

Viking / Old Norse Drill commands

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| Viking / Old Norse Command (pronunciation) | Translation | Actions |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Preparation Commands | | |
| ping | Assemble or rally... | form a single line facing the officer, if there is a standard then present or form up on it. |
| Bida | Await the order, form a line | |
| Langr (or) skipa fylkingina | Order the Line (Dress the line) | <p>Command given while stationary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn head left & put left fist on next mans shoulder 2. Shuffle to fix the spacing 3. Arms down, eyes front <p>Note: Using the soldier in the centre of the line as your base, stretch out the left arm and everybody shuffle sideways so your fist just touches the shoulder of the guy next to you</p> |
| Grunnr vapna | Ground Arms | <p>Command given while stationary</p> <p>Place the butt of the shaft on the floor next to your right foot.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grab the centre of the shaft with the left hand 2. with both hands on the shaft, ground the weapon. - Put the butt of the weapon on the ground 3. Then return the left hand to your side <p>Note: Three movements are needed for this</p> |
| Foera vapna | Present Arms | <p>Command given while stationary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Push weapon forward while keeping the butt next to your right foot. |
| Oppmeskohmet | Attention | |
| En roth om Jarl | One rank facing the Jarl | |
| Snua drottinn | Turn towards the Officer | |

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| Movement Commands | | |
| Snua | Turn | |
| Rettr Snua (or) h[æ]gra sn[u'] | Right Turn | turn to the weapon side |
| Vestra Snua (or) vinstra sn[u'] | Left turn | turn to the shield side |
| Runt omkering (or) i kringum sn[u'] | About Turn | wheel to the left. (Shield faces the enemy) Note: be sure to have your weapons on a steep enough slant so they don't all crash into each other during the turn |
| koma | Countermarch | The leading soldier in each rank takes two steps, then turns right and immediately right again. In effect, the two leading soldiers have reversed direction – on the move – and are now marching in the opposite direction to the rest of the troops. As each subsequent soldier reaches the place where the leader turned about he/she does so as well, one after the other. Basically, all the files (each of two people) do a U-turn, so they double back on themselves, with the leader of the line threading between the lines going the other way. When the line is nearly evenly stretched across the space, the officer calls out Note: it is important make sure every person steps forwards and turns on the same point |
| Vestra hringr | Left Wheel | Command given on LEFT Foot Left file 1. Step short with the Right Foot 2. Step short and turn 45° left with the Left foot 3. Step short and turn 45° left with the Right foot Right file 1. Step long with the Right Foot 2. Step long and turn 45° left with the Left foot 3. Step long and turn 45° left with the Right foot Note: The second rank takes two paces and then does the same and so on for each file so that <u>EACH FILE DOES THE TURN ON THE SAME SPOT</u> |

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| Rettr hringr | Right Wheel | <p>Command given on LEFT Foot</p> <p>Left file</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Step long with the Right Foot Step long and turn 45° right with the Left foot Step long and turn 45° right with the Right foot <p>Right file</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Step short with the Right Foot Step short and turn 45° right with the Left foot Step short and turn 45° right with the Right foot <p>Note: The second rank takes two paces and then does the same and so on for each file so that <u>EACH FILE DOES THE TURN ON THE SAME SPOT</u></p> |
| Stand (or) st[o/][d-]va | Halt / Stop (normal marching) | <p>Command given on LEFT foot</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Step right foot Step left foot Bring right foot level with left foot |
| Stand Hefja hervapn (or) st[o/][d-]va Hefja hervapn | Halt (with brandished arms) | <p>Command given on LEFT foot</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Step right foot Step left foot Stamp the right foot without bringing it forward (i.e maintain wide footing when brandishing arms) <p>Note: Take 3 more steps – one, two, halt</p> |
| Andlit Rettr | Face Right | <p>Command given while stationary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Place right toe at left heel Rotate 90° right on the balls of feet Bring left foot level with right (stamp) |
| Andlit Vestra | Face Left | <p>Command given while stationary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Place left toe at right heel Rotate 90° right on the balls of feet Bring right foot level with left (stamp) |
| Fram! (or) ganga fram | Advance / March forward | march, starting on the left foot |
| Foera vapna | Present Arms | the hand holding the weapon is pushed forward, while the butt of the shaft stays by your right foot. |
| Bogr vapna | Shoulder Arms | Raise weapon and rest against right shoulder |
| v[a"]pn | Ready Arms | <p>Spearmen drop their spear points to face directly at the crowd,</p> <p>Axemen brandish their weapons, and the troops advance slowly and deliberately toward the audience.</p> <p>Note: This must not be hurried. Make sure spearpoints to go well over the heads of the audience.</p> |

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| ein/tw[a'] r[o/][d-] | Files | Files = Two Lines of soldiers Axemen on right, Spearmen on left. Two reliable guards should lead the line Officer in front or to one side of the troops Rank = two pairs of soldiers in this case a Axeman & Spearman |
| Thegya | Silence Be silent / Quiet! | |
| Skindra | Hurry Up | |
| Snuva mot andskoti | Turn towards the enemy | |
| Bus til vapna | Prepare to pick up weapons | |
| Reisa alvaepni | Pick up weapons / Carry weapons | |
| Hefja hervapn | Raise weapons | |
| Hafask lind fyrir (or) b[u']a til skjaldborg | Prepare shield wall | |
| Hlif balkr (or) skjaldborg | Shield wall | close shields together, overlap round shields |
| ni[d-]ra skjoidu | Shields down | |
| Langr | Close up | |
| Bua til en trotha litha (or) fram einn stiga | Prepare to advance one step on command | |
| Trotha | Step | |
| stig | Forward one step | |
| Tekja eitt stig | Take one step | ... step |
| Fram! vidreign | Advance into engagement | Maintain a steady line, move up to and / or through the enemy line |
| Fram! bardagi | Advance into battle at a walk | Maintain a steady line and clash weapons on shields |

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| Hvarfa Fram! | Walk forward. | To be used when moving a line from the attention position. |
| hlaupa | Run | jog, maintaining the line |
| H'vild | At ease / Stand at ease | |
| Brott hlaup | Withdraw | |
| Ganga aptur | Go backwards | |
| Aptra! Hrokkva (or) hr[o/]kk | Retreat. Fall back | facing the enemy, maintaining the line. |
| Aptra! greidliga | Retreat quickly | |
| Aptra! | Retreat | |
| Rennundan / hlaupa undan | Run away | |
| brottkvadning | Dismiss / Fall Out | |
| Langr (or) fylking | Close order | from the attention position, draw weapons or pick up spear. |
| opna fylking | Open order | Come to attention with your shield at your side and your spear held upright at the shoulder. |
| Mynd bardagi | Form up battle line | |
| Mynd vid midr | Form up towards the center | |
| knekr[s'u']p | Kneel | |
| merk tima | Mark time | |
| stand f[ae] stan | Standfast | |
| Standa Brimsker (or) Standa fastr | Stand firm | Lock shields and brace. Defensive or offensive |
| Geysa (or) [a']r[a']s | Attack | Attack! / Charge |
| Veg (hard 'g') | Fight | |
| Hrinda | Push | |

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|--|--|------------------------------|
| endrtak fylkingina | Re-form | |
| I komandi | Incoming | |
| ek ganga [a'] hond | I Surrender | |
| or | Arrows | |
| spjot | Spear | Note: spears is spjor |
| sverd | Sword | |
| Ox | Axe | |
| Il ya duna | Make noise | |
| sitja | Sit down / Rest | |
| Snuask undan | Shove off | |
| b[u']a | To prepare | |
| halda | to hold | |
| skjoldr | Shield | |
| flik | Flag | |
| Other | | |
| Thegn | mature warrior (corporal) | |
| Dreng | young warrior (private) | |
| Merkismathr | Standard bearer | |
| Stallari | marshal – the king's deputy in the field | |
| Jarl | a semi or fully independent lordship. | |
| Hird (Pronounced 'Heerth') | Army | |
| Hirthmenn | Soldiers | |
| Insults | | |
| Dauthr til Saxa | Death to the Saxons | |
| Dauthr til ovinr | Death to our enemy | |
| Nith kringla | Circle of treachery | |
| Berja ykkarr andskoti | Smite your enemies | |
| geit | She goat | |
| forad | Monster | |

Sources on Old Norse Pronunciation :

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<http://www.hi.is/~haukurth/norse/articles/altpron.html>

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<http://www.ellipsis.cx/~liana/names/norse/onpronounce.html>

Sources on Commands:

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<http://www.regia.org/members/handbook/viking.pdf>

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www.yorku.ca/inpar/language/English-Old_Norse.pdf

Dark Age Battle Commands –
http://www.42nd-dimension.com/NFPS/nfps_commands.html

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