

CHAPTER 9

SWORD DRILL

The precise execution of the sword manual enhances the leadership status of the wearer. Poor or inexact manual is particularly obvious at ceremonies.

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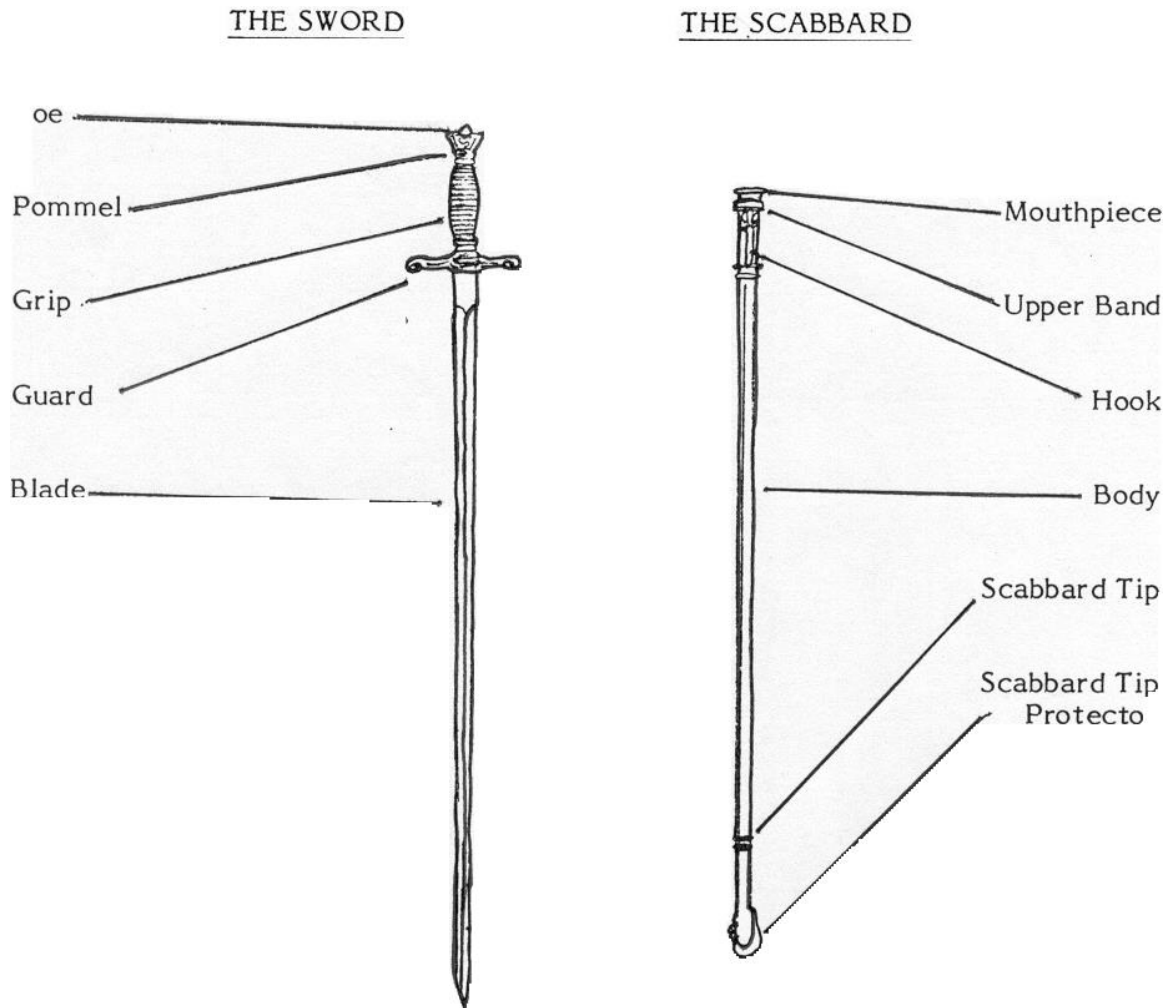
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Section I

MANUAL OF ARMS – SWORD

9-1. Description

- a. The cadet Sword is a French type weapon having a blade approximately 35 inches, varying to the height of the cadet. The correct length of the sword for an individual is determined at *Carry* when the point of the sword is opposite the lobe of the ear.
- b. The nomenclature for pertinent parts of the sword is as follows:



9-1.

9-2. General

- a. When worn, the scabbard is hooked into the adapter of the white sword belt or field belt. The belt is adjusted so that the sword hangs on the left side, the center of the grip at the point of the hip. When the sword is carried in the scabbard, the toe of the pommel is to the front. When marching at quick time the cadets will not hold the scabbard to steady it but will swing the left hand naturally.
- b. The sword may be carried in the scabbard while marching *at ease* or at *route step*. At all other times when in formation, cadets armed with the sword will carry the sword out of the scabbard and in the right hand.
- c. For movements of the manual of arms executed by the command, the staff executes the corresponding sword movement with the Commander.
- d. During the manual of arms at a parade, cadet company officers will assume the position of *Carry Sword* at the first preparatory command of the Cadet Battalion Commander and return to the position of *Order Sword* at this command or ***Order, ARMS***.
- e. The sword will be held with the thumb and the forefinger wrapped around the grip. The remaining fingers should be along side the grip to steady the blade.
- f. In subsequent instructions when the term grasp is used, it will mean the holding of the sword only sufficiently to execute the movement and will at no time mean the full grasp of the hand on the grip.
- g. In all movements requiring the raising or lowering of the sword to or from the *Carry Sword* or *Order Sword* positions, the right elbow should remain tucked at the side. These movements should be executed by simply flexing the elbow and moving the right hand the shortest possible distance to a position three inches in front of the chin. In none of these movements is the right arm swung to the front and up to the chin or the reverse.

NOTE: Except for *Present Sword*, *Inspection Sword* and *Eyes Right*, the movements for the sword manual are identical for cadet officers and noncommissioned officers.

9-3. Draw Sword

- a. *Draw Sword* is shown in figures 9-2,3,4,and 5 which is the sequence of executing the command. The final position is *Carry Sword*.

c. This sequence is as follows:

- (1) At the preparatory command **Draw** brush back the scabbard with the left hand keeping the hand in a vee shape and steadying the scabbard between the thumb and forefinger. Grasp the sword grip with the right hand as shown in figures 9-2 and 3. Note the scabbard is tilted rearward 45 degrees in the vertical plane and that the sword is partially drawn from the scabbard.



9.2



9-3.

- (2) At the command of execution **SWORD** (see figures 9-4 and 5) the sword is drawn upward so that it is a linear extension of the straightened right arm at an angle of 45 degrees to the horizontal and bisecting the body. The edge of the guard and the toe of the pommel should be on a horizontal line. The left hand drops the scabbard, permitting it to return to the normal position.

- (3) Make a short pause, then bring the sword down against the point of the shoulder to the position of Carry Sword. (Figures 9-6 and 9-7)



9-4



9-5

9-4. Carry Sword

- a. At *Carry Sword* (figures 9-6 and 9-7) the cadet is at the position of *Attention*. The sword is grasped in the right hand, with wrist as straight as possible and thumbs along the seam of the trouser. The point of the blade rests inside the point of the shoulder and not along the arm. The sword is held in this position by the

thumb and first finger, grasping the grip, and is steadied by the remaining fingers. Elbows should be tucked in along the sides.



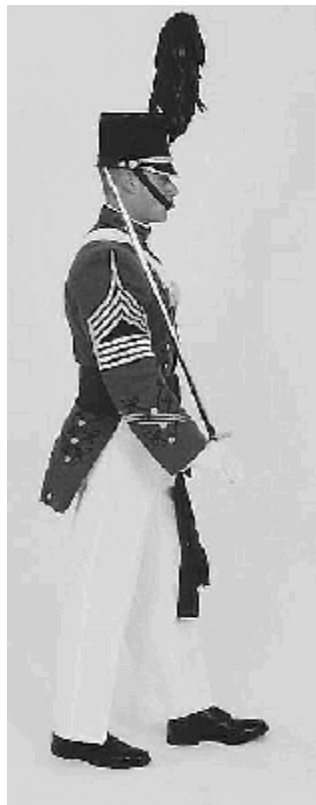
9-6.



9-7.

- b. Carry Sword is the position assumed under the following conditions:
- (1) To give commands.
 - (2) At the preparatory command for and while *marching at quick time*.
 - (3) Regimental and Battalion Commanders should order their respective staffs to *carry sword* prior to them doing an *about face* and giving commands.
 - (4) When there is a sequence of rifle manual movements, such as in a parade. In such a situation, company sword bearers come to *carry sword* at the preparatory command of the initial manual movement, and remain at *carry sword* until **Order, ARMS** is commanded. On the command of execution **ARMS**, company sword bearers execute *order sword*.
 - (5) At the preparatory command for and during the execution of the commands **Dress Right** and **Open Ranks**. *Order sword* is executed at the command of execution of **Ready, FRONT**.

- (6) Preparatory to returning sword.
 - (7) When officially addressing or when officially addressed by another, if sword is drawn.
 - (8) While being inspected. Exception: *Inspection Sword* (Noncommissioned Officers only). The position of *Inspection Sword* is assumed when rifle bearing cadets would execute *Inspection Arms*. At the command ***Inspection***, raise the grip to three inches opposite the center of the chin, blade tip inclined six inches further advanced than the grip. At the command **SWORD** (or **ARMS**) rotate the arm to the right, maintaining the same angle between the upper arm and the forearm, until the right hand with the palm to the front is on line with the right shoulder. The sword blade is perpendicular to the ground. At the preparatory command of ***Port*** (or ***Order***) return the sword to the position opposite the chin. At the command of execution, the sword is returned to *Carry*.
- c. While *marching*, the sword is carried as shown in figures 9-8 and 9-9, with the inner edge riding in the vertical plane along the tip of the shoulder. It should be noted that the wrist is flexed as the right arm swings in its normal *marching* arc.



9-8



9.9

9-5. Order Sword

- a. The position of *Order Sword* is assumed when in formations at *attention*, except as otherwise provided below.

b. At *Order Sword*, the cadet will be at the position of *attention*, the sword grasped in the right hand, the blade pointing directly to the front and the point of the blade about six inches off the ground, thumb along the seam of the trousers. (Figures 9-10 and 9-11)

c. Being at *Carry Sword*, bring the sword to the position of *Order* by dropping the point of the sword directly to the front.

d. Being at *Present Sword*:

- (1) Officers: Bring the sword to the position of *Order* by flipping the sword to the right.
- (2) Noncommissioned Officers: Return to the position of *Carry* at the preparatory command, then to *Order* at the command of execution.



9-10.



9-11.

9-6. Present Sword

a. The position of *Present Sword* is assumed to *salute* or to *present arms* when the sword is drawn, and in execution of *Eyes, RIGHT*, when *marching* past a reviewing officer or stand.

b. This position is also held only when the cadet is at *attention*.

- (1) Officers: The sword is grasped as at *Order Sword* with the flat of the blade to the front with the thumb on top of the grip. (Figures 9-14, 9-15, and 9-16)
- (2) Noncommissioned Officers: The sword is held with the center of the grip three inches in front of and opposite the chin, blade inclined to the front so that the point is six inches further advanced than the grip. (Figures 9-12 and 9-13)



9-12.



9-13.

c. To *Present Sword*:

- (1) Officers: Being at *Order Sword* or *Carry Sword*: At the command ***Present***, of ***Present SWORD***, bring the sword upward until the top of the grip is three inches in front of and opposite the chin, blade inclined to the front so that the point is six inches further advanced than the grip. At the command **SWORD** (or **ARMS**), carry the hand downward opposite the

seam of the right trouser leg, stopping it with a snap at the full downward extend of the arm, point of the sword six inches from the ground, the flat of the blade to the front.

- (2) Noncommissioned Officers: Being at *Order Sword*: At the command **Present**, of **Present**, **SWORD**, execute *Carry Sword*. At the command **SWORD** (or **ARMS**), bring the sword upward until the top of the grip is three inches in front of and opposite the chin, blade inclined to the front so that the point is six inches further advanced than the grip. Being at *Carry Sword*, there is no movement until the command **SWORD**; *Present Sword* is executed as described above.



9-14.



9-15.



9-16.

9-7. Eyes Right

- a. The movement *Eyes Right* is performed in two consecutive right steps.
- b. Officers: The preparatory command **Eyes** is given as the right foot strikes the ground. As the left foot strikes the ground, the Guidon and Officers perform the first movement of *Present Arms*. As the second right strikes the ground, the command **RIGHT** is given; the Guidon and Officers, as the next left foot

strikes the ground, perform the second movement of *Present Arms* and smartly snap their heads to the right. These movements must be anticipated carefully and executed immediately on the command of execution. Cadet Officers must swing their right arm naturally while at *Eyes Right*, flexing the wrist to keep the point of the sword approximately 6 inches off the ground at all times; the sword forming the same angle with the ground at all times. This requires an extending of the wrist on the forward movement and an elevating of the wrist on the rearward movements. (Figures 9-17 and 9-18)

c. Noncommissioned Officers: Noncommissioned Officers, as their left foot strikes the ground, after the command of execution, execute their one movement of *Present Arms* and snap their heads to the right.



9-17.



9-18.

9-8. Front

a. The movement of Ready Front is performed in two consecutive left steps.

b. Officers: The preparatory command is given as the left foot strikes the ground. As the next right foot strikes the ground, the sword is turned to the *Order position*. When the next left foot strikes the ground, the command of execution **FRONT** is given; as the next right foot strikes the ground, the sword is brought to the *Carry Sword* position and the head and eyes are turned to the front.

c. Noncommissioned Officers: *Carry Sword* is executed and the head and eyes are returned to the front as the right foot strikes the ground after the command of execution **FRONT** is given.

9-9. Parade Rest

a. From *Order Sword*: (Figure 9-19) At the command of execution the left foot is moved ten inches leftward of the right foot and the left hand is placed in the small of the back, fingers extended and joined, palm to the rear. At the command **ATTENTION**, the left hand and foot return to their original positions of *Order Sword*.

b. From *Carry Sword*: At the preparatory command of **Parade**, execute *Order Sword*. The remainder of *Parade Rest* is executed as described above.



9-19.

9-10. Port Arms

a. **Port ,ARMS** is executed for the command **Double Time, MARCH**, if swords are drawn. This position is assumed only from the *Carry Sword* position. The right arm swings naturally across and six inches in front of the body. The sword is canted 45 degrees from the vertical. The left hand grasps the scabbard. (Figure 9-20 and 9-21)



9-20.



9-21.

9-11. Return Sword

a. **Return, SWORD** is executed from the *Carry Sword* position in three counts as follows: (see figures 9-22, 9-23, 9-24, 9-25, and 9-26)

- (1) At the preparatory command **Return**, the sword is brought to a vertical upward position six inches from the left shoulder. (Figures 9-22 and 9-23)



9-22.



9-23.



9-24.



9-25.



9-26.

- (2) At the command of **SWORD**, the sword is pivoted downward on the guard while the left hand guides the point into the scabbard (figure 9-24) and the right arm moves slowly to the horizontal (figures 9-25 and 9-26), leaving about twelve inches of the blade exposed. Head and eyes are kept front throughout.
- (3) At the command **CUT**, the sword is thrust smartly into the scabbard, and both arms return to the position of *attention*.