

CHAPTER 14 - DEFINITIONS

Alignment	Any straight line on which a body of personnel is formed, or is to form.
Armed Party	An armed party is a party armed with swords, guns, rifles, sidearms or a party consisting of 2 or more armoured vehicles. Also, a church party is considered an armed party even if arms are not carried.
Blank File	An incomplete file. In 2 (or 3) ranks a front rank person only; in 3 ranks, with front rear rank persons only.
Change of Position	The movement when personnel take up a new alignment.
Column	Units in parallel and successive alignments at a distance from one another equal to their own frontage.
Close Column of Flts	A Sqn with its Flts in line on parallel and successive alignments at a fixed distance.
Close Column of Sqns	A Wg with its Sqns in line on parallel and successive alignments at a fixed distance.
Close Order (3 ranks)	The formation of a unit or squad in 3 ranks, one behind the other, at a distance of one pace of 75cms (30 ins) between ranks. The ranks are termed the 'front rank', 'centre rank' and 'rear rank', each person in the centre and rear ranks covering the corresponding person in the front rank.
Close Order (2 ranks)	The formation of a unit or squad in 2 ranks, one behind the other, at a distance of 2 paces of 75cms (30 ins) between ranks. The ranks are termed the 'front rank' and 'rear rank' and each person in the rear rank covers the corresponding person in the front rank.
Column of Route	A column of 3s with not more than 3 persons abreast in any part of the column, including officers and supernumeraries. The normal formation for men marching on a road.
Column of 3s	A succession of personnel standing side by side in 3s, covering.
Covering	The act of one or more personnel or formed bodies being placed directly in rear of another.
Depth	The space occupied from front to rear by a body of personnel.
Directing Flank	The flank by which units march and dress.
Directing Body	The Sqn, Flt, file or individual responsible for maintaining direction in a drill movement.

Distance	The space between personnel or units measured from front to rear, measured from heel to heel. In the case of units it is measured from the heels of the front rank of one unit to the heels of the front rank of the next unit.
Dressing	The act of taking up an alignment correctly. It may be 'normal' at an arm's length between individuals or 'without intervals' at one elbow distance (with the left hand clenched and placed on top of the left hip).
Drill	The means whereby a body of men is controlled and directed efficiently, through the executive command of one man, towards the attainment of the aim.
Ensign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The flag is an Ensign. 2. The officer appointed (usually the most junior) to bear a Queen's Colour for his unit or formation.
File	Any person of the front rank together with the personnel or men covering immediately behind.
Flank	Either side of a formed body, as opposed to its front or rear.
Flt	A sub-unit, 2 or more of which comprise a Sqn. (Equates in size approximately to a naval or army platoon.)
Formation	A number of units grouped together under one Cdr.
Front	The direction in which personnel or units are facing or moving at any given time.
Frontage	The extent of ground covered laterally by a body or bodies of personnel.
Guard of Honour	A parade unit formed to present formal ceremonial compliments to Royal or Presidential (by Guard not exceeding 100 personnel) and other particular distinguished (by a Guard not exceeding 50 personnel) persons.
Guide	A person placed on the left and/or right of a line to maintain direction and alignment.
'Half Guard'	A colloquial term describing a Guard of Honour of not more than 50 personnel.
Incline	The movement by which direction is faced or gained to the front and flank simultaneously.
In File	A succession of personnel formed up, covering one behind the other.

Interval	The lateral space between personnel or units on the same alignment measured between adjacent flanks.
Line	Personnel or units formed on the same alignment.
Line of Sqns in Close Column of Flt	A Wg with its Sqns in close column of Flts at 10 paces interval between Sqns.
Marker	A person placed in position to mark a point where the flank of a squad or unit is to rest.
Open Order (3 ranks)	The formation of a unit or squad in 3 ranks, one behind the other, at a distance of three paces of 75cms (30 ins) between ranks.
Outer Flank	The opposite flank to the inner, or directing flank.
Pace	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A measured distance on foot. 2. The rate of movement while marching.
Parade	A formation of 2 or more units.
Parade Cdr	The officer in actual command of all the personnel on a parade (ground).
Patrol	A small party of personnel usually commanded by an NCO carrying out some specific duty such as visiting sentries, inspecting an area or building as guards etc.
Picquet/Picket	A party of personnel usually commanded by an NCO, detailed to carry out some specific duty, eg guard, fire picquet etc.
Pivot Flank	The flank on which a unit pivots when changing direction.
Pivot Guide	A guide on a pivot flank of a unit.
Quarter Guard	A ceremonial guard which may be mounted at the entrance to a unit to pay compliments as required. (The term should not be confused with a Guard of Honour.) A Quarter Guard is to consist of one officer, one SNCO and 6 or 8 corporals and cadets in 2 ranks.
Rank	A line of personnel formed up side by side.
Review	A ceremonial parade mounted for the specific purpose of honouring a particular distinguished person.
'Royal Guard'	A colloquial term describing a Guard of Honour of not more than 100 men.

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Section	A sub-division of a Flt (especially RAF Regt).
Squad	A small body of personnel formed for drill or working party.
Sqn	A unit consisting of 2 or more Flts (sub-units); (equates in size approximately with a naval or army company).
Sub-Unit	The smallest body of personnel under their own officer or NCO Cdr, as part of a unit.
Supernumeraries	Additional officers and NCOs of a unit who, for parade purposes, are not fulfilling an executive role.
Supernumerary Rank	An extra rank composed of supernumerary officers or SNCOs. The supernumerary rank of NCOs will be 2 paces of 75cms (30 ins) to the rear of the rear rank. That of officers will be 3 paces of 75cms (30 ins) to the rear of the rear rank.
To Cant	To incline or tilt an object; to set at an angle.
To Dress	To take up a correct alignment.
Unit	A group of 2 or more sub-units under a Cdr.
Unit of Formation	The expression used in drill to describe the Sqn or Flt on which a change of formation is based.
Wheeling	A movement by which a body of personnel bring forward a flank on a fixed or moving pivot.
Wg	A formation consisting of 2 or more Sqns or units (equates in size approximately with a naval division or army battalion).