
**ILLUSTRATED
LOAD IN NINE TIMES
FOR
LIGHT INFANTRY**

— or —

*It all started as a short article
about drawing, turning and ramming...*

by
Mark Silas Tackitt

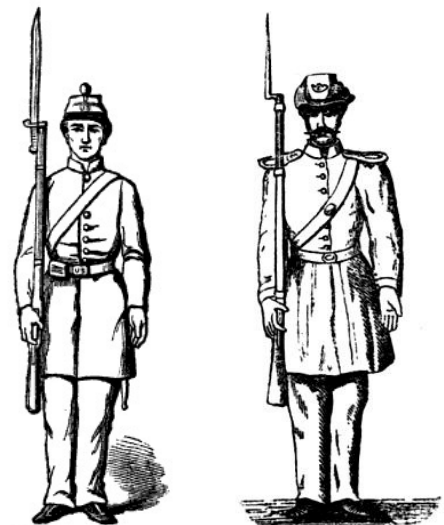
The Federal method for loading in nine times is often called *Casey's*. A comparison with the Light Infantry Tactics (1855) reveals the two are virtually the same. The difference is in para. 163 of his school of the soldier, Casey added two sentences about the handling of the *longer musket* verses the *shorter rifle*. Otherwise, his text is identical to the 1855 Tactics.

This article faithfully reproduces text from the respective schools of the soldier labeling HS as Hardee's Light Infantry Tactics (1855) and CS as Casey's Tactics (1862).

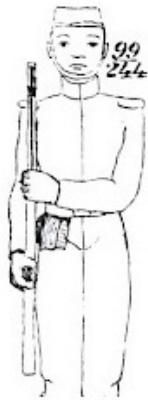
This article includes many newly discovered illustrations from an 1861 militia manual which demonstrate nearly every step of the Light Infantry method of loading. Missing are illustrations for handling, tearing and charging cartridge which have been borrowed from the Heavy Infantry method. Look for the leaned musket with triangular bayonet. Also included are period illustrations using a rifle to demonstrate the U.S. Tactics and a musket for Casey.

Below instruction commences from the position of *shouldered arms*.

[HS 121 / CS 128] The piece in the right hand—the barrel nearly vertical and resting in the hollow of the shoulder—the guard to the front, the arm hanging nearly at its full length near the body ; the thumb and fore-finger embracing the guard, the remaining fingers closed together, and grasping the swell of the stock just under the cock, which rests on the little finger.



SHOULDER ARMS (No. 120), *Shouldered Arms*.—No. 121.



Load in nine times.

1. LOAD.

One time and one motion.

[HS 156 / CS 163] Grasp the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow, and bring it vertically opposite the middle of the body, *shift the right hand to the upper band*, place the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front ; seize it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be *three inches from the body* ; carry the right hand to the cartridge-box.

[CS 163] If the rifle musket is used the right hand will be *shifted to just below the upper band*. The muzzle will be *eight inches from the body*.



2. Handle—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

[HS 157 / CS 164] Seize the cartridge with the thumb and next two fingers, and place it between the teeth.



3. Tear—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

[HS 158 / CS 165] Tear the paper to the powder, hold the cartridge upright between the thumb and first two fingers, near the top ; in this position place it in front of and near the muzzle—the back of the hand to the front.

4. Charge—CARTRIDGE.

One time and one motion.

[HS 159 / CS 166] Empty the powder into the barrel : disengage the ball from the paper with the right hand and the thumb and first two fingers of the left ; insert it into the bore, the pointed end uppermost, and press it down with the right thumb ; seize the head of the rammer with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the other fingers closed, the elbows near the body.



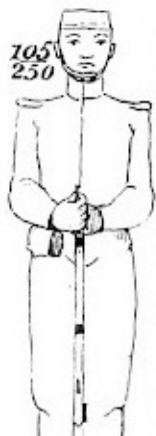
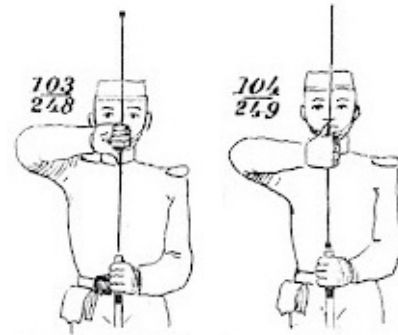


5. Draw—RAMMER.
One time and three motions.

[HS 160 / CS 167] (*First motion.*) Half draw the rammer by extending the right arm ; steady it in this position with the left thumb ; grasp the rammer near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb extended along the rammer.

[HS 161 / CS 168] (*Second motion.*) Clear the rammer from the pipes by again extending the arm ; the rammer in the prolongation of the pipes.

[HS 162 / CS 169] (*Third motion.*) Turn the rammer, the little end of the rammer passing near the left shoulder ; place the head of the rammer on the ball, the back of the hand to the front.



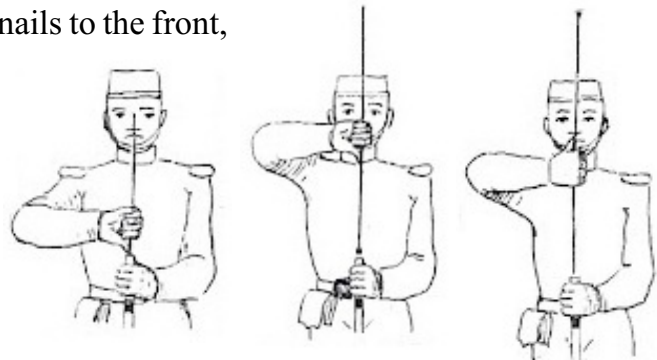
6. Ram—CARTRIDGE.
One time and one motion.

[HS 163 / CS 170] Insert the rammer as far as the right, and steady it in this position with the thumb of the left hand ; seize the rammer at the small end with the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, the back of the hand to the front ; press the ball home, the elbows near the body.

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

[HS 164 / CS 171] (*First motion.*) Draw the rammer half-way out, and steady it in this position with the left thumb ; grasp it near the muzzle with the right hand, the little finger uppermost, the nails to the front, the thumb along the rammer ; clear the rammer from the bore by extending the arm, the nails to the front, the rammer in the prolongation of the bore.

[HS 165 / CS 172] (*Second motion.*) Turn the rammer, the head of the rammer passing near the left shoulder, and insert it in the pipes until the right hand reaches the muzzle, the nails to the front.



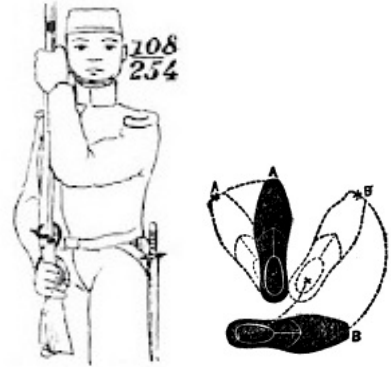


[HS 166 / CS 173] (*Third motion.*) Force the rammer home by placing the little finger of the right hand on the head of the rammer ; pass the left hand down the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. PRIME.

One time and two motions.

[HS 167 / CS 174] (*First motion.*) With the left hand raise the piece till the band is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand ; half face to the right ; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left ; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body ; bring the piece to the right side, the butt below the right fore-arm—the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.



PRIME (No. 167).

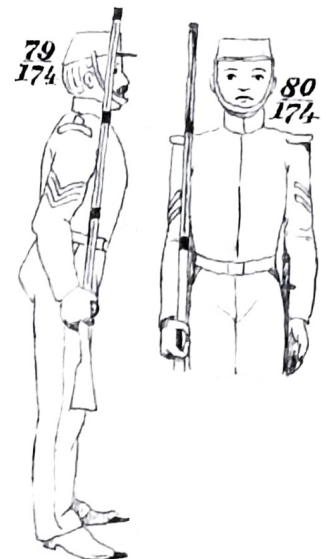
[HS 168 / CS 175] (*Second motion.*) Half cock with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock—remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb ; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

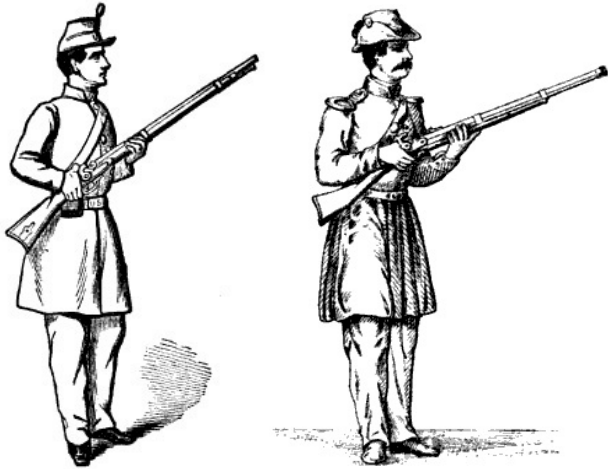
9. Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and two motions.

[HS 169 / CS 176] [Casey] 176. (*First motion.*) Bring the piece to the right shoulder and support it there with the left hand, face to the front ; bring the right heel to the side of and on a line with the left ; grasp the piece with the right hand as indicated in the position of *shoulder arms*.

[HS 170 / CS 177] (*Second motion.*) Drop the left hand quickly by the side.





READY.

One time and three motions.

[HS 171 / CS 178] (*First motion.*) Raise the piece slightly with the right hand, making a half face to the right on the left heel ; carry the right foot to the rear, and place it at right angles to the left, the hollow of it opposite to, and against the left heel ; grasp the piece with the left hand at the lower band and detach it slightly from the shoulder.

[HS 172 / CS 179] (*Second motion.*) Bring down the piece with both hands, the barrel upwards, the left thumb extended along the stock, the butt below the right fore-arm, the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the muzzle as high as the eye, the left elbow against the side ; place at the same time the right thumb on the head of the cock, the other fingers wider and against the guard.

[HS 173 / CS 180] (*Third motion.*) Cock, and seize the piece at the small of the stock without deranging the position of the butt.



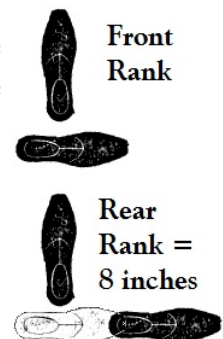
AIM.

One time and one motion.

[HS 174 / CS 181] Raise the piece with both hands, and support the butt against the right shoulder ; the left, elbow down, the right as high as the shoulder ; incline the head upon the butt, so that the right eye may perceive quickly the notch of the hausse, the front sight, and the object aimed at ; the left eye closed, the right thumb extended along the stock, the fore-finger on the trigger.

[HS 175 / CS 182] When recruits are formed in two ranks to execute the firings, the front-rank men will raise it, little less the right elbow, in order to facilitate the aim of the rear-rank men.

[HS 176 / CS 183] The rear-rank men, in aiming, will each carry the right foot about eight inches to the right, and towards the left heel of the man next on the right, inclining the upper part of the body forward.



FIRE.

One time and one motion.

[HS 177 / CS 184] Press the fore-finger against the trigger, fire, without lowering or turning the head, and remain in this position.

LOAD.

One time and one motion.



[HS 179 / CS 186] Bring down the piece with both hands, at the same time face to the front and take the position of *load* as indicated, [HS 156 / CS 163, by]

[— grasping the piece with the left hand as high as the right elbow ; bringing it vertically opposite the middle of the body, shifting the right hand to the upper band, placing the butt between the feet, the barrel to the front ; seizing it with the left hand near the muzzle, which should be three or eight inches from the body ; and carrying the right hand to the cartridge-box.]

Each rear-rank man will bring his right foot by the side of the left.

[HS 180 / CS 187] The men being in this position, the instructor will cause the loading to be continued by the commands and means prescribed, [HS 156 / CS 163], and following.

[HS 181 / CS 188] If, after firing, the instructor should not wish the recruits to reload, he will command :

Shoulder—ARMS.

One time and one motion.

[HS 182 / CS 189] Throw up the piece briskly with the left hand and resume the position of *shoulder arms*, at the same time face to the front, turning on the left heel, and bring the right heel on a line with the left.

— END —



— SOURCES —

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