

2d. Slip the fore-finger and thumb to the upper end, without letting the ramrod fall further into the barrel.

3d. Push the cartridge well down to the bottom.

4th. Strike it two very quick strokes with the ramrod.

10th Return  
Ramrods.

1st. Draw the ramrod half out, catching it back-handed.

2d. Draw it entirely out, turning it very briskly from you, with the arm extended and put it into the loops, forcing it as quick as possible to the bottom; then face to the proper front, the finger and thumb of the right hand holding the ramrod, as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, and the butt raised two inches from the ground.

11th.  
Shoulder  
Arms.

Strike the top of the muzzle smartly with the right hand, in order to fix the bayonet and ramrod more firmly, and at the same time throw it nimbly up, at one motion, to the shoulder.

N. B. Though the butts are not to come to the ground in casting about, as accidents may happen from it, yet they are permitted, while loading, to be so rested; but it must be done without noise, and in a manner imperceptible in the front.

Words of  
Command.

## EXPLANATION OF PRIMING AND LOADING.

Prime and  
load.

1st. Bring the firelock down in one brisk motion to the priming position, the thumb of the right hand placed against the pan-cover, or steel; the fingers clenched; and the elbow a little turned out so that the wrist may be clear of the cock.

2d. Open the pan, by throwing up the steel, with a strong motion of the right arm, turning the elbow in, and keeping the firelock steady in the left hand.

3d. Bring your hand round to the pouch, and draw out the cartridge.

The rest as above described, excepting that, in loading, all motions are to be done with as much *despatch as possible*, every man shouldering or recovering as soon as his ramrod is properly returned.

The priming position is the same for all the ranks, as above described, with the top of the cock opposite the right breast, and the muzzle raised to the height of the peak of the cap, which will throw the firelock into the hollow of the right side.