

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

EXERCISE OF RIFLEMEN

AND

LIGHT INFANTRY,

AND

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR CONDUCT
IN THE FIELD.

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THE original of the following Work, written by a German Officer of distinction, and much military experience, has been perused by his ROYAL HIGHNESS the COMMANDER in CHIEF, and found to contain many excellent rules and observations, adapted to the usual modes of carrying on active service in the field; and much useful instruction to young officers, not familiarised by practice to the arduous duties to be performed in the face of an enterprising enemy: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS has therefore been pleased to give directions for its being translated into English, in order that the officers of the army at large, and particularly those who may not have had the advantage of much personal experience in the field, may, by a studious attention to the various examples therein stated, and to the useful lessons
given

given for their conduct, imbibe that degree of military skill and information, which will enable them to discharge their duty to the satisfaction of their superiors, and their own honor, on the most trying occasions.

WILLIAM FAWCETT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

REGULATIONS

FOR

THE EXERCISE OF RIFLEMEN, &c.

PART I.

OF THE EXERCISE.

WHEN a company or battalion of riflemen is to act with closed ranks and files, the same regulations which are given to infantry in general serve for them. And before the soldier is instructed in the manœuvres of light troops, he must be taught how to hold himself, to march, face, wheel, &c. as in regular infantry.

C H A P. I.

Of the Manual Exercise for the Rifle.

§ 1.

Of carrying the
rifle.

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

§ 2.

The manual
exercise.

TO PRESENT ARMS.

Attention.

AT this word the bugelman steps six or more paces to the front.

Present Arms. (Three motions).

1st. The rifle is to be raised about two inches by the right hand, and brought forward a little from the shoulder,

shoulder, at the same time the left hand is brought briskly across the body, and seizes the rifle with a full grasp even with the shoulder.

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

3d. The rifle is brought in a straight line to the *present*, the lock turned inwards, and even with the bottom of the waistcoat, the right foot is placed about three inches behind the left heel, the right hand holding the small of the stock between the fore finger and thumb, the knuckles upwards, the three other fingers shut in the hand.

Shoulder Arms. (Two motions).

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

2d. The left hand quits the rifle, and is brought as quickly as possible flat upon the left thigh.

Order Arms.

AT the word *arms*, the left hand seizes the rifle even with the right shoulder, the rifle, as in the first

motion of the *present*, is raised about two inches, the right hand quits its hold, grasps the rifle round the muzzle, and brings it gently to the ground, even with the toe of the right foot, the wrist pressing against the side, and elbow as close as possible. The left hand is brought as before on the left thigh.

Shoulder Arms.

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

In the performance of this, as indeed of every other motion, the greatest care is to be taken to prevent the rifle falling to the ground, as it is an arm easily damaged, and in the field, where time and opportunity can not always be found to repair it, the service of a rifleman is lost by every such instance of inattention.

Support Arms.

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

Carry Arms.

THE rifle is brought smartly on the right side, and the left hand on the left thigh.

Trail Arms.

THE left hand feizes the rifle at the second pipe, the right close over the fight, and trails it on the right side at arm's length, the left falls back on the left thigh.

Shoulder Arms.

THE rifle is brought to the advance, as from the order.

FROM THE ORDER TO TRAIL ARMS.

Trail Arms.

THE right hand feizes the rifle as low as possible without constraint, then raises and catches it just above the fight.

FROM THE TRAIL TO ORDER ARMS.

Order Arms.

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

CHAP. II.

Of Priming and Loading, and of Firing at the Target.

§ 1.

Of priming
and loading.

THE words of command for firing and loading are as follows.

1. *The Company will Prime and Load.*

2. *Attention.*

AT which the fleugelman steps in front.

3. *Prepare to Load.*

FOR which the fleugelman gives the time in two motions.

1st, Is the same as the first motion in the present.

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

To wait for the words of Command.

AT which caution the flugelman falls in.

At the word *One,*

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

Two,

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

Three,

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

Four,

THE soldier half faces to the left; the rifle is brought to the ground with the barrel outwards, by sliding it with care through the left hand, which then seizes it near the muzzle, the thumb stretched along the stock, the butt is placed between the heels, the barrel between

the knees, which must be bent for that purpose; the cartridge is put into the barrel, and the ramrod seized with the fore finger and thumb of the right hand.

Rod,

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

Home,

THE cartridge will be forced down with both hands, the left then seizes the rifle about six inches from the muzzle, the soldier stands upright again, draws out the ramrod with the right hand, and puts the end into the pipe.

Return,

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

Shoulder,

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

When the recruits are sufficiently perfect in firing by these distinct and separate words of command, they

they should be accustomed to go through the motions with the following words of command only.

1. *The Company will Prime and Load.*

2. *Attention.*

AT which the flugelman steps in front.

3. *Prepare to Load.*

TO this motion the flugelman gives the time.

4. *Load.*

THE flugelman falls in. Every motion in loading as described above, is to be performed; and here officers are required to pay particular attention, that no single motion be omitted, as it is of more consequence that a rifle should be properly, than expeditiously loaded.

§ 2.

RIFLEMEN must at first be accustomed to make ready, and present methodically; and in this they should be thoroughly practised, for they will seldom be in a situation to fire by word of Command.

The

The firings may be divided under three heads: viz. *in advancing, in retreating, and on the spot.*

The method of firing in advancing and retreating by signal, will be explained in the following sections.

To fire on the spot with closed ranks, the following words of command will be given.

1. *The Company will Fire.*

2. *Company.*

AT this word, the right hand file of each platoon takes three quick paces to the front, the rear rank man steps to the right of his file leader.

3. *Ready.*

AT this word, the rifle is brought by the right hand before the centre of the body, the left seizes it, so that the little finger rests upon the hammer spring, and the thumb stretched along the stock, raising it to the height of the mouth, the right thumb on the cock, and four fingers under the guard; when cocked, which must be done gently, the right hand grasps the small of the stock.

4. *Present.*

THE soldier half faces to the right, the butt is placed in the hollow of the right shoulder, the right foot steps back about eighteen inches behind the left, the left knee is bent, the body brought well forward,
the

the left hand without having quitted its hold, supports the rifle close before the lock, the right elbow raised even with the shoulder, the fore finger on the trigger, the head bent, and cheek resting on that of the rifle, the left eye shut, the right taking aim through the sight ; as soon as the rifleman has fixed upon his object, he fires without waiting for any command. When he has fired, the right hand quits its hold in facing to the right about, the left swings the rifle round into an horizontal position with the barrel downwards ; the rifleman resumes his post in the platoon, in fronting to the left about, brings his rifle into the position to prime and load, half cocks, and proceeds to load, going through the motions as above without further words of command.

As soon as the riflemen are perfect in this, they will be instructed, that at the signal of the horn to *commence firing*, the two right hand files of each platoon or section, according as the company may be told off, are immediately to take three paces to the front, the rear rank men step to the right of their file leaders, present, and each fires as he gets a proper aim, then resumes his place in the company as above mentioned, and loads again : when the two first files have fired, the two next advance, and so on through the company.

This mode of firing is necessary to prevent the whole from being unloaded at the same time, when the company therefore has fired once according to the above regulations, every file on being loaded again will advance three paces, and each man will take his aim and fire, and then immediately resume

his

