

Distances

"Files open to your right (or left) to your Order!" (if the initial status was Close Order)

"Files close to your right (or left) to your Order!" (if the initial status was Open Order or wider)

"Files open (or close) to your right AND left to your Order!" (instead of files shifting to one side or the other, soldiers orient to the rank's midline)

"Ranks open forward (or backward) to your Order!" (if the initial status was Close Order)

"Ranks close forward (or backward) to your Order!" (if the initial status was Open Order or wider)

"Ranks open (or close) to front AND rear to your Order!" (instead of all shifting to the front or to the back, soldiers orient to the midline of their files; alternately, the command may be: "Ranks close to the middle to your Order!")

One could exchange 'Open Order' with 'Order' and vice versa

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Moving Wide Ranks Through Narrow Passages

"Upon my command, one file by the right (or left) cross that bridge (go through that gate, or whatever is the passage) and resume your order on the other side." That is followed by **"First file, march on! Second file, march on!"** And so on! For larger units, say, an entire battlefields formation or a marching column, designate divisions and substitute those division terms for 'File' above, as in: "Left division of musketeers, march on!"

"Files, file to the right." One file at a time, beginning with the right-most file, proceeds forward and then without further commands the next file falls in behind, and so on. The first command may be followed with **"As you were to this ground"** or **"Maintain one file."**

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*Countermarching**Maintain Ground*

“Files, by the left hand, countermarch to maintain ground.” File leader steps around to his left, essentially wheeling about tightly. Those behind follow and turn on the same ground.

Lose Ground

“Files, to the left, countermarch, every many turning after his leader.”

Files countermarch with every soldier turning to his left after the soldier immediately in front on the ground he stands.

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Wheeling

“Wheel to the right from the right file leader” or (“Wheel to the left from the left file leader”) By 'Wheeling,' a unit changes its direction, not simply each soldier. Any “wheel” maneuver has a hub, around that pivot point everyone rotates, and motion is in an arc, not a line.

“Wheel to the right/left from this place.” Wheeling upon an angle utilizes a pivot point outside the unit. When engaging this type of wheel or any other type, always first consider the pivot point.

“Wheel to the right/left on the same ground.” Unit pivots around a central point such as a soldier in the middle of the first rank. About half the soldiers step backwards but it requires less space than other methods of wheeling.

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Doubling

“Bringers-up, to the left/right double ranks.” Bringer-Up moves forward to his left (or right) to stand alongside the File Leader of the original file and the Half-File Leader falls in behind that man to stand beside who has become the last man of the first file.

Reduction: **“Those who had been half-files, face about to the left/right and march forth to your places.”**

“Half-files, double your front by division, (or double ranks to the left/right).” Half-File Leader moves forward to his left (or right) to stand alongside his FileLeader. Others of the half-file behind follow him.

Reduction: **“Those who had been half-files, face about to the left/right and march forth to your places.”**

“Ranks to the Right Double.” Insert the second rank into the first (and the fourth rank into the third, and so on, even-numbered ranks stepping forward into the odd numbered).

Reduction: **“Ranks, as you were”** or **“Files to the left, double.”**

“Half Files, double your front inward intire.” Front ranks (consisting of the front Half Files) split apart at their midline, followed by rear ranks (consisting of the rear Half Files) step in to fill that just-created opening.

Reduction: **“Rear Half Files face about and march. Front Half Files, close your division. Face all to your leader.”**

“Double your files to the left/right intire, advancing.” Even numbered files place themselves in front of odd numbered files to decrease the number of original files by half.

Reduction: **“Files that doubled, face about to the left. March forward to your places.”**

“Half-ranks to the right/left, by countermarch double your left/right flank.” Led by the right-most, each soldier in that half rank will turn and do a losing-ground countermarch to place themselves behind the stationary half rank.

Reduction: **“Half ranks that doubled, face to your right and march forth into your places.”**

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Musketeers engaging by file

“Outermost files of musketeers, to this ground, march on and present.”

Then **“Give Fire.”** After all in those files have fired, then **“ Outermost files dress ranks with pike, and next outermost files march on to this ground.”**

“Outermost files of musketeers, to this ground, march on.” Then that’s followed by the most important command of the sequence: **“Rank inward and present.”** Then **“Give fire.”** After firing, musketeers are instructed: **“To the right and left, wheel off and as single files place yourselves next to the pike.”**

Musketeers engaging by rank

“Musketeers, foremost two ranks march on to this ground.” Then **“Present. Give fire.”** After firing, the musketeers are instructed **“First Rank, wheel off and retire to the rear of your files.”** Next the second rank presents, gives fire, and is told similarly. Then the next two ranks step up quickly.