

Grand Commandery

Knights Templar State of New York

School of Instruction and Seminar

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Objective

In order to perform Knights Templar's
with ease (better understanding),

Tactics

today's School of Instruction and Seminar presentation will provide *junior* and *senior* Sir Knights with the *proper* instructions that they will need to follow for the rest of their Templar's experiences.

Topics

1. Frequently used words (*Word Definition*)
2. Order of Opening and Closing
3. Sword (*A Quick Description*)
4. To the Newly Created Knights
5. Sword & Chapeau Commands and Positions
6. Do Not Do
7. Knights Templar Title
8. Opening
9. Reception
10. Sword Manual
11. Inspection
12. Closing
13. End

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Frequently Used Words

- **About Face:** A wheel of face of 180 degrees (a half circle)
- **Alignment:** A straight line upon which several Knights or Ranks are formed or are to be formed.
- **Center:** The middle point, or element, of a command.
- **Column:** A formation in which the elements are placed one behind another.
- **Commander:** The office, junior officer, or Sir Knight who is actually in command of the lines. The honorary title of the head of the Commandery is “Eminent Commander.”
- **Cover:** To take a position exactly in rear of another.
- **Dress:** Alignment to the right, or left, as in forming rank.

Frequently Used Words

- **Face:** To turn and face left or right.
- **File:** A Sir Knight in rank. If in double rank, includes the corresponding rear rank Sir Knight. A line faced to the right, or left, is called a column of “files.”
- **Front:** The space, or width, occupied by a command, or any element. The front of a Sir Knight is 22 inches. Also, the general direction toward which the command is moving.
- **Guide:** One upon whom the command, or Sir Knight, regulates the march.
- **Interval:** Space between elements of the same line.

Frequently Used Words

- **Pace:** Thirty inches; the length of the average full step in “Quick Time.”
- **Platoon:** A sub-division of a commandery, usually not less than 12 files, formed for drill.
- **Post:** Official position, or place, of officers, Junior officers or Sir Knights.
- **Rank:** A line of Sir Knights placed side by side; also the grade of an officer.
- **Right:** The right extremity, or or element, of a body of Sir Knights (contra, the Left).
- **Wheel:** A circular movement by which a rank is placed at right angles to its former position.

Frequently Used Words

- **About Face:**
- **Apartment:**
- **Asylum:**
- **Fall, In:**
- **Escort:**
- **Standard Guard:**
- **Halt:**
- **Forward:**
- **March:**
- **Count: One --- Two**
- **Hand Salute --- Twos**
- **Left Oblique:**
- **Attention:**
- **Commandery:**

Order of Opening and Closing

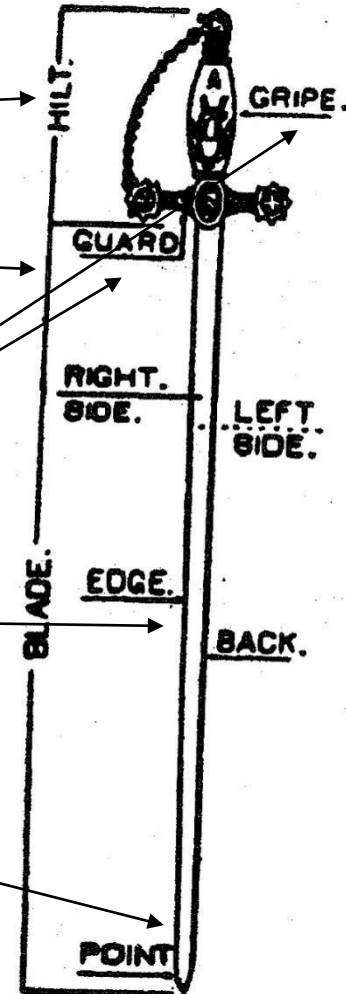
- The order of the opening and closing of the Commandery should be:
 - 1. Opening (Preparing the Commandery) by the Captain General
 - 2. Reception of the Commander and PC or/and PGC
 - 3. Reception of the Visitors (if there are any) and/or Inspecting Officer
 - 4. Rehearsal
 - 5. Forming the Triangle
 - 6. Reduce the Triangle
 - 7. Rehearsal of Duties
 - 8. Salute to the United States Flag
 - 9. Business of Conclave can be: Regular or Annual Inspection
 - 10. Procedure for Inspection and Sword Manual (Inspection Night)
 - 11. Closing

To The Newly Created Knights

- In order to avoid the forming of awkward habits
- or taking incorrect positions,
- Newly Created Knights should be taught:
 - 1. Sword Manual
 - 2. Marching
 - 3. and Drill
- Ease and Grace can be acquired only by frequent exercise
- Attention to minor details is essential

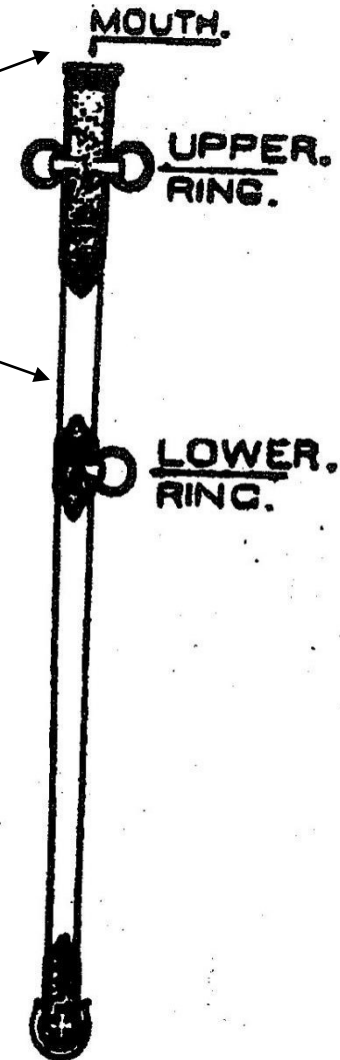
The Sword

- The Sword consists of the:
- Hilt
- and the Blade.
- The Hilt is divided into Grip and Guard.
- The Gripe is the Handle grasped by the hand.
- The Guard is the crosspiece 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.”



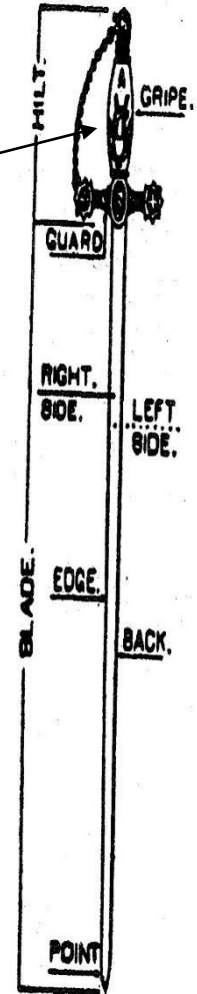
The Scabbard

- The Scabbard is the receptacle of the Sword;
- The opening of the same is the Mouth (Where you insert the Sword).



Manual of the Sword

- Carry the sword with flexible wrist
- and without grasping the grip tightly:
- The Grip should be held, at the position of “carry,”
- by the thumb and forefinger, as if holding a pencil,
- and covering about two-thirds of the grip below the guard.

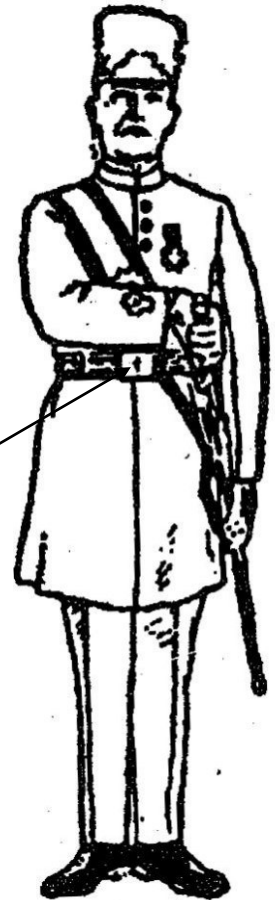


The Commands

- Each command is divided into motions of about one-half of a second
- For example: To Draw Swords - The Command will be:
 - Draw,
 - Swords
- To Return Swords – The Command will be:
 - Return,
 - Swords

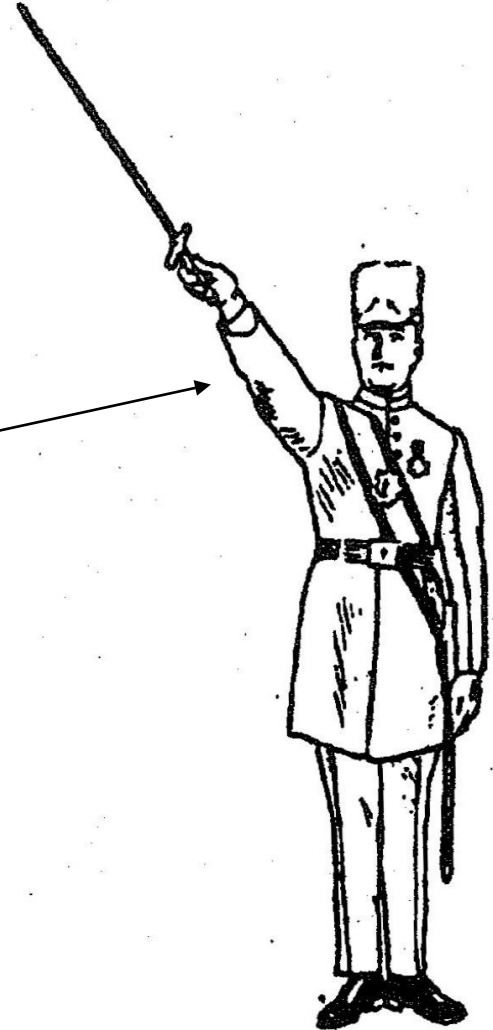
Draw, - Swords - 1st Motion

- The Draw Command will be:
- Sir Knights, Draw
- At the command “Draw”
- Grasp the scabbard with the left hand, near the scabbard’s mouth,
- incline the hilt a little forward,
- seize the grip with right hand,
- and draw the blade until the right forearm is horizontal,
- the back of the hand against the breast.



Draw, - Swords – 2nd Motion

- At the command “Swords”
- Draw the Sword quickly,
- rising the arm to its full length
- at an angle of 45 degrees
- the sword is in a straight line with the arm,
- Edge down,
- Extending in the same direction as the right foot.



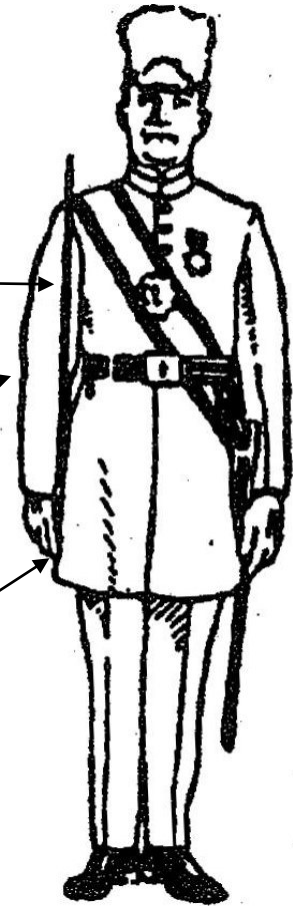
Draw, - Swords – 3rd Motion

- After a few seconds (Carry Sword)
- Bring the back of the blade against the shoulder

- Keeping the blade vertical •

Back of the grip to the rear

- The arm nearly straight down
- The thumb and forefinger embracing the grip
- The thumb against the thigh
- The other fingers extended and joined in the rear of the grip.



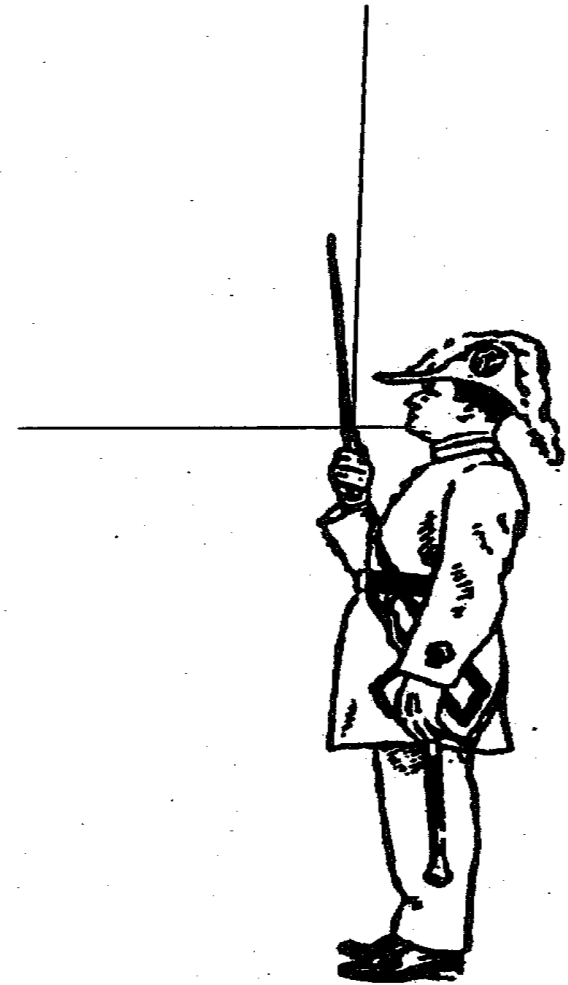
Present, - Swords - Position

- To Present: At the Command “Swords”
- Raise and carry the sword to the front,
- guard as high as 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 grip,
- wrist straight,
- and all fingers grasping the grip



Present, - Swords - Position

- Let's carefully take a look at the "Present Swords" position, again!



Carry, - Swords – Motion

- While at the “Present” Position to execute the Command:
- Carry
- Swords
- Resume the “Carry” in one motion
- without throwing the right hand to the front
- or the point to the rear.



Inspection, - Swords - Position

- To Inspection, Swords
- At the Command “Swords”
- Execute “Present, Swords”
- As the eyes of the Inspecting Officer reach the top of the blade,
- turn the wrist to show the back of the blade.
- When his inspection is complete,
- Resume “Carry, Swords.”
- Do not return wrist to front prior to Inspecting Officer completing his inspection.



Salute, - Sword – 1st Motion

- To Salute, Swords
- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Execute “Present, Swords.”



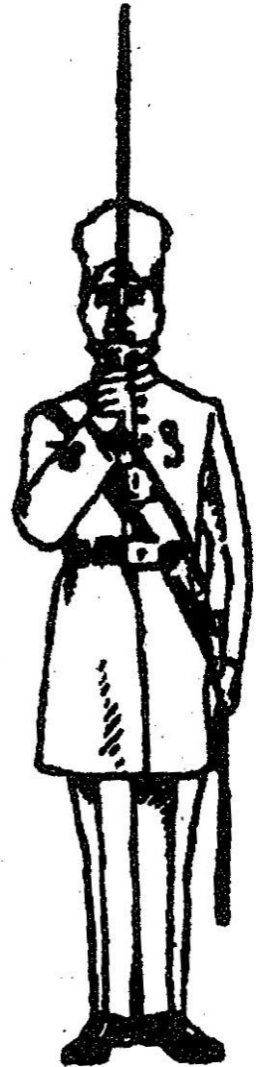
Salute, - Sword – 2nd Motion

- 2. 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 hanging naturally,
- the elbow close to the body,
- the back of the hand down.
- Then, execute “Cary, Swords.”



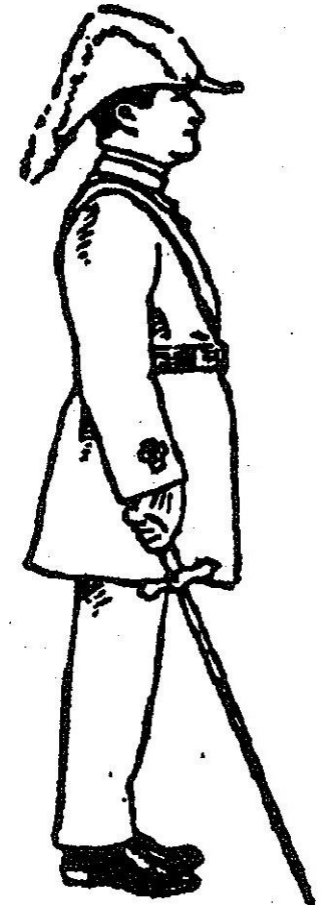
Note: Salute, - Sword

- The “Salute, - Swords”
- Is the “Present, - Swords” used by the Council Officers.
- If not in ranks,
- at the Command “Present,”
- the Council Officers will execute “Present, Swords,”
- and at the Command “Swords,”
- execute the second motion of “Salute, Swords.”



Order, - Swords – 1st Motion

- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Drop the sword point to the ground,
- blade incline to the rear,
- back of the blade to the front.



Order, - Swords – 2nd Motion

- 2. Bring the blade to a vertical position against the right toe
- and place the right hand on top of the hilt
- three fingers in front of the grip,
- thumb and little finger in the rear,
- elbow close to the body.



Invert, - Swords – 1st Motion

- To Invert, Swords
- While at Carry and at the Command “Swords”
- 1. Drop the point of the sword directly forward about fifteen inches,
- grasping the blade,
- about nine inches from the guard,
- with the left hand,
- palm to the front.



Invert, - Swords – 2nd Motion

- 2. Release the grip with the right hand,
- and invert the sword with the left hand,
- to a position, four inches in front of the center of the body,
- blade vertical,
- edge to the right,
- guard at the height of the chin,
- grasp the blade with the right hand at the height of the belt. (Arm at right angle)



Carry, - Swords – 1st Motion

- To “Carry, Swords” while at the Invert position
- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Release the right hand and drop it to the side.
- swing the point of the sword forward and upward,
- at the same time, lower the hilt to the right side
- and grasp it with the right hand



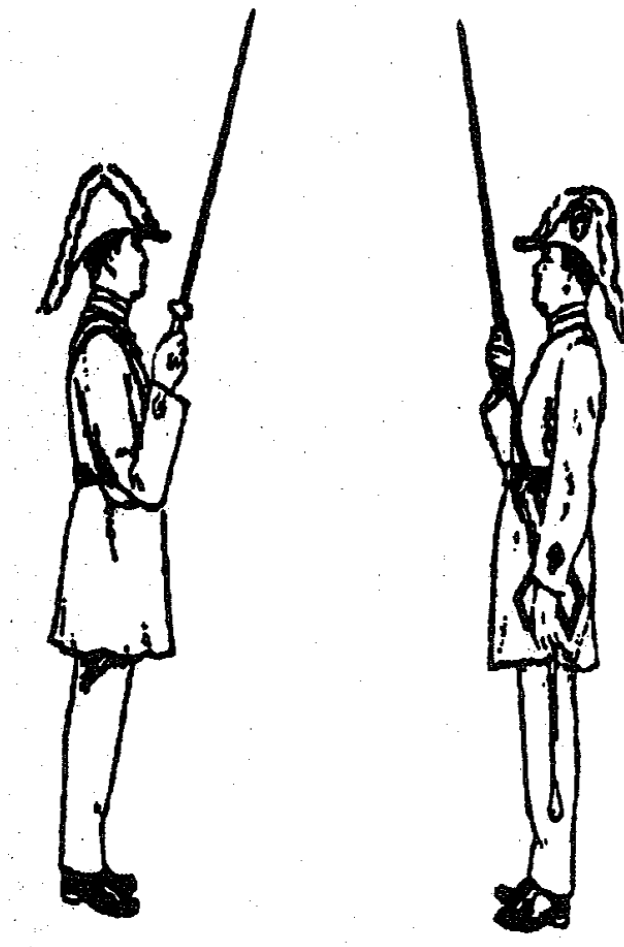
Carry, - Swords – 2nd Motion

- 2. Place the sword in the position of “Carry,”
- The left hand pressing the blade to the right shoulder,
- Back of the hand to the front.
- 3. Drop the left hand to the side.



Form Arch of Steel – 1st Position

- To form Arch of Steel:
- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Execute “Present, Swords.”



Form Arch of Steel – 2nd Position

- 2. 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.



Form Arch of Steel – 2nd Position

- At the same time, raise and extend the sword arm,
- Back of the hand to the left and up,
- the edge of the sword up,
- The blade in prolongation of the forearm,
- and engage the sword of the Knight opposite,
- As in “Cut 1.” position.



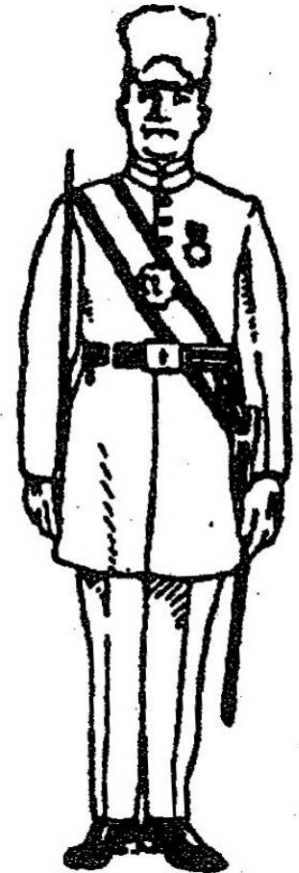
Form Arch of Steel – 3rd Position

- After the “Arch of Steel” is formed, you will need to come to carry;
- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Bring the feet to the original line
- and execute “Present, Swords.”



Form Arch of Steel – 4th Position

- 2. Resume the position of “Carry, Swords.”



On, - Guard – Position

- At the Command “Guard”
- Turn the left foot square to the left,
- turning on the left heel,
- and firmly plant the right foot about eighteen inches to the front,
- feet at the right angles,
- the weight resting principally on the right foot,
- the shoulders oblique to the front,
- head and eyes square to the front



On, - Guard – Position

- At the same time,
- raise the sword on a line with the lower part of the belt,
- and about two inches from it,
- the guard three or four inches to the right of the belt buckle.



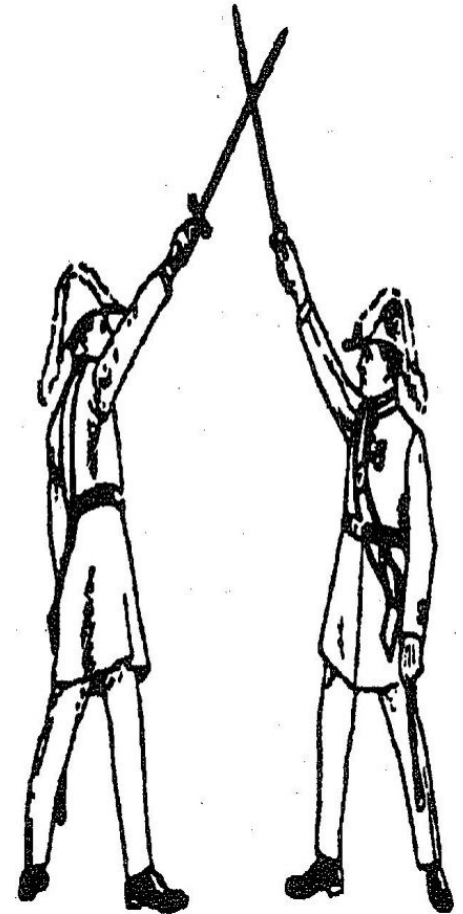
On, - Guard – Position

- Drop the sword diagonally to the left,
- the blade about eighteen inches in front of the shoulder,
- edge of the front,
- Thumb on the back of gripe.
- The sword held without constraint.



Give, - Cuts – 1st Cut

- At the Command “Cuts”
- Raise and extend the sword 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.



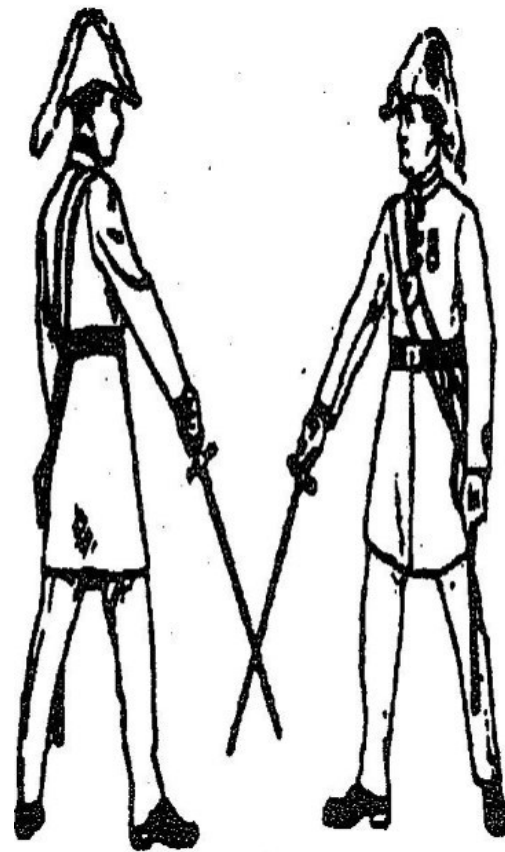
Give, - Cuts – 2nd Cut

- 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 hand,
- crossing the blades as before.



Give Cuts – 3rd Cut

- 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.



Give, - Cuts – 4th Cut

- Come directly to the position
- as in Cut One.



Carry, - Swords – 1st Position

- From the Cut position, when we need to come to carry swords
- At the Command “Carry”
- Come to the “On, Guard” position.



Carry, - Swords – 2nd Position

- At the Command “Swords”
- 1. Bring the right foot to the original line
- 2. Resume the “Carry, Swords” position.



Return, - Swords – 1st Motion

- Sir Knights, Return, Swords
- At the Command “Return”
- Seize the scabbard near the mouth with the left hand,
- open the first two fingers of the left hand
- Inclining the scabbard 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



Return, - Swords – 1st Motion

- 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.



Return, - Swords – 2nd Motion

- Insert the point of the blade in the mouth of the scabbard, edge to the front.
- Thrust the blade into the scabbard until the right forearm is horizontal
- which is the (First Motion of “Draw, Swords”)
- At the Command “Swords”
- Return the blade smartly and drop the hands to the sides.



Prepare to Kneel, – Kneel - Motion

- Sir Knights, Prepare to kneel, Kneel
- At the Command “Kneel”
- Grasp the handle of the sword with the left hand
- and press the hilt downward about four inches, •
- carrying the left foot about 24 inches to the rear. •

As if to continue pushing on the hilt,

- Kneel on the left knee,
- the body and left thigh erect,
- the right leg nearly vertical below the knee,
- both arms hanging at the side.

Un, - Cover – Motion

- To Un-, Cover
- At the Command “Cover”
- While kneeling, with the left hand,
- take the chapeau by the peak.
- Raise the chapeau from the head
- and place it on the right shoulder,
- slightly to the front,
- and hold it in that position with the left hand
- right hand hanging at the side.



Deposit, – Chapeau – Motion

- To Deposit, Chapeau
- At the Command “Chapeau”
- Place the chapeau on the floor
- to the left of the right foot,
- feathers to the left,
- peak pointing toward the body.
- Resume the position of kneel (both arms hanging at the side.)



Secure, – Chapeau – Position

- To Secure, Chapeau
- At the Command “Chapeau”
- With the left hand, grasp the peak of the chapeau
- and place it on the right shoulder.



Re-, Cover – and Rise

- To Re, Cover
- At the Command “Cover”
- Replace the chapeau on the head
- and drop the left hand to the side.
- To Rise
- At the Command “Rise”
- Rise on the left foot
- and bring the heel of the right foot back to the heel of the left foot.

Un, – Cover – While Standing Up

- To Un, Cover while standing up:
- At the Command “Cover”
- With the left hand,
- take the chapeau by the peak.
- Raise the chapeau from the head
- and place it on the right shoulder,
- slightly to the front,
- and hold the chapeau in that position with the left hand.



Hand, - Salute – Motion

- At the Command “SALUTE”:
 1. Raise the Right Hand smartly until the tip of the forefinger touches the lower part of the headdress,
 - above the Right eye,
 - thumb and Fingers extended, and joined, Palm to the left,
 - forearm inclined at about 45 degrees;
 - hand and Wrist straight;
 - At the same time, look toward the person saluted.
 2. Drop the arm smartly to the side.



Right, - Dress – Position

- To Right, Dress
- At the Command “Dress”
- Execute “Eyes and Face, Right”



Front, – Position

- At the Command “Front”
- Execute “Eyes and Face, Front”



Do not Do

- The Standard Bearer Never Backs into the line after securing the Flag.
- Never talk while at the Salute/Present Swords position.
- Never use the Sign of Fidelity in Knights Templar Uniform and/or within an Asylum.
- Never Dip the United States Flag.
- Except in outdoor ceremonies, street parades, or while serving on a committee for the reception of a Grand Officer, the Treasurer and Recorder will not wear their swords.
- Never use Swords during closing of the Commandery.

Knights Templar Title

- To orally address Officer:
- In the Grand Encampment, You will say:
- Most Eminent Grand Master
- Right Eminent Grand Recorder
- In the Grand Commandery, You will say:
- Right Eminent Grand Commander
- Eminent Grand Warder
- In the Commandery, You will say:
- Eminent Commander
- Sir Knight Captain General

End

- You are now ready to use most of the Grand Commandery's **Tactics**
- Questions and Answers
- If you have any more questions, please see the Newly Revised Tactics book.
- Now, it is time to practice what we just leaned.