

IMPERIAL GENERAL ORDERS.

G. O. 15, MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION, SPECIALLY
ISSUED 4TH FEBRUARY, 1881.

The following changes in the musketry instruction of the army having been approved, the necessary alterations will be made in the "Rifle Exercises and Musketry Instruction, 1879," accordingly, *vide* appendix:

The word "fire" will be introduced into the service generally as an executive word of command in volley firing.

APPENDIX TO G. O. 15.

RIFLE EXERCISES.

The following alterations in volley firing drill will be substituted for the parts referred to in the "Firing Exercises, 1879," page 95, line 6, add "thirdly, to load and fire lying down"; page 95, line 11, "standing and kneeling"; page 100, No. 4, to fire a volley standing and order, by numbers, caution: "By numbers, fire a volley,

At — yards,
Ready,
Two,
Three,
Four,

As before detailed.

Present.—As before detailed, bringing the foresight at once into the alignment.

The instructor, after a pause equal to three beats of slow time, will then give the command

Fire.—Each man will at once press the trigger firmly, but without a jerk, and then proceed as detailed in the third motion of the "present."

Order Arms.—As before detailed.

N.B.—The commander should dwell on the word "fire," which must be given slowly, but still with decision.

Page 101, No. 8.—Caution: "Fire a volley,"

At — yards,
Ready,

In four motions

Order Arms.—As before detailed.

Page 105, No. 9.—To fire a volley kneeling and order, by numbers. Caution: "By numbers, kneeling, fire a volley,"

At — yards,
Ready,
Two,
Three,
Four,

As before detailed.

Present.—As before detailed.

After a pause equal to four beats of slow time,

Fire.—As before detailed.

Order Arms.—As before detailed.

Page 103, No. 10.—Caution: "Kneeling, fire a volley,"

At — yards,
Ready,

In four motions.

Present.—In one motion.

After a pause equal to four beats of slow time,

Fire.—As before detailed.

Order Arms.—As before detailed.

To be inserted at page 106, as No. 10 a:—

Caution: "Firing exercise, by numbers, lying down,"

At — yards,
Ready,

Turn on both heels, half right, and bring the rifle to the trail.

Two.—Place the right knee and left hand on the ground, and lie down on the stomach, obliquely to the line of fire, then bring from the hips only, the body round in the direction of the object, and change the rifle from the right to the left hand; the legs to be separated, or the right foot hooked over the ankle, at the option of the firer.

Three.—As detailed when firing standing, turning over on the left side, if necessary.

Four.—As detailed when firing standing.

Present.—As detailed when firing standing, bringing the rifle into the shoulder clear of the collar bone, both elbows to rest on the ground, and to be closed inwards, but without constraint, the rifle to be grasped firmly in the palm of the left hand.

Two.—As detailed when firing standing.

Three.—As detailed when firing standing, bringing the left forearm on to the ground.

Order Arms.—Change the rifle from the left to the right hand, place the left hand on the ground, rise and order arms.

To fire a volley lying down and order by numbers.— Caution: "By numbers, lying down, fire a volley,"

At — yards,
Ready,
Two,
Three,
Four,

As before detailed.

Present.—As before detailed, bringing the sights at once into the alignment.

After a pause equal to six beats of slow time,

Fire.—As detailed when firing a volley standing, then bringing the left forearm on to the ground.

Order Arms.—As before detailed.

N.B.—For lying down drill, the squad should be opened at half interval.

To load and fire lying down in quick time—

Caution: "Firing exercise, lying down,"

At — yards,
Ready,

As before detailed.

Present.—In three motions.

Order Arms.—In one motion.

Caution: "Lying down, fire a volley,"

At — yards, | In four motions.
Ready,

Present.—In one motion.

After a pause equal to six beats of slow time,

Fire.—As before detailed.

It will be found in the field that at distances beyond 800 yards, longer pauses than those detailed must be allowed in order to obtain the necessary elevation and aim; the nature of the ground will also affect the time required by men to get into position of "ready" and "present"; section and other commanders will, therefore, in the field, regulate the pause to be made in giving the command "fire" accordingly.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

SIR.—I read in the last number of your paper a letter from Capt. (now Major) Prevost, "B" Battery, R.S.G., referring to the initial velocity of the Martini rifle as stated by a "New York paper," it being there stated to be lower than that recorded by the British authorities.

As the statement referred to was probably based on an official report published by the U. S. Board of Ordnance which is in my possession, a few extracts from it may not be uninteresting to your readers. The report is the last one issued and is dated 1880.

The report is certified by Lt.-Col. Benton, U. S. A. commanding National Armory, Springfield, Mass., and covers nearly 100 pages of printed matter containing tables showing comparative velocities of the "Martini Henry" and "Springfield" army rifles at muzzle, and at different ranges, up to 2000 yards. Recoil—Penetration—Accuracy—Trajectories—and angles of elevation. Tests were made up to 3,500 yards, at which range the target was hit with the "Springfield" but could not be with the "Martini."

The recorded velocities (initial) are as follows:—

	Powder	Lead	Boulenger chronograph	Benton electro ballistic apparatus.
Springfield	70 gr.	405 gr.	1367.1 ft.	1372.4 feet.
Martini Henry 85 "	480 "	480 "	1249.7 "	1255.8 "

Velocities in feet per second, at different ranges as follows:

	400	800	1200	1600	2000 yds
Springfield.....	838.4	607.9	476.8	392.3	333.2.
Martini Henry.	850.4	643.7	517.8	433.1	372.2

In angles of elevation the Springfield at 1500 yds. required 5° 20 min., and the Martini-Henry 5° 41 min.

The recoil of the Springfield, owing to lighter charge, was necessarily much less than that of the Martini-Henry being respectively 9.9 and 12.75 foot lbs.

The penetration, in white pine, at 100 yds. was: Springfield, 11.6; Martini-Henry, 14.65.

Capt. Greer, U. S. Ordnance Dept., under whose personal superintendence the above results were obtained, in his report, speaks as follows:

"I have the honor to submit herewith results of comparative trials of the Springfield and Martini-Henry rifles, calibre 0.45.

"The latter arm, with a supply of ammunition—wrapped metal cartridges—was recently presented by the British Government

"In regard to accuracy it will be seen that the Springfield did better than the Martini with the exception of one of the targets at 1000 yards.

"In all the other points, the superiority of the Springfield was manifest except in the single one of penetration."

"One hundred (100) rounds of Martini rifle cartridges weigh nearly 2 lbs. 2 oz. more than the same number of U. S. service cartridges. This additional weight is highly objection-