

Transcription of an excerpt from “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States”

Below is an excerpt from “Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States,” a drill manual written by General Von Steuben. The book was used to train the Continental Army while they were encamped at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. The regulations laid out in the manual allowed for men who were not professional soldiers to be trained in a uniform and comprehensive way. The training the army received at Valley Forge would contribute to the Continental Army’s later successes on the battlefield and eventual winning of the Revolutionary War.

CHAP. III.

Of the Formation of a Company.

(Plate I. Figure i.)

A COMPANY is to be formed in two ranks, at one pace distance, with the tailed men in the rear, and both ranks fixed, with the shortest men of each in the centre. A company thus drawn up is to be divided into two sections or platoons ; the captain to take post on the right of the first platoon, covered by a sergeant : the lieutenant on the right of the second platoon, also covered by a sergeant ; the ensign four paces behind the centre of the company ; the first sergeant two paces behind the centre of the first platoon, and the eldest corporal two paces behind the second platoon ; the other two corporals are to be on the flanks of the front rank.

Translate the above excerpt into your own language in the space below:

CH A P. IV.

Of the Formation of a Regiment.

(Plate I. Figure t. and 3.)

A REGIMENT is to consist of eight companies, which are to be polled in the following order, from right to left,

First captain's*
Colonel's.
Fourth captain's.
Major's.
Third captain's.
Lieutenant colonel's.
Fifth captain's.
Second captain's.

For the greater facility in manoeuvring, each regiment consisting of more than one hundred and sixty files, is to be formed in two battalions, (fig. 2.) with an interval of twenty paces between them, and one colour posted in the centre of each battalion ; the colonel fifteen paces before the centre of the first battalion ; the lieutenant-colonel fifteen paces before the centre of the second battalion ; the major fifteen paces behind the interval of the two battalions ; the adjutant two paces from the major ; the drum and fife-major two paces behind the centre of the first battalion ; their places behind the second battalion being supplied by a drum and fife ; and the other drums and fifes equally divided on the wings of each battalion.

In the space below, or the back of this paper, attempt to draw a map of the formation described above. Feel free to create your own symbols and accompanying key to represent specific people or places described in the excerpt.