

---

---

INDEX

---

---

Principles of Shouldered Arms . . . . .	Page 1
Support Arms . . . . .	2
Present Arms . . . . .	3
Order Arms . . . . .	4
Rest . . . . .	4
Charge Bayonet . . . . .	5
Load in Ten Times . . . . .	6
To Unfix and Fix the Bayonet . . . . .	14
Secure Arms . . . . .	16
Trail Arms . . . . .	16
To Right Shoulder, Shift - Arms . . . . .	17
Inspection of Arms . . . . .	18
Arms Port . . . . .	20
Direct Firing . . . . .	21
Oblique Firings . . . . .	22
To Fire by File . . . . .	24
To Fire by Rank . . . . .	25
To Fire and Load Kneeling . . . . .	26
To Fire and Load Lying . . . . .	27
To Load on the March or Running . . . . .	28
Bayonet Exercise . . . . .	29
To Stack Arms . . . . .	30
Position of the Sword or Sabre . . . . .	32
Color-Salute and Compliments . . . . .	32
Form for Parade . . . . .	34
Posts of Company Officers, Sergeants and Corporals . . . . .	35
Manner of Forming the Company . . . . .	36
Facing About from the Halt and on the March . . . . .	40
To March by the Flank in Two Ranks . . . . .	41

# MANUAL OF THE MUSKET

extracted from

## GILHAM'S MANUAL for VOLUNTEERS AND MILITIA

by

**William Gilham,**

Colonel of Volunteers, Instructor of Tactics and  
Commandant of Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute

RICHMOND.  
WEST & JOHNSTON,  
145 Main Street.  
1862.

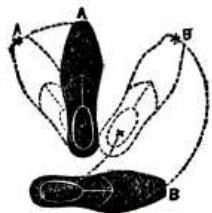
---

As Compiled by  
Colonel Silas Tackitt,  
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

as he sees need. By taking ground to the left or right, the vacancy made by the Corporal's stepping out will be filled up.

The same will be done for the Right Corporal of the Second Section.

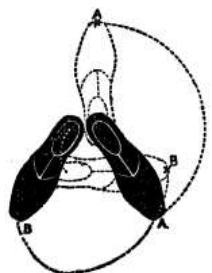
FACINGS



About

86. The full face to the rear is always to the right, and is executed in two times, or pauses. The instructor commands :

- 1. Squad. 2. About — FACE.



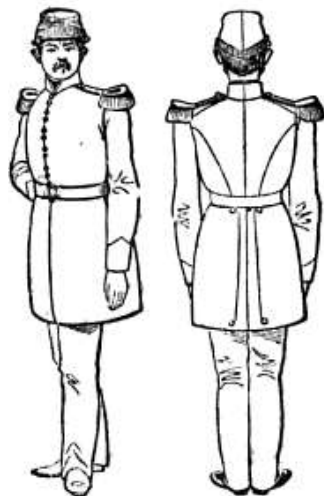
FACE.

First motion. At the word, about, the soldier will turn far enough on the left heel to bring the left toe directly to the front, at the same time carrying his right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from the left heel, the feet square to each other. The back of the right hand is placed a little above the right hip, and the body is turned to the right sufficiently to give ease to the position.

Second motion. At the word, face, the soldier raises his toes a little, turns upon both heels, faces to the rear, keeping his legs straight, and draws back the right heel by the side of the left, at the same time dropping his right hand by the side.

To Face About in Marching.

207. If the squad be marching in quick, or double quick time, and the instructor should wish to march in retreat,



About — FACE

ARTICLE III. SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER. Principles of Shouldered Arms.



Feet. Position of the soldier.

94. Each soldier being in the position of the soldier, the instructor will cause him to turn up the left hand without bending the wrist, the left fore-arm only acting. The instructor will raise the piece perpendicularly, and place it as follows :

(Fig. 27.) The piece in the left hand, the arm very slightly bent, the elbow back near the body, the palm of the hand pressing on the outer flat of the butt ; the outer edge of the latter on the upper joints of the fingers, the heel of the butt between the middle and fore-fingers, the thumb on the front screw of the butt plate, the remaining fingers under the butt, the butt more or less kept back according to the conformation of the man, so that the piece, seen from the front, shall appear perpendicular, and, also, that the movement of the thigh, in marching, may not raise it or cause it to rive ; the stock, below the tail-band, resting against the hollow of the shoulder, just within the joint, the right arm hanging naturally as prescribed in the position of the soldier.



Shouldered Arms

Soldiers on first bearing arms are liable to derange their position, and particularly to distort the shoulders, which, causing the musket to lose its point of support, they drop the left hand to prevent the

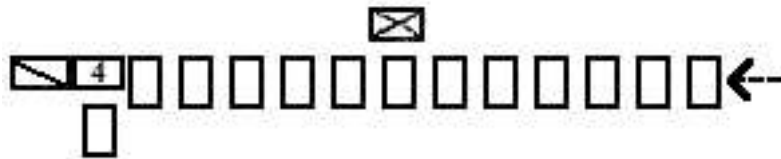


Side view.

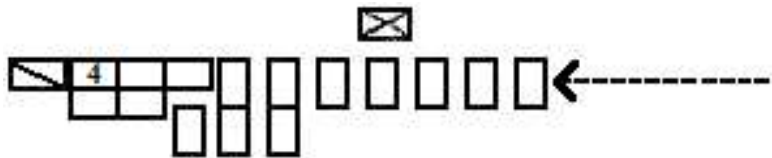
the left, except the guide and man (fourth corporal) on the left, who stand fast.



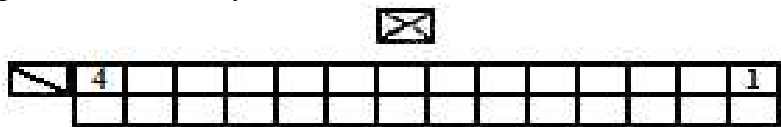
At the command, *march*, the whole of the men who have faced to the left, will step off together ; the second man, counting from the left, will place himself in the rear rank, behind the man next to the guide, and face to the front ; the two following men will, in like manner, on closing up, form the next file, the third man in



the front, and the fourth in the rear rank behind him, and all the other men will come successively to form files, two deep, to the



right of those already formed.



When the company is in good discipline, the files may be formed in *two* at once, each man having his proper number in the company depending upon his height, and being able to take his appropriate place without creating confusion.

The officers will now take their posts as prescribed in No.

*Carry—ARMS.*  
*One time and three motions.*

96. *First Motion.* Carry quickly the right hand to the small of the stock.

*Second Motion.* Place the left hand under the butt, as in the position of shoulder arms.

*Third Motion.* Let fall smartly the right hand to its position, and drop with the left, at the same time, the piece into the position of *shoulder arms*.



**Present Arms**

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

97. *First Motion.* (Fig. 29.) Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock out, and seize the small of the stock at the same time with the right hand, the piece perpendicular and detached from the shoulder, the left hand remaining under the butt.

*Second Motion.* Complete the turning inwards of the piece, so as to bring it erect before the centre of the body, the rammer to the front the right hand under and against the guard ; seize it smartly at the same time with the left hand just above the lock, the thumb extended along the barrel and on the stock, the left fore-arm resting on the body without constraint, and the hand at the height of the elbow.

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

98. *First Motion.* Turn the piece with the right hand, the barrel to the front, raise and support it against the left shoulder with the right hand, drop the left under the butt, the right hand resting on, without grasping, the small of the stock.

elbow and covering the captain. In the manoeuvres he will be denominated *covering sergeant*, or *right guide* of the company.

The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file-closers, and two paces behind the rear rank.

The *first lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the fourth section.

The *second lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the first platoon.

The *third lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the second platoon.

The *second sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the company. In the manoeuvres he will be designated *left guide* of the company.

The *third sergeant*, opposite the second file from the right of the second platoon.

The *fourth sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the first platoon.

The *fifth sergeant*, opposite the second file from the right of the first platoon.

In the left or tenth company of the battalion, the *second sergeant* will be posted in the front rank and on the left of the battalion.

The *corporals* will be posted in the front rank, as prescribed in No. 7.

---

Manner of Forming the Company.

---

Gilham, 216. THE whole company being assembled on its parade ground, or in the rendezvous, the *first*, or orderly sergeant, will command :

*Fall in*—COMPANY.

At this command, the corporals and privates will form in one rank, faced to the right, and in the order of height from right to left, the tallest man on the right (now head of the company), the

102. When the instructor wishes the men to pass from this position to that of silence and steadiness, he commands :

- 1. *Attention*. 2. SQUAD.

At the second word, the men will reserve the position of *order arms*, and remain firm and silent.

*Shoulder*—ARMS.

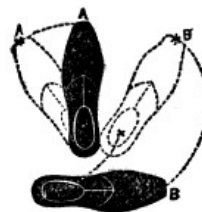
*One time and two motions*.

103. *First Motion*. Raise smartly the piece with the right hand, carry it against the left shoulder, turning it, so as to bring the barrel to the front ; at the same time place the left hand under the butt, and slip the right hand down to the lock.

*Second Motion*. Let the right hand fall briskly to its position.

*Charge*—BAYONET.

*One time and two motions*.



104. *First Motion*. Make a half face to the right on the left heel, bring the left toe directly to the front, at the same time place the right foot behind, and at right angles with the left, the hollow of right foot opposite to, and about three inches from the left heel ; turn the piece with the left hand, the lock outwards, and seize the small of the stock at the same time with the right hand, the musket perpendicular, and detached from the shoulder, the



Charge bayonet

commanding officer of the post. To all other officers they will *carry arms*.

408. When a sentinel in his sentry-box sees an officer approaching, he will stand at *attention*, and as the officer passes will salute him, by bringing the left hand briskly to the musket, as high as the right shoulder.

409. The sentinel at any post of the guard, when he sees any body of troops, or an officer entitled to compliment, approach, must call : "*Turn out the guard !*" and announce who approaches.

410. Guards do not turn out as a matter of compliment after sunset ; but, sentinels will, when officers in uniform approach, pay them proper attention, by facing to the proper front, and standing steady at *shouldered arms*. This will be observed until the evening is so far advanced that the sentinels begin challenging.

---

Form for Parade.

---



Parade rest

737. On all parades of ceremony, such as Reviews, Guard-mounting, at *Troop* or *Retreat* parades, instead of the word, *rest*, which allows the men to move or change the position of their bodies, the command will be :

*Parade—REST.*

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. At the word, *attention*, the soldier will resume the correct position at ordered arms. In the positions here indicated, the soldier will remain silent and motionless ; and it is particularly enjoined upon



2. *Handle—CARTRIDGE.*  
*One time and one motion.*

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

3. *Tear—CARTRIDGE.*  
*One time and one motion.*

108. Tear the paper down to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and two next 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.*

109. Fix the eye on the muzzle, turn quickly the back of right hand towards the body, in order to discharge the powder into the barrel, raise the elbow to the height of the wrist, shake the cartridge, force it into the muzzle, and leave the hand reversed, the fingers closed, but not clenched. (Fig. 33.)



Cartridge charged.

5. *Draw—RAMMER.*  
*One time and three motions.*

110. *First Motion.* Drop the right elbow smartly, and seize the rammer between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other fingers shut ; draw it smartly, extending the arm, seize 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, clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm.



Draw rammer. Soldier's view.



The carry.

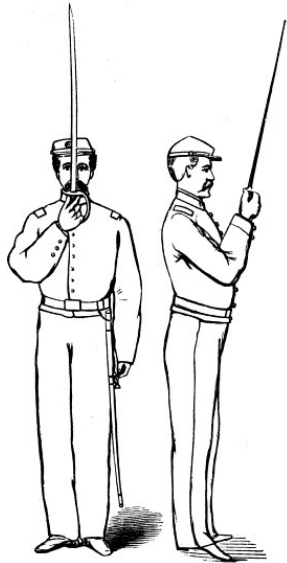
MANUAL OF THE SWORD OR SABRE,  
FOR OFFICERS.

Position of the Sword or Sabre, Under Arms.

198. *The carry.* The gripe in the right hand, which will be supported against the right hip, the back of the blade against the shoulder.

To Salute With The Sword or Sabre.

*Three times (or pauses).*



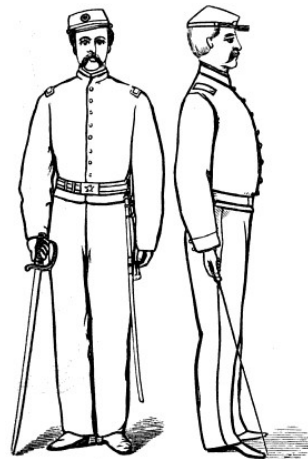
The Recover.

*One.* At the distance of six paces from the person to be saluted, raise the sword or sabre perpendicularly, the point up, the flat of the blade opposite to the right eye, the guard at the height of the shoulder, the elbow supported on the body.

*Two.* Drop the point of the sword or sabre by extending the arm, so that the right hand may be brought to the side of the right thigh, and remain in that position until the person to whom the salute is rendered shall be passed, or shall have passed, six paces.

*Three.* Raise the sword or sabre smartly, and resume the position first prescribed.

Color-Salute.



The Salute.

199. In the ranks, the color-bearer,



Cast about.  
First motion

*Third Motion.* Insert the small end, and with the thumb, which will follow the movement, force it, as low as the middle band ; raise the hand quickly, a little bent, place the little finger on the butt of the rammer, and force it down ; lower the left hand on the barrel to an extent of the arm without depressing the shoulder.

8. *Cast—ABOUT.*

*One time and two motions.*

113. *First Motion.* With the left hand bring up the piece vertically against the left shoulder, seize it smartly with the right hand at the small of the stock, and slide the left hand down as low as the chin.

*Second Motion.* Make a half face to the right on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, place the right foot at the same time close behind, and at right angles with the left, the hollow of the right foot against the left heel ; carry the piece opposite to the right shoulder ; bring down the piece with the right hand into the left, which will seize it at the tail band, the thumb extended on the stock, the butt under the right fore-arm the small of the stock against the body, and about two inches under the right breast, the muzzle at the height of the eye, the left elbow supported against the side, the right hand grasping the small of the stock. (Fig. 34.)



Second motion of cast about.

9. *Prime.*

*One time and one motion.*

114. Place the thumb of the right hand on the hammer (the fingers remaining under and against the guard), and half-cock the

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

*One time and two motions.*

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 height of the eye, as in *charge bayonet*.



*Shoulder—ARMS.*

*One time and one motion.*

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.

---

To Stack Arms.

---

222. The men being at order arms, the instructor will command :

*Stack—ARMS.*

At this command, 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, incline the muzzle towards him, and lock the shanks of the two bayonets ; the lock of this second piece towards

and at right angles to the left, the hollow of the foot against the left heel.

*Second Motion.* Bring the piece with the right hand to the middle of the body, place the left hand just above the lock, the thumb extending along the stock at the height of the chin, the counter (or S)-plate turned towards the body, the rammer obliquely to the left and front.



**Second motion of Ready from Shoulder arms. (Oblique, not front, view.)**

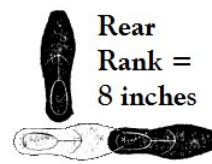
*Third Motion.* Place the thumb on the hammer, the fore-finger under and on the guard, the other three fingers joined to the first, the elbow at the height of the hand.

*Fourth Motion.*

Close the right elbow smartly to the body in cocking, without bending the wrist, seize the piece by the small of the stock, let it descend along the body in the left hand to the tail-band, which will remain at the height of the shoulder. (Fig. 35.)



**Fourth motions of Ready from Shoulder arms. (Closing right elbow and seizing at small of stock.)**



**Aim for direct fire.**

AIM.

*One time and one motion.*

118. Raise the butt to the shoulder, the left elbow a little down, shut the left eye, direct the right along the barrel, drop the head upon the butt to catch the object, and place the fore-finger on the trigger. The rear rank will at the same

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.

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.

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

---

*To Load on the March or Running.*

---



Ellsworth 57, 240. From the position of *aim* after firing, carry the piece across the body to the left side and seize it at the middle band with the left hand.

Holding the piece in this position, take out a cartridge, tear it with the teeth, and halt a moment to pour the powder in the barrel ; draw rammer and ram cartridge, if necessary, halting a moment to insert rammer ; return the rammer and bring up the piece with the left hand to position of *arms port* and prime ; come to the *ready*, and fire when occasion offers.

commands :

*Recover*—ARMS.  
*One time and one motion.*

122. Withdraw the finger from the trigger, throw up the muzzle smartly, and retake the position of the fourth motion of *ready*.

The men being in this position, if the instructor wishes them to come to a shoulder, he commands :

*Shoulder*—ARMS.

123. At the word, *shoulder*, the squad will face to the front, and bring their pieces to the middle of the body again ; the left thumb at the height of the chin, the little finger just above the lock; next place the right thumb on the head of the hammer, support the fore-finger on the trigger, sustain the hammer carefully in its descent at the same time, to the position of half-cock, then seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the word, *arms*, carry the piece to the shoulder smartly, and take the position of *shoulder arms*.

---

*To Load in Four Times (Or Pauses).*

---

124. The instructor commands :

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

Execute the first time of loading, handle cartridge, tear cartridge, charge cartridge.

**TWO.**

125. Draw rammer, enter it as far as the hand, and ram twice.

**THREE.**

126. Return rammer, cast about, and prime.



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.

---

To Fire and Load Kneeling.

---

195. 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.

The instructor will command :

FIRE AND LOAD KNEELING.

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.

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.

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



*Second Motion.* Raise the piece with the right hand, drop the left, and place it under the butt, bring back the right heel to the side of the left, and on the same line ; support the piece with the right hand against the shoulder, in the position prescribed for *shoulder arms*, the right hand resting on, without grasping, the piece.

*Third Motion.* Let fall smartly the right hand into its position by the side of the thigh.

Fix—BAYONET.

130. *First and second motions.* As in the first and second motions of *unfix bayonet*, No. 128, by :

*First*, dropping the piece by a smart extension of the left arm, seizing it with the right hand above and near the tail-band ;

*Second*, dropping the piece with the right hand along the left thigh, seizing it with the left hand above the right, lengthening out the left arm, resting the butt on the ground, without shock, and carrying the right hand at the same time to the bayonet, with the thumb lower the clasp against the stop, and then 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.

*Third Motion.* Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, carry and fix it on the muzzle, turning the clasp towards the body with the right thumb ; place the little finger on the head of the rammer lower the left hand along the barrel, in extending the arm.

Shoulder—ARMS.

The same as from the *unfix bayonet*, No. 128.

Secure—ARMS.

*One time and two motions.*

131. *First Motion.* Seize quickly the piece with the right hand, the on the counter-plate, and the fore-finger against the cock

For *Left Oblique*, the left foot remains in place ; the right is advanced—right heel to the instep of the left foot—then pivoted left until the left foot rests *perpendicular* to the direction of the aim.

After the cautionary command, *left oblique*, two things occur : (1) both ranks throw back the left shoulder and look steadily at the object to be hit ; and (2) rear rank men will, at the same time, raise their pieces to a vertical position. Commanders should wait for both movements to be completed before ordering the command of *aim*.

At the command, *aim*, five things occur : (1) the front rank will take aim to the left without deranging the feet ; (2) each man in the rear will advance the right foot about eight inches toward the right heel of the man next on the right of his file leader ; (3) “aim through the interval *to the left of his file leader*” ; (4) inclining the upper body forward and (5) bending a little the right knee.

---

To Fire by File.

---

193. 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.

The instructor will command :

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

At the third command, the two ranks will take the position prescribed in the direct fire, No’s 117 and 191.

At the fourth command, the file on the right will aim and fire ; rear rank man in aiming will take the position indicated, No. 118, by carrying the right foot about eight inches towards the left heel of the man next on his right.

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

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

butt three inches from the ground, the piece erect, the left hand hanging by the side.

*Second Motion.* Incline a little the muzzle to the front, the butt to the rear, and about three inches from the ground, the right hand, supported at the hip, will sustain the piece so that the men of the rear rank may not touch with their bayonets the men in front of them. (Fig. 38.)

*Shoulder—ARMS.*

134. At the command, *shoulder*, raise the piece perpendicularly in the right hand ; at the command, *arms*, execute what has been prescribed for the shoulder from the position of *order arms*, No. 103, by raising smartly the piece with the right hand, carrying it against the left shoulder, turning the piece, so as to bring the barrel to the front ; at the same time placing the left hand under the butt, slipping the right hand down to the lock ; and letting the right hand fall briskly to its position.

*To right shoulder, shift—ARMS.*  
*One time and one motion.*

135. Turn the piece with the left hand, the lock to the front, seize it at the same time with the right hand at the handle, place it on the right shoulder, the left hand not quitting the butt, the lock-plate upwards, the muzzle up ; sustain the piece in this position by placing the right hand on the flat of the butt ; let fall the left hand by the side. (Fig. 39.)

*Shoulder—ARMS.*

136. Raise the piece by extending the right arm, seize it with the left hand above the lock,



**To right shoulder shift.**

shoulder arms. At the fourth, they will aim according to the rank in which each may find himself placed, the rear rank 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.

At the sixth command, they will load their pieces, and return immediately to the position of *ready*, No. 116.

The instructor will recommence the firing by the commands:

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

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

*Cease firing.*

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

---

Oblique Firings.

---

192. 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*.

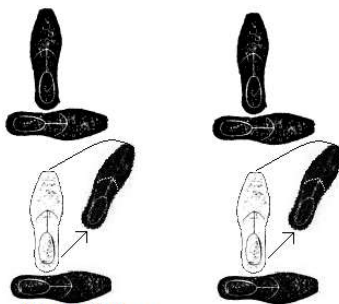
---

Position of the Two Ranks  
in the Oblique Fire to the Right.

---

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

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

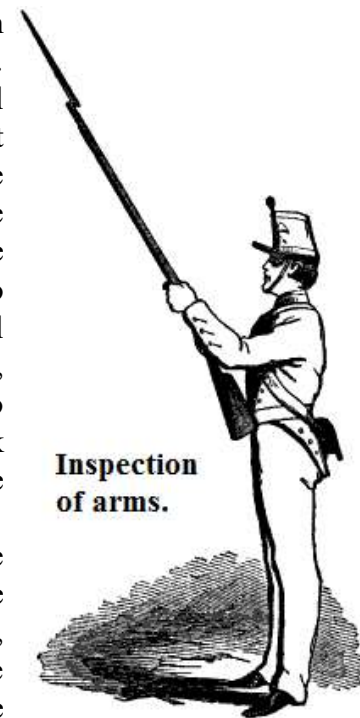


**Right Oblique :**  
pivot then advance LEFT foot

*Second Motion.* Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, carry and fix it on the muzzle ; seize next the rammer, draw it as has been explained in loading it twelve times, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore.

*Third Motion.* Face promptly to the front, seize the piece with the right hand, and retake the position of ordered arms.

The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each man, 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 tail-band and the feather-spring, the lock to the front, the left hand at the height of the chin, the piece opposite to the left eye (Fig. 40) ; the instructor will take it with the right hand at the handle, and, after inspecting it, will return it to the soldier, who will receive it back with the right hand, and replace it in the position of ordered arms.



**Inspection  
of arms.**

When the instructor shall have passed him, each soldier will retake the position prescribed at the command, *inspection of arms*, and return the rammer ; after which he will face to the front.

140. If, instead of inspection of arms, it be the wish of the instructor only to cause bayonets to be fixed, he will command :

*Fix*—BAYONET.

Take the position indicated, No.139, (first motion), fix bayonets as has been explained, and immediately face to the front.

Bayonets fixed, if it be the wish of the instructor, after firing, to ascertain whether the pieces have been discharged, he will