

THE PETTY OFFICER'S DRILLBOOK UNITED STATES NAVY

1904

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BY

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1904

SWORD EXERCISE.

General Remarks

1092. 1. In this exercise all attacks are made by thrusting with the point of the sword, instead of attempting to cut with the edge. The attack with the point is more deadly, and there is less exposure to counter attack than there is in making slashing blows that alone render the edge effective.

2. For instruction, the men form in one or two ranks facing to the front, swords at the order; intervals and distances are taken as in the bayonet exercise; swords are brought to the order at the preparatory command for marching, and are brought to the order on halting.

3. In the exercise, the sword is held in the right hand, thumb along the back of the gripe and almost touching the guard, the fingers united underneath, holding the hilt rather loosely.

4. Movements that may be executed in the same general manner toward either flank, are explained as toward but one flank, it being necessary to substitute the word *left* for *right*, or the reverse, to have the commands and explanation for the corresponding movement toward the other flank.

THE MOULINETS.

.1. *Sword exercise*, 2. Moulinet.

1093. At the first command, raise the sword to the height of the right shoulder, edge to the right, back of the hand up, arm extended to the front; at the same time make a half face to the left, the right toe square to the front, feet at right angles, heels together; and carry the left hand to the small of the back, body erect, eyes to the front. At the second command, drop the point to the left and describe a full circle without bending the arm, the sword grazing the left shoulder, opening the fingers to give play to the hilt, and resume the original position: then reverse the hand, finger nails up, edge to the left, and exe

***Note—This Sword Exercise was originally prepared by Prof. A.J. Corbesier, Sword Master at the Naval Academy, assisted by Lieut. W.F. Fullham, U.S.N.**

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cutte a moulinet to the right of the body in a similar manner, continuing the moulinets alternately. At the command: 1. *Order*, 2. **SWORDS**, resume the order.

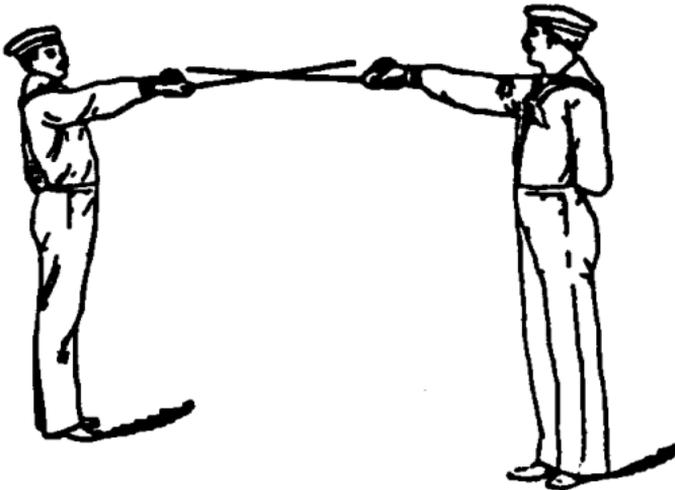


Plate 149. Art.1093. **The moulinet: first position.**

THE GUARDS

1. *Sword exercise*, 2. **GUARD**.

1094. The first command is executed as in the moulinets. At the second command, bend the forearm and bring the hand to

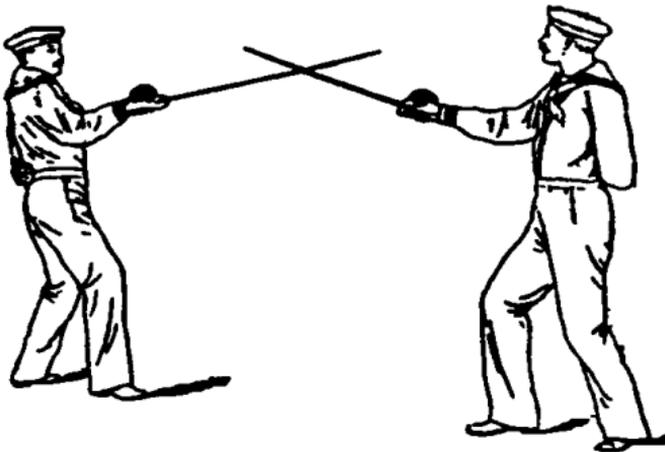


Plate 150. Art. 1094. **Right Guard**

the height of the right nipple and in front of the right shoulder, the elbow free from the body and slightly outside the hip, the point of the sword at the height of the chin, edge to the right; at the same time advance the right foot twice its length. Bend

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both knees slightly, body erect, the weight thrown a little more on the left leg than on the right, head erect, eyes to the front. This is the position of *right guard*. In the *left guard*, the sword is held edge to the left, finger nails up, the hand opposite the center of the body. (See plates 150 end 151.)

1095. To change guard: 1. CHANGE GUARD.

Reverse the position of the hand, raising the point and draw

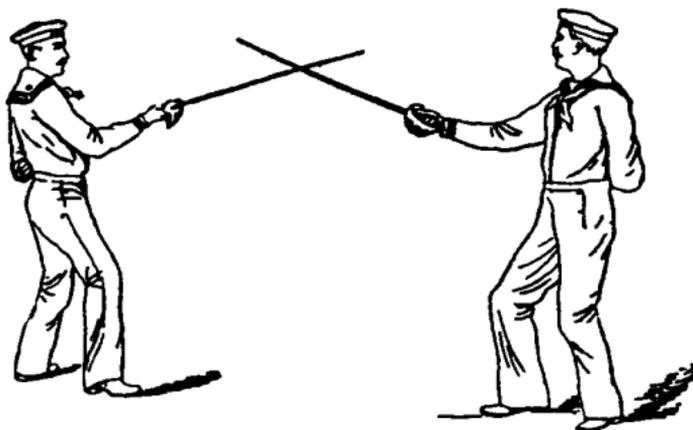


Plate 151. Arts. 1094-1095. **Left Guard.**

ing the hand back slightly, to pass over, and close to the point of the opponent's sword.

1096. The attacks and parties, to the left, are made from the position of *right guard* only, and vice versa.

1097. The *head* and *thrust attacks* and *parries* are made from the *right guard* only.

THE STEPS.

1. ADVANCE (or RETIRE); or, 1. *Step right* (or *left*), 2. STEP.

1098. Executed as in the bayonet exercise. In the engagement and assault, one opponent advances when the other retires and one steps to the right when the other steps to the left.

THE PARRIES.

t Head, 2. PARRY.

1099. Carry the point of the sword a little to the right, then drop it to the left and raise the sword quickly a few inches above the head, edge up, hand in front of the right ear, the point to the left, the sword inclined slightly downward. (See plate 152)

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1. *Right (or Left) cheek (or neck)*, 2. PARRY

1100. (1.) Carry the hand about ten inches in front and three inches to the right of the right cheek, edge to the right, point up, sword inclined slightly to the front.



Plate 152. Arts. 1099 and 1107. **Head attack and parry.**

(2.) For the *neck* parry, lower the hand a few inches. (See plates 153 and 156, art. 1108.)

1. *Right flank*, 2. PARRY.

1101. Describe a semi-circle from left to right with the point of the sword until it is a little to the right of the right knee, edge to the right, the hand to the right of the right hip and five inches below the right nipple, arm slightly bent. (See plate 158, art. 1110.)

1. *Left flank*, 2. PARRY; or, 1. *Thrust*, 2. PARRY.

1102. Carry the point of the sword slightly to the right, then drop the point to the left, the blade in line with the left knee and slightly to the front, sword edge to the left, the elbow and hand about the height of the breast (See plates 157 and 159, arts. 1100 and 1110.)

1108. Attacks at the leg are not parried with the sword, but by moving the right toe to the rear of the left heel, legs extended; at the same time carry the upper part of the body forward and attack the opponent's head or cheek. This movement will be executed at the command: 1. *Right foot to the rear*. 2. *Head (or Right, or Left cheek)*, 3. **ATTACK** (See plates 153 and 154.)

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SINGLE ATTACKS.

1104. (1.) All single attacks are made in two motions, the first motion being to disengage and extend the arm quickly in

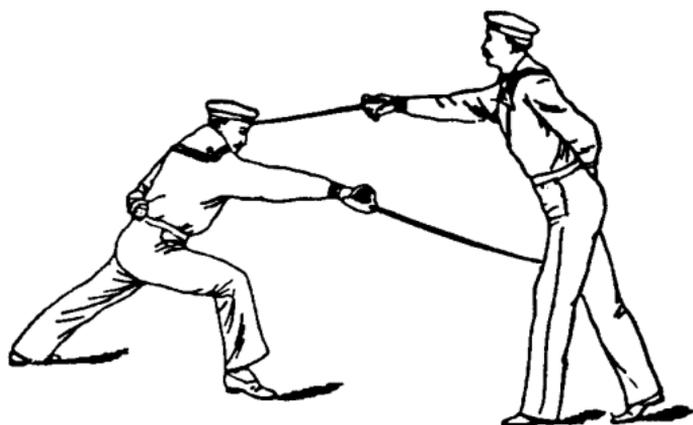


Plate 153. Art. 1103. **Leg attack; left cheek return.**

the direction of the attack; the second motion is a lunge and quickly follows the first.

(2.) The command, *attack* (or *return*); is the signal for the first motion, and the command, *lunge*, for the second motion.

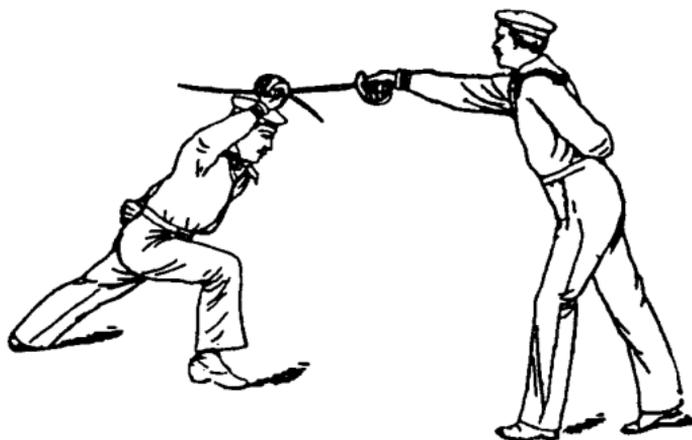


Plate 154. Art. 1108. **Leg attack; head return.**

(3.) A *feint* is made by omitting the second motion, or lunge.

(4.) In all attacks except the thrust disengage by drawing

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back slightly and reversing the hand, the point passing over and close to the opponent's sword, and then extend the arm quickly.

(5.) In the *thrust attack*, disengage by dropping the point below and to the opposite side of the opponent's sword, and, reverse the hand, if the guard is to the left; if the guard is to the right, the hand is not reversed.

1105. (1.) Having executed the first motion of an attack: LUNGE.

Carry the right foot forward about eighteen inches, grazing the ground; extend the left leg, body thrown slightly forward, head thrown slightly back, left hand remaining at the small of the back.

(2.) The *lunge* will be executed in all attacks. In making an attack, the right hand, is held as best to oppose a counter attack.

1106. To resume the guard: GUARD.

Bend the left knee, carry the right foot quickly to its original position, throwing the weight of the body on the left leg, and resume the *guard*.

1107. Being at the right guard: 1. *Head*, 2. ATTACK.

At the second command, throw the sword point slightly to the rear to clear the point of the adversary's sword, and extend the arm quickly, sword edge down, and attack the forehead of the adversary, hand at the height of the shoulder. (See plate 152, art. 1099.)



Plate 155. Arts. 1100 and 1108. **Right cheek attack and parry.**

1108. Being at the left or, right guard: 1. *Right* (or *Left*) cheek (or *neck*), 2. ATTACK

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At the second command; disengage and extend the arm quickly, sword at the height of the cheek, or neck, edge to the

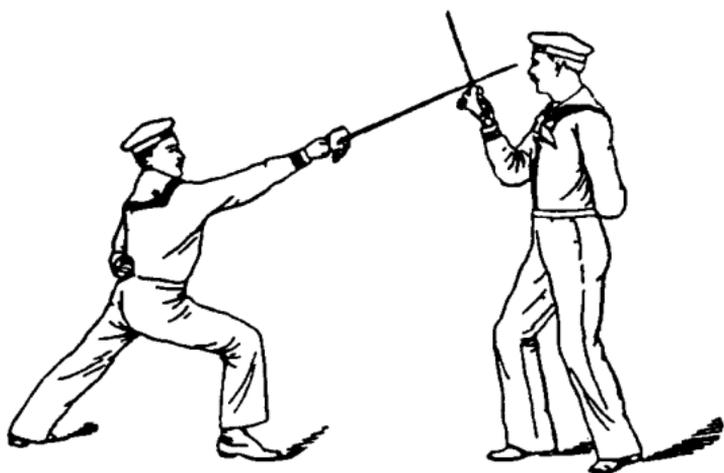


Plate 156. Arts. 1100 and 1108. **Left cheek attack and parry.**

right, and point directly for the middle of the face, or neck (See plates 155 and 156.)

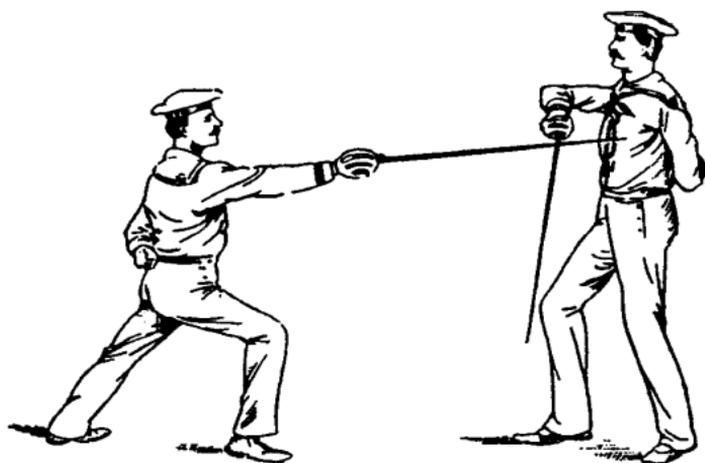


Plate 157. Arts. 1102 and 1109. **Thrust attack and parry.**

1109. Being at right guard: 1. *Thrust*, 2. **ATTACK.**

At the second command, disengage and extend the arm quickly, point of the sword at the height of the breast, edge to the right, hand opposite the left breast. (See plate 157.)

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1110. Being at the left or right guard: 1. *Right (or Left) flank*, 2. **ATTACK.**

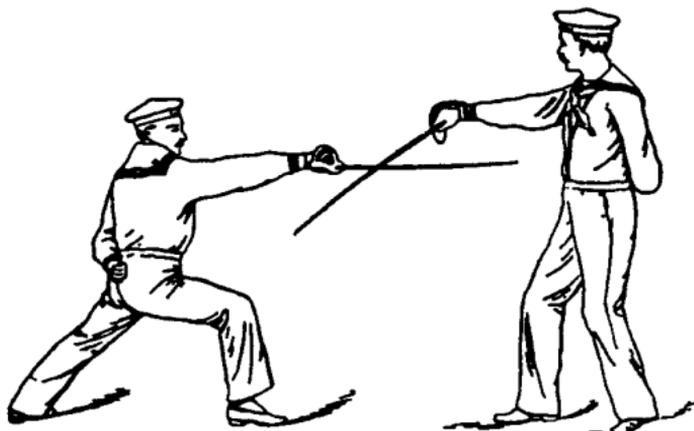


Plate 158. Arts. 1101 and 1110. **Right flank attack and parry.**

At the second command disengage and extend the arm quickly, lower the point to the height of the belt, edge to the right, and point at the flank. (See plates 158 and 159.)

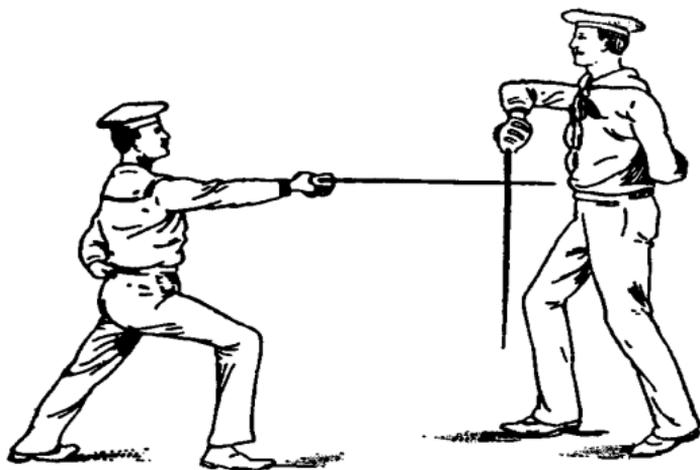


Plate 159 Arts. 1102 and 1110. **Left flank attack and parry.**

1111. After all attacks for the face, neck, or body, press with the thumb on the hilt and then withdraw the sword in an oblique direction to obtain a clear cut.

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1112. The parries and attacks are first taught separately and afterwards in combination, thus:

1. *Head*, 2. PARRY (or ATTACK), 3. GUARD, etc.

1. *Head*, 2. ATTACK, 3. LUNGE, 4. GUARD, etc.

1. *Left cheek*, 2. ATTACK, 3. LUNGE, 4. *Right flank*,

5. PARRY, 6. GUARD, etc.

RETURNS.

1113. The attacks from the positions of the parries are called returns, and are made as follows: After the head parry: 1. *Head* (or, *Left cheek, neck, or flank*), 2. RETURN.

At the second command, describe a quarter-circle with the point above the head from left to right by way of the rear without disturbing the position of the hand; when the sword points directly to the rear reverse the hand, bringing the edge to the left, extend the arm quickly and finish the movement as for the head, cheek, neck, or left flank attack.

1114. After the cheek or neck parry: 1. *Right* (or *Left*) *cheek, (neck or flank)*, 2. RETURN.

Throw the point slightly to the rear to clear the point of the opponent's sword, then quickly turn the back of the hand up (or down) and attack in the designated direction.

1115. After the right flank parry: 1. *Thrust*, 2. RETURN.

(1.) Raise the hand, nails down, extend the arm quickly and thrust for the face or the upper part of the body.

(2.) To parry this return, raise the sword, point to the left, and take the *head parry*.

1116. After the left flank parry or thrust parry: 1. *Head*, 2. RETURN.

At the second command, execute a left moulinet and attack the forehead of the adversary, sword edge down, hand at the height of the shoulder.

1117. The parries, attacks, and returns will next be taught in combination, thus:

1. *Left flank*, 2. PARRY. 3. *Head*, 4. RETURN, 5. LUNGE, 6. GUARD.

1. *Thrust*, 2. ATTACK, 3. LUNGE, 4. *Head*., 5. PARRY, 6. GUARD
Head, 2. ATTACK, 3. LUNGE, 4. *Left cheek*, 5. PARRY, 6. *Right flank*,
7. RETURN, 8. LUNGE, 9. GUARD, - etc

COMPOUND ATTACKS AND RETURNS.

1118. (1.) A compound attack. or return, consists of a feint followed by an attack or return and will be taught after proficiency is attained in single attacks. For example: --

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(2.) Being at right guard: 1. *Left and right cheek*, 2. ATTACK, 3. LUNGE, 4. GUARD.

At the second command, *feint* for the left cheek, at which the opponent begins to *parry left cheek*; then reverse the hand quickly and attack the right cheek.

(3.) Being at head parry: 1. *Left and right cheek*, 2. RETURN, 3. LUNGE, 4. GUARD.

At the second command, *feint* for the left cheek, at which the opponent begins to *parry left cheek*; then reverse the hand quickly and attack the right cheek.

THE ENGAGEMENT.

1119. (1.) After careful instruction in the foregoing principles and movements, the engagement will be taught. The men will form in two ranks, take intervals, and the front rank will then be faced about.

(2.) At the command, sword exercise, the front-rank men, in executing the movement, will place themselves in front of their rear-rank men, and at such a distance that the swords will overlap about six inches when on guard.

(3.) In the engagement, the opponents' swords will be held edge to edge when on guard.

(4.) The rank to attack will be designated in the command; the rank attacked will execute the *parry* and *return*.

(5.) The parry will always be taken at a *feint*, or at the first motion of an *attack*.

Examples In Single Attacks.

1120. (1.) 1. *Front* (or *Rear*) *rank*, 2. *Step right*, 3. STEP.

At the third command, the designated rank executes *Step right*, and the other rank *Step left*.

(2.) 1. *Front* (or *Rear*) *rank*, 2. *Head*. 3. ATTACK, 4 LUNGE, 5. GUARD.

At the third command, the designated rank will *attack*, and the other rank will *parry*.

Examples In Single Attacks And Single Returns.

1121. 1. *Front* (or *Rear*) *rank*, 2. *Head*, 3. ATTACK, 4 LUNGE, 5. *Left cheek* (or *neck*), 6. RETURN, 7. LUNGE, 8. GUARD.

At the third command, the designated rank will attack, and the other rank will parry. At the sixth command. the rank attacked will *return*, and the opposing rank will parry.

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Examples In Compound Attacks and Single Returns.

1122. 1. *Front (or Rear) rank*, 2. *Left and right cheek*, 3. ATTACK, 4. LUNGE, 5. *Left cheek*, 6. RETURN, 7. LUNGE, 8. GUARD.

At the third command, the designated rank will feint and attack and the other rank will *parry left and right cheek*. At the sixth command, the rank attacked will *return*, and the opposing rank will *parry*.

Examples In Single Attacks and Compound Returns.

1123. 1. *Front (or Rear) rank*, 2. *Head*, 3. ATTACK, 4. LUNGE
5. *Left and right cheek*, 6. RETURN, 7. LUNGE, 8. GUARD.

Examples In Compound Attacks and Compound Returns.

1124. 1. *Front (or Rear) rank*, 2. *Right and left cheek*, 3. ATTACK, 4. LUNGE, 5. *Right and left cheek*, 6. RETURN, 7. LUNGE, 8. GUARD.

1125. To repeat a movement, the commands of execution alone need be repeated: for example, to repeat the last movement:

1. ATTACK, 2. LUNGE, 3. RETURN, 4. LUNGE, 5. GUARD.

THE ASSAULT.

1196. After careful instruction in all the principles and movements of the engagement, the instructor may permit the men to engage at will at the command, assault, provided that an outfit of masks is supplied for this purpose. The men must be cautioned to move the hand and sword as little as possible from the position of guard, in order to keep themselves covered: to watch the hand of the opponent instead of his eyes, and to attack close to his sword.

1127. (1.) To discontinue the engagement or assault, the instructor will command: 1. *Order*, 2. SWORDS, at which the men will resume the *order*.

(2.) The men are assembled as in the bayonet exercise.

To Dismiss.

1128. Having assembled: 1. *Carry*, 2. SWORDS, 3. DISMISSED.