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Manual of Arms for the Musket

- and -

Other Instruction

- for the -

Fort Sumter Garrison

a faithful reproduction of text from —

Infantry Tactics, or Rules for the Excercise and Manoeuvres of the United States Infantry (New Edition - 1857) by Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott.

- from -

U.S. Infantry Tactics (1861) authorized by Sec. of War Simon Cameron

and other sources —

As Compiled by
Col. Silas Tackitt,
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

or two ranks, and be posted on the left of the right centre company, of which company (for the time being) the guard will make a part.

- 51. The corporals will be selected by the colonel, who, nevertheless, will take but one at a time from the same company, and not one from the rifle, unless the rifles have bayonets. (In battalions with less than five companies present, there will be no colour-guard and no display of colours, except it may be at reviews.)
- 52. The front or colour rank of the guard will be composed of a sergeant, (to be selected by the colonel,) who will be called, for the time, the colour-bearer, with a corporal on his right and left; these places will be given in preference to the corporals of grenadiers and light infantry, respectively, as often as they compose a part of the guard.
- 53. The two other ranks of the guard will each consist of three corporals; or, if there be but one other rank, that will be so composed.
- 54. When the guard consists of three ranks, the centre rank will be composed of the three corporals the most distinguished for regularity and precision, as well in their positions under arms as in their marching. The latter advantage, and a just carriage of the person, are yet to be more particularly sought for in the selection of the colour-bearer.
- 55. The corporals of the colour-guard will carry their muskets within the right arm, as will be prescribed at the end of Title III [and Hardee's Light Infantry Tactics] bayonets always fixed.

TITLE III. SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY.

Manner of Forming the Company.

Scott, 419. The whole company being assembled on its ground, the sergeants, by the command,

FALL IN.

will cause the rank and file (corporals and privates) to form in one rank,

SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER - PART I Lesson II : Facings.

Scott, 110. The full face to the rear (or front) will be executed in two times, or pauses. The instructor will command:

1. Squad. 2. About — FACE.

- 111. (*First time*.) At the word *about*, the recruit will turn on the left heel, bring the left toe to the front, carry the right foot to the rear, the hollow opposite to, and full three inches from, the left heel, the feet square to each other: seize, all at the same
- square to each other; seize, all at the same time, the inner front corner of the cartridge-box with the right hand.
- 112. (Second time.) At the word face, the recruit will turn on the two heels, raise the toes a little, extend the hams, face to the rear, bringing, at the same time, the right heel by the side of the left, and quit the hold of the cartridge box.
- 113. When the recruit is under arms, he will turn the left hand, in the first time (or pause) of *about face*, as will be explained in the first motion of *present-arms*, and replace the hand and piece at the instant of bringing the right heel to the side of the left.
- 114. The instructor will take care that these motions do not derange the position of the body.



1. About.



2. FACE

ARTICLE III. MANUAL OF ARMS FOR THE MUSKET

U.S. Tactics, 414. THIS manual differs in so many respects from that of the rifle and rifle musket that it becomes necessary to specify it for the use of infantry troops armed with the percussion lock musket.

¹ The colour, in bad or windy weather, except in saluting, will be borne furled and cased. The heel or ferrule of its lance ought to have for support, a leather stirrup or socket, suspended from a belt, the latter buckled around the waist of the colour-bearer.

will seize his own piece with the left hand, and that of the man on his right with the right hand; the rear rank man of every even file will seize his piece with the right hand at the middle band, advancing for the purpose the hollow of his right foot as far as the right heel of his file leader; these two men will raise up the stack to loosen the shanks; the front rank man of every odd file will receive his piece from the hand of the man next on the left, and the four men will retake the *position of the soldier at ordered arms*.

417. Not to recur to this subject, it is here laid down, that when organized companies stack arms, the sergeants, and also corporals, if in the rank of file closers, will rest their pieces against the stacks nearest to them respectively, *after* ranks are broken, and resume their pieces on the signal (See, Scott, SoS No. 840.) to re-form ranks.

END OF THE SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER.

MANUAL FOR RELIEVING SENTINELS.

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

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 closed.

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.

Shoulder — ARMS.

- U.S. Tactics, 415. The piece is held in the left hand, the arm being a very little bent, the elbow close to the body, the butt of the musket grasped in the palm of the hand, the heel of the butt between the fore-finger and the middle finger; the thumb on the front screw of the butt-plate, the butt kept well back, so that the piece shall appear perpendicular when seen from the front, and not to be moved from its position by the movement of the thighs in marching; the stock below the tail band, lying in the hollow of the shoulder; the right arm hanging naturally at the right side.
- 416. Care should be taken by the instructor that the recruit acquires this position of the musket correctly and maintains it in marching, as it is the position from which most others are taken and to which the soldier must constantly return.

Support — ARMS. One time and three motions.

- 417. (*First Motion*.) With the right hand seize the small of the stock four inches below the lock, slightly raising but not turning the piece.
- 418. (*Second motion*.) Take the left hand from the butt; extend the left fore-arm under the cock upwards across the breast, the hand flat on the right breast.
 - 419. (*Third motion*.) Drop the right arm to its place at the side.
- 420 The movement to return to the position of *shouldered arms* from that of support arms is always:

Carry — ARMS. One time and three motions.

421. (First motion.) Carry the right hand to the small of the stock.

(*Second motion*.) Place the left hand under the butt as before. (*Third motion*.) Let the right hand fall to the side, and lower the

piece slightly to the position of *shouldered arms*.

422. *Note*. — The command *Carry arms*, is only given when coming from the *support* to the position of *shouldered arms*. In every



the stock, 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 above, and that of the left under the piece, the nails of both hands next to the body, to which the elbows will be closed.

Shoulder — ARMS.
One time and two motions.

508. (*First motion.*) Bring the piece to the left shoulder, placing the left hand under

the butt.

- 509. (Second motion.) Drop the right hand to its place at the side.
- 510. In order to relieve the soldier from the constraint of any fixed position, the instructor will command :

Arms — At Will *One time and one motion.*

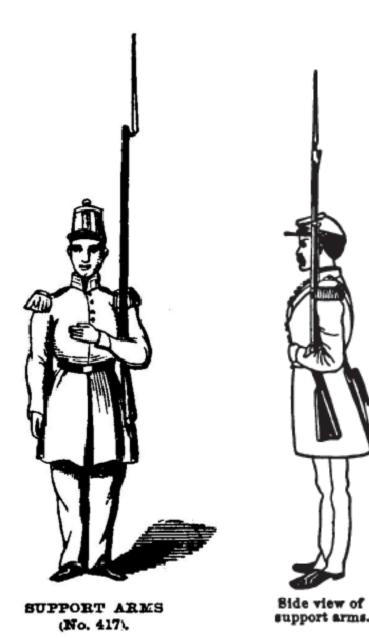
511. Carry the piece at pleasure on either shoulder, or with one or both hands, the muzzle being up.

Shoulder — ARMS.

- 512. Resume at once the position of *shouldered arms*.
- 513. In going through the manual of arms, the instructor will see that the recruit constantly retains the *position of the soldier*, which, under the pressure of his arms, he is liable to lose.

To Stack Arms.

Scott, SoS 414. If the squad (company, &c.) were formed in two, instead of three ranks [with the bayonets fixed], arms would be stacked by the same command and in the following manner:





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

Inspection of — ARMS. *One time and three motions.*

Scott, 498. From the position of *ordered arms*, the bayonet being in the scabbard.

499. (First motion.) Face to the right once and a half on the left heel, carrying the right foot perpendicularly to the rear, at right angles with the left and about six inches from it; seize the piece with the left hand just above the middle band, incline the muzzle to the rear without displacing the heel of the butt, the rammer turned towards the body. Carry the right hand to the bayonet and seize it, as in the second motion of fix bayonet. (490.)

500. (Second motion.) Draw the bayonet from the scabbard, carry and fix it on the muzzle; then seize the rammer, draw it as has been explained in *loading in ten times*, and let it glide to the bottom of the bore.

501. (*Third motion*.) Face to the front, seize the piece with the right hand and retake the position of *ordered arms*.

502. The instructor will then inspect as in the manual for the rifle. (229.)

Scott, 229. The instructor will then inspect in succession the piece of each recruit, 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 lower band and guide sight, the lock to

and seize it with the right hand just above the tail band. Let go with the left hand, and carry the piece, kept vertical, to the right side, the rammer to the front, the little finger behind the barrel, the right hand against the hip, the butt of the piece three inches from the ground, the piece vertical, the left hand hanging by the side.

- 430. (Second motion.) Let the piece slip through the right hand without shock to the ground, so that the butt will be on a line with the toes; at once drop the arm so that the barrel may be held by the thumb and extended fore-finger, the muzzle of the piece being about two inches from the right shoulder.
- 431. To resume the position of *shouldered arms*, the command of the instructor will be:

Shoulder — ARMS
One time and two motions.

- 432. (*First motion.*) Raise the piece with the right hand, and carry it up, kept vertical, to the left shoulder, turning it in the passage so as to bring the barrel to the front; place the left hand under the butt and slip the right hand down to the lock.
 - 433. (Second motion.) Let the right hand fall to the side.

Charge — BAYONET. *One time and two motions.*

- 434. (*First motion*.) Make a half face to the right, and take the position of the first motion in *about face*. Turn piece with the left hand, the lock outwards, and the small of the stock with the right hand, the being kept vertical and slightly detached from shoulder; the left hand remaining under the butt.
- 435. (*Second motion*.) Detach the left hand, bringing the piece with the right so that the left hand, seize it a little above the tail band, the barrel up, left elbow near the body, the right hand against hip, the point of the bayonet as high as the eye.



First Motion: Face to the right once and a half on the left heel....

Shoulder — ARMS. One time and two motions.

487. (*First motion.*) Raise the piece carefully with the left hand, seize the small of the stock with the right, to support it against the shoulder; quit the hold of the left hand and place it under the butt.

488. (*Second motion.*) Let the right hand drop to its place, at the same time dropping the piece slightly in the left, so as to take the position of *shouldered arms*.

Fix — BAYONET.

One time and three motions.

489. (First motion.) The same as in unfix bayonet.

490. (*Second motion*.) The same as in *unfix bayonet*, except that instead of carrying the right hand to the place where the bayonet would be, if fixed, it is carried to the bayonet-scabbard, so as to seize the bayonet by 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.

491. (*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; then lower the left hand along the barrel, in extending the arm.

Shoulder — ARMS.

492. The same as from unfix bayonet. (482.)

Trail — ARMS.

One time and two motions.

493. (First motion.) As the first motion of order arms.

(Second motion.) Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, and the butt to the rear' the butt being kept about three inches from the ground; the right hand supported at the hip, will sustain the piece so that the rear rank men may not touch the front rank men with their bayonets.

Shoulder — ARMS.

495. At the word *shoulder*, bring back the muzzle so as to make

436. To resume the position of *shouldered arms*, command is :

Shoulder — ARMS.

One time and two motions.

437. (*First motion*.) Face to the front by turning the left heel and bringing the right foot alongside; spring the piece up to the left shoulder with right hand, and place the left under the butt as prescribed.

438. (Second motion.) Drop the right hand to the side.

Loading and Firing.

U.S. Tactics, 439. In order to instruct recruits in the details of and firing their pieces, the first command of instructor is:

Load in ten times — LOAD. One time and two motions.

440. (*First motion.*) Extend the left arm to its full length, seize the piece with the right hand just above lower band, carry the right foot forward, placing its heel against the hollow of the left, but without altering the position of the body.

441. (Second motion.) With the right hand carry the piece directly downwards along the left thigh, seizing it with the left hand above the right, and letting the butt come to the ground without shock, so that the piece shall touch the left thigh; the muzzle opposite the centre of the body. Then carry the right hand quickly to the cartridge box and open it.

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



470. This is executed precisely as in the manual for the rifle. (184.)

Scott, 184. At the first part of the command, withdraw the finger from the trigger; at the command *arms*, retake the position of the third motion of *ready*.

Scott, 471. The men being in the position of *ready* or *recover arms*, if the instructor desire to bring them to that of *shouldered arms*, the command is:

Shoulder — ARMS.

- 472. At the word *shoulder*, the recruit will face to the front, and bring his piece, kept vertical, to the centre of the body, the left thumb as high as the chin, the little finger just above the lock. Next, with his right thumb on the head of the hammer and the fore-finger on the trigger, he will carefully half cock the piece, and seize the small of the stock with the right hand. At the command *arms*, the piece is carried to the right shoulder in the position of *shouldered arms*.
- 473. When a squad has been found to execute the *loading in ten times* well, they may be caused to execute the movement with fewer numbers by the command:

Load in four times — LOAD.

- 474. (First motion.) At the command load, the recruit will execute the first time of loading (in ten times), handle cartridge, tear cartridge, and charge cartridge.
- 475. (Second motion.) At the command two, draw rammer, enter it as far as the hand, and ram twice.
- 476. (*Third motion*.) At the command *three, return rammer, cast about*, and *prime*.
 - 477. (Fourth motion.) At the command four, shoulder arms.
- 478. If the wish of the instructor be to remove the bayonet while in the position of *shouldered arms*, he gives the command:

Unfix — BAYONET. One time and three motions.

479. (First motion.) Extend the left arm, seize the piece with the

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

448. Extend the arm to its full length, seizing the rammer between the right thumb extended and the fore-finger bent, the other fingers closed; ram the cartridge home twice with force, then seize the rammer at the little end, between the thumb and fore-finger bent, the other fingers being closed, and the right elbow touching the body.

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

- 449. (*First motion.*) Draw the rammer, re-seize it at the middle between the thumb and fore-finger, the palm of the hand to the front, the nails up, then clear the rammer from the barrel by extending the arm.
- 450. (*Second motion.*) Turn the rammer between the bayonet and the face, closing the fingers, the rammer parallel to the bayonet, the arm extended, the little end of the rammer near the first pipe, but not inserted.
- 451. (*Third motion*.) Insert the rammer, and, with the thumb, which will follow the movement, force it as low as the middle band. Then raise the hand, place the little finger on the butt of the rammer and force it down, at the same time lowering the left hand on the barrel to the extent of the arm, without depressing the shoulder.

8. Cast — ABOUT. One time and two motions.

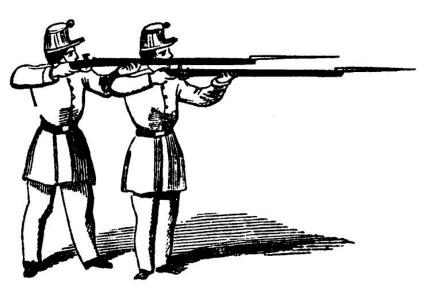
- 452. (*First motion.*) Bring up the piece vertically to the left shoulder with the left hand, seize it with the right hand at the small of the stock, and slide the left hand down as low as the chin.
- 453. (Second motion.) Make a half face to the right as in about face, except that the hollow of the right foot is close against the left heel, instead of three inches to the rear; carry the piece opposite the right shoulder; with the right hand bring it down into the left, seize it with the left at the tail band, the thumb extended on the stock, the butt under the right forearm, the small of the stock against the body, the right hand grasping the small of the stock, the muzzle as high as the eye.

459. (Fourth motion.) Close the right elbow to the body in cocking, seize the piece by the small of the stock with the right hand; let it descend along the body in the left hand to the tail band, which should remain at the height of the shoulder.

AIM.

One time and one motion.

- 460. Raise the butt of the piece to the right shoulder, at the same time dropping the muzzle, the left hand remaining at the tail band, the left elbow a little down; direct the right eye along the barrel, by dropping the head upon the butt, shut the left eye, and place the fore-finger upon the trigger.
- 461. At the command aim, the rear rank man will also carry his right foot about eight inches to the right, to enable him to disengage his piece in firing over the shoulder of the front rank man.



AIM. FRONT AND REAR RANK (No. 460).

9. PRIME.

One time and one motion.

454. Half-cock the piece with the thumb of the right hand, keeping the piece in its place with the left; displace the old cap and with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand, take a cap from the pouch. place it upon the cone, push it down with the thumb, and then seize the piece by the small of the stock.

> 10. Shoulder — ARMS. One time and two motions.



454. Prime

455. This command is executed precisely as in coming to shouldered arms from charge bayonet. (437-8.)

The loading being thus accomplished, to proceed to firing the command of the instructor is:

READY.

One time and four motions.

- 456. (First motion.) Turn the piece with the left hand, bringing the lock to the front, and seize it with the right at the small of the stock. At the same time make a half face to the right, turning on the left heel, bringing the left toe to the front and placing the right foot behind, at right angles to the left, the hollow of the right against the heel of the left.
- 457. (Second motion.) With the right hand bring the piece, kept vertical, to the centre of the body, the left hand placed just above the lock, the thumb extended along the stock, and at the height of the chin, the rammer being turned obliquely to the left and front.
- 458. (Third motion.) Place the thumb on the head of the hammer, the fore-finger under and on the guard, the elbow at the height of the hand.