

DRILL, &c.



SECTION I.

POSITION OF THE SOLDIER, WITH AND WITHOUT ARMS



WITHOUT ARMS.

The equal squareness of the shoulders and body to the front is the first and great principle of the position of a Soldier. The heels must be in a line, and close.—The knees straight, without stiffness. The toes a little turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of about sixty degrees.—The arms hanging near the body without stiffness; the elbows close to the side, the hands open to the front; the little fingers touching the seams of the trousers. Great care must be taken that the arms are not kept back too much. The belly rather drawn in, and the breast advanced, but without constraint; the body upright, but inclining forward, so that the weight of it may principally bear on the fore part of the feet; the head to be erect, and neither turned to the right nor left.



WITH ARMS.

When the firelock is shouldered, the person of the Soldier remains in the position described above, except that the wrist of the left hand is turned out, the better to embrace the butt; the thumb alone is to appear in front, the four fingers to be under the butt. The left elbow is a little bent inwards, without being separate from the body, or being more backward or forward than the right one. The firelock is placed in the hand, (not on the middle of the fingers,) and carried in such a manner that it shall not raise, advance, or keep back, one shoulder more than the other; the butt must, therefore, be forward, and as low as can be permitted without constraint; the fore part nearly even with that of the thigh, and the hinder part of it pressed by the wrist against the thigh; the piece must be kept steady and firm below the hollow of the shoulder: should the firelock be drawn back, or attempted to be carried high, in that case, one shoulder would be advanced, the other kept back, and the upper part of the body distorted, and not placed square with respect to the limbs.