

NIGHTS OF THE RED CROSS



There are seven regular sword cuts, and when at such practice, the officer in command orders the cuts by numbers.

The preliminary commands are, first: "Prepare to guard!" when sword is brought to the position of "present;" when the second preliminary command, "Guard!" is given, and each throws the right foot forward about eighteen inches and at the same time extends right arm and cross swords with each other as in "form cross" except that swords are crossed about midway of the blade. Swords are held in this position till the order for the cuts is given.

Cut One is a downward cut from the right toward the neck, as shown in engraving, when sword is brought back to position of "prepare to guard," and after each cut swords are brought to "prepare to guard."

Cut Two is the same as cut one, except a left downward stroke toward the neck.

Cut Three is made by a sweep of the sword around to the right and then up toward the legs as shown in engraving, and is called a "right under cut."

Cut Four is the same as cut three, but from the left and called a "left under cut."

Cut Five is a cut from the right toward the body at or near the waist.

Cut Six is the same as cut five except from the left.

Cut Seven is a vertical cut toward the head and is called the "head cut."