

A New Plan of Discipline and
Exercise for the 1st Troop of Rangers, Georgia



Published at Uchee Creek, by R.Shephard

A.D. MMVIII

Some Remarks

Several manuals intended to provide instruction in drill were published during the period of the French and Indian War. Of these several works, those written by General Humphrey Bland and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland were the most widespread and likely to have been used by Provincial troops in North America.

Bland's manual went through several editions, and heavily influenced what was written by the Duke of Cumberland in 1757, as well as a number of other contemporary English militia manuals. A 1757 edition of Cumberland's was sent to Colonel Henry Bouquet in January of 1759, with orders to instruct his troops in it, as well as all the regiments in American were to do.

While many of the basics are covered by Bland and Cumberland, a thorough consultation of other works is necessary to fill in some gaps or find instruction on other maneuvers.

What follows then, are instructions and advise pertaining to marching, the proper handling of arms, guard duty, and other aspects of military drill that may be presented at living history programs and military encampments representing the period of the French and Indian War. The explanations of the various movements have been transcribed in language that will hopefully be easier to understand than that which is found in some of the period works, while still retaining the character and flavor of those earlier pieces. All persons portraying rangers of the 1st Troop of Rangers, Georgia should acquaint themselves with this manual, particularly where it concerns the manual exercise.

Ronald Shephard
Captain
1st Troop of Rangers, Georgia
April 2008

Credits:

Scott Douglas, Fort Dobbs Historic site, Statesville, NC was the original author of the copy of this drill. We would like to express our appreciation for his allowing us to use this for our troop.

PART I

Commands

Great care must be taken not to begin a motion until the command or drum signal is ended. Commands and signals to be very exact in counting a second of time, or *1, 2*, between every motion. The exercising officer to take the space of two seconds between the end of each motion and his giving the command for another; and this the men will observe, when they exercise by one word of command only.

As performing the exercise well depends a great deal on how the words of command are given, those commands should be delivered clear and distinct, that the men may not mistake one command for another. The officer must not over-strain his voice and must learn to emphasize the right place, and where to make the proper pauses, which can be of great service to the men, in giving them time to think on the word of command before it is fully delivered. Most commands are given in two parts, the first being the preparative (explaining what is to be done) and the second being that of execution. Pauses between commands of preparation and execution shall be indicated in this manual by the placement of a comma. The delivery of commands should be practiced until they are given in a strong, clear and judicious manner.

Command: *Take Care!*

A perfect silence and the utmost attention and steadiness are to be observed both by officers and men.

Assembly

When assembly is beat, or the officer orders the men to *stand to their arms*, the soldiers will present themselves facing their officer. The serjeant will place a corporal to the right of the formation as a marker. The other soldiers will assemble to his left and in one rank, unless ordered otherwise. When under arms, the men should fall in with their firelocks at half-cock and pans shut. The men must always maintain perfect steadiness and silence when in ranks and will give their full attention to the word of command.

The men shall stand in *close order*, lightly touching at the elbow. If open order is desired, the officer shall command "Take open order, MARCH!" at which the men will stretch out their right arms and side-step to their left, so that they may touch the shoulder of the man next on their right with only their finger tips.

The shortest men to be placed in the centre of the line and the tallest on the right and left. If there are enough men to allow it, the officer may wish to form the men into two ranks. He will tell off the men into four sections from the right.

Forming Ranks

To form two ranks, the officer will command "Form your Ranks, MARCH!" at which the men of the centre sections will march one pace to their front and halt. These men will constitute the front rank. To form the rear rank, the officer will command "To the Right and Left Inward, FACE! March! Halt! Front!" At this, the men of the flank sections will face towards that space formerly occupied by the centre section and will march to fill that space until they are halted (when the two section meet) and faced to their proper front.

Opening Ranks

Once formed into ranks, the officer may wish to cause the ranks to be opened to facilitate inspection. He shall command "Rear Rank, to your Proper Distance," at which the men of the rear rank will face to the right about. The command "MARCH!" will cause the rear rank to march four paces to the rear where they are commanded to "HALT!" whereupon they halt, then face to their proper front again by the right about. To close the ranks, the command shall be "Rear Rank, Close to the Front, MARCH!" at which the rear rank marches four paces and regains their dress.

Dismissing the Company

When the company is finished with its duty and is to be dismissed, the officer will command "To the Right About, DISMISS!" At which the men will face to the rear, and march forward three paces before dispersing. If there be a drummer, he should beat a Ruffle at the last part of the command. If the company be under arms, the officer will first cause the firelocks to be clubbed and only then order the dismissal.

The Position of a Soldier While Under Arms

The heels are to be in a line, not more than four inches apart, the toes turned out, the shoulders square to the front and kept back; the breast pressed forward; the belly drawn in, without bending the right hand hanging down the right side with the back of the hand to the front. The head turned a little to the right, except the right-hand man, who looks full to the front or to the exercising officer.

The firelock is carried on the left shoulder, the barrel outwards, the butt in the left hand, two fingers being under it, the middle finger just upon the turn, the forefinger and the thumb just above the turn, the piece almost upright, the butt flat against the outside of the hip bone, the lock a little turned up, the guard just below the left breast, the piece pressed to the body with the ball of the thumb.

PART II

Facings

-To the Left, FACE! (Two Motions)

1st- Bring the right foot forward, placing the heel against the inside of the left toe.

2nd- Face to the left upon both heels.

-To the Right, Face!

1st- Raise the right foot and plant it four inches behind the left heel.

2nd- Face to the right upon both heels.

-To the Right About, Face!

1st- Raise the right foot and plant it four inches behind the left heel.

2nd- Face to the right about upon both heels.

3rd- Bring the right foot next to the left.

-To the Left About, Face!

1st- Bring the right foot forward, placing the heel against the inside of the left toe.

2nd- Face to the left about upon both heels.

3rd- Bring the right foot next to the left.

Marching

At the command "Forward, MARCH!", the men shall step off with their left feet. The eyes of the men should be fixed in the distance of the direction in which they are marching, not looking down at the ground or their feet. The distance of the step is to be one pace or 24" from heel to heel, unless the command, "Half, STEP!" is given, in which case the step is halved to 12".

The cadence in common marching should be 60 beats per minute, unless the command to "Quick, MARCH!" is given, in which case the cadence shall be increased to 120 beats. The command, "Slow, MARCH!" will cause the cadence to be beat again at 60 beats per minute. To cease marching, the warning "Take Care!" should be given, followed by the command "HALT!" which shall be said as the right foot comes to the ground. The left foot is then brought up next to the right.

Changing Direction by Turns

The simplest way to change the direction of a marching company is to cause them to turn. This is a quarter-pivot, done by each soldier in a formation, the result of which is a change in the direction of that formation.

-To the Right... TURN!

The preparative word "Right" should be said as the right feet of the company come to the ground. A pause of a few steps should here be given to allow the men to think about the maneuver. The command "TURN!" is also said as the right foot hits the ground. The men will take one farther step forward with their left feet, pivot ninety degrees on their right heels, and step off again with their left feet. The opposite of this command is:

-To the Left... TURN!

When the company is to march to the right about, the command shall be:

-To the Right About... TURN!

Again, the preparative "Right About" is given as the right foot comes to the ground. After a pause of a few more steps, the command "TURN!" is given as the right foot hits the ground. One farther step forward is taken with the left foot, then spin to the right about on both heels, stepping off again with the left foot.

Changing Direction by Wheels

When the entire formation is to turn, and not the soldiers within it, it is called a "wheel". A wheel may be to the right or left, accomplishing a turn of a quarter circle (ninety degrees), or the wheel may be to the right or left about, which will accomplish a half-circle (one hundred-eighty degrees).

In wheeling, the men of the front rank close, or dress, to the pivot (inside) of the wheel, so that they touch the man who is next to them on that side. At the same time, the men must look to the outside of the wheel in order to keep their line even. Simply put, the men should lean in and look out.

The men of the rear rank need only to look forward and cover their file leader, though the rear rank should incline slightly to the outside of the wheel in order to do this.

The motion of each man is quicker or slower, according to the distance he is from the pivot. Thus; when you wheel to the right, each man moves quicker than his right-hand man. The man who stands at the pivot of the wheel in the front rank must cast his eye to the outside of the line and simply pivot in place as he marches. The outside man should look a little towards the pivot of the wheel and should neither speed nor slow his pace, but must march as he normally would, with the rest of the line adjusting their pace to his.

When wheeling a quarter-circle from the halt, the command shall be:

-To the Right (or Left) Wheel, MARCH!

When wheeling a half-circle from the halt, the command shall be:
-Wheel to the Right (or Left) About, MARCH!

When wheeling on the march, the command of execution shall be “WHEEL!” as in:
-To the Right, WHEEL!

If the wheel is to be less than a full quarter or half-circle, the officer will command, “FRONT!” when the line is to cease wheeling and resume marching to its front.

It may be that the officer will wish the company to wheel by divisions of twos, fours, etc. In this case, it is most necessary that the men know their place in the line.

-Wheel by fours to the Right, MARCH!

Every division of four men in a rank wheel to the right.

A wheel may also be executed on the centre file. Which file is to act as the pivot should be designated prior to the company beginning its manoeuvres. As in a normal wheel, the men should look to the outside and keep elbow contact towards the direction of the wheel. The command to wheel on the centre shall be:

-Upon the centre, to the Right (or Left), WHEEL!

The Oblique Step

On some occasions while on the march, the officer may wish to shift the line at an oblique angle to one direction or the other, while still keeping the men faced to their front. The command shall be:

-To the Right (or Left) INCLINE!

At this, the men will continue to face forward, but will cross-step in a forty-five degree angle towards the direction indicated. The company will cease marching at the incline and resume their normal march to the front at the command “FRONT!”

Manoeuvring by Files

At times, moving a company in line is not practical. In a situation such as marching on a narrow road or other defile, it is best to have the company march by files. A “file” most commonly refers to a pair of soldiers, placed one behind the other while in ranks. It is understood in the following manoeuvres that a pair of files shall move together.

-Company will advance by files from the Right, MARCH!

At this, the two right hand files will march straight forward. The rest of the company will face to their right and march until they reach the position of the first files. Each pair of files will turn to the left and continue marching, resulting in a column of two files marching to the front.

To re-form the company, the command shall be:

-Company will re-form to the Left, REFORM!

At this, the lead pair of files march by the half-step. The following files incline to the left until they reach their place in the line. When the entire company is reformed into line, the company is commanded to resume the previous marching pace.

The command may also be given to advance by files from the left or from the centre, as in:

-Company will advance by files from the centre, MARCH!

The centre two files will march straight forward. The rest of the company will face towards the centre files, either to the right, or to the left, and march until they reach the position of the centre files. They will then turn to the right or left and continue marching, resulting in a double file of march.

PART III

Movements of Arms

The First Part

In this section, all the various commands of the Manual Exercise are given. Many of these commands will not be given in battle, but are only spoken during instruction. The men should be taught to give a pause (1, 2) between each motion of a movement.

-Take Care to Perform the Manual Exercise!

-Join your Right Hand to your Firelock! (One Motion)

With your left hand, turn your firelock so that the lock is facing to the front, keeping the barrel in a perpendicular line. At the same time, the right hand seizes the firelock at the wrist.

-Poise your Firelock! (One Motion)

With both hands and a quick motions, bring the firelock from your shoulder, thrusting it from you at the same time with your right hand (letting your left fall down your left side) with the lock outward and thumb inward, directly opposite to your face, and your feet in the same position as when shouldered.

-Rest your Firelock! (Two Motions)

Ist. Turn the firelock with the barrel towards you, and at the same time seize it with the left hand, just over the lock; so that the little finger may touch it, holding the firelock with both hands, and extending your arms as much as your can without constraint.

2nd. With a quick motion bring the firelock down to your right side, the butt-end as low as the middle of your thigh, the muzzle pointing a little forward, the stock in the left hand with the thumb upward, your right thumb on the cock, the forefinger before the trigger, and the others behind the guard. At the same time that you bring down the firelock, you must step back with your right foot, the toe pointing to the right, the right knee stiff, and the left a little bending, keeping your body very straight. The firelock must be held on the right side at a little distance from the body, and both the body and the face must present themselves to the front as much as possible without constraint.

-Order your Firelock! (Three Motions)

1st. Keep the right hand in the same position, and raise the muzzle in a perpendicular line with the left.

2nd. Quit the firelock with your right hand, sinking it with the left, and seize it at the same time with the right hand near the muzzle, the thumb upwards.

3rd. Quit your left hand, place the butt-end of the firelock with your right hand on the ground, on the outside of your right foot, even with the little toe, the right thumb resting upon the bayonet lug. The right foot and the butt-end of the firelock come to the ground at the same time. The heels must be in a straight line, the toes turned a little outward, and that part of the right arm, from the hand to the elbow, must run along the outside of the firelock, and the left hanging down by the left side.

-Ground your Firelock! (Four Motions)

1st. Turn the firelock with the right hand until you bring the barrel towards you, and the lock pointing to the rear, and at the same time, taking a half-face to the right, lift up your right foot, and place it against the flat side of the butt, the toe pointing directly to the right.

2nd. Step directly forward a moderate pace with the left foot, slipping down the right hand at the same time, to the middle of the barrel, lay the firelock on the ground in a straight line to the front, the lock upwards.

3rd. Raise yourself up again, bringing back your left foot to its proper place, and keep your body half-faced to the right.

4th. Turn your right foot on the ball, over the butt-end, bringing your body at the same time to its proper front, letting your arms hang down by your side in an easy posture.

-Take up your Firelock! (Four Motions)

1st. Turn the right foot, on the heel, to the right, bringing it over the butt-end of the firelock and placing it behind it; at the same time, turn your right hand, with an easy motion, to the right, making a half-face with your body to the right also.

2nd. Step forward with the left foot a moderate pace, taking hold of the firelock with the right hand about the middle of the barrel.

3rd. Raise up yourself and the firelock, bringing back your left foot at the same time to its former place.

-Rest your Firelock! (Three Motions)

1st. Turn your right thumb inwards, and slip your right hand down the barrel, as far as your arm may allow without constraint.

2nd. Raise the firelock with the right hand before you, and at the same time take hold of it with the left just under the right.

3rd. Let go your right hand and place it under the cock, stepping back with the right foot at the same time.

-Club your Firelock! (Four Motions)

1st. Keep the firelock firm in your left hand, and cast it about with the right, bringing up the right foot at the same time, and taking hold of the firelock with your right hand as low as you can reach without constraint, placing the guard opposite to your eyes, the muzzle and left thumb downwards, and the lock from you.

2nd. Let go the left hand, and raise the firelock with your right opposite to the left shoulder, seizing it at the same time with the left hand within an inch of the muzzle, keeping your arms stretched out, and the firelock in a perpendicular line, with the butt upwards.

3rd. Bring it to your left shoulder with the lock upwards, keeping your elbows square.

4th. Quit the firelock with your right hand, bringing it down nimbly to your right side, and letting your left elbow fall down at the same time; observing the same position of body as directed in the position of a soldier under arms.

-Rest your Firelock! (Four Motions)

1st. Turn the firelock with your left hand inwards, taking hold of it at the same time with the right, an handful above the left, keeping the elbow square.

2nd. Bring the firelock with both hands before the centre of your body in a perpendicular line, raising the butt high, and extending your arms.

3rd. Let go your left hand, sinking the firelock with the right 'till the guard comes opposite to your eyes, seizing it near the lock at the same time with the left hand, the thumb downwards, and the right thumb upwards.

4th. Let go the right hand, and turn the firelock with your left, bringing the butt-end down, and come to your rest, by placing your right hand under the cock, and at the same time stepping back with your right foot.

-Poise your Firelock!

-Shoulder your Firelock! (Two Motions)

1st. Turning your firelock with the right hand, bring it opposite to your left shoulder, the barrel outwards and place the butt in your left hand so as your thumb and forefinger may be above the turn of it and the three fingers under the butt, the piece upright, but sunk so as to bring the guard a little lower than the left breast.

2nd. Let the firelock fall upon the left shoulder, throwing back the right arm, so as it may hand straight along the right side, the bottom of the butt being then just above the hip-bone.

-Join your Right Hand to your Firelock!

-Poise your Firelock!

-Rest on your Arms! (Three Motions)

1st. Sink the firelock with your right hand as low as your arm will permit without constraint, seizing it at the same time with your left hand about the height of your chin, the left elbow turned out, and the muzzle upright.

2nd. Quit the firelock with your right hand, and sink it in a perpendicular line near the ground with your left, seizing it at the same time with your right hand near the muzzle.

3rd. Bring the butt to the ground, slipping your left hand at the same time up to your right, and keep your elbows square.

-Draw your Bayonets! (Two Motions)

1st. Seize your bayonet with your right hand.

2nd. Draw it out briskly, extending your arm before you at the height of your shoulder, holding the point of the bayonet upwards, and your thumb on the hollow of the shank, that when you fix it on your muzzle, the notch of the socket may come even with the sight of the barrel.

-Fix your Bayonets! (Three Motions)

1st. Place the socket of the bayonet upon the muzzle of the firelock.

2nd. Turn the bayonet from you, and fix it.

3rd. Quit the handle of the bayonet, and seize the firelock just under it with your left hand, placing the palm on the back of the left.

-Poise your Bayonets! (Three Motions)

1st. Raise the firelock with your right hand, in a perpendicular line as high as your forehead, and slipping down your left at the same time, seize the firelock about the middle of the barrel.

2nd. Raise the firelock with your left hand, seizing it at the same time under the lock with the right, keeping the lock outward.

3rd. Come to your poise, by thrusting it from you with the right hand, and dropping your left.

-Rest your Bayonets! (Two Motions, as in “Rest your Firelocks”)

-Rest your Bayonet on your Left Arm! (Two Motions)

1st. Turn the lock to the front.

2nd. Stepping with the right foot to the right, let go the left hand, sinking the firelock at the same time with the right, take hold of the cock and steel with the left, the cock lying on the middle finger, and the steel on the lower joint of the thumb, the upper part of the stock resting on the bend of middle of the left arm, the barrel upwards, the butt sloping downwards, towards the middle space between your thighs, keeping both hands as low as you can without constraint. The butt and muzzle must be kept at an equal distance from your body, the firelock running in a triangular line.

-Rest your Bayonets! (Three Motions)

1st. Slip your left hand, without moving the firelock, and take hold of it above the lock, placing the thumb upwards.

2nd. Bring the firelock to a recover.

3rd. Come briskly to your rest.

When rendering a salute with firelocks, the command “Present your Arms” may be given, that movement being the same as “Rest your Bayonets.” The direction of presented arms may be changed as follows:

-To the Right! (Three Motions)

1st. Bring the firelock to the recover, with the right heel four inches behind the left, the right toe pointing to the right.

2nd. Face upon both heels to the right.

3rd. Come down to your Rest, with both firelock and feet.

-To the Right-About! (Three Motions as above, only facing to the right about)

-To the Left! (Three Motions)

1st. Bring the firelock to the recover, at the same time bring up the right heel to the ball of the left foot, the right toe pointing to the right.

2nd. Face upon both heels to the left.

3rd. Come down to your Rest, with both firelock and feet.

-To the Left-About! (Three Motions as above, only facing to the left about)

From either the Rest or the Recover, bayonets may be charged as follows:

-Charge your Bayonets! (One Motion)

Step forward about eighteen inches with the left foot, bending the left knee, and at the same time seizing the butt with the right hand, placing the plate full in the palm of that hand, bring down the muzzle, so as the firelock may rest upon the left arm, almost level, and as high as your breast, the left elbow turned out towards the front, the fingers and thumb towards the lock.

The front rank only charges their bayonets, the rear ranks come to the Recover.

-Recover your Arms!

-Rest on your Arms!

-Unfix your Bayonets!

-Return your Bayonets!

-Poise your Firelocks!

-Shoulder your Firelocks!

It should be noted that in many instances, and with experienced troops, it is not necessary to always give such commands as "Poise your Firelock" and "Join your Right Hand to your Firelock", but that the men will still be cautious to perform the movements, though the command not be given.

The Second Part

In this section, all the individual steps of loading and firing are given for the purposes of instruction. It should be noted that not all of these commands may be given when drilling experienced troops.

-Take Care to Perform the Firing Exercise!

-Join your Right Hand to your Firelock!

-Recover your Arms! (One Motion)

Raise the firelock with your right hand (as if to poise it) at the same time turning the barrel inwards and seizing it with the left hand just above the feather spring, the elbows raised and the hammer about the height of the breast.

-Handle your Cartridge! (Four Motions)

1st. Step back with the right foot, so as to bring that heel four inches behind the left heel facing full to the right, at the same time bring back the firelock almost level, the butt under the right breast resting it on the bend of the left arm and in the hollow betwixt the thumb and forefinger of that hand, the forefinger lying along the feather spring, the muzzle of the piece a little higher than the butt.

2nd. Put the ball of the right thumb behind the hammer and force it back so as to open the pan.

3rd. Bring down your right hand to your pouch and taking out your cartridge with the two forefingers and thumb, bring the end of it into your mouth, the right elbow a little raised.

-Uncap your Cartridge! (One Motion)

Bite off the top of the cartridge paper a good way down and (placing immediately your thumb upon the mouth of it) bring it opposite to the pan, the cartridge being held upright.

-Prime! (Two Motions)

1st. Shake carefully the powder into the pan.

2nd. Covering the mouth of your cartridge with your thumb bring the two last fingers behind the hammer.

-Shut your pans! (One Motion)

Shut the pan with the two last fingers and pushing down the butt cast back the muzzle of the piece catching it in the hollow of the right hand letting the firelock slip through the left hand till the butt comes near to the ground & opposite to the left toe, the piece in turning up must be kept close to the body, the cartridge (covered with the thumb) close to the muzzle in a line with the barrel, the right elbow turned down.

-Load with Cartridge! (Two Motions)

1st. Put the cartridge into the barrel, shaking out the powder.

2nd. Pushing the ball into the muzzle with the forefinger, seize immediately the butt end of the rammer with your thumb and forefinger.

-Draw your Rammer! (Three Motions)

1st. Draw out your rammer as far as you can and catching it again with the right hand, the thumb and forefinger turned downwards.

2nd. Clear it of the pipes turning it immediately, and placing the butt end of it against your breast, shorten it.

3rd. Bring the end of it into the muzzle upon the cartridge.

-Ram Down your Cartridge! (Three Motions)

1st. Ram down the cartridge quick and with good force, at the rebound of the rammer catch it close at the muzzle of the piece, the thumb and forefinger turned downwards.

2nd. Drawing it out of the barrel, turn it, shorten it against your breast.

3rd. Bring the small end just into the front pipe.

-Return your Rammer! (Two Motions)

1st- Push the rammer down through the pipes, immediately pressing the muzzle of the piece towards the front.

2nd. Raise the firelock with your left hand, bring the right hand under the lock, the piece than being held in both hands the barrel upright.

-Shoulder your Firelock! (Two Motions)

1st. Face to the left bringing your right heel within four inches of the left, at the same time bring the firelock opposite the left shoulder, the barrel outwards, placing the butt of the firelock in the left hand, three fingers under it, and the thumb and forefinger just above the turn of it, the piece upright.

2nd. Let the firelock fall upon the left shoulder, throwing back the right arm to hand along the right side, the bottom of the butt being then just above the hip-bone.

-Take Care!

-Join your Right Hand to your Firelock!

-Recover your Arms!

-Cock your Firelock! (Two Motions)

1st. Bring down the right elbow briskly close to the breast, with that motion straining down the cock with the right thumb at the same time.

2nd. The front rank (if in three ranks) steps back with the right foot three feet in a direct line to the rear, kneels to the right knee, the perpendicular line of the body falling about 12 inches behind the left heel, the body by that means being properly poised the butt end of the firelock at the same time being placed upon the ground in a line with the left heel.

The centre rank (or front rank, if in two ranks) steps back with the right foot, one foot in a direct line to the rear, by that means bringing their right foot just behind the foot of the front rank and the firelock kept in the same position as the first motion.

The rear rank steps with the right foot to the right till his toe touches the hinder part of the left heel of his right hand man at the same time bending his right knee a little so that his body may be opposite to the interval of his file leader and the file upon his right. The firelock in the same attitude as that of the centre rank.

-Present! (One Motion)

Bring down the muzzle of your piece with both hands, throwing forward your left hand as far as the swell, placing the butt in the hollow betwixt your right breast and shoulder, pressing it close to you; at the same time taking your right thumb from the cock (but keeping the forefinger on the trigger) both arms close to your body; the centre rank levels a little to the right of the front rank; the rear rank levels through the interval of his file leader and the right hand file, the whole taking good aim by leaning their heads to the right and looking along the barrels.

-Fire! (One Motion)

Draw the trigger briskly with your forefinger and immediately upon firing the front rank rises, all the three ranks bringing their heels four inches distant behind their left heels at the same time bringing back the firelock almost level as in the 1st motion of "Handle your Cartridge", the right thumb upon the cock, the right elbow raised, the ranks then facing full to the right.

-Half-cock your Firelock! (One Motion)

Strain the tumbler to the half bent with your right thumb, bringing down your right elbow which by that means add to its force.

The Third Part

After the company has finished firing, the arms are to be cleaned and bayonets returned as follows:

-Clean your pans!

Taking out the wiping cloth, bring it up to the pan, clean it, then shutting the pan, as when you held the cartridge, & casting back the muzzle as if to charge.

-Clean your Bayonets! (Four Motions)

1st. Clean your bayonet with your cloth, and returning the cloth.

2nd. Seizing the muzzle of the piece with your right hand, bring the butt to the ground, a little advanced before the left toe.

3rd. Face to your proper front.

4th. Bring up the left hand under the right as when rested upon your arms.

-Unfix your Bayonet! (Three Motions)

1st. Slip the bayonet up with your right hand.

2nd. Turn it towards you.

3rd. Slip it quite off of the muzzle, thrusting it from you at the same time, and holding it in that position, as in the 2nd motion of "Draw your Bayonets."

-Return your Bayonet! (Four Motions)

1st. Turn the point of the bayonet down, bringing it between the firelock and your body, and entering the scabbard.

2nd. Thrust it quite in.

3rd. Bring your right hand before you a little to the right of your firelock.

4. Seize the firelock near the muzzle, as in the 3rd motion of "Rest on your Arms."

-Poise your Firelock!

-Secure your Firelock! (Three Motions)

1st. Come briskly to your poise.

2nd. Bring the firelock opposite to your left shoulder, turning the barrel outward, and keeping the muzzle directly up, seizing it at the same time with the left hand about four inches above the cock.

3rd. Quit your right hand, and bring the firelock with your left under your left arm, placing the lock a little below the elbow, the barrel downward, and the muzzle within a foot of the ground.

-Shoulder your Firelock! (Three Motions)

1st. Bring up the barrel of the firelock keeping the muzzle directly up, immediately seizing it under the lock with the right hand.

2nd. Quit the left hand and place the butt in your left hand so as your thumb and forefinger may be above the turn and the three fingers under the butt, but sunk so as to bring the guard a little lower than the left breast.

3rd. Let the firelock fall upon the left shoulder, throwing back the right arm, so as it may hand straight along the right side, the bottom of the butt being then just above the hip-bone.

-Search your Firelock! (Six Motions)

1st. Seize the firelock at the wrist with your right hand.

2nd. Quit the left hand and immediately seize the barrel at the swell.

3rd. Quit the right hand and sink the firelock with the left so the butt will be on the ground, about a hand's breadth to the rear of the left heel. Seize the butt of the rammer with your right thumb and forefinger.

4th. Draw out your rammer as far as you can and catching it again with the right hand, the thumb and forefinger turned downwards.

5th. Clear it of the pipes, turning it immediately, and placing the butt end of it against your breast, shorten it.

6th. Bring the end of it into the muzzle so that it is half way in.

When the inspecting officer passes, drop the rammer, then immediately drawing it out of the barrel, turn it, shorten it against your breast, return the rammer full to its pipes with your right thumb and forefinger continued just below the butt of the rammer.

-Shoulder your Firelock! (Three Motions)

1st. Raise the firelock in a perpendicular line with the left hand, immediately seizing it at the wrist with the right.

2nd and 3rd, as in the last motions of shouldering from "Secure your Firelocks."

The 1757 Platoon Exercise

In this section, two sets of commands will be laid out. Those commands which are to be spoken by the officer will be written as:

-Take Care! The other commands are here listed as a guide to the motions of the men, but are not spoken. These shall be written in brackets as:

{Join your Right Hand to your Firelock}. The men shall be careful to always perform every motion of the drill.

-Take Care to Perform the Platoon Exercise!

-Fix your Bayonets!

{Join your Right Hand to your Firelock}

{Poise your Firelock}

{Rest on your Arms}
{Draw your Bayonet}
{Fix your Bayonet}
{Poise your Firelock}
{Shoulder}

-Prime and Load!

{Join your Right Hand to your Firelock}
{Recover your Arms}
{Handle your Cartridge}
{Prime}
{Load with Cartridge}
{Draw your Rammer}
{Ram Down your Cartridge}
{Return your Rammer}
{Shoulder}

-Take Care!

-Make Ready!

{Join your Right Hand to your Firelock}
{Recover your Arms}
{Cock your Firelock}

-Present!

-Fire!

-Shut your Pans!

{Half-Cock your Firelock}
{Clean your Pans}

-Return your Bayonets!

{Clean your Bayonet}
{Unfix your Bayonet}
{Return your Bayonet}
{Poise your Firelock}
{Shoulder}

It should be noted that the more limited spoken commands given in this section will suffice for normal drill and particularly for battle.