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HOW A SOLDIER ESTIMATES DISTANCES.

It constantly happens that men detached from the main body of an army are called upon to determine for themselves their distance from an object to be fired at. No assistance can be given, nothing but a stern reliance upon one's judgment and the size and appearance of surrounding objects. Experience abundantly proves that even the rawest of recruits may be taught to estimate distances approximately from his base line to at least 2,000 yards away, and this by simple observation. Every soldier is supposed to have good eyesight, he therefore, after a little practice in sight estimating, learns the following facts:

At thirty yards the white of a man's eyes are plainly seen, and the eyes themselves at 80 yards.

At 100 yards all parts of the body are seen distinctly, slight movements are perceptible, and the minute details of the uniforms can be distinguished.

At 200 yards the outlines of the face are confused and the rows of brass buttons look like yellow stripes.

At 300 yards the buttons are no longer visible

At 400 yards the face is a mere dot, but all movements of the legs and arms are still distinct.

At 600 yards details can no longer be distinguished, though the files of a squad, if the light be strong, can be counted.

At 800 yards the men in a squad cannot always be counted nor their individual movements distinguished.

At 1,000 yards a line of men simply resembles a broad belt; the direction of their march can, however, be readily determined.

At 1,200 yards infantry can be distinguished from cavalry.

At 2,000 yards a mounted man looks like a mere speck or dot.

The above rules are applicable in the beginning only to smooth, open country, but after a little practice they apply also with equal force to rough, broken country as well.

THE NEW RIFLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TROOPS.

The Board on Magazine Arms, appointed in 1890 to test and select a magazine rifle for the armament of the United States troops, has completed its labors, and submitted its report together with its recommendations to General Flagler, Chief of Ordnance. While the conclusions of the Board are secret as yet, still it is reported, on what is considered good authority, that the Board has recommended the adoption of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle. This is the arm adopted by the Danish Government and is the joint invention of Capt. Krag, superintendent of the rifle factory at Koingsberg, Norway, and a Mr. Jorgensen, a battalion armorer. There have been several models of this rifle tested, embodying several features which make it different from the Danish arm. The rifle has a bolt action and belongs to that type of magazine rifles in which the magazine is fixed, and is placed horizontally below

and to the left of the receiver. It holds five cartridges. A loading gate placed on the right side of the magazine permits of the introduction of cartridges. This gate has on its inner face a cartridge guide composed of a lever and a carrier plate and pushes the cartridge from right to left, feeding them successively into the receiver. A lever operated by a thumb-lug on the left side of the receiver, when desired, partially closes the opening from the magazine and shuts off the supply of cartridges. The rifle then can be used as a single loader. The magazine can be loaded at will so that it can be kept constantly filled. From the position of the magazine it is much easier to fill the same than with rifles having vertical under-feed magazines. The arm resembles the new German magazine rifle in that it has a metal cover to the barrel proper, so that the arm may be handled during rapid firing. The sample arm was fitted for a sabre bayonet. *Shooting and Fishing.*

AN OLD MILITARY CEMETERY.

In a ramble around the old fort near Port Elgin, Westmorland county, N. B., I found the military cemetery, just outside of the moat, and with the help of an old and very intelligent resident I was enabled to trace the inscriptions on seventeen of the headstones, a few of which I describe for the information of *Herald* readers. It will be remembered that this fortification fell into the hands of the English in 1755, (see history) and this fact gives additional interest to the dates still found on the tombstones. I will number the stones as you approach them from the entrance to the grounds. Inscriptions:

Headstone No. 1. -- "Here lies the body of Capt. Joseph Wilson, died Oct. 7th, 1755. Aged 50."

No. 2. -- James Whitecomb, killed by Indians, July 24th, 1755. Aged 23.

There are indistinct letters before the name of this unfortunate young man, who met his fate so sadly -- probably they spelt "Lieut."

No. 3 is a fragment -- the face of an angel is carved at the head and underneath is found the name of "Nathaniel Hodges."

No. 4 a few years ago lay in the water just outside of the bank; it was carefully removed by friends and placed within the sacred enclosure. The following inscription tells its own story:

"Here lies the body of Sergt. McKay, who with 8 men, was killed and scalped by Indians in bringing in firewood." 1755.

No. 5 Soft sandstone, inscription could not be deciphered.

No. 6 Moss-covered -- could not be deciphered.

No. 7 Gives us a hint of New England puritanism, for on it we find the name of Mr. McCrease Robertson, died October, 1755.

How long Fort Moncton was occupied I cannot tell, but I found no later dates than the above. Yours, L. Halifax *Herald.*