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Table Annexed to Article: William Duane's Military Dictionary

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TABLE ANNEXED TO:
WILLIAM DUANE’S
MILITARY DICTIONARY:
OR, EXPLANATION OF THE SEVERAL SYSTEMS OF DISCIPLINE OF
DIFFERENT KINDS OF TROOPS, INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, AND CAVALRY;
THE PRINCIPLES OF FORTIFICATION, AND ALL THE MODERN
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCIENCE OF TACTICS
IN MR TEXT FORMAT
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TABLE 211A
{‘TACTICS’, ‘OPERATIONS’, AND ‘STRATEGEM’ AND ‘POLICY’;
THE LATTER TWO TAKEN TOGETHER}

TACTICS

ELUCIDATORY PREFACE.

... In undertaking to give a work to the American people, the publication of
either the French or English Dictionary, though it might equally profit the
bookseller, would be only imposing upon the public, instead of giving the
best information and the most recent and approved principles And
improvements in the art of war: it was necessary therefore almost to rewrite,
and to augment to a vast bulk the quantity of information. The whole has
been, therefore, {iv} modeled and adapted throughout to the modern
principles of discipline and general tactics.

CADENCE, in tactics, implies a very regular and uniform method of
marching, by the drum and music, beating time; it may not be improperly
called mathematical marching; for after the length of a step is determined,
the time and distance may be found. It is by a continual practice and
attention to this, that the Prussians arrived at that point of perfection, once
so much admired in their evolutions. At 70

CADET, Fr. differs in its signification from the term as it is used in our
language. A cadet in the French service did not receive any pay, but entered
as a volunteer in a troop or company, for the specific purpose of becoming master of **military tactics**. At 70

CONFIDENCE, in a military sense, implies an explicit reliance upon the skill, courage, &c. of an individual. Next to a perfect knowledge of **military tactics**, the faculty of securing the confidence of the soldiers is, perhaps, one of the surest means of becoming successful in war.

... When confidence and military science go together, an army must be unfortunate not to succeed in the most desperate enterprise. At 102

*The ordered or cadenced March.*—The prescribed movements in military **tactics**. All military movements are intended to be made with the greatest quickness consistent with order, regularity, and without hurry or fatigue to the troops. At 380

MARINES, or MARINE FORCES, a body of soldiers, raised for the seaservice, and trained to fight either in a naval engagement or in an action on shore.

... When the marines are at sea, they form part of the ship’s crew, and soon acquire a knowledge of **nautical tactics**. At 418

MODERN, something of our own times, in opposition to what is antique or ancient.

... *Ancient Tactics, and ancient art of War.* The system which was pursued by the Greeks and Romans, &c. before the invention of gunpowder and fire arms. At 445-446

**NAVAL TACTICS**, or the art of war carried on by ships at sea; this being limited to the possibilities of navigation, is therefore much less susceptible of that variety of **stratagem** which belongs to the hostility of armies on land, and comprehends beside the knowledge of military operation, that of the movement of ships under all circumstances of wind, weather, and also of the structure of ships and rigging.
The tactics of the ancients consisted in the formation of position by which they could bear down upon and pierce the sides, or board vessels, and decide the conflict hand to hand; the invention of gunpowder has had the same effect upon naval as upon land tactics, that they can fight without coming to close quarters. The Dutch, French, and British have been most distinguished for naval tactics; but they have been principally reduced to fixed rules like the armies of modern times, by the French and English. At 474

ORB, in tactics, is the disposing of a number of soldiers in circular form of defence. The orb has been thought of consequence enough to employ the attention of the famous marshal de Puységur, in his Art of war, who prefers this position, to throw a body of infantry in an open country, to resist cavalry, or even a superior force of infantry; because it is regular, and equally strong, and gives an enemy no reason to expect better success by attacking one place than another. At 495

RAW, in a military sense, unseasoned, unripe in skill, wanting knowledge in military tactics, &c. At 570

TACTICS, a word derived from the Greek, signifying order. Tactics consist of a knowledge of order, disposition, and formation, according to the exigency of circumstances in warlike operations. These dispositions are severally made, or one disposition follows another by means of manoeuvres and evolutions. Hence the necessity of paying the greatest attention to the first principles of military art; and hence the absurdity and ignorance of some men, who would pass for great and able tacticians, without having grounded themselves in the elements of their professions. As well might a person assume the character of a complete arithmetician under a total ignorance of the first rules.

General tactics are a combination or union of first orders, out of which others grow of a more extensive and complicated nature, to suit the particular kind of contest or battle which is to be given, or supported. Let it not, however, be inferred from this, that evolutions or movements and tactics are one and the same. They {673} are, but there is still a discernable difference between each of them.
Tactics (or as the French say, *La Tactique*, tactical art) may be comprehended under order and disposition: an evolution is the movement which is made by one corps among a larger number of corps, and eventually leads to order. Manoeuvres consist of the various evolutions which several corps of a line pursue to accomplish the same object. The higher branches of tactics, or *la grande tactique*, should be thoroughly understood by all general officers; it is sufficient for inferior officers and soldiers to be acquainted with evolutions. At 672-673

**OPERATIONS**

*Free COMPANY*, is one of those corps commonly called irregular; is seldom or never under the same orders with the regular corps of the army, but for the most part acts like a detached army, but for the most part acts like a detached army, either by itself, or in conjunction with some of its own kind; therefore their operations are properly considered under the title of the *petite guerre*. At 101

*To CONCERT*, in a military sense, is to digest, arrange, and dispose matters in such a manner, that you may be able to act in conjunction with other forces, however much divided, at any given point of offensive or defensive operation. At 102

*COUP d’oeil*, Fr. In a military sense, signifies that fortunate aptitude of eye in a general, or other officer, by which he is enabled at one glance on the ground or on a map to see the weak parts of an enemy’s country, or to discern the strong ones of this own. By possessing a ready *coup d’oeil*, a general may surmount the greatest difficulties, particularly in offensive operations. At 107.

**CUT.**

... Whole armies may be cut off either through the mismanagement of their own generals, by extending the line of operation too far, or through the superior talents of an individual, who in the midst of the hurry, noise, and desolation, which invariably attend a pitched battle, suddenly takes advantage of some opening in the wings or centre, and cuts off a material part of his enemy’s line. At 113
To INSULT, in a military signification, is to attack boldly and in open day, without going through the slow operations of opening trenches, working by mines and saps, or having any recourse to those usual forms of war, by advancing gradually towards the object in view. At 304

MANOEUVRE, Fr. Manoeuvres of war consist chiefly in habituating the soldier to a variety of evolutions, to accustom him to different movements, and to render his mind familiar with the nature of every principle of offensive or defensive operation. At 365

A MARCH is the moving of a body of men from one place to another. Care must be taken, in marching troops, that they are not liable to be flanked or intercepted; for of all operations none is more difficult, because they must not only be directed to the objects they have in view, but according to the movements the enemy may have made. At 370-371

OPERATIONS de guerre, Fr. Military OPERATIONS. Military operations consist in the resolute application of preconcerted measures, in secrecy, dispatch, regular movements, occasional encampments, and desultory combats, or pitched battles. At 494

POSSESSION, to take possession, is the act of occupying any post, camp, fortress, &c. which might facilitate the operations of any army, or which previously belonged to the enemy. At 542

SCHOOL.

... Marches and movements constitute so essential a branch in military tactics, that on them almost wholly depends the issue of a campaign.

... It must be remarked, that this is a route of march which has in view only to convey a body of troops from one position to another, without being connected with military operations relative to the enemy. At 618

STRATEGEM / POLICY
AMBUSCADE, in military affairs, implies a body of men posted in some secret or concealed place, ‘till they find an opportunity of falling upon the enemy by surprise; ... or by posting your force advantageously, and drawing him on by different stratagems, to attack him with superior means. At 7

DIVERSION.

... It is likewise requisite, that the country you attack by stratagem or diversion, should be easy of access, and the invasion you make must be prompt, vigorous and unexpected, directed against a weak and vulnerable quarter. At 126

Military INDICATIONS.

... There are innumerable stratagems of this sort which may be practiced in war, and by means of which, a victory may be obtained without much bloodshed on your part, and at all events with considerable disadvantage to the enemy. At 293

Advantageous POST. Every situation is so called which an enemy occupies in such a manner, that not only mere force of arms, but great military skill, and many stratagems, are required to dislodge him. At 542

RUSE, Fr. Cunning, trick, ingenuity. It is applied to military matters, and signifies stratagem. At 612

SCHOOL.

... The Elements of field fortification, and the higher branches of attack and defence, are not only inculcated with the greatest perspicuity, but they are reduced to practice by imaginary lines of circumvallation and contravallation; by posts and positions suddenly taken, and quickly fortified; whilst the manifold feints and stratagems of war which have been practiced by the best generals, are locally attempted ... At 619

STRATAGEM, in war, any scheme or plan for the deceiving and surprising an army, or any body of men.

...
It has been asserted by some writers, that all sorts of stratagems, even those which are connected with treachery may be adopted for the accomplishment of any design. This maxim is, however, strongly combated against by those who have written upon the law of nations.

... Stratagems of this description have been frequently used by the French during the present war, particularly in Italy. Stratagems, in fact, constitute one of the principal branches in the art of war.

... Count Turpin, ..., in his essay on the Art of War, judiciously remarks, that when an enemy, superior in force, is in possession of a pass, from which he cannot be dislodged but by art, stratagem and force should be blended together as often as possible. At 658-659

### Table 211B

**Nine volumes published by Duane relevant to military science**

William Duane, *Observations on the Impressments of American Seamen by the Officers of Ships of War and Vessels Commissioned by, and Acting under the Authority of Great Britain; with a Few Remarks on the Doctrine of Non-Expatriation, to which is Added, a Correct List of Impressed Seamen, Taken from Documents Laid Before* (Baltimore: G. Dobbin & Murphy, 1806).

William Duane, *Compendium of the Modern Tactics (Volume 1); Embracing the Discipline, Manoeuvres, and Duties of Every Species of troops, infantry, rifle corps, cavalry, artillery of position, and horse artillery: a treatise on defensive works in the field, the exercise in sea coast batteries, and regular fortifications: adapted to the use of the militia of the United States, to whom it is respectfully dedicated* (Philadelphia: Printed by the Author, 1809).


William Duane, *A Handbook for Riflemen; Containing the First Principles of Military Discipline, Founded on Rational Method; Intended to Explain in a Familiar and practical manner, the discipline and duties of rifle corps: conformable to the system established for the United States military force, and the latest improvements in the modern art of war* (Philadelphia: printed for the Author, 1812).


