

Waffenausbildung für Deutsche Heere 1939 – 1945

(“Military Drill for the regular German army of 1939 -1945”)

Basic foot drill, rifle drill and formation of the Rifle Company



Researched and presented by:

Ufz. Val Czerny,

Of the recreated

5 Kompanie, II Bataillon, 916 Grenadier Regiment, 352 Infantry Division.

With assistance from

Ufw Harald Topfler

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13. Ranks in the German army 1939 - 1945

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“The soldiers good bearing is an index of his training and overall physical education. It is to be improved whenever everyday service provides the opportunity”

H.Dv. 130/2a - Paragraph 1

Waffenausbildung für Deutsche Heere 1939 -1945

1. "Einleitung" - Introduction

This text is to familiarise you with the basic WWII German Army drill commands.

The result of the research has come from various sources but "**Reibert 1940**" and "**Instruction Manual for the Infantry H.Dv.130/2a**"- Dated 16/3/1941 (translated by John Baum of Lisbon, Ohio USA) have been the definitive in the majority of cases. Although these underwent annual revision, the drill did not differ greatly as the years went by. The manual covers basic Rifle drill and formations - other weapons drill (such as Mortar, grenade and MG), and combat "drill" will be covered in other manuals.

In late 1943 the German army underwent restructuring and the Group / squad (*Gruppe*) and Platoon (*Zug*) sizes were cut - (see chapters 5 and 9 in this manual which show pre 1943 formations). These divisions were differentiated from existing formations by the designation "**Infantry div. 1944 type**". Unfortunately no literature has been located as yet which shows the 1944 formations.

The list is not exhaustive and this manual contains those orders, which have been found through research. It includes a few "best guesses" for instructions that have not been found or have been found but not adequately explained. These "best guesses" are included as they are instructions that we require in order to be able to operate. Most are taken from the post war Bundeswehr training. This manual will constantly be updated as and when new research comes to light and the author would be grateful for any research knowledge the reader has on this subject.

Each command will be shown as:

The German text	A phonetic pronunciation	The meaning
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This will then be followed by an explanation of the execution of the command (**Ausführung**) if applicable.

The meaning will be the closest British army equivalent although it is likely that the German will not translate to that directly. If the translation requires explanation for better understanding then it will be explained in more detail in the **Ausführung**.

The phonetic pronunciation will be written as it would sound in English with brackets indicating short or long sounds. However "ch" is pronounced as the "ch" in a Scottish "loch", which is difficult to find a phonetic sound for so if you see "ch" in the phonetic pronunciation put your Scottish accent on. This does not apply to a "ch" when following an "s". This means that "sch" will sound like "sh".

An "s" followed by a vowel is pronounced normally, an "s" followed by a consonant is pronounced "sh". The "ß" symbol is called an "Eszett" and is basically a "ss".

Dots on the tops of Ä, Ö, Ü, and Ë are called "Umlauts" and change the sound of the letter.

The command (Kommando) or order (Befehl) normally consists of 2 parts. The warning command followed by the execution command. In this text the execution part will shown in **bold** text.

A point to note - The warning part can also be prefixed by reference to the group of soldiers assembled, for example:

Abteilung	<i>Ab-ty-loong</i>	Not a specific unit, it can be any size of men (most common)
Zug	<i>Tsoog (short 'oo')</i>	Actual unit which consists of 4 Gruppen (3 Gruppen after 1944)
Trupp	<i>Troop (short 'oo')</i>	Not a specific unit, normally a small number of men
Gruppe	<i>Groop-eh (short 'oo')</i>	Actual unit which consists of 10 men. (9 men after 1944)

The order can also be prefixed by **Achtung** (*Ach-toong* – (short oo)). This means "attention" as in a warning **not** "attention" as in an order (see "Stillgestanden" para 2.1).

The command could also be directed towards a specific soldier for example - "Zweite Mann ... " (2nd Man ...). The groups as above can also be prefixed by "**Ganze**" (*Gants-eh*), which means "the whole or entire". For example "**Achtung - Ganze Zug - Links um**" – "Attention - the whole platoon - left turn".

I would imagine that the German army of this period was no different to its counterparts who generally prefixed orders as explained above. However for our purposes we should keep this to a minimum in order not to confuse and to give prefixes to orders, which only contain one word such as "**Kehrt**" and "**Halt**" (see text as follows). When in "Zug" formation, however, an order may be directed at a particular "Gruppe" and therefore a prefix will be used.

2. "Einzelausbildung ohne Gewehr" – Individual drill without the rifle

2.1 ("Reibert" page 181 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") - section 1 - paragraph 1) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 2)

"Stillgestanden"	Shtill-geh-shtan-den (see below text)	Attention
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Ausführung: This order would be given from the "Rührt Euch" (para 2.2) position and the soldier moves after the final syllable, (The order will probably sound like Shtill-Geh-Shtan). The final position is best quoted in the following direct translation HDV 130/2a,

" In the basic position the man stands still. The feet stand with the heels close together. The toes are placed as far apart as to position the feet at not quite a right angle to each other. The weight of the body rests at the same time on the heels and on the balls of both feet. The knees are slightly straightened. The upper body is held erect, the chest slightly pushed forward. The shoulders are at an equal level. They are not drawn up. The arms are stretched gently downwards, the elbows pressed moderately forward. The hand touches the upper thigh with fingertips and wrist. The fingers are together. The middle finger lies on the trouser seam, the thumb along the index finger on the inside of the hand. The head is held

erect, the chin a little drawn back into the neck. The eyes are directed straight ahead. The muscles are easy and at the same time tensed. Convulsive over-tension of the muscles leads to a poor and forced bearing".

2.2 ("Reibert" page 182 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") - section 1 - paragraph 3) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 5)

"Rührt - Euch"	Roo-ert - Oich	At Ease
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Ausführung: Move left foot forward, lower arms against sides and relax the posture. The torso may be moved. No speaking without permission.

2.3 ("Reibert" page 184 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") - section 1 - paragraph 7) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 26 and 27)

"Links - Um"	Leenks-oom	Left Turn
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Ausführung: Turn to the left 90 degrees using the heel of the left foot and ball of the right foot as pivots. Bring the heel of the right foot against that of the left foot. The whole operation should appear as one single movement without any fancy snap or clicking of heels.

2.4 ("Reibert" page 184 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") - section 1 - paragraph 7) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 26 and 27)

"Rechts - Um"	Rechts-oom	Right Turn
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Ausführung: Turn to the right 90 degrees using the heel of the right foot and ball of the left foot as pivots. Bring the heel of the left foot against that of the right foot. The whole operation should appear as one single movement without any fancy snap or clicking of heels.

2.5 ("Reibert" page 184 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 1 - paragraph 8) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 26 and 28)

"Kehrt"	Kairt	About Turn
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Ausführung: Turn to the left 180 degrees using the heel of the left foot and ball of the right foot as pivots. Bring the heel of the right foot against that of the left foot. The whole operation should appear as one single movement without any fancy snap or clicking of heels.

2.6 ("Reibert" page 197 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 4 - paragraph 5) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 233 - 236)

"Richt - Euch"	Richt - Oich	Dress
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Ausführung: *Literal meaning* – "adjust/correct yourselves" . All, except the extreme right of the line, turn their head to the right. Adjust position if required in order to straighten your line. Elbows should be barely touching the man to your right (ignore the man to your left - that is his responsibility). Reposition yourself - do not move your arms outwards in order to touch his elbow. If in more than one rank then the distance between the ranks should be 80 inches. The manuals states that an arm may be briefly raised to judge this distance. Await the "eyes front" order (para 2.8)

2.7 ("Reibert" page 197 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 4 - paragraph 5) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 233 - 236)

"Nach Links, Richt - Euch"	Narch Leenks, Richt - Oich	Dress to the left
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Ausführung: All, except the extreme left of the line, turn their head to the left. Adjust position if required in order to straighten your line. Elbows should be barely touching the man to your left (ignore the man to your right - that is his responsibility). Reposition yourself - do not move your arms outwards in order to touch his elbow. . If in more than one rank then the distance between the ranks should be 80 inches. The manuals states that an arm may be briefly raised to judge this distance. Await the "eyes front" order (para 2.8)

2.8 ("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 1 - paragraph 19) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10 and 233 - 236)

"Augen Gerade-aus"	Owgen gerrarr-da-ows	Eyes Front
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Ausführung: Turn the head smartly to the front, eyes straight ahead

NB - There is no instruction for dressing in extended order (See paragraph 9 - Forming the Platoon). Extended order is for combat scenarios and not formal scenarios. The soldiers merely find their positions. If orders at 2.6 or 2.7 above are given then the soldiers dress in close order.

2.9 ("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 19) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10)

"Augen- Rechts"	Owgen- Rechts	Eyes Right
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Ausführung: Turn the head sharply to the right. This order is given as a salute (normally with "present arms" see para. 3.) You should look at the Officer or Dignitary to whom the salute is being given and follow him/her with your head (eyes should be fixed forward and the head do the moving). When the Officer or Dignitary passes 2 paces past your position (your head should now be slightly to the left) you snap your head to the front smartly. Should a situation arise where the Officer or Dignitary does not pass your position then the order "Augen Geradeaus" (see para 2.8) will be given.



A good photographic example of this - General Freiherr von Hammerstein inspects troops who have obviously been given this order – look closely at the direction of the heads and note that their rifles are slung on the shoulder and not at present arms (see para 3.3) as one would expect. "German Army Uniforms and Insignia 1933 – 1945 " by Brian L Davis

2.10 ("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 19) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10)

"Die Augen- Links"	Dee Owgen- Leenks	Eyes Left
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Ausführung: Turn the head sharply to the left. This order is given as a salute (normally with "present arms" see para. 3.) You should look at the Officer or Dignitary to whom the salute is being given and follow him/her with your head (eyes should be fixed forward and the head do the moving). When the Officer or Dignitary passes 2 paces past your position (your head should now be slightly to the right) you snap your head to the front smartly. Should a situation arise where the Officer or Dignitary does not pass your position then the order "**Augen Geradeaus**" (see para 2.8) will be given.

3. “Einzel Ausbildung mit Gewehr” – Rifle drill (K98’s only)

NB. The drill as at para 2 also applies. The weapon should ideally be “off the ground”. However there is film evidence of drill conducted at “Gewehr ab” -para 3.2 (also see paragraph 11.4.i which refers to saluting whilst moving at “Gewehr ab”). In this case the weapon is lifted approximately 2 inches and the manoeuvre carried out. Upon conclusion the weapon is returned.

3.1. (To Shoulder arms from Order arms)

(“Reibert” page 188 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 17) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 8)

“Das Gewehr - über”	Das- Gev – air - oobair	Shoulder arms
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Ausführung: This explanation is from the order given from the starting position of “order arms” (see para 3.2 and picture 1 below.)It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The right hand brings the rifle up vertically towards the centre of the torso, barrel facing to the right and lower band at about collar height.
2. The left hand seizes the rifle directly beneath the right hand. See pictures 2 and 3 below.
3. The right hand, without pausing, releases the rifle and regrasps it at the area of the bolt with the right thumb lying parallel to the rifle’s length. See picture 4 below. The right hand then rotates and guides the rifle to the left shoulder. The left hand, releasing it’s grip, regrasps the buttplate with the butt of the rifle nestled between the thumb and fingers of the left hand. See picture 5 below.
4. The right arm quickly returns to the same position as in “Stillgestanden” (see para 2.1.)

Correct Position: The left forearm should be lightly touching the cartridge pouches, the rifle should be lined up with the left top pocket tunic button, the chamber should be approximately one hand’s width from the collar and the stock should rest against the cartridge pouches. See picture 6 below.



3.2 (Order arms from Shoulder arms)

("Reibert" page 188 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 1 - paragraph 18) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 3 and 9)

"Gewehr - ab"	Gev – air - ab	Order arms
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Ausführung: This order is only given from the starting position of "shoulder arms (see para 3.1) ". It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The left hand rotates the rifle so that the barrel faces to the right and the buttstock rests flat against the left thigh. The right hand grasps the rifle at the point directly above where the forestock touches the left shoulder (the right elbow should be raised slightly). *See picture 1 below.*
2. After a short pause, the right hand brings the rifle (rotating the rifle in the process) to the ground at the outside of the right foot with the barrel facing to the left. *See picture 2 below.*
3. The left arm quickly returns to the same position as in "Stillgestanden", while the right hand rotates the rifle so that the barrel faces to the rear with the thumb curled behind the barrel to keep it secured. *See picture 3 below.*

Correct Position: The rifle stands vertical with the trigger guard forward and the butt close to the right foot. The forward point of the butt is level with the toe line of the right foot. The right hand holds the rifle with the thumb behind the barrel and the fingers closed around the rifle at a position that allows slight bending of the elbow. The left arm assumes the same position as at para 2.1 above with the bend of both elbows in line. *See picture 3 below.*

Note: It is not normal to march whilst in this position but film evidence and paragraph 11.4.i refers to saluting whilst moving at this position of arms.



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2



3

3.3 (Present arms from Shoulder arms)

("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 19) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10)

"Achtung. Präsentiert das - Gewehr"	Ach-toong. Pray-sen-tyert das- Gev – air	Present arms
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Ausführung: This order is given from the starting position of "shoulder arms (see para 3.1) ". It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The left hand rotates the rifle one quarter turn so that the barrel faces to the right while, simultaneously the right hand grasps the pistol grip. *See picture 1 below.*
2. The left hand releases the buttstock and the right hand rotates the rifle a further one quarter turn so that the barrel faces inwards. The four fingers of the right hand must be stretched out directly beneath the trigger guard with the thumb curled behind the rifle and directly beneath the safety switch Simultaneously the left hand grasps the rifle forestock at the area of the rear sight. (the thumb should lay alongside the left side of the rear sight).
3. The rifle is then lowered smartly. The receiver ring should come to rest on the right corner of the left cartridge pouch). The weapon should be in line with the left side of the head and therefore not obstructing the view of the left eye. *See pictures 2 and 3 below.*

This order is a form of salute and will normally be followed by "eyes right" or "eyes left" – see paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10.



Good photographic examples of this - " German Army Uniforms and Insignia 1933 – 1945 " by Brian L Davis.

3.4 (Shoulder arms from Present arms)

("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 19) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10)

"Das Gewehr - über"	Das- Gev – air - oobair	Shoulder arms
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Ausführung: This explanation is from the order given from the starting position of "Present arms (see para 3.3).

It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The left hand rotates the rifle so that the barrel faces to the right.
2. The right hand grasps the bolt area and guides the rifle to the left shoulder, at the same time the left hand releases it's grip and grasps the buttplate
3. The right arm quickly returns to the same position as in "Stillgestanden" (see para 2.1.)

"Griffe mit Langgemachtem Gewehrriemen" – Rifle drill with the sling

3.5. (From Order arms to Shoulder arms using the sling) – see also paragraph 3.9

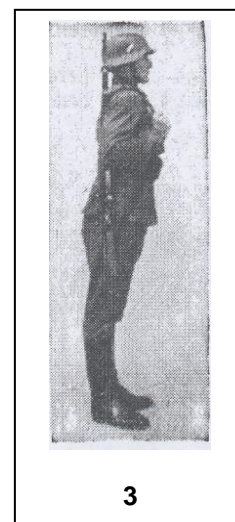
("Reibert" page 190 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 20) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 11)

"Das Gewehr - über"	Das- Gev – air - oobair	Shoulder arms
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Ausführung: This explanation is from the order given from the starting position of "order arms (see para 3.2).

It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The right hand brings the rifle up vertically towards the centre of the torso, barrel facing to the right and lower band at about collar height.
2. The left hand seizes the rifle directly beneath the right hand. See picture 1 below.
3. The right hand, without pausing, releases the rifle and grasps the sling pulling it towards the torso. See Picture 2 below. The left hand then guides the rifle to the right and passing under the left armpit positions the rifle to the rear of the right shoulder. This should result in the right arm passing through the sling. See picture 3 below.



3.6. (From Shoulder arms with the sling to Order arms)

(*"Reibert" page 190 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 21) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 12)*)

"Gewehr - ab"	Gev – air - ab	Order arms
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Ausführung: This order is given from the starting position of "shoulder arms with the sling" (see para 3.5).

It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The right shoulder swings slightly to the left in order to allow the sling to slip of the shoulder. At the same time the left hand comes across and grasps the rifle about midway. The barrel of the rifle should be to the right.
2. The right hand then releases from the sling and grasps the rifle at a point just above where the sling attaches to the foremost part of the rifle. The right hand then brings the rifle to the ground at the outside of the right foot with the barrel facing to the left.
3. The left arm quickly returns to the same position as in "Stillgestanden", while the right hand rotates the rifle so that the barrel faces to the rear with the thumb curled behind the barrel to keep it secured.

3.7 (From Shoulder arms with the sling to Present arms)

(*"Reibert" page 190 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 22) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 13)*)

"Achtung. Präsentiert das - Gewehr"	Ach-toong. Pray-sen-tyert das- Gev – air	Present arms
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Ausführung: This order is given from the starting position of "shoulder arms with the sling" (see para 3.5).

It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The right shoulder swings slightly to the left in order to allow the sling to slip of the shoulder. At the same time the left hand comes across and grasps the rifle forestock at the area of the rear sight. (the thumb should lay alongside the left side of the rear sight). The barrel of the rifle should be to the right. *See picture 1 below*
2. The right hand then releases from the sling and grasps the pistol grip.
3. Quickly, with both hands, rotate the rifle one-quarter turn in one clean movement. (the barrel should come to face the left chest and the receiver ring should come to rest on the right corner of the left cartridge pouch.) Simultaneously the four fingers of the right hand must be stretched out directly beneath the trigger guard with the thumb curled behind the rifle and directly beneath the safety switch. *See picture 2 below*

This order is a form of salute and will normally be followed by "eyes right" or "eyes left" – (see paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10.)



3.8 (From Present arms to Shoulder arms using the sling)

("Reibert" page 191 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 22) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 13)

"Das Gewehr - über"	Das- Gev – air - oobair	Shoulder arms
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Ausführung: This explanation is from the order given from the starting position of "present arms (see para 3.3 or 3.7).

It is one smooth move and not performed as specific actions as in the British army. However the move is broken down into the following actions for ease of understanding:

1. The right hand, without pausing, releases the rifle and grasps the sling pulling it towards the torso.
2. The left hand then guides the rifle to the right and passing under the left armpit positions the rifle to the rear of the right shoulder. This should result in the right arm passing through the sling.

3.9 ("Reibert" page 191 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 23) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 14 and 15)

"Gewehr umhängen"	Gev-air oom-hayn-gen	Sling arms over the shoulder
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Ausführung: See paragraph 3.5. "Reibert" and "H.Dv 130/2a" lists this order and then refers you to back to the description as in para 3.5.

3.10 ("Reibert" page 191 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 23) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 16)

"Gewehr um den Hals"	Gev-air oom denn hals	Sling arms across the chest
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Ausführung: *Literal meaning* - " weapon about the neck". Upon this order the sling to the rifle is placed over the head so that the weapon lies across the chest. The butt of the rifle is to the lower left and the muzzle to the upper right.

3.11 ("Reibert" page 191 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 23) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 16)

"Gewehr auf den Rücken"	Gev-air owf denn rooken	Sling arms across the back
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Ausführung: Upon this order the sling to the rifle is placed over the head and hangs on the neck with the barrel to the right. The right arm is then placed between the stock and sling and the rifle is guided to the rear to lie across the back. The butt of the rifle is to the lower right and the muzzle to the upper left.

3.12 ("Reibert" page 191 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 24) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 17)

"Gewehr abnehmen"	Gev-air ab-nay-men	Unslung arms
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Ausführung: This order appears to be the recovery to Paragraphs 3.9, 3.10 and 3.11 above. The weapon is unslung but to what position it does not say.

3.13 (*“Reibert” page 191 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 25) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 43)*

“Seitengewehr pflanzt auf ”	Zyten-gev-air flanst owf	Fix Bayonets
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Ausführung: With the bayonet seated correctly, ie mounting slot to the rear and grip to the front (The shape of the grip forms a rudimentary eagle's head so remember the eagle faces forward), the left hand, with the back of the hand towards the waist, grabs the handle of the bayonet and pulls it from its scabbard. The fingers will lie across the grip and the thumb along the side. As it is pulled from the scabbard the hand twists the bayonet so the blade comes under the left arm into the upright position. The bayonet is then placed on the rifle and pushed firmly into place ensuring an audible "click" to confirm attachment. Resume the "Stillgestanden" position.

3.14 (*“Reibert” page 191 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 26) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 44)*

“Seitengewehr an Ort ”	Zyten-gev-air ann ort	Unfix Bayonets
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Ausführung: The thumb of the right hand pushes on the bayonet release button whilst the left hand lifts the bayonet from its mounting. The fingers across the grip the thumb lying along the left side. As the bayonet is lifted the right hand releases the button and re grabs the rifle. The left hand then rotates the bayonet so the blade passes under the left arm and points downwards. The bayonet is then placed into the scabbard with the mounting slot to the rear and grip facing forward. Resume the "Stillgestanden" position.

4. “Weggetreten” – Dismiss

(Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.5 are taken from the Bundeswehr manual although discussions with veterans indicate that these were the correct orders for the WW2 period)

4.1

“Nach der Weise - Weggetreten ”	Narch – der- veye-sah – veggetrayten	Clear the field - dismiss
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Ausführung: Commencing with the left foot, walk away and leave the parade immediately

4.2

“Nach links - Weggetreten ”	Narch – links – veggetrayten	To the left - dismiss
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Ausführung: Turn left 90 degrees and commencing with the left foot take 3 steps, then leave the parade immediately.

4.3

“Nach Rechts - Weggetreten ”	Narch – rechts – veggetrayten	To the right - dismiss
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Ausführung: Turn right 90 degrees and commencing with the left foot take 3 steps, then leave the parade immediately.

4.4

“Nach Rückwärts - Weggetreten ”	Narch – rook -vairs – veggetrayten	To the rear - dismiss
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Ausführung: Turn 180 degrees (to the left) and commencing with the left foot take 3 steps, then leave the parade immediately.

4.5

“Nach Vorwärts - Weggetreten ”	Narch – for-vairs – veggetrayten	To the front - dismiss
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Ausführung: Commencing with the left foot walk forwards 3 steps, then leave the parade immediately.

5. “Formen die Gruppe” – Forming the Group (up to late 1943 only)

NB. Up to 1943 the "Gruppe" consisted of 10 men as shown below. After late 1943 newly formed divisions were designated “**Infantry div. 1944 type**” and the "Gruppe" was cut to 9 men. Unfortunately no literature has been located which shows the 1944 formations and this manual will be updated when this comes to light.

At “Gruppe” level there are 3 ways of forming up. The below diagrams show the formations;

The key is as follows:

Grpf - Gruppenführer (group leader) - Highlighted in green

SdGr - Stellvertretend Gruppenführer (deputy group leader)

MG 1 - Maschinen Gewehr Schütze (machine gunner 1- with MG 34/42)

MG (2-3) - Maschinen Gewehr Schütze (machine gunner 2-3)

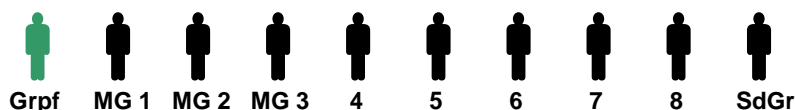
4-8 - Gewehr Schütze (rifleman 4-8)

When given the order to fall in, the soldiers should form up at “Stillgestanden” – (see para. 2.1).

The Commands

5.1 (“Reibert” page 197 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 2a) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 231 to 234 and figure 15)

“In Linie zu einem Gliede - Angetreten ”	een lin-ee eye-nem gleeda ahn-ge-tray-ten	In single file – form up
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FRONT

5.2 (“Reibert” page 197 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 2b) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 231 to 234 and figure 16)

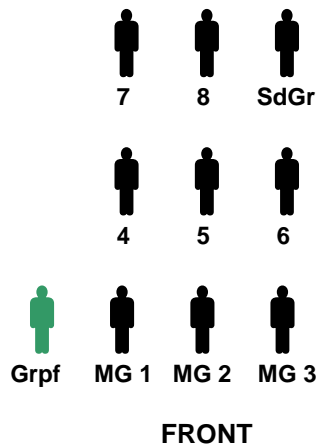
“In Reihe - Angetreten ”	een rye-heh - ahn-ge-tray-ten	In single column – form up
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FRONT

5.3 ("Reibert" page 197 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 4 - paragraph 2c) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 231 to 234 and figure 17)

"In Marschordnung - Angetreten "	een marsh ord-noong ahn-ge-tray-ten	In march order - form up
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5.4 Gewehr zusammensetzen -Stacking weapons

("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") - section 4 - paragraph 14) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 245)

Refer to paragraph 9.3 - Shutzenzug - Gewehr zusammensetzen" - Stacking weapons.

6. "In der Bewegung" - On the move (Marching)

NB. Explanations given as though without rifle. If a rifle is carried (see para 3) then the arm which is carrying the weapon remains still.

Step and Dressing: "H.Dv 130/2a" - Paragraph 237 states that dressing is taken from the guiding wing. Occasional glances are allowed in order to keep alignment and slight pressure should be kept to with the guiding wing. There is nothing to show what the guiding wing is. "Reibert" also does not elaborate on this but logic would dictate the following procedure should apply.

When in **Gruppe** formation (paragraph 5) the step / dressing should be taken from the Gruppenführer. When in **Zug** formation (paragraph 9) the step / dressing should be taken from the Zugführer.

6.1 ("Reibert" page 183 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 1 - paragraph 4b) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 20 and 237)

"Im Gleichschritt - Marsch "	Im – gliche – shritt - marsh	In quick time - march
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Ausführung: The march is started with the left foot. The pace is 114 steps/paces per minute at 80 cms per step/pace. The arms swing naturally from side to front. The elbow bends slightly when the arm is swung in front and the fingers of the hand remain together but extended (not clenched). The hands swing as high as the belt buckle. As the right foot comes forward so does the left arm and vice versa.

6.2 ("Reibert" page 182 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt") -section 1 - paragraph 4a) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 19, 238, 240 and 241)

"Ohne Tritt (Rührt - Euch) - Marsch "	o-neh- tritt (Roo-ert - Oich) - marsh	Without step (at Ease) - march
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Ausführung: As the order suggests, the soldiers do not need to keep step although they are required to keep the formation together. From rest the soldiers starts off on the left foot as per 6.1 above.

1/ **Ohne Tritt marsch** - Intervals are maintained. No talking, smoking eating etc

2/ (**Rührt - Euch**) - **Marsch** - Intervals maintained but more relaxed. Leaders do not need to remain in position. Soldiers may smoke, eat and talk unless ordered not to. If passing a superior officer then positions are re-established as in Ohne tritt marsch. There is no need to call to "Im Gleichschritt Marsch".- see para 6.1

6.3 ("H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 21)

"Parade Marsch "	Parad - Marsh	Parade step
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Ausführung: The march is started with the left foot. The leg is lifted straight forwards with a slight bend and with the foot angled forward. As the leg approaches 90 degrees the lower leg is now smartly snapped upwards to straighten the leg and then dropped to the ground whereupon the procedure is repeated by the right leg and so forth. The timing and spacings are as per paragraph 6.1.

6.4 ("Reibert" page 184 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 6) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 239)

(Laufschritt)* "Marsch - Marsch "	(Lowf-schritt) marsh - marsh	Double quick time - march
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Ausführung: The march is started with the left foot. The pace is quickened to double "*Im Gleichschritt Marsch*" see para 6.1. This is still an orderly marching step and the pace must remain. It is merely doubling the step and not "running like hell". The arms continue to swing naturally from side to front. The elbow bends slightly when the arm is swung in front and the fingers of the hand remain together but extended (not clenched). The hands swing as high as the belt buckle. As the right foot comes forward so does the left arm and vice versa.

* H.Dv 130/2a also mentions the order as "*Laufschritt - Marsch Marsch*" but Reibert merely shows "*Marsch Marsch*".

6.5 ("Reibert" page 198 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 4 - paragraph 8) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 239)

"Im Schritt"	Im-Shritt	In Step march
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Ausführung: As a recovery to "*Ohne Tritt Marsch*" (para 6.2). The order brings the soldiers back into step. Once the order is given the leader should call the cadence to allow soldiers to pick up the correct step.

6.6 ("Reibert" page 183 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 5) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 23)

"Halt"	Hah-It	Halt
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Ausführung: The order will be given on the right foot. Take one more step with the left foot and then bring the right foot in a half step smartly next to the left foot and come to a stop.

6.7 Seen in cinema footage and photographs - No actual provenance given)

"Die Augen- Links "	Dee Owgen- Leenks	Eyes Left
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Ausführung: Turn the head sharply to the left. This order is given as a salute and your head will remain looking left until the order "*Augen Geradeaus*" (see para 6.7) is given. You **do not** follow the Officer or Dignitary with your head as you did in the static command.

6.8 Seen in cinema footage and photographs - No actual provenance given)

"Augen- Rechts "	Owgen- rechts	Eyes right
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Ausführung: Turn the head sharply to the right. This order is given as a salute and your head will remain looking right until the order "*Augen Geradeaus*" (see para 6.7) is given. You **do not** follow the Officer or Dignitary with your head as you did in the static command.

6.9 ("Reibert" page 189 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 19) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 10 and 233 - 236)

"Augen Gerade- aus "	Owgen gerrarr-da- ows	Eyes Front
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Ausführung: Turn the head smartly to the front, eyes straight ahead and continue marching.

6.10 ("Reibert" page 198 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 4 - paragraph 11) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 242)

"Links Schwenkt- Marsch "	Leenks – shwenkt - marsh	Left wheel march
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Ausführung: The execution of this command is given on the left foot. The pivot man (front man or front left if in a row of 2 or more) then commences a wheeling turn to the left. The remainder of his row (if 2 or more) swing to the left in line with the pivot man. The wheel is continued until the order "Geradeaus" is given (see para. 6.10) at which point the front row (or front man) continues in a straight line. The remainder of the unit then follows the "wheeled" line taken by the front man of their respective column. Remember if the front row consists of several persons then the left man must shorten his step and the extreme right man must "step out" in order to keep the row in line as the wheel commences.

6.11 ("Reibert" page 198 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 4 - paragraph 11) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 242)

"Rechts Schwenkt- Marsch "	Rechts – shwenkt - marsh	Right wheel march
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Ausführung: The execution of this command is given on the right foot. The pivot man (front man or front right if in a row of 2 or more) then commences a wheeling turn to the right. The remainder of his row (if 2 or more) swing to the right in line with the pivot man. The wheel is continued until the order "Geradeaus" is given (see para. 6.10) at which point the front row (or front man) continues in a straight line. The remainder of the unit then follows the "wheeled" line taken by the front man of their respective column. Remember if the front row consists of several persons then the right man must shorten his step and the extreme left man must "step out" in order to keep the row in line as the wheel commences.

6.12 ("Reibert" page 198 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 4 - paragraph 11) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 242)

"Gerade- aus "	gerrarr-da- ows	Straight ahead
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Ausführung: Continue marching straight ahead.

6.13 ("Reibert" page 184 - chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 1 - paragraph 9) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 29)

"Links - Um "	Leenks- oom	Left Turn
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Ausführung: The execution command is given when the left foot touches the ground. One more step is then taken with the right foot and as it touches the ground a 90 degree turn is made to the left pivoting on the ball of the right foot (swinging the torso in line). The left foot then steps off in the new direction.

6.14 (*“Reibert” page 184 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 9) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 29)*

“Rechts - Um”	Rechts-oom	Right Turn
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Ausführung: The execution command is given when the right foot touches the ground. One more step is then taken with the left foot and as it touches the ground a 90 degree turn is made to the right pivoting on the ball of the left foot (swinging the torso in line). The right foot then steps off in the new direction.

6.15 (*No provenance*)

“Richt Ihr Stellung”	Richt – ear - Shtelloong	Correct your positions
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Ausführung: When marching it is likely that the “dressings” will be lost after a while. Although there is no specific order (soldiers shouldn’t need reminding to “watch their dressings”) it is likely that there was a warning given by an NCO in order to address the loss of correct positioning. This version is my most logical view on what may have been given.

**7. “Formveränderungen aus dem halten”
- changing “Gruppe” formation at the halt**

7.1 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Reihe” (para 5.2) facing to the right.
(*“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 243)*

“Reihe rechts, ohne tritt - Marsch”	Rye-heh rechts, o-neh -tritt - marsh	To column on the right, without step march.
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Ausführung: The Gruppenführer (who is on the right wing) steps forward and turns right. The remaining 9 men then perform the same manoeuvre together. The line has now become a column facing to the right.

Reibert does not say whether the unit continues marching, I would suggest at this stage that it does as a “Marsch” order has been given. Therefore it will be up to the Officer or NCO giving the orders to command “Halt” (para 6.4) or to continue on.

7.2 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Reihe” (para 5.2) facing to the left.
(*“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 243)*

“Reihe links, ohne tritt - Marsch”	Rye-heh links, o-neh -tritt - marsh	To column on the left, without step march.
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Ausführung: The Stellvertretend Gruppenführer (who is on the left wing) steps forward and turns left. The remaining 9 men then perform the same manoeuvre together. The line has now become an **inverted** column facing to the left.

Reibert does not say whether the unit continues marching, I would suggest at this stage that it does as a “Marsch” order has been given. Therefore it will be up to the Officer or NCO giving the orders to command “Halt” (para 6.4) or to continue on.

7.3 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Marsch ordnung” (para 5.3) on the right.
 (“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 243)

“Marsch ordnung rechts, ohne tritt - Marsch ”	Marsh ordnoong rechts, o-neh - tritt - marsh	To march order on the right, without step march.
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Ausführung: The MG 1 –3 all walk forward. (according to Reibert – “the remainder break into threes and fall in behind”)

I suggest the movement would be as follows:

As the MG 1-3 finish the first step, the 4-6 walk obliquely to their right until they are in line with MG 1-3 and then continue walking forward. As 4-6 finish the first step then 7,8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer walk obliquely to their right until they are behind 4-6 when they again walk forward. The Gruppenführer then takes up his position on the front right (I would suggest he walks forward with the MG 1-3 at the start of the execution).

Reibert does not say whether the unit continues marching I would suggest it does for two reasons:

1. That a “Marsch” order has been given.
2. The MG 1-3 will not know when the last 3 are in position.

Therefore it will be up to the Officer or NCO giving the orders to command “Halt” (para 6.4) or to continue on.

7.4 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Marsch ordnung” (para 5.3) on the left.
 (“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 243)

“Marsch ordnung Links, ohne tritt - Marsch ”	Marsh ordnoong leenks, o-neh - tritt - marsh	To march order on the left, without step march.
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Ausführung: The 7,8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer all walk forward. (according to Reibert – “the remainder break into threes and fall in behind”)

I suggest the movement would be as follows:

As the 7,8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer finish the first step, the 4-6 walk obliquely to their left until they are in line with 7,8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer and then continue walking forward. As 4-6 finish the first step the MG 1 –3 walk obliquely to their left until they are behind 4-6 when they again walk forward. The Gruppenführer then takes up his position on the front right (I would suggest he walks obliquely with the MG 1-3 and when they come in line with the 4-6 he steps forward at a quicker pace to come in line with the 7,8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer). Reibert does not say whether the unit continues marching I would suggest it does for two reasons:

1. That a “Marsch” order has been given.
2. The 7-8 + the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer will not know when the last 3 are in position.

Therefore it will be up to the Officer or NCO giving the orders to command “Halt” (para 6.4) or to continue on.

**This order will result in the men being in totally the wrong positions for “Marschordnung”.
 So I can see no useful reason for this order being given. But as it’s listed I will give it here.**

**8. “Formveränderungen in der Bewegung”
 – changing “Gruppe” formation on the move**

8.1 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Reihe” (para 5.2) on the right.
 (“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 243)

“Reihe rechts”	Rye-heh rechts	To column on the right
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Ausführung: According to Reibert – “The Gruppenführer on the right wing walks farther forward” which doesn’t tell us a lot. I suggest the following execution:

The Gruppenführer (who is on the right wing) continues forward and the remaining 9 men then mark time. When the Gruppenführer is one step ahead of the MG 1, the MG 1 marches obliquely to the right and falls in behind the Gruppenführer. As the MG 1 steps off the MG 2 marches obliquely to the right and falls in behind the MG 1 and so on with each of the 9 remaining men.

The line has now become a column marching in the same direction.

8.2 From “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) to “ die Reihe” (para 5.2) on the left.
 (“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 243)

“Reihe links”	Rye-heh leenks	To column on the left
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Ausführung: According to Reibert – “The Truppführer on the left wing walks farther forward” which doesn’t tell us a lot. I suggest the following execution:

The Stellvertretend Gruppenführer (who is on the left wing) continues forward and the remaining 9 men then mark time. When the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer is one step ahead of the No 8, the No 8 marches obliquely to the left and falls in behind the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer. As the No 8 steps off the No 7 marches obliquely to the left and falls in behind the No 8 and so on with each of the 9 remaining men.

The line has now become an **inverted** column marching in the same direction.

8.3 From “die Reihe” (para 5.2) or “ die Marsch ordnung” (para 5.3) to “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) on the left.

(“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 243)

“In linie zu einem Gliede links marschiert auf - Marsch ” (Marsch – Marsch)	In leene tsu eye-nem gleeda leenks marsheert owf - marsh (marsh – marsh)	In single file on the left - march (double quick march)
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Ausführung: If in “die Reihe” (para 5.2): The Gruppenführer continues marching, the remaining step forward (or “double quick time” if the order given) obliquely to the left of the Gruppenführer, in turn. MG 1, MG 2, MG 3, 4-8 then the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer – each forming to the left of the last man to take position. As each person reaches position they will need to shorten their step to allow the remainder to form up.

You will now be from “die Reihe” to marching in “Linie zu einem Gliede” in the same direction.

If in “Marschordnung” (para 5.3): The Gruppenführer and the MG 1-3 continue marching forward and the remaining men, in groups of three (the “4,5,6” trio then the “7,8, Stellvertretend Gruppenführer” trio) form to the left.

You will now be from “Marschordnung” to marching in “Linie zu einem Gliede” in the same direction.

8.4 From “die Reihe” (para 5.2) or “ die Marsch ordnung” (para 5.3) to “Linie zu einem Gliede” (para 5.1) on the right.

(“Reibert” page 199- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 4 - paragraph 12) and
 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 243)

“In linie zu einem Gliede rechts marschiert auf - Marsch ” (Marsch – Marsch)	In leene tsu eye-nem gleeda rechts marsheert owf - marsh (marsh – marsh)	In single file on the right - march (double quick march)
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Ausführung: If in “die Reihe” (para 5.2): The Gruppenführer continues marching, the remaining step forward (or “double quick time” if the order given) obliquely to the right of the Gruppenführer, in turn. The MG 1 will go first and he will obliquely march approximately 8 persons width to the right. The MG 2, MG 3, 4-8 then the Stellvertretend Gruppenführer then form to his left each in turn until the line is complete.

The Gruppenführer will then assume his position on the right.

You will now be from “die Reihe” to marching in “Linie zu einem Gliede” in the same direction.

If in “Marschordnung” (para 5.3): The Gruppenführer and the MG 1-3 continue marching forward and the remaining men, in groups of three (the “4,5,6” trio then the “7,8, Stellvertretend Gruppenführer” trio) form to the left.

You will now be from “Marschordnung” to marching in “Linie zu einem Gliede” in the same direction.

This order will result in the men being in totally the wrong positions so I can see no useful reason for this order being given. But as it’s listed I will give it here.

The following is an extract from a WW2 US Army guide showing an example of German Army close quarter drill.

"Figure 19 illustrates the methods of executing a number of commands in German close-order drill, which differs in a number of respects from that used by the United States Army. All German soldiers are accustomed to these commands, which are listed below, together with a pronunciation guide. The unit depicted in figure 19 is a basic German squad of nine men (usually commanded by an Unteroffizier, a rank roughly equivalent to the U.S. corporal)".

THE COMMANDS

"Marschordnung rechts ohne Tritt — Marsch! —
Im Gleichschritt!"
"In Linie zu einem Gliede links marschiert auf —
Marsch! Marsch! — Im Gleichschritt!"
"Reihe rechts!"
"Links schwenkt — Marsch! Gerade aus!"
"In Marschordnung links marschiert auf —
Marsch! Marsch!"
"Links schwenkt — Marsch! — Gerade aus!"
"Reihe rechts!"
"In linie zu einem Gliede rechts marschiert auf
— Marsch! Marsch! — Im Gleichschritt!"
"Links um!"
"Abteilung halt — Links um!"

HOW TO PRONOUNCE THEM

1. "Marsh-órd-noong REKTS oh-neh tritt, MARSH! Im glýke-shritt!"
2. "In léen-yeh tsoo eýe-nem gléedeh linx mar-shéert owf, MARSH-MARSH! Im glýke-shritt!"
3. "Rý-uh REKTS!"
4. "Linx shvenkt. MARSH! Gráh-deh owss!"
5. "In marsh-órd-noong linx mar-shéert owf, MARSH-MARSH!"
6. "Linx shvenkt, MARSH! Gráh-deh owss!"
7. "Rý-uh REKTS"
8. "In léen-yeh tsoo eýe-nem glée-deh rekts mar-shéert owf, MARSH-MARSH! Im glýke-shritt!"
9. "Linx OOM!"
10. "Opp-tíe-loong HAHLT! Linx OOM!"

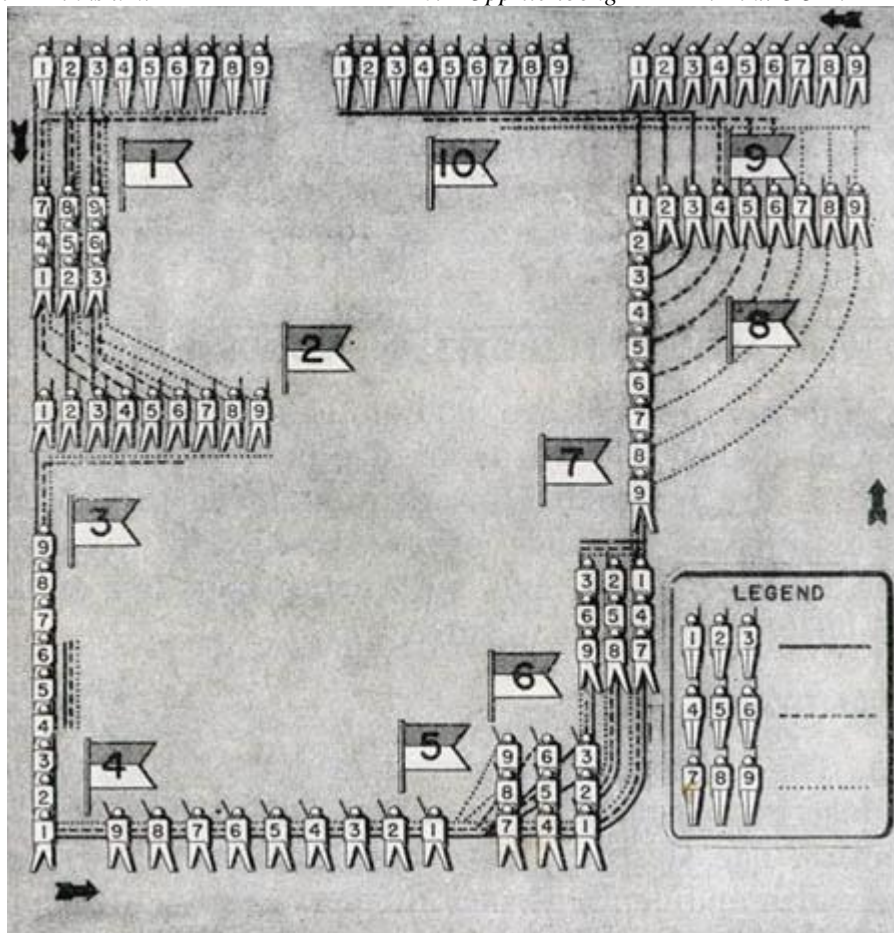


Figure 19.—German Close-order Drill.

9. "Formen der Schützenzug" - Forming the platoon (up to late 1943)

NB. Up to late 1943 the “Zug” consisted of 4 rifle “Gruppen”, a Mortar “Trupp” and other support troops. The total size consisted of men 49 men as shown below. After late 1943 newly formed divisions were designated **“Infantry div. 1944 type”** and the Zug was cut to 3 rifle “Gruppen”, a Mortar “Trupp” and other support troops, the total then being 33 men. Unfortunately no literature has been located which shows the 1944 formations and this manual will be updated when this comes to light. At “Zug” (platoon) level there are 3 ways of forming up:

1. In linie (close formation)
2. In Marschordnung (open formation)
3. In Reihe (close formation)

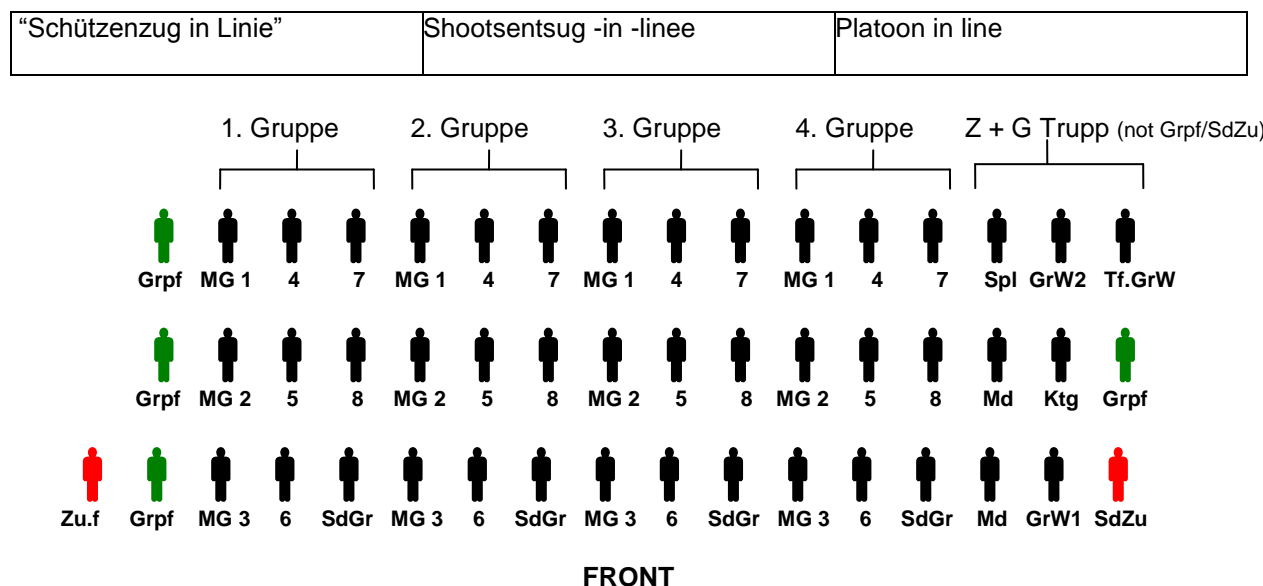
"Marschordnung" and "Reihe" are the same formation so 2 and 3 are shown in the same paragraph at 9.2. "Marshordnung" merely allows spacings to be more open than the closer formation of "Reihe". The following boxes show the formation names and are not the actual orders although it is likely that the orders below would be superseded by "**Angetreten**" - "fall in" (see paragraphs 5.1-5.3). Note that the Gruppenführers have positions but that there is no specific place for each to stand according to his Gruppe.

The key is as follows:

Zu.f - Zugführer (platoon leader) – highlighted in red
SdZu - Stellvertretend Zugführer (Deputy platoon leader) – highlighted in red
Tf.GrW ** - Truppführer des I.Gr.W. (leader – Mortar troop)
GrW 1 ** - Schütze 1 beim I.Gr.W. (First private – Mortar troop)
GrW 2 ** - Schütze 2 beim I.Gr.W. (Second private – Mortar troop)
Md * - Melder. (Messenger/runner)
Ktg * - Krankenträger. (Medic/Stretcher bearer)
Spl * - Spielman. (Musician) – In Reibert the labelling of this position in the diagram has been omitted so this person's role has been updated using evidence from earlier literature.
Grpf - Gruppenführer (group leader) – highlighted in green
SdGr - Stellvertretend Gruppenführer (deputy group leader)
MG 1 - Maschinen Gewehr Schütze (machine gunner 1- with MG 34/42)
MG (2-3) - Maschinen Gewehr Schütze (machine gunner 2-3)
4-8 - Gewehr Schütze (rifleman 4-8)

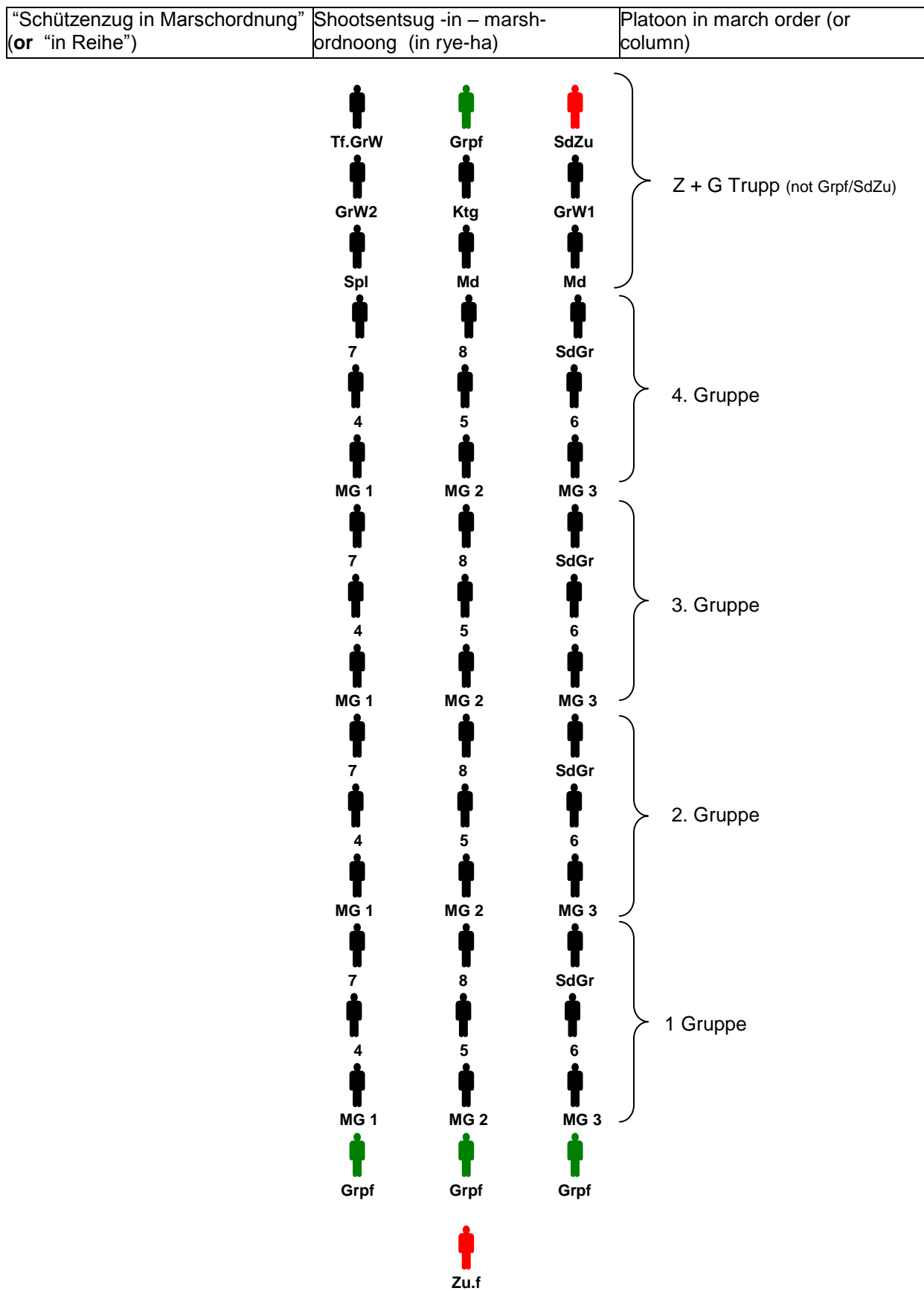
* - Referred to as the "**Zugtrupp**" : ** - Referred to as "**Granatwerfertrupp**" (marked "Z + G Trupp")

9.1 ("Reibert" page **199**- chapter **8** ("Achter Abschnitt")-section **5** - paragraph **1-3**) and (H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 424- figure 24)



Note: Each "Gruppe" has formed into "Marsch Ordnung" (see para 5.3), but facing to the left and without the Gruppenfuhrer in their normal positions.

9.2 ("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 5 - paragraph 1-3) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 424- figure 23)



Note: Each "Gruppe" has formed into "Marsch Ordnung" (see para 5.3, without the Gruppenführer in their normal positions.) This is basically "Shützenzug in linie" but faced to the right.

9.3 "Gewehr zusammensetzen" - Stacking weapons.

("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 5 - paragraph 7) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 245 and 428-430)

Stacking weapons is done by order. The actual stacking procedure is not fully explained but both manuals note that it is done in the soldiers own time (within reason). Stacking is explained as a "Zug" procedure though the manuals explain that it can be done by a "Gruppe" only in "Marschordnung" (see para 5.3) -formation by referring to the "Zug" procedure, hence it is explained in this section of this manual. Stacks can only be done by **files** that contain 3 rifles and turns are made in **ranks** (translated as "rows"). Ranks and files are explained below.

The manual explains that Machine Pistols can be stacked if there are 3 in a file (such as the 3 Gruppenführers at the far right of the "Zug" but any odd Machine Pistols are hung over the nearest Rifle stack. Any odd Rifles are placed on the nearest stack and pistols (in their holsters) can be hung over the nearest rifle stack if required.

Photographic evidence shows that on parade all members of the "Zug" except the Zugführer are issued with rifles which creates no problems with stacking "odd" weapons (see photo at para 3.3). With combat equipment there would be MG's, Machine pistols and pistols issued in lieu of rifles.

Fig 1 -Zug Formation- In Linie (see Para 9.1)

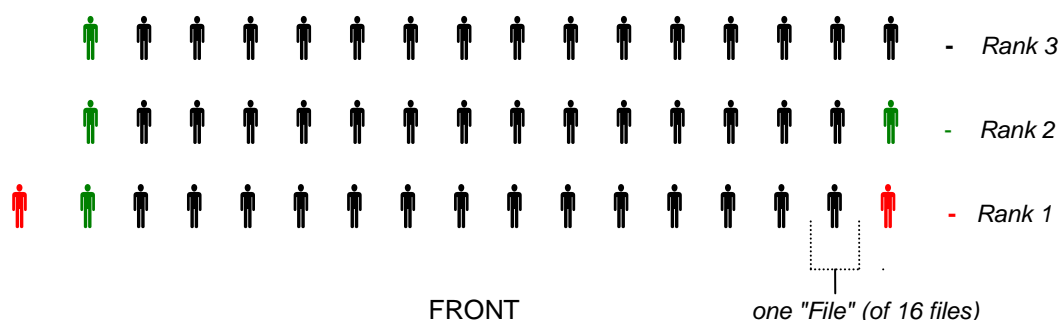
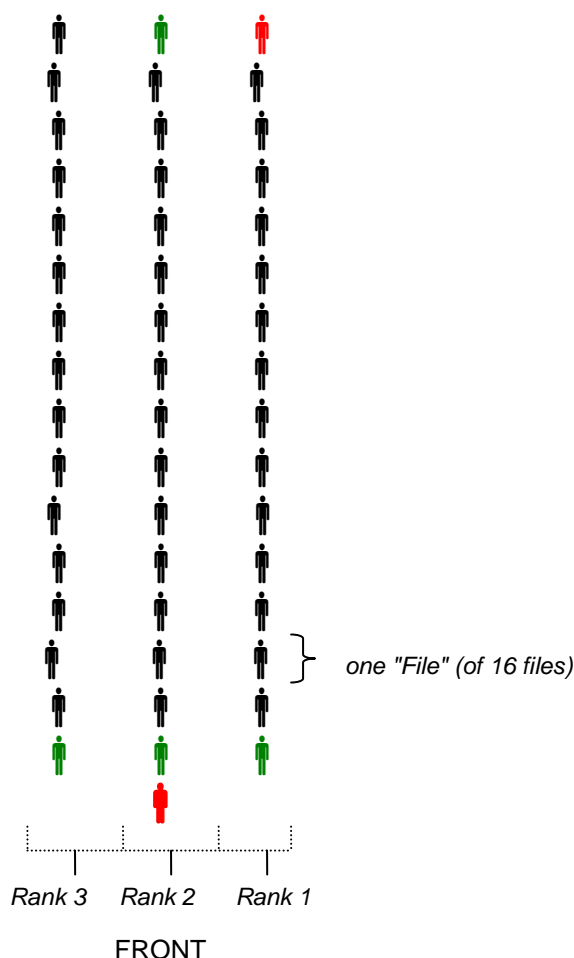


Fig 2 - Zug Formation- In Marschordnung / Reihe (see Para 9.2)



9.4 - Stacking weapons -Schützenzug or Gruppe In Marschordnung or Schützenzug in Reihe
 ("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 5 - paragraph 8 and 11) and
 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 431 and 433)

1. Setz die - Gewehr	1. Sets- dee - Gev-air	Stack Arms
2. -Zusammen	2. Tsoo-sammen	

(Lit. Translation - 1. Place the **rifles.....2. Together**).

In order to simplify the explanation the following diagrams below are used which only show the first seven files of the "Zug". In order to perform as a "Zug" all files (4 "Gruppen" plus the "Zugtrupp" and "Granatwerfertrupp") would perform the same manoeuvres. A single "Gruppe" would be the same as the first 3 files. To keep it simple it is assumed that all files have rifles. In a "combat equipped gruppe" only the rifles move and stack first, followed by the other weapons.

- ↓ - shows the "soldaten" and direction of facing.
- ** - shows the completed Rifle stack
- ~ - Showing the continuation of the remainder of the platoon.

Ausführung:

1/ **Fig 3a** - "Zug" starting position in "Marschordnung" or "Reihe" - see para 9.2 and 9.3 (fig 2)

Fig 3b - On the order "**Setz Die Gewehr**" the riflemen of the right hand rank (Rank 3) turn to the left. The riflemen of the middle and left rank (ranks 2 and 1) turn to the right. Only those with rifles turn. Those without rifles remain looking forwards. The right hand and middle ranks (Ranks 2 and 3) each place their rifles with the butt between the angle of their feet with the barrel to the right. Those files without 3 rifles remain as they are and do not move the rifle to this position.

2/ **Fig 3c** -On the order "**Zusammen**" the riflemen in the left rank (rank 1) hand their rifle with their right hand to the left hand of the riflemen in the middle rank (rank 2) of their file. The riflemen of the right and middle ranks (rank 2 and 3- who are facing each other with the middle rank riflemen now having 2 rifles), assembles the 3 rifles into a pyramid using the cleaning rods. Any spare rifles (those not in files of 3 rifles) are now placed on the nearest assembled stack.

Fig 3d - The ranks then step back slightly from the stacks and the left rank (rank 3) then turns right, the middle and right ranks (ranks 2 and 1) turn left so that all ranks are now facing forwards. They immediately come to "**Rührt - Euch**" (see para 2.2). Any files of 3 Machine pistols (such as the front rank of "Gruppenführeren" -if combat equipped) are stacked in 3 ,using the magazines, and placed in line with the rifle stacks. Any odd Machine pistols are slung over the nearest rifle stack as are pistols (in holsters) if required. The MG is placed on it's bipod in line with the rifle stacks if applicable.

As can be seen this results in the stack being positioned between the right and middle ranks (ranks 2 and 3)

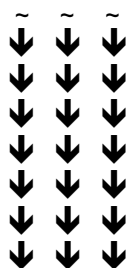


Fig 3a

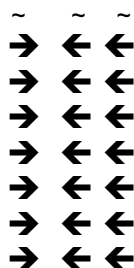


Fig 3b

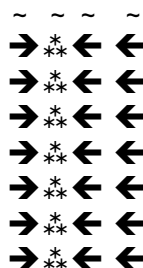


Fig 3c

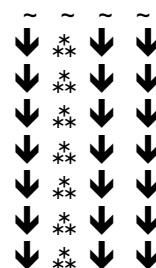


Fig 3d

Front

9.5- Stacking weapons -Schützenzug In linie

("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 5 - paragraph 9 and 11) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 432 and 433)

1. Setz die - Gewehr	1. Sets- dee - Gev-air	Stack Arms
2. - Zusammen	2. Tsoo-sammen	

(Lit. Translation - 1. Place the **rifles....2. Together**)

In order to simplify the explanation the following diagrams are used which show the first five files of the "Zug". In order to perform as a "Zug" all files (4 "Gruppen" plus the "Zugtrupp" and "Granatwerfertrupp") would perform the same manoeuvres. A single "Gruppe" cannot perform stacking from this position (see 9.4). To keep it simple it is assumed that all files have rifles. In a "combat equipped gruppe" only the rifles move and stack first, followed by the other weapons.

- ↓ - shows the "soldaten" and direction of facing.
- ** - shows the completed Rifle stack
- ~ - Showing the continuation of the remainder of the platoon.

Ausführung:

1/ **Fig 4a** - "Zug" starting position in "Linie" - see para 9.1 and 9.3 (fig 1)

Fig 4b -On the order "**Setz Die Gewehr**" the riflemen of the front and middle ranks (Ranks 1 and 2) make an about turn. Only those with rifles turn. Those without rifles remain looking forwards. The rear and middle ranks (Ranks 2 and 3) place their rifles with the butt between the angle of their feet with the barrel to the right. Those files without 3 rifles remain as they are and do not move the rifle to this position.

2/ **Fig 4c** -On the order "**Zusammen**" the riflemen in the front rank (rank 1) hand their rifle with their right hand to the left hand of the riflemen in the middle rank (rank 2) of their file. The riflemen of the rear and middle ranks (rank 2 and 3- who are facing each other with the middle rank riflemen now having 2 rifles), assembles the 3 rifles into a pyramid using the cleaning rods. Any spare rifles (those not in files of 3 rifles) are now placed on the nearest assembled stack.

Fig 4d - The ranks then step back slightly from the stacks and the front and middle ranks (ranks 1 and 2) make an about turn so that all ranks are now facing forwards. They immediately come to "**Rührt - Euch**" (see para 2.2). Any files of 3 Machine pistols (such as the first file of "Gruppenführeren" -if combat equipped) are stacked in 3 ,using the magazines, and placed in line with the rifle stacks. Any odd Machine pistols are slung over the nearest rifle stack as are pistols (in holsters) if required. The MG is placed on it's bipod in line with the rifle stacks if applicable.

As can be seen this results in the stack being positioned between the rear and middle ranks (ranks 2 and 3).

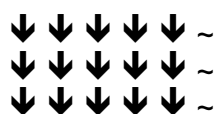


Fig 4a

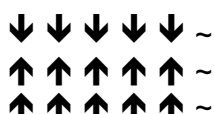


Fig 4b

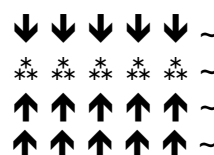


Fig 4c

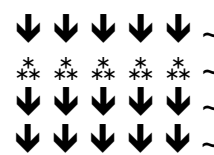


Fig 4d

Front

9.6 - Recover weapons - Schützenzug in all formations.

("Reibert" page 199- chapter 8 ("Achter Abschnitt")-section 5 - paragraph 10) and
(H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 434)

1. Gewehr in - die	1. Gev-air - in - dee.....	Recover Arms
2. - Hand	2. - Hand	

(Lit. Translation - 1. Rifles in **the....2. Hand**)

Ausführung: If dismissed then the "Zug" will be re-assembled back into it's formation as at Fig 3d or Fig 4d above (or "Gruppe" re-assembled back into formation as at Fig 4d above only).

1. On the command "**Gewehr in die...**" the members of the "zug" or Gruppe turn as described in 9.4 or 9.5 above. At this point it is not clear but it is logical that odd weapons (not rifles) are collected from the stack and the MG picked up.
2. On the command "**Hand**" then the appropriate members of the files, those immediately facing the stack (Rear rank (3) and middle rank (2) when in Linie - or Right rank (3) and middle rank (2) when in Marschordnung / Reihe), disassemble the stack. The middle rank (rank 2) handing odd weapons back to other files before finally handing back the front rank / left rank (rank 1)'s rifle. The files then turn to face front as at 9.4 or 9.5 above and remain at attention. It is likely that a "dress" order (see para 2.6 or 2.7) would be given to align the ranks

10. "Formen der Schützenkompanie" - Forming the company (up to late 1943)

H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 487-493)

The Rifle company consists of:

- The Company leader (Kompanieführer)
- The Company troop* (including Stellvertrend Kompanieführer - deputy company leader)
- The Panzerbüsche troops (*anti-tank*)
- 3 Rifle Platoons (Schützenzug as at para 9 above) - each with 2 infantry vehicles.
- The combat transport
- The food transport
- The pack transport

*The company troop consists of:

- 1 Leader of the troop (NCO)
- 1 Leader of the combat vehicles (NCO) - (on bicycle)
- 1 Munitions and equipment leader (NCO)
- 3 Messengers
- 1 Musician
- 1 Horse attendant (on bicycle)
- 2 Motorcyclists for company communications
- 2 Horse riders
- 1 four horse team combat wagon for munitions and equipment.

See paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 above for formation of the "Zug". The diagrams below have been simplified but some of the Zug positions have been shown to assist reference. H.Dv 130/2a does not fully indicate in what order the individuals in the cyclist troops, Panzerbüsche troops or Company troops stand so they have been shown as a block of similar symbols.

☒ - Kompanieführer - highlighted in blue

■ - Panzerbüsche troop leader and Stellvertrend Kompanieführer - highlighted in blue

● - Panzerbüsche troops

⊙ - Cyclist troops

▲ - Zugführer - highlighted in red

△ - Stellvertrend Zugführer - highlighted in red

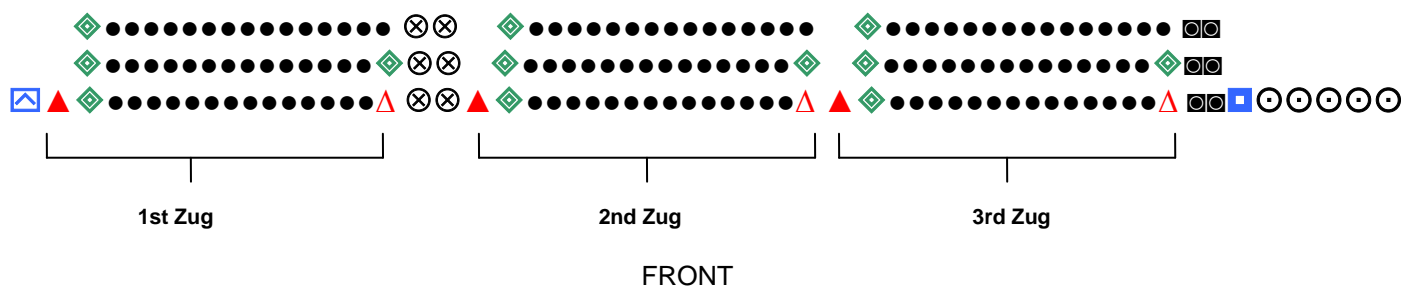
◆ - Gruppenführer - highlighted in green

⊗ - Company troop

- - Soldaten (soldiers) (~ ~ ~ Used to indicate further files in order to condense the diagram).

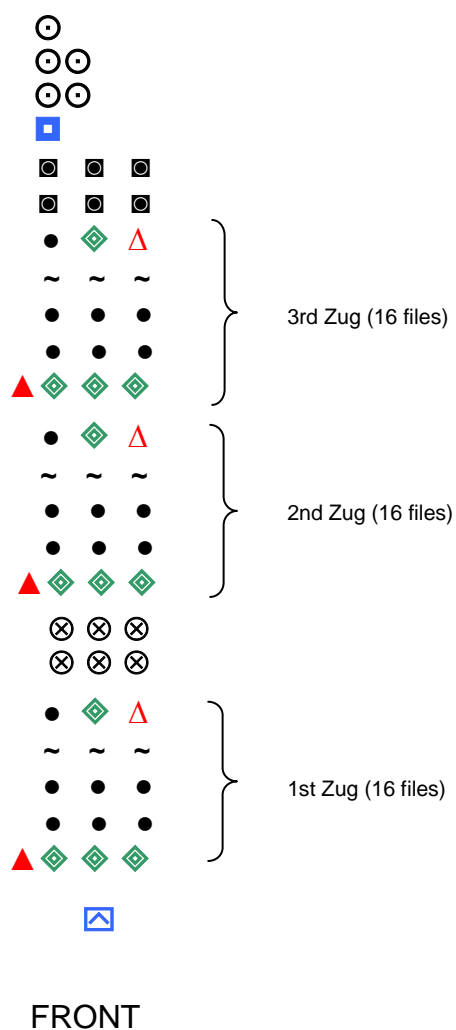
10.1 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 494 - figure 27)

"Schützenkompanie in Linie"	Shootsen-compani -in -linee	Company in line
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10.2 (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 494 - figure 28)

"Schützenkompanie in Marschordnung" (or "in Reihe")	Shootsen-compani -in – marsh-ordnoong (in rye-ha)	company in march order (or column)
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11. “Einzelausbildung in das Feld” – Individual drill in the field

11.1 (“Reibert” page 184- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 11) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 31)

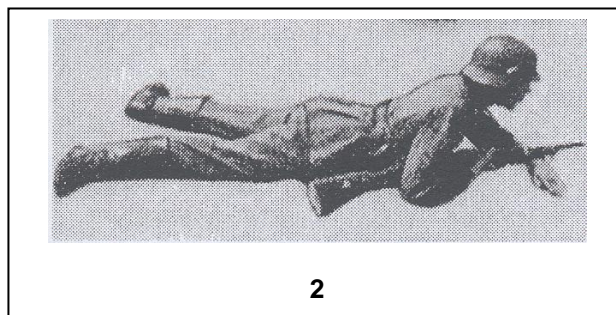
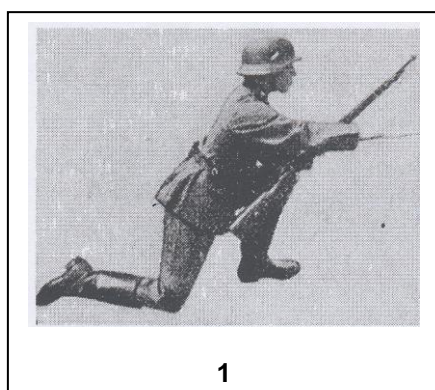
“Hinlegen”	Hin - lay - gen	Lie Down
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Ausführung: This order is generally given whilst moving but could also be given from the stationary position. Upon the order the left foot steps forwards and the right knee drops to the ground. The rifle is seized by the left hand at the point of balance. The right hand and arm is then extended forward and the torso is bent forwards falling onto the ground (using the right hand to stop the fall). See picture 1 below. The rifle is then transferred to the right hand, which is grasped just below the lower band. The lower right forearm supports the stock and at no time should the bolt or barrel touch the ground.

The head is raised and the view is forward. The body is supported by the left knee, right hand and left elbow. See picture 2 below. When moving the correct order is right knee, left knee, right hand, left elbow.

Häufige Fehler – “common mistakes”:

- The rifle is not delivered into the left hand correctly at the focal point.
- The correct sequence of right knee, left knee etc is not maintained.
- The rifle is not resting on the right forearm correctly.
- The head does not look forward but looks downward.



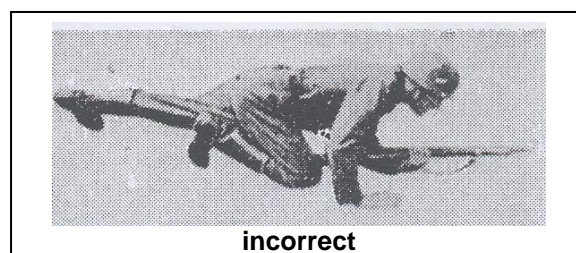
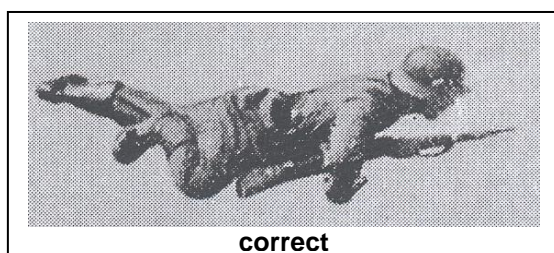
11.2 (“Reibert” page 185- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 12) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 32)

“Auf”	Owf	Get up
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Ausführung: The rifle is seized by the left hand at the point of balance. The right hand is then placed firmly on the ground and supports the body weight along with the left elbow. At the same time the right knee is pulled up towards the body as far as is possible without raising the torso from the ground. The man then moves forward pushing with his right hand and right foot and simultaneously raises himself from the floor walking forward with the left foot and then continues on. The rifle is then transferred to the right hand

Häufige Fehler – “common mistakes”:

- See below pictures.
- The mouth of the rifle is pushed into the earth.
- The left foot does not come forward sufficiently.
- The rear of the torso rises first.



11.3 (“Reibert” page 185- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 13) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 36)

“Laden und Sichern ”	La-den oond sich-ern	Load and make safe
-----------------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Ausführung: The rifle is brought across the body by the right hand around the grip and the forestock is grasped by the left hand. The left elbow is pushed firmly into the hip. The thumb and index finger of the right hand grasps the bolt lever, pushes it over to the left and slides it fully to the rear (*Reibert states* – “without exaggerated violence!”). The right hand then opens one of the cartridge pouches and takes a clip of rounds. The clip is then placed in the guide slot at the rear of the chamber. The four fingers of the right hand then grip the right side of the stock and the thumb presses the rounds completely into the magazine.

The magazine can be fed with individual rounds rather than a clip of rounds if so desired.

The bolt is then pushed fully forward and then to the right by the right hand thus locking the bolt down with a round in the breech. The empty clip is removed from the guide and discarded.

The thumb and index finger then grasps the safety catch and turns it fully to the right.

The cartridge pouch is then secured and the rifle is returned to the original position of arms.

Häusige Fehler – “common mistakes”:

- i. The bolt is not fully retracted.
- ii. The thumb is not situated near enough to the clip end when pressing down the rounds.
- iii. Rounds are pushed “abruptly” instead of “uniformly speedy”
- iv. ?
- v. ?
- vi. The soldier is nervous of pressing on rounds with sufficient force

11.4 (“Reibert” page 186- chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 1 - paragraph 15) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 38)

“ Entladen ”	Ent-la-den	Unload
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Ausführung: The rifle is brought across the body by the right hand around the grip and the forestock is grasped by the left hand. The left elbow is pushed firmly into the hip. The thumb and index finger of the right hand grasps the safety catch and moves it firmly to the left. The thumb and index finger then grasps the bolt, moves it up and to the left and then slowly retracts it fully so as not to eject the round into the air. The round is then taken by the right hand and placed into the cartridge pouch.

The bolt is then slid forward and, without pushing the bolt down to the right, is again fully retracted slowly and the next round is removed by the right hand and placed into the cartridge pouch. This continues until the magazine is empty.

Entspannen (*Literal meaning* -“relaxing”). The right hand then returns to around the grip allowing the



Entladen

left hand to slide around slightly so that the fingers can depress the “riser plate” still supporting the weight of the rifle on the left hand the right hand then pushes the bolt just far enough forward to rest over the depressed “riser plate” and hold it down as the fingers of the left hand release pressure. The right hand then returns to the grip. The thumb lies along side the right of the bolt in order to further hold it in place and the right finger depresses the trigger. The left hand then comes over the rifle and grabs the bolt lever, pushing it fully forward and then down to the right thus locking it in position. The left hand then grasps the forestock and the cartridge pouch is secured with the right hand.

The rifle is then returned to the original position of arms.



Entspannen

12. “Ehrenbezeugungen des einzelnen Soldaten”– Saluting by the Individual soldier

12.1 The salute - “Gruß” und “Deutsche Gruß”

Literal meaning – The “Greeting” and “German Greeting” although when used in military terms “Gruß” translates to “salute”.

All “Unteroffizier mit Portepee” and above ranks are to be saluted (see para 12 for ranks). A salute is only given and taken when wearing uniform, even when in fatigue / shirtsleeve order. Unlike many other armies of other nationalities, not wearing head dress does not preclude you from this acknowledgement either (see para. 11.2).

When in formation it will be up to the Officer or the NCO in command to salute and he should order an “eyes right” or “eyes left” (see paragraphs 2.9, 2.10, 6.5 or 6.6).

“Present arms” (see para 3.3) is a more formal salute and would be given at organised parades normally to visiting high ranking officers or dignitaries.

This chapter, however, is concerned with the individual’s responsibility to salute and acknowledge a senior rank as required.

There were two different salutes adopted by the German army of 1944:

Der “Gruß” (gross).

This was the standard army salute and was presented as follow:

- “Stillgestanden” starting position unless on the move.
- Raise the right arm and bring fingertip to the rim of your headdress
- The right upper arm should be horizontal, the lower arm and hand form a straight line.
- The forefinger and middle finger should be touching the rim, in line with the corner of the right eye
- The fingers are straight and the palm faces downwards.
- The left arm remains in the “Stillgestanden” position.
- If you are moving then the left arm remains stationary at the side until the salute finishes.
- The salute ends with the right arm returning quickly to the side.

Der “Deutsche Gruß” (doisha gross).

This was the salute introduced by the NSDAP party and will probably be known to the reader as the classic straight-arm salute.

This salute was used by the party’s own troops (the SS). It was also permitted to be used by the Heer / luftwaffe / Kriegsmarine if so desired (usually to show affiliation to the party).

After the assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler in July 1944, an order was enacted by Heinrich Himmler stating that all the armed services were to adopt this salute. This was a political move by the high-ranking party members to show their undying loyalty to the “Führer” and to protect their own interests in any subsequent purge.

From documentary evidence the change was not widely adopted and indeed Adolf Hitler did not impose the restrictions rigidly for fear of alienating loyal regular army officers.

From 1940, however, this salute was also to be used by the military as described in para. 11.2. This salute is mentioned here for interest only but for the purposes of re-enactment is never to be used by this group **under any circumstances**.

As this is the case the description of the salute has been omitted from this manual.

12.2 “Ehrenbezeugungen ohne Gewehr und ohne Kopfbedeckung” – Saluting when not carrying a rifle and not wearing head dress.

(“Reibert” page 192 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 2 - paragraph 1-5) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 47)

i. **When walking:**

Straighten your posture as you would when marching (see para 6.1) and salute using the “Deutsche Gruß” only (see para 11.1). The explanation does not indicate for how long but I would refer the reader to para 11.3.i below.

ii. **When stationary:**

Come to the “stillgestanden” position (see para. 2.1), salute using the “Deutsche Gruß” only (see para 11.1) and follow the saluted person with your eyes. The explanation does not indicate for how long though. I would assume until the saluted person (the higher rank) finishes.

NB For the purposes of re-enactment, as the NSDAP salute is not to be used, I would suggest that for 11.2.i and 11.2.ii above the soldier saluting merely comes to the “stillgestanden” position.

iii. **When walking carrying objects in your right hand:**

Straighten the torso as you would when marching (see para. 6.1).

iv. **When stationary with objects in your right hand or when there is insufficient room:**

Come to the “stillgestanden” position (see para. 2.1) .

v. **If unable to march or come to the “stillgestanden” position:** “Reibert” states “such as Horseman, drivers or cyclists” then the torso may be straightened. It does not mention the “Deutsche Gruß” and I would assume that these persons would be exempt due to loss of control of the horse, vehicle or cycle.

12.3 “Ehrenbezeugungen ohne Gewehr, aber mit Kopfbedeckung” – Saluting when not carrying a rifle but wearing head dress

(“Reibert” page 192/193 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 2 - paragraph 1-4) and (H.Dv.130/2a - paragraph 49-52)

i. **When walking:**

Straighten your posture as you would when marching (see para 6.1) and salute using the “Gruß” (see para 11.1). Your eyes and head should be turned towards the person to whom you are saluting. The salute starts 6 paces from this person and ends 2 paces past this person.

ii. **When stationary:**

Come to the “stillgestanden” position (see para. 2.1), salute using the “Gruß” (see para 11.1) and follow the saluted person with your eyes. The explanation does not indicate for how long though. I would assume until the saluted person (the higher rank) finishes.

iii. **When approaching and interacting with a higher rank:**

This would include passing messages, receiving awards etc. This is not included in para 11.2 above as you should not interact with a higher rank unless you are wearing head dress. The manual simply states that the “Gruß” is given at the start of the interaction and then one at the end of the interaction. When leaving the soldier should “about face” and march smartly away.

iv. **When walking carrying objects in your right hand:**

Straighten the torso as you would when marching (see para. 6.1).

v. **When stationary with objects in your right hand or when there is insufficient room:**

Come to the “stillgestanden” position (see para. 2.1) .

vi. **If unable to march or come to the “stillgestanden” position:** “Reibert” states “such as Horseman, drivers or cyclists” then the torso may be straightened. It does not mention the “Gruß” and I would assume that these persons would be exempt due to loss of control of the horse, vehicle or cycle.

12.4 “Ehrenbezeugungen mit Gewehr” – Saluting when carrying a rifle

(“Reibert” page 193 - chapter 8 (“Achter Abschnitt”)-section 2 - paragraph 1-5) and
(H.Dv. 130/2a - paragraph 53-56)

- a/ When walking:** Straighten your posture as you would when marching (see para 6.1)
b/ When stationary: Come to the “stillgestanden” position (see para. 2.1) and face the saluted person.

Depending on the position of “arms” see additional instructions below:

- i. **“Gewehr ab” (see para 3.2):**
When moving, the rifle is lifted a hands width from the ground, vertically. The four fingers lie across the stock of the rifle, showing forwards and the thumb is behind. The muzzle is in line with the front edge of the shoulder. Both arms remain still and the left hand fingers are extended down the left thigh.
When stationary, as “ b ” above, look at saluted person and follow him with your head.
- ii. **“ umhängten Gewehr” (see 3.5):**
When moving or when stationary, the rifle hangs vertically on the right shoulder. The right fist grasps the sling at breast height with the thumb extended behind the strap. The right upper arm presses the rifle into the body.
- iii. **“Gewehr auf dem Rücken” (see para 3.11):**
When both moving and stationary, both arms remain still with fingers extended along the thighs.
- iv. **“Gewehr über” (see para 3.1):**
If standing then as “b” above. However *Reibert* then states if approaching saluted person then the “weapon is decreased” ?
- v. **When on vehicles**
Remain quiet and calm, straighten torso and turn to view saluted person.

13. Ranks in the German army of 1939 - 1945

When all departments of the service are taken into consideration, the German army of 1944 had quite a complicated rank structure. Below is a simplified version of the structure based on a standard Infantry unit (ignoring the HQ staff).

I have shown the rank and a description of the insignia. I have also attempted to show the nearest British army rank equivalent but my research has shown that many authors have differing views.

I have therefore taken the information directly from:

“German Army Uniform and Insignia 1933-1945” by Brian L. Davis

Equivalent ranks marked with an * mean that the British army rank does not exist but the one given is a calculated representation of what the rank might be called if had existed.

<i>German Rank</i>	<i>British equivalent</i>	<i>Basic Insignia (not incl. Collar bars)</i>
“MANNSCHAFTEN” - Men		
Schütze / Grenadier	Private	N/A
Oberschütze / Obergrenadier	Senior private	One pip in braid on left arm
Gefreiter	Lance Corporal	One chevron in braid on left arm
Obergefreiter	Corporal	Two chevrons in braid on left arm
Stabsgefreiter	Senior Corporal *	Two chevrons and one pip in braid on left arm
“UNTEROFFIZIER OHNE PORTEPEE” – Junior NCO ‘s		
Unteroffizier	Lance sergeant *	0.9 cm wide braid around arch of shoulder boards (not ends)
Unterfeldwebel	Sergeant	0.9 cm wide braid around entire edge of shoulder boards
“UNTEROFFIZIER MIT PORTEPEE” – Senior NCO ‘s		
Feldwebel	Sergeant Major	As Unterfeldwebel but with one metal pip on each board
Oberfeldwebel	Battalion Sgt Major *	As Unterfeldwebel but with two metal pips on each board
Stabsfeldwebel	Staff Sgt Major *	As Unterfeldwebel but with three metal pips on each board
“OFFIZIER” - Officers		
Leutnant	Second Lieutenant	Shoulder board covered in straight pattern “russia braid”
Oberleutnant	First Lieutenant	As Leutnant but with one metal pip on each board
Hauptmann	Captain	As Leutnant but with two metal pip on each board
Major	Major	Shoulder board covered in plaited pattern “russia braid”
Oberstleutnant	Lieutenant Colonel	As Major but with one metal pip on each board
Oberst	Colonel	As Major but with two metal pips on each board
GENERÄLE - Generals		
Generalmajor	Major General	Shoulder boards in red with plaited “russia braid” (+ interwoven gold stripe)
Generalleutnant	Lieutenant General	As Generalmajor but with one pip on each board
General (der Infanterie)	General (of Infantry)	As Generalmajor but with two pips on each board
General Oberst	Colonel General *	As Generalmajor but with three pips on each board
Generalfeldmarschall	General Field Marshall	As Generalmajor but with a crossed baton on each board