

Funeral Firing Party

AIR Branch Officers - 'Shun'.
Pay attention this way.

Stand at - Ease!

The followin' is the drill for the Funeral Firin' Party.

On the day; the Funeral Firin' Party will be drawn up in two ranks in front of the 'ouse or 'ospital where the corpse is a-laying. Now, it don't matter whether the corpse comes out of a door or a window, when the corpse appears, the Funeral Firin' Party will present arms.

Funeral Firin' Party - 'Shun'. Slope Arms! Hup-two-three Over-two-three Cut! Still. Sir, stand still.

Present - Arms! Across-two-three Out-two--three Down! The right foot be'ind the left. Sir, you're standing like a fairy' Come to think of it, p'raps that's why - Wipe that smile off your face, Sir, this is a funeral.

The corpse will pass between the ranks, closely followed by the Sorrowin' and Bereaved. While the corpse is a-passing closely followed by the Sorrowin' an Bereaved. you will wear a h'aspect cheerful but subdoored - cheerful because it ain't you in the bleedin' box, see, and subdoored - because you've given up your bleedin' make-an-mend. Once the corpse is passed through the ranks. CLOSELY followed by the Sorrowin' and Bereaved, the Funeral Firin' Party will reverse arms, and be marched off be'ind the funeral cortege.

Funeral Firin' Party Reverse - Arms! Hup--two-three Over-two-three Down! Take charge of that there rifle, Sir! Move to the right and left in file, Right and Left - Turn! By the left, Slow March!

On arrival at the cemet'ry gates, the Funeral Firin' Party will 'alt while the funeral cortege passes into the Chapel. For drill purposes, I am the cemet'ry gates.

Funeral Firin' Party, 'Alt! One, two! Old your bleedin' 'ead up, Sir!

When the corpse, CLOSELY followed by the Sorrowin' and Bereaved, 'as passed into the Chapel, the Funeral Firin' Party will be marched to the graveside, where they will be

drawn up in close order in three ranks. For drill purposes, I am the graveside. At the order Dismiss, fall in in three ranks in front of me.

Funeral Firin' Party, Dis-Miss!

Funeral Firin' Party, 'Shun'.

When the funeral cortege appears, the Funeral Firin' Party will present arms after which the order will be given, Rest on your arms - Reversed.

Funeral Firin' Party, Present - Arms! Rest on your arms - Reversed. 'Old your bleedin' 'ead down, Sir.

When the graveside service is over, and the order 'avin' been given 'Ashes to ashes, dust to dust', the Funeral Firin' Party will be brought back to attention.

Funeral Firin' Party - 'Shun'.

You, Sir, what's the next order, Sir? You don't know, Sir? Of course you don't know, Sir, you're only a bleedin' Air Branch officer. You, Sir, what's the next order, Sir? No Sir, it is NOT 'Volleys with blank cartridge, Load'. 'Cause why, Sir? 'Cause if you did, the centre and rear ranks would poke the muzzles of their muskets up the fundaments of the rank in front. ENTIRELY contrary to Good Order and Naval Discipline! No, Sir, nor yet the next order ain't 'Open order, March'. 'Cause why, Sir? Because if you did, the front rank would take two smart paces forward, and fall straight into the 'ole, much to the consternation of the Sorrowin' and Bereaved. THEREFORE; the next order' is 'One pace only, Open Order, March', thus bringin' the front rank to the edge of the grave, a place which Air Branch officers are used to. You will then 'ave room to load.

The Funeral' Firin' Party will then fire three volleys over the grave. This will usually bring muffled sobbin' from the Sorrowin' and Bereaved, a shower of slates from the Chapel roof, and a cloud of Death Watch Beetles from the woodwork inside.

On completion, the Funeral Firin' Party will march off to the accompaniment of a merry tune.

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*Many thanks to the Russian Convoy Club,
London & Home Counties branch. As printed in
the October 2002 edition of the Cassandra
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