching pace of 750mm (30") to begin the advance. The *Scutum* remains carried in the left hand, with an overhand grip, at full arms length close to the left side of the body. The *Scutum* is brought in front of the body (as shown in the picture opposite) on the command "SCUTA TOLLITE" (see page 28).



"Pila et Scuta Tollite"



Pila Iacite

(Pee-lah Yak-ee-teh)

On the command “PILA IACITE”, *Legionarii* double forward and simulate throwing their javelins, accompanied by a war cry of “ENECATE!” (Aye-neh-kar-tay! - lit. “Kill!”). *Auxilia* stab forward shouting the war cry “TIEW!” (Tew!).

Note: *Pila* are **NOT** thrown (for obvious reasons). On the command “PILA IACITE”, therefore, you may pretend to throw your *pilum* at the ‘enemy’, i.e. the crowd, but you must control the javelin by retaining a firm grip on the shaft.



Throw Javelins



Weapon Drill: *Scutum* and *Clipeus*

The term *Scuta* (sing. *Scutum*) used throughout this section should be taken to include *Clipii* (sing. *Clipeus*) unless stated otherwise. The basic drill commands are included in the sections FOOT DRILL - AT THE HALT or ON THE MARCH - ARMED where they more properly belong and are thus not repeated.

Scuta Portate

Carry Shields

(Skoo-tah Por-tah-teh)

Immediately on the executive word of command "TE-", the knees are bent lowering the body sufficiently for the right hand to grasp the handgrip of the *Scutum*. Brace the knees and resume the position of "INTENTE". The *Scutum* is carried at full arms length, close to the side of the body, with an overhand grip.

Scuta Tollite

Ready Shields

(Skoo-tah Tol-lee-teh)

On the command "SCUTA TOLLITE", bring the shield smartly in front of the body, retaining the overhand grip, while simultaneously shouting the war cry "NEX!" (Slaughter!).

Note: The *scuta* should offer protection to the body from the neck to the knees.

Scuta Demittite

Lower Shields

(Skoo-tah Dem-ee-tee-teh)

Immediately on the command "SCUTA DEMITTITE", the knees are bent lowering the body sufficiently for the *scutum* to be grounded beside the left foot. Brace the knees to resume the position of "INTENTE", resting the left hand on the shield's top edge.



Weapon Drill: Artillery Commands

Vocabulary

Ballistarius / Ballistarii	Gunner / Gunners
Trispithamus	Three Span
Manuballista	Bolt Thrower
Onager	Catapult (lit. Wild Ass)
Ita	Yes
Non	No

Commands

Unum Ordinem Facite	Form a Single Rank
Ad Scorpiones Procedite	Forward to the Catapults

The Shooting Sequence:

Scorpiones Parate	Prepare the Catapults
Bracchia Reducite	Draw back the Arms
Parate est is?	Is it ready?

Trispithamus / Manuballista (Prima, -Secunda, etc.) / Onager?

Respond: "ITA" (raising the arm as confirmation) or "NON"

Telum (pl. Tela) Ponite	Place the Missile(s)
Ad Skopon / Hostes Dirigite	Aim at the Target / Enemy

Iacite
Shoot (for each shot, repeating the shooting sequence as required)



Weapon Drill: Artillery Commands

Other Commands:

Sponte Iacite	Shoot at Will (for continuous shooting without further commands)
Ad Caelum	To the Sky
Desistite!	Stop!
Altius Dirigite	Aim Higher
Humilius Dirigite	Aim Lower
Ad Sinistram	To the Left
Ad Dextram	To the Right
Trispithamum / Manuballistam (Primam, -Secundam, etc.) / Scorpiones...	
Prorsus / Retrorsum Movete	Move the catapult Forward / Backward
Temperate	Re-tune



Weapon Drill: Tactical Formations

The Foot Drill at the Halt learnt so far now forms the basis for the more complex manoeuvres and tactical formations used on the battlefield.

Acies Aperite

(Ak-ee-es Aper-ee-teh)

Open Battle Order

Following *Polybius*' description, the command "ACIES APERITE" creates a staggered battle formation in Open Order, where each soldier occupies a 1.83m square (6' x 6'). The formation, usually performed with just two ranks, reflects the *Triplex Acies* created by staggering the cohorts (or maniples) of a legion from Republican times onward. It is imperative that Dressing is maintained at all times.

From "DUOS ORDINES" (Two Ranks):

The *Miles Dexter* (Right Marker) stands fast. The remainder of the Front rank move smartly to the left until approximately 1.83m (6') from the man to their right. The second (and subsequent) ranks take one *passum* (two full paces of 750mm (30")) rearwards and then move smartly to the left until approximately 1.83m (6') from the man to their right. The second (and subsequent) ranks cover off in the gaps between the men in the preceding ranks to form staggered files.

From "UNUM ORDINEM" (One Rank):

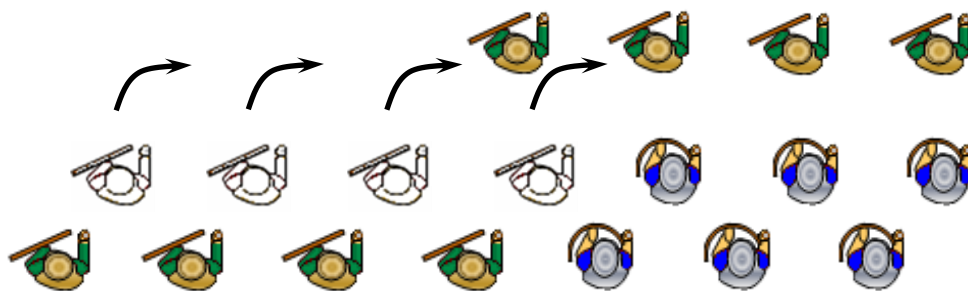
The odd numbered files ("IMPAR") stand fast in the position of "INTENTE". The even numbered files ("PAR") take one full pace of 750mm (30') rearwards with the left foot, placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. A further full pace of 750mm (30') is taken rearwards with the right foot, again placing the foot flat and firm on the ground. The left foot is moved smartly to beside the right to resume the correct position of "INTENTE".



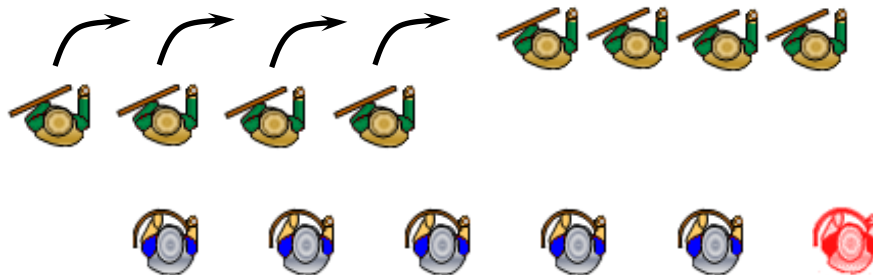
On the command “ACIES APERITE”, the *Legionarii* will form their staggered battle formation in Open Order. Simultaneously, the Auxiliary commander will initiate the Auxiliary skirmish line with the command “AUXILIA AD FRONTINEM!” (Auxiliaries to the Front!).



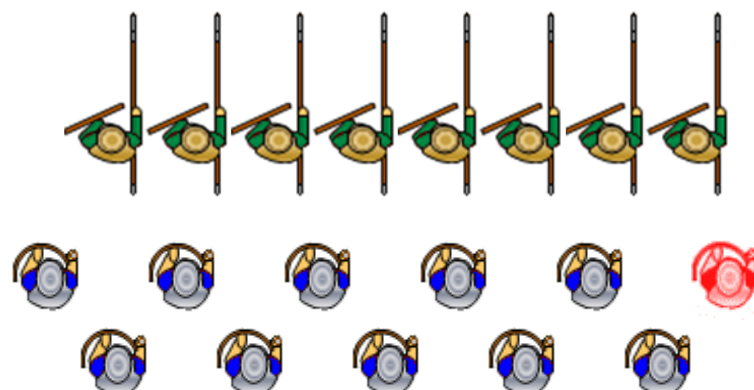
Immediately on the command the front rank moves forward and to the right, in ‘double time’, to a position in front of the legionary ranks. Simultaneously, the rear rank prepares to move forward.



The rear rank moves smartly forward, and to the right, to form “UNUM ORDINEM” alongside the front rank. Once in position, check the alignment to the RIGHT.



On the command “HASTA TOLLITE”, rotate the *hasta* forward until horizontal. The right arm is bent 90° at the elbow and hand’s grip adjusted so that the palm faces upwards and supports the shaft at the natural balance point. Fingers curl lightly under the *hasta* shaft, thumb over the top. The *hasta* is ‘couched’ under the right arm for additional stability.



On the command “PROMOVERE NUNC” (Move Forward, Now!) the left foot is forced forward a full pace of 750mm (30”), with each man begins marching forward. The command “SCUTA TOLLITE” (see page 42) is executed as the line advances towards the ‘enemy’. On the command “INFERE!”, the line charges “the enemy” and each *Auxilia* stabs their *hasta* forward shouting the war cry “TIEW!” (Tew!).



As the crowd line is reached the command “AD ALAE!” (To the Wings!) is given. The Auxiliary line divides into the original front and rear ranks. The two groups double back to the left and right to form a single line behind the now advancing legionaries.

Notes: The *legionarii* will perform either an advance with *pila* (see page 26) or an “IMPETUM FACITE” (see below).

Impetum Facite

(Im-pet-oom Fak-ee-teh)

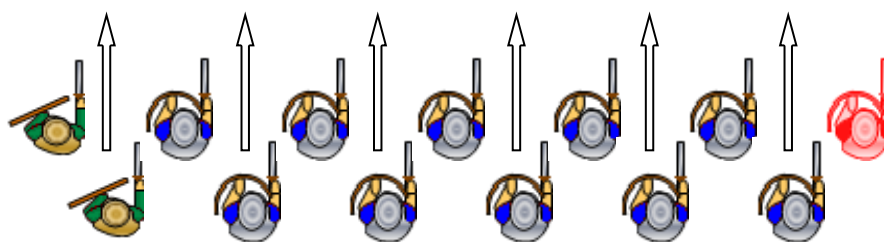
Attack!

The command “IMPETUM FACITE” is used to give renewed impetus to an attack on the enemy’s battle line, especially where that attack has stalled. The aim is for each rank, in repeated turns, to “punch” a short distance into the enemy line to create or exploit gaps.

In “ACIES APERITE”, each man will adopt an aggressive battle stance on receipt of the words of command “GLADIOS DESTRINGITE” (refer to page 25).

Immediately on the command “IMPETUM FACITE”, the **Front Rank** stands fast; the **Second Rank** charges forward taking four full 750mm (30”) paces (“DUOS PASSUS”). On the fourth pace, the *scuta* is driven forward (simulating the use of the shield as a battering ram) followed in quick succession by the *gladius* being stabbed forward. The right arm, extending forward of the *scutum*, rotates anti-clockwise so that the *gladius’* edges are horizontal to the ground. The *scutum* and *gladius* are recovered to the fighting stance.

The **Second Rank** stands fast; the **Front Rank** now charges forward “DUOS PASSUS” and “attacks the enemy” as described above.



The ranks continue to interchange, charging forward, until the command “CONSISTITE” is given. At all times the correct alignment must be maintained by dressing to the right.

Notes: To maintain a rolling charge, the file leaders (i.e. the *Miles Dexter* and his immediate neighbour, who are on the right of the line) will shout “NEX!” to initiate their rank’s charge. Wait for this trigger, keep the alignment and run forward in a straight line to keep the gaps open. **NEVER** stab beyond the shield when close to the audience!



Cuneus means “wedge”, but there is no evidence that the Romans used literally triangular-shaped infantry formations. *Cuneus* was a term applied to formations of various shapes - even squares or rectangular columns - in which the soldiers were formed in very close order (0.5m² or 1.5' square spacing) and used to create or exploit gaps in the enemy's battle line. According to *Tacitus* (Annals, 14.37), *Suetonius Paulinus* used *Legio XIII* and its auxiliary cohorts in *cunei* to utterly destroy Boudicca's tribal army in AD 61.

For display purposes, the *Cuneus* is typically formed from a column of two files. Where possible, *Auxilia* and the Standards fill the centre of the wedge. The *Centurio* will nominate a leading man to act as the point of the wedge and guide the formation towards the “enemy battle line” (i.e. the audience).

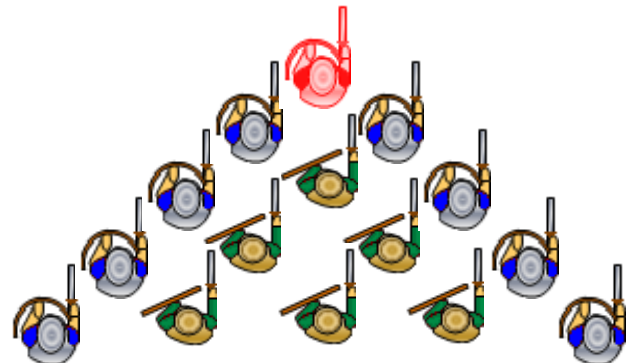


Immediately on the words of command “CUNEUM FACITE”, the two files fan outwards to form two staggered lines angled at 45°. Each man positions himself such that his left or right shoulder is behind the left or right shoulder of the man to his front. Simultaneously, *scuta* are raised smartly in front of the body to the battle ready position (see page 28 for “SCUTA TOLLITE”; the war cry “NEX” is omitted). Dressing the staggered lines ensures a solid front is presented to the “enemy” (see image top right), albeit with sufficient space between each shield to thrust with the *gladius*.

On the command “GLADIUS DESTRINGITE” (refer to page 24), swords are drawn and a fighting stance assumed (Note: “SCUTA TOLLITE” has already been performed).

Immediately on the command “PROCEDITE” (refer to page 12), the left foot is forced forward, a full 750mm (30”) marching pace. As the formation advances, the *gladius* is struck against the shield edge in time with the marching cadence.

The *Cuneus* advances until the executive command “ACCELERATE!” is given. Immediately, all are to charge the “enemy battle line”.



Note: Run forward in a straight line, maintaining Dressing and alignment. Be prepared to stop abruptly before the lead element collides with the audience. For safety, **NEVER** stab or leave the *gladius* projecting beyond the shield when close to the audience!



Testudinem Facite

(Tes-too-dee-nem Fak-ee-teh)

Form "Tortoise"

The *testudo* ("tortoise") is famous for its use in siege warfare, but it was also used in field battles as it offered excellent protection against missiles. The interlocked *scuta* form a "shell" much like that of a tortoise - hence the name. Unlike the static formation countering missiles, the advancing *testudo* used in siege warfare cannot be formed while carrying *pila*. It is best formed when advancing in four files ("QUATTOR ORDINES"), with the pace slowed to allow for the movements. Immediately on the command, "TESTUDINEM FACITE", the *Optio* (or a nominated deputy) will shout the number (i.e. "UNUS", "DUO", "TRES", etc.) of the rank to initiate the following movements:



- (1) The **Front Rank** bring their *scuta* smartly to the battle position ("SCUTA TOLLITE"), adopt close order and shorten the pace. Each man grasps the right edge of his *scuta* and the left edge of his neighbours to lock the shields together.
- (2) The **Second Rank** raise their *scuta* to above their head and that of the man in front. The *scuta* are supported overhead by the left hand on the central handgrip, the right hand interlocking shields with the neighbouring man. On raising the shields adopt close order and shorten the pace.
- (3) **Succeeding Ranks** perform the same action as the second rank but overlapping each *scutum* on the one in front to create the distinctive "tiled" roof.

Note: If formed correctly, with each man proportionately supporting the weight of and locking the shields together, then the *testudo* should resist an 'enemy' throwing himself onto it!



The basic construction in four files - note that each man supports the weight of his and his neighbours interlocked shields. The *Auxilia* normally form the protective sides of the *Testudo*.



Compare the *Testudo* left with the examples shown on Trajan's Column in Rome.



The *testudo* ("tortoise") was widely used as a protection against missiles and, importantly, mounted horse-archers - *Marcus Antonius* used the formation to great effect during his army's retreat from *Parthia* on 36 BCE. Unlike the advancing *testudo* used in siege warfare, this formation uses the *pila* to counter the cavalry threat. It is best formed when in two ranks ("DUOS ORDINES"), but can be achieved from two files by turning to face either flank. Immediately on the command, "CONTRA EQUITES FACITE", the *Optio* (or a nominated deputy) will shout the timing (i.e. "UNUS", "DUO", "TRES", etc.) to initiate the following movements:

- (1) The **Miles Dexter** performs a "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE" (Right Turn at the Halt), but immediately takes a short pace of 375mm (15") with right foot, placing the flat of the foot firmly on the ground. Simultaneously, the *pila* slides through the hand until the butt strikes the ground by the instep of the right foot. The *Miles Dexter* stands fast, the body erect and square to front.

The **Front Rank** performs a "DEXTRORSUM VERTITE" and close up towards the *Miles Dexter*, maintaining the correct alignment. Each man takes a short pace of 375mm (15") with right foot, placing the foot firmly on the ground. Simultaneously, the *pilum* slides through the hand until the butt strikes the ground by the instep of the right foot. All stand fast, bodies erect and square to front.

The **Remainder** cover off the Front Rank.

- (2) The **Front Rank** (including the *Miles Dexter*) bend both knees to lower the body onto the left knee. The *scutum* is lowered straight down to rest firmly on the ground, close to the body and supported by the left hand on the central handgrip. Simultaneously, the right hand slides down the shaft as each *pilum* arcs forward to an angle of 45°, the butt-spike remains in contact with the ground throughout, acting as a pivot. The *scutum* is braced by the left shoulder, with the body crouched firmly behind it and the head kept below the top edge.

The **Second Rank** reverse the handgrip and prepare to ready the *pila* ("PILA TOLLITE").

- (3) The **Second Rank** step forward raising their *scuta* over the heads of the man in front. The left knee planted firmly into the front man's back braces the rank. The Second Rank's *scuta* are supported by the left hand on the central handgrip above the Front Rank's shields without resting on them. *Pila* are raised to the shoulder ("PILA TOLLITE").
- (4) The **Second Rank** lower their *scutum* smartly to rest on top of the Front Rank's shields. *Pila* are readied to throw.

Note: The positioning of the right foot and *pila* should be such that the *pila* can be lowered directly between the Front Rank's *scuta*. The space left between the *scuta* should therefore be one *pilum* width.



(Or-bem In-stru-ee-teh)

Orbis means “world” or “circular” but, like *cuneus*, when used to describe a formation the term was not literal; *orbis* could be circular or hollow or solid squares. The important point is that they were formed in emergencies, when a unit or army was surrounded by the enemy, and were thus designed for all-round defence.

Immediately on the command “ORBEM INSTRUIE”:

From Two Files: Both files turn outward, except the file leaders who stand fast and the two men at the rear of each file who “AD TERGUM” (About Turn). All move outwards to form the *orbis*, with the *Centurio* and standard (s) located in the centre.

From Two Ranks: The left and right hand files turn outwards, right and left respectively. The rear rank About Turns (“AD TERGUM”). All move outwards to form the *orbis* as above.

Orbem Dexstrorsum Circumagite**Revolve the Circle to the Right****(Or-bem Dex-traw-soom Ker-kum-agee-teh)**

For display purposes, it is possible to revolve the *orbis* clockwise or anti-clockwise:

Immediately on the command “ORBEM DEXSTRORSUM CIRCUMAGITE”, take a short pace of 375mm (15”) to the right, continuing to side-step in the given direction until halted (“CONSISITE”).

Replacing “DEXSTRORSUM” with “SINISTRORSUM” revolves the *orbis* in the opposite direction.



Ceremonial Drill

The following Ceremonial Drills are included as interest pieces for an audience or for use in film work.

Ad Nomina Respondite

Answer your Name

(Ad Nom-ee-nah Res-pon-dee-tay)

The Roll Call typically begins a RMRS display, as it would the first drill period of a Roman soldier's day. The Roll Call determines whether soldiers are present for duty or absent, perhaps on detached duties, leave or hospitalised, etc.

The Drill Squad will be positioned centrally in front of the audience and stood easy ("OTIOSE"; refer to page 19). The following sequence is then enacted:



Centurio: "OPTIO, NOMINA CLAMATE." *Optio*, Call the Roll.

Optio to Centurio: "CERTE, CENTURIO." Of course, Centurion.

Optio to the Squad: "AD NOMINA RESPONDITE." Answer to your name.

The *Optio* facing the squad calls out the rank and name of each soldier:

Optio: "MILES GAIUS?"

The soldier snaps to "INTENTE" (refer to page 30) and shouts:

Optio: "ADSUM!" (Ad-Soom!) Present!

The soldier resumes the correct position of "OTIOSE". The sequence is repeated until all soldiers are accounted for.

Optio to Centurio: "OMNI PARATE, CENTURIO." All Ready, Centurion.

Sacramentum

The Oath

(Sak-rah-men-toom)

Swearing the Oath of allegiance had religious significance and bound the soldier to the Emperor and the Roman state. The Oath was reaffirmed annually on New Year's day or on the investiture of a new emperor.

The Drill Squad will be positioned centrally in front of the audience and stood at Attention ("INTENTE"; refer to page 19). The following sequence is then enacted:

Centurio: "MILITES SACRAMENTO ROGO." Administer the Oath to the Troops.

Centurio: "ROGATOR, GAIUS." Oath Swearer, Gaius.

Gaius: "CERTE, CENTURIO." Of Course, Centurion.

Centurio: "SIGNIFER ET ROGATOR EXITE!" Standard Bearer and Oath Swearer fall out!



The Standard Bearer and nominated soldier “AB SIGNIS DISCEDITE” (Fall Out; refer to page 11) and march smartly to assume a position of Attention (“INTENTE”; refer to page 19) to the front centre of the squad. The soldier grounds *scutum* and *pilum* before joining the Standard Bearer facing the audience, the soldier to the right of the Standard Bearer. The soldier performs “SALUTATE” (refer to page 22), while his left hand grasps the standard.

Centurio: “INITIUM FACITE.”

“Begin.”

Once the nominated soldier has completed reciting the Oath, the text of which is given below, the *Centurio* will call out:

Centurio: “IDEM IN ME!” (ID-EM IN MAY)

“The same goes for me!”

All affirm their allegiance by shouting the repeated phrase loudly. The ceremony concludes when the *Centurio* orders:

Centurio: “SIGNIFER ET ROGATOR REDITE!” “Standard Bearer and Oath Swearer fall in!”

The Standard Bearer and soldier turn to the right (“DEXTRORSUM VERTITE”; refer to page 7). Performing the requisite foot drill, both soldiers march smartly back to their positions in the squad, the Oath Swearer recovering his *Scutum* and *Pilum*.

The Oath

The Oath is reproduced in two parts: Latin in uppercase and English in sentence case below. The translation is not literally word for word but rather approximates the ‘sense’ of the Oath:

EGO (NOMEN), MILES CENTURIAE MESTRII, LEGIONES QUARTAE
DECIMAE GEMINAE MARTIAE VICTRICIS, IN VERBA IMPERATORIS
CAESARIS VESPANSIANI AUGUSTI IUROI POLLICEORQUE ME EIS
OMNIBUS QUI PRAEPOSITI ERUNT DICTO AUDIENTEM FORE ET
QUOSCUMQUE IN HOSTES DUXERINT EOS ESSE SECUTURUM,
NEQUE SIGNA RELICTURUM NEQUE QUOQUAM MODO LEGES POPULI
ROMANI PERFRACTURUM. QUOD SI FIDEM ERGA IMPERATOREM
SIC DATAM FEFELLERO IUSIURANDUM SIC ACCEPTUM VIOLAVERO,
CAPUT MEUM IOVI OPTIMO MAXIMO SACRUM ESTO.

“I (name), a soldier in the Century of Mestrius of the 14th Legion, the Twin, Warlike and Victorious, do swear allegiance to the Emperor Caesar Augustus Vespasian and promise that I shall be obedient to all those who are placed in command and that I will follow them against what-so-ever enemies they lead and that I will not desert the standards nor in any way break the laws of the Roman people. But if I break my loyalty thus given to the Emperor or violate the oath that I have thus accepted, let my life be forfeit to Jupiter Best and Greatest.”



Guard Mounts

Guard duty has been, and continues to be, an essential element of protecting any military establishment. Sentries posted at 'fort' entrances control access, provide an early warning of any hostile intent and an immediate reaction force to enemy action.

The *Tessararius* (Guard Commander), one of the *principales* assisting the *Centurio* with commanding a century, will mount (and dismount) any guard. The Guard *contubernium* will provide two nominated sentries and an escort who, once the sentries are posted, will return to the living history display. The Guard is mounted as follows:

Tessararius: "CONTUBERNIUM PRIMA¹, AD SIGNA!"
(Kon-too-bern-ee-oom Pree-mah, Ad Sig-nah!)

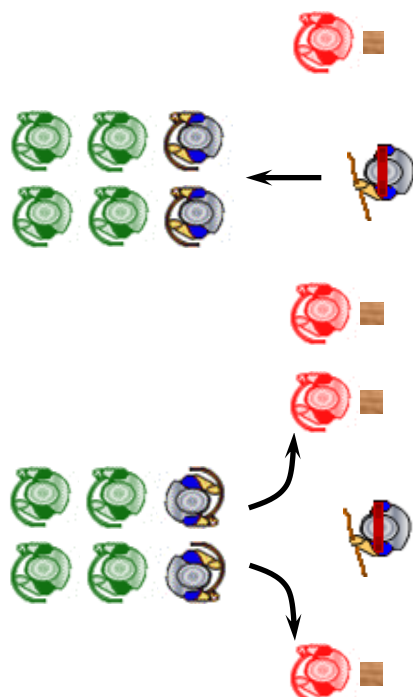
The designated *contubernium* Fall In (refer to page 5). The new guards, appointed by the *Tessararius*, Fall In as the left hand file, i.e. at the rear of the *contubernium* when marching in column.

Tessararius: "SENECA ET FIRME, CUSTODES NOVI".
(Sen-ee-ka et Fur-mee, kus-toe-days noh-wee)
"SENECA, PRAEERIS"
(Sen-ee-ka, pray-air-is)

Seneca: "CERTE, TESSERARI!"
(Ker-teh, Tes-ser-rah-ree)

The *Tessararius* confirms that the nominated sentries know they are to form the new guard ("CUSTODES NOVI"), and that "*Seneca*" will be in charge ("PRAEERIS").

Key to Symbols:



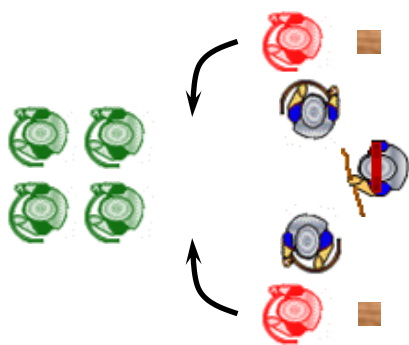
The *Tessararius* orders "CONSISTITE!" (Halt!) once the new guard and escort pass through the entrance. (The sentries, if already on duty, are brought to "INTENTE" by the Sentry in Charge.)

"CUSTODES NOVI, AD TERGUM VERTITE" (the New Guard only About Turn).

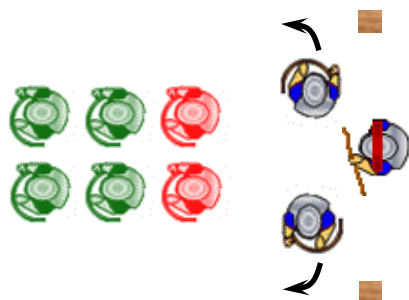
On the command "CUSTODES NOVI, EXITE", the New Guard Fall Out marching smartly to the side of and facing the dismounting sentries at the correct position of "INTENTE".

1. "PRIMUM" (First) can be replaced with "SECUNDUM" (Second) or "AUXILIA" as necessary.





On the command “CUSTODES PRIORIS, MECUM PRO-CEDITE”, the dismounting sentries march smartly to rejoin the ranks.



On the command “CUSTODES NOVI, STATIONEM CAPITE”, the new sentries march smartly into position.

After a pause equivalent to two paces, the new sentries both Turn outwards remaining at “INTENTE”.



On the command “VEXILLATIO, AD TERGUM VERTITE”, the dismounting sentries, the escorts and the *Tessararius* all Turn About to face into camp.



On the command “VEXILLATIO, PROCEDITE”, the dismounting sentries, the escorts and the *Tessararius* all march into camp.



The new Sentry in Charge (“PRAEERIS”) assumes command and orders “CUSTODES, PILA DEMITTITE” (Ground *Pila*) followed by “QUIETE” (Stand at Ease) and finally “OTIOSE” (Stand Easy).

Notes: For the purposes of the RMRS' living history displays, the sentries will probably be among the first “Romans” to be encountered and thus should aim to create the initial illusion of “stepping back in time”. Remember, however, that the sentries are there to guard the camp, must remain alert at all times and must be prepared to challenge potential “intruders” (i.e. the visitors).

Avoid getting into prolonged conversations with the public and politely decline any attempts to discuss dress, equipment, lifestyle, etc. Instead, explain that to do so would be a “derelection of your guard duty punishable by death!” but that the soldiers in camp would only be too happy to answer any questions. The aim is to enhance the impression that visitors are entering a Roman military environment without being rude.



Whenever the guard detail returns or those to whom compliments are paid are present, i.e. officers, *signa*, *vexillum*, etc. (see page 34), then the Sentry in Charge is give the word of command "CUSTODES INTENTE!"

Immediately on the executive word of command, the knees are bent lowering the body sufficiently for the right hand to grasp the handgrip of the *Scutum*. The knees are braced while simultaneously moving the left foot smartly to beside the right.

At the same time, the shaft of the *Pilum* is brought smartly to the vertical, butt resting on the ground. The right forearm is held horizontal, elbow close to the side, with the thumb uppermost and fingers of the right hand curled round the *Pilum* shaft. The body is now frozen in the correct position of "INTENTE".

Remember: The *Scutum* is carried in the left hand with an overhand grip, at full arms length, close to the side of the body.

When the guard is to be changed, the Sentry in Charge will have to prepare the dismounting sentries to rejoin the Squad by ordering "PILA PORTATE" (see page 30). The changing of the guard is carried out as explained previously on pages 54 to 56. Before a Drill Display, however, the dismounting sentries are collected only not replaced.

