
I N S T R U C T I O N S .

Instructions for the Commandant of a Regiment.

THE state having entrusted him with the care of a regiment, his greatest ambition should be to have it at all times and in every respect as complete as possible: To do which, he should pay great attention to the following objects:

The preservation of the soldiers health should be his first and greatest care; and as that depends in a great measure on their cleanliness and manner of living, he must have a watchful eye over the officers of companies, that they pay the necessary attention to their men in those respects.

The only means of keeping the soldiers in order is, to have them continually under the eyes of their superiors; for which reason the commandant should use the utmost severity to prevent their straggling from their companies,
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and never suffer them to leave the regiment without being under the care of a non-commissioned officer, except in cases of necessity. And in order to prevent any man's being absent from the regiment without his knowledge, he must often count the files, and see that they agree with the returns delivered him, strictly obliging every man returned fit for duty to appear under arms on all occasions; and if any are missing, he must oblige the commanding officer of the company to account for their absence. In a word, the commandant ought to know upon what duty and where every man of his regiment is. To these points the other field officers must also pay attention.

The choice of non-commissioned officers is also an object of the greatest importance: The order and discipline of a regiment depends so much upon *their* behaviour, that too much care cannot be taken in preferring none to that trust but those who by their merit and good conduct are entitled to it. Honesty, sobriety, and a remarkable attention to every point of duty, with a neatness in their dress, are indispensable requisites; a spirit to command respect and obedience from the men, an expertness in performing every part of the exercise, and an ability to
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teach it, are also absolutely necessary; nor can a serjeant or corporal be said to be qualified who does not write and read in a tolerable manner.

Once every month the commandant should make a general inspection of his regiment, examine into the state of the men, their arms, ammunition, accoutrements, necessaries, camp utensils, and every thing belonging to the regiment, obliging the commanding officers of companies to account strictly for all deficiencies.

He should also once every month assemble the field officers and the eldest captain, to hold a council of administration; in which should be examined the books of the several companies, the pay-master and quarter-master, to see that all receipts and deliveries are entered in proper order, and the affairs of the regiment duly administered.

All returns of the regiment being signed by the commanding officer, he should examine them with the greatest care before he suffers them to go out of his hands.

The commandant must always march and encamp with his regiment; nor must he permit
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any officer to lodge out of camp, or in a house, except in case of sickness.

On a march he must keep his regiment together as much as possible, and not suffer the officers to leave their platoons without his permission; nor permit any of them, on any pretence whatsoever, to mount on horseback. There is no fatigue the soldiers go through that the officers should not share; and on all occasions they should set them examples of patience and perseverance.

When a regiment is on a march, the commandant will order a serjeant and six men into the rear, to bring up all stragglers; and the serjeant, on his arrival in camp or quarters, must make his report to him.

In a word, the commanding officer of a regiment must preserve the strictest discipline and order in his corps, obliging every officer to a strict performance of his duty, without relaxing in the smallest point; punishing impartially the faults that are committed, without distinction of rank or service.