

# Of the Sword

One of the documents that you should have in your possession is the "Manual of Knights Templar Tactics and Asylum Ceremonies", often referred to as the "White Book". One section of that book is the "Manual of the Sword." The following article is an excerpt of that section to give you some of the basic sword work that you will need to get started.

90. The sword consists of the hilt and the blade. The hilt is divided into the gripe and the guard. The gripe is the handle grasped by the hand. The guard is the cross piece between the gripe and the blade. The blade is divided into the edge, back, sides and point. The edge and back are determined by the hilt. The right and left sides of the blade and gripe are the right and left sides in the position of carry swords.

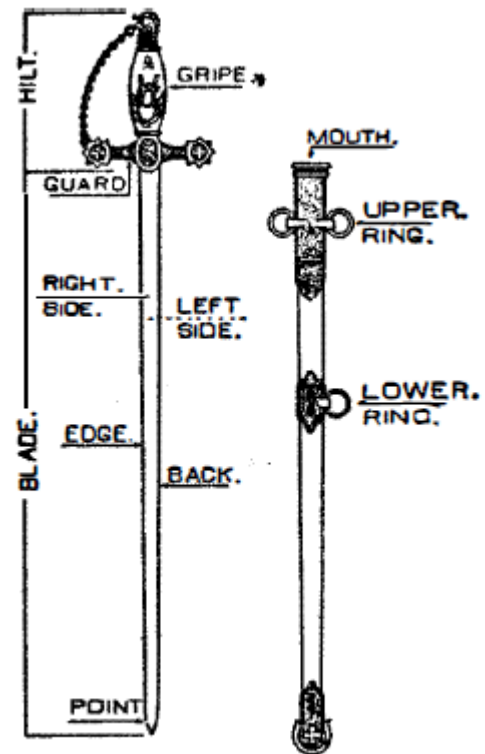
The scabbard is the receptacle of the sword; the opening of same, its mouth. The hand is in tierce, when it holds the gripe, with back of hand up, and in quarte, when it holds the gripe with back of hand down. Unless the formation is in open ranks, the Knights under instruction should take intervals.

91. Being in line at a halt with swords in scabbards:

## **Command: Sir Knights, Draw, SWORDS.**

1. At the command *Draw*, grasp the scabbard with the left hand, near its mouth, incline the hilt a little forward, seize the gripe with the right hand, and draw the blade until the right forearm is horizontal, back of hand against the breast.
2. *SWORDS*, draw the sword quickly, raising the arm to its full length, at an angle of about 45 degrees, the sword in a straight line with the arm, edge down, extending in the same direction as the right foot. (TWO) Bring the back of the blade against the shoulder, the blade vertical, back of the gripe to the rear, the arm nearly straight down, the thumb and forefinger embracing the gripe the thumb against the thigh, the other fingers extended and joined in the rear of the gripe. This is the position of *Carry Swords*. From this position all movements of the sword manual begin, unless otherwise provided.

In all marching movements, except route march, at the command halt, unless otherwise provided, the sword, if drawn, will be brought to the carry without command.



**The Sword and Scabbard**



**Draw Swords  
First Motion**



**Draw Swords  
Second Motion**

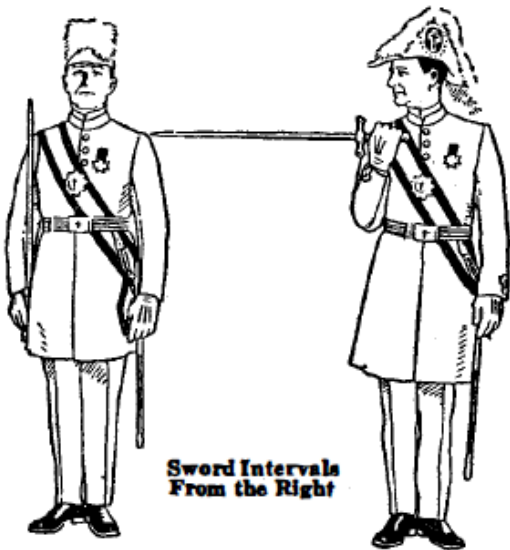


**Carry Swords  
(Third Motion)**

**92. Command: From the right take sword intervals, MARCH.**

At the first command, all the Knights except the one on the right ... who remains at Carry Swords ... execute eyes right, raise the right hand in front of and as high as the right shoulder, the back of the hand to the front, and drop the sword blade horizontally to the right, edge up.

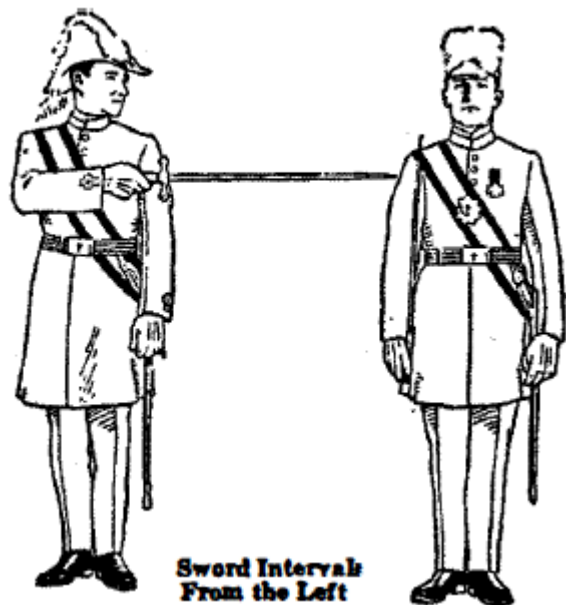
MARCH, all the Knights except the right file, execute left step.. As soon as each Knight has gained an interval so that the point of his sword will clear the left arm of the Knight on his right, he halts, executes front, and resumes Carry Swords.



**Sword Intervals  
From the Right**

**93. Command: From the left take sword intervals, MARCH.**

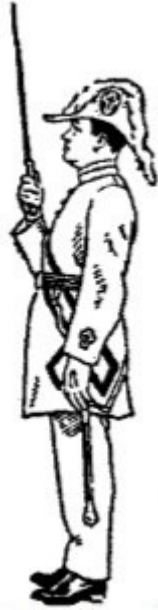
This Is executed as intervals from the right (above), except that the eyes are turned to the left, the right hand is carried across the body and touches the left arm, the right forearm horizontal, the sword extended in prolongation thereof, edge down.



**Sword Intervals  
From the Left**

94. **Command: On the right (left) close intervals, MARCH.**

The Knight on the right (left) stays fast, the others face him and march forward halting successively when the interval is closed, and facing to the front.



95. **Command: Present, SWORDS.**

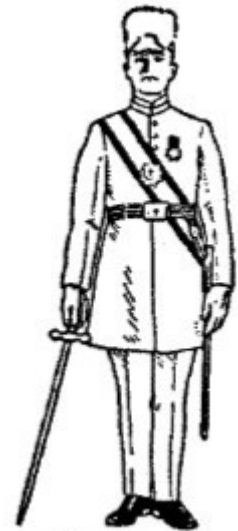
Raise and carry the sword to the front, cross hilt as high as the chin and six inches in front of the neck, edge to the left, point six inches farther to the front than the cross hilt, thumb extended on the back of the gripe, wrist straight, all fingers grasping the gripe.

96. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the carry in one motion, without throwing the right hand to the front, or the point to the rear.

97. **Command: Salute, SWORDS.**

Execute present swords. (TWO) Drop the point of the sword, edge to the left, to about fifteen inches in front of and in prolongation of the right foot, arm hang-ing naturally, the elbow close to the body, the back of the hand down.



**Present Swords**

98. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the position of carry swords.

NOTE: The salute swords, is the present swords, used by officers. If not in ranks they will at the command present, execute present swords, and at the command swords, execute the second motion of salute swords. Junior Officers execute the present unless otherwise prescribed.

Salute Swords



Order Swords  
First Motion



Order Swords

99. **Command: Order, SWORDS.**

Drop 't the sword point to the ground, blade inclined to the rear, back of blade to the front. (TWO) Bring the blade to a vertical position against the right toe, and place the hand on top of the hilt, three fingers in front of the gripe, thumb and little finger in the rear, elbow close to the body.

100. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the position of carry swords, in one motion.

101. **Command: Support, SWORDS.**

Bring the sword to the position of present. Par. 95. (TWO) Carry the sword vertically to the left side, lowering the right hand until the forearm is horizontal, edge of the sword to the front, the right hand firmly grasping the gripe about three inches below the guard, at the same time grasp the right forearm near the elbow with the left hand, the left forearm along and in front of the right forearm, the thumb of the left hand over and supported by the right forearm near the elbow, fingers of the left hand extended and joined, the guard resting on the left arm near its elbow, the blade vertical, edge to the front.



102. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Bring the sword to the position of present, at the same time drop the left hand by the side. (TWO) Bring the sword to the carry, Par. 96.



**Swords Port**

103. **Command: Swords, PORT.**

Seize the blade in front of the right shoulder with the fingers and thumb of the left hand, the thumb to the rear, the left elbow close to the body. (TWO) With the left hand, bring the sword diagonally across and about one inch in front of the body, edge down, the left hand at the height of the left shoulder, the thumb extended along the blade, the fingers closed, back of the hand down, the right hand grasping the hilt and nearly in front of the right hip.

**Support Swords**

104. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Bring the sword to the carry with both hands, the left hand as high as the right shoulder, pressing the blade to its place, the fingers and thumb extended and joined in front of the blade, the elbow near the body. (TWO) Drop the left hand to the side.



**Carry from Port  
First Motion**

105. **Command: Arm Rest, SWORDS.**

Carry the hands in front of the center of the body, the arms nearly extended; clasp the hands the left over the right, see Par. 59, the blade resting along the right fore-arm, the right hand retaining the same position on the gripe as at the carry.



**Arm Rest Swords**

106. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the carry in one motion.

107. **Command: Shoulder, SWORDS.**

Raise the right hand in front of the armpit and place the flat of the sword blade on the right shoulder, the edge to the left, the elbow close to the body, the point of the sword obliquely to the left, and in the rear, clearing the chapeau.

NOTE: This is not the same as the position of Carry Swords!

108. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the position of carry swords



Shoulder Swords

109. **Command: Reverse, SWORDS.**



Reverse Swords  
First Motion

Drop the blade forward and down until it is directed towards a point about one pace in front of the right foot, at the same time allow the fingers to grasp the lower part of the gripe, and move the hand forward about twelve inches. (TWO) Carry the sword by a wrist movement so that the blade will swing to the rear, the point downward at an angle of about 45 degrees, the edge up. As the sword swings in-to position under the right armpit, bring the hand in front of the right armpit and grasp the gripe with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, the other fingers successively curved, resting the blade between the right arm and the right side. The end of the hilt remains about nine inches in front of the right shoulder,

110. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Bring the sword to the first position of reverse. (TWO) Resume the position of carry swords.

On long marches the corresponding position of left reverse may be taken.



Reverse Swords

111. **Command: Left Reverse, SWORDS.**

Extend the right hand to the first position of reverse. (TWO) With the right hand swing the sword to the position of left reverse. (THREE) Seize the gripe with the left hand and drop the right hand to the side.

112. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Seize the gripe with the right hand and drop the left hand to the side. (TWO) Carry the sword to the first position of reverse swords. (THREE) Resume the position of carry swords.



Parade Rest

113. **Command: Parade, REST.**

Being at Carry Swords or Order Swords, drop (carry) the sword point to the ground in front of the center of the body on a line with the left toe, edge to the right, the palm of the right hand resting on the end of the hilt; the thumb and fingers extended and joined against the gripe, the left hand clasped over the right; at the same time carry the right foot six inches straight to the rear, the left knee slightly bent, the body erect, Par. 69.

114. **Command: Squad, ATTENTION, Carry (Order), SWORDS,**

At the command ATTENTION, bring the right foot to the side of the left; drop the left hand to the side, and carry the hilt to the right side, leaving the point undisturbed. At the command SWORDS, resume the position of Carry Swords or Order swords in one motion.



Attention from Parade Rest

119. **Command: Sir Knights, Return, SWORDS,**

At the command return, seize the scabbard near the mouth with the left hand, inclining it a little forward, and keeping the right hand near the body, drop the sword blade forward and to the left so that the point is about six inches from the floor and pointing to a line which is a prolongation of the left foot. Move the sword hand to the left, then raise the hand, drawing the sword-blade between the first two fingers of the left hand. Insert the point of the blade in the mouth of the scabbard, edge to the front, assisted by the thumb and fingers of the left hand, eyes to the front, thrust the blade into the scabbard until the right forearm is horizontal (first motion of draw). (Par. 91.) (SWORDS) Return the blade smartly and drop the hands to the sides.

NOTE-In inserting the point avoid turning the scabbard to meet the sword.



Return Swords First Motion

122. **Command: On GUARD.**

Turn the left foot square to the left, turning on the left heel, and plant the right foot firmly about eighteen inches to the front, feet at right angles, the weight resting principally on the right foot, the shoulders oblique to the front, head and eyes square to the front. At the same time raise the sword band on a line with lower part of the belt and about two inches from it, the guard three or four inches to the right of the belt clasp. Drop the sword diagonally to the left, the blade about 18 inches in front of the left shoulder, edge to the front, thumb on back of gripe. The sword held without constraint.



On Guard

123. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

Resume the position of attention at carry swords..

## Cuts or Parries

124. In giving the parries, first take the position on guard, keep the feet at right angles and look into the eyes of the Knight opposite. The flats of the blades should be crossed about ten inches from the points, the sword arm straight; parries should be given with spirit but the swords touching lightly.

**Parry. ONE.** Raise and extend the arm, back of the hand to the left and up, without changing the grasp, wrist as high as the head, the edge of the sword up, the blade in prolongation of the forearm, and engage the sword of the Knight opposite.

**Parry, TWO.** Disengage the sword and describe a circular movement toward the rear and right, back of the hand down, edge of the sword down, the hand on a line with the head, and engage the opposite sword on the right side, crossing the blades as before.



Parry THREE



Parry ONE—Cross Swords

**Parry, THREE.** Disengage the sword and describe a circular movement toward the left and downward, engage the opposite sword on the left side, the point of the sword near the ground, the edge upward, the back of the hand to the left, and cross blades.

**Parry, FOUR.** Come directly to the position of Parry One.

125. The parries may be taught by numbers, but when a commandery is well instructed, they may be given, one division to another, by calling the number of the parry required, as in the following command sequence:

**Command: First Division \_\_\_ to the Second Division \_\_\_. On, GUARD.  
Parry Four. 1, 2, 3, 4. On, GUARD.**

126. **Command: Carry, SWORDS.**

After each word is communicated, the position of on guard and carry swords will be resumed as follows: 1. CARRY, 2. SWORDS. At the first command, come to the position of on guard and at the command swords, bring the right foot back to the original line and resume the carry.

133. **Command: Un, COVER.**

At the command Cover, take the chapeau by the front piece with the left hand. (TWO) Raise the chapeau from the head and place it on the right shoulder, slightly to the front, holding it in that position with the left hand.

134. **Command: Re, COVER.**

Replace the chapeau on the head. Drop the hand to the side.

NOTE: Uncover is never executed unless the swords are sheathed, at an order, or (with the right hand) when at a secure



Un-COVER



Kneel

135. **Command: Sir Knights, KNEEL**

(Swords Sheathed) Carry the left foot about twenty-four inches to the rear. (TWO) Kneel on the left knee, the body and left thigh erect, the right leg below the knee nearly vertical, the right hand hanging at the side.

The triangle guard kneel, from order swords, same as above, except as to the right hand, which rests on the top of the sword hilt.

To communicate, both lines are moved forward one pace before kneeling.

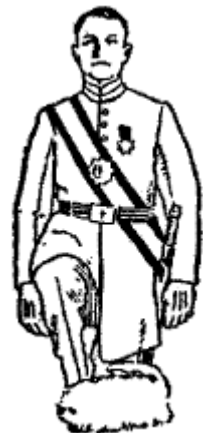
136 **Command: Deposit, CHAPEAUX**

At the second command, place the chapeau on the ground to the left of the right foot, feathers to the left, peak pointing toward the body. The cap is placed with the crown down. (TWO) Resume position of kneel.

137. (After communication) **Command: Secure, Chapeaux, Re-COVER, Sir Knights, RISE.**

At the second command (Chapeaux) grasp the visor of the chapeau with the left hand, place it on the right shoulder. (Re-COVER) Replace the chapeau on the head and drop the hand. (RISE) All rise bring left feet forward into line.

Both lines are now moved backward one place. NOTE-The uncover should be made after kneeling and re-cover before rising.



Deposit Chapeaux

138. (After devotion) **Command: Re-COVER, Sir Knights, RISE.**

(Re-COVER) Replace the chapeau on the head and drop the hand to the side. (RISE) All rise bringing left feet forward into line.