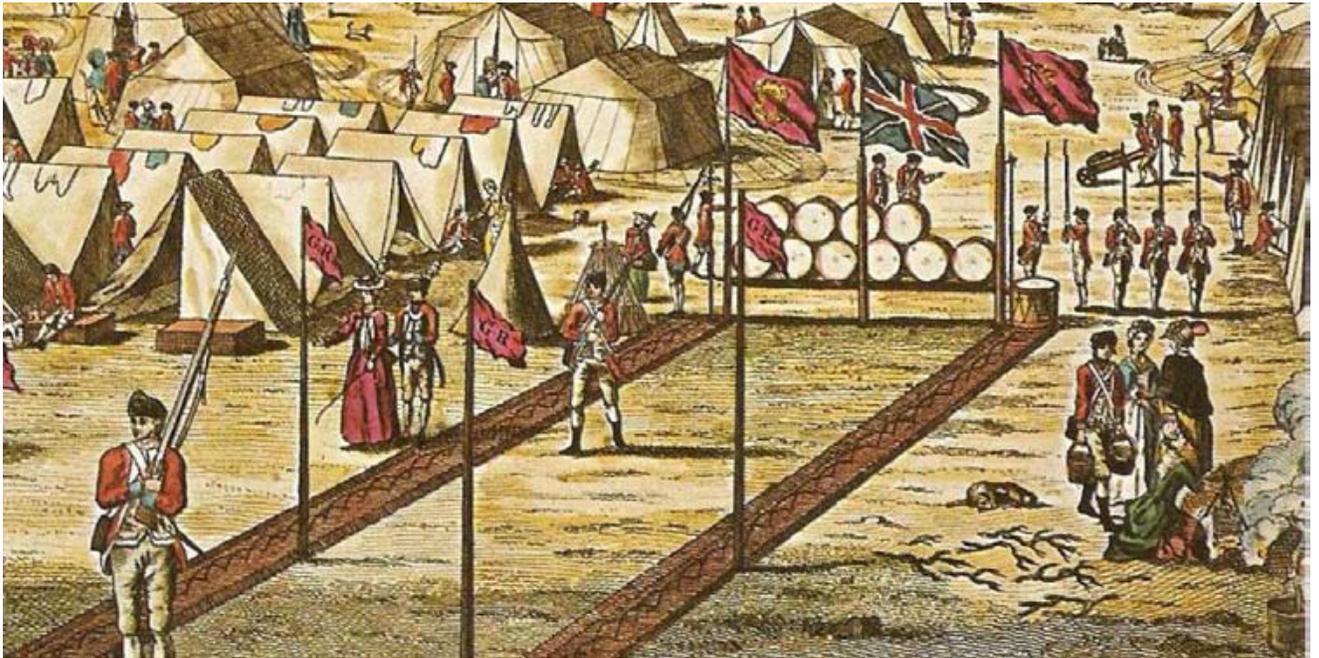


Standing Orders for Mounting Guards and Posting Sentries



On Saturday morning at the Prescott event Cpl Robert Stewart delivered a lecture to the troops on the mounting of guards and posting of sentries. The text of his talk follows:

In carrying out his duties, a... sentry has the opportunity of helping very materially towards maintaining the good name of his regiment. The state of the discipline in a regiment can fairly accurately be gauged by the manner in which its guard duties are performed and by the smartness with which the sentries walk their posts and salute.

King's Regulations

Mounting Guards

The Company shall provide two sections for guard duties. These will be told off by the company duty NCO on the Friday evening or, at the latest, at tent inspection on the Saturday morning.

Immediately following tent inspection on the Saturday morning, the first guard will fall in. The guard will then be inspected by the company duty NCO. He will then stand the first guard at ease and request the RSM to inspect the guard. Bayonets will be fixed and the men will come to the shoulder firelocks position.

Upon the completion of the RSM's inspection, the RSM denotes the best turned-out man and he is fallen out to act as the duty officer's orderly man for the day. The balance of the guard then presents arms. The Adjutant then attends to inspect. He may inspect personally if he wishes, but usually will simply ask the RSM if the guard is correct. The RSM will report "Guard correct, sir!"

If any sentries are required by the Adjutant, same are now mounted. Otherwise, the guard is fallen out but remains embodied as the Regiment's Guard for the day. The members of the guard may be turned out for inspection from time-to-time or to provide sentries. They are not to leave camp without first advising the company duty NCO. The best-turned out man is excused sentry duty for the shift.

All of the guard should be informed of the day's countersign, if any, which will be fixed by the Adjutant.

Changing the Guard

On the Sunday morning following tent inspection, the second guard section prepares to take its turn as the Regiment's guard. It will be inspected in the same manner as set out above. It will be informed of the day's countersign, if any, to be set by the Adjutant.

Upon the RSM reporting that the guard is correct to the Adjutant, the old guard forms facing outwards from the front of the camp or guardhouse. The new guard marches to face the old guard at a distance of 15 paces. If this is not possible given the constraints of space, the new guard forms facing the same direction

as the old guard but six paces to the old guard's left. Both old and new guard will stand at the shoulder firelocks position with bayonets fixed.

The old guard will present arms. The new guard will present arms. The duty NCOs accompanying will also present arms with their respective guard sections. Both guards will then shoulder and then order firelocks. Both guards will then stand at ease.

If the old guard has sentries posted, the new guard will march off to relieve them accompanied by the duty NCO of the old guard. As the old guard sentries are relieved, they are marched off by the duty NCO of the old guard. Once the rounds are completed, they return to the front of the camp or guardhouse. Again, old guard faces out, and the remnants of the new guard face in.

The new guard presents arms, and the old guard marches off. The duty NCO of the new guard then has the new guard shoulder and order firelocks, then falls them out. As was the case with the first guard posted, if sentries are required by the Adjutant, the new guard provides them. From time-to-time they may be fallen in. Otherwise, they are turned loose except they should not leave camp without first advising their duty NCO.

Changing Sentries

Relief parties of three or fewer men will march in one rank. Relief parties of four or more men will march in two ranks. The duty NCO will be to the right of the right marker, but if there are an odd number of sentries, the file behind the duty NCO will be filled by the odd man.

As the relief party from the guard section on duty approaches, the old sentry will march to the closest point on his beat and halt, all the while at the shoulder firelocks position.

The relief party will halt at six paces from the old sentry on the command "*Relief, halt*". After a mere moment's hesitation, the new sentry will step forward and fall in to the left of the old sentry, facing in the same direction. If there are orders or instructions to be conveyed, the duty NCO of the relief party will direct the old sentry to state them and ask the new sentry to repeat them.

On the command, "*Pass*", the old sentry steps forward and fills the place in the relief party vacated by the new sentry. The new sentry will move two paces to the right to fill the space vacated by the old sentry.

On the command, "*Relief, quick...March*" the relief party marches off.

Duties of Sentries and Challenging

The duties of the sentry are described in King's Regulations as follows:

- a. To take care of all camp property in view of his post, and to allow none to be removed or touched except by an authorized person.
- b. To inquire the business of anyone not connected with the camp who may try to enter the lines, and, if necessary, direct the latter to the guard-tent or call the commander of the guard.
- c. To allow no one to loiter about on his beat.
- d. To allow no man to leave camp improperly dressed.
- e. To report to the commander of the guard if he sees any suspicious characters enter the lines.
- f. To challenge all persons approaching his post after dark, and not to allow them to pass unless he is satisfied that they have a right to be there.
- g. To take the name of any man passing his post to go to the latrine after dark, and report to the commander of the guard if the man is away an unnecessarily long time.
- h. If there is a fire or any disturbance in camp, to immediately alarm the guard.
- i. If there is any talking or noise in any of the tents after *Lights out*, except in the tents of those who have special permission, to report the matter to the commander of the guard.
- j. To pay proper compliments.
- k. To turn out the guard on the different occasions already specified.
- l. When posted over the guard-tent he will, if there is time, warn the guard that they must turn out, by stating in a low tone of voice, "*Stand by the guard*". He will then give the order: "*Turn out the guard*", in a loud voice. This will help to insure that the guard turns out together.
- m. When posted over special places, such as the officer's lines or near water-taps, etc. he will receive special orders.

When a sentry is visited by the captain or subaltern of the day he must be prepared to repeat his orders and know what his duty is. A sentry's front is away from the camp or property which he is guarding. When turning about at the end of his beat, a sentry will turn outwards, *i.e.* towards his front.

In addition, armed sentries salute by presenting arms to all officers in uniform above the rank of captain and to armed parties between reveille and retreat.

At night, sentries challenge approaching persons by calling out, "*Halt! Who goes there?*" If the sentry is in danger of being rushed by the approaching person or persons, he may present and point his firelock at the interloper. If the interloper answers to the sentry's satisfaction, the sentry responds by saying "*Pass, friend; all's wel'l*" and allows the interloper to pass.

If there is a countersign required to pass the sentry's post, after the interloper has identified himself, the sentry will call out, "*Advance, one, and give the countersign*". If more than one interloper begins to advance, the sentry may sound the alarm. If only one interloper advances, he should be permitted to come to speaking distance and will then provide the countersign. If the countersign is correct, the sentry shall say "*Pass, friend; all's wel'l*" and allow the interloper to pass.

Cpl Robert Stewart