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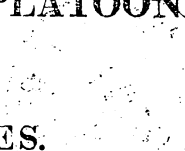
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Att. mus. Inverno N° 2

THE  
MANUAL AND PLATOON  
EXERCISES.



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*Adjutant-General's Office, Horse-Guards,  
25th August, 1823.*

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PRICE 2s.

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1824.





# GENERAL ORDER.



*Horse-Guards,*

*25th August, 1823.*

HIS MAJESTY having been pleased to approve of certain Alterations being made in the Manual and Platoon Exercises, has commanded that the Regulations issued on this subject, and dated 1st November, 1804, shall be cancelled; and that the following Regulations shall be established, and most strictly adhered to, throughout the Army.

*By Command of*

*His Royal Highness,*

*The Commander-in-Chief,*

**HENRY TORRENS,**

*Adjutant-General to the Forces.*



THE  
MANUAL EXERCISE.

---

*Words of  
Command.*

EXPLANATION.

<sup>1st.</sup>  
Secure Arms.

1st. BRING the right hand briskly up and place it under the cock, the fore finger touching the back part of it, the thumb placed between the stock and barrel, and pointing to the muzzle, keeping the firelock steady.

2d. Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock with it at the swell, bringing the elbow close down upon the lock, carefully avoiding to raise or lower the shoulder; the right hand kept fast in this motion, and the piece still upright.

3d. Quit the right hand, giving the piece a cant with the fore-fingers, and bringing it down to your right side, bringing the firelock

down to the *secure*, under the left arm, the elbow thrown a little to the rear, the guard *just* visible, the thumb on the sling, the fingers grasping the barrel, and the hand rather below the hip bone.

2d.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. Bring the firelock up to the perpendicular line, seizing it with the right hand under the cock, as the first motion of the *secure*.

2d. Quit the left hand, and strike the butt with the palm, grasping it at the same instant.

3d. Quit the right hand, and bring it smartly down to the right side.

3d.  
Order Arms.

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand at the lower loop, just at the swell, the elbow close to the body.

2d. Bring it down to the right side, to the *trail*, allowing the little finger to slip between the stock and the barrel, the butt as low down as the arm will admit without constraint.

3d. Drop the heel of it on the



ground, placing the muzzle against the hollow of the right shoulder, and the hand flat upon the side of the stock; the thumb only to appear on the sling.

4th.  
Fix Bayonets.

1st. At the word "Fix," place the thumb of the right hand, as quick as possible, behind the barrel.

2d. As soon as the word of command is fully given, take a grip of the firelock, and push the muzzle a little forward, grasping the bayonet with the left hand, the elbow kept well forward, so as not to interfere with the left-hand man, and fixing it with the utmost celerity. The instant this is done, return, as quick as possible, to the order, as above described, and stand perfectly steady.

5th.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. As soon as the word "Shoulder" is given, take a grip of the firelock with the right hand, as in fixing bayonets.

2d. At the last word, "Arms," the firelock must be thrown, with the right hand, in one motion,

and with as little appearance of effort as possible, into its proper position on the left shoulder. The hand crosses the body in so doing, but must instantly be withdrawn.

6th.  
Present Arms.

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand, under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.

2d. Raise the firelock up from the shoulder to the *poise*, by placing the left hand upon the sling, fingers pointing upwards ; the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of equal height with, and pointing to, the left eye ; the piece to be kept perpendicular in this position, the left elbow close to the butt, and right elbow close to the body.

3d. Bring down the firelock with a quick motion, as low as the right hand will admit without constraint, making it tell with the left hand, drawing back the right foot at the same instant, so that

the hollow of it may touch the left heel. The firelock in this position, with the guard to the front, to be totally supported in the left hand, and opposite to the left thigh; the right hand lightly holding the small of the butt; the fingers pointing rather downwards; the body to rest entirely on the left foot: both knees straight.

7th.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. By a turn of the right wrist, bring the firelock to its proper position on the left shoulder, making the motion teli, the left hand grasping the butt, and bringing up the right foot at the same instant to its original position.

2d. Quit the right hand briskly, and bring it down to the right side.

8th.  
Port Arms.

At one motion throw the firelock from the shoulder across the body, meeting it smartly with both hands at the same instant, to a diagonal position, in which the lock is to be turned to the front, and at the height of the breast: the muzzle slanting upwards, so

so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder, with the butt proportionally depressed.

The right hand grasps the small of the butt, and the left holds the piece at the swell, close to the lower pipe; the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle; both elbows close to the body, the fingers of the left hand between the stock and barrel.

9th.  
Charge Bayonets.

Make a half-face to the right, the right toe straight off to the right, and the left toe full to the front, and bring down the firelock to nearly a horizontal position, with the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hollow of the thigh, below the hip.

10th.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. Throw the firelock up to its proper position on the left shoulder, the left hand falling smartly on the butt, and grasping it, and at the same instant coming to your proper front.

2d. Quit the right hand smartly, and bring it down to the right side.

11th.  
Advance Arms.

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.

2d. Raise the firelock up from the shoulder to the poise, by placing the left hand upon the sling, fingers pointing upwards, the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of equal height with, and pointing to the left eye; the piece to be kept perpendicular in this position.

3d. Bring the firelock down to the right side with the right hand as low as it will admit without constraint, at the same time striking it smartly with the left hand at the swell, the guard between the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the three last fingers under the cock, with the guard to the front.

4th. Quit the left hand.

12th.  
Order Arms.

1st. At this word the left hand is brought smartly across the body, and seizes the firelock, with the fore-finger in a line with the point of the right shoulder.

2d. Bring the firelock down as low as the left arm will admit, to the right side; at the same time let the right hand seize the top of the ramrod, between the second joint of the fore-finger and thumb, the whole of the fingers shut in the hand.

3d. Let the firelock drop on the ground, and the right hand be smartly brought to the position of ordered arms, quitting the left hand short away, at the same instant.

13th.  
Advance Arms.

1st. At the word "Advance," the thumb of the right hand is slipt quickly in rear of the barrel.

At the word "Arms," it is brought to the advance by a sharp cant of the right hand; the left arm is brought across the body, to steady the firelock to the shoulder.

2d. Quit the left hand.

14th.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. Bring up the left hand, and seize the piece at the swell, raising it about one inch; at the same instant slip the thumb of the right hand under the cock, by a turn of the right wrist.

2d. Throw it smartly to its proper position on the left shoulder, the left hand falling smartly on the butt, grasping it.

3d. Quit the right hand, and bring it to the right side.

*N. B.*—*In these motions great care must be taken to preserve the squareness of the body, and to avoid raising or sinking the shoulder.*

15th.  
Support Arms.

1st. Seize the small of the butt under the lock, with the right hand, the thumb pointing upwards.

2d. Bring the left arm under the cock.

3d. Quit the right hand.

16th.  
Stand at Ease.

At this word of command, the right hand is brought smartly across the body, and seizes the firelock at the small of the butt close up under the left arm, with

the thumb of the right hand pointing upwards, the right foot drawn back, the left knee bent, and the firelock a little sloped.

17th.  
Attention.

At this word of command the right hand is dropt smartly to the right side, and the right foot brought in line with the left.

18th.  
Carry Arms.

1st. Seize the small of the butt, under the left arm, with the right hand.

2d. Smartly place the left hand grasping the butt, the firelock kept steady,

3d. Quit the right hand.

At the same instant allowing the left arm to sink to the full extent.

19th.  
Slope Arms.

In sloping arms the upper part of the arm is not to move, the guard of the firelock is to be raised so as gently to press against the hollow of the shoulder, the hand in a line with the elbow, the toe of the butt in a line with the centre of the left thigh.



20th.  
Stand at Ease.

On the word "Ease" bring the right hand smartly across the body, placing it on the left hand, both thumbs on the fore part of the heel of the butt, that of the left hand uppermost, and drawing the right foot back at the same instant, the left knee bent.

21st.  
Attention.

At this word of command resume the attitude of attention, by bringing the right hand smartly to the right side, and the right foot in line with the left.

22d.  
Carry Arms.

1st. Drop the left arm to its extent, and bring the right hand smartly across the body, the fore part of the fingers to meet the small of the butt, as in the first motion of the secure.

2d. Quit the right hand.

23d.  
Order Arms.

As prescribed in page 6.

24th.  
Unfix Bayonets.

At the word "Unfix," slip the thumb of the right hand in rear of the barrel ; at the last sound of the word "Bayonet," force the

muzzle a little forward, bring the left hand smartly to the upper loop, the thumb pointing upwards. Strike the bow of the bayonet with the heel of the right hand so as to unfix it; let the bow fall over the thumb, and the two fore-fingers on the top of the socket, with the left hand force the muzzle of the firelock back to its proper position, at the same instant bring the thumb of the left hand on the top of the scabbard, for the purpose of guiding the bayonet into it; and bring the right hand smartly to the position of ordered arms.

<sup>25th.</sup>  
Stand at Ease.

As before directed.

It is to be understood that whenever a battalion in line charges with bayonets, the whole are in the first instance to advance at a firm quick step, with shouldered arms; at the word "Prepare to Charge," the firelocks of the front rank will be brought to the long trail;—at the word "Charge," the firelocks of the front rank will be thrown smartly to the charging position,

and those of the rear rank to the *slope*, and the pace increased to double march, carefully avoiding too much hurry. The enemy being routed, it will depend on the officer commanding to give the word "halt," when both ranks will shoulder arms, and proceed as may be afterwards directed.

In marching any distance, or in standing at ease, when *supported*, the men are allowed to bring their right hand across the body to the small of the butt, which latter must, in that case, be thrown a little forward; the fingers of the left hand being uppermost, must be placed between the body and the right elbow; the right hands are to be instantly removed when the division *halts*, or is ordered to *dress by the right or left*.



## TIME.

The motions in the Manual Exercise are to be performed, leaving two pauses of the slow time of march between each motion, except that of *fixing bayonets*, in which a longer time must be given. Two pauses should also be made between the first and last parts of the words of command, for instance, *shoulder* (two pauses) *arms*, both in the manual and platoon.

The manual is not to be executed by one word, or signal, but each separate word of command is to be given by the officer who commands the body performing it.

## SENTRIES.

Sentries, posted with shouldered arms, are permitted afterwards to *support*, but not to slope them. On the approach of an officer, they immediately *carry* their arms, and put themselves into their proper position, which is not to be done at the instant he passes, but by the time he is within twenty yards of their post, so that they may be perfectly steady before he comes up.

Sentries are to *port arms* when challenging any person approaching their posts.

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## CORPORALS.

Corporals marching with reliefs, or commanding detachments or divisions, are to be on the left, and will carry their arms *advanced*, with bayonets fixed.

## METHOD OF PILING ARMS THREE DEEP.

**Pile Arms.**

The front and rear rank men of each file face to the right, turn their locks outward, and cross the muzzles and tops of ramrods.

The centre rank man places his butt about 30 inches to the left, the lock outwards, and crosses the muzzle of his firelock with those of the front and rear rank men, so that both the tops of their ramrods are placed across, between the ramrod and barrel of the centre rank man.

## METHOD OF PILING ARMS TWO DEEP.

**Pile Arms.**

The Company standing in close order with ordered arms, and told off by threes, the word "Pile" is then given, the whole of the company slip the thumb of the right hand in rear of the barrel of the firelock, at the same time drawing back their right feet, in order to face to their right, with

the exceptions of numbers two in the rear rank, they advance their right feet in the hollow of the left, in order to face to the left. The word "Arms" is then given, the whole of the front rank, and one and three of the rear, face to the right; one and three files of the front rank turn the firelock on the heel of the butt with the sling towards them. One and three files of the rear rank turn the firelock on the heel of the butt with the sling from them, which brings the lock outwards: having done this, they lock their ramrods together, still bearing them well up so as to show an interval. Number two file of the front rank throws his firelock to the rear as he then stands, and brings his left hand on number one muzzle, and completes that pile; having done that, he remains perfectly steady faced to the right; in piling with number three, the front and rear ranks have already locked their ramrods. Number two of the rear rank throws his firelock off to his

own rear as he then stands, and completes number three pile, by bringing his left hand on the muzzle of the firelock; having done this he faces to his right-about, and remains steady.

### UNPILE ARMS.

#### Unpile Arms.

At the word "Unpile," the whole advance their right feet in the hollow of the left, and seize their firelocks at the top brass, thumbs pointing upwards, the files numbered two of the rear rank must work well round on the hips to reach their firelocks: at the word "Arms," the whole snatch their firelocks smartly towards them, and front at the same time.



## PIKE EXERCISE.

A corporal when appointed to act as serjeant must be exercised in the different motions of the Pike, as follows, until reported complete by the serjeant-major, who will make his report to the adjutant for inspection.

The Pike must be justly placed in the right hand, with the end of the shaft resting on the middle part of the forefinger; the thumb and three last fingers grasping it; with the back of the hand a little to the front, and in line with the front part of the thigh, the shaft resting against the hollow of the shoulder.

<sup>1st.</sup>  
Order Arms.

1st. Bring the left hand across the body, and seize the shaft with the little finger in a line with the point of the right shoulder.

2d. Lower it to the extent of the left arm, and at the same instant bend the right arm, and seize it in a line with the right shoulder.

3. Drop it on the ground in line with the middle part of the foot,

placing the thumb of the right hand in front of the shaft, and the fingers extended down by the side of it, at the same instant quit the left hand.

2d.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. At the word "Shoulder" slip the thumb behind the shaft, and bring the fingers round to the front; at the last word "Arms," give it a smart cant up to the shoulder, bringing the left hand across the body to steady the pike; the left hand is then to be quickly withdrawn.

3d.  
Port Arms.

Drop the pike across the body, seizing it with the left hand, in line with the point of the left shoulder.

4th.  
Charge Bayonets.

Turn a half face to the right on both heels, and lower the pike to a horizontal position, with the shaft touching the right hip, and right arm extended to the rear.

5th  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. Come square to the front, and raise the pike to its position

on the right shoulder, bringing the left hand at the same time across the body, to steady it.

2d. Quit the left hand.

6th.  
Support Arms.

Let the pike slope over the shoulder in proportion to the men's firelocks, when sloped.

7th.  
Stand at Ease.

Bring the left hand across the body, and seize the shaft about the middle of that part below the hollow of the right shoulder; the feet to be as already explained.

8th.  
Attention.

Spring up, and quit the left hand.

9th.  
Carry Arms.

1st. Sink the right arm to its extent, bring the left hand across the body, to steady the pike,  
2d. Quit the left hand.

10th.  
Slope Arms.

The same as the support.

11th.  
Stand at Ease.

As at the support.

12th.  
Attention.

As at the support.

13th.  
Carry Arms.

As from the support.

14th.  
Recover Arms.

Bring the pike in a perpendicular position in front of the body, with the end of the shaft resting on the fore-finger, as at the shoulder, at the same time bring the left hand up, and seize it between the last joint of the fore-finger and thumb, with the elbow and hand in a line with the shoulder.

15th.  
Shoulder Arms.

1st. Place the pike to the shouldered position, closing the left elbow to the body, with the hand straight across the shaft, to keep it steady.

2d. Quit the left hand.

N. B. In taking up an alignment, the pike is to be brought before the body in a perpendicular direction, with both elbows close, the left hand holding it at about the height of the breast, and the end of the shaft resting on the fore-finger, as above directed for the *recover*.

Serjeants in line during the performance, of the Manual Exercise will *order, shoulder, port, and charge, support and slope*, with the men.

INSTRUCTION  
FOR  
THE PLATOON EXERCISE,  
AND  
DIFFERENT FIRINGS.

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THE recruit having a thorough knowledge of the different motions of the fire-lock, as shewn in the Manual Exercise, may now be taught the Platoon Exercise as follows:

Eight or ten recruits being formed in a single rank, close files, and shouldered fire-locks, may be thus taught to fire as five different ranks, before they are formed in two or more ranks.

First.

As a front rank standing.

Second.

As a centre rank standing.

## Third.

As a rear rank standing.

## Fourth.

As a front rank kneeling.

## Fifth.

As a rear rank kneeling.

*Words of  
Command.*

---

As front Rank,  
Prime and Load.

1st. Turn the body a quarter face to the right on both heels, placing the right foot six inches behind the left; at the same instant drop the firelock to the priming position, with the left hand at the swell, and elbow close pressed in front of the hip, the side brass touching the right hip, the thumb of the right hand placed in front of the steel, with the fingers clenched, and wrist a little turned out; the muzzle to be at the height of the breast plate.

2d. Open the pan, by closing the elbow, fingers straight upon the lock, and pointing towards the muzzle.

Handle Cartridge. 1st. Draw the cartridge from the pouch.

2d. Bring it to the mouth, holding it between the fore-finger and thumb, and bite off the top of the cartridge.

Prime. 1st. Shake some powder into the pan, and place the three last fingers on the steel.

2d. Shut the pan, by closing the elbow.

3d. Seize the small of the butt with the above three fingers.

Butt. 1st. Turn the piece nimbly round to the loading position, meeting the muzzle with the heel of the right hand; the butt within two inches of the ground, and the flat of it against the left ankle.

2d. Drop the butt on the ground without noise; raise the right elbow square with the shoulder, shake the powder into the barrel, putting in after it the paper and the ball; after which the fingers are straight, with the second joint of the fore finger resting on the

head of the ramrod, and thumb pointing downwards.

In this position each recruit must feel the guard against the center of the left shin, the thumb of the left hand pressed against the centre, and in front of the left thigh, with the muzzle of the firelock, about four inches from the centre of the breast-plate ; in this position the barrel is full to the front.

3d. Drop the right elbow close to the body, and seize the head of the ramrod with the second joint of the fore-finger and thumb.

**Draw Ramrods.**

1st. Force the ramrod half out, and seize it back-handed exactly in the middle, with the elbow square with the shoulder.

2d. Draw it entirely out with a straight arm above the shoulder, turning it at the same time to the rear, and close to the elbow ; put it one inch into the barrel, the back of the hand to the front ; the ramrod is thus held only between the two fore-fingers and



thumb, with the two last fingers shut in the hand.

Ram down  
Cartridge.

1st. Push the ramrod down holding it as before, exactly in the middle till the second finger touches the muzzle; elbow close, and the back of the hand to the front.

2d. Press the ramrod lightly towards you, and slip the two fore-fingers and thumb to the point; then grasp it, as before, with the back of the hand still remaining to the front.

3d. Push the cartridge well down to the bottom, with the back of the hand to the front, as before.

4th. Strike it two very quick strokes with the ramrod.

Return Ramrods.

1st. Draw the ramrod half out, catching it back-handed, with the elbow square.

2d. Draw it entirely out, with a straight arm above the shoulder, turning it to the rear, and close to the elbow; put it into the loops, and force it as quickly as possible to the bottom, the fore-finger and

thumb holding the ramrod, as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, keeping the firelock perfectly steady, and remaining the quarter face to the right.

As a Front Rank standing, ready.

Bring the firelock, 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, and fingers behind the guard, and cock the piece; then take a grasp of the small of the butt.

Present.

Raise the firelock 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 firelock with a jerk; it must be deliberately raised sufficiently high, so 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, looking along the barrel with the right eye,

from the breach pin to the muzzle, and remaining steady, taking an object upon which he is to fire.

**Fire.** Pull the trigger strong with the fore-finger, without a jerk, and when fired, remain looking on the aim.

**Load.** Keeping both feet fast, come to the priming position.

Handle Cartridge.  
Prime. 'Bout. Draw  
Ramrods. Ram down  
Cartridge. Return Ram  
                  rods.

} As before directed.

**N. B.** It is not necessary to explain again the different motions of loading, as they have been already detailed. After firing in each rank, it will be necessary to come to the shoulder, in order to be instructed in the movement of the feet, in firing the succeeding rank, by which means, after returning ramrods, they will face to their proper front, and bring the right feet to the left, the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand holding the ramrod as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, pressing it close against the left shoulder, and the butt raised two inches from the ground.

**Shoulder Arms:** Quit the right hand, and at the same time throw it up with one motion to the shoulder.

**As Centre Rank, Ready.** Drop the firelock with one brisk motion, seizing it with the left hand at the swell, with the side brass about four inches above the right hip; at the same instant turn upon both heels a half face to the right, stepping to the right with the right foot, so that the ball of the toe touches the back of your right hand-man's left heel, and cock the firelock as before directed. The position of the firelock in making ready determines that of priming.

**N. B.**—After loading, each man will resume his proper front, bringing, at the same time, his right foot to the left, and shoulder arms as before directed.

**As rear rank standing, ready.**

Drop the firelock into the same position as in a centre rank, and as it is brought to that position, step briskly to the right a full pace, with the right toe pointing straight to the right; at the

same time, place the left heel about six inches before and in line with the right, and the toe pointing straight to the front; the body to be kept straight, and a half face to the right.

P'sent.

With the left knee bent, the right kept straight, reaching forward as far as possible, without overbalancing the body, and bring the firelock to the present.

Fire.

As before directed.

Load.

Keep both feet fast, and load as a centre rank, and after loading, spring to the front, and shoulder as before directed, taking, at the same time, a side step to the left.

As front Rank  
kneeling, Ready.

Bring the firelock down, as before directed for front rank standing, and without stooping, sink down with a quick motion upon the right knee, keeping the left foot fast; cock the piece, as the body is sinking. The right knee is to be thrown so far back, that the left

leg may be upright, the right foot also upright, and the toe drawn as much as possible under the instep, the body straight, and the head as much kept up as if shouldered; the firelock is to be held firm in this position.

P'sent.

Raise the firelock to the present, with the fore-finger within the guard:—all that has been said about this in the preceding practice, must be strictly attended to.

Fire.

As before.

Load.

Spring up, placing the right foot six inches behind the left, as before directed,

As rear rank kneeling. Ready.

The same as making ready as front rank kneeling, with this difference, the side brass four inches above the right hip, and right knee carried about six inches to the right.

P'sent.

As before.

Fire.

As before.

Load.

Spring up, with your right toe touching the back of your right-hand man's left heel, and the firelock as in centre rank.

**N. B.**—In casting about after firing as centre rank, and as rear rank standing and kneeling, the butt of the firelock must be placed inside of the left angle instead of the out, with the toe of the butt close inside of the left heel, and after loading, spring to the front and shoulder arms, as before directed.

Firing as rear ranks kneeling and standing, is applicable only to firing in square.

The recruits being thoroughly grounded in the foregoing instructions, may now be practised in two ranks, at close order, in the different firings as a company in line, as a grand division, as a wing of a battalion, as a battalion firing a volley, oblique firing, file firing, &c. &c.

From twenty to thirty files may now be formed into two ranks at close order, with shouldered arms, and fixed bayonets.

As a Company,  
prime and loads.

The front rank as a front rank, and rear rank as a centre rank, described in the foregoing directions,

each man doing his motions with the greatest celerity, and as correctly as shewed in slow time; after shutting the pan, and placing the hand on the small of the butt, the right hand man will, as soon as he hears the division has done, cast about, from whom the division will take the time; after casting about, each man will load and work his ramrod, as shewn in slow time, but the motions to be done without pause between them.

After returning ramrods, the whole remain perfectly steady, with the fore-finger and thumb grasping the head of the ramrod.

Company. This serves as a caution only.

Ready. As shewn before, both ranks keeping the feet fast.

Present—Fire. As before directed.

After firing, make a pause of two slow paces, then bring the firelock to the loading position, without the word load, and proceed with the loading motions



as before directed, waiting only to cast about, and to make ready together.

It is to be understood, after the first fire as a company, the whole make ready of their own accord, taking the time from the right-hand man, and only receive the word "P'sent"—"Fire"—instead of "Ready"—"P'sent"—"Fire." At the close of the general, or at the word "Cease firing," the company, if made ready, receives the words, "Half-cock arms."

**Half cock arms.**

Place the thumb of the right hand in front of the cock-screw, and the fore-finger at the same time upon the trigger; the cock is then to be drawn a little back, and the trigger to be drawn so as to disengage the catch; the cock to be gently let down till the edge of the flint touches the hammer; then quit the trigger and draw back the cock to the catch of the half-cock; the small of the butt to be seized with the right hand, and the right foot brought up to the left.

Shoulder Arms.

In the usual manner and stand perfectly steady.

But—if the company should be in the act of loading, it will go on, and come to the shoulder when done, taking the time from the right-hand man.

Firing as a grand division is done in the same manner as that of a company, with this difference, the grand division wait for the word, “Ready!” “Present!” “Fire” after each fire, and at the close of the General, they come to the shoulder, as they do in firing as a company.

If a wing of a battalion is ordered to fire, it will come to the shoulder after loading, as will also a battalion after firing a volley.

**N. B.** A company, grand division, wing, or battalion, can prime and load, or make ready from the order, with the same ease as from the shoulder.

For instance, at the words, “Prime and,” slip the thumb behind the barrel, and at the word “Load,” according to direction.

Any movement can take place from Ordered Arms, as occasions may require, in the following manner: Upon the first word of the caution, bring the fingers round the barrel, and raise the butt about one inch from the ground, with the muzzle close against the hollow of the shoulder; and at the word "Halt," resume the position of Ordered Arms.

The long Trail, for the ease of the soldier, may be used on a line of march, or in marching to and from the place of Parade, or Exercise, or with guards marching to and from their posts.

Trailed Arms must never be used in field movements, as upon such occasions it will cause loose marching, and loss of distance.

*How performed at the Halt.*

Trail Arms.

Slip the right hand down to the swell of the stock, and lower the muzzle to a horizontal direction; at the same time the rear rank will fall nimbly back a short pace, so that the muzzle of the firelock shall touch the cuff of the front rank man's jacket.

Change Arms.

Change from one hand to the other, as often as may be necessary.

The word "Trail Arms" must always precede the word "Quick March," except when done on the march, from the Slope or Carry, when the firelock will be grasped with the right hand, at the word "Arms," and brought down, as above described, to the long Trail.

The short Trail must never be used in any instance, except the second motion of the order, and fixing and unfixing bayonets on the march, as such motion tends to cramp the muscles of the arm.

At the word "Halt," arms are not to be ordered without the word "Order Arms," when the rear rank will close to the front.



## OBLIQUE FIRING.

The company receives the cautionary word from the instructor of the drill, "The company will fire obliquely to its right;" the commander being on the right of his company. On the close of the preparative, he takes one pace to his front, faces to the left, and orders "Company to the right oblique."

**Right Oblique.** At this command the company makes an exact quarter face to its right on both heels, and the rear rank at the same instant covers exactly by taking a moderate pace to the left.

**Ready.** Agreeably to regulation in firing to the front.

**Present.** Agreeably to regulation, but to their then front.

**Fire.** Agreeably to regulation.  
The company still remains a quarter face to the right and loads, taking the time from the right to cast about, and come to the priming position, till the close of the Ge-

neral, when it will come to the front and shoulder; the rear-rank man brings his left foot to his right, and the commander takes post on the right.

The company receives the order to fire obliquely to its left, at the close of the preparative, the commander steps out one pace to his front, faces to the left, and orders "Company Left Oblique."

Left Oblique.

The company makes an exact quarter face to its left on both heels, and the rear rank covers at the same instant by taking a moderate pace to the right.

Ready.

Agreeably to regulation.

Present.

Agreeably to regulation to their then front.

Fire.

Agreeably to regulation.

The company still remains a quarter face to its left and loads, both ranks turning the ramrod to the front, and take the time from the left to cast about, and come to the priming position, till the close of the General, when they will come to the front and shoulder.

## INDEPENDENT OR FILE FIRING.

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Independent or File Firing may commence from the right or left of companies, or from any particular part of the line as may be directed, and should be done as follows.

At the close of the preparative, the first file will begin, the caution having previously announced at what part of the line the firing is to commence; when the first file comes to the present, the next file makes ready, and so on for the first fire, after which each file will fire as soon as loaded, the rear rank man keeping his eye on his front rank man, and preserving his fire until his front rank man has fired, and at the close of the General they will come to the shoulder independently, after loading.

The recruits having a thorough knowledge of the preceding portion of the drill, may now be formed four ranks, and practised to receive cavalry with two ranks kneeling, as it is necessary to do so in square Four Deep.

Prepare to resist  
Cavalry, Ready.

The first rank kneel as front rank, the second rank kneeling as rear rank, both bringing at the same time the butt of the firelock in front of the right knee, the lock turned uppermost, the right hand lightly grasping the small of the butt, holding the firelock firm with the left hand at the middle of that part between the third loop and the swell, the lower part of the left arm resting upon the thigh, the muzzle of the firelock slanting upwards so that the point of the bayonet will be about the height of a horse's nose.

The third rank make ready as center rank, the fourth rank as rear rank standing; in this the kneeling ranks do not cock, the two standing ranks will commence File firing at the close of the Preparative, or at the word, "Commence Firing,"—and at the close of the General, or at the word "Cease Firing" they will load, and stand steady till the word



“Load” is given to the kneeling ranks, when they come to the front, and shoulder with the front rank ; the kneeling ranks may be fired if necessary, for which the commander will give the words “ Kneeling Ranks, ready, p’sent, fire,” which they do as directed in the foregoing instructions ; then with a quick motion bring the firelock down to resist cavalry as before, and remain perfectly steady till the word “ Load” is given.



# LIGHT INFANTRY.

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In regiments of light infantry, or in detached corps acting as such, it may occasionally be expedient to prime, load and fire, with both ranks kneeling. This mode of firing is permitted in corps of the above description ; and the following Motions will be adopted in the practice of it.

*Firing Two Ranks Kneeling : Priming and Loading in that Position.*

Ready.

Both ranks sink down smartly on their right knees, and throw back their right legs. In the front rank, the left side of the right knees is directly to the rear of the right side of the left foot ; but the rear rank carries the right knee about four inches to the right. The left legs of both must be perfectly perpendicular. The front and rear ranks respectively bring

their firelocks down to the priming position, as hereafter explained, cock, and replace their right hands on the small of the butt.

From the left arm being brought across the body, the left shoulders of both ranks are brought forward in a small degree; but the body must be kept as square to the front as possible, without producing constraint.

*Present.*

On the word "Present," both ranks bring their firelocks to the present, each man slowly and independently levelling at the particular object which his eye has fixed upon; and as soon as he has covered his object, each man fires of his own accord, without waiting for any word of command. The elbows must on no account be projected.

Both ranks keep their firelocks at the *present* till the word "Load" is given, which the officer orders as soon as he sees they have all fired.

Then the men come to the priming position, which in this particular mode of firing is as follows:

The firelocks of the front rank are in line with the haunches; and those of the rear rank are placed about four inches above the haunches.

The elbows of both ranks must be as close to the body as possible.

The front rank men, after priming, bring round their firelocks to the left side, and throw the butts to the rear; so that the barrels may be close to the left thigh, and the muzzles three inches behind the left knees.

The left hand moves the firelock from the right side to the left, and the right hand is brought across the body to accomplish the loading. After loading, the firelock is raised, and advanced to the front by the left hand, and the position for making ready is resumed.

The rear rank men after priming turn the body to the right in a small degree, lean well to the rear, and throw the butts to the front, so that the firelocks may be in contact with the right thighs of the front rank

men, and the muzzle in line with the hip-bone.

They then resume their original position for making ready.

On the signal to cease firing, the ranks resume their standing position, and shoulder:

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## MODE TO BE OBSERVED IN DISMISSING A COMPANY OFF PARADE.

**Recover Arms.** Bring the firelock to the recover, by throwing it briskly out of the left hand, (if with shouldered arms,) the guard to the front, the cock resting against the left breast, the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, and the right hand grasps the small of the butt.

**Ease Springs.** At this word, the firelock is kept steady at the recover, the pan thrown open with the thumb of the right hand, and the cock let easy down with the fore-finger and thumb of the same hand.

**Right Face.** In the manner prescribed by regulation.

**Lodge Arms.** At this word, the whole drop their firelocks smartly to the port,

the front rank spring off to the left, the rear rank to the right, break off, and quit the parade without noise.

*N. B.—In turning in a Guard or Picquet, the same mode is to be observed, with the exception of easing Springs.*





## MANNER OF INSPECTING A COMPANY ON PARADE.

- Attention. As per Regulation.
- Fix-Bayonets. As directed in Page 7.
- Shoulder Arms. As already directed.
- Rear Rank take  
Open Order, March. As already directed.
- Open Pans. 1st. Bring the right hand across the body, place the fore-finger on the face of the Pan.  
2d. Force the Pan open with the fore-finger, turning the back of the hand against the barrel.  
3d. Quit the right hand.
- Slope Arms. As directed in Page 14.

The Inspection of Arms is now to take place.

- Carry Arms. As directed in page 15.
- Shut Pans. 1st. Bring the right hand across the Body;—place the fore-finger on the back of the Pan-cover, elbow close to the Body.  
2d Force the Pan down.  
3d. Quit the hand.

Order Arms. As already directed.

Examine  
Arms.

At the word "Examine," slip the thumb in rear of the Barrel, at the word "Arms," face to the right, bringing the butt between the feet, sling towards the Body, holding the Firelock with the left hand at the full extent of the arm; draw the Ramrod, let it down the Barrel, and quit the right hand.— When the Officer comes within a pace, draw the ramrod and place it on the upper brass, nine inches to the front, fore-finger one inch in rear of the brass, elbow square, and arm above the ramrod.

Return Ram-  
rods.

Return the ramrod, shifting the firelock on the right side.

An inspection of the appointments, clothing, &c. is now made.

Unfix Bayo-  
nets.

As directed in Page 15.

Rear Rank take  
Close Order, March.

As before directed.

Stand at Ease.

As before directed.

## CARTRIDGE PRACTICE.

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WHEN the Recruit has attained a perfect knowledge of the Platoon Exercise, he is to be instructed in the mode of priming with powder. The instructor will take care to explain, that the pan half filled with powder is sufficient for the purpose, the grains kept clear of the spring of the hammer. This explanation is particularly necessary, as much of the unsteadiness in soldiers, when firing two deep, proceeds from the useless quantity of powder expended in priming, scorching their faces.

*Burning Priming.*

The Recruit must then by word of Command—Make Ready—Present *and* (*Snap*) Fire”—Previous to giving the word “Fire,” the Instructor will see that the Recruit is perfectly steady,—has taken good aim at some given object,—the left eye shut; the use of the *sight* having been previously explained.—After the Fire, the Recruit is to be taught to keep the firelock steady to his aim, with the Cheek down on the Butt, until the word “Load” is given.—A few lessons

of burning priming in this manner, (and afterwards two deep) will accustom the Recruit by degrees to take a steady and firm Aim, and will prevent him being flurried and over anxious when brought to Fire Cartridge.

A traversing Rest will be found a very useful method of instructing Recruits to level;— It is a scooped piece of Wood, placed on a stand, which receives the Firelock, and is made to elevate, depress, or traverse at will,—several small spots being painted on the Barracks or Wall—as

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4) —&c. the Recruit at 100 yards, is ordered to aim at No.— Having done so, he leaves the Firelock on the stand, and removes himself in order that the Instructor may take his place and look along the sight to correct if necessary any error.

## BLANK CARTRIDGE.

The Recruit, in loading, is to be instructed to shake the powder well out of the cartridge, and to ram the paper, as wadding, home. The instructor will then fire each Recruit *singly*, looking to his levelling, as before directed, and pay particular attention that the cheek is not removed, or any start of the head permitted after the fire. The word "Load" will be given as previously ordered, and the Recruit proceed accordingly.

When several Recruits are steady in their firing singly, they will be placed first in single rank, that every man may be observed, and two or three men fire together by word of command; afterwards a couple of files will fire two deep, occasionally changing ranks; then the files will be increased by degrees, until the platoon fires together.

The rear rank men must be most particularly attended to, as they generally fire too high; this is a great fault in the service, and every soldier must be cautioned against it. The centre part of a man, at 150 yards, is perhaps (in Platoon) the best general rule to lay down for aim. Riflemen, and Light Infantry firing at *long distances*, will of

course receive particular instructions, regulated by the different description of sights in use.

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### BALL FIRING.

WHEN the Recruit has gone through the blank cartridge drill, he will, as soon as opportunity offers, practise at a target with ball.

The first target for the instruction of Recruits is to be *round*, eight feet in diameter, and the practice will commence at a distance of *thirty* yards, (or nearer, if necessary,) so that it will be almost impossible that the Recruit should miss it. This method is intended to produce confidence in the young soldier, at the commencement of his practice, instead of the system hitherto observed, of placing him in front of a small target at a long range, and by this means frequently producing in the mind of the Recruit (from constantly missing) a degree of despair of ever becoming a good shot. On the contrary, finding that he always hits at a certain distance, confidence ensues, and he feels determined to command his object at an increased range ever afterwards.

The range will be increased by degrees to 50—80—100 yards, at the same target; and when the Recruits are individually steady at these distances, the instructor will fire them by files, increasing the distance from 50 yards upwards, changing ranks occasionally—then by sections—and lastly by platoon.

The recruit will now practice at a target of six feet by two, as the last of his drill. This target will be divided by black lines into three compartments, *upper*, *centre*, and *lower* divisions, (the centre division having a bull's-eye of eight inches diameter in its centre, surrounded at two inches distance, by a circle of an inch broad,) and be placed at a range of 80 yards, which distance will be increased, as improvement takes place, to 100, 150, and 200 yards.

This division of the target is necessary, in order to correct any soldiers general line of fire, by referring to former practice reports where his shots have been inserted—as for instance, “always fires low, &c.”—The reports must be correctly copied into a book kept by each company for the purpose; and signed by the officer who super-

intended the practice, according to the following form.

Report of the Target Practice of Capt.									
Company on the day of									
No.	Names.	Dist yds	Hits.			Total Hits	Total Misses	Number of Rounds.	Remarks.
			Upper.	Centre.	Lower.				
1	Serjeant J. Adams . . . .	100	1	1	2	3	3	6	
2	Corporal B. Brown . . .	—	—	1	3	4	2	6	Outer Circle.
3	Drum. C. Grant . . . . .	—	2	1	—	3	3	6	⊙ Bull's eye.
4	Private, A. Alexander.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	In Hospital.
Total . . . . .		--	3	2	5	10	8	18	

(Signed) J. D., Captain.

*N. B.—This Form will enable any Commanding Officer to judge of the proficiency of his Companies, and any General of his Battalions, by comparison with others.*



## TO FIRE A FEU DE JOIE.

THE Line drawn up at open order, (double distance) with shouldered arms, and bayonets fixed,

With Blank Cart-  
ridge, Prime and Load.  
Ready. In quick time as per Regulation.  
After loading, remain quarter-  
faced to the right, firelocks to be  
brought smartly to the recover  
and cock.

Present.

Elevated in the air.

The right-hand man of the front rank commences the fire, which will run down the front and up the rear, as quick as possible.—When the right-hand man of the rear rank has fired, the whole will glance their eyes to the right, to bring the firelock to the priming position and when loaded, they will remain steady, waiting for the word.

Ready, Present.

As before directed.

The same to be repeated a third time.

After the third fire, the whole will glance their eyes to the right, to bring the firelocks to the port together.

Half cock Arms. Shoulder  
Arms. Shut Pans.  
Present Arms. Shoulder  
Arms. Order Arms.

} As per Regulations.

Three Cheers.



**DIRECTIONS**  
**FOR**  
**FUNERAL PARTIES.**

THE party appointed for the escort, according to the rank of the deceased, is to be drawn up two deep, with open ranks and unfixed bayonets, facing the house, or marquee, where the corpse is lodged ; and when it is brought out, the officer commanding will give the following words of command :

**PRESENT ARMS.**

**REVERSE ARMS.**

**EXPLANATION FOR REVERSING ARMS.**

The right hand strikes the butt of the firelock, which is turned upwards ; the guard turned towards the body ; the firelock is then placed under the left arm, seizing the cock and hammer with the left fore-fingers and thumb. The right hand is thrown behind the body, and grasps the firelock ; the right heel at the same time is brought to its original position.

The officers' swords are reversed under the right arm: the point of the sword downwards, grasping the hilt with the right hand.

The serjeant's pikes to be reversed under the left arm; the pike upwards, and the right hand thrown behind the back, grasping the shaft.

### REAR RANKS TAKE CLOSE ORDER.

The party will then wheel forwards or backwards by divisions, or subdivisions, as circumstances may require, and will stand a column, the left in front, until the procession is ready, when the ranks will be opened by word of command,

### MARCH.

The party moves off in ordinary time, followed by the music, with drums muffled, playing the Dead March.

### THE CORPS.

PALL-BEARERS OF EQUAL RANK WITH THE  
DECEASED.

CHIEF MOURNERS.

OFFICERS TWO AND TWO,

According to rank, the juniors next to the  
body of the deceased.

When the first division of the funeral party arrives near the burial-ground, the word of command, "Halt" is given, and the officer commanding will order the ranks of the divisions to wheel to the right and left, having been previously told off for that purpose, and facing inwards, forming a lane for the corpse to pass through.

#### REST UPON YOUR ARMS REVERSED.

##### *Explanation.*

The firelock is quitted by the right hand, and brought to a perpendicular position; the muzzle placed upon the toes of the left foot. The right and left hands open are placed upon the butt-end of the firelock.

The soldiers head leaning on the back of the left hand, so as to look towards the corpse.

The corpse, &c. having passed through the lane, the word "Attention" is given, on which the soldiers raise their heads.

#### REVERSE ARMS.

The ranks are then wheeled up, and at "Open Order," move in ordinary time, and form in line in same order, near to and facing the Grave.

The Command will then be given,

REST UPON YOUR ARMS REVERSED.

After the performance of the Funeral Service, the following words of command are given: . . . ATTENTION.

PRESENT ARMS,

by seizing the firelock with the left hand at the swell, the right hand shifted, and both holding the firelock in the position of *Presented Arms*.

SHOULDER ARMS.

PRIME AND LOAD WITH BLANK CARTRIDGE  
AND SHOULDER.

FIRE THREE VOLLIES IN THE AIR.

ORDER ARMS.—FIX BAYONETS.

SHOULDER ARMS.

REAR RANKS TAKE CLOSE ORDER.

Wheel backwards by divisions on the left, and march to camp or barracks, the right in front, quick time.

In marching back, the music are not to play, or the drums to beat, until the party is entirely clear of the burying-ground.

*N. B. In the funerals of General Officers, the arrangement of the prescribed number of pieces of cannon, and of the different troops, must be made under the superintendence of the General Officer commanding the whole, and must necessarily depend on local circumstances.*