




C H A P. XIII.

Of detachments, visiting the Soldiers quarters, and the Hospital.

A R T I C L E I.

 ALL detachments which are sent from a garrison, are either to guard posts which lie at a distance from the place, for escorts, or parties.

The detachments are composed of an equal number of Officers and Soldiers from the Regiments in garrison, as is done for the town-guard; but is a separate duty from it, and a roll is kept apart by the Town-Major.

When a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign, are commanded, they order the eldest Regiment to give a Captain, the second Regiment the Lieutenant, and the third Regiment the Ensign, with an equal proportion of men from each Regiment in the garrison. When another Captain is ordered, he is taken from the second Regiment, and so on till every Regiment has given one, and then it begins again with the eldest. The same method is observed by the Lieutenants, Ensigns, and Serjeants.

There is no roll kept for the Drummers, because the Regiments send as many Drummers as they have Officers ordered on Duty: so that what ever guard, or detachment, an Officer is posted to, he takes his own Drummer along with him; which is a standing rule, both in camp and garrison.

Every Battalion, whether strong or weak, furnishes an equal proportion of Officers and Soldiers to all detachments; whereas, in the town-guards, they are so far

far indulged sometimes, as to give only in proportion to their numbers, when the disproportion between them is very considerable; occasioned by the loss of men in action, violent sickness, or from the different establishments as to Numbers: for it would be highly unreasonable that a Battalion of 400 men should do equal duty with one of 600. But if their establishment is the same, and that they have not one of the above reasons to plead, or that the difference in numbers is but inconsiderable, they must then do the town duty equal with one another, as well as all detachments.

The ordinary complement of a Captain, when detached, is a Lieutenant, Ensign, two Serjeants, two Drummers, and forty-five or fifty men, Corporals included.

A Lieutenant has a Serjeant, Drummer, and twenty-five or thirty men,

An Ensign has a Serjeant, Drummer, and twenty or twenty-four men.

A Serjeant has twelve, fifteen, or eighteen men; but on detachment always eighteen men.

When a Serjeant is detached from a Garrison, he should never have less than eighteen men; because it is a rule with the *French*, and their neighbours, never to send out a party of a smaller number; and whenever they seize a party under it, they treat them like Party-Blews, or robbers, unless they should have lost some of their men, which will appear by their order or route.

A Major's command is from one hundred and fifty men to three hundred.

A Lieutenant-Colonel's from four hundred men to six hundred.

A Colonel's from six hundred men to eight hundred, or a thousand.

But notwithstanding the ordinary complement above-mentioned, yet an Officer must not scruple to march with a much smaller number, when the king's service requires it; they are likewise often commanded with a greater number, than what is mentioned: however,

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when the command comes up to, or exceeds a thousand men, they appoint general officers to command them, in proportion to the number detached, all which must depend on the will of the Governor, or Commandant of the place.

They generally send a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Major along with a Colonel when he is detached; but always one Field-Officer with him, if there are any; when a Colonel is commanded he takes his own Adjutant with him.

A R T I C L E II.

If an Officer, after he has marched his detachment beyond the outermost barrier of the place, should be ordered to return, it passes for a duty; but if he should be ordered back before he has passed the Barrier, it will not be allowed as a duty; but must go with the next that is commanded; for his marching off from the Parade does not excuse him, as a great many imagine: it holds the same with the private men.

If an Officer's tour of duty to mount the Guard should come while he is on detachment, he is not obliged to take it when he returns; but if he comes into town the day that he is to mount, and that his detachment is dismissed before the guards are marched off from the parade, he must then mount the guard, without any difficulty or scruple.

All parties or detachments of infantry which are sent out of a garrison, should not consist of less than nineteen men, that is, a Serjeant and eighteen private Soldiers. But unless there is a necessity for their sending no more, they should not detach less than an Officer and twenty-five men.

All parties are to have a passport, or order, in writing, signed by the Governor or Commandant of the garrison, and sealed with his coat of arms; in failure of which, should they be taken, they will not be treated like prisoners of war, but left to the discretion of the enemy;

enemy; and the Governor to whom they belonged, has no right to claim them.

If a party under nineteen men are taken, and have not a pass under the Governor's hand and seal to shew that there were so many detached, they will be treated as abovementioned, and condemned by a court-martial, either to the galleys for life; or a punishment equally as bad.

This custom, I presume, is only to prevent a smaller number from being detached, who can only be sent to pillage and steal, which is looked upon, by all sides, as an ungenerous way of making war, since it can only make a few people unhappy, without contributing any thing to the service, or the bringing the war to a conclusion.

It is likewise to prevent Party-Blews, which are parties of robbers, who sometimes dress themselves like soldiers, and plunder every one they meet, without distinction; for which reason, they are always hanged by both sides when taken: therefore, to distinguish real parties from those, it is absolutely necessary that they should have passports signed and sealed by the Governor, or Commandant of the garrison.

Another reason, why smaller parties than nineteen men ought not to be sent, may proceed from the danger of their being overpowered by a Party-Blew, or the peasants.

Though the rules abroad declare positively, that any party which shall be taken, consisting of less than nineteen men, shall be treated like Party-Blews; yet, I think, it can never be taken in the literal sense, but must mean, that if they are sent out with less, they will be treated in that manner: for as action, sickness, or desertion, may reduce a greater party under that number, it would be the height of barbarity to use those ill, who remained, for a crime which they were not guilty of: therefore it cannot be doubted, in my opinion, but the producing their passport will clear them, and make them be used like prisoners of war.

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When an Officer, who commands a party, is obliged to send a detachment from his party, either out of his sight or call, he is not to send less than a Serjeant and eighteen men; to whom he must give an exact copy of his passport, with directions what they are to perform, and the time they are to return to him, or the garrison, writ under the said passport. It is therefore presumed, that an Officer who has not the command of forty men or upwards, will not send a party out of his sight or call, otherwise he will be left with a smaller number than the custom of war allows of.

All parties or detachments must return to their garrison punctually at the time appointed; unless they are prevented by the enemy's getting between them and home, and, in order to avoid them, are obliged to retire to the next place of safety, or go a great way about for fear of being taken: in which case, an Officer is not only excusable for staying beyond the time, but deserves thanks for his care and conduct.

The time limited, with the number of Officers and Soldiers, is always inserted in the pass or order; and for the most part, the service which they are employed on, is likewise mentioned: however that may be committed to a particular paper, and only communicated to the commanding Officer of the detachment, when the service they are sent on requires secrecy.

A R T I C L E III.

There must be a Serjeant and a Corporal of each Company orderly for a week, the Serjeants and Corporals taking it in their turns to perform this duty; which, however, does not excuse them from mounting of the guard, or going on party, when their tour comes for either. When this happens, the Serjeant or Corporal, who is to be on the orderly duty next, must perform the orderly duty for them, till they are relieved, or that their orderly time expires; after which they commence the orderly duty for themselves: neither are the orderly

Serjeants or Corporals, who are on guard or party during their orderly week, obliged to repay the orderly duty, which is done for them during that time, when they return; it being a fixed rule for those who are next in turn to perform it, without being repaid it.

The orderly Serjeants and Corporals are to receive all orders which shall be delivered, either to the garrison in general, or to the Regiment and Company they belong to in particular, and deliver them to their Officers.

They are to march the men of their Companies, who are to mount the guard, to their Captain's quarters, to be viewed by one of their Officers, before they are sent to the Regimental-Parade; and if they carry any man that has not his arms, ammunition, clothes, and accoutrements in good order, they are answerable to their Officers for it, and liable to be punished for the same; in order to avoid which, they must inspect these things before they present the men to their Officers. They are to march them from thence to the Regimental-Parade; and deliver them to the Adjutant of the Regiment, who is to examine the men again, to see that they are in order, and that he has his complement. After this, they are to attend the Adjutant till the guards are marched from the grand-parade, that if any orders are to be delivered that morning, either from the Governor, or their Colonel, they may be ready to receive them.

They are to remain constantly at their caserns or barracks, when they are not employed in receiving or delivering of orders, and carrying their men to the parade, as abovementioned, that they may be ready to execute all commands which shall come at any time from the Governor or their Colonel.

They must take care to keep six or eight men of a Company, of those who are to go first on duty, always in the way, in case there are any ordered for parties, or any other occasion, for which they may be wanted; and when any men are ordered, they must see that their arms, ammunition, &c. are in good order, before they go to the parade, and take care to provide them with
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ammunition-bread and pay for the number of days they are to be out on party, or that proportion of both which shall be ordered for them. The Corporals are to march the men to the parade, and deliver them to the Adjutant, and the Serjeants may remain at their barracks, (unless they are employed in getting the money and bread for them) there being no occasion for their going with any men to the parade, but these who mount in the morning, without the rules of the garrison order it otherwise.

They are likewise to see that the men keep the caserns or barracks very clean and in good order, and that the utensils belonging to them are neither spoiled nor lost. They are to make the men sweep their rooms very clean every morning, and make their beds; and afterwards to wash themselves very clean, and dress in a Soldier-like way, by having their shoes well blacked, their stockings and cravats well rolled, their hats cocked, their hair dressed, and their clothes brushed and put on to the best advantage; but till these things are done, they are not to suffer them to leave their quarters, that they may not appear slovenly in the streets.

They are to call over the roll of their Companies as often as it shall be ordered, and make a report of the absent men to their own Officers and the Adjutant, that they may be punished for it.

They must go through every room immediately after *Tat-100*, and oblige the men to put out their fire and candle, and go to bed.

The men of each Company should be divided into messes, each mess consisting of four or six men, or according to the number in each room; and every pay-day, each man should be obliged to appropriate such a part of his pay to buy provisions, which money should be lodged in the hands of one of them, in order to be laid out to the best advantage, which the orderly Serjeants and Corporals are to see duly executed, and make each mess boil the pot every day. Without this is carefully looked into, the Soldiers will be apt to spend their

pay on liquor, which will not only occasion their neglect of duty, but, in all probability, the loss of a great many men by sickness; for want of proper victuals to support them. It is therefore a duty incumbent on every Officer, to be more than ordinarily careful in this particular, and not to think themselves above the looking into these things, since the preservation of their men depends so much on it! for in those Regiments where this method is duly observed, the men are generally healthful; but when it is neglected, great numbers fall sick and die.

The Captains should visit their mens quarters at least once a week, and the Subalterns twice; to see that they are kept clean and in good order; as also to inspect into the several messes of their Companies, and to see whether their provisions are good, and the money laid justly out.

In some Regiments there is an Officer appointed daily to visit the caserns or barracks of the Regiment; to see that they are kept clean, and that the men dress their victuals, and to make a report of the whole to the Colonel; however, that should not prevent the other Officers from looking into it also.

The Major should visit the whole very often, that he may know whether the other Officers do their duty, and reprimand those who neglect it; it being his immediate business and duty, to see all orders punctually obeyed.

A R T I C L E IV.

In all garrisons, there is an Officer of a Regiment ordered to visit their sick men daily. They are to examine nicely into the manner their men are treated, and if they are kept clean; what medicines and diet they have given them, taste their bread and broth, and see their proportion of bread and meat, and enquire of them how they are used; a report of which; with the number belonging to each Company, they are to make to their Colonels.

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Besides this Regimental inspection, the Governor appoints an Officer or two of the garrison to visit the hospital, to see how the men are treated, with the number belonging to each Regiment, and to make him a report of the whole.

A Captain, who has any regard for his men, will not think these general visits sufficient; but will go from time to time himself, and enquire into their state, and send his Officers and Serjeants to do the same. There are a great many little things which may save the life of a poor sick Soldier, and which they cannot have but from their own Officers; so that unless they go to see them, they may perish for the want of them; therefore common humanity requires this duty of us even to strangers, but much more so to those who are immediately under our care, and share the danger of the war with us.

There is one rule which should be strictly observed, which is, not to suffer the men to continue too long in the hospital; but to take them from thence as soon as possibly they can: for it often happens, when they stay too long after they are recovered, that they relapse and die; occasioned by the badness of the air, which must be, in some degree, infested by the breath of the sick, in spite of all the care that can be taken to prevent it. But the least evil that can happen by their remaining too long in the hospital is, that they will thereby contract a slothful, lazy, idle habit, and turn, according to the military phrase, *Malingers*; that is, men who have lost all spirit to the service, and feign themselves sick when there is a prospect of action, or that they are to undergo any hardship or fatigue, in order to be sent to the hospital; which life, through habit, becomes agreeable to them.

When there is no publick hospital; there should be some rooms in the quarters appointed for the sick men, to which they may be removed, lest they infect the others; and that the Surgeon of the Regiment may

attend them with the more ease. They should likewise have nurses appointed to attend them, and proper care taken about their diet ; and, unless the distemper is of a very malignant nature, I am of opinion, that they should not be sent to the hospital upon every slight indisposition, but removed into the infirmary of the Regiment, the air of which must be much purer than the other, and therefore there is a greater probability of their quick recovery. Besides, the evil above complained of, will be avoided ; which is an article of no small consideration to the service.

