

**MANUAL OF ARMS
FOR THE
ESPONTOON**



**THE OLD GUARD FIFE AND DRUMS
UNITED STATES ARMY
3D U.S. INFANTRY**

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The RDMA would like to express it's gratitude to Drum Major Bob DuFour of the [Kentish Guards](#) for providing this original Old Guard Espontoon Manual; and to [the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps](#) for graciously granting us permission to reprint this manual.

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I. Position of Attention and Salute



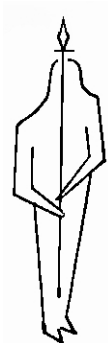
Position of Attention

The Esponentoon is grasped in the right hand at the approximate center of the staff. Hand is turned in slightly and held level with sternum and in center of chest. Thumb is extended upward, supporting the Esponentoon. Esponentoon crosses body from right to left.



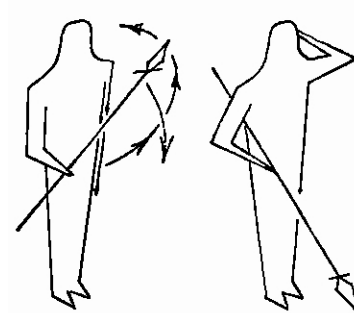
First Movement of Salute

Extend Esponentoon outward to right side of body with Esponentoon in vertical position. At the same time grasp the Esponentoon with the left hand just below the right hand.



Second Movement of Salute

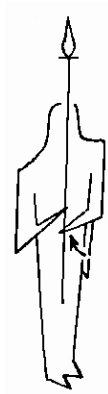
Move right hand to position just below the left hand. Bring left hand down to side.



Third Movement of Salute

Snap Esponentoon downward with right hand. At the same time swing left arm outward from side. When arm is level with ground swing forearm only, up to position shown. Finger tips point to temple. Palm faces outward.

II. Recovery from Salute



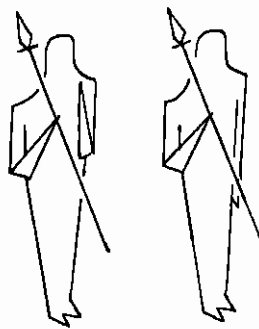
First Movement of Recovery from Salute

Bring Esponentoon to vertical position in center of body. At the same time bring left hand down to side. Immediately bring left hand up to grasp Esponentoon just below right hand



Second Movement of Recovery from Salute

Release grip of right hand leaving hand in position. With left hand tilt Esponentoon to carrying position. Drop Esponentoon from Left hand and immediately catch it in right hand.



Third Movement of Recovery from Salute

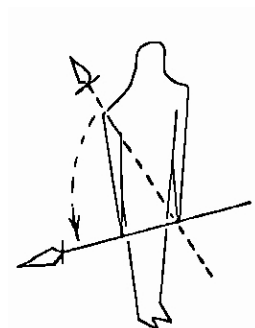
Upon catching Esponentoon, immediately snap left hand to position just in front of left shoulder. (This movement may be eliminated if desired) Return left hand to side. You are now in a position of attention.

III Step-Off Signal



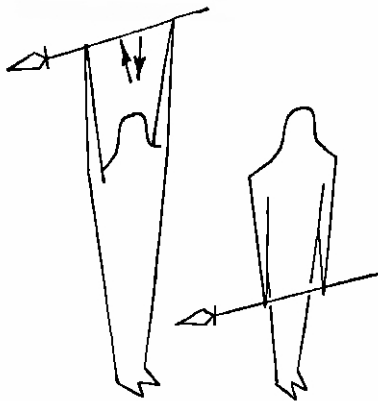
First Movement of Step-Off Signal

From position of attention extend Espontoon to front center. At the same time grasp Espontoon with left hand between right hand and bottom of staff.



Second Movement of Step-Off Signal

Allow Espontoon to fall to the right and catch it with the right hand.



Third Movement of Step-Off Signal

Bring Espontoon over head, arms fully extended. Bend arms at elbows and snap back to extended position. Then bring Espontoon down to knees, arms extended as at end of movement two. (These two movements are executed in cadence to give troops correct cadence to step off with)



Fourth Movement of Step-Off Signal

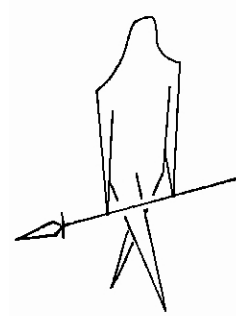
Step off and at same time snap Espontoon up with right hand so as to catch it with right hand in carrying position. Espontoon should be caught on first left foot. Left hand is returned to side on next left foot.

IV. Halt Signal



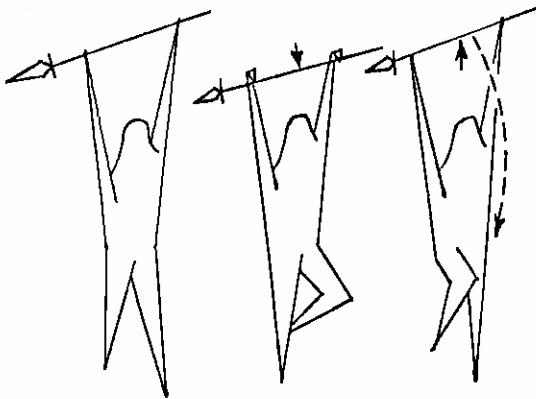
First Movement of Halt

Movement is executed on left foot. Extend Espontoon to front, center and grasp it with left hand between right hand and bottom of staff



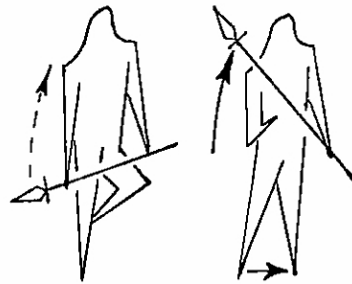
Second Movement of Halt

On next left, drop Espontoon to right and catch it with right hand. Espontoon should be caught and movement is completed when left heel hits ground.



Third Movement of Halt

On next left foot raise Espontoon overhead, arms extended fully. Pick up mark-time on next right. When ready, dip Espontoon with downward flip of wrist. This is done on the right foot. On the next left foot flip wrists upward and then bring Espontoon to knees, as at end of Second Movement, as next right foot hits ground.

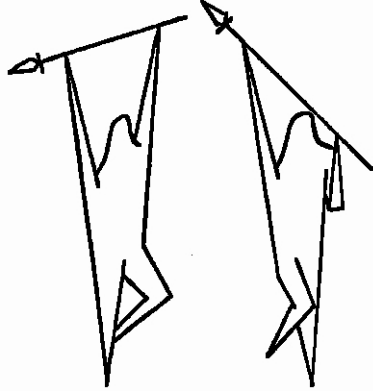


Fourth Movement of Halt

When next left foot hits the ground snap Espontoon up so as to catch it with the right hand in carrying position as right foot is brought in to left foot for halt. Left hand is returned to side on next beat.

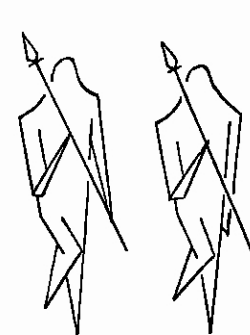
V. Mark-Time Signal

The first two movements of the Mark-Time signal are the same those of the halt signal. Description of the Mark-Time Signal begins on the third movement.



Third Movement of Mark-Time Signal

On left foot Espontoon is raised overhead, arms fully extended. On next left foot, drop left end of Espontoon to shoulder leaving right arm extended. Hold for two measures.



Fourth Movement of Mark-Time Signal

On left foot lower Espontoon to carrying position. Left hand is still grasping butt end of Espontoon. Return left hand to side on next left foot.

VI. Ready-Step Signal



First Movement of Ready-Step Signal

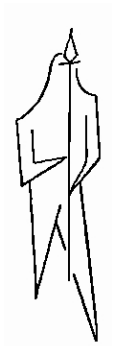
When ready to move out from mark-time raise left hand over head. Arm is extended fully when left foot hits ground.



Second Movement of Ready-Step Signal

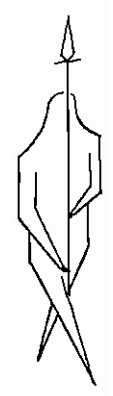
Drop arm to side so arm is at side on next left foot. Step off on next left foot.

VII. Cut Signal



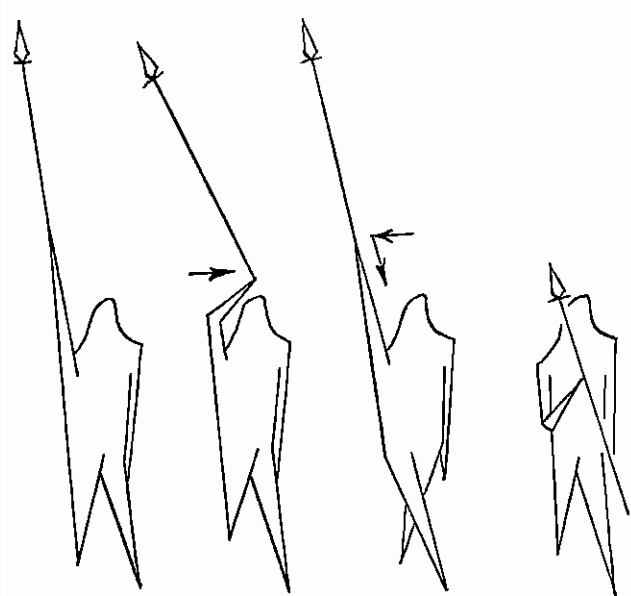
First Movement of Cut Signal

Extend Espontoon to front and center of body and grasp with left hand between right hand and bottom of staff



Second Movement of Cut Signal

Grasp Espontoon near butt with right hand and raise Espontoon overhead, and extended fully, so that Espontoon is vertical, leaning slightly to right.



Third Movement of Cut Signal

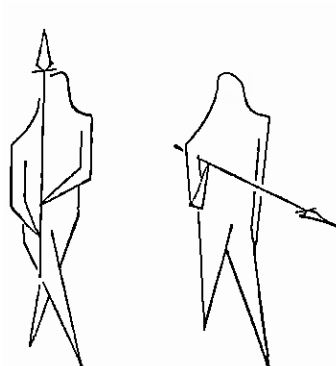
Bring Espontoon half-way across body (even with head) so that movement is ended on left foot. Then bring Espontoon back to position as right foot hits ground. Snap Espontoon downward across body so as to catch it with right hand in carrying position as left foot hits ground.

VIII. Right-Turn Signal



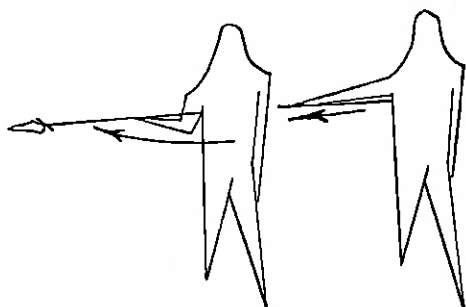
First Movement of Right-Turn

Extend Esponton to right, front side of body grasping it at the same time with left hand just below the right hand. Movement is completed as left foot hits ground



Second Movement of Right-Turn

On next right foot grasp Esponton with right hand just below left hand. On next left foot return left hand to side as you snap butt of Esponton into armpit. Esponton is now extended horizontally to the front. Snap head to right at same time.



Third Movement of Right-Turn

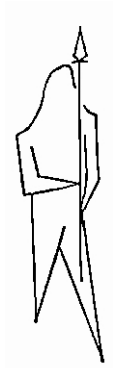
As you approach point at which you turn, swing Esponton to right until it extends outward from side. When ready to execute turn, thrust Esponton outward on left foot, arm extends fully.



Fourth Movement of Right-Turn

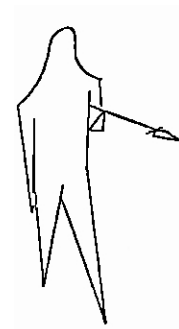
After completing turn start to swing Esponton upward on left foot so it is vertical on the right foot. On next left foot bring Esponton to center of body and grasp with left hand. Tilt Esponton with left hand and grasp with right hand in carrying position. Return left hand to side on next left foot.

IX. Left-Turn Signal



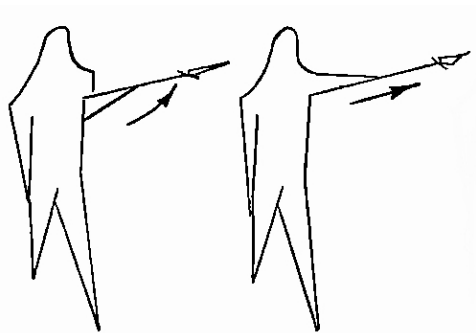
First Movement of Left-Turn Signal

Extend Espontoon to front, left of body, grasping it at the same time with the left hand. Complete movement on the left foot



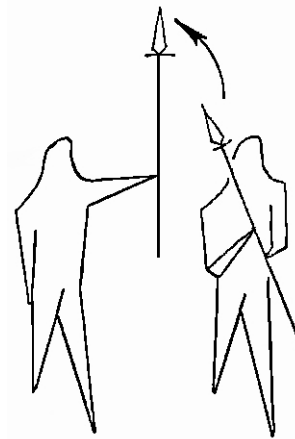
Second Movement of Left-Turn Signal

Return right hand to side on next right foot and snap Espontoon into armpit on next left foot. Snap head to left at same time



Third Movement of Left-Turn Signal

While approaching point at which to turn swing Espontoon to left until it extends outward to side. When ready to turn thrust Espontoon outward on left foot and execute turn



Fourth Movement of Left-Turn Signal

After completing turn start to swing Espontoon upward on left foot so it is vertical on right foot. On next left foot bring Espontoon to center of body and grasp with left hand. Tilt Espontoon with left hand and grasp with right hand in carrying position. Return left hand to side on next left foot.

X. Counter March Signal



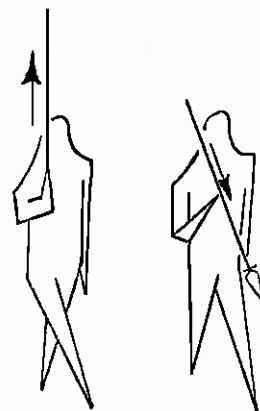
First Movement of Counter March Signal

Pivot the Espontoon to the left so as to catch it with the left hand, palm downward, as the left foot hits the ground. Continue to pivot the Espontoon and catch it with the right hand just above head as right foot hits ground.



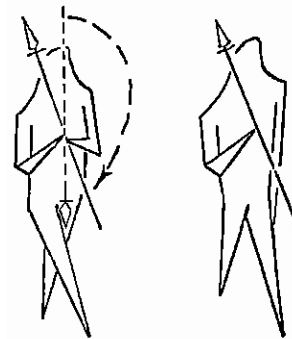
Second Movement of Counter March Signal

As next left foot hits ground raise inverted Espontoon up so that head rests on forearm. Upper arm is level with ground and extended to the front.



Third Movement of Counter-March Signal

When ready to execute counter-march raise Espontoon slightly on right foot to prepare troops. Drop the Espontoon and catch it with right hand in middle of staff on next left foot. Execute counter-march on next right and extend Espontoon while passing through troops.



Fourth Movement of Counter-March Signal

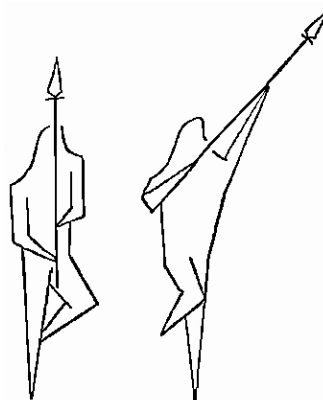
After passing last rank, pivot Espontoon to left so as to catch it just below right hand as left foot hits ground. Continue to pivot Espontoon and grasp it with right hand in carrying position as right foot hits ground. Return left hand to side as left foot hits ground.

XI. Troop Signal



First Movement of Troop Signal

Extend Espontoon to front, centered on body, grasping it at the same time with the left hand just below the right hand. Complete movement on left foot.



Second Movement of Troop Signal

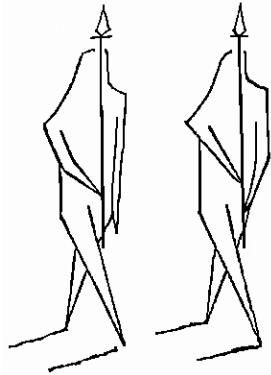
On next right foot grasp Espontoon with right hand between left hand and bottom of staff. On next left foot raise Espontoon up so that left arm is extended up and to the left. Right hand is holding bottom of Espontoon at center of body just below head. Espontoon leans to the left resting on the palm on left hand. Hold for about two measures.



Third Movement of Troop Signal

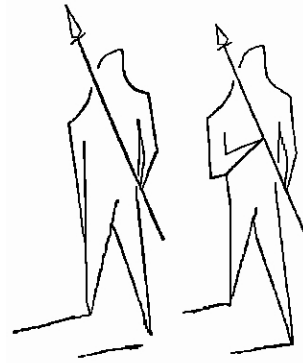
On left foot bring Espontoon down to front, centered on body. On next left raise Espontoon over head for cut signal. Give cut signal and begin troop

XII. Recovery from Salute while Trooping



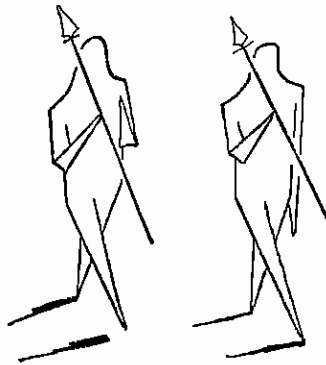
First Movement of Recovery from Salute while Trooping

When first right foot of troop is snapped out drop salute and swing Espartoon to vertical position, arm extended to front. When foot touches ground grasp Espartoon with slapping motion just below right hand.



Second Movement of Recovery from Salute while Trooping

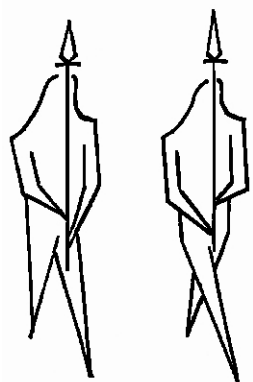
As next left foot is snapped out bring right hand to side tilt Espartoon to carrying position with left hand. As foot touches ground grasp the Espartoon with right hand as in carrying position.



Third Movement of Recovery from Salute while Trooping

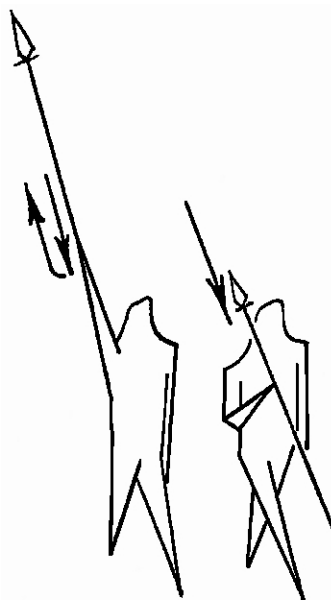
As right foot is snapped out bring left hand to position just in front of the left shoulder. As foot touches ground drop left hand to side.

XII. Recovery from Salute while Trooping (Continued)



Fourth Movement of Recovery from Salute while Trooping

As next left foot touches ground extend Espontoon to front and grasp it with left hand between right hand and bottom of staff. As next right foot touches the ground grasp Espontoon near butt with right hand



Fifth Movement of Recovery from Salute while Trooping

As next left foot touches the ground, raise Espontoon over head and snap it up with wrist on next beat. Throw Espontoon downward across body and catch it in carrying position as right foot hits ground.