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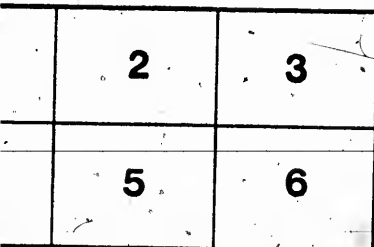
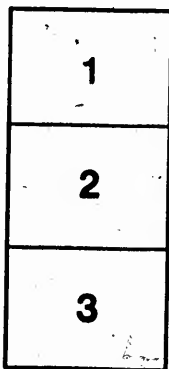
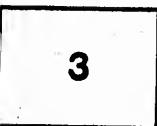
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THE
Manual and Platoon Exercises
OF
RIFLEMEN.

THE MANUAL EXERCISE.

Of carrying the
Rifle.

THE rifle is to be carried in the right hand, at arm's length, as in advanced arms, the cock resting upon the little finger, the thumb upon the guard, and fore-finger under it, the upper part of the barrel close in the hollow of the shoulder, and the butt pressing upon the thigh.

Present Arms.
Three Motions.

1st. The rifle is to be raised about two inches by the right hand, and brought forward a little from the shoulder, at the same time the left hand is brought briskly across the body, and seizes the rifle with a full grasp, even with the shoulder.

2d. The right hand brings the rifle even with the face, and opposite the left eye, grasps the small of stock, turning the lock outwards; the left hand seizes it by the stock, so that the little finger touches the hammer-spring, on a level with the chin, the left elbow close to the butt.

3d. The rifle is brought in a straight line to the present, the cock turned inwards, and even with the bottom of the waistcoat, the right foot at the same instant is drawn back, so that the hollow of it may touch the left heel, the right-hand holding the small

MANUAL AND PLATOON

of the stock between the fore-finger and thumb, the knuckles upwards, the three other fingers shut in the hand.

Shoulder Arms.
Two Motions

1st. The rifle is brought quickly across the body to the right side, the right hand slipping round into the original position when shouldered, the left quits its hold, and seizes the rifle again smartly, even with the right shoulder, at the same time the right foot is brought up in a line with the left.

2d. The left hand quits the rifle, and is brought as quickly as possible to the position of attention.

Order Arms.
Three Motions.

1st. At the word "Arms," the left hand seizes the rifle even with the right shoulder, the rifle as in the first motion of the *present*, is raised about two inches.

2d. The right hand quits its hold, grasps the rifle round the muzzle, and brings it gently to the ground, even with the toe of the right foot, the wrist pressing against the side and elbow as close as possible.

3d. The left hand is brought as before on the left thigh.

Shoulder Arms.

At the word "Arms," the rifle is thrown at once into the right shoulder by a jerk of the right hand; the left catches it till the right seizes the rifle in the proper place, and is then instantly brought to its original position on the left thigh; but this must be done with the quickness of one motion.

In the performance of this, as indeed of every other motion, the greatest care is to be taken to prevent the rifle falling to the ground, as it is an arm easily damaged.

EXERCISES OF RIFLEMEN

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Support Arms. The rifle is brought across the body with the guard upwards, by bending the right arm, the left hand is laid across the right.

Carry Arms. The rifle is brought smartly on the right side, and the left hand on the left thigh.

Trail Arms. The left hand seizes the rifle at the second pipe, the right close over the sight, and trails it on the right side at arm's length, the left falls back on the left thigh.

Shoulder Arms. The rifle is brought to the shoulder, as from the order.

From the Order to Trail Arms.

Trail Arms. The right hand seizes the rifle as low as possible, without constraint, then raises and catches it just above the sight.

From the Trail to Order Arms.

Order Arms. The rifle slides gently through the right hand to the ground; when even with the right toe, the right hand again grasps the muzzle.

Fix Bayonets. The rifle is thrown six inches to the front, the bayonet brought back-handed from the scabbard locked by the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand, and the rifle brought back quickly to its place.

Shoulder Arms. As before.

**Charge Bayonets.
One Motion.** The rifle is brought smartly into the hollow of the right hip, the left hand firmly grasped round the barrel with the thumb in rear of the sight, the right

MANUAL AND PLATOON

hand clear of the guard, and grasping the small of the butt, the right toe to the right, and the left toe to the front: the rear rank to remain at the shoulder.

**Shoulder Arms.
Two Motions.**

1st. The rifle is thrown smartly into the shoulder, and steadied as before by the left hand.

2d. Quit the left hand,

Order Arms.

As before.

**Unfix Bayonets.
One Motion.**

The rifle is brought briskly between the knees, the lock in and guard out; the bayonet unlocked by the thumb and fore-finger of the left hand, and knocked off by the right, at which time it is returned to the scabbard, directed by the thumb of the left hand on the top of the scabbard, when the rifle and left hand are brought to their proper position.

Stand at Ease.

The muzzle is brought to the front at the extent of the right arm, the elbow resting on the hip, the hollow of the right foot brought in rear of the left heel, and the left knee bent.

PLATOON

PLATOON EXERCISE.

Prepare to Load. 1st. Is the same as the first motion in the *present arms*.

2d. The soldier half faces to the right, and in the motion brings down the rifle to a horizontal position, just above the right hip, the left hand supports it at the swell of the stock, the elbow resting against the side, the right thumb against the hammer, the knuckles upwards, and elbow pressing against the butt, the lock inclining a little to the body, to prevent the powder from falling out. The Officer now warns the men, in going through the loading motions,

To wait for the Words of Command.

At the word,

One. The pan is pushed open by the right thumb, the right hand then seizes the cartridge with the three first fingers.

Two. The cartridge is brought to the mouth, and placed between the two first right double teeth, the end twisted off and brought close to the pan.

Three. The priming is shaken into the pan; in doing which, to see that the powder is properly lodged, the head must be bent: the pan is shut by the third and little finger, the right hand then slides behind the cock, and holds the small part of the stock between the third and little finger, and ball of the hand.

Four. The soldier half faces to the left: the rifle is brought to the ground, with the barrel outwards, by sliding it with care through the left hand, which then seizes it near the muzzle, the thumb stretched along

MANUAL AND PLATOON

the stock ; the butt is placed between the heels, the barrel between the knees, which must be bent for that purpose: the cartridge is put into the barrel, and the ramrod seized with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand.

Rod. The ramrod is drawn quite out by the right hand, the left quits the rifle, and grasps the ramrod the breadth of a hand from the bottom, which is sunk one inch into the barrel.

Home. The cartridge will be forced down with both hands, giving two distinct strokes with the rod to insure its being so, the left then seizes the rifle about six inches from the muzzle, the soldier stands upright again, draws out the ramrod with the right hand, and puts the end into the pipe.

Return. The ramrod will be returned by the right hand, which then seizes the rifle below the left.

Shoulder. The right hand brings the rifle to the right shoulder ; turning the guard outwards, the left seizes it above the hammer-spring till the right has its proper hold round the small of the stock, when the left is drawn quickly to the left thigh.

Make Ready. Bring the rifle with one brisk motion in the same position as at the word " Prime and Load," placing the thumb of the right hand on the cock : cock the rifle, then grasp the small of the butt, and place the fore-finger on the swivel nail, three fingers grasping the guard, right foot drawn back.

Present. Raise the rifle to the present with the fore-finger within the guard ready to fire ; in this too much pains cannot be taken to prevent the recruit from raising his rifle with a jerk, it must be sufficiently raised so

EXERCISES OF RIFLEMEN.

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high that he may lay the right cheek on the butt, without too much stooping the head ; particular care must be taken that the recruit in this position shuts the left eye in taking aim, the use of the sights being previously explained, and takes his object.

No word of command given to fire.

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1835.

