

FOOT MARCHING

A Selected Bibliography of MHI Sources

CONTENTS

General Sources....p.1
Marching Pace....p.3
Goose Step....p.4
Notable Marches....p.5

GENERAL SOURCES

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pp. 7-8 & 87-89. ML1311C35.
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- Coats, Stephen D. "The 'Truscott Trot': Training For Operation Husky, 1943." Combined Arms...
Ft Leavenworth: CGSC, 1992. pp. 277-82. U260C66.
Commander's emphasis on rigorous training & hard marching paid off.
- Crittenden, Thomas L. "Marches." Jrnl Mil Service Inst US (Mar/Dec 1880): pp. 33-41. Per.
Dedpores contemporary achievements versus ancient examples.
- Eastwood, Harold E. "What's New in Marching?" Cav Jrnl (Jul/Aug 1939): pp. 321-25. Per.
- Farrow, Edward S. Farrow's Military Encyclopedia. 2d ed. Vol. II. NY: Mil-Naval Pub, 1895.
pp. 269-72. U24F221v2.
- Frost, Holloway. "A Cavalry March." Cav Jrnl (Jul/Aug 1931): p. 29. Per.
- Furse, George Armand. The Art of Marching. London: Clowes, 1901. 584 p. U176F99 & UD310F8.
Treatise on foot and mounted marches.
- Halleck, H. Wager. Elements of Military Art and Science.... NY: Appleton, 1862. pp. 97-103.
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- Huston, James A. "Hitchhiking to Battle: The Lost Art of Marching." Army (May 1989): pp. 46-50.

Per.

Selectively surveys history of 20th century tactical marching.

Foot Marching

p.2

- Johnson, Sardee S., ed. Cadences: The Jody Call Book, No. 2. Canton, OH: Daring Books, 1986. 153 p. ML1628C32.
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- Regnault, M. Felix. Comment on Marché. Paris: Charles-Lavauzelle, n.d. 188 p. UD310R4.
- Reno, William W. A Ready Means of Increasing the Marching Radius of the Soldier. Reprint from Mil Surgeon. Wash, DC: Assn of Mil Surgeons, 1910. 11 p. UC490R29.
Podiatric emphasis.
- Richard, August. La Marché du Fantassin. Paris: Baudoin, 1897. 100 p. UD310R5.
- Rochfort, Richard. Treatise on the Marches and Movements of Armies. London: Printed for James Ridgeway, 1807. 94 p. U164R6313RareBook.
- Rustemeyer, Joseph H. "Teaching the Soldier to Walk." Inf Jrnl (Sep/Oct 1932): p. 358. Per.
- Scholtz, Gerhard. Marsch-Schule. Berlin: Bernard & Graefe, 1935. 131 p. UD315G3S36.
- Scott, H.L. Military Dictionary.... NY: Van Nostrand, 1864. pp. 401-07. Ref.
- Steindler, Arthur. "Marching Efficiency." Mil Surgeon (Mar 1940): pp. 256-63. Per.
- _____. "On Marching Efficiency." Mil Surgeon (May 1937): pp. 377-84. Per.
- "Traditions Continue in 53rd Inauguration." Army (May 1997): pp. 38-41. Per.
- U.S. Dept of Army. Foot Marches: Field Manual 21-18, dated 1950, 1958, 1962 & 1917. MilPub-FM.
- Wheeler, J.B. A Course of Instruction in the Elements of the Art and Science of War for the Use of the Cadets of the United States Military Academy. NY: Van Nostrand, 1879. Chap V. U102W559.
- Zorn, Frederick. "Singing Soldiers." Inf Jrnl (Jul 1944): p. 47. Per.
Suggests emulate the German & Russian armies, where singing while marching builds morale.

See also:

-Bibliographies on Jody Calls in Terminology; Customs/Ceremonies; and Drill Manuals in Drill.

MARCHING PACE

An apparent evolution has occurred in marching steps and rates. The ancient Romans marched at a pace of 30 inches, with normally 100 steps per minute. Many centuries later, at the time of the American Revolution, the British Army marched at 60 steps per minute. Baron von Steuben, drillmaster of the Continental Army, then raised the cadence to "about seventy-five," steps of 24 inches. Quick step was 120 per minute. By 1813, the number of steps prescribed was 76 or 90. The pace was then increased to 28 inches by 1825 and cadence was set at 90 steps per minute for common time. In 1867, Upton's new manual described double time, with 33 inch steps, at 165-180 per minute. The modern step is 30 inches, with a normal cadence of 106 steps per minute. Double time is 36-inch steps, at 180 per minute.

An explanation for this general acceleration of foot marching probably lies chiefly in the evolution of weapons and tactics. Other factors undoubtedly exerted some influence, such as improved diets, advances in music technology, and maybe even sunspots. Further research may begin with the following sources:

Camus, Raoul F. Military Music of the American Revolution, cited above. pp. 7-8 & 87-90.
ML1311C35.

Duane, William. A Handbook for Infantry, Containing the First Principles of Military Discipline...
Phila: the Author, 1813. p. 21. UD160D8RareBook.

Judson, Harry P. Caesar's Army: A Study of the Military Art of the Romans in the Last Days of the Republic. Boston: Ginn, 1894. p. 63. U35J93.

Scott, Winfield. Infantry Tactics; or, the Rules for the Exercise and Manoeuvres of the United States Infantry. Vol. I. NY: Dearborn, 1835. pp. 29 & 82. UD160A3RareBook.

Steuben, Frederick von. Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.
Phila: Styner and Cist, 1779. p. 13. UB501.1779.A21RareBook.

Upton, Emory. A New System of Infantry Tactics, Double and Single Rank, Adapted to American Topography and Improved Fire-Arms. NY: Appleton, 1867. pp. 16 & 20. UD160U8RareBook.

U.S. Dept of Army. Drill and Ceremonies: FM 2-5, dated Aug 1968. p. 11. MilPub-FM.

_____. Foot Marches: FM 21-18, dated Jan 1971. p. 11. MilPub-FM.

U.S. War Dept. Board of Officers. Infantry Tactics; or, Rules for the Exercises and Manoeuvres of the Infantry of the U.S. Army. Wash, DC: Davis and Force, 1825. pp. 24 & 58.
UD160A3RareBook.

THE GOOSE STEP

“Goosestep” has two basic meanings. The definition in the Oxford English Dictionary applies only to the in-place English drill and not the Prussian march step. Additional definitions of the term, known in German as *exerziermarsch*, *stechschritt*, *parademarsch* or *festschritt*, appear in these sources:

Breul, Karl. Cassell's New German & English Dictionary, p. 245.

Farrow, Edward S. A Dictionary of Military Terms, p. 266.

Garber, Max B. A Modern Military Dictionary, p. 148.

Two brief histories of the German method of marching appear in the 1942 and 1967 eds of Walter Transfeldt's Wort und Brauch im deutschen Heer (UA712T67), pages 52, 64-65, and 146 of edition and pages 109- 110 or the latter. Translations of pertinent portions into English are as follows:

...The regulations for the royal Prussian infantry in 1726 specify that: "The left and right foot shall be partially lifted with stiff knees and the foot will not be stamped." ...This *Exerziermarsch* in the new tempo of 114 steps per minute came to be the characteristic *parademarsch* of the German Army. [1967ed, p. 110]

But the march in step, that is, the special march, slow and with sharp, audible steps, the exercise march with stiff knees, was first brought to Germany in the eighteenth century by the troops of the militarily-inclined Landgrafen Karl von Hessen-Hassel (1730).

The Hessen-Kassel Regiment of Prince Maximilian found itself in 1720 in the service of the Holy Roman Emperor in Italy and Sicily. There, they learned to march in step from the Italian troop units. They practiced it and brought it home with them, where it was introduced throughout the Hessian infantry. This innovation must have created quite a stir, because in Berlin the story was hardly believed and it was thought unlikely "that every rascal (enlisted man) had the same step as all other rascals." In Prussia, the step was explained after the immigration of a Herr von Kalckstein (died 1759 as a Prussian field marshal and well-known military educator of Frederick the Great), who was earlier an officer in Hessian service. He wished to prove that marching in step was possible, if he could obtain some men to use for the experiment. These demonstrations were conducted in the Potsdam recreational park, which the soldier-king Frederick William I, immediately after ascension to the throne, had converted into a drill field. To the amazement of several observers the demonstrations were a success. The king, who had sharp eyes for any innovations in European armies, was delighted by the exercises and ordered the immediate adoption of this step for his *Riesengarde* (special unit made up of extremely tall men) and also its establishment for his entire Prussian army (1730). [1942 ed, pp. 64- 5]

These two accounts are not necessarily contradictory. The 1942 ed credits the Prussian use of the goosestep to von Kalckstein sometime between 1720 and 1730, while the 1967 edition cites the 1726 Prussian infantry regulations.

In a reforming the Russian Army, Catherine the Great, a German princess by birth and an admirer of Frederick the Great, adopted Prussian military manners and methods, including uniforms and staff structure. See pp. 12-13 from Drygalski and Batsch's Russland: Das Heer, Die Flotte (UA770D79). See also pp. 202-204 of J.D. Hittle's The Military Staff. Although lacking hard evidence that the Russian Army first used the goosestep during the reign of Catherine, such a supposition seems reasonable. One alternative is that the step was introduced into the Russian military school sometime between the date of its establishment in 1730 and the ascension to the throne of Catherine in 1762.

See also the following photos of goosestepping German soldiers and sailors of the Third Reich:

-7x4 3/4 sepia photo, "Hildschau vom Tage; Stojadinowitsch nimmt einen vorbeimarsch ab." WWII file.

-9 1/2x7 black and white glossy, "Admiral Raeder reviewing parade in Wilhelmshaven." Black loose-leaf notebook Austria- Hungary, Germany, WWII file.

-Friedenstagebuch des IX Armeekorps. 14x17 1/2 large brown photo album dated 1935-1936.

Included are:

- 10 1/2 x 11, "Die Fahne flattert siegweisend..."
- 6 1/2x4, "Vorbeimarsch der Ehrenkompanie."
- 6 1/2x4 3/4, "Erster Tag der Luftwaffe."
- 6 1/2x3 3/4, "Regiment auf Regiment."
- 9 1/2x7, "Einmarsch der Fahnen der alten Armee."

NOTABLE MARCHES

Small Units

- Foot

In 1809, foot soldiers of the British Light Brigade campaigning in Spain marched to the relief of the future Duke of Wellington. They covered 42 miles in 26 hours. Ref: Guinness Book of World Records, 1977 ed, p. 392 (AG243G8), which considers it the "most rapid" ever.

- Foot

In Sicily, WWII, a US Army infantry battalion marched cross country 54 miles in 33 hours. See FM 21-18 (1971), p. 3.

- Horse

In 1818, a British (native) artillery troop in India covered 95 miles in 36 hours. Ref: A.S. Cotton, "Incidents of the Past," Journal of Royal Artillery LX, p. 197.

- **Mixed**

A British-led Indian force of horse and foot troops in 1857 traveled 580 miles in 22 marching days during hot weather. See Cotton, cited above, p. 205.

Large Units

In 1805, a corps of the French Grand Army, urgently summoned to the Austerlitz battlefield, covered 70 miles in just over 48 hours.

Rothenberg, Gunther E. The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon. Bloomington: IN U, 1978.
p. 149. U39R65.

During the Second Afghan War in 1880, 18,000 troops, plus baggage, animals, covered 318 miles in 3 weeks with only a single day's halt.

Cotton, cited above.

The longest march, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, 1977 ed, p. 392, was the "Long March" of the Chinese Communists, 1934-1935, which covered 6,000 miles in 268 days of movement. 90,000 troops started but less than 22,000 finished the trek.

During WWII, the entire US Third Army shifted its axis of advance in order to counter the unexpected German offensive in the Ardennes. A quarter-million men and 25,000 vehicles traveled distances of 50-150 miles through ice and snow and were able to launch a corps-level attack in three days. FM 21-18, pp. 4 & 6.

Hannibal marched from Spain to Italy via the Alps, 218 B.C., a distance of 962 miles. He started with a Carthaginian army of 90,000 foot, 12,000 horse, and 37 elephants; he finished with 20,000 foot, 6,000 horse, and ? elephants.

See Furse, Art of Marching, p. 26-27 & 34-35. U176F99.

Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862. His "Foot Cavalry" marched 674 miles, engaged in a dozen actions, and averaged 14 miles per day.

Furse, cited above, pp. 73-76 & 218-219.

Transcontinental U.S.

-4TH ARTILLERY, 1846

Battery B, 4th Arty (Later D, 6th Field Arty) traveled from Carlisle, PA, to San Antonio, TX, 5 Jun 1846 - 4 Sep 1846. It marched from Carlisle to Wheeling (300 miles), then boated down Ohio & Mississippi Rivers and up Red River (1,300 miles), and finally marched from Nachitoches to San Antonio (400 miles). See:

Spaulding, Oliver L. The United States Army in War and Peace. NY: Putnam's, 1937. pp. 189-90.
Ref.

-MORMON BATTALION, 1846-47

The Mormon Battalion (infantry unit raised among Mormons) marched nearly 2,000 miles, from Iowa to California, Jul 1846 - Jan 1847. See:

Bancroft, Hubert H. History of Utah. San Francisco: History Co, 1890. pp. 240-46. F826B36.

Golder, Frank A. The March of the Mormon Battalion, From Bluffs to California: Taken From the Diary of Henry Standage. NY: Century, 1928. 295 p. E409.5I72G6.

Oliva, Leo E. Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail. Norman, OK: U OK, 1967. pp. 76-78. F786O55.

Tyler, Daniel. A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, 1846-1847. Glorieta, NM: Rio Grande, 1969 reprint of 1881 ed. 388 p. E409.5I72T93.

-MOUNTED RIFLES, 1849

Marched from Ft Leavenworth, May 1849, over 2,000 miles, to reach Oregon by Oct 1849. See:

Settle, Raymond W., ed. The March of the Mounted Riflemen... Glendale, CA: Clark, 1940. pp. 345-50. F593C76.

Spaulding, The U.S. Army in War and Peace, cited above, p. 230.

See also:

- Annual Rpt War Dept, 1850.

-6TH INFANTRY, 1858

The 6th US Inf Rgt marched from Ft Bridger, WY, to Benicia Barracks, CA, a distance of 1,017 miles. The trek took 8 months, Mar-Nov 1858, and was not a sustained journey. See:

Babcock, Elkanah. A War History of the Sixth U.S. Infantry... Kansas City, MO: Hudson-Kimberly, 1903. p. 24. F593B36.

Bandel, Eugene. Frontier Life in the Army, 1854-1861. In the Southwest Historical Series. Vol. II. [Ed by Ralph F. Bieber] Glendale, CA: Clark, 1932. 330 p. F786S75no2.

See pp. 55-57 for a brief account of the march and pp.228-243 for the letters written enroute by a member of the regiment.

Foot Marching

p.8

Byrne, Charles. The Sixth United States Infantry: An Historical Sketch. Ft Thomas, KY: Regimental Press, 1893. pp. 36-38. #603-6.1893.

U.S. War Dept. Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1858. Vol. I. pp. 133-34 & 137-41. UA24A1.
Official letters and documents on preparations.