
THE

MANUAL AND PLATOON EXERCISE.

Position of the Soldier under Arms.

THE equal squareness of the shoulders, and body, to the front, is the first, and great principle of the position of the soldier:—The heels must be in a line, and closed:—The knees straight, without stiffness:—The toes turned out, so that the feet may form an angle of about 60 degrees:—The arms hang near the body, but not stiff; the flat of the hand, and little finger, touching the thigh, and the thumbs as far back as the seams of the breeches:—The elbows and shoulders are to be kept back:—The belly rather drawn in; and the breast advanced, but without constraint:—The body to be upright, but inclining rather forwards, so that the weight of it may bear chiefly on the fore part of the feet:—The head to be erect; and neither turned to the right, nor to the left; the eyes alone will be glanced to the right.

The body of the soldier being in this position, the firelock is to be placed in his left hand, against the shoulder; his wrist to be a little turned out; the thumb alone to appear in front; the four fingers to be under the butt; and the left elbow to be rather bent inwards, so as not to be