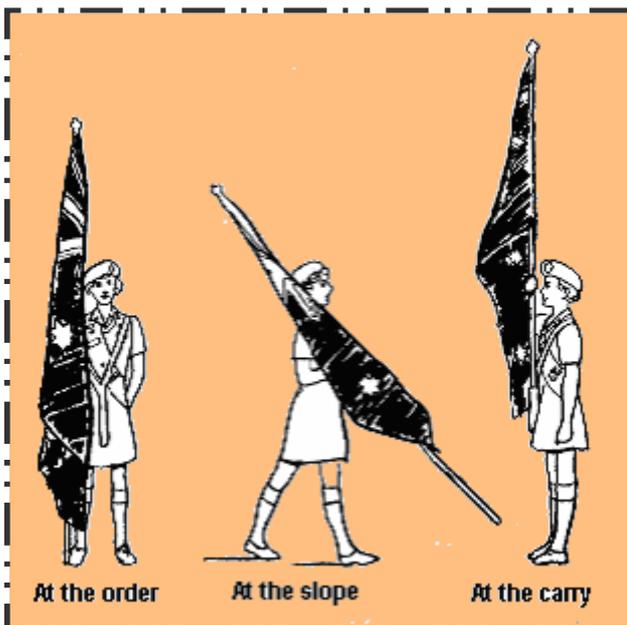


Folding, Carrying and Hoisting Colours

The flag is folded by two people holding all four corners. It is folded lengthways twice and then concertina'd from the outer edge to halfway, then it is rolled to the rope edge. The rope is then wound around the "roll" and a loop formed by the last of the rope tucked under the "belt" now formed. The flag is then attached to either end of the pole rope taking care not to get the flag upside-down, and carefully hoisted to full mast without coming undone. Three people are then nominated to be the Colour Party. When the leader calls "Colour Party fall out" in Horseshoe, those three people take one step forwards and two back and then come around the outside of the Horseshoe to the bottom centre of the horseshoe, or to the right of the flag pole. The leader will then call "Colour Party take over". The middle person in the Colour Party then takes over proceedings. As this is a solemn duty, it should be handled with as much respect and dignity as possible. The task of the colour party is to either hoist the rolled colours and 'break' them (done by giving a sharp tug to the rope to pull free the loop and thereby open the flag) at the beginning of a meeting, and to lower the colours (making sure they never come into contact with the ground) at the end of the meeting.

Usual commands for the colour party include: "**Colour Party Forward March**" – go forward; "**Colour Party Halt**" – stop; "**Colour Party salute the flag**" – Colour party salutes the flag just after breaking colours and just before lowering colours, as they are unable to salute at the same time as the rest of the company (they are busy with the flag!); "**Colour Party about turn**" – turn right around a face the opposite direction (it is wise to turn the same way so practice this before horseshoe); "**Colour Party right/left turn**" – turn in the direction you are commanded; "**Colour Party dismiss**" – Colour party disband and going around the outside of the horseshoe resume their places.



Occasionally the flag is carried (as on ANZAC Day) and then the following carrying positions need to be learned.

At the order: The bearer holds the pike vertically, with the end standing by her right toe. The colour is held at the order whilst awaiting the moment of full ceremony.

At the slope: The pike is taken from the holster and lowered to rest on the right shoulder, with the corner of the 'fly' held to the pike, to prevent the colour dragging on the ground. The end of the pike should be as near to the ground as possible and the forearm held straight—this needs practice. Unless it is only for a short distance, colours are carried like this for marching.

At the carry: Another difficult position which requires lots of practice. The pike must be held vertical in the holster. The right hand holds the corner of the 'fly' to the pike, with the hand at nose level and the back of the hand turned outward and the fingers towards the face. In this position, the bearer often cannot see ahead, so needs the guidance of the escorts

who must keep very close to her. The position is used for special ceremonial occasions.