"A FEW MEN RIGHTLY INSTRUCTED TO MANAGE ARMES": THE ANALYTICAL TREATISE AND INFANTRY WARFARE

As in all other things hee that is to rule and governe another, ought to have more knowledge, than he that is commanded, and governed, so it is in matters of warre.

John Bingham, *Tacticks of Aelian* (1616)

Of the ninety-four works on the military arts that were printed in early Stuart England, forty-one dealt with the “exercise of arms & military motions,” that is to say the art of infantry warfare. Twenty-six were the drill manuals just examined, with the remaining fifteen books being longer works on the art of war, which are best described as “analytical treatises.” Analytical treatises were comprehensive studies of the art of war that generally addressed the exercising of the foot soldier, but could also examine cavalry practice, logistics, encamping, fortifications, and siegecraft. These books set out the general precepts of war, exploring training in the martial arts, the duties of officers and rank and file soldiers, the methods for maintaining martial discipline, the organization of companies and regiments, and rudimentary tactical formations, often drawing on historical examples from ancient and modern authorities. Analytical treatises were meant to provide soldiers with a reference guide to what Gervase Markham called the “higher, necessary and more subtle and curious Rules of the Art Military.” Knowledge of the rules Markham referred to were expected to provide professional and amateur soldiers with the ability to “proceed and goe forward in the greater and more hidden secrets of the Art.”

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1 Hale, “Printing and Military Culture of Renaissance Venice,” 430.
2 Markham, *The souldiers exercise*, 2.
3 M. Sutcliffe, *The Practice, Proceedings, And Lawes of Armes…and precedents*, sig. v. B. Sutcliffe believed that certain aspects of warfare—most notably marching, fighting, encamping, besieging and defending—were founded on general rules that had evolved since the ancient times. Sutcliffe not only draws on the ancients for inspiration; the general precepts he describes were also practised by the Normans and the Plantagenets and Lancastrians. For Markham, *The souldiers exercise*, 2.
Just as with drill manuals, the bulk of the analytical treatises printed in England in the early Stuart period were written by veterans, men fresh from the Netherlands who were eager to impart their wisdom to a new generation of soldiers. These books proved very popular with Englishmen in the period before the Civil War, particularly in the 1620s and 1630s when the Thirty Years’ War had turned central Europe into a battlefield. When the English Civil War erupted in 1642 soldiers turned to analytical treatises, be they Elizabethan, continental, or early Stuart works, for advice on a range of military subjects. Gentlemen soldiers purchased popular works like William Barriffe’s *Military Discipline: Or, The Yong Artillery Man* (1635) or Robert Ward’s *Anima’dversions of Warre* (1639) and carried them on campaigns, some it is said, keeping them close at hand as evidenced by the blood-stained copy of Thomas Styward's *The Pathwaie to Martiall Discipline* belonging to the parliamentary commander Sir John Gell, who was injured at the Battle of Hopton Heath in 1643.4

In this chapter I will explore some of the “hidden secrets” that Markham referred to, first examining the veteran and amateur soldiers who wrote these treatises and the English translations of foreign analytical treatises available to early Stuart readers. The second part of the chapter will take a closer look at the contents of these books, assessing infantry tactics and the so-called five vowels, the basic motions of manoeuvring infantry on the battlefield, along with contemporary discussions on weaponry.

**Soldier-Authors and their Patrons: The Veterans**

Over the course of the early Stuart period, nine authors were responsible for the publication of the fifteen analytical military treatises printed in English.5 Out of those nine soldier-authors, seven had fought in either the Anglo-Irish or Low Countries wars during the late sixteenth and

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4 Cited in Carlton, *Going to the Wars*, 71.
5 Two of those, Seiur du Praissac’s *The Art of Warre* (London: Roger Daniel, 1639) and Henri Rohan’s *The Compleat Captain, Or An Abbridgement of Caesars warres…* (Cambridge: Roger Daniel, 1640) were English translations of French works, and for that reason they will not be addressed in this section, but will be addressed later in the chapter. I have not included either author among the nine, though I have included their works among the 15 analytical treatises printed in England.