



# **COLOUR PARTY**

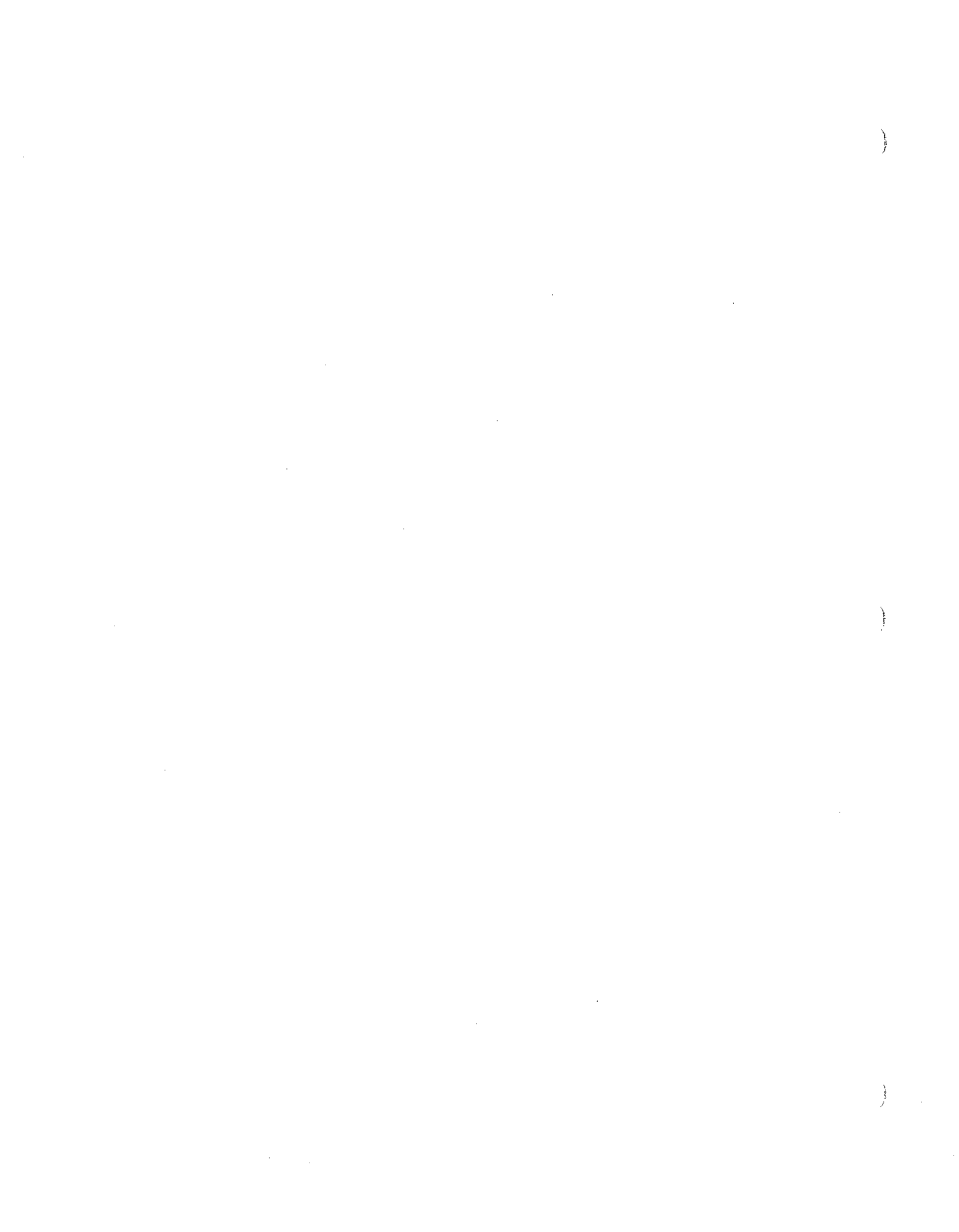
**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS**

## SECTION 7

## COLOUR PARTY

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### INTRODUCTION

Many fire departments have or are considering the formation of an official colour party to represent the department at civic functions and official fire department ceremonies. The following information has been compiled to assist in the formation and training of this type of specialized unit which will be under the scrutiny of the public.

### DRESS

All firefighters in a Colour Party should be dressed consistently in full dress uniform. Gloves, special boots and shoulder cords are optional. A colour carrier is worn over the left shoulder. The details of the colour pike and carrier are shown in Figure A.

### GENERAL

- A. A cased Colour is never held at the carry.
- B. Colour movements on the march shall be executed with a standard pause between each movement.
- C. When at the halt the Colour is never sloped. It shall be at the carry or the order.
- D. During an inspection, the Colour shall be at the carry.

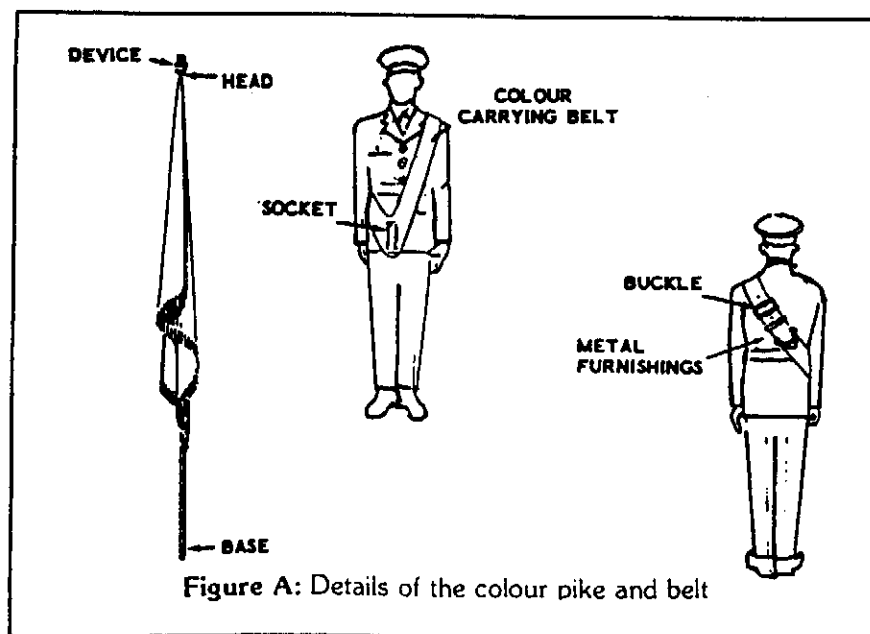


Figure A: Details of the colour pike and belt

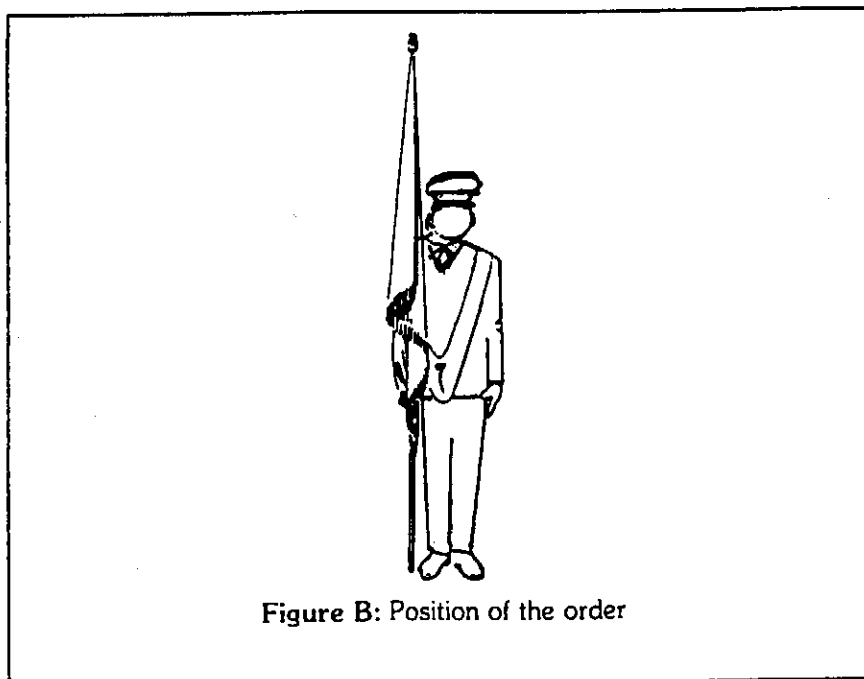
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### POSITION OF THE ORDER

To assume the position of the order:

- A. stand at attention;
- B. the pike is held vertical with the right hand, at the right side, the base of the pike on the ground at the right side of the right foot in line with the toe of the shoes;
- C. the pike and Colour are held with an all-round grasp of the right hand, back of the hand outwards, at the point of the pike where the lowest corner of the Colour reaches;
- D. the Colour shall hang naturally down the pike and shall not be stretched taut;
- E. the right elbow is at the side; and
- F. the right wrist is directly in rear of the pike.



### STAND AT EASE FROM THE ORDER

On the command, **Stand at — Ease:**

The Colour and pike remain in the same position as at attention.

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### STAND EASY FROM STAND AT EASE

On the command, **Stand — Easy:**

- A. The Colour and pike remain in the same position;
- B. The left arm is kept to the side; and
- C. The body is relaxed.

### ORDER FROM STAND AT EASE

On the command, **Atten — Tion**, the left foot is brought to the right and the position of the order is assumed.

### CARRY FROM THE ORDER

On the command, **Carry Colour, By Numbers — One:**

- A. Raise the Colour with the right hand to a vertical position with the base of the pike just clear of the socket;
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket and guide the pike into the socket.

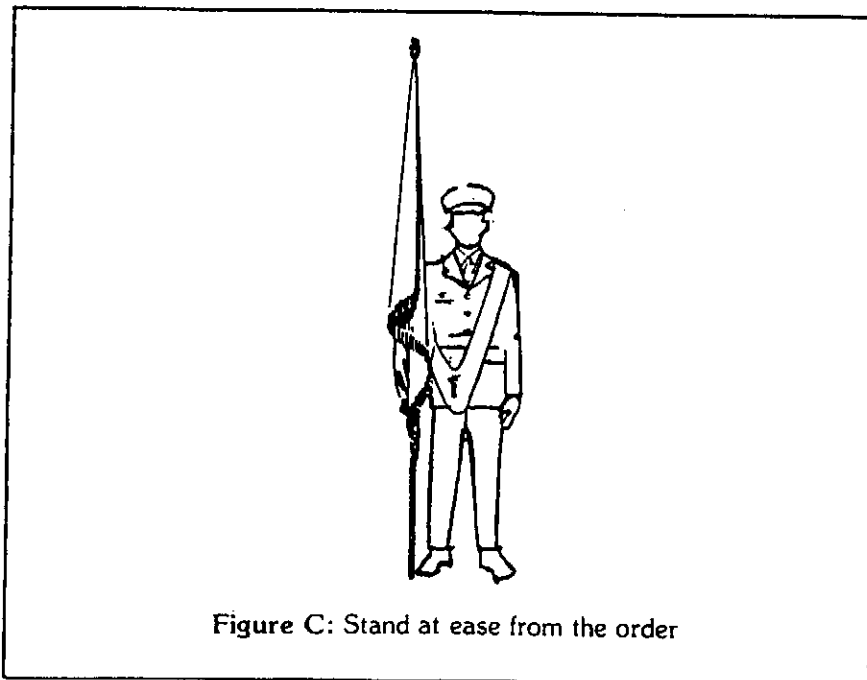


Figure C: Stand at ease from the order

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On the command, **Squad — Two:**

- A. Bring the left hand to the position of the order; and
- B. On completion of the movement
  - (1) the right hand is opposite the mouth;
  - (2) the right forearm is parallel to the ground at right angles to the pike;
  - (3) the wrist of the right arm is straight;
  - (4) the back of the hand is outwards; and
  - (5) the head and eyes are facing the front.

On the command, **Carry — Colour**, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

### ORDER FROM THE CARRY

On the command, **Order Colour by Numbers — One:**

- A. With the right hand raise the pike clear of the socket; and
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket to steady the carrier

On the command, **Squad — Two:**

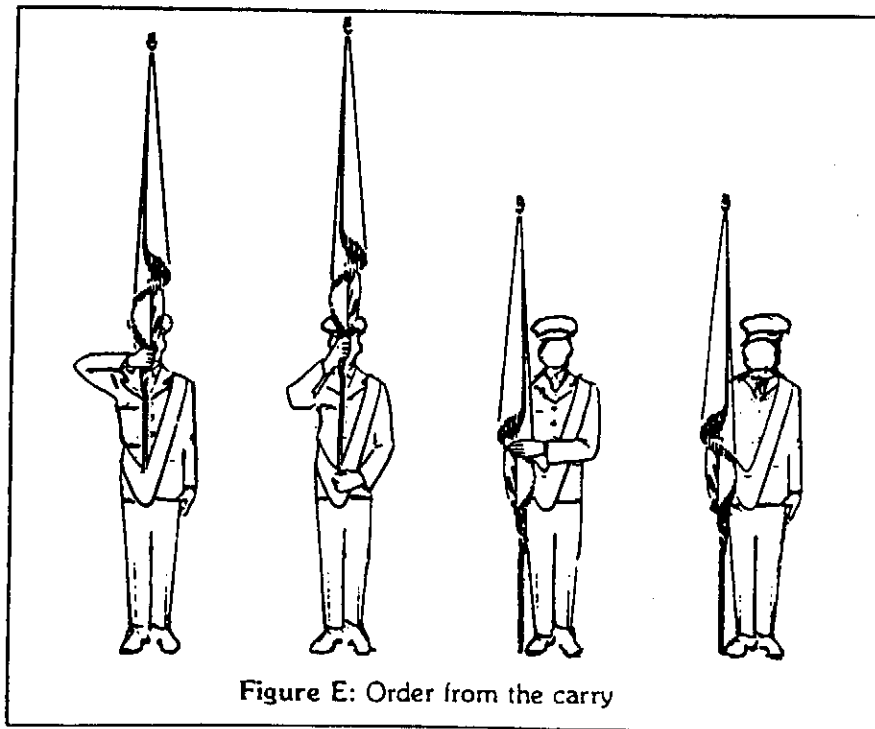
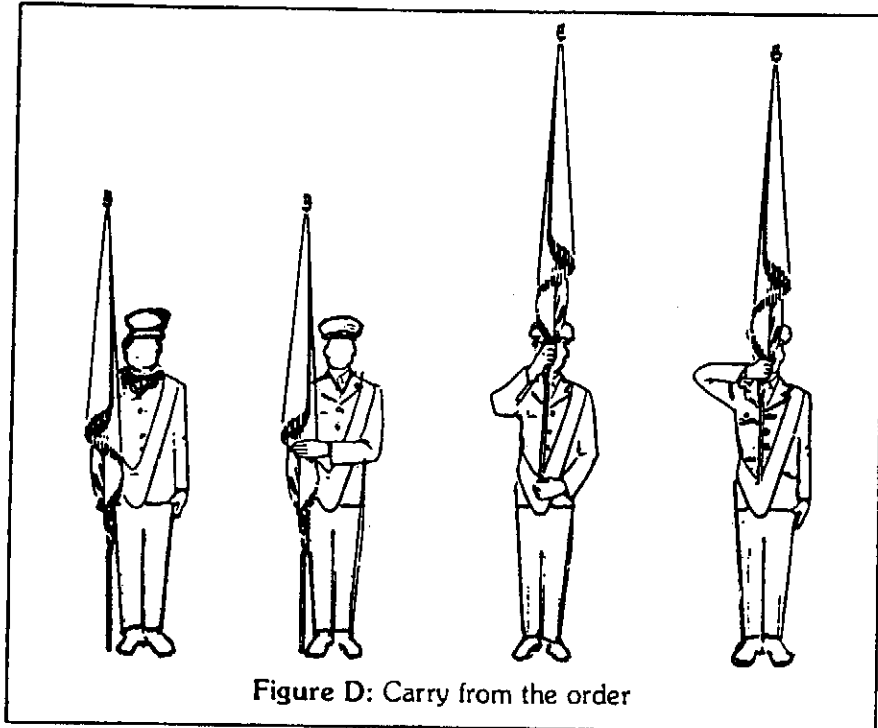
- A. Carry the Colour with the right hand to the position of the order;
- B. Move the left hand across the body to steady the pike; and
- C. On completion of the movement:
  - (1) the back of the left hand shall be outwards;
  - (2) the fingers of the left hand extended and pointing to the right; and
  - (3) the left forearm is parallel to the ground.

On the command, **Squad — Three**, carry the left hand to the side assuming the position of attention.

On the command, **Order — Colour**, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

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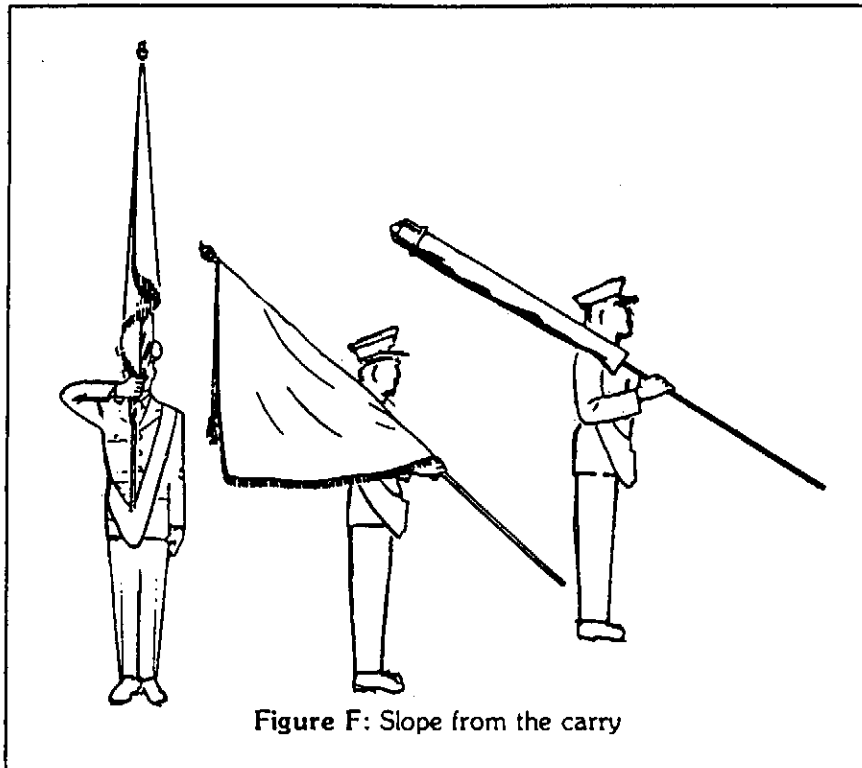
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### SLOPE FROM THE CARRY

On the command, **Slope Colour by Numbers — One:**

- A. With the right hand raise the pike clear of the socket; and
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket to steady the pike.



On the command, **Squad — Two:**

- A. Lower the Colour with the right hand to the right shoulder;
- B. Simultaneously, with the left hand grasp the pike below the right hand, with an all-round grip, to steady the pike; and
- C. On completion of the movement:
  - (1) the Colour shall be at a 45 degree angle on the right shoulder;
  - (2) the elbow shall be close to the body;
  - (3) the right forearm shall be parallel to the ground;
  - (4) the Colour shall hang over and cover the right shoulder and arm; and
  - (5) the pike shall not show between the hand and the shoulder and shall be covered by the Colour.

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On the command, **Squad — Three:**

Carry the left hand to the side assuming the position of the order.

On the command, **Slope — Colour**, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

### CHANGING THE COLOUR AT THE SLOPE

On the command, **Change Colour by Numbers — One:**

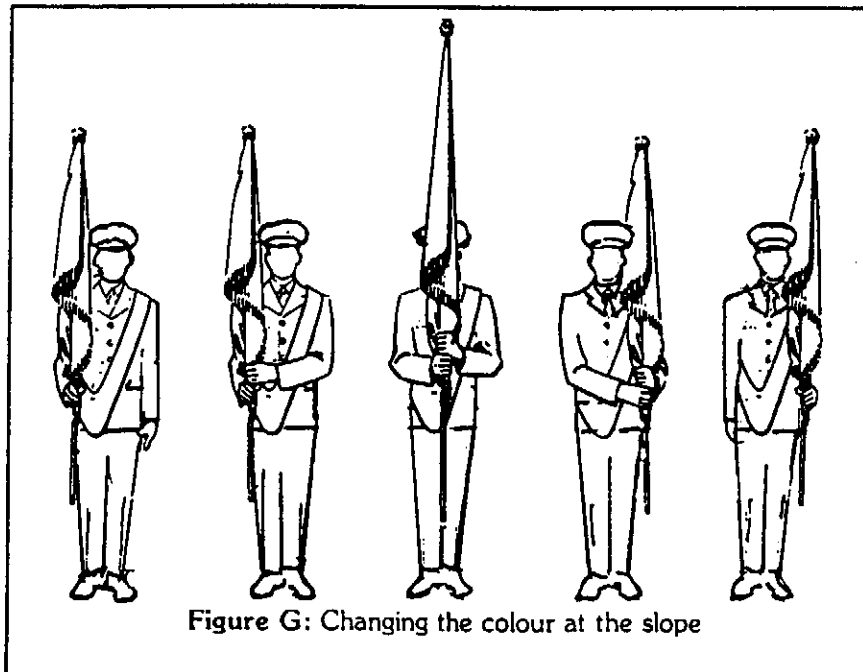


Figure G: Changing the colour at the slope

- A. Grasp the pike with the left hand below the right, in an all-round grip, back of the hand to the front and thumb to the rear; and
- B. Keep the elbows close to the body.

On the command, **Squad — Two:**

- A. Carry the Colour, with the pike perpendicular, to a position four inches in front of the centre of the body; and
- B. Keep the elbows close to the body and both forearms parallel to the ground.

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On the command, **Squad — Three:**

Place the Colour on the the left shoulder, while the grip is retained with both hands, in a similar position as described for the slope on the right shoulder.

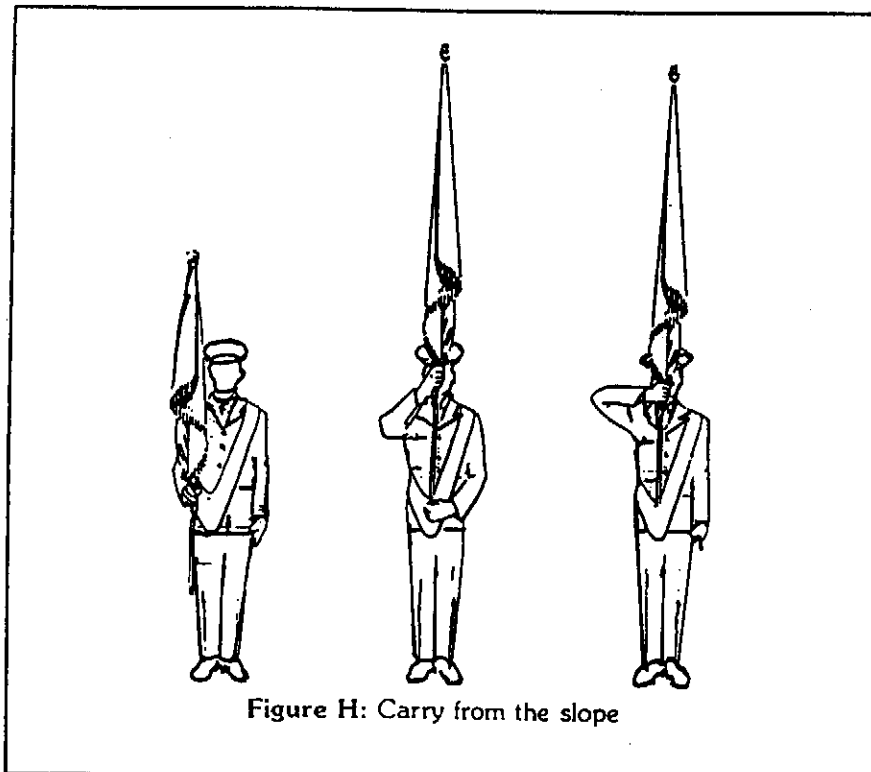
On the command, **Squad — Four:**

Cut the right hand to the side.

On the command, **Change Colour**, the four movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

To change Colour from the left to the right, the movement is executed as detailed above substituting left for right and right for left.

### CARRY FROM THE SLOPE



On the command, **Carry Colour by Numbers — One:**

A. Raise the Colour off the right shoulder with the right hand to the perpendicular position of the carry from the order; and

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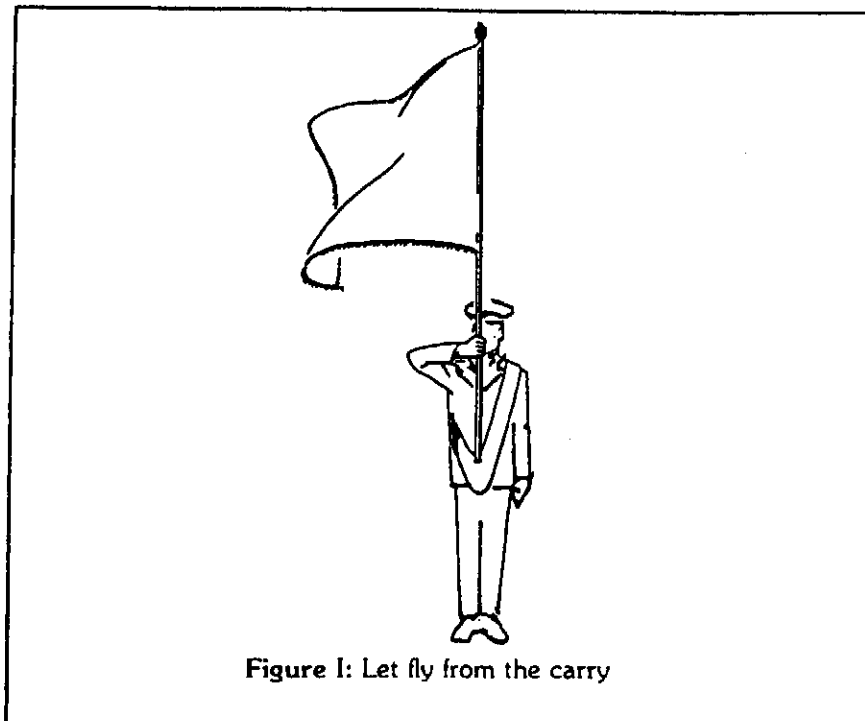
B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket to guide the base of the pike into the socket.

On the command, **Squad — Two**, cut the left hand to the side assuming the carry position.

On the command, **Carry — Colour**, the two movements are combined. a standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

### LET FLY FROM THE CARRY

On the command, **Let Fly — Colour**, maintaining the grip on the pike, release the Colour with the right hand.



### CATCHING THE COLOUR FROM THE LET FLY

On the command, **Catch the Colour by Numbers — One:**

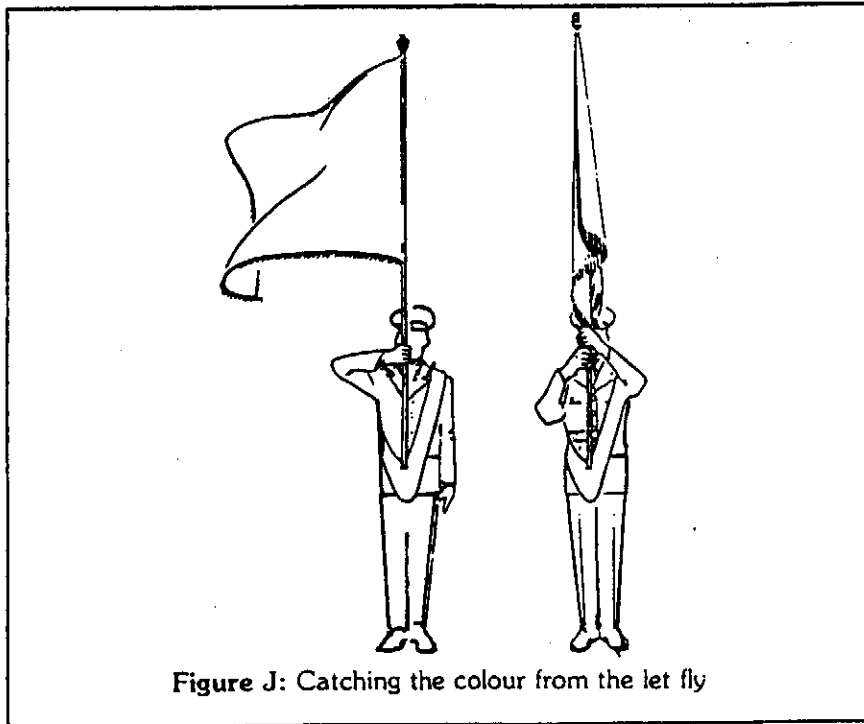
A. Grasp the Colour with the left hand and bring it in to the pike; and

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B. Simultaneously, grasp the corner of the Colour with the right hand as in the position of the order.

On the command, **Squad — Two**, cut the left hand to the side to the position of attention.



On the command, **Catch the — Colour**, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

Depending on the wind direction, the Colour may be grasped with the right hand after securing the pike in the left hand. If due to the strength of the wind the colour cannot be caught, then the colour shall be brought to the position of the order, the Colour secured and returned to the carry.

### DIP FROM THE CARRY AT THE HALT

On the command, **Dip colour by Numbers — One**:

- A. Releasing the Colour from the pike, raise the pike to the full extent of the right arm; and
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand across the body and grasp the socket to steady the carrier.

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On the command, **Squad — Two:**

- A. Carry the pike, with the right hand, well out to the right, and lower it with a sweeping motion to a position in front of and in line with the right foot;
- B. Simultaneously, cut the left hand to the side to the position of the order; and
- C. On completion of the movement:
  - (1) the pikehead shall be just clear of the ground;
  - (2) the Colour shall be spread on the ground to the right of the pike; and
  - (3) the pike shall be held under the right armpit, the back of the right hand towards the ground.

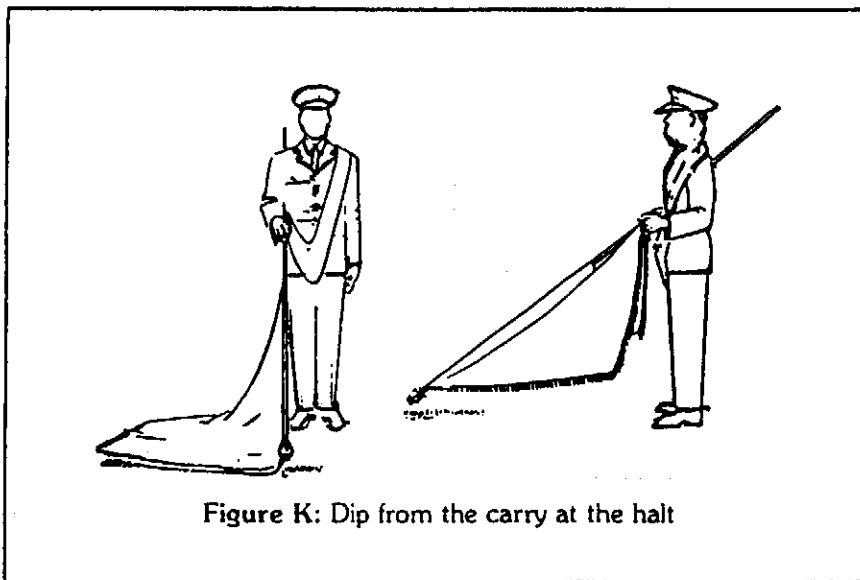


Figure K: Dip from the carry at the halt

On the command, **Dip — Colour**, the two movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

If the ground is wet or muddy, the pikehead shall be two inches above the ground. The Colour shall be held in the left hand to prevent it from being soiled.

If a strong wind is blowing from the right, the pike, shall be carried with the right hand well to the left, and then lowered with a sweeping motion to the position of the dip. The Colour shall be spread to the left of the pike.

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### CARRY FROM THE DIP AT THE HALT

On the command, **Carry Colour by Numbers — One:**

- A. Raise the Colour off the ground with the right hand, to the perpendicular position of the carry; and
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket to guide the base of the pike into the socket.

On the command, **Squad — Two:**

- A. Grasp the Colour with the left hand and bring it in to the pike; and
- B. Simultaneously, grasp the corner of the Colour with the right hand as in the position of the order.

On the command, **Squad — Three**, cut the left hand to the side.

On the Command, **Carry — Colour**, the three movements are combined. A standard pause shall be observed between the movements.

### DIP FROM THE CARRY ON THE MARCH

The dip is only executed on the march in slow time.

On the command, **Eyes — Right**, the Colour shall be let fly on the next pace with the left foot.

On the following pace with the left foot:

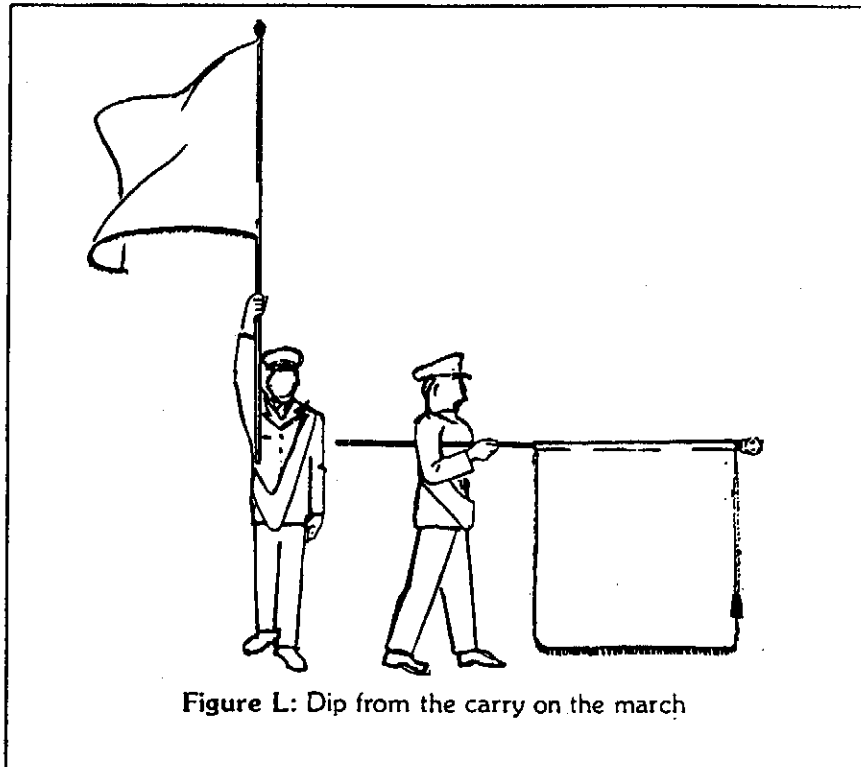
- A. Grasp the socket with the left hand; and
- B. Raise the pike clear of the socket with the right hand.

On the next pace with the left foot:

- A. Move the Colour to the right and lower the pike to the horizontal with the pike resting under the right armpit; and
- B. Simultaneously, cut the left hand to the side.

On completion of the movement:

- A. The back of the right hand shall be towards the ground;
- B. The right elbow close to the side;
- C. The Colour shall hang straight down;
- D. The left arm straight at the side; and
- E. The head and eyes shall be straight to the front.



### CARRY FROM THE DIP ON THE MARCH

On the command, **Eyes — Front**, on the next pace with the left foot:

- A. Raise the Colour with the right hand, to the perpendicular position of the carry; and
- B. Simultaneously, bring the left hand to the socket to guide the base of the pike into the socket.

On the following pace with the left foot the Colour shall be caught with the left hand, and the corner of the Colour shall be grasped with the right hand.

On the next pace with the left foot, cut the left hand to the side.