This booklet was originally created for the reenactment commemorating the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle for Rich Mountain, West Virginia. It has been updated by the addition of fresh illustrations from Gilham's manual and supplemented with illustrations from other period manuals when no applicable illustration existed in Gilham's manual.

The working title for this booklet remains: "Gilham's for non-Gilhamites." In addition to the verbatim text from the manual of arms for the musket, it includes lessons from the Schools of the Soldier, Company and Battalion which are peculiar to Gilham.

Also included is information about how to place the second and third corporals when forming platoons from the only period source I've encountered after many searches for same.

Gilham's manual for infantry wasn't designed to include everything so a few interesting tidbits from other period manuals has been included and identified from said manuals.

Since this booklet faithfully reproduces Gilham's manual of arms for the musket, regular practitioners of Gilham will find the small size of this booklet much easier to carry than the full sized, hard bound manual.

- Silas

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internet search terms: silas and drill silas@zipcon.net

he will command:

## 1. Squad right about. 2. MARCH.

At the command, *march*, which should be given at the instant the *right foot touches the ground*, the soldier will complete the next pace with the *left* foot, then turning to the right about on both heels, will step off with the left foot.

## To March by the Flank in Two Ranks

237. [] The instructor will sometimes exercise the company in facing without doubling, for this purpose he will command:

1. Company, in two ranks, right—2. FACE.

The double quick, however, will never be executed without the ranks being doubled.

## END OF BOOKLET &SOURCES

Gilham, Col. William, "Manual of Instruction for the Volunteers and Militia of the Confederate States," (Richmond: 1862)

Baxter, Lt. Col. DeWitt Clinton, Part 1 "The Volunteer's Manual," (Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1861)

Ellsworth, Col. Ephraim Elmer, "Manual of Arms for Light Infantry: Adapted to the Rifled Musket, with Or Without the Priming Attachment," (Chicago: P.T. Sherlock, 1861)

Root, Nathaniel William Taylor, "Infantry Tactics for Schools: Explained and Illustrated for the Use of Teachers and Scholars," (Chicago: A.S. Barnes & Burr, 1863)

Support Arms

musket from falling from the shoulder, which again causes that shoulder to droop, a curvature of the side, spreading of the elbows etc. The instructor will be careful to correct all these faults by continually rectifying the position; he will avoid fatiguing the men too much in the beginning, but labor to render this position natural and easy by degrees, that they may remain in it a long time without fatigue.

The instructor will also take great care that the musket be not carried too high or too low; if too high, the left elbow would spread out, the soldier would occupy too much space in ranks, and the musket would be unsteady; if too low, the files would be too close, the man would not have the necessary space to handle his musket with facility, the left arm would become too much fatigued, the shoulder would droop, etc.

The manual of the musket will be taught in the following order :

The instructor commands:

Support—ARMS.

One time and three motions.

95. First Motion. (Fig. 28.) With the right hand seize the small of the stock briskly, four inches below the lock, raising the piece a little, but not turning it.

Second Motion. Take the left hand from the butt; extend the left fore-arm upward across the body, and under the hammer, the left hand flat on the right breast.

Third Motion. Drop the right arm smartly to its position. The squad being at support arms, the instructor commands:



8; if the captain has to discharge the duties of instructor, the first lieutenant will take his place on the right of the front rank, the second lieutenant replacing the first behind the fourth section.

The instructor will then cause the files to be numbered, and for this purpose will command :

#### In each rank—count TWOS.

At this command, the men count in each rank, from right to left, pronouncing in a loud and distinct voice, in the same tone, without hurry and without turning the head, *one*, *two*, according to the place which each one occupies. He will also cause the company divided into platoons and sections, taking care that the first platoon is always composed of an even number of files.

Root. The Orderly will now command:

## Corporals to the Front.

At this order, every *Corporal*, who finds himself in the rear rank, will slightly touch the back of the man in front of him, and the two will exchange places, quietly.

Assured that the *First* and *Fourth Corporals* are in their proper posts, the Orderly will pass to the left of the first section, and call out,

Corporal on the left of the first section. Corporal on the right of the second.

These two Corporals will promptly present themselves to be posted.

It may be necessary, for the front rank to take a side-step to the left or right, leaving space for the Corporal on the Left of the First Section. The Orderly will command to the front rank,

"Take to the right (or left),"

Second Motion. Drop quickly the right hand into its position.



Order—ARMS. One time and two motions.

99. First Motion. Drop the piece smartly by extending the left arm, seize it at the same time with the right hand, above and near the tail-band; quit the hold of the left hand, and carry the piece opposite to the right shoulder, the rammer to the front, the little finger behind the barrel, the right hand supported against the hip, the butt three inches from the ground, the piece erect, the left hand hanging by the side.

Second Motion. Let the piece slip through the right hand to the ground without shock, and take the position about to be described.

#### Position of Order Arms.

100. (Fig. 30.) The hand low, the barrel between the thumb and forefinger 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 of the butt against, and in a line with, the toe of the right foot, the barrel ORDER ARM perpendicular.



101. When the instructor wishes to give repose in this position, he commands:

#### REST.

At this command, the soldiers will not be required to preserve silence or steadiness. They, however, will not quit their rank without special permission.

next tallest man immediately covering the first, and so on to the left or rear of the rank, in which position will be placed the shortest man.

Baxter. The height of shoulders will be the point to measure by. Where the shoulders are of equal height, the tallest man, measuring from heels to head, will take precedence; and where there is an equality in both these points, the senior member will take the right.

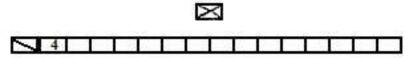
Root. It is customary, before forming company in two ranks, for the First Corporal to take the right of the line, although he may not be taller than the tallest private; and the Fourth Corporal to take left, although he may not be shorter than the shortest private.

Gilham, 216. The other sergeants will take post in the rank of file-closers, two paces to the right of the company, and assist the first sergeant in forming the company. The first sergeant takes his place six or eight paces in front of and opposite the centre of his company, facing towards it.

When the men have their places, the first sergeant will command:

#### FRONT.

The second sergeant, who is the left guide of the company, will now place himself on the left of the company.



As the company will always be formed in two ranks, the orderly sergeant will promptly command:

- 1. In two ranks, form company.
  - 2. Left—FACE. 3. MARCH.

At the command, left face, the whole company will face to

left hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Bring down the piece with the right hand, letting it fall firmly into the left, the latter seizing it a little in advance of the tail band, the barrel up, the left elbow near the body, the right hand against the hip, the point of the bayonet as high as the eye. (Fig. 31.)

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

105. First Motion. Face to the front by turning on the left heel bring up the right by the side of the left heel; at the same time bring up the piece with the right hand to the left shoulder, and place the left hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Let the right hand fall promptly into its position.

#### Load in Ten Times.



## 1. LOAD.

One time and two motions.

106. First Motion. Drop the piece by a smart extension of the left arm, seize it with the right hand above and

near the lower band; at the same time carry the right foot forward, the heel against the hollow of the left foot.

Second Motion. Drop the piece with the right hand along the left thigh, seize it with the left hand above the right, and with the left hand let it descend to the ground, without shock, the piece touching the left thigh, and the muzzle opposite the centre of the body; carry the right hand quickly to the cartridge-box and open it.



Open box.

all officers to cause the commands above given, on the part of the soldier, to be executed with great briskness and spirit.

Officers on all duties under arms are to have their swords drawn, without waiting for any words of command for that purpose.

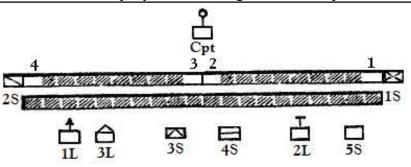
#### ORGANIZATION OF INFANTRY.

7. The company is divided into two equal parts, which are designated as the first and second *platoon*, counting from the right; and each platoon is, in like manner, divided into two *sections*.

The company is formed into two ranks in the following manner: the corporals on the right and left of platoons, according to height; the tallest corporal and the tallest man from the first file on the right, the next two tallest men from the second file, and so on to the last file, which is composed of the shortest corporal and the shortest man.

The odd and even files, numbered as *one, two,* in the company, from the right to left, form groups of four men, who, when they act as light troops, are designated *comrades in battle*.

## Posts of Company Officers, Sergeants and Corporals.



8. The company officers and sergeants are nine in number, and will be posted in the following manner:

The *captain* on the right of the company touching with the left elbow.

The first sergeant in the rear rank, touching with the left



Second Motion. Turn rapidly the rammer between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammers of the rear rank grazing the right shoulders of the men of the same file in front, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the butt of the rammer Seizing rammer at middle opposite to the muzzle but not yet between thumb inserted, the eyes fixed on the muzzle.

and fore-finger.

Third Motion. Insert the butt of the rammer, and force it down as low as the hand.

## 6. Ram—CARTRIDGE. One time and one motion.

111. Extend the arm to its full length to seize the rammer between the right thumb extended and the Turning fore-finger bent, the other fingers closed; with force rammer by ram home twice and seize the rammer at the small end between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other wrist. fingers closed, the right elbow touching the body.

## 7. Return—RAMMER. One time and three motions.

112. First Motion. Draw the rammer briskly, re-seize it at the middle between the thumb and fore-finger, the hand reversed, the palm to the front, the nails up, the eyes following the band, clear the rammer from the barrel by extending the arm.

Second Motion. Turn the rammer rapidly between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammers of the rear rank grazing the right shoulders of the men in the same file in front, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the little end of the rammer opposite to the first pipe, but not yet inserted, the eyes fixed on that pipe.

whether at a halt or in march, will always carry the heel of the color-lance supported at the right hip, the right hand generally placed on the lance at the height of the shoulder, to hold it steady. When the color has to render honors, the color-bearer will salute as follows:

At the distance of six paces slip the right hand along the lance to the height of the eye; lower the lance by straightening the arm to its fullest extent, the heel of the lance remaining at the hip, and bring back the lance to the habitual position when the person saluted shall be passed, or shall have passed, six paces.

#### Compliments When the Piece Is Held by the Right Hand.

Ellsworth 292. Salute by touching the piece at the height of the shoulder with the forefinger of the left hand; palm of the hand downward, fingers extended and joined. After saluting in this manner, drop the hand quietly to the side.

## Compliments When the Right Hand Is at Liberty.

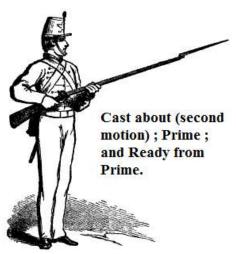
Ellsworth 293. Salute by touching the back of the hand to the visor of the cap, throwing it easily and gracefully to the front, until the arm is nearly extended, and drop the hand to the side.

294. To deliver a package, paper, or anything of a like nature, when the piece is carried. Halt one pace from the person to be saluted, bring the piece to the position of arms port holding it in this position with the left hand; salute with the right, deliver the package, shoulder arms, salute with the left hand, and return.

295. If a message is simply to be delivered, if at support arms, salute with the right hand; if at shoulder, salute with the left.

## Compliments by Sentinels.

C.S. Regulations, 407. Sentinels will present arms to general and field officers, to the officer of the day, and to the



piece; brush off the old cap, and with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand take a cap from the pouch, place it firmly on the cone by pushing it down with the thumb, and seize the piece by the small of the stock.

10. Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

115. First Motion. Face to the front by turning on the left heel; at the same time

bring the piece briskly with the right hand to the left shoulder, and place the left hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Let the right hand fall smartly into its position at shoulder arms.

#### READY.

(From the position of prime.)

One time and one motion.

116. Place the thumb of the right hand on the hammer (the fingers remaining under and against the guard), cock the piece, and seize the small of the stock.

#### READY.

(From the position of shoulder arms.) *One time and four motions.* 

117. *First Motion*. Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock to the front, seize it at the small of the stock with the right hand; at the same time make a half face to the right on the left heel, bringing the left toe to the front and placing the right foot behind,

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.

- 223. [Excluded. Pertains to rifles, not muskets.]
- 224. 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.

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

#### Take—ARMS.

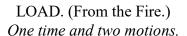
At this command, the rear rank man of every odd numbered file will withdraw his piece from the stack; the front rank man of every even file will seize his own piece with the left hand, and that of the man on his right with his right hand, both above the lower band; the rear rank man of the even file will seize his piece with the right hand below the lower band; these two men will raise up the stock to loosen the rammers or 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.

time, carry the right foot about eight inches towards the left heel of the man next on his right. (Fig. 36.)

#### FIRE.

One time and one motion.

119. Apply the fore-finger with force to the trigger without further lowering or turning the head, and remain in that position.





120. First Motion. Bring back the piece quickly with both hands, depress the butt strongly by extending the right arm, and carry it with the arm thus extended to the left side, the barrel to the front and opposite to the left shoulder, the left hand at the height of the chin, the back of the hand to the front, the left fore-arm touching the stock; at the same time face to the front and carry the right foot forward, the heel against the hollow of the left foot.

Second Motion. Let go the handle with the right hand, let the piece descend through the left to the ground, without shock, and take the position of the second motion of load.

Shoulder—ARMS. (From the Fire.)

One time and two motions.

121. *First Motion*. Bring back the piece with both hands, face to the front, carry the piece against the left shoulder, and place the left hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Let the right hand fall smartly to its position.

The squad being in the position of *aim*, the instructor, to habituate the soldiers to wait for the word, *fire*, sometimes

## Bayonet Exercise.

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



Guard against infantry. Right foot goes rearward, not left foot forward.

Guard against Infantry.
 GUARD.
 One time and two motions.

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.

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. (Fig. 44.)

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

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.

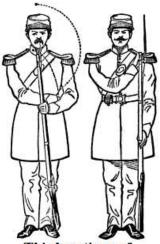
#### FOUR.

#### 127. Execute the tenth time of loading.

## To Unfix and Fix the Bayonet

128. The soldiers being at a shoulder, when the instructor may wish to return bayonets, he commands:

*Unfix*—BAYONETS. *One time and three motions.* 



Third motions of unfixing bayonet.

First Motion. Drop the piece by a smart extension of the left arm, seize it with the right hand above and near the tail-band.

Second Motion. Drop the piece with the right hand along the left thigh, seize it with the left hand above the right, lengthen out the left arm, rest the butt on the ground, without shock, and carry the right hand at the same time to the bayonet, with the thumb lower the clasp against the stop, and then seize the bayonet at the socket and shank.

*Third Motion*. Wrest off the bayonet, return it to the scabbard, place

the little linger on the butt of the rammer, lower the left hand along the barrel in extending the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

#### Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and three motions.

129. *First Motion*. Raise the piece with the left hand along the left side, the hand at the height of the chin, the fore-arm touching the piece, the barrel to the front; drop at the same time the right hand to seize the piece a little above the handle, the fore-finger touching the cock, and the thumb on the counter-plate.

the stock; bring the piece to the shoulder, aim and fire.

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 downwards, 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.

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.

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

#### To Fire and Load Lying.

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

The instructor will command:

#### FIRE AND LOAD LYING.

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*.



; detach the piece from the shoulder at the same instant, the barrel to the front, seize it at the tail-band with the left hand, the thumb extended on the rammer, the piece erect, opposite to the shoulder, the left elbow on the piece.

Second Motion. Reverse the piece, pass it under the left arm, the left hand remaining at the tail-band, the thumb on the rammer to prevent it from sliding out, the little finger resting against the hip, and the right hand falling at the same time into its position. (Fig. 37.)

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

132. *First Motion*. Raise the piece with the left hand, but not too suddenly, lest the rammer should fly out; seize the handle with he right hand to support it against the shoulder, quit the hold of the left hand, and place quickly this hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Let fall smartly the right hand into its position; drop at the same time the piece into the position of shouldered arms.

# Trail—ARMS. One time and two motions.

133. First Motion. As the first motion of order arms. No. 99, by dropping the piece smartly by extending the left arm, seizing it at the same time with the right hand, above and near the tail-band; quitting the hold of the left hand, and carrying the piece opposite to the right shoulder, the rammer to the front, the little finger behind the barrel, the right hand supported against the hip, the



just been prescribed for the first file.

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

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

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

#### Cease—FIRING.

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.

- 194. The fire by rank will be executed by each entire rank, alternately. The instructor will command:
  - 1. Fire by rank. 2. Squad. 3. READY.
  - 4. Rear rank. 5. AIM. 6. FIRE. 7. LOAD.

At the third command, the two ranks will take the position of *ready*, as prescribed in the direct fire, No's 117 and 191.

At the seventh command, the rear rank will execute that which has been prescribed in the direct fire, and afterwards take the position of *ready*, No. 116.

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.

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.

carry it against the left shoulder, turning the barrel to the front, the right hand being at the handle, place the left hand under the butt, and let the right fall into its position.

#### Arms—AT WILL. One time and one motion.

137. Carry the piece at pleasure on either shoulder, or with one or both hands, the muzzle always up.

#### Shoulder—ARMS.

138. Retake smartly the position of *shoulder arms*.

#### Inspection of Arms.

139. The squad 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 of*—ARMS. One time and three motions.

First Motion. Face to the right once and a half on the left heel, carrying the right foot perpendicularly to the rear of the alignment, about six inches from, and at right angles with, the left foot; seize promptly the piece with the left hand a little above the middle band, incline the muzzle to the rear without displacing the heel of the butt, the rammer turned towards the body; carry at the same First Motion: time the right hand to the bayonet and seize it as has been prescribed, No. 130, by seizing the bayonet at the socket and shank, so that the lower (now upper) end of the socket shall extend about an inch above the heel of the palm.



No. 139, Face to the right once and a half on the left heel....

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 towards 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.

At the cautionary command, left oblique, the two ranks will

throw back the left shoulder and look steadily at the object to be hit.

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 towards 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



move RIGHT foot

right knee.

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.

## Compiler's Remarks on the Oblique Firings

For Direct Firings, the left foot points toward the direction of the aim—forward—while the right foot rests perpendicular to the direction of the aim.

For *Right Oblique*, the left foot pivots to the right oblique toward the direction of the aim and is advanced slightly; the right foot remains in place.

command:

## Spring—RAMMERS.

Put the rammer in the barrel, as has been explained, No. 110, by:

First, dropping the right elbow smartly, and seizing the rammer between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other fingers shut; drawing it smartly, extending the arm, seizing the rammer again at the middle between the thumb and fore-finger, the hand reversed, the palm to the front, the nails up, the eyes following the movement of the hand, clearing the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm;

Second, turning rapidly the rammer between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammers of the rear rank grazing the right shoulders of the men of the same file in front, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the butt of the rammer opposite to the muzzle but not yet inserted, the eyes fixed on the muzzle;

*Third*, inserting the butt of the rammer, and forcing it down as low as the hand; and

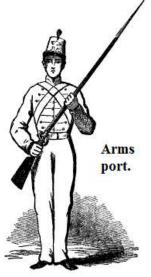
Fourth, immediately facing to the front.

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

Each man, after the instructor passes him, will return rammer, and face to the front.

## Arms—PORT. One time and one motion.

141. Throw the piece diagonally across the body, the lock to the front, seize it smartly at the same instant with both hands, the right at the handle, the left at the tail-band, the two thumbs pointing towards the muzzle, the barrel sloping upwards and crossing



opposite to the point of the left shoulder, the butt proportionally lowered. The palm of the right hand will be above, and that of the left under the piece, the nails of both hands next to the body, to which the elbows will be dosed. (Fig. 41.)

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

First Motion. Bring the piece smartly to the left shoulder, placing the left hand under the butt.

Second Motion. Drop the right hand smartly by the side.

## Firings.

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

#### The Direct Fire.

The instructor will give the following commands:

1. Fire by squad. 2. Squad.

3. READY. 4. AIM.

5. Fire. 6. LOAD.

These several commands will be executed as has been prescribed in the *Manual of Arms*, above. At the third command, the men will come to the position of *ready* as heretofore explained, No. 117, for firing from the position of

