

Theory  
Of  
Fencing on Horseback  
  
To Defend Oneself with Advantage  
Against All Types of Edged Weapons

With 51 Woodcut Plates

By Alexandre Müller

1816



Translation By François Perreault

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## Foreword From the Translator

Hello dear reader, my name is François Perreault. I am a student at La Compagnie Médiévale, a historical fencing club in Montreal which I have been attending since the fall of 2017. Our main club focuses are German longsword and Spanish rapier, but with experience I found myself getting more and more interested in something else: French sabre.

Given that I am a native French speaker I found these sources easily accessible, but I also took note of the fact that some of the French language corpus I was able to find remains mostly untranslated into English and thus difficult to access for non-francophones.

It is with this in mind that I decided to start working to resolve that problem in my free time so that others who are interested in the subject may derive as much enjoyment from the topic as I do. A secondary purpose of this project was to gather some experience in translating so that I may take the lessons learned here and apply them to future projects.

You will find that this particular book is very much a cavalry manual, as the title implies. You will also notice that there are sometimes footnotes marked with the prefix “T.N:”, meaning translator’s note. You will find also one footnote marked A.N., which means “author’s note”, which is one written by Müller himself.

Finally, I would like to thank Sebastian Seager for his excellent proofreading and for being the spark that led to this project’s realisation. He was the one who casually suggested to me one day in an internet thread, where I was expressing my frustration at this material’s lack of accessibility, that somebody should translate this stuff, and it might as well be me since it has not been done so far. Without him nudging me in the right direction, I probably would not have undertaken this task. I would also like to thank my fencing instructor André Hajjar for both his excellent advice and setting me on the path to reading fencing treatises and manuals. He has worked to foster this interest in me and I am glad it has led to me working on this.

And thank you too, dear reader, for indulging me. Happy Reading! :)

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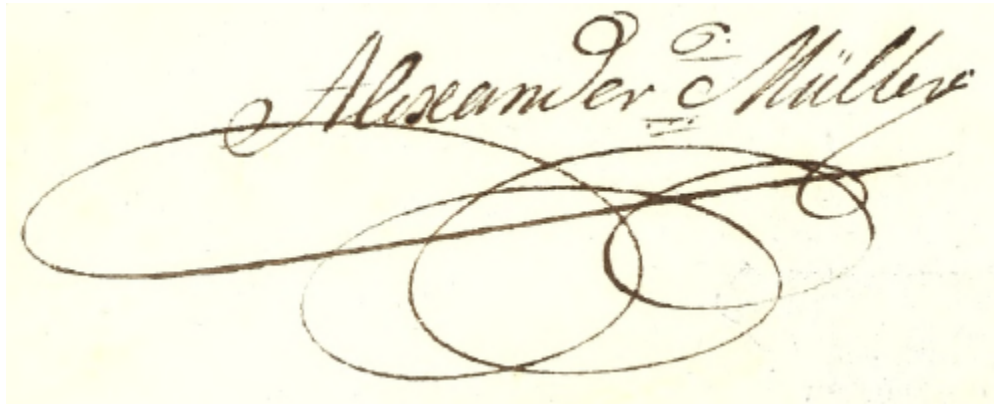
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## Notice

I declare that, having conformed to all dispositions required under the law, I would sue before the tribunals as counterfeiters any libraries that would sell and distribute an example of the present work that does not include my signature.

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Alexander C. Müller" in a cursive script. Below the name are several large, overlapping loops and flourishes that extend across the width of the text.

## Preface

The weapon of the cavalry is the most expensive for the state, and it is on its good instruction that the conservation and advantage of the government depends. It is thus of absolute necessity to make the cavalryman capable of attacking or defending himself with superiority.

This superiority can only exist as long as the cavalryman can wield his sabre with ease and dexterity, it being his favourite weapon which he uses with the most frequency.

The certitude in his ability to defend himself with success gives assurance to the cavalryman, fortifies his spirit in the face of danger and stimulates his courage. The soldier that does not know how to make use of his weapon sees too vividly the danger that he cannot avoid.

The school of the espadon has been wiped out since the revolution; war has reaped the practitioners of this art. The focus has been put on the pointe [smallsword], a type of fencing that is destructive for the soldier, which he uses for his particular quarrels and is completely useless for the army.

The soldier must be taught to fight not for a closed arena, but to serve his country on the battlefield.

The study of the sabre has for too long been neglected. Many generals of the cavalry have noted the disastrous results.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A.N: This is how the author of the excellent *Reglement du Service Intérieur* expresses himself on the subject, recently published with the approval of the Ministre de la Guerre, art. 534: "Fencing has until now been too neglected in the cavalry. It is just as necessary to this weapon as the use of the musket is in the infantry – Recruits should be made to take fencing lessons for at least 6 months so that by consequence they should have one or two masters or provosts of the contre-pointe for every squad. One master and two provosts are sufficient for a regiment."

Being struck by their observations, I have concluded it should be my duty, by my love of the government and my attachment to my brothers in arms, that I should publish this short book which is the fruit of my experience.

Fifty-one illustrations represent the positions of the cavalryman, from his entry into the academy to the moment where his education is completed.

This study consists of simple and natural movements which can be reduced to those of tierce and quarte with the wrist closed or open.

The cavalryman can acquire the knowledge of these movements in a month.

The school of the espadon is not sufficient to train a cavalryman; he will still need practice which can only be acquired through simulated combat.

To make the practice of the sabre easier, one should not use terms of art with the soldier. Rather, simple expressions should be used so that he may understand quickly.

I have made this work as clear and concise as I have felt it possible, and I should be happy if I have reached the goal I have set for myself. That of general utility!

# Introduction

The strength of the cavalryman lies in his practice of fencing on horseback. This sort of fencing consists of horseback riding and wielding the sabre.

If he is well trained, the cavalryman when left to his own will be bolder when he goes to battle. It is in that critical moment where the cavalryman can draw the most advantage from what he knows, or become victim to what he ignores.

Horseback riding and fencing with the sabre, though they may have some relation, remain two distinct sciences that require their own separate instruction before they are combined.

It is thus necessary that the cavalryman should first learn to wield his sabre on foot by making him take the position of a man on horseback (see plate 8). He should not be put in the saddle until he has perfectly mastered riding the horse and using his sabre, following the order prescribed in this theory which is divided into three parts, just as the students are divided in three classes.

# Theory

Of

## Fencing on Horseback

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Part \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

Demonstration of all blows contained within this theory for all cavalymen that compose the regiment.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Part \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson

The most advanced cavalymen from the previous class will enter this one to practice offense and defense, man against man. This exercise is meant as preparation for the third part.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Part \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson

This class will consist of the most advanced cavalymen from both of the previous classes. They will practice these exercises on horseback in the order of war. No cavalryman can enter this class without perfectly mastering his horse and weapons.

---

# First Division

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## Order and Division of the Work

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The Instructors will give two lessons each day;

To know:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson= Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers

Every morning the officers, non-commissioned officers and trumpeters of the regiment will be assembled without distinction of rank. If the students of a particular ranking do not reach the number of sixteen, students from the succeeding ranking should be taken in to fill this number, placing them at the left flank.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson

Every afternoon, before or after grooming the horses, at whichever time the colonel deems suitable, and having notified the instructors through the order of the day, the regiment will assemble for their lesson.

All officers and non-commissioned officers who have had a lesson in the morning will oversee the respective companies and platoons to assist the instructors in the afternoon.

The regiment will be conducted by their instruments upon the exercise grounds.

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# Supervising

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A lieutenant-colonel and the officer in charge of supervising the lesson as well as the adjutant-major and adjutant non-commissioned officer of the week, the surgeon-major and veterinarian will watch during this instruction, each in what concerns them. The first to make sure there is silence through the lesson and the others to prevent accidents and remedy them.

The instructors may send a cavalryman to the guardhouse in the case of disobedience by making a report after finishing the lesson.



---

# On Resting

---

The lieutenant-colonel will sound by trumpet every quarter hour the time for rest, or whenever they consider it reasonable.

The cavalrymen of the first two lines will sheath their sabres before breaking their line.

Mounted cavalrymen will dismount to strap their horses. Odd numbered cavalrymen will be allowed to break rank while even numbered ones will keep their horses, and vice-versa.

The musicians and trumpeters of the regiment will play a few fanfares during the resting period.

---

# Choosing the Supervisors

---

The supervisors will be chosen by the colonel upon presentation of the instructors among the knowledgeable officers and non-commissioned officers. (These supervisors will always be one rank above the class whose work they will be overseeing.)

The officers will oversee the work of the non-commissioned officers and the non-commissioned officers will oversee that of the cavalrymen.

Only the instructor may interrupt the lesson to speak with all the students aloud. All other supervisors are directed to only do so quietly.

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# Promotion of the Classes

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The colonel will regroup the regiment every eight days and, according to the propositions of the instructors, will proceed to the changing of classes.

To this effect, instructors will keep a list of their students' names, which they will use to call them to each instruction.

In the margins of this list, the instructors will record the progress level of each student cavalryman.

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# Second Division

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## Entry to the Lesson

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The regiment having assembled on the square, the instructors will call their students by name. The cavalrymen, after having answered *present*, will leave their ranks and form up in two lines in front of their instructors. They will direct them to the training field by a quarter turn right or left.

On arrival, they will command: *Attention! = First rank, 4 steps forward = March.*

When the students have arrived at the destination, the instructors will command: Dress your ranks.

---

# Order and Execution of the Commands

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All the blows in this theory, be they offensive or defensive, will be announced to the students by their prescribed commands. The instructors must demonstrate them and the students will follow the movements exactly.

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## Drawing the Sabre

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*Attention -> Hands on sabres -> Draw.*

One tempo, Three movements

1. Bring the right hand over the reins; bring the wrist through the sword knot; grasp the sabre by its hilt to bring the blade about 6 inches out of the scabbard.
2. At the second command, draw the sabre from its scabbard in a lively manner and bring the wrist at the height of the heart, the point facing upwards, eyes fixed towards the leader with a calm disposition. (In this position, the thumb must be along the hilt of the sabre. (see plate 1)
3. Place the sabre along the right side, the back of the blade resting on the shoulder, the wrist coming to rest on the right thigh, with the little finger on the outside.

Note: Each time the cavalryman draws his sword, he must salute his leader in the same way it was indicated in step 2. In this position he shows that he has more energy and lets all see that he has drawn his sabre only for honour, king and country.

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## Definitions

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The soldier having not been trained in any fencing on horseback can only have a bad way to hold his sabre. It is thus necessary before anything to teach him all the terms that will be used in this theory, as well as all the positions of the wrist, and the meaning of the terms *offensive* and *defensive* which hold a particular meaning in fencing.

I have said in the preface that this theory is based on simple and natural movements, which can be reduced to those in *tierce* and in *quarte* with the wrist closed and open.

### First Article

#### *Definition of Offensive*

With edged weapons, we call *offensive* any position where the soldier attacks his enemy, in whatever manner that may be.

### Art. II

#### *Definition of Defensive*

We call *defensive* all positions where the soldier, without attacking, parries with his sabre the blows of his enemy.

### Art. III

#### *Definition of Quarte*

We refer to any position, be they offensive or defensive, a parrying movement, a cut or thrust, as done in *quarte* when the edge is turned to the left shoulder, or to the inside. (see plate 3)

#### Art. IV

### *Definition of Tierce*

We refer to any of the above-mentioned movements as done in *tierce* when the edge is turned towards the right shoulder, or the outside. (see plate 4)

(It is of course understood that the back and the edge of the sabre are on the same horizontal line)

#### Art. V

### *Definition of the Open Wrist*

When giving a thrusting movement, to the right or left, in front or behind, we call it *open wrist* when the pommel is pressed against the palm and the fingers are held together along the grip of the sabre. (see plate 5)

The wrist is still open in parries behind the left shoulder through movement of the right arm, and when executing the moulinet the fingers must then be loosened and flexible in their movement, the thumb serving only to close the hand.

#### Art. VI

### *Definition of the Closed Wrist*

*Closed wrist* refers to movements of the sabre, offensive or defensive, where the thumb lies along the grip for its full length and is pressed against the guard, serving as a key to close the wrist. This is also to give the necessary force to make accurate cuts or to displace the enemy's weapon. (see plate 6)



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# Inspection and Instruction

## On the wrist

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The ranks being open as described in *Entry to the Lesson*, the instructor will move on to instruction on the wrist. The supervisors will assist him by going through the ranks.

*Attention -> Passing to the inspection of the wrist*

*Present -> Quarte*

One Tempo, One Movement

Detach the sabre from the shoulder; extend the arm forward, wrist closed in quarte at the height of the forearm, the sabre's point at an incline (see plate 3)

The cavalryman will stay in this position until the instructor has been assured of the execution of the command.

*Present -> Tierce*

One Tempo, One Movement

Turn the wrist to the left<sup>2</sup> and stay in the previous position. (see plate 4)

*Present -> Open Wrist*

One Tempo, One Movement

Open the wrist and stay in this position. (see plate 5)

*Present -> Closed Wrist*

One Tempo, One Movement

Close the wrist and stay in the previous position. (see plate 6)


*Carry -> Sabre*

One Tempo One Movement


Bring the sabre back to the shoulder as before, in its default position. (see plate 2)

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<sup>2</sup> T.N: Possibly a misprint in the original, as tierce is supposed to be to the right. This has been left unchanged because the rest of the book is consistent with the directions laid out in the definitions.



## Opening the Ranks



*Attention -> Left and right, open ranks to the points of your sabres.*

At this command, the cavalrymen will open ranks to the left and right along the same line, keeping the same distance of four paces deep. Each man will measure the space necessary with his arm and sabre extended, which is the space necessary to execute this manoeuvre without injuring his comrades.

The same will be done for cavalrymen on horseback. (see plate 7)

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## On the *Offensive* and *Defensive* Parry

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Note: This parry is very advantageous for the man on horseback, as no weapon can reach him in this position. He finds himself always on guard and can begin his offensive if he deems it appropriate.

*Attention -> Offensive and Defensive -> Parry*

One tempo, Two Movements

1. Have the right foot two feet away from the left and adopt the position of the man on horseback. Close the left hand and rest the wrist on the lower belly as if the cavalryman was holding his reins. Extend the sabre forward and to the left, with the wrist to the right or left according to the position of the adversary, at neck height with the sabre's edge up and the point slightly higher than the hilt. The body should be leaning forward and the cavalryman looking firmly at his enemy. (see plate 8)

*Carry = Sabre*

2. Bring the sabre to the shoulder and stay in the position from plate 2.

---

## On the Moulinet

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This instruction is of great utility to free and train the cavalryman's wrist, as well as giving strength and agility to his arm and shoulder. The cavalryman can only acquire this through regular and repeated exercise. It is thus necessary to begin with this lesson and to execute it again after each division that makes up this theory, so that the cavalryman is trained so much in this exercise that no weapon can reach him. It must also be said that the moulinet is a core part of the attack for cavalry.

Being on the front of the battle lines, the infantry are the first to witness, through this sabre play, their strength, courage, and the ardent desire that animates the cavalry to fight; the opinion of their brothers-in-arms certainly being a powerful motive to frighten and defeat the enemy in war.

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## Instruction on the Moulinet

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### Circle to the Left

---

*Attention -> Prepare to execute the Moulinet*  
One Tempo, Three Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive -> Parry*
2. Extend the arm forward so it is in a horizontal line, wrist in *tierce* at the height of the forehead.
3. Vigorously glide the sabre to the left of the horse's neck and return to position. (see plate 9)

---

### Circle to the Right

---

One Tempo, Three Movements

1. Turn the wrist to *quarte*.
2. Vigorously glide the sabre to the right of the horse's neck and return to position. (see plate 10)
3. Return the sabre.

### Observations

The elbow and wrist must be flexible while executing the movements.

While cutting to the left of the horse, the arm must form an angle to the right.

While cutting to the right of the horse, the arm must form an angle below.

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## Offensive in Tierce

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### Thrust

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*Attention* -> Thrust in Tierce

One Tempo, Five Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the hand back closer to the body, blade level, edge to the outside and wrist at ear height to prepare the thrust thereafter.
3. Launch the thrust forward, point directed towards the enemy's chest.  
(see plate 11)
4. Return to the parry.
5. Return the sabre to the shoulder and remain in the position from plate 2.

---

## Offensive in Tierce

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### Cut

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*Attention* -> Cut in Tierce  
One Tempo, Five Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the sabre to ear height, edge in tierce and point in the air to prepare the cut thereafter.
3. Cut with lively force from this position to the adversary's face. (see plate 12)
4. Return to the parry.
5. Return the sabre.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> T.N: I believe this to be referring to step 5 of the previous page.

---

## Offensive in Quarte

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*Attention* -> Thrust in Quarte

One Tempo, Five Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the hand back closer to the body so that the wrist is on the right hip, nails up, body tilted forward. The blade should be level and edge inside to prepare the thrust and align it with the enemy.
3. Launch the thrust forward, the sabre's point directed towards the adversary. (see plate 13)
4. Return to the parry.
5. Return the sabre.



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## Offensive in Quarte

---

*Attention -> Cut in Quarte*  
*One Tempo, Five Movements*

1. *Offensive and Defensive -> Parry*
2. Raise the sabre in the air on the right side, arm extended, wrist in quarte and higher than the head, edge directed towards the enemy, body slightly turned to the right and leaning forward to prepare the blow.
3. Give a cut with force to the adversary's face. (see plate 14)
4. Return to the parry.
5. Return the sabre.

---

## Offensive to the Left

---

*Attention* -> Thrust to the Left

One Tempo, Six Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Carry the sabre to the stomach, point in the air, wrist in tierce.
3. Turn the head left, let the blade drop flat on the left arm.
4. Bring the wrist back to the height of the right shoulder, shortening the arm as much as possible. Aim for the adversary and launch the thrust at him from this position. (see plate 15)
5. Return to the parry.
6. Return the sabre.

---

## Offensive to the Right

---

*Attention* -> Thrust to the Right  
One Tempo, Six Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Carry the sabre on the stomach, point in the air, wrist in tierce.
3. Turn the head to the right, let the blade drop horizontally onto the right arm, aiming the point towards the enemy. (see plate 16)
4. Launch the thrust in this direction.
5. Return to the parry.
6. Return the sabre.

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# Third Division

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## Head Parry Against Light Cavalry

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*Attention* -> Head Parry in Quarte  
One Tempo, Six Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Turn the wrist to quarte, bring the sabre back so that it is one foot away from the left shoulder at ear height. The point should be eight inches higher than the hilt so that you can parry the adversary's cuts to the head.
3. Pass the blade over the head and cut in tierce with strength and speed at the enemy's right flank. (see plate 17)
4. Thrust in tierce.
5. Thrust in quarte.
6. Return the sabre.

---

## Defense Against Light Cavalry

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*Attention* -> Head Parry in Tierce  
One Tempo, Six Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the wrist from this parry back to cover the head in tierce so that the hilt is at chin height, at one foot's distance and facing the right shoulder. The point should be eight inches higher than the hilt so that the enemy's cuts to the head can be parried.
3. Bring the blade over the head and cut in quarte at the adversary's left flank to cut his hand or his reins. (see plate 18)
4. Thrust in tierce.
5. Thrust in quarte.
6. Return the sabre. (see plate 2)

### Observation

If the cavalryman cannot reach his adversary, he must try to cut the reins of his horse.

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## Parry to the Rear

---

*Attention* -> Cover yourselves to the rear  
One Tempo, Two Movements

1. Raise the arm in an extended manner, blade perpendicular to it.
2. Turn the head to the right. Let the blade drop along the back, edge outside. Adjust the reins and be careful not to wound the horse's rump with the point of the sabre. (see plate 19)

---

## Defensive

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### Left Shoulder Parry

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*Attention* -> Cover the Left Shoulder  
One Tempo, One Movement

1. Turn the head to the left and extend the arm as much as possible. Pass the wrist over the head, edge outside and the sabre's point one foot below the hilt. (see plate 20)

---

# Defensive

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## Right Shoulder Parry

---

*Attention* -> Cover the Right Shoulder  
One Tempo, One Movement

1. Turn the head to the right. Start from the previous position. Bring the wrist back over the head and make a circular motion to return to the right shoulder, edge outside. (see plate 21)



---

## Cut to the Rear in Tierce

---

*Attention* -> Cut to the rear in tierce

One Tempo, Two movements

1. Raise the arm in an extended manner, blade perpendicular so the cut is well prepared.
2. With strength and speed, give a backhand cut to the rear in tierce, aiming for the adversary's head. (see plate 22)

---

## Cut to the Rear in Quarte

---

After the previous cut, the cavalryman turns the hand to quarte and gives a cut to his enemy's left wrist or his reins, to try and cut them. (see plate 23)

---

## Thrust to the Rear

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous cut, stay in this position. Bring the wrist back so that it is along the right shoulder. Let the blade drop onto the right forearm, point directed towards the enemy.
2. Launch the thrust in this direction. (see plate 24)

---

# Offensive and Defensive

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## Horse's Head Parry to the Left

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*Attention* -> Horse's Head Parry to the Left  
One Tempo, Eight Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the arm and body horizontally forward. Lower the point of the sabre, wrist to tierce, to one foot away from the horse's right ear. Seek to parry the enemy's blows that may fall on the horse's head to the right.
3. Thrust in tierce.
4. Thrust in quarte.
5. Cut in quarte.
6. Cut in tierce.
7. Return to the parry.
8. Return the sabre. (see plate 25)

Note: Covering the horse's head is an essential and absolutely necessary parry in attacks en masse and in charges, because as soon as the horse receives a hit on the head it will rear up and sow disorder in the ranks, create gaps in the line and make it easier for the enemy to penetrate it.

---

# Offensive and Defensive

---

## Horse's Head Parry to the Right

---

*Attention* -> Horse's Head Parry to the Right  
One Tempo, Eight Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Bring the arm and body horizontally forward. Lower the point of the sabre, wrist in tierce, one foot away from the horse's left ear. Seek to parry the enemy's blows that may fall on the horse's head to the left.
3. Thrust in tierce.
4. Thrust in quarte.
5. Cut in quarte.
6. Cut in tierce.
7. Return to the parry.
8. Return the sabre. (see plate 26)

Note: Same observations as the previous page.

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# Fourth Division

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## Offensive and Defensive to the Right Against Cuirassiers

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*Attention* -> Defense Against a Cuirassier to the Right  
One Tempo, Two Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Firm up on the stirrups, adjust the reins, bring the body forward, extend the arm forward horizontally from the right shoulder. Bring the wrist into quarte and the blade perpendicular with the thumb extended along the hilt. Wait for the cuirassier in this position. (see plate 27)

---

## Offensive

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### Thrust in Quarte

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One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous movement, pretend to drive the cuirassier's thrust away to the left or the right.
2. Bring the wrist back to the right hip and launch a thrust to the cuirassier's face. (see plate 28)

---

## Offensive

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### Thrust in Tierce

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One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous thrust, bring the hand back to the right hip while turning the wrist to tierce.
2. In a lively manner, launch a second thrust to the cuirassier's face. (see plate 29)



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## Offensive

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### Thigh Cut to the Right

---

One Tempo, Three Movements

1. After the previous thrust, raise the sabre horizontally overhead.
2. Give a forceful cut in quarte to the cuirassier's hand. Seek to wound him or to cut his reins. (see image 30)
3. Return to the parry.
4. Return the sabre.

---

## Offensive and Defensive to the Left Against Cuirassiers

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*Attention* -> Defense Against a Cuirassier to the Left  
One Tempo, Three Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Firm up on the stirrups, adjust the reins, bring the body forward, the arm horizontally forward so it is below the left shoulder. Bring the wrist into quarte, with the blade perpendicular. Wait for the cuirassier in this position. (see plate 31)

---

# Offensive

---

## Thrust in Quarte

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous movement, pretend to drive the cuirassier's thrust away to the left or the right.
2. Bring the wrist back to the right hip and launch a thrust at the cuirassier's face. (see plate 32)

---

## Offensive

---

### Thrust in Tierce

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous thrust, bring the hand back to the right hip while turning the wrist to tierce.
2. In a lively manner, launch a second thrust at the cuirassier's face. (see plate 33)

---

## Offensive

---

### Thigh Cut to the Left

---

One Tempo, Four Movements

1. After the previous thrust, raise the sabre horizontally overhead.
2. Cut strongly at the cuirassier's exposed left hand, or cut his reins. (see plate 34)

---

# Fifth Division

---

## Defense Against Lancers to the Right

---

*Attention* -> Against Lancers to the Right  
One Tempo, Eight Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry.
2. Bring the arm back and place the wrist on the upper thigh. Firm up on the stirrups and adjust the reins, with blade and body leaning forward slightly. Wait in this position for the lancer's attack.
3. Pretend to forcefully drive the lance away to the right or left.
4. Thrust in tierce.
5. Thrust in quarte.
6. Cut at the reins.
7. Return to the parry.
8. Return the sabre. (see plate 35)

---

## Defense Against Lancers to the Left

---

*Attention* -> Against Lancers to the Right  
One Tempo, Eight Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry.
2. Bring the arm towards the left shoulder, point in the air and blade leaning slightly forwards. Adjust the reins and wait for the lancer's attack in this position.
3. Pretend to forcefully drive the lance away to the right or left.
4. Thrust in tierce.
5. Thrust in quarte.
6. Cut at the reins.
7. Return to the parry.
8. Return the sabre. (see plate 36)

---

## *How to Defend Oneself Against the Lance on the Retreat, in Embankments, Ravines Narrow Passes and on Bridges.*

---

It is necessary that this command be given to an experienced officer who can keep his cavalymen marching at a walking pace, because if the movements were executed faster there would be disorder in the manoeuvre and the horses would be winded.

While entering the manoeuvre, the rearguard will have their carbines loaded and their sabres hanging from their wrists. The commander will divide his troops by four so that there is room for a horse to pass between each side of the ravine. The first ones in line separate themselves from the group.

The first and second lines will countermarch by swinging to the right while the third and fourth line will countermarch by swinging to the left. When they have arrived to take the place of the rearmost horse, they will fire their carbines at the enemy cavalymen and not the horses; this is because dismounted horses sow disorder in the ranks and slow the enemy's pursuit. After firing, the cavalymen drop their guns and recover their sabres, which they hold to the rear, ready to parry the lance. They should have their heads turned to the right so they can see the attack and be capable of driving away the lances, should they need to. (see plate 37)



---

## Offensive and Defensive Against the Lance Behind

---

One tempo, Five Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry.
2. Turn the head back to the right to observe the enemy's attack, holding the sabre to the rear, arm extended and the blade perpendicular in the air in order to drive away the enemy's lance.
3. Pretend to drive the lance away to the left or right.
4. Return to the parry.
5. Return the sabre. (see the 4<sup>th</sup> line in plate 37)

---

# Sixth Division

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## On Defending Against Infantry to the Right

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### Offensive and Defensive

---

*Attention* -> Against Infantry to the Right  
One Tempo, Three Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> Parry
2. Turn the wrist to quarte and bring the sabre high towards the left shoulder, so that the wrist is at neck height. Signal the horse to traverse left; that is to say loosen the reins and the left leg, and push with the right leg; this is so that the horse does not accidentally expose itself to bayonet thrusts.
3. Forcefully repel the bayonet with a backhand cut made with the spine of the sabre. (see plate 38)

---

## Lifting up the Bayonet to the Right Against Infantry

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous movement, turn the wrist to tierce with the edge outside.
2. Raise the infantryman's bayonet again. (see plate 39)

---

# Cut in Tierce to the Right

## Against Infantry

---

One Tempo, One Movement

1. Having driven away the bayonet and still being in line in tierce, cut in a lively manner to the infantryman's face. (see plate 40)

---

## Cut in Quarte to the Right Against Infantry

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. Having executed the previous cut, turn the wrist to quarte, edge inside.
2. Make a second cut at the adversary. (see plate 41)

---

## Thrust in Quarte to the Right

### Against Infantry

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. Having executed the previous cut, bring the wrist back to the right hip, point in quarte and directed towards the adversary's chest.
2. Launch a thrust in this direction. (see plate 42)

---

## Thrust in Tierce to the Right Against Infantry

---

One Tempo, Four Movements

1. After the previous thrust, turn the hand to tierce while bringing the arm back. Bring the wrist level with the right eye.
2. Look towards the infantryman, direct the sabre's point toward his chest and launch the thrust in a lively manner.
3. Return to the parry.
4. Return the sabre. (see plate 43)

Note: The six previous blows must follow each other quickly. The cavalryman, after driving away the bayonet, can use thrusts instead of cuts. Nothing prevents the instructors from making this change, especially when dealing with the instruction of heavy cavalry.

---

## On Defending to the Left Against Infantry

---

### Offensive and Defensive

---

*Attention* -> Against infantry to the left

One Tempo, Three Movements

1. *Offensive and Defensive* -> In Guard
2. Bring the sabre high to the right, edge outside, arm and blade extended. Signal the horse to traverse right, that is to say loosen the reins and the right leg and press with the left leg, to prevent the horse from stampeding and to avoid bayonets thrusts.
3. Vigorously press the horse's neck on the left and drive away the bayonet with the spine of the sabre. (see plate 44)




---

## Lifting Up the Bayonet

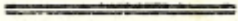


One Tempo, Two Movements

1. Turn the wrist to quarte.
2. Raise the bayonet again with the spine of the sabre and bring the wrist to the right, at head height, to go on the offensive. (see plate 45)



## Cut in Quarte



One Tempo, One Movement

1. With force and in a lively manner, make a cut in quarte to the infantryman's head and bring the wrist back to the left shoulder to prepare the next blow. (see plate 46)

---

## Cut in Tierce

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. Turn the wrist to tierce.
2. Throw a second cut at the infantryman's head. (see plate 47)

---

## Thrust in Tierce

---

One Tempo, Two Movements

1. After the previous cut, bring the wrist back in line with the right eye and direct the point towards the adversary's chest.
2. Launch a thrust at him in tierce. (see plate 48)

---

## Thrust in Quarte

---

One Tempo, Four Movements

1. Having done the thrust in tierce, the cavalryman brings his wrist back to the right hip and directs the point again towards the infantryman's chest in quarte.
2. In a lively manner, launch the thrust in this direction. (see plate 49)
3. Return to the parry.
4. Return the sabre.

---

When the students are well-learned enough to execute all the *offensive* and *defensive* blows contained in this theory without demonstration from their instructors and only according to his command, they will be able to move on to the second lesson.

---

## Mode of Dress

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The instructors and cavalymen will wear a buffalo sleeved jacket, along with a visored helmet so as to prevent injury to their faces.

## Activities of the 2nd Lesson

---

The cavalymen will be placed in a row and the instructor will take his position at a distance of twenty paces, in the centre and in front of the line. He will command *Attention = Cavalrymen on the right come forward to fight = March*. Straight away they will come from the right at walking pace according to the command, and on the prescribed line they will place themselves in front of the instructor, who will make them parry all the offensive sabre, lance and bayonet blows described in this theory.

For parrying the bayonet, the cavalryman must step up on a table four feet high. (see figure 2, plate 50)

After this exercise, the students will return to the row, placing themselves on the left side.

## Activities of the 3rd Lesson

---

With the cavalrymen having arrived at the training ground, the instructor will have the ranks opened at sabre point as described in the instruction on foot. After the students have executed all the cuts and thrusts on horseback seen in the instruction on foot, the odd numbered students will dismount. They will then leave ranks to put on a cuirass and mask, and after their return the even numbered students will leave to dress themselves in the same manner. They will then all mount their horses.

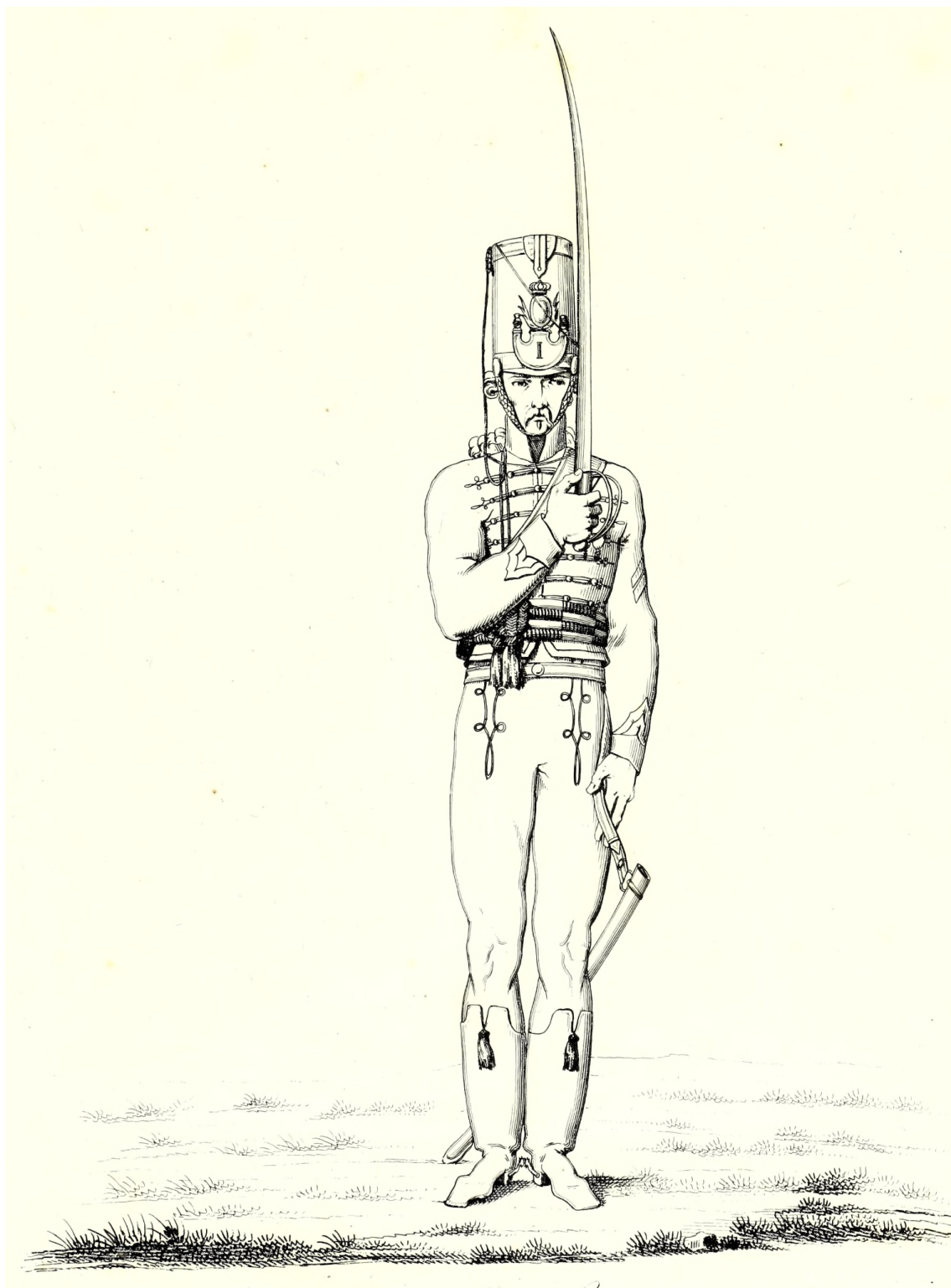
The instructor will divide his group so that one part has the offensive and the other the defensive. He will place them face-to-face at a distance of fifty paces to prepare the exercise, which will be done in the order of combat. The cavalrymen will start from the right wing, one-by-one on the prescribed line at the same pace and according to the orders of the instructors. At the command of *Attention = Cavalrymen of the right prepare to fight this division (designate the division) at a walk, at a trot, at a canter = March*. Straight away the trumpet will sound the attack. The cavalrymen will meet at the centre between the two lines. The non-combatants who are spectating will still be able to find benefit in this lesson, which will serve them well when their turn to fight comes. The instructor will give the signal to the trumpeters which will sound the return. The combatants will return to their ranks, placing themselves on the left wing.

The instructor will make the students dismount as often as they wish to strap their horses. (see plate 51)

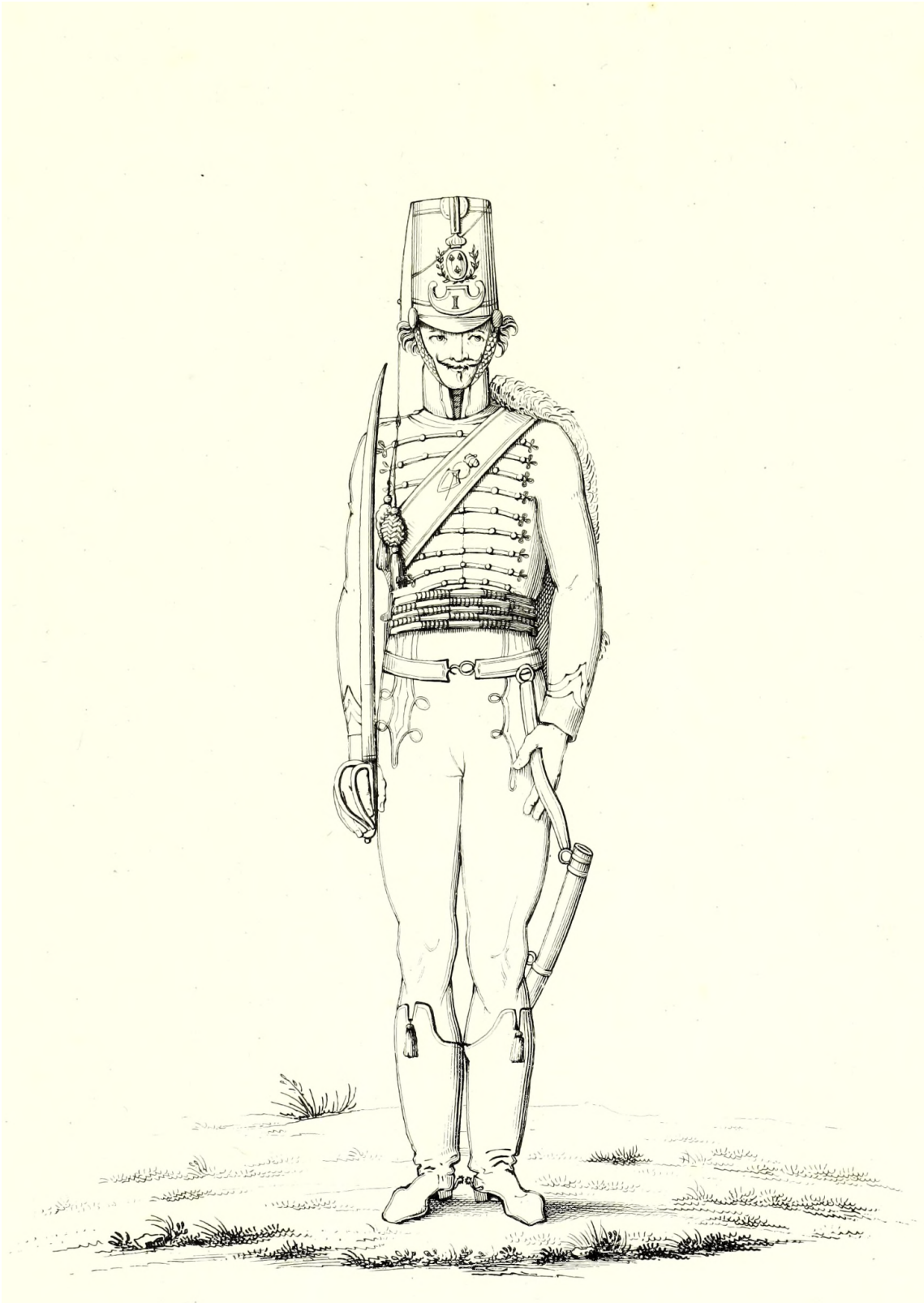
The above exercise having been well-executed, there cannot be any doubt about the perfection of the cavalryman. It will be easily seen that it is enough to give him courage and confidence in himself and that he will, by these means, always have a great advantage over his enemy and be certain that he will defeat him through the assurance retained from these first exercises.



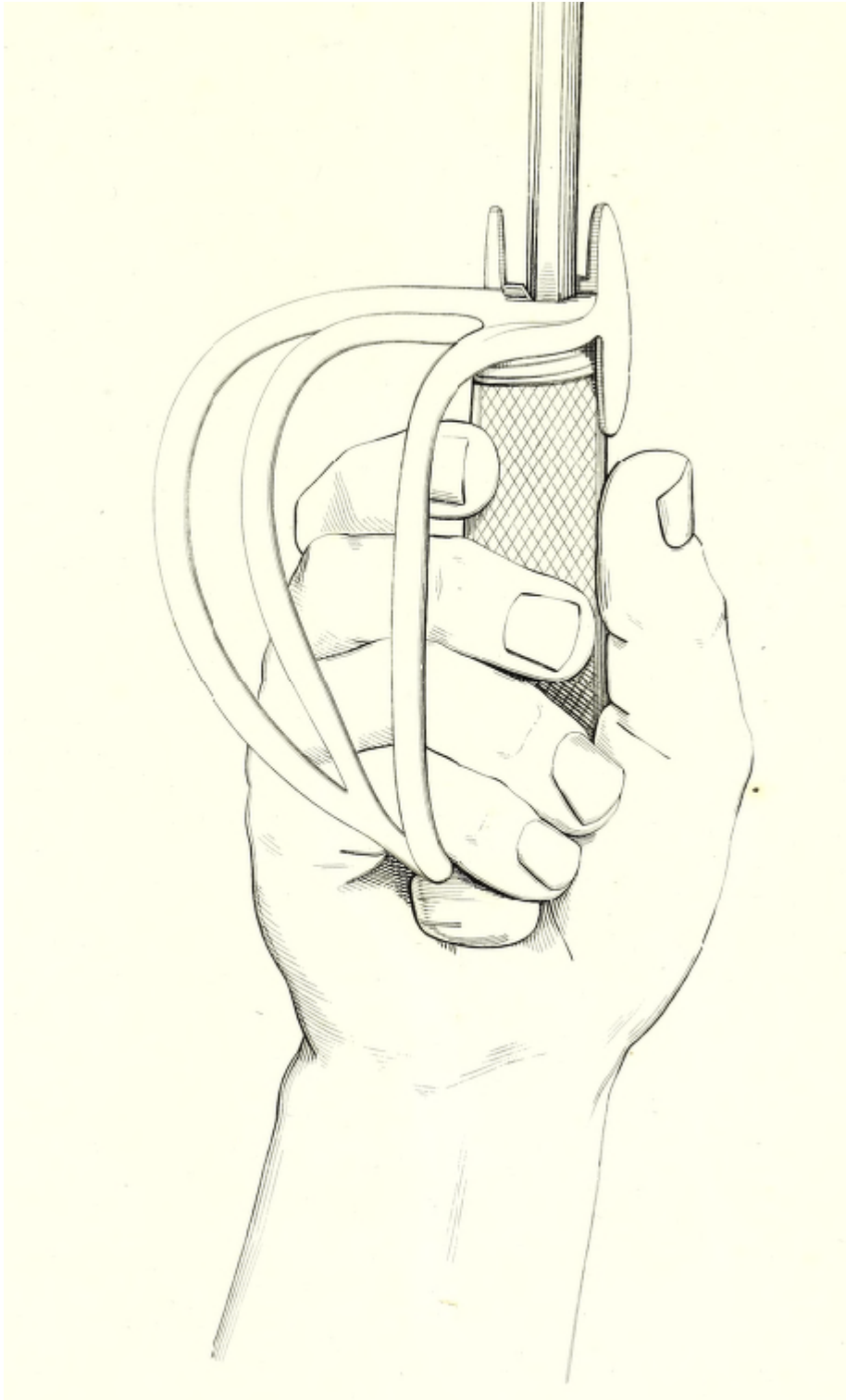




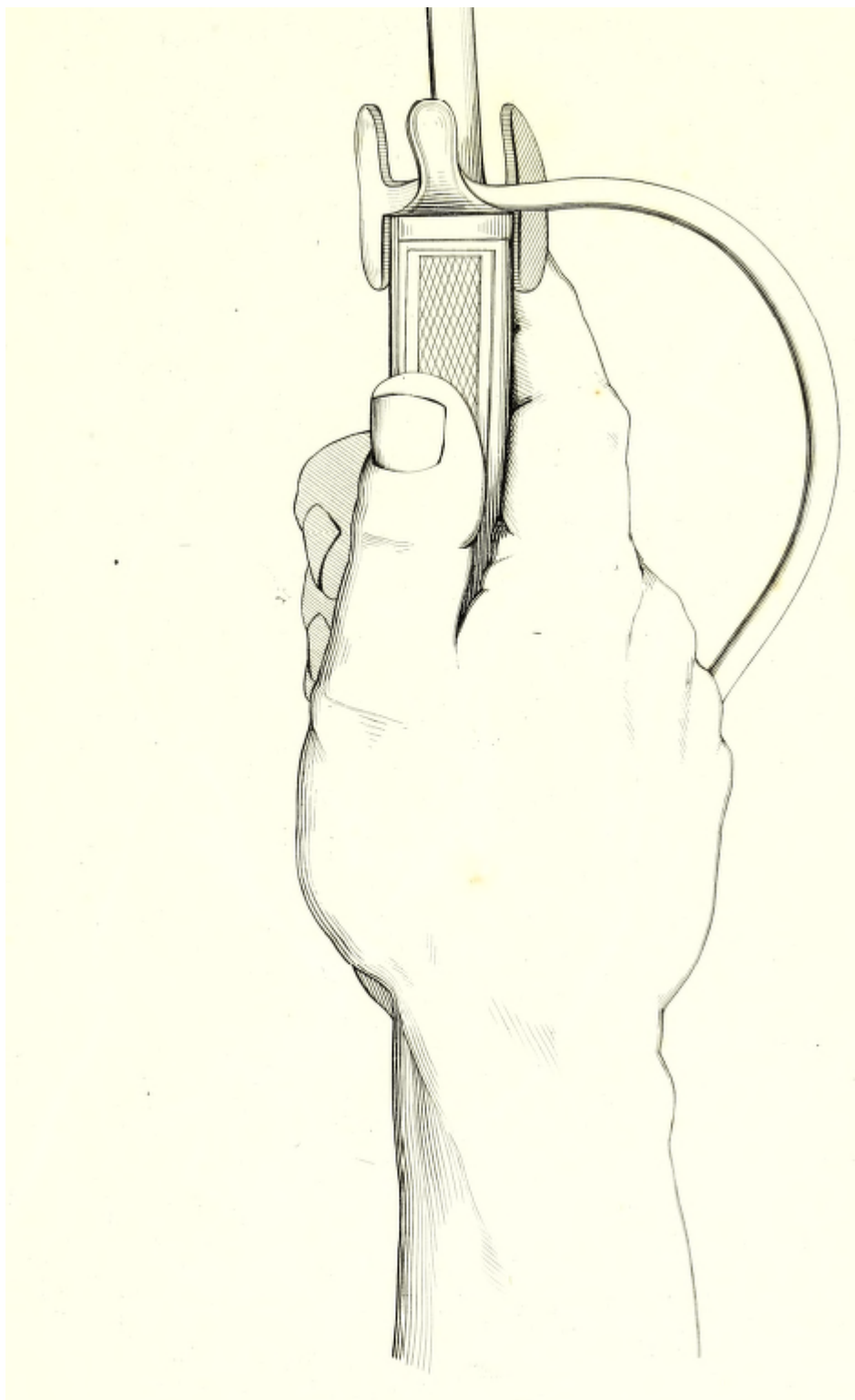
The Salute



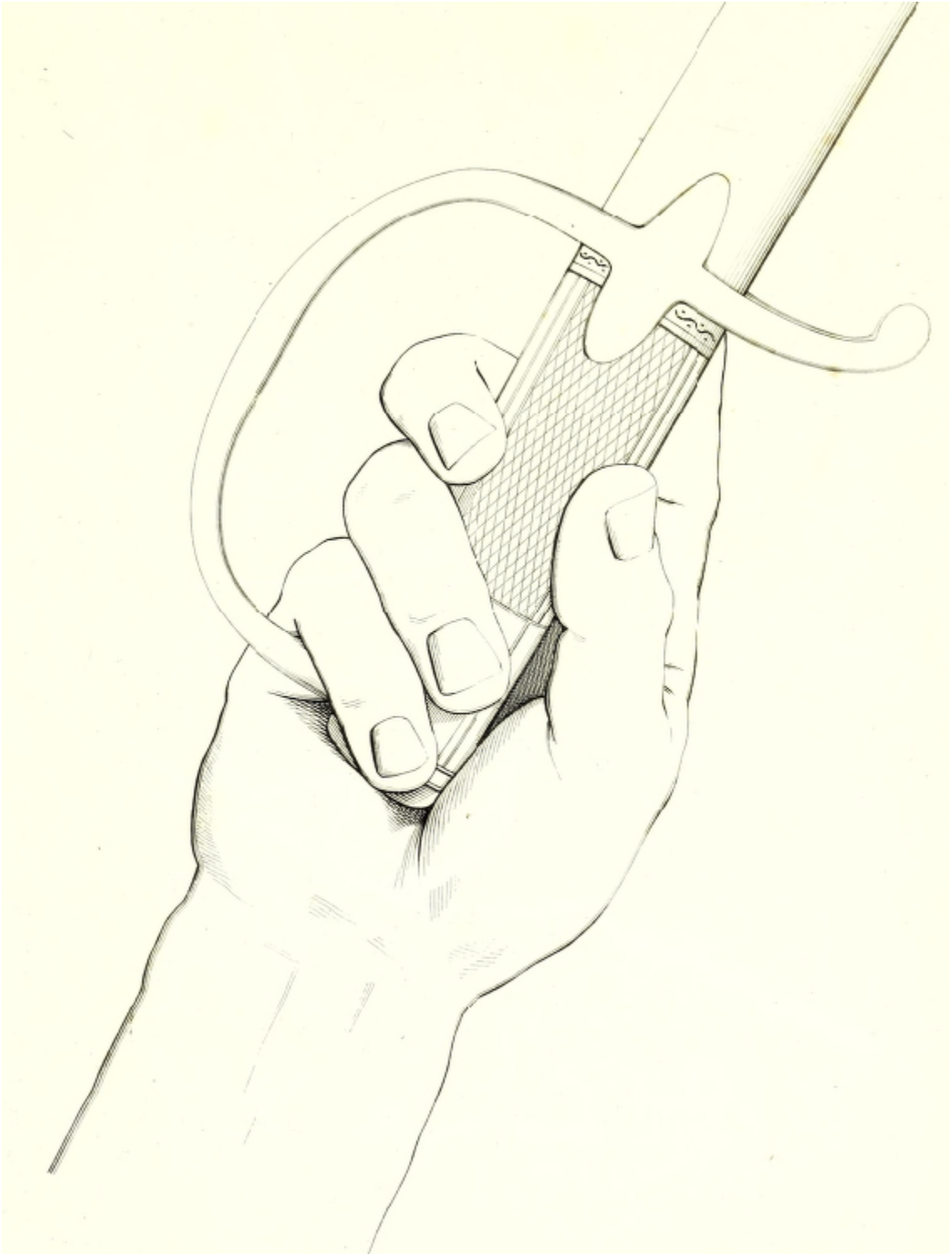
The Cavalryman at Rest



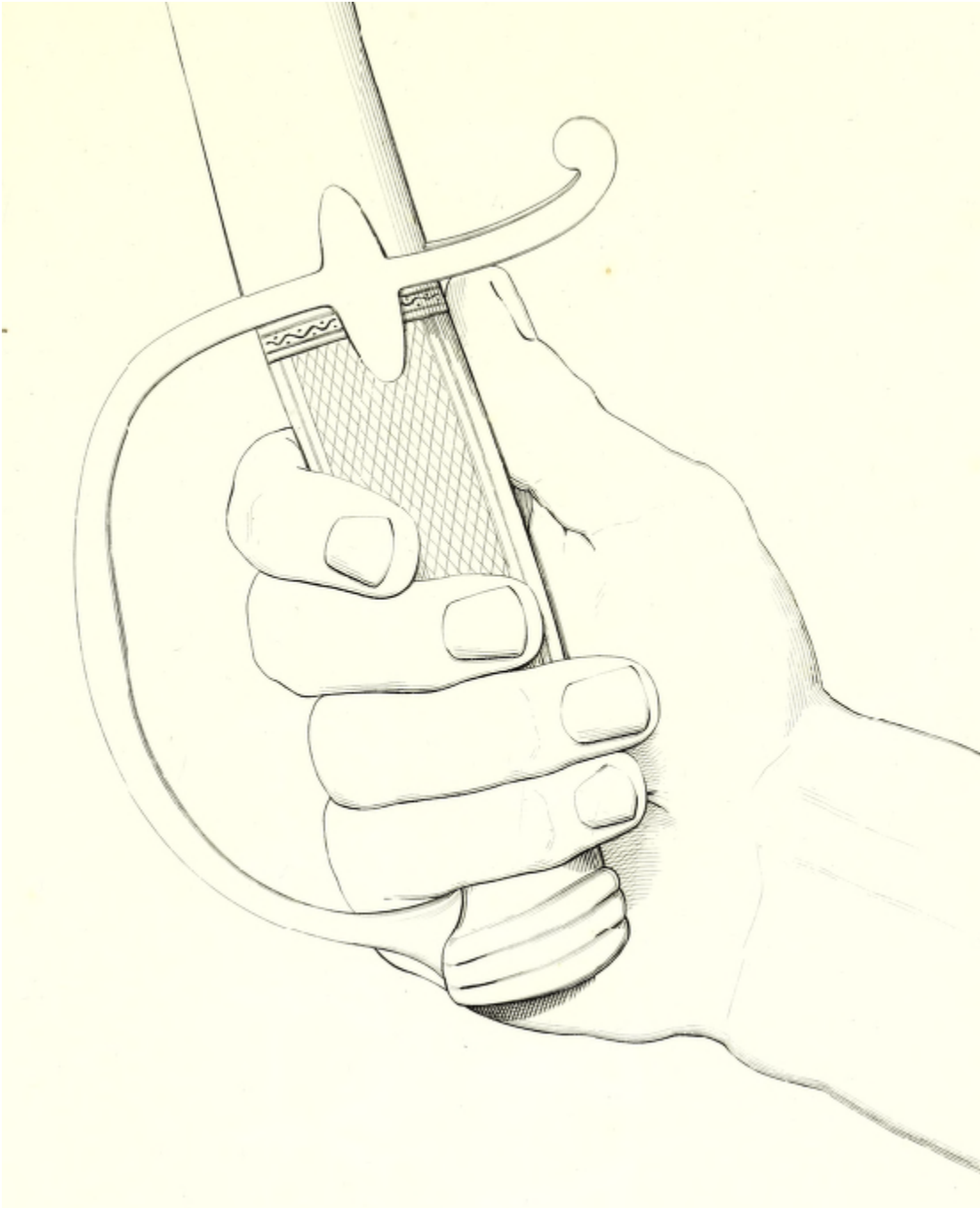
The Wrist in Quarte



The Wrist in Tierce

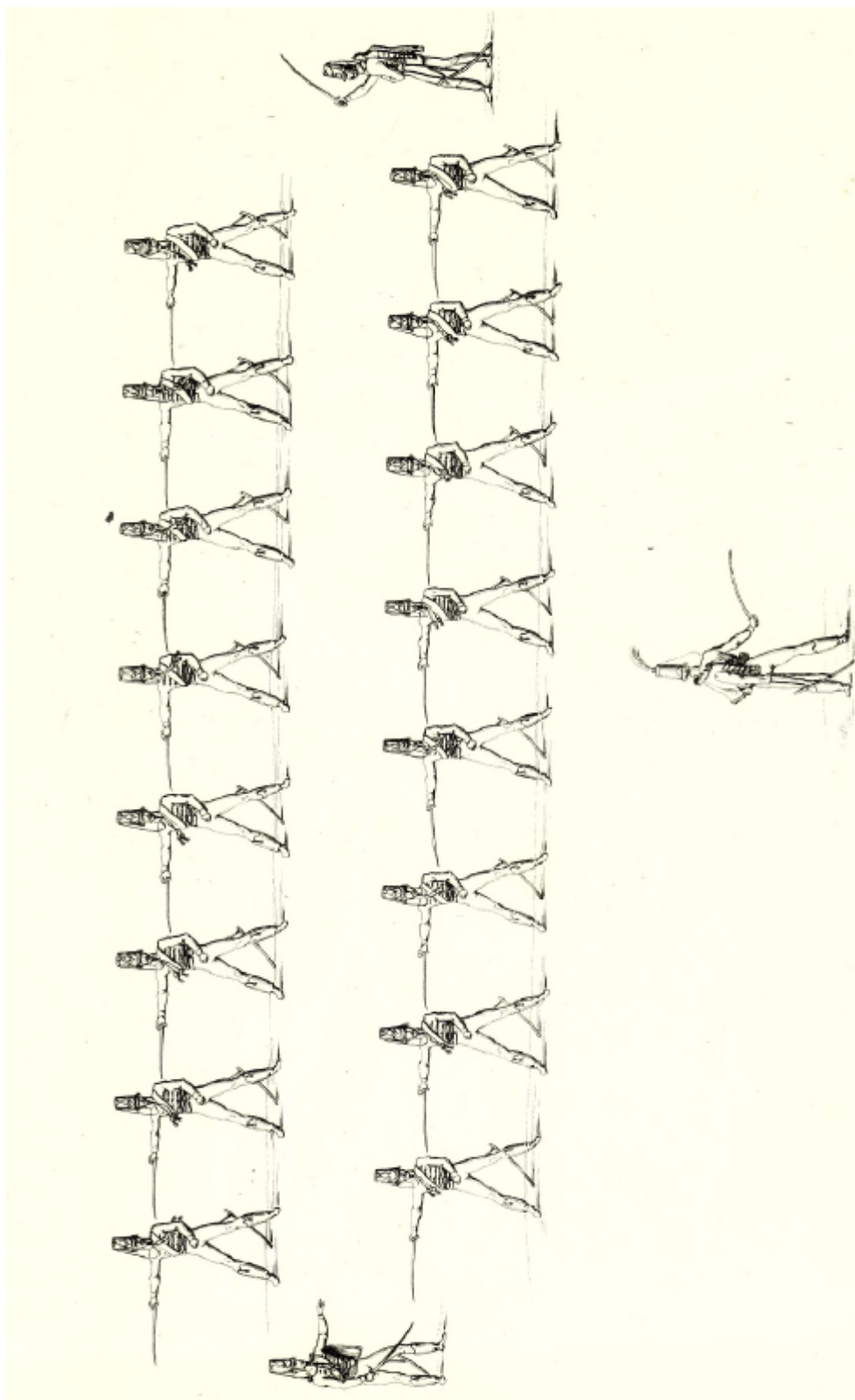


The Open Wrist



The Closed Wrist



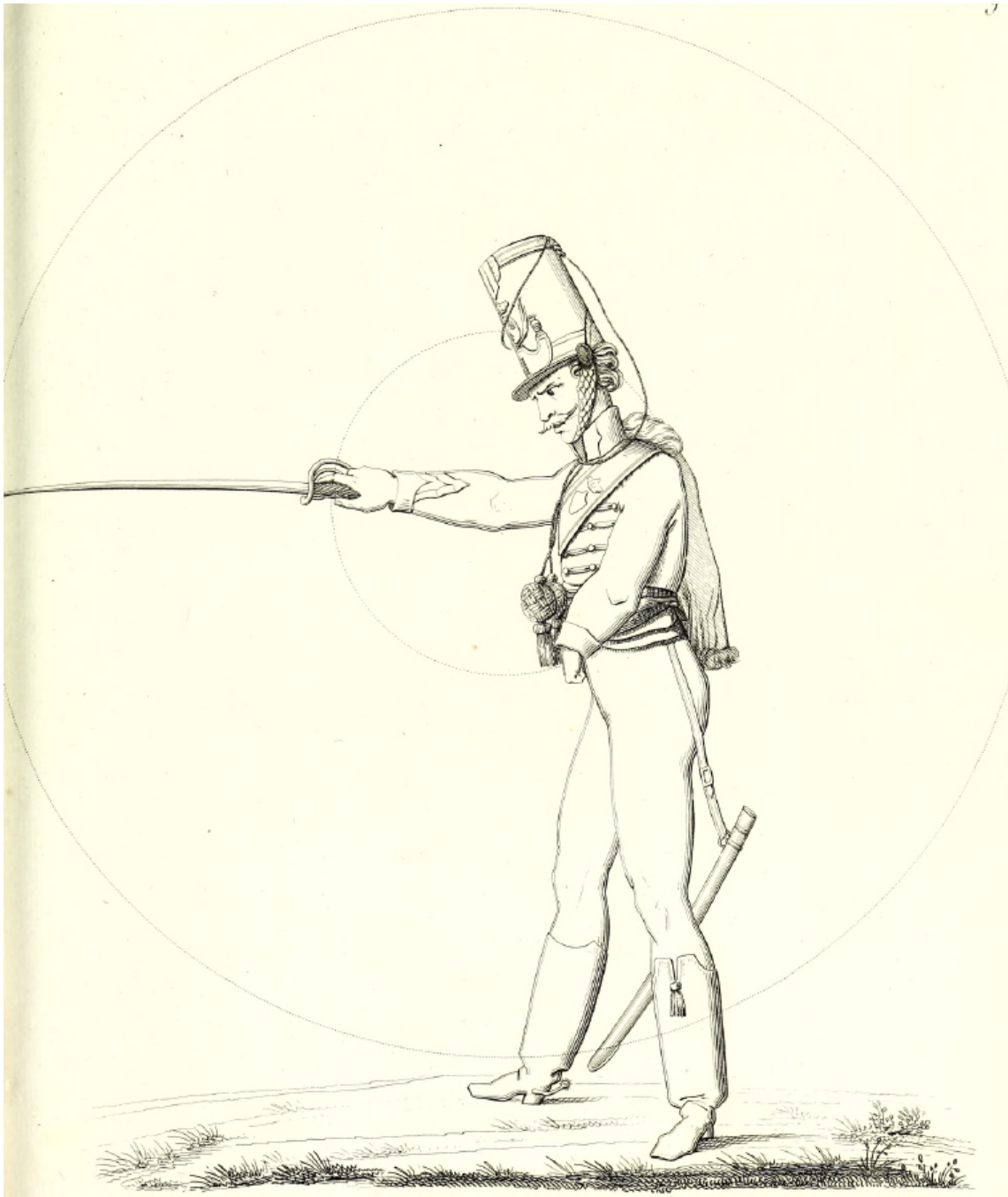


Measuring the Distance with the Sabre's Length for Training

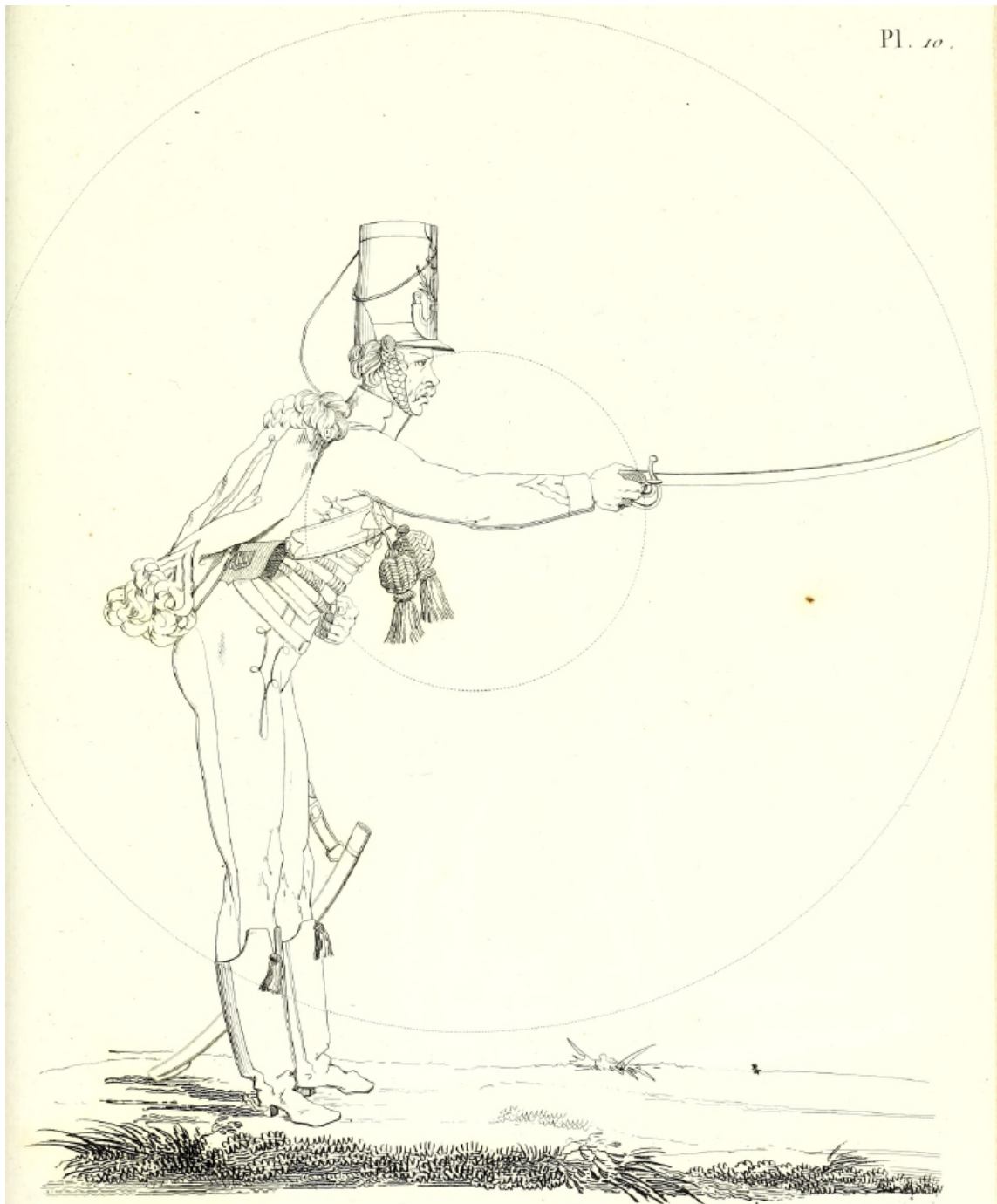


Position for the *Offensive* and *Defensive*, Parry





Position for the Moulinet to the Left



Position for the Moulinet to the Right



Thrust in *Tierce*



Cut in *Tierce*



Thrust in *Quarte*





Cut in *Quarte*



Thrust to the Left

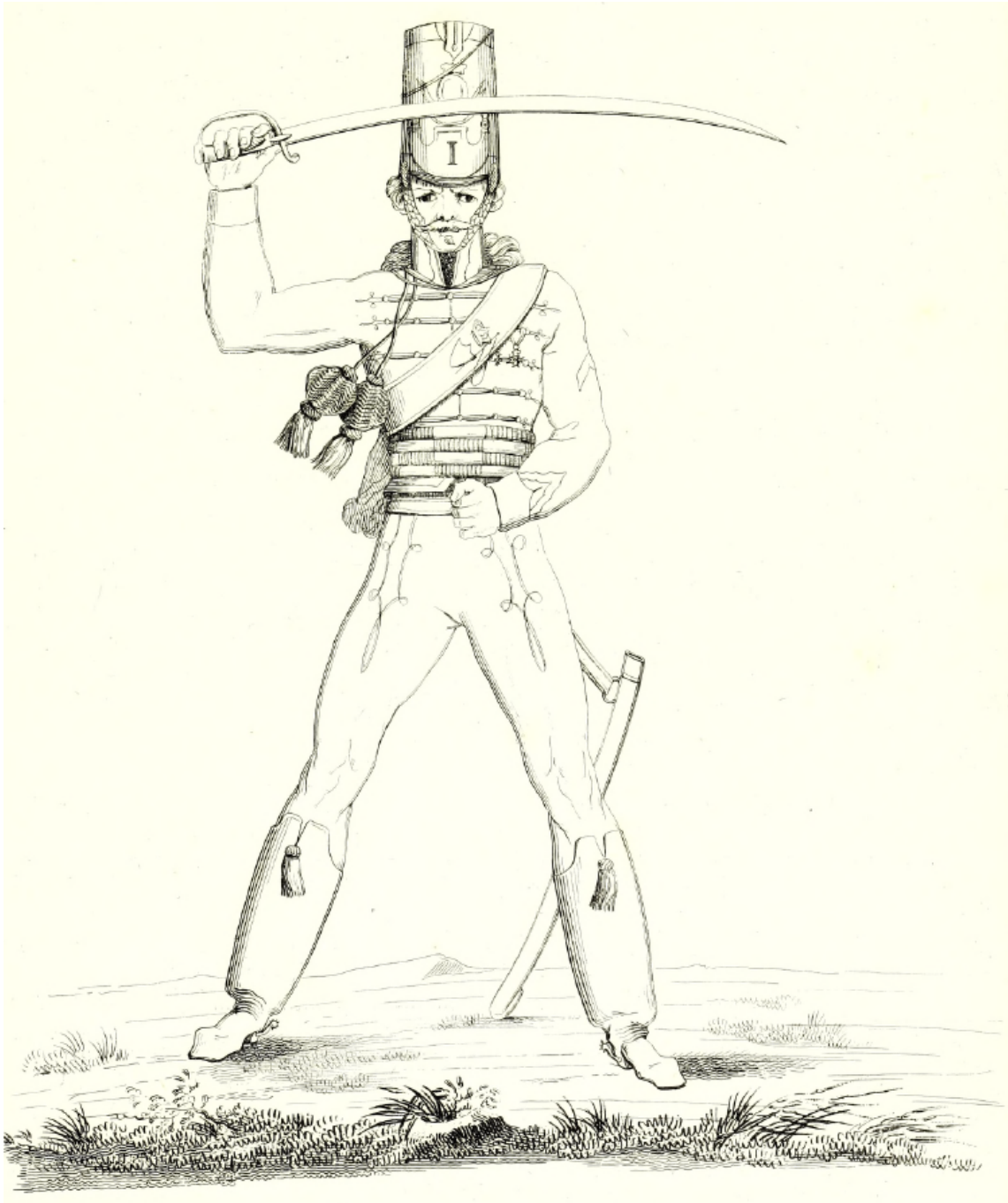


Thrust to the Right





Head Parry in *Quarte*



Head Parry in *Tierce*



Parry in the Back



Parry at the Left Shoulder



Parry at the Right Shoulder





Cut to the Rear in *Tierce*



Cut to the Rear in *Quarte*



Thrust to the Rear





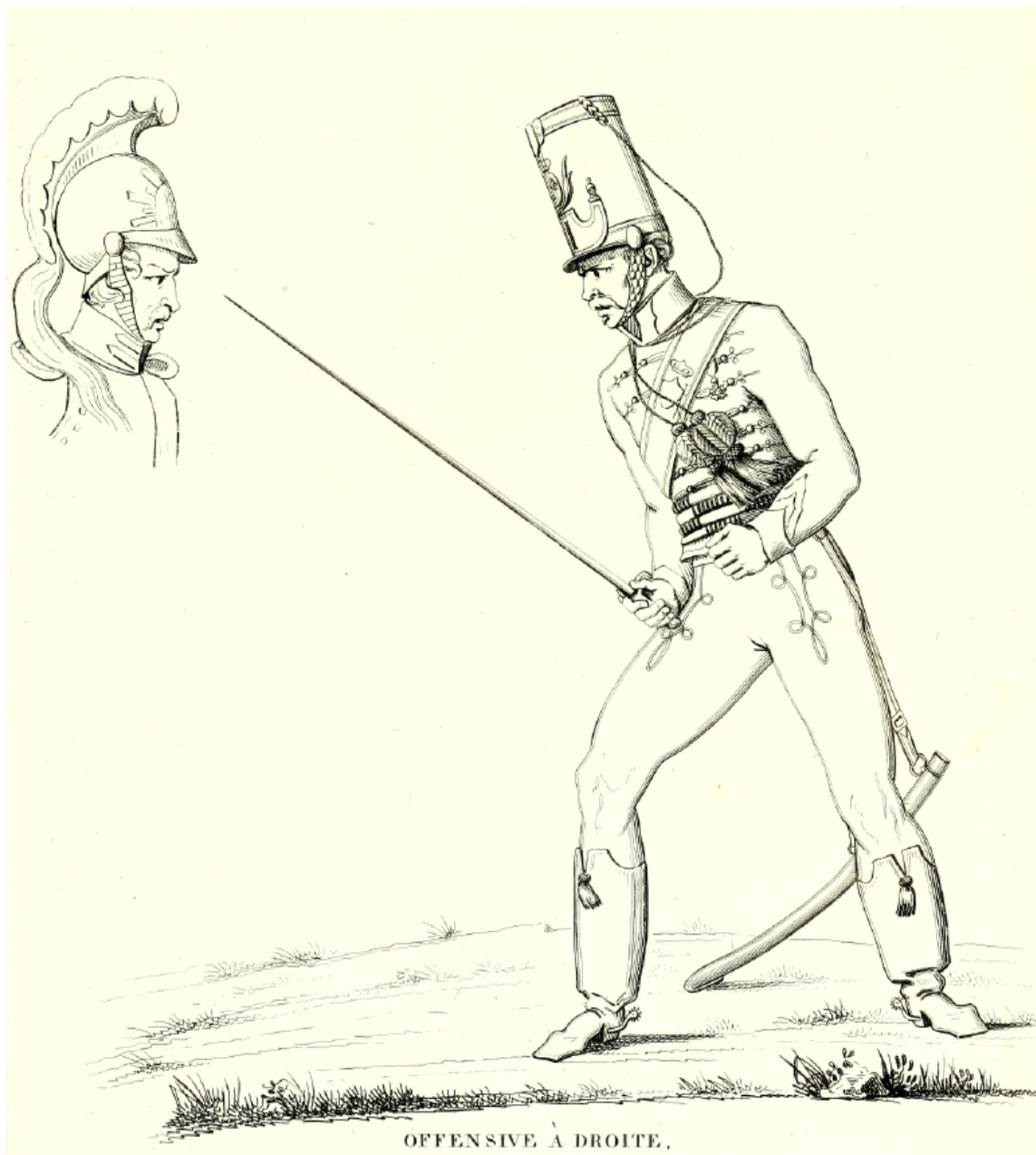
Parry for the Horse's Head to the Left



Parry for the Horse's Head to the Right

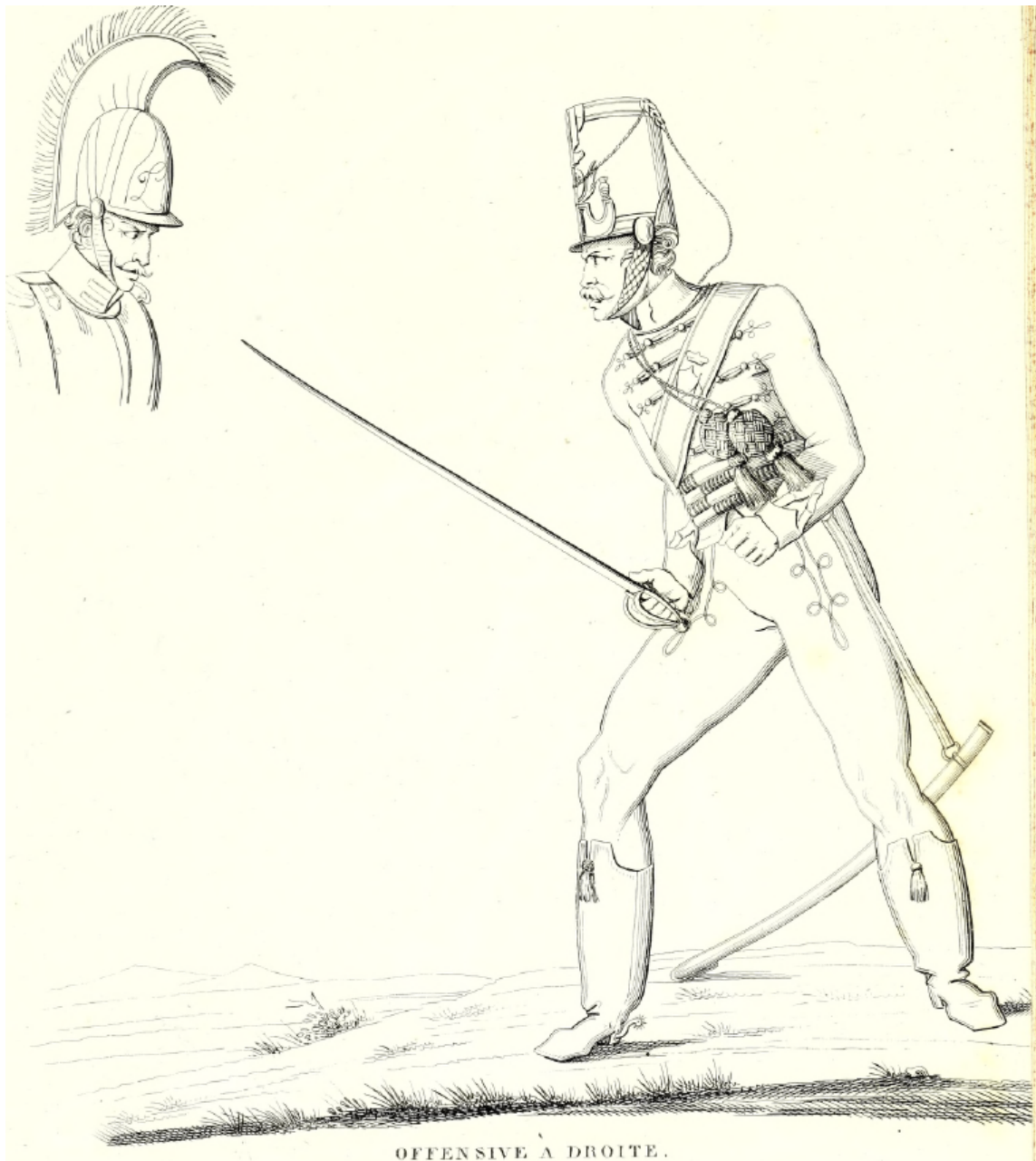


*Defensive Against Cuirassiers to the Right*

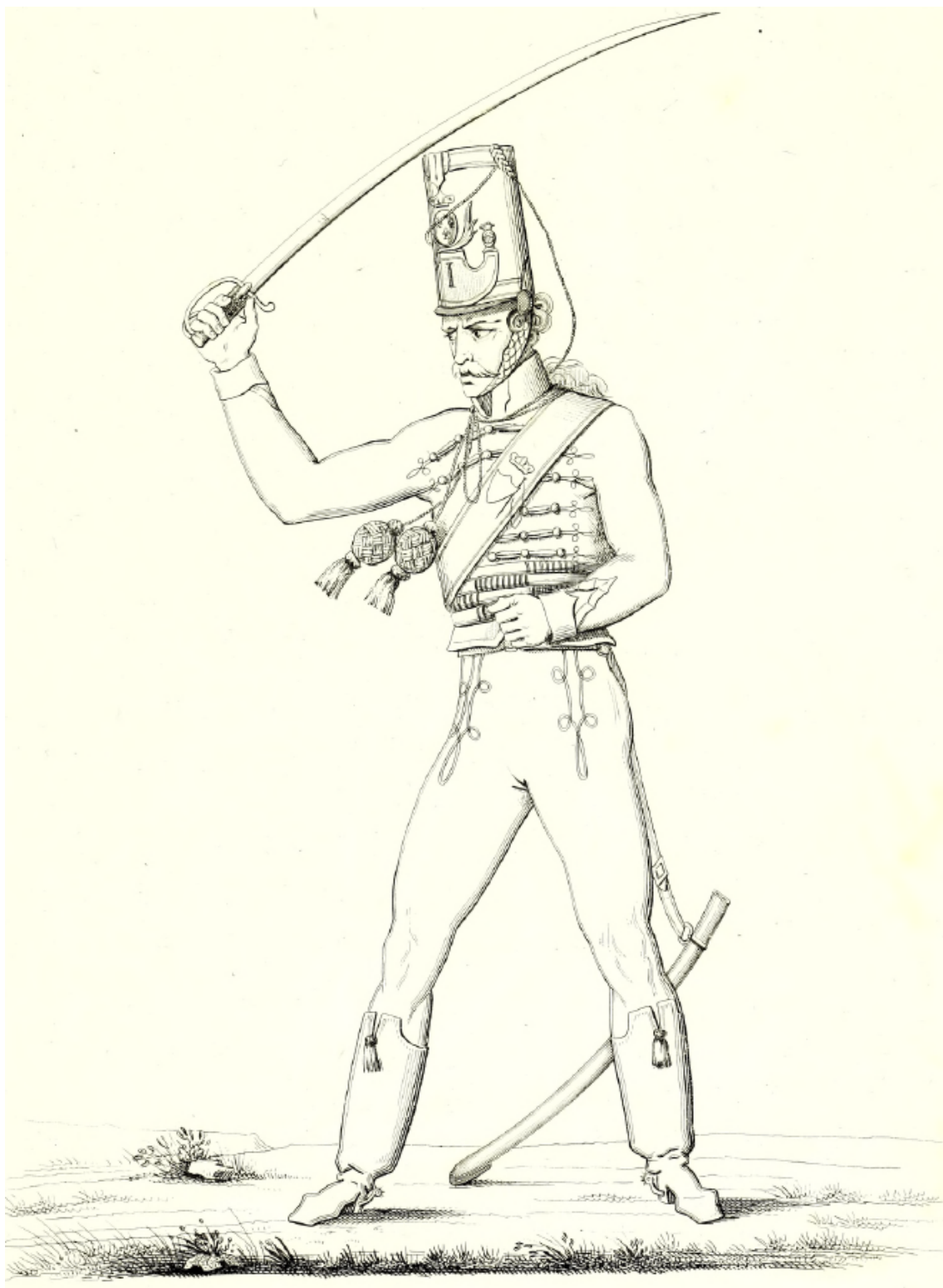


Thrust in *Tierce* at the Cuirassier's Face





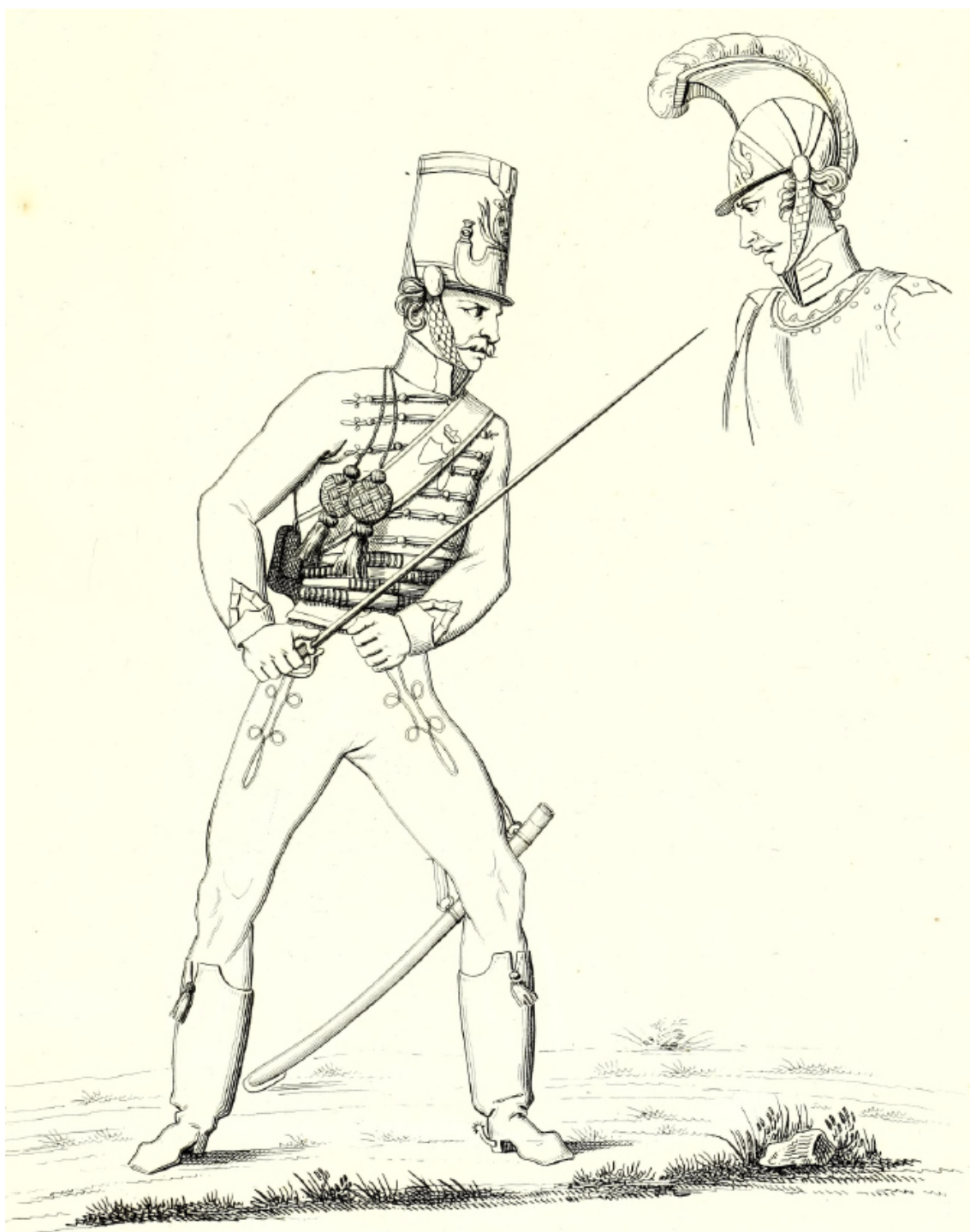
Thrust in *Quarte* at the Cuirassier's Face



Thigh Cut in *Quarte* to the Right



Parry to the Left in *Quarte* Against Cuirassiers



Thrust to the Left in *Quarte*





Thrust to the Left in *Tierce*



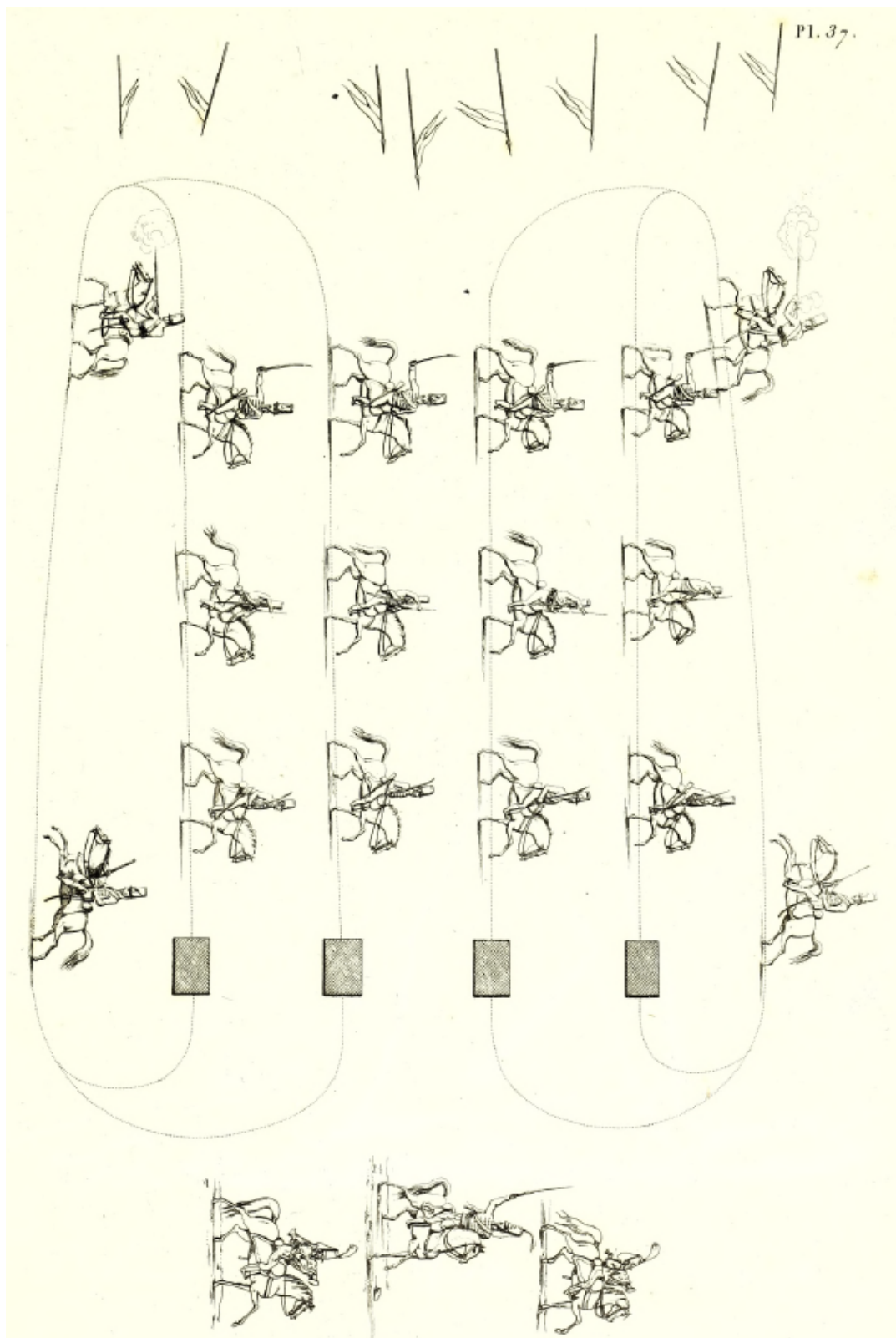
Thigh Cut in *Quarte*, to the Hand or Reins



*Defensive to the Right Against Lancers*



*Defensive to the Left Against Lancers*



Defense in Retreat Against Lancers in Pursuit

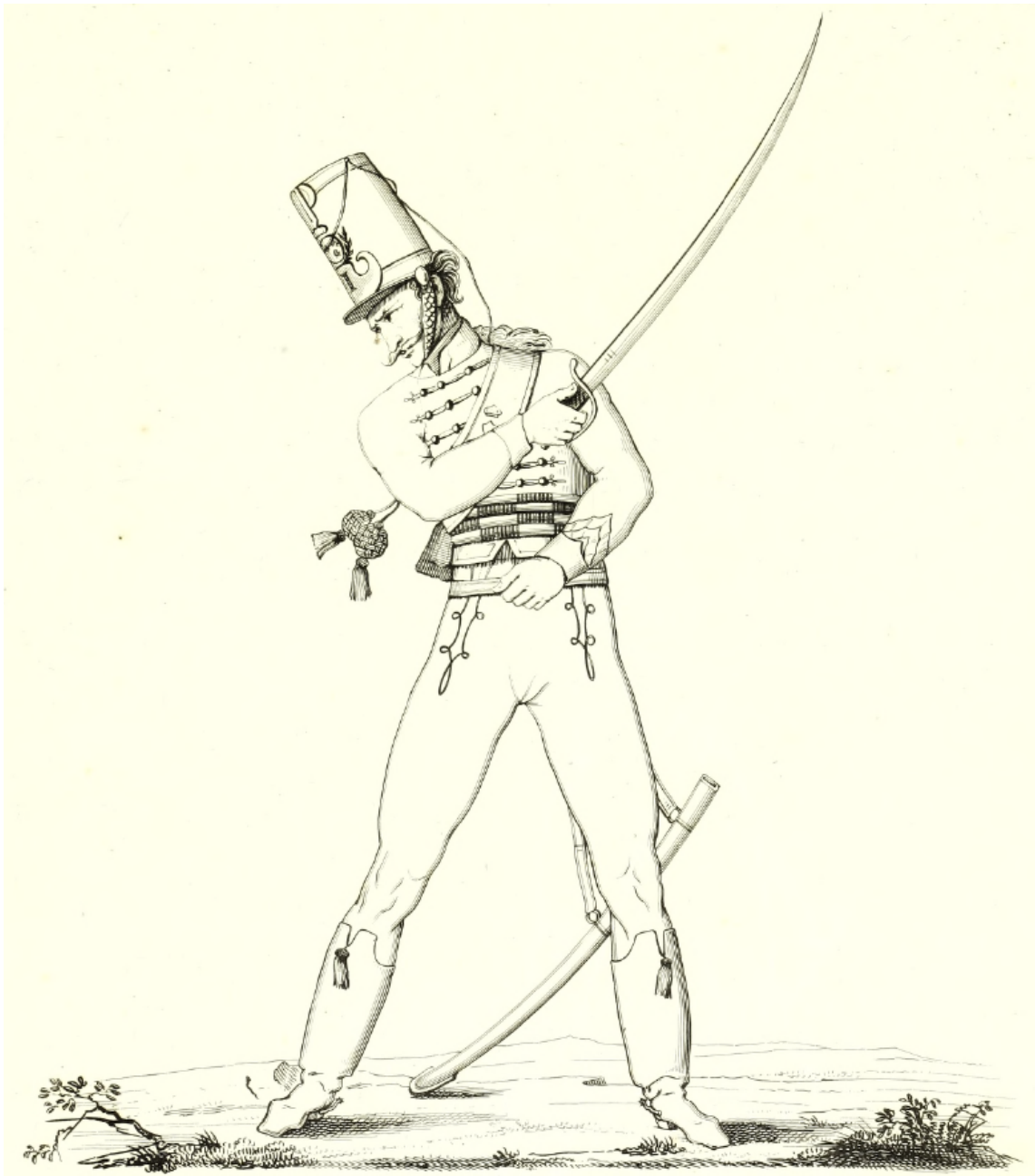




*Defensive to the Right in Quarte Against Bayonets*



Collecting the Bayonet to the Right in *Tierce* with the Back of the Sabre



Cut in *Tierce* to the Right Against Infantry





Cut in *Quarte* to the Right Against Infantry



Thrust in *Quarte* to the Right Against Infantry



Thrust in *Tierce* to the Right Against Infantry

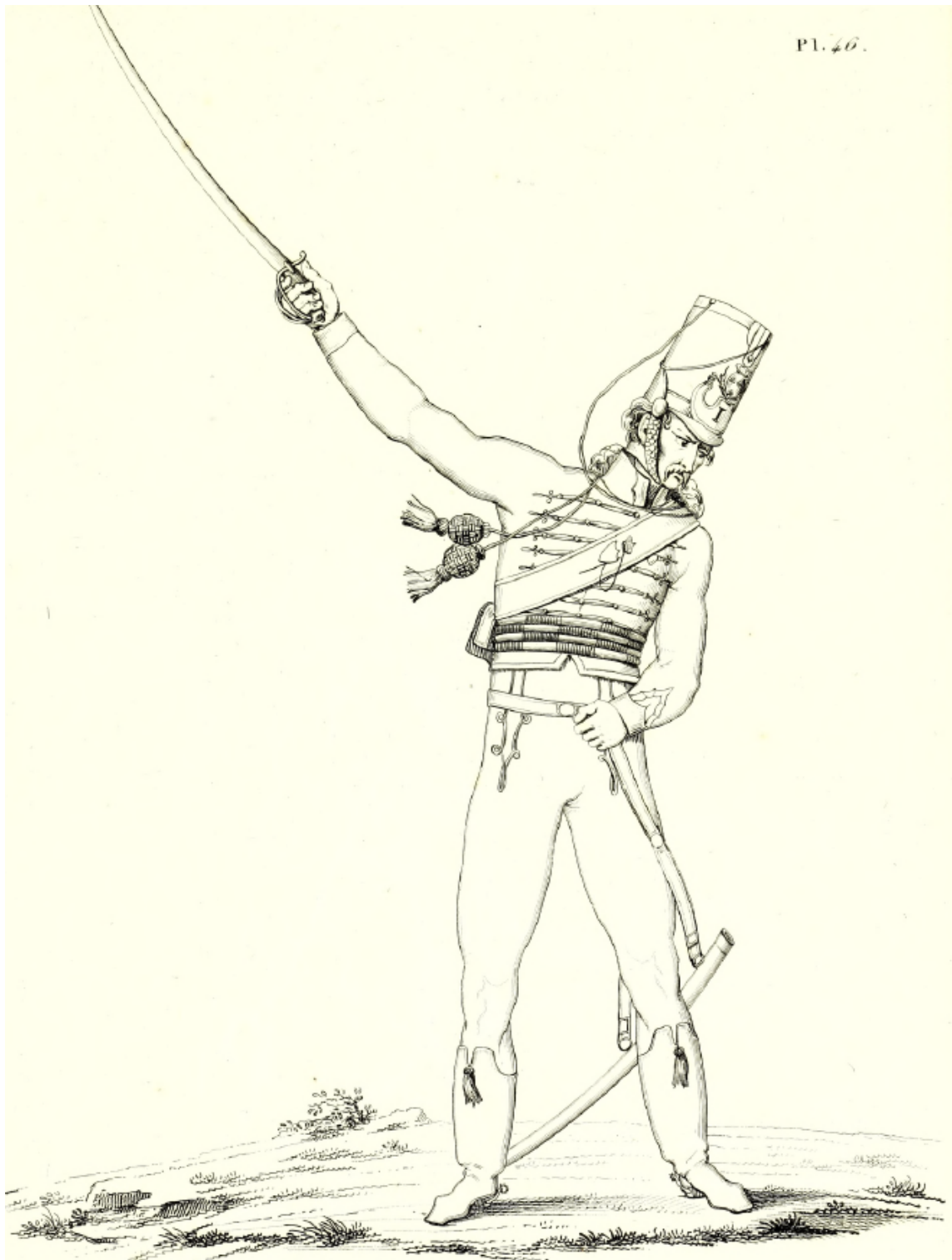


*Defensive to the Left to Drive Away Bayonets with the Back of the Sabre*



Collecting the bayonet in *Quarte* to the Left with the Back of the Sabre

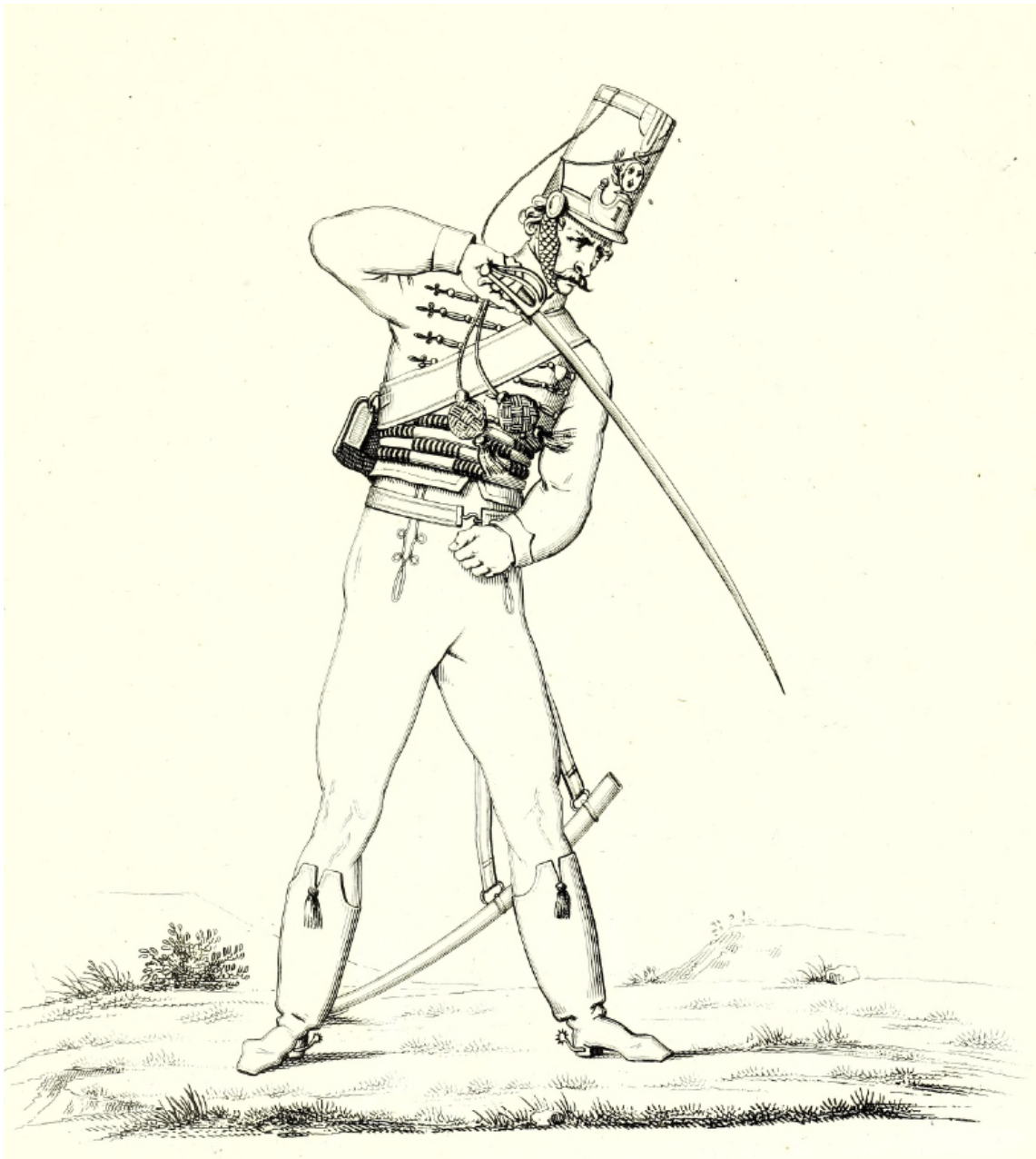




Cut in *Quarte* to the Left Against Infantry



Cut in *Tierce* to the Left Against Infantry

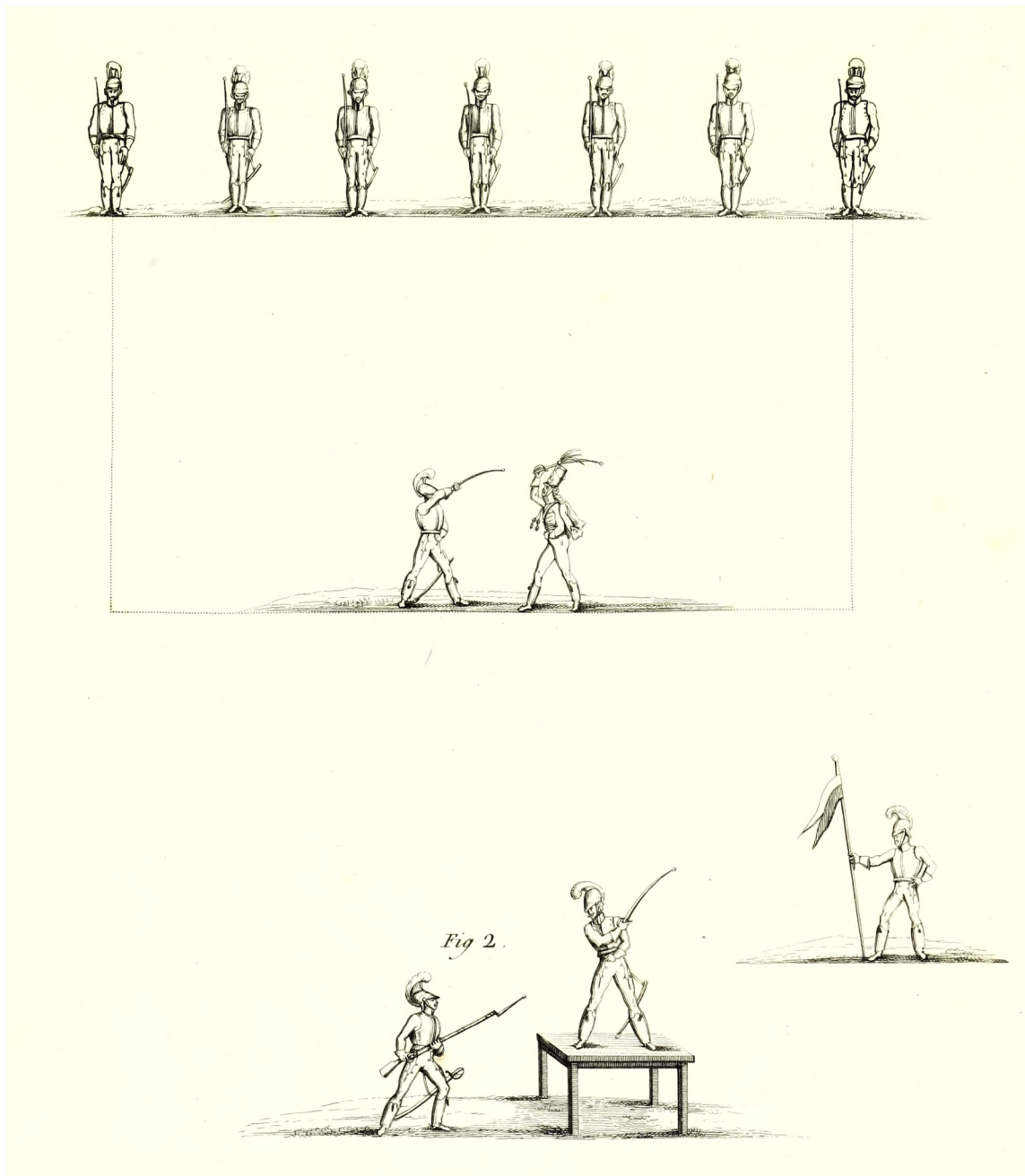


Thrust in *Tierce* to the Left Against Infantry

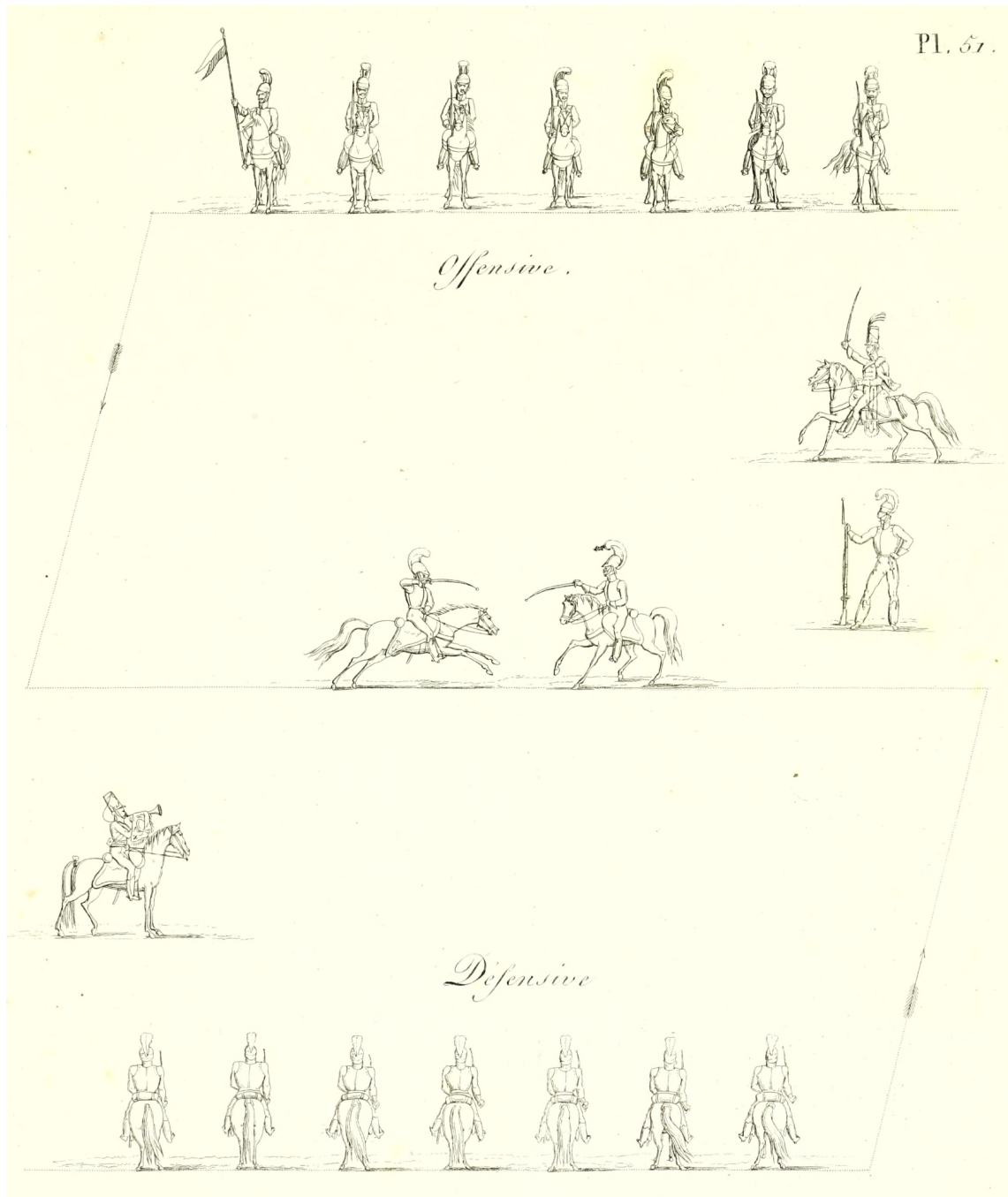




Thrust in *Quarte* to the Left Against Infantry



Work in the 2nd Lesson



3rd Lesson, Instruction on Horseback