

ATTENTION TO DETAIL!



MANUAL OF ARMS

OF

COMPANY A,

7<sup>TH</sup> MARYLAND

VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Version 3.1

26 August 2012

## About this Document

This drill manual is based on the manual of arms extracted from:

INFANTRY TACTICS,  
FOR THE  
INSTRUCTION, EXERCISE, AND MANOEUVRES  
OF  
THE SOLDIER, A COMPANY, LINE OF SKIRMISHERS,  
BATTALION, BRIGADE,  
OR  
CORPS D'ARMÉE.  
BY BRIG.-GEN. SILAS CASEY, U.S. ARMY.

I have reorganized the instructions from the original Manual of Arms, to enable us to maximize the little time we get to drill and focus on related maneuvers. I have categorized the instructions into the following focus areas:

- Manipulation of the Musket
- Inspection Arms
- Loading the Musket
- Firing the Musket
- Bayonet Exercise
- Parade Rest

I have retained the original paragraph numbering.

Comments are welcomed and may be directed to:

Steve Giovannini

Care Of:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Volunteer Infantry
- [www.7thmaryland.com](http://www.7thmaryland.com)

## Change History

Version	Release Date	Sections Affected
Version 1	14 March 2012	Initial Release
Version 2	29 June 2012	Reorganized to focus attention on specific aspects of drill
Version 3	3 August 2012	Added Parade Rest instructions
Version 3.1	26 August	Minor formatting in the section on Parade Rest

# MANIPULATION OF THE MUSKET

## PART SECOND.

### GENERAL RULES.

125. The instructor will not pass the men to this second part until they shall be well established in the position of the body, and in the manner of marching at the different steps.

126. He will then unite four men, whom he will place in the same rank, elbow to elbow, and instruct them in the position of shouldered arms, as follows:

#### LESSON 1. PRINCIPLES OF SHOULDERED ARMS.

127. The recruit being placed as explained in the first lesson of the -first part, the instructor will cause him to bend the right arm slightly, and place the piece in it, in the following manner.

128. The piece in the right hand-the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder - the guard to the front, the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body; the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock, which rests on the little finger.

129. Recruits are frequently seen with natural defects in the conformation of the shoulders, breast and hips. These the instructor will labor to correct in the lessons without arms, and afterwards, by steady endeavors, so that the appearance of the pieces, in the same line, may be uniform, and this without constraint to the men in their positions.

130. The instructor will have occasion to remark that recruits, on first bearing arms, are liable to derange their position by lowering the right shoulder and the right hand, or by sinking the hip and spreading out the elbows.

131. He will be careful to correct all these faults by continually rectifying the position; he will sometimes take away the piece to replace it the better; he will avoid fatiguing the recruits too much in the beginning, but labor by degrees to render this position so natural and easy that they may remain in it a long time without fatigue.

132. Finally, the instructor will take great care that the piece, at a shoulder, be not carried too high nor too low: if too high, the right elbow would spread out, the soldier would occupy too much space in his rank, and the piece be made to waver; if too low, the files would be too much closed, the soldier would not have the necessary space to handle his piece with facility, the right arm would become too much fatigued, and would draw down the shoulder.

133. The instructor, before passing to the second lesson, will cause to be repeated the movements of eyes right, left and front, and the facings.



*Shouldered Arms.—N*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

- Heels on the same line, as near each other as the conformation of the man will permit;
- The feet turned out equally, and forming with each other something less than a right angle;
- The knees straight without stiffness;
- The body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward;
- The shoulders square and falling equally;
- The arms hanging naturally;
- The elbows near the body;
- The palm of the hand turned a little to the front, the little finger behind the seam of the pantaloons;
- The head erect and square to the front, without constraint;
- The chin near the stock, without covering it;
- The eyes fixed straight to the front, and striking the ground about the distance of fifteen paces.

Plus the position for shouldered arms:

- the right arm bent slightly,
- the piece in the right hand,
- the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder,
- the guard to the front,
- the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body;
- the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard,
- the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock,
- the cock rests on the little finger.

## LESSON II. MANUAL OF ARMS.

134. The manual of arms will be taught to four men, placed, at first, in one rank, elbow to elbow, and afterwards in two ranks.

135. Each command will be executed in one time (or pause), but this time will be divided into motions, the better to make known the mechanism.

136. The rate (or swiftness) of each motion, in the manual of arms, with the exceptions herein indicated, is fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute; but, in order not to fatigue the attention, the instructor will, at first, look more particularly to the execution of the motions, without requiring a nice observance of the cadence, to which he will bring the recruits progressively, and after they shall have become a little familiarized with the handling of the piece.

137. As the motions relative to the cartridge, to the rammer, and to the fixing and unfixing of the bayonet, cannot be executed at the rate prescribed, nor even with a uniform swiftness, they will not be subjected to that cadence. The instructor will, however, labor to cause these motions to be executed with promptness, and, above all, with regularity.

138. The last syllable of the command will decide the brisk execution of the first motion of each time (or pause). The commands *two, three, and four*, will decide the brisk execution of the other motions. As soon as the recruits shall well comprehend the positions of the several motions of a time, they will be taught to execute the time without resting on its different motions; the mechanism of the time will nevertheless be observed, as well to give a perfect use of the piece, as to avoid the sinking of, or slurring over, either of the motions.

**{Attention to Detail! The instructions provided in 136 and 138 are very important: “the instructor will, at first, look more particularly to the execution of the motions, without requiring a nice observance of the cadence,” and “the mechanism of the time will nevertheless be observed, as well to give a perfect use of the piece, as to avoid the sinking of, or slurring over, either of the motions.” This means NO SHORTCUTS! Take our time. Each step in the motion must be performed. Execute the motions properly. Then we can progress to execute the motion with the proper cadence.}**

**{Attention to Detail! As described in paragraph 135, although a command will be executed in “one time, the time will be divided into one or more “motions”; and the rate, or swiftness, of the execution of each motion is “fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute”, or 2/3rds of a second. Paragraph 138 describes the cadence to be used. It begins with the last syllable of the command of execution followed by the commands “two, three, and four”. If we pronounce the commands as a dance instructor might: “and TWO, and THREE, and FOUR”, we can succeed in our efforts to execute the motions with promptness and regularity.}**

139. The manual of arms will be taught in the following progression; the instructor will command:

{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}

*Support - ARMS.  
One time and three motions.*

140. (First motion.)

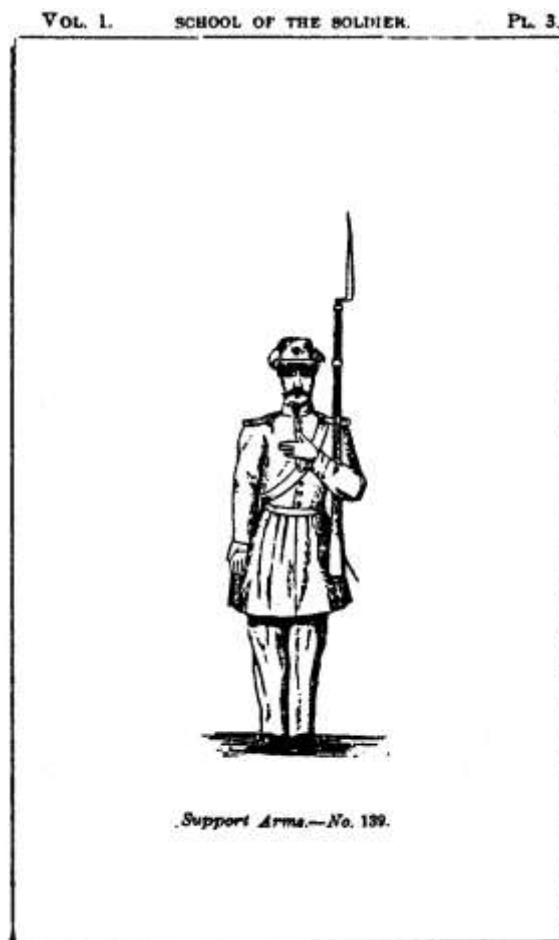
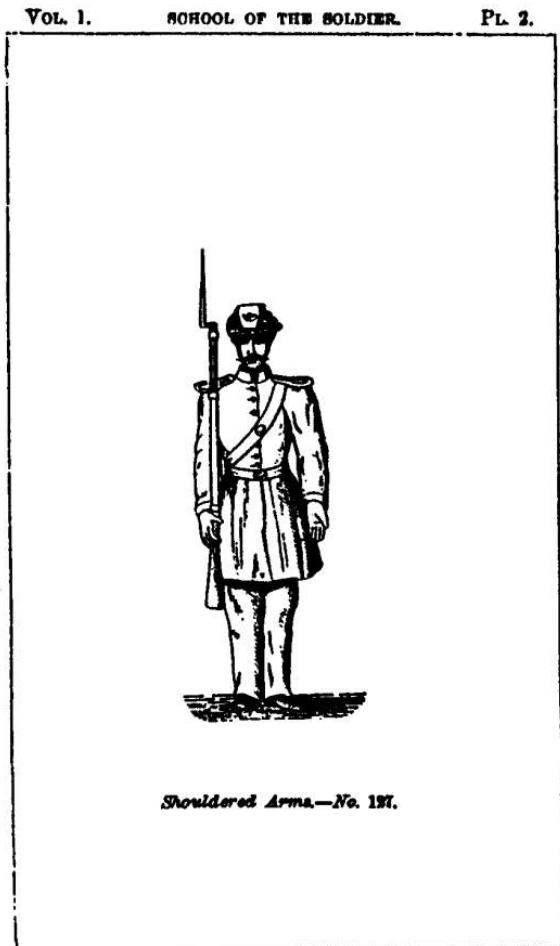
- Bring the piece, with the right hand, perpendicularly to the front and between the eyes, the barrel to the rear;
- seize the piece with the left hand at the lower band,
- raise this hand as high as the chin, and
- seize the piece at the same time with the right hand four inches below the cock.

141. (Second motion.)

- Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the front;
- carry the piece to the left shoulder, and
- pass the fore-arm extended on the breast between the right hand and the cock;
- support the cock against the left fore-arm, the left hand resting on the right breast.

142. (Third motion.)

- Drop the right hand by the side.







*Support Arms.—No. 139.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for support arms:

- the piece carried to the left shoulder
- the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder,
- the left fore-arm positioned beneath the hammer,
- the cock resting against the left fore-arm
- the left fore-arm extended with the left hand resting on the right breast, (NOT the right shoulder)
- the thumb of the left hand, near vertical, resting on, and aligned with the buttons

**{The soldier being at Support Arms}**

143. When the instructor may wish to give repose in this position, he will command:

REST.

144. At this command, the recruits will bring up smartly the right hand to the handle of the piece (small of the stock), when they will not be required to preserve silence, or steadiness of position.

145. When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:

1. *Attention.* 2. SQUAD.

146. At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of the third motion of support arms.

{The soldier being at Support Arms}

*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time. and three motions.*

147. (First motion.)

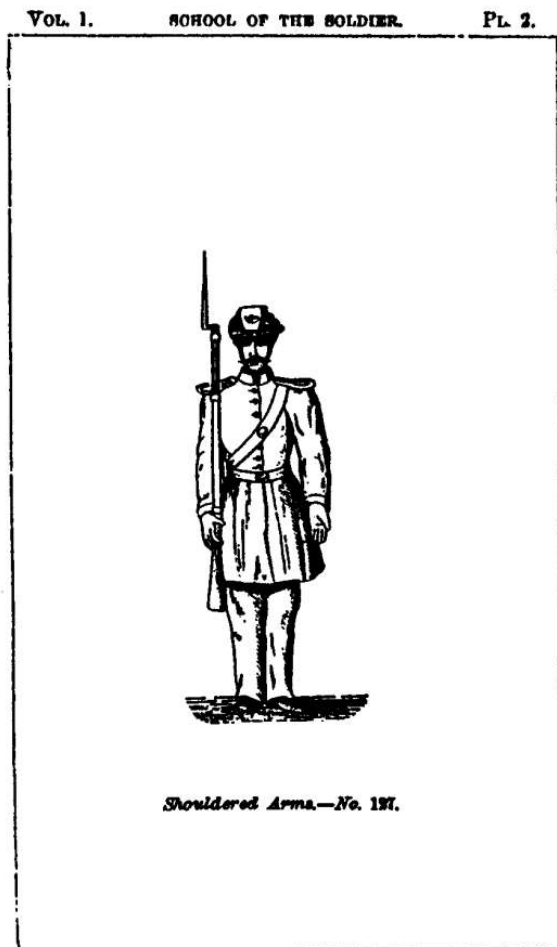
- Grasp the piece with the right hand under and against the left fore-arm;
- seize it with the left hand at the lower band, the thumb extended;
- detach the piece slightly from the shoulder, the left fore-arm along the stock.

148. (Second motion.)

- Carry the piece vertically to the right shoulder with both hands, the rammer to the front,
- change the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger,
- slip the left hand to the height of the, shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

149. (Third motion.)

- Drop the left hand quickly by the side.



{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}

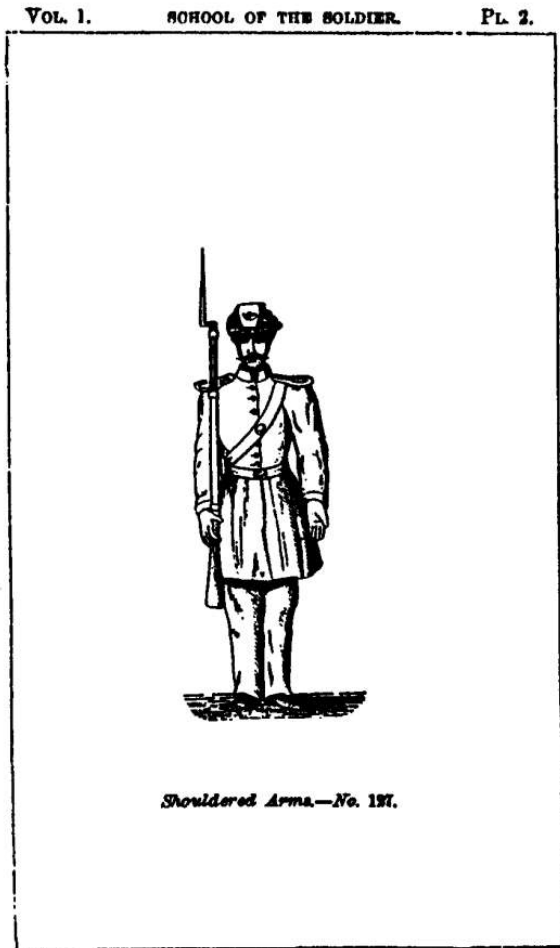
*Present-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

150. (First motion.)

- With the right hand, bring the piece erect before the centre of the body, the rammer to the front;
- at the same time seize the piece with the left hand half-way between the guide sight and lower band, the thumb extended along the barrel and against the stock, the forearm horizontal and resting against the body, the hand as high as the elbow.

151. (Second motion.)

- Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand, below and against the guard.





*Present Arms.—No. 149.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for present arms:

- the piece erect before the centre of the body,
- the piece seized with the left hand half-way between the guide sight and lower band,
- the left thumb extended along the barrel and against the stock,
- the left forearm horizontal and resting against the body,
- the left hand as high as the left elbow. (so the left fore-arm is parallel to the ground)
- Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand, below and against the guard.
- This last position extends the right arm which keeps the right elbow against the body.

{The soldier being at Present Arms}

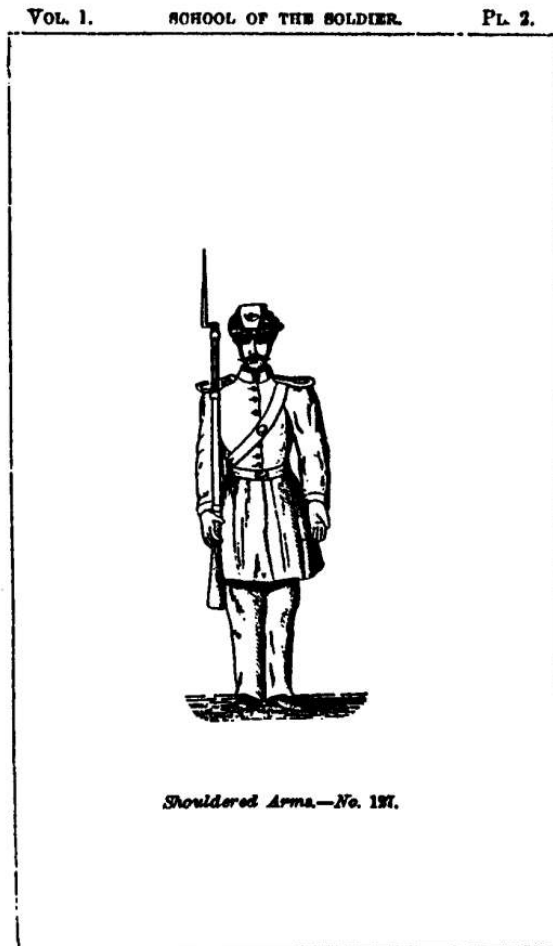
*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

152. (First motion.)

- Bring the piece to the right shoulder,
- at the same time change, the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger,
- slip up the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

153. (Second motion.)

- Drop the left hand quickly by the side.



{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}

*Order-ARMS*  
*One time and two motions.*

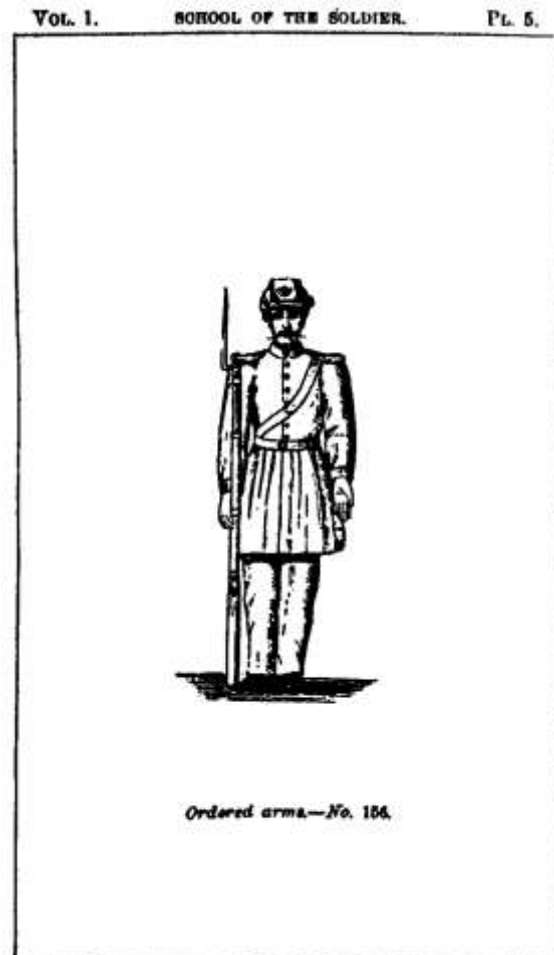
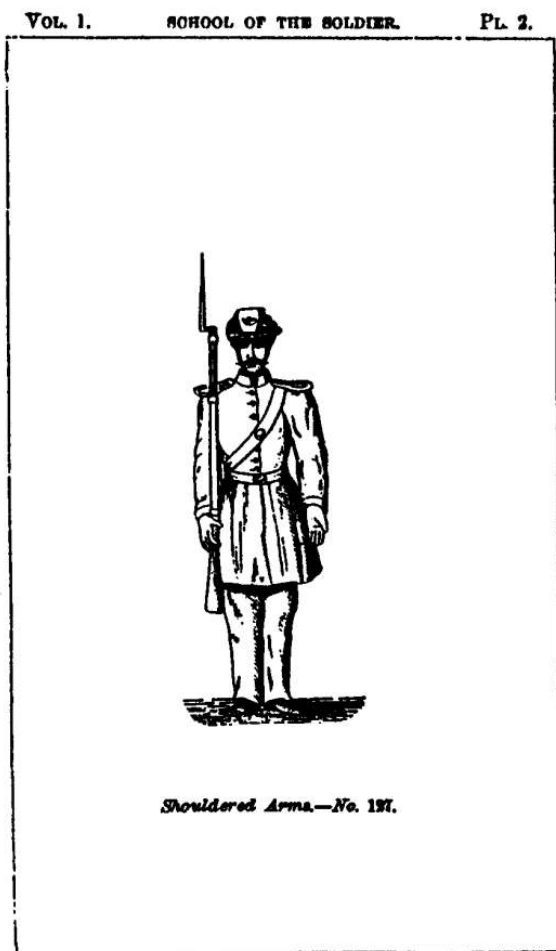
{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 154 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}

154. (First motion.)

- Seize the piece briskly with the left hand a little above the middle band,
- and detach it slightly from the shoulder with the right hand:
- loosen the grasp of the right hand,
- lower the piece with the left,
- reseize the piece with the right hand, just above the lower band, the little finger in the rear of the barrel, the butt about four inches from the ground, the right hand supported against the hip,
- drop the left hand by the side.

155. (Second motion.)

- Let the piece slip through the right hand to the ground by opening slightly the fingers,
- and take the position about to be described.



## POSITION OF ORDER ARMS.

156.

- The hand low,
- the barrel between the thumb and fore-finger extended along the stock;
- the other fingers extended and joined;
- the muzzle about two inches from the right shoulder;
- the rammer in front;
- the toe (or beak) of the butt, against, and in a line with, the toe of the right foot,
- the barrel perpendicular

157. When the instructor may wish to give repose in this position, he will command:

REST.

158. At this command, the recruits will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness.

159. When the instructor may wish the recruits to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he will command:

1. *Attention.* 2. SQUAD.

160. At the second word, the recruits will resume the position of order arms.





*Ordered arms.—No. 156.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for ordered arms:

- The right hand low
- The barrel between the thumb and fore-finger,
- The thumb and fore-finger extended along the stock;
- the other fingers extended and joined;
- the muzzle about two inches from the right shoulder;
- the rammer in front,
- the toe (or beak) of the butt, against, and in a line with, the toe of the right foot,
- the barrel perpendicular.

{The soldier being at Order Arms}

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

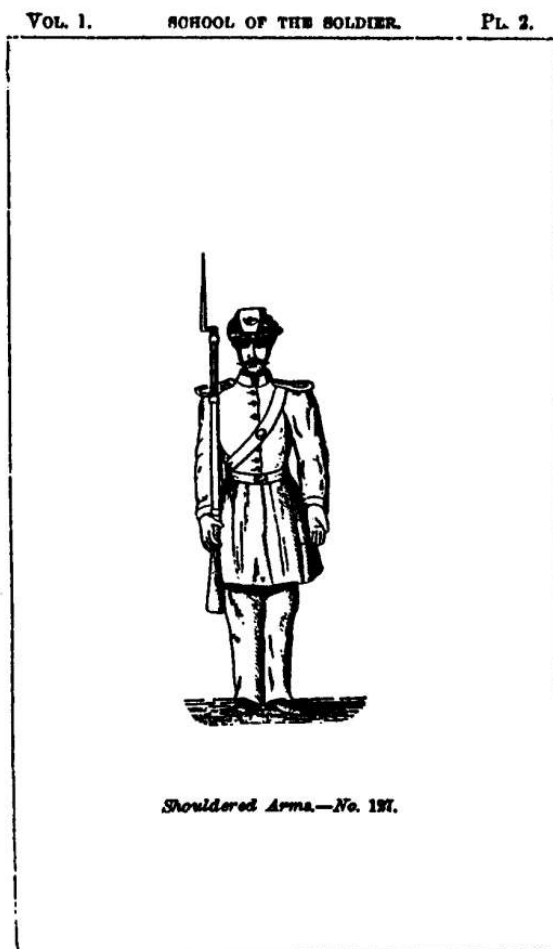
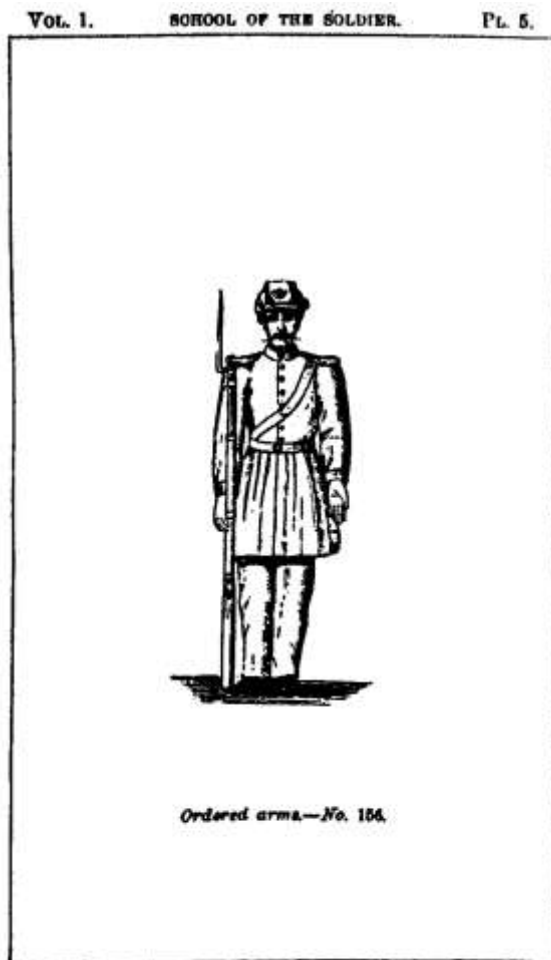
*One time and two motions.*

161. (First motion.)

- Raise the piece vertically with the right hand to the height of the right breast,
- and opposite the shoulder,
- the elbow close to the body;
- seize the piece with the left hand below the right,
- and drop quickly the right hand to grasp the piece at the swell of the stock,
- the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard; press the piece against the shoulder with the left hand, the right arm nearly straight.

162. (Second motion.)

- Drop the left hand quickly by the side.





*Shouldered Arms.—No. 197.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for shouldered arms:

- the right arm bent slightly,
- the piece in the right hand,
- the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder,
- the guard to the front,
- the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body;
- the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard,
- the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock,
- the cock rests on the little finger.

**{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}**

*Trail-ARMS.*

*One time and two motions.*

206. (First motion.) The same as the first motion of order arms.

- 154. (First motion.) Seize the piece briskly with the left hand a little above the middle band, and detach it slightly from the shoulder -with the right hand: loosen the grasp of the right hand, lower the piece with the left, reseize the piece with the right hand, just above the lower band, the little finger in the rear of the barrel, the butt about four inches from the ground, the right hand supported against the hip, drop the left hand by the side.

207. (Second motion.) Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, the butt to the rear and about four inches from the ground. The right hand supported at the hip, will so hold the piece that the rear rank men may not touch with their bayonets the men in the front rank.

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

208. At the command shoulder, raise the piece perpendicularly in the right hand, the little finger in the rear of the barrel; at the command arms, execute what has been prescribed for the shoulder from the position of order arms.

*One time and two motions.*

- 161. (First motion.) Raise the piece vertically with the right hand to the height of the right breast, and opposite the shoulder, the elbow close to the body; seize the piece with the left hand below the right, and drop quickly the right hand to grasp the piece at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard; press the piece against the shoulder with the left hand, the right arm nearly straight.
- 162. (Second motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.

*Secure--ARMS.*

One time and three motions.

213. (First motion.) The same as the first motion of support arms, No. 140, except with the right hand seize the piece at the small of the stock.

- 140. (First motion.) Bring the piece, with the right hand, perpendicularly to the front and between the eyes, the barrel to the rear; seize the piece with the left hand at the lower band, raise this hand as high as the chin, and seize the piece at the same time with the right hand four inches below the neck at the small of the stock.

214. (Second motion.) Turn the piece with both hands, the barrel to the front; bring it opposite the left shoulder, the butt against the hip, the left hand at the lower band the thumb as high as the chin and extended on the rammer; the piece erect and detached from the shoulder, the left fore-arm against the piece.

215. (Third motion.) Reverse the piece, pass it under the left arm, the left hand remaining at the lower band, the thumb on the rammer to prevent it from sliding out, the little finger resting against the hip, the right hand falling at the same time by the side.

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

One time and three motions.

216. (First motion.) Raise the piece with the left hand, and seize it with the right hand at the small of the stock. The piece erect and detached from the shoulder, the butt against the hip, the left fore-arm along the piece.

217. (Second motion.) The same as the second motion of shoulder arms from a support.

- 148. (Second motion.) Carry the piece vertically to the right shoulder with both hands, the rammer to the front, change the position of the right hand so as to embrace the guard with the thumb and fore-finger, slip the left hand to the height of the, shoulder, the fingers extended and joined, the right arm nearly straight.

218. (Third motion.) The same as the third motion of shoulder arms from a support.

- 149. (Third motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.



*Secure Arms.--No. 218.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of the Soldier.

Plus the position for secure arms:

- the piece has been reversed such that the rammer is up and the barrel is down
- the piece is under the left arm
- the left hand on the lower band
- the left thumb on the rammer to prevent it from sliding out,
- the little finger resting against the hip,

{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}

*Right shoulder shift-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

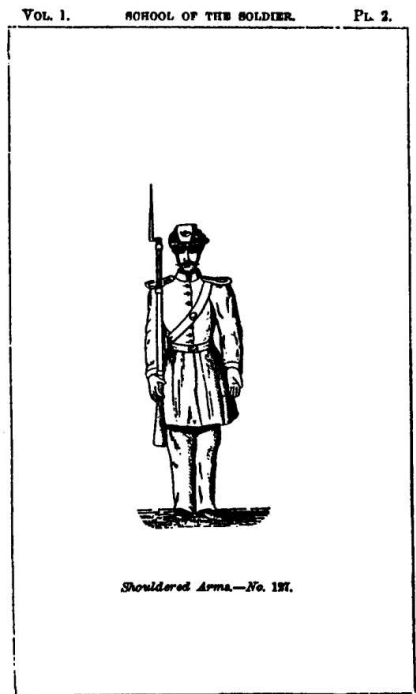
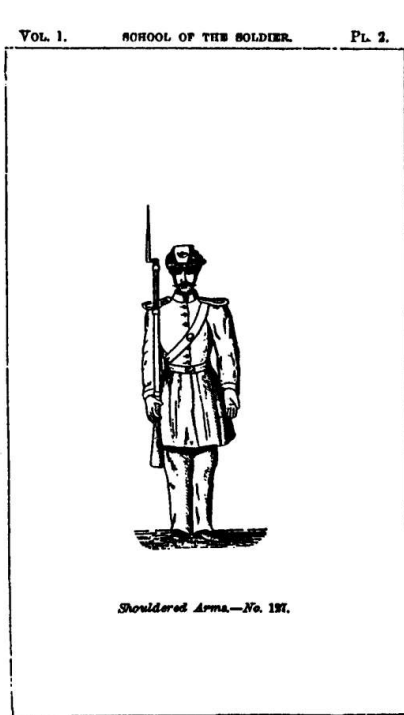
219. (First motion.) Detach the piece perpendicularly from the shoulder with the right hand, and seize it with the left between the lower band and guide-sight, raise the piece, the left hand at the height of the shoulder and four inches from it; place, at the same time, the right hand on the butt, the beak between the first two fingers, the other two fingers under the butt plate.

220. (Second motion.) Quit the piece with the left hand, raise and place the piece on the right shoulder with the right hand, the lock plate up ward; let fall at the same time, the left hand by the side.

*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

221. (First motion.) Raise the piece perpendicularly by extending the right arm to its full length, the rammer to the front; at the same time seize the piece with the left hand between the lower band and guide sight.

222. (Second motion.) Quit the butt with the right hand, which will immediately embrace the guard, lower the piece to the position of shoulder arms, slide up the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the fingers extended and closed. Drop the left hand by the side.



{Attention to Detail! Some reenactors claim you cannot go directly from the position of Support Arms to the position of Right Shoulder Shift Arms. You can! Here is how.}

{The soldier being at Support Arms}

223. The men being at support arms, the instructor will sometimes cause pieces to be brought to the right shoulder. To this effect he will command:

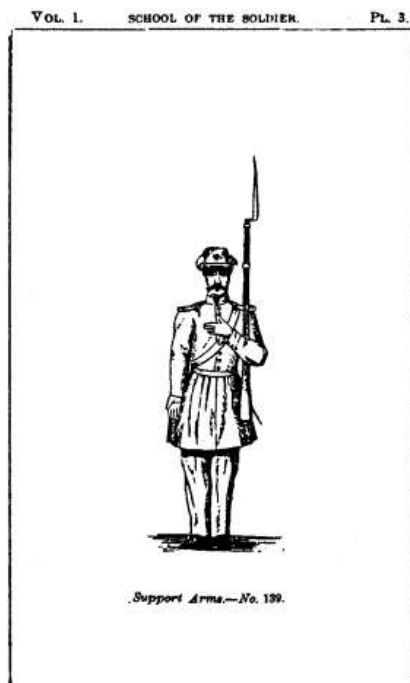
*Right shoulder shift-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

224. (**First motion**.) Seize the piece with the right hand, below and near the left fore-arm, place the left hand under the butt, the heel of the butt between the first two fingers.

225. (**Second motion**.) Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock plate upward, carry it to the right shoulder, the left hand still holding the butt, the muzzle elevated; hold the piece in this position and place the right hand upon the butt, as is prescribed No. 219,

- 219. ... Detach the piece perpendicularly from the shoulder with the right hand, and seize it with the left between the lower band and guide-sight, raise the piece, the left hand at the height of the shoulder and four inches from it; place, at the same time, the right hand on the butt, the beak between the first two fingers, the other two fingers under the butt plate.

and let fall the left hand by the side.







*Right shoulder shift arms. — No. 219.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of the Soldier.

Plus the position for right shoulder shift arms:

- the right hand on the butt, the beak between the first two fingers, the other two fingers under the butt plate.
- the piece placed on the right shoulder,
- the lock plate upward;

**{The soldier being at Right shoulder shift Arms}**

*Support-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

226. (First motion.) The same as the first motion of shoulder arms, No. 221.

- 221. (First motion.) Raise the piece perpendicularly by extending the right arm to its full length, the rammer to the front; at the same time seize the piece with the left hand between the lower band and guide sight.

227. (Second motion) Turn the piece with both hands, the barrel to the front, carry it opposite the left shoulder, slip the right hand to the small of the stock-, place the left fore-arm extended on the breast, as is prescribed No. 141,

- 141. ... pass the fore-arm extended on the breast between the right hand and the cock; support the cock against the left fore-arm, the left hand resting on the right breast.

and let fall the right hand by the side.



*Arms-AT WILL.  
One time and one motion.*

228. At this command, carry the piece at pleasure on either shoulder, with one or both hands, the muzzle elevated.

**{Attention to Detail! The instruction here states that the piece is carried “on either shoulder”. This would preclude it from being carried at trail arms or at a port arms. }**

*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time and one motion.*

229. At this command, retake quickly the position of shoulder arms.

230. The recruits being at ordered arms, when the instructor shall wish to cause the pieces to be placed on the ground, he will command:

*Ground-ARMS.*

*One time and two motions.*

231. (First motion.) Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the left, at the same time seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot, the heel opposite the lower band; lay the piece on the ground with the right hand, the toe of the butt on a line with the right toe, the knees slightly bent, the right heel raised.
232. (Second motion.) Rise up, bring the left foot by the side of the right, quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop the hands by the side.

*Raise-ARMS.*

*One time and two motions.*

233. (First motion.) Seize the cartridge box with the left hand, bend the body, advance the left foot opposite the lower band, and seize the piece with the right hand.
234. (Second motion.) Raise the piece, bringing the left foot by the side of the right; turn the piece with the right hand, the rammer to the front; at the same time quit the cartridge box with the left hand, and drop this hand by the side.



*Ground Arms.—No. 231.*

**Attention to Detail!**

Starting position is the position of ordered arms:  
Plus the instruction for Ground Arms:

- The barrel is turned to the left, so that the lock plate will be face up when the piece is placed on the ground
- the cartridge box is seized with the left hand
- the body is bent at the waist,
- the soldier steps forward with the left foot such that when the rifle is lying on the ground, the left heel will be opposite the lower band
- the knees are bent when placing the piece on the ground
- the right heel is raised slightly off the ground when placing the piece on the ground
- place the piece on the ground such that the lock plate is up

The soldier moves the exact same way in order to raise the piece, and return to the position of ordered arms.

# INSPECTION ARMS

**{The soldier being at Ordered Arms}**

### **INSPECTION OF ARMS.**

235. The recruits being at ordered arms, and having the bayonet in the scabbard, if the instructor wishes to cause an inspection of arms, he will command:

*Inspection-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 236 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}**

~~236. (First motion.) Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about three inches from the body; (should the rifle musket be used, the muzzle will be about eight inches from the body); carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet, draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel; grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, seize the rammer with the thumb and fore finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.~~

236. (First motion.) Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body; carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet, draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel; grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

237. (Second motion.) Draw the rammer as has been explained in loading, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore, replace the piece with the left hand opposite the right shoulder, and retake the position of ordered arms.

238. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank. Each, as the instructor reaches him, will raise smartly his piece with his right hand, seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye; the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit, who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms.

239. When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command inspection, return the rammer, unfix the bayonet, and resume the position of ordered arms.

**{Attention to Detail! Here the soldier started at ordered arms and, after unfixing the bayonet, returns to Order Arms.}**

**{The soldier being at Ordered Arms}**

240. If, instead of inspection of arms, the instructor should merely wish to cause bayonets to be fixed, he will command:

*Fix-BAYONET.*

241. Take the position indicated No. 236, fix bayonets as has been explained, and immediately resume the position of ordered arms.

- 236. (First motion.) Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body; carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet, draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel; grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

242. If it be the wish of the instructor, after firing, to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged, he will command:

*Spring-RAMMERS.*

243. Put the rammer in the barrel, as has been explained above, and immediately retake the position of ordered arms.

244. The instructor, for the purpose stated, can take the rammer by the small end, and spring it in the barrel, or cause each recruit to make it ring in the barrel.

245. Each recruit, after the instructor passes him, will return rammer, and resume the position of ordered arms.



# LOADING THE MUSKET

**{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}**

**LOAD IN NINE TIMES.**

**1. LOAD.**

*One time and one motion.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 154 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}**

~~163. Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shift the right hand to the upper band, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be three inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge box. If the rifle musket is used the right hand will be shifted to just below the upper band. The muzzle will be eight inches from the body.~~

163. Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shift the right hand to **just below the upper band**, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be **eight** inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box.

**2. Handle-CARTRIDGE.**

*One time and one motion.*

164. Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.

**3. Tear-CARTRIDGE.**

*One time and one motion.*

165. Tear the paper to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle-the back of the hand to the front.

**4. Charge-CARTRIDGE.**

*One time and one motion.*

166. Empty the powder into the barrel: disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb; seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.

**5. Draw-RAMMER.**

*One time and three motions.*

167. (First motion.) Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm; steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

168. (Second motion.) Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

169. (Third motion.) Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.



*Load.—No. 163.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for load:

- the the butt is placed between the feet,
- the barrel to the front;
- the piece seized with the left hand near the muzzle, (note that would be higher than illustrated in this image.)
- since we use the rifle musket, the muzzle will be held eight inches from the body
- the right hand carried to the cartridge box.

6. *Ram-CARTRIDGE.*

*One time and one motion.*

170. Insert the rammer as far as the right, and steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand; seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the back of the hand to the front - press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

7. *Return-RAMMER.*

*One time and three motions.*

171. (First motion.) Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb; grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer: clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.

172. (Second motion.) Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.

173. (Third motion.) Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer; pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, with-out depressing the shoulder.

8. *PRIME.*

*One time and two motions.*

174. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side the butt below the right fore-arm -- the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

175. (Second motion.) Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand, take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

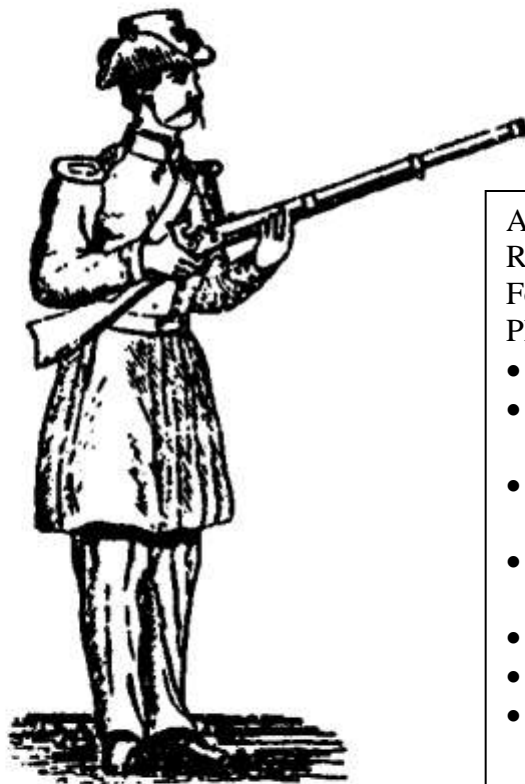
9. *Shoulder-ARMS.*

*One time and two motions.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 176 contains the clue that the shoulder arms maneuver “squares off” the last positioning of the piece (i.e. put in position, then face to the front, then grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.)}**

176. (First motion.) Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left hand, face to the front; bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left; grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of shoulder arms.

177. (Second motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.



*Primo.—No. 174.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of a Soldier:

Plus the position for primo:

- half faced to the right;
- the right foot placed behind and at right angles with the left;
- the hollow of the right foot against the left heel.
- the left hand grasps the piece at the lower band,
- the left thumb extended along the stock,
- the left elbow against the body;
- the piece brought to the right side of the body,
- the butt below the right fore-arm,
- the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, NOT sitting on or below the belt,
- the right hand seizes the small of the stock
- the barrel upwards,
- the muzzle on a level with the eye.

The resulting position is the position of Ready

### **LESSON III.**

#### **TO LOAD IN FOUR TIMES.**

259. The object of this lesson is to prepare the recruits to load at will, and to cause them to distinguish the times which require the greatest regularity and attention, such as charge cartridge, ram cartridge, and prime. It will be divided as follows:

260. The first time will be executed at the end of the command; the three others at the commands, two, three and four. The instructor will command:

1. *Load in four times.* 2. **LOAD.**

261. Execute the times to include charge cartridge.

**TWO.**

262. Execute the times to include ram cartridge.

**THREE.**

263. Execute the times to include prime.

**FOUR.**

264. Execute the time of shoulder arms.

## TO LOAD AT WILL.

265. The instructor will next teach loading at will, which will be executed as loading in four times, but continued, and without resting on either of the times. He will command:

1. *Load at will.* 2. LOAD.

266. The instructor will habituate the recruits, by degrees, to load with the greatest possible promptitude, each without regulating himself by his neighbor, and above all without waiting for him.

267. The cadence prescribed No. 136, is not applicable to loading in four times, or at will.

- 136. The rate (or swiftness) of each motion, in the manual of arms, with the exceptions herein indicated, is fixed at the ninetieth part of a minute; but, in order not to fatigue the attention, the instructor will, at first, look more particularly to the execution of the motions, without requiring a nice observance of the cadence, to which he will bring the recruits progressively, and after they shall have become a little familiarized with the handling of the piece.
- 137. As the motions relative to the cartridge, to the rammer, and to the fixing and unfixing of the bayonet, cannot be executed at the rate prescribed, nor even with a uniform swiftness, they will not be subjected to that cadence. The instructor will, however, labor to cause these motions to be executed with promptness, and, above all, with regularity.

# FIRING THE MUSKET



READY.

*One time and three motions.*

178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left~ the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.



{Attention to Detail! It is very important that you keep the piece vertical and detach it only slightly from the shoulder during the half right face. This minimizes the potential for entangling the butt or worse the hammer of your rifle in the trappings (haversack, canteen, dangling tin cup, etc) of the man to your right as your both make your half face to the right.}

179. (Second motion.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers under and against the guard.

180. (Third motion.) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

**{Attention to Detail! For safety purposes, we do not full-cock the piece until we raise the piece to Aim.}**

{Attention to Detail! The Ready Position captured below is close; however, we will strive to make it better. The body position is close to being correct. However, the musket position is far from correct: the small of the stock is positioned too low; and the muzzle of the barrel is held too high.}



AIM.  
*One time and one motion.*

181. Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder; the left, elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder - incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse the front sight, and the object aimed at, the left eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger.

182. When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear rank men.

183. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

**{Attention to Detail! Front Rank Direct Fire foot placement. The feet do not move.}**



**{Attention to Detail! Rear Rank Direct Fire foot placement.}**

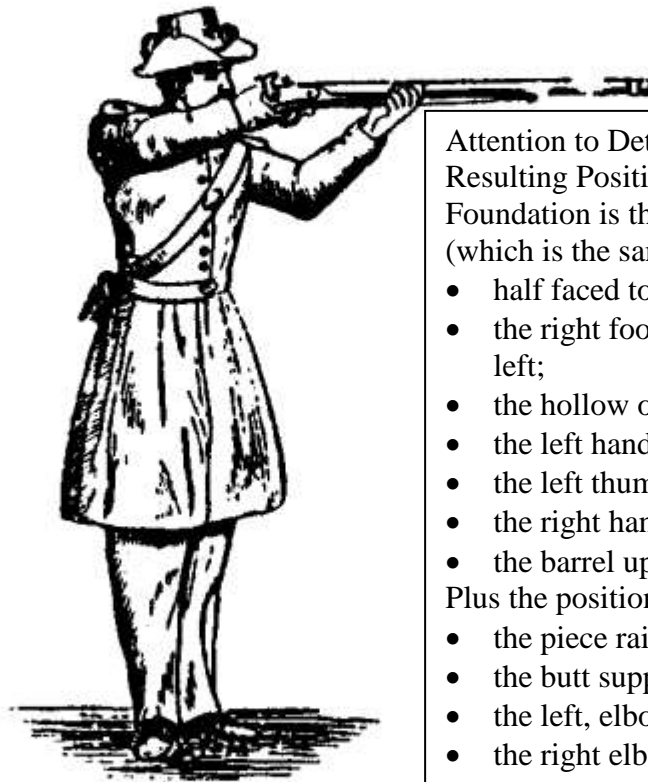


**Two Ranks - Direct Fire - Aim**

181. Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder; the left, elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder; incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse, the front sight, and the object aimed at, the left eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger.

182. When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front-rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear-rank men.

Notice that because "the front-rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow," the rear rank can shoot directly through the front rank.

*Aim—No. 181.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of Ready  
(which is the same resulting position of Prime):

- half faced to the right;
- the right foot placed behind and at right angles with the left;
- the hollow of the right foot against the left heel.
- the left hand grasps the piece at the lower band,
- the left thumb extended along the stock,
- the right hand seizes the small of the stock
- the barrel upwards

Plus the position for aim:

- the piece raised with both hands
- the butt supported against the right shoulder;
- the left, elbow down,
- the right elbow as high as the shoulder;
- the head inclined upon the butt, to aim,
- the left eye closed,
- the right thumb extended along the stock,
- the fore-finger on the trigger.

When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings,

- the front-rank men will raise the right elbow a little less, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear-rank men.
- The rear-rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next it the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward

FIRE.

One time and one motion.

184. Press the fore-finger against the trigger, fire, without lowering or turning the head, and remain in this position.

185. Instructors will be careful to observe when the men fire, that they aim at some distinct object, and that the barrel be so directed that the line of fire and the line of sight be in the same vertical plane. They will often cause the firing to be executed on ground of different inclinations, in order to accustom the men to fire at objects either above or below them.

LOAD.

*One time and one motion.*

186. Bring down the piece with both hands at the same time face to the front and take the position of load as indicated, No. 163. Each **rear rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.**

- 163. ..., place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be eight inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box.

187. The men being in this position, the instructor will cause the loading to be continued by the commands and means prescribed, No. 163, and following.

188. If, after firing, the instructor should not wish the recruits to reload, he will command:

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

One time and one motion.

189. Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand and resume the position of shoulder arms, at the same time face to the front, turning on the left heel, and bring the right heel on a line with the left.

190. To accustom the recruits to wait for the command fire, the instructor, when they are in the position of aim, will command:

*Recover-ARMS.*

*One, time and one, motion.*

191. At the first part of the command, withdraw the finger from the trigger; at the command arms, retake the position of the third motion of ready.

192. The recruits being in the position of the third motion of ready, if the instructor should wish to bring them to a shoulder, he will command:

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

*One time and one motion.*

193. At the command shoulder, place the thumb upon the cock, the fore-finger on the trigger, half cock, and seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the command arms, bring up the piece briskly to the right shoulder, and retake the position of shoulder arms.

## REMARKS ON LOADING AND FIRING.

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraphs 194-195 are not relevant to the 7<sup>th</sup> MD, since we do not sling our cartridge boxes on our waist belts, and we do not use the Maynard primer. Therefore I have them struck out.}**

~~194. Whenever the loadings and firings are to be executed, and the cartridge boxes are slung upon the waist belt, the instructor will cause them to be brought to the front.~~

~~195. If Maynard's primer be used the command will be~~

~~Load in eight times.~~

~~and the eighth command will be shoulder arms, and executed from return rammer in one time and two motions, as follows:~~

~~(First motion.) Raise the piece with the left hand, and take the position of shoulder arms as indicated No. 152.~~

~~(Second motion.) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.~~

## LESSON IV. FIRINGS.

268. The firings are direct or oblique, and will be executed as follows:

### THE DIRECT FIRE.

269. The instructor will give the following commands:

1. *Fire by Squad.* 2. *Squad.* 3. READY. 4. *Aim.* 5. FIRE. 6. LOAD.

270. These several commands will be executed as has been prescribed in the Manual of Arms. At the third command, the men will come to the position of Ready, as heretofore explained. At the fourth they will aim according to the rank in which each may find himself placed, the rearwards men inclining forward a little the upper part of the body, in order that their pieces may reach as much beyond the front rank as possible.

271. At the sixth command, they will load their pieces and return immediately to the position of ready.

272. The instructor will recommence the firing by the commands:

1. *Squad.* 2. *Aim.* 3. FIRE. 4. LOAD.

273. When the instructor wishes the firing to cease he will command:

*Cease-FIRING.*

274. At this command the men will cease firing, but will load their pieces if unloaded, and afterward bring them to a shoulder.

## OBLIQUE FIRINGS.

275. The oblique firings will be executed to the right and left, and by the same commands as the direct fire, with this single difference—the command aim will always be preceded by the caution, right or left oblique.

### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE RIGHT.

276. At the command ready, the two ranks will execute what has been prescribed for the direct fire.

- 178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left~ the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.
- 179. (Second motion.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers under and against the guard..
- 180. (Third motion.) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

{Attention to Detail! For safety purposes, we do not full-cock the piece until we raise the piece to Aim.}

277. At the cautionary command, right oblique, the two ranks will throw back the right shoulder, and look steadily at the object to be hit.

278. At the command aim, each front-rank man will aim to the right without deranging the feet; each rear-rank man will advance the left foot about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the left knee.

### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE LEFT.

279. At the cautionary command left oblique, the two ranks will throw back the left shoulder, and look steadily at the object to be hit.

280. At the command aim, the front rank will take aim to the left without deranging the feet; each man in the rear rank will advance the right foot, about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the left, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the right knee.

281. In both cases, at the command load, the men of each rank will come to the position of load as prescribed in the direct fire; the rear-rank men bringing back the foot which is to the right and front by the side of the other. Each man will continue to load as if isolated.

- 186. Bring down the piece with both hands at the same time face to the front and take the position of load as indicated, No. 163. Each rear rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.
- 163. ..., place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be eight inches from the body; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box.

{The soldier being at Ready}

### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE RIGHT.

277. At the cautionary command, right oblique, the two ranks will throw back the right shoulder, and look steadily at the object to be hit.

{Attention to Detail! It is critical that both ranks throw back the right shoulder while maintaining all other positioning of the Ready. This aligns the ranks for the oblique aim.}

278. At the command aim, each front-rank man will aim to the right without deranging the feet; each rear-rank man will advance the left foot about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the left knee.

{Attention to Detail! It is our assertion that the rear rank man does not derange the direction of the foot he advances. If the rear rank soldier were to derange his feet and point the toe of the foot he advances towards the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, the rear rank soldier will have difficulty safely firing at the oblique. The 'bending a little the knee' will carry the soldier, and likewise the hammer of his musket, in a plane directly towards the head of the man next on the right of his file leader.

However, if he maintains the original alignment of the foot advanced (left foot perpendicular to the battle front, right foot parallel to the battle front), then the 'bending a little the left knee' will carry the soldier in a plane perpendicular to the front such that he can safely fire at the oblique.

Another way to remember which foot to move = don't move the foot of the direction of the oblique called.}





{The soldier being at Ready}

### POSITION OF THE TWO RANKS IN THE OBLIQUE FIRE TO THE LEFT.

279. At the cautionary command left oblique, the two ranks will throw back the left shoulder, and look steadily at the object to be hit.

{Attention to Detail! It is critical that both ranks throw back the left shoulder while maintaining all other positioning of the Ready. This aligns the ranks for the oblique aim.}

280. At the command aim, the front rank will take aim to the left without deranging the feet; each man in the rear rank will advance the right foot, about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, and aim to the left, inclining the upper part of the body forward, and bending a little the right knee.

{Attention to Detail! It is our assertion that the rear rank man does not derange the direction of the foot he advances. If the rear rank soldier were to derange his feet and point the toe of the foot he advances towards the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader, the rear rank soldier will have difficulty safely firing at the oblique. The 'bending a little the knee' will carry the soldier, and likewise the hammer of his musket, in a plane directly towards the head of the man next on the right of his file leader.

However, if he maintains the original alignment of the foot advanced (left foot perpendicular to the battle front, right foot parallel to the battle front), then the 'bending a little the right knee' will carry the soldier in a plane parallel to the front such that he can safely fire at the oblique.}

Another way to remember which foot to move = don't move the foot of the direction of the oblique called.}



## TO FIRE BY FILE.

282. The fire by file will be executed by the two ranks, the files of which will fire successively, and without regulating on each other, except for the first fire.

283. The instructor will command:

1. *Fire by file.* 2. *Squad.* 3. READY. 4. COMMENCE FIRING.

284. At the third command, the two ranks will take the position prescribed in the direct fire.

- 178. (**First motion**.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left~ the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.
- 179. (**Second motion**.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers under and against the guard..
- 180. (**Third motion**.) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

[Attention to Detail! For safety purposes, we do not full-cock the piece until we raise the piece to Aim.]

285. At the fourth command, the file on the right will aim and fire; the rear-rank man in aiming will take the position indicated No. 183.

- 183. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

286. The men of this file will load their pieces briskly and fire a second time; reload and fire again, and so on in continuation.

287. The second file will aim, at the instant the first brings down pieces to reload, and will conform in all respects to that which has just been prescribed for the first file.

288. After the first fire, the front and rear rank men will not be required to fire at the same time.

289. Each man, after loading, will return to the position of ready and continue the fire.

290. When the instructor wishes the fire to cease, he will command:

*Cease-FIRING.*

291. At this command, the men will cease firing. If they have fired, they will load their pieces and bring them to a shoulder; if at the position of ready, they will half-cock and shoulder arms. If in the position of aim, they will bring down their pieces, half-cock, and shoulder arms.

## TO FIRE BY RANK.

292. The fire by rank will be executed by each entire rank, alternately.

293. The instructor will command:

1. *Fire by rank.* 2. *Squad.* 3. READY. 4. *Rear rank.* 5. *Aim.* 6. FIRE. 7. LOAD.

294. At the third command, the two ranks will take the position of ready, as prescribed in the direct fire.

- 178. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left~ the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.
- 
- 179. (Second motion.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upward, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock the other fingers under and against the guard..
- 
- 180. (Third motion.) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.

[Attention to Detail! For safety purposes, we do not full-cock the piece until we raise the piece to Aim.]

295. At the seventh command, the rear rank will execute that which has been prescribed in the direct fire, and afterward take the position of ready.

- 183. The rear rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.

296. As soon as the instructor sees several men of the rear rank in the position of ready, he will command:

1. *Front rank.* 2. *Aim.* 3. FIRE. 4. LOAD.

297. At these commands, the men in the front rank will execute what has been prescribed for the rear rank, but they will not step off with the right foot.

- 183. The rear rank men, in aiming, will ~~each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right,~~ inclining the upper part of the body forward.

298. The instructor will recommence the firing by the rear rank, and will thus continue to alternate from rank to rank, until he shall wish the firing to cease, when he will command, cease firing which will be executed as heretofore prescribed.

## LESSON V.

### TO FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING

299. In this exercise, the squad will be supposed loaded and drawn up in one rank. The instruction will be given to each man individually, without times or motions, and in the following manner:

300. The instructor will command:

#### FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING.

301. At this command, the man on the right of the squad will move forward three paces and halt; then carry the right foot to the rear and to the right of the left heel, and in a position convenient for placing the right knee upon the ground in bending the left leg: place the right knee upon the ground; lower the piece, the left fore-arm supported upon the thigh on the same side, the right hand on the small of the stock, the butt resting on the right thigh, the left hand supporting the piece near the lower band.

302. He will next move the right leg to the left around the knee, supported on the ground, until this leg is nearly perpendicular to the direction of the left foot, and thus seat himself comfortably on the right heel.

303. Raise the piece with the right hand and support it with the left, holding it near the lower band, the left elbow resting on the left thigh near the knee; seize the hammer with the thumb, the fore-finger under the guard, cock and seize the piece at the small of the stock; bring the piece to the shoulder, aim and fire.

304. Bring the piece down as soon as it is fired, and support it with the left hand, the butt resting against the right thigh; carry the piece to the rear rising on the knee, the barrel downward, the butt resting on the ground; in this position support the piece with the left hand at the upper band, draw cartridge with the right and load the piece, ramming the ball, if necessary, with both hands.

305. When loaded bring the piece to the front with the left hand, which holds it at the upper band; seize it at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock; turn the piece, the barrel uppermost and nearly horizontal, the left elbow resting on the left thigh; half cock, remove the old cap and prime, rise, and return to the ranks.

306. The second man will then be taught what has just been prescribed for the first, and so on through the remainder of the squad.

Attention to Detail!

To take the kneeling position:

Starting position is the position of shouldered arms:

Plus the instructions to fire and load kneeling:

- the right foot carried to the rear and to the right of the left heel, such that it is in a position convenient for placing the right knee upon the ground in bending the left leg;
- the right knee is then placed upon the ground;
- the piece is lowered as described below:
  - the left fore-arm supported upon the left thigh,
  - the right hand on the small of the stock,
  - the butt resting on the right thigh,
  - the left hand supporting the piece near the lower band.
- the right leg is then moved to the left around the knee, supported on the ground, until this leg is nearly perpendicular to the direction of the left foot,
- the soldier then seats himself comfortably on the right heel.

Attention to Detail!

To aim and fire:

Starting position is the kneeling position:

- raise the piece with the right hand,
- support the piece with the left, holding it near the lower band, (this differs from the image)
- rest the left elbow on the left thigh near the knee;
- seize the hammer with the right thumb,
- the fore-finger under the guard,
- cock the piece
- seize the piece at the small of the stock;
- bring the piece to the shoulder,
- *aim and fire.*



*To fire kneeling.—No. 301.*

Attention to Detail!

To reload:

Starting position is the kneeling firing position:

- Bring the piece down as soon as it is fired,
- support it with the left hand,
- the butt resting against the right thigh;
- carry the piece to the rear rising on the right knee,
- the barrel downward,
- the butt resting on the ground;
- support the piece with the left hand at the upper band,
- draw cartridge with the right and load the piece,
- ramming the ball, if necessary, with both hands.
- When loaded bring the piece to the front with the left hand, which holds it at the upper band;
- seize it at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock;
- turn the piece, the barrel uppermost and nearly horizontal,
- the left elbow resting on the left thigh;
- half cock, remove the old cap and prime,
- rise,
- return to the ranks.

### **TO FIRE AND LOAD LYING.**

307. In this exercise the, squad will be in one rank and loaded; the instruction will be given individually and without times or motions.

308. The instructor will command:

### **FIRE AND LOAD LYING.**

309. At this command, the man on the right of the, squad will move forward three paces and halt; he will then bring his piece to an order, drop on both knees, and place himself on the ground flat on his belly. In this position he will support the piece -nearly horizontal with the left hand, holding it near the lower band, the butt end of the piece and the left elbow resting on the ground, the barrel uppermost; cock the piece with the right hand, and carry this hand to the small of the stock; raise the piece with both hands, press the butt against the shoulder, and, resting on both elbows, aim and fire.

310. As soon as he has fired, bring the piece down and turn upon his left side, still resting on his left elbow; bring back the piece until the cock is opposite his breast, the butt end resting on the ground; take out a cartridge with the right hand; seize the small of the stock with this hand, holding the cartridge with the thumb and two first fingers; he will then throw himself on his back, still holding the piece with both hands carry the piece to the rear, place the butt between the heels, the barrel up, the muzzle elevated. In this position, charge cartridge, draw rammer, ram cartridge, and return rammer.

311. When finished loading, the man will turn again upon his left side, remove the old cap and prime, then raise the piece vertically, rise, turn about, and resume his position in the ranks.

312. The second man will be taught what has just been prescribed for the first, and so on throughout the squad.

# BAYONET EXERCISE

**{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}**

196. The recruits being at **shoulder arms, when the instructor shall wish to fix bayonets**, he will command:

*Fix-BAYONET.  
One time and three motions.*

197. (**First motion**.) Grasp the piece with the left hand at the height of the shoulder, and detach it slightly from the shoulder with the right hand.

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraphs 198-199 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}**

198. (~~Second motion~~.) ~~Quit the piece with the right hand, lower it with the left hand, opposite the middle of the body, and place the butt between the feet without shock; the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle three inches from the body; seize it with the right hand at the upper band, and carry the left hand reversed to the handle of the bayonet. If the rifle musket be used the barrel will be inclined forward, the muzzle eight inches from the body, and the left hand reversed to the handle of the bayonet.~~

199. (~~Third motion~~.) ~~Draw the bayonet from the scabbard and fix it on the extremity of the barrel; seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended, the right hand at the upper band. If the rifle musket be used the clasp will be turned as soon as the bayonet is fixed upon the barrel.~~

198. (**Second motion**.) Quit the piece with the right hand, lower it with the left hand, opposite the middle of the body, and place the butt between the feet without shock; the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle **eight inches** from the body; seize it with the right hand at the upper band, and carry **the left hand reversed to the handle of the bayonet**.

199. (**Third motion**.) Draw the bayonet from the scabbard and fix it on the extremity of the barrel; **the clasp will be turned as soon as the bayonet is fixed upon the barrel**, **seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended, the right hand at the upper band**.

**{Attention to Detail! Proper positioning of the left hand enables the soldier to easily raise the piece.}**

*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

200. (**First motion**.) Raise the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front: seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the right arm nearly extended.

201. (**Second motion**.) Drop briskly the left hand by the side.



**{The soldier being at Ordered Arms}**

*Fix-BAYONET.*

241. Take the position indicated No. 236, fix bayonets as has been explained, and **immediately resume the position of ordered arms.**

- 236. (First motion.) Seize the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, carry it with both hands opposite the middle of the body, the butt between the feet, the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle about eight inches from the body; carry the left hand reversed to the bayonet, draw it from the scabbard and fix it on the barrel; grasp the piece with the left hand below and near the upper band, seize the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand bent, the other fingers closed.

{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}

*Charge-BAYONET.*  
*One time and two motions.*

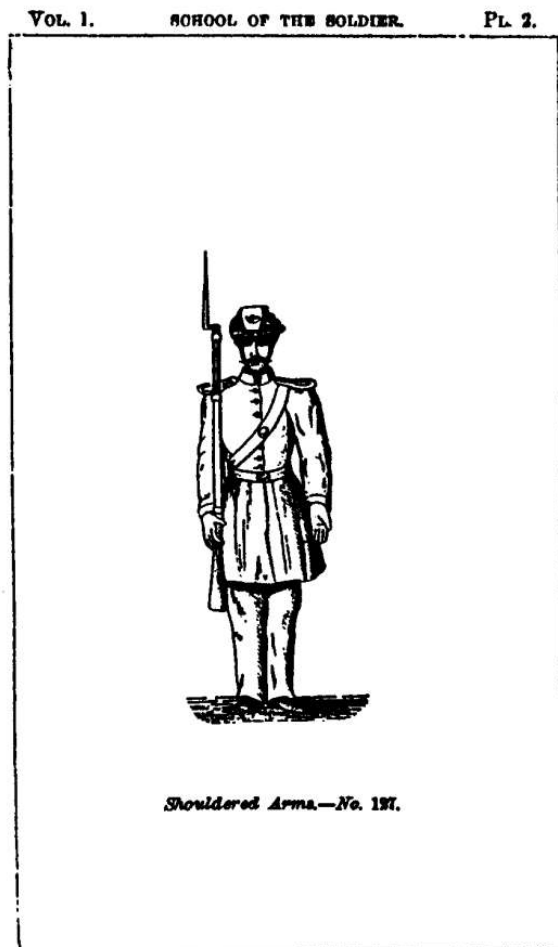
202. (First motion.) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand and make a half face to the right on the left heel; place the hollow of the right foot opposite to, and three inches from the left heel, the feet square; seize the piece at the same time with the left hand a little above the lower band.

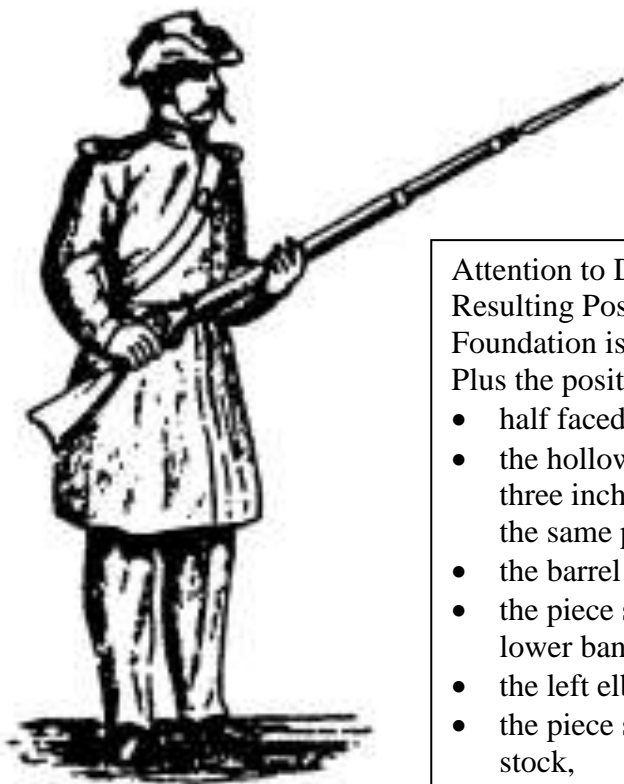
203. (Second motion.) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body - seize the small of the stock, at the same time, with the right hand, which will be supported against the hip; the point of the bayonet as high as the eye.

*Shoulder-ARMS.*  
*One time and two motions.*

204. (First motion.) Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand in facing to the front, place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front; turn the right hand so as to embrace the guard, slide the left hand to the height of the shoulder, the right hand nearly extended.

205. (Second motion.) Drop the left hand smartly by the side.





Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of the Soldier.

Plus the position for charge bayonet:

- half faced to the right,
- the hollow of the right foot placed opposite to, and three inches from the left heel, the feet square; (this is the same position for ABOUT FACE),
- the barrel uppermost,
- the piece seized with the left hand a little above the lower band,
- the left elbow against the body,
- the piece seized by the right hand at the small of the stock,
- the small of the stock rests against the hip,
- the point of the bayonet as high as the eye.

Charge bayonet.—No. 202.

## LESSON VI. BAYONET EXERCISE.

313. The bayonet exercise in this book will be confined to two movements, the guard against infantry, and the guard against cavalry. The men will be placed in one rank, with two paces interval, and, being at shoulder arms, the instructor will command:

1. *Guard against Infantry.* 2. GUARD.

*One time and two motions.*

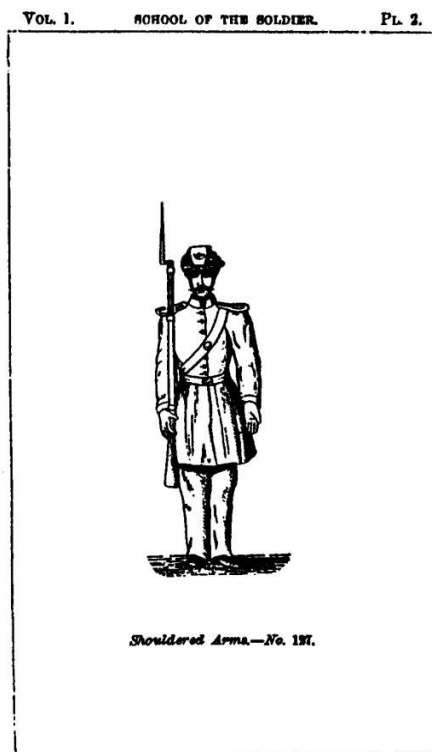
314. (First motion.) Make a half face to the right, turning on both heels, the feet square to each other; at the same time raise the piece slightly, and seize it with the left hand above and near the lower band.

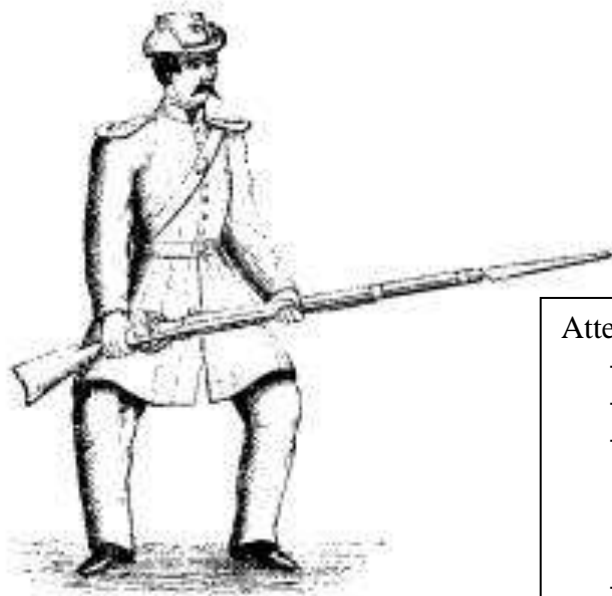
315. (Second motion.) Carry the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel on the prolongation of the left, the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs; lower the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body; seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock, the arms falling naturally, the point of the bayonet slightly elevated.

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

*One time and one motion.*

316. Throw up the piece with the left hand, and place it against the right shoulder, at the same time bring the right heel by the side of the left and face to the front.





*Guard against Infantry.—No. 314.*

Attention to Detail!

- half face to the right,
- the feet square to each other;
- the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel on the prolongation of the left,
- the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs;
- the piece raised slightly
- the piece seized with the left hand above and near the lower band.
- the barrel against the body,
- the piece seized with the right hand at the small of the stock,
- the arms falling naturally,
- the point of the bayonet slightly elevated.

1. *Guard against Cavalry.* 2. GUARD.

*One time and two motions.*

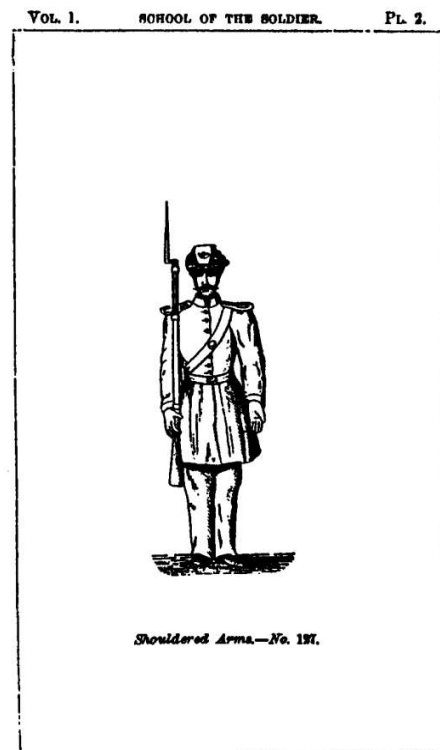
317. Both motions the same as for *guard against infantry*, except that the right hand will be supported against the hip, and the bayonet held at the height of the eye, as in *charge bayonet*.

- 314. (First motion.) Make a half face to the right, turning on both heels, the feet square to each other; at the same time raise the piece slightly, and seize it with the left hand above and near the lower band.
- 315. (Second motion.) Carry the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel on the prolongation of the left, the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs; lower the piece with both hands, the barrel uppermost, the left elbow against the body; seize the piece at the same time with the right hand at the small of the stock, the arms falling naturally, the point of the bayonet slightly elevated.

*Shoulder-ARMS.*

*One time and one motion.*

318. Spring up the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, at the same time bring the right heel by the side of the left, and face to the front.





*Guard against Cavalry.—No. 317.*

Attention to Detail!

- half face to the right,
- the feet square to each other;
- the right foot twenty inches perpendicularly to the rear, the right heel on the prolongation of the left,
- the knees slightly bent, the weight of the body resting equally on both legs;
- the piece raised slightly,
- the piece seized with the left hand above and near the lower band.
- the barrel against the body;
- the piece seized with the right hand at the small of the stock,
- the right hand supported against the hip,
- the point of the bayonet held at the height of the eye.

## PART THIRD.

### TO STACK ARMS.

The men being at order arms with bayonets unfixed, the instructor will command:

*Stack-ARMS.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 423 does not apply for the rifle musket}**

~~423. At this command, the front-rank man of every even-numbered file will pass his piece before him, seizing it with the left hand near the upper band; will place the butt a little in advance of his left toe, the barrel turned toward the body, and draw the rammer slightly from its place; the front-rank man of every odd-numbered file will also draw the rammer slightly, and pass his piece to the man next on his left, who will seize it with the right hand near the upper band, and place the butt a little in advance of the right toe of the man next on his right, the barrel turned to the front; he will then cross the rammers of the two pieces, the rammer of the piece of the odd-numbered man being inside; the rear-rank man of every even file will also draw his rammer, lean his piece forward, the lock plate downwards, advance the right foot about six inches, and insert the rammer between the rammer and barrel of the piece of his front-rank man; with his left hand he will place the butt of his piece on the ground, thirty-two inches in rear of, and perpendicular to, the front-rank, bringing back his right foot by the side of the left; the front-rank man of every even file will at the same time lean the stack to the rear, quit it with his right hand, and force all the rammers down. The stack being thus formed, the rear-rank man of every odd file will pass his piece into his left hand, the barrel to the front, and inclining it forward, will rest it on the stack.~~

**{The soldier being at Ordered Arms with Bayonets Fixed}**

*Stack-ARMS.*

424. If the rifle musket be used and it is required to stack arms with the bayonets fixed, the following will be the method.

425. At the command stack arms, the front-rank man of every even-numbered file will pass his piece before him, seizing it with the left hand above the middle band, and place the butt behind and near the right foot of the man next on the left, the barrel turned to the front. At the same time the front-rank man of every odd-numbered file will pass his piece before him, seizing it with the left hand below the middle band, and hand it to the man next on the left; the latter will receive it with the right hand two inches above the middle band, throw the butt about thirty-two inches to the front, opposite to his right shoulder, inclining the muzzle toward him, and lock the shanks of the two bayonets: the lock of this second piece toward the right, and its shank above that of the first piece. The rear-rank man of every even file will project his bayonet forward, and introduce it (using both hands) between and under the shanks of the two other bayonets. He will then abandon the piece to his file leader, who will receive it with the right hand under the middle band, bring the butt to the front, holding up his own piece and the stack with the left hand, and place the butt of this third piece between the feet of the man next on the right, the S plate to the rear. The stack thus formed, the rear-rank man of every odd file will pass his piece into his left hand, the barrel turned to the front and sloping the bayonet forward, rest it on the stack.



426. The men of both ranks having taken the position of the soldier without arms, the instructor will command:

1. *Break ranks.* 2. MARCH.

**TO RESUME ARMS.**

427. Both ranks being re-formed in rear of their stacks, the instructor will command:

*Take-ARMS.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraph 428 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}**

428. At this command, the rear-rank man of every odd-numbered file will withdraw his piece from the stack; the front-rank man of every even file will seize his own piece with the left hand and that of the man on his right with his right hand, both above the lower band; the rear-rank man of the even file will seize his piece with the right hand at the middle band; these two men will raise up the stack to loosen the rammers, or shanks of the bayonets. The front-rank man of every odd file will facilitate the disengagement of the rammers, if necessary, by drawing them out slightly with the left hand, and will receive his piece from the hand of the man next on his left; the four men will retake the position of the soldier at order arms.

**{The soldier being at Shoulder Arms}**

*Unfix-BAYONET.  
One time and three motions.*

**{Attention to Detail! Paragraphs 209-210 rewritten to incorporate the rifle musket instructions}**

209. (First and second motions.) The same as the first and second motions of fix bayonet, except that, at the end of the second command turn the clasp of the bayonet by pressing against it with the thumb of the left hand, and then grasp the socket of the bayonet with the left hand, the shank resting between the thumb and fore-finger, the, thumb pointed up.

- 197. (First motion.) Grasp the piece with the left hand at the height of the shoulder, and detach it slightly from the shoulder with the right hand.
- 198. (Second motion.) Quit the piece with the right hand, lower it with the left hand, opposite the middle of the body, and place the butt between the feet without shock; the rammer to the rear, the barrel vertical, the muzzle eight inches from the body; seize it with the right hand at the upper band, and carry the left hand reversed to the handle of the bayonet.

210. (Third motion.) Wrest off the bayonet, turn it to the right, bringing the point of the bayonet down; change the position of the hand without quitting hold of the shank of the socket, return the bayonet to the scabbard, and seize the piece with the left hand, the arm extended.

**{Attention to Detail! After the soldier has unfixd the bayonet, he waits for an explicit command to return to the position of Shoulder Arms.}**

*Shoulder-ARMS.  
One time and two motions.*

211. (First motion.) The same as the first motion from fix bayonet, No. 200.

- 200. (First motion.) Raise the piece with the left hand and place it against the right shoulder, the rammer to the front: seize the piece at the same time with he right hand at the swell of the stock, the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the right arm nearly extended.

212. (Second motion.) The same as the second motion from fix bayonet, No. 201.

- 201. (Second motion.) Drop briskly the left hand by the side.

**{The soldier being at Ordered Arms}**

**{Attention to Detail! The only time the Manual of Arms describes the command to Unfix BAYONET, the soldier is at Shoulder Arms. The only clue, as to how to behave when the Soldier is at Ordered Arms when the command is issued, is found in the instruction for Inspection Arms. In those instructions, the soldier started in the position of Ordered Arms and, after unfixing the bayonet, returns to Order Arms.}**

238. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, in passing along the front of the rank. Each, as the instructor reaches him, will raise smartly his piece with his right hand, seize it with the left between the lower band and guide sight, the lock to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye; the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle and, after inspecting it, will return it to the recruit, who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms.

239. When the instructor shall have passed him, each recruit will retake the position prescribed at the command inspection, return the rammer, unfix the bayonet, and resume the position of ordered arms.

**{Attention to Detail! Here the soldier started at ordered arms and, after unfixing the bayonet, returns to Order Arms.}**



*Unfix bayonet.—No. 209.*

Attention to Detail!

Resulting Position:

Foundation is the Position of the Soldier.

Plus the position for unfix bayonet:

- The butt is placed between the feet without shock;
- the rammer to the rear,
- the barrel vertical,
- the muzzle eight inches from the body;
- the piece seized with the right hand at the upper band,

Once the bayonet has been returned to its scabbard,

- the piece seized with the left hand, the arm extended.

If we were at the shoulder when instructed to unfix bayonets, we remain in this final position until ordered to do otherwise;

- butt on the ground and placed between our feet,
- rammer to the rear,
- the piece seized in both hands as prescribed,

Regarding this illustration, according to the modification to paragraph 210 for the Rifle Musket, the soldier will seize the musket with the right hand at the upper band.

## REMARKS ON THE MANUAL OF ARMS.

246. The manual of arms frequently distorts the persons of recruits before they acquire ease and confidence in the several positions. The instructor will therefore frequently recur to elementary principles in the course of the lessons.

247. Recruits are also extremely liable to curve the sides and back, and to derange the shoulders, especially in loading. Consequently, the instructor will not cause them to dwell too long at a time in one position.

248. When, after some days of exercise in the manual of arms, the four men shall be well established in their use, the instructor will always terminate the lesson by marching the men for some time in one rank, and at one pace apart, in common and quick time, in order to confirm them more and more in the mechanism of the step; he will also teach them to mark time, and to change step, which will be executed in the following manner:

**END OF THE MANUAL OF ARMS**

# PARADE REST

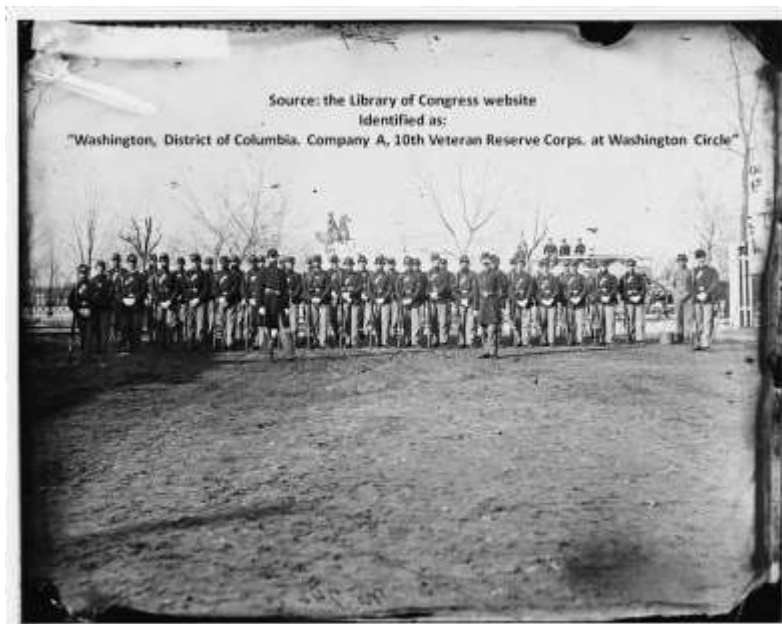
*Parade—REST.*

At the command *rest*, turn the piece on the heel of the butt, the barrel to the left, the muzzle in front of the centre of the body; seize it at the same time with the left hand just above, and with the right at the upper band; carry the right foot six inches to the rear, the left knee slightly bent.

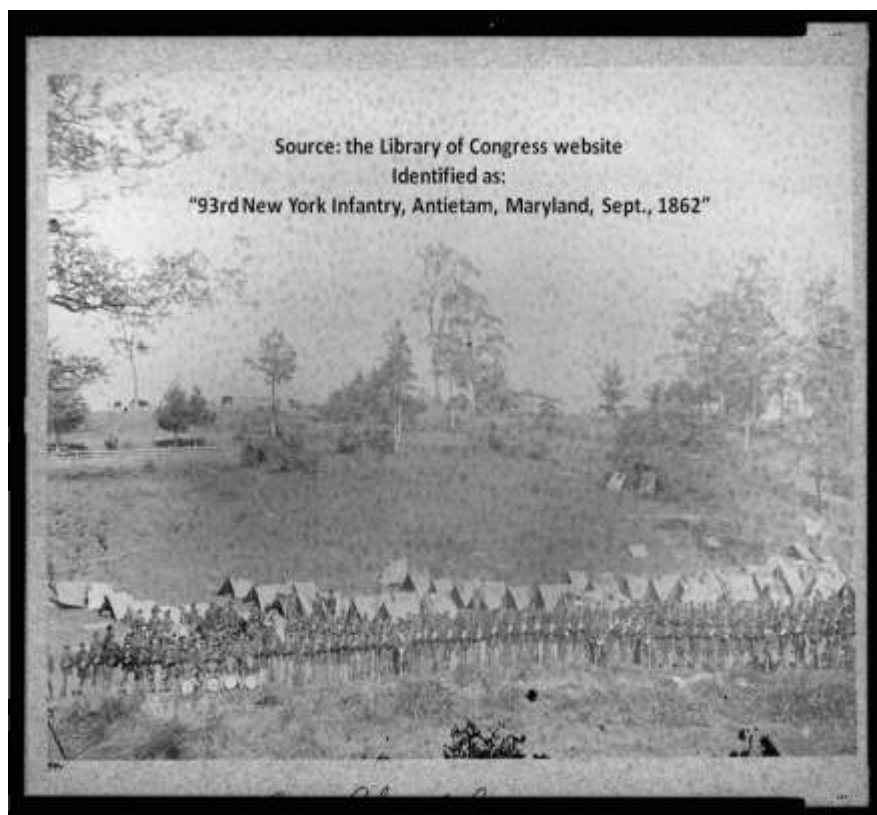
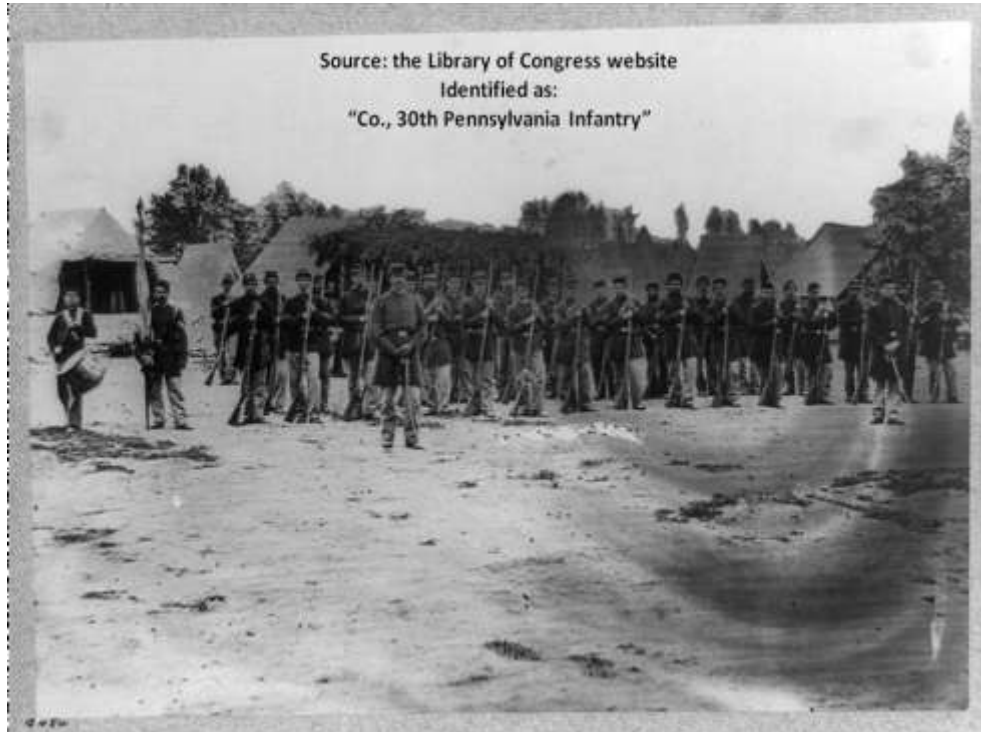
**{Attention to Detail!**

**There is debate about which version to use when the command “Parade – REST” is given:**

**As described in the United States Army regulations of 1861: “At the last word of this command, the soldier will carry the right foot six inches in rear of the left heel, the left knee slightly bent, the body upright upon the right leg; the musket resting against the hollow of the right shoulder, the hands crossed in front, the backs of them outward, and the left hand uppermost.”**

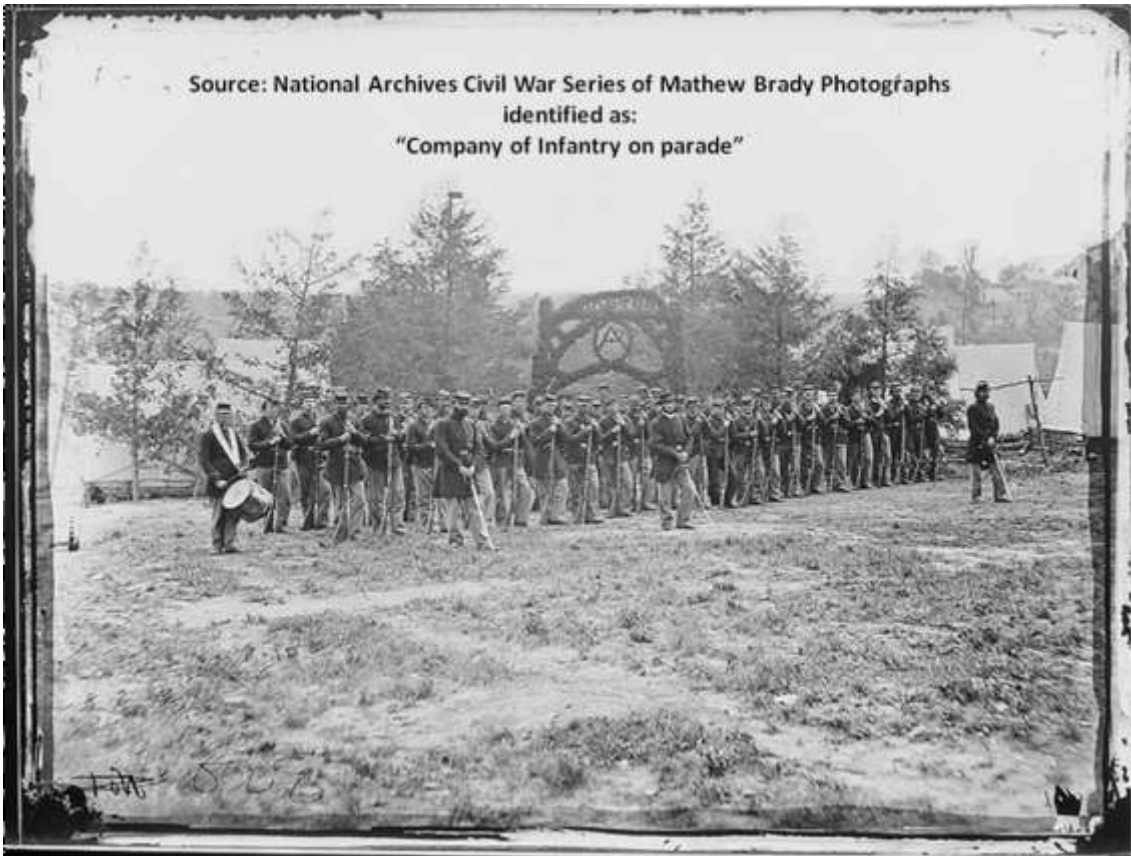


As described in Casey's (and Hardee's): "At the command *rest*, turn the piece on the heel of the butt, the barrel to the left, the muzzle in front of the centre of the body; seize it at the same time with the left hand just above, and with the right at the upper band; carry the right foot six inches to the rear, the left knee slightly bent."

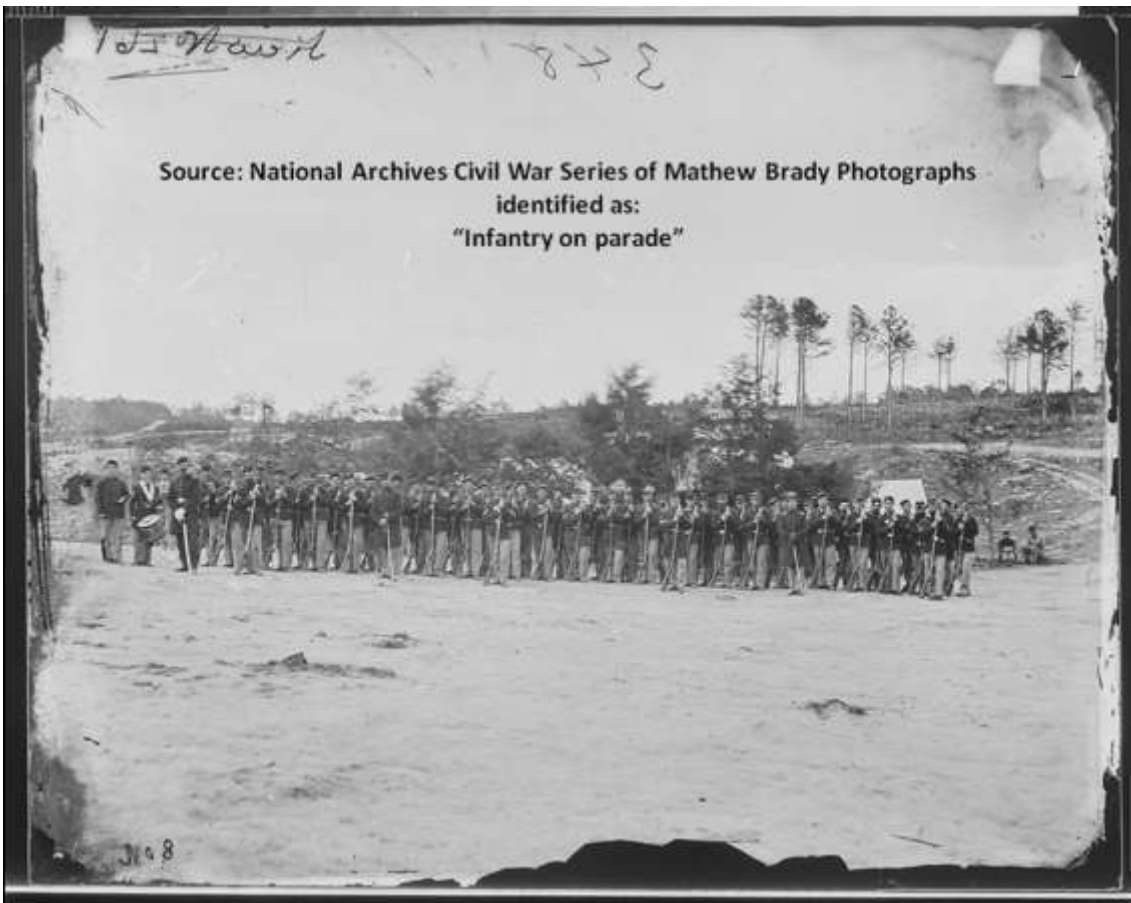




Source: National Archives Civil War Series of Mathew Brady Photographs  
identified as:  
"Company of Infantry on parade"



Source: National Archives Civil War Series of Mathew Brady Photographs  
identified as:  
"Infantry on parade"



Some persons assert that the 1861 regulations were written for the longer length smooth bore muskets, and that the tactics were written for the shorter length rifled musket.

In a response posted 14 June 2011 on a thread discussing the topic of which Parade Rest instruction to use, Michael A. Schaffner stated :

“The Army and Navy Journal addressed the question in the December 24, 1864 issue, in which the Commandant of Cadets at West Point provided answers to several "Questions in Tactics" written to the editor. In this case he writes, "The parade-rest of the Tactics is used." This should settle the matter definitively, at least for Federals in the latter part of the war. But the fact that the question came up at all, and was considered worthy of response in a national publication, tells us that a certain degree of confusion is itself authentic...”

Since we have no evidence as to which maneuver the 7<sup>th</sup> MD used, we will use the one described in Casey’s.

Note that in both instructions there is no direction to place the feet perpendicular to each other. In both instructions, the soldier is instructed to “carry the foot ...”. It does not instruct the soldier to place the right foot “at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to and against the left heel” to form the position referred to as the “T”. The right foot is simply moved six inches to the rear..}

